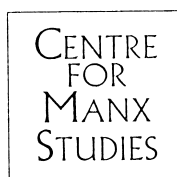


P J DAVEY, D J FREKE and D A HIGGINS

Excavations in Castletown, Isle of Man 1989–1992





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P J Davey, D J Freke and D A Higgins

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Peter Davey'.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David Freke'.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David Higgins'.

with contributions from

M M Archibald, G Egan, C T Fisher, R Hurst Vose,
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shallow bowls (5, 6, 37, 66, 73, 129), the third is a straight-sided jar (7, 66). They were all probably made in South Lancashire in the seventeenth century. With the exception of one of the bowls (Fig 10.10), which occurs in a Phase 3 context (129) and is typologically early, all of the finds appear to be residual in nineteenth-century contexts.

Manx products

With the exception of some probable sixteenth-century granite-tempered ware, there is no evidence that any of the pottery of this period was made in the Isle of Man.

MODERN POTTERY (c1750–1910)

Although the majority of all the ceramic finds from the site are of late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date, a number of eighteenth-century types were recovered and are worthy of mention here. A wide range of dark-glazed wares form the biggest group. These include large storage vessels, bowls and some tableware. An important sub-group is the 31 sherds of 'Jackfield Black' [JBW] which probably date to the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Mottled wares [MOT] are very common. One hundred and thirty-four sherds of the ware from at least 42 vessels were found, the vast majority from tankards. The specific technologies employed in the production of this material suggest importation to the island from a range of sources in England.

Slipwares are another significant component of the assemblage. These include 77 sherds of hollow-wares [HBS] from at least 12 vessels, including nine 'posset pots' and three small jugs, together with 18 sherds from at least nine press-moulded plates [PMS] (Fig 11.13). There is a single sherd of agate bodied ware [AGB]. Sixteen sherds of tin-glazed earthenware [TGE] or 'Delft' from six vessels and one wall tile were found. These included plates, a punch bowl foot-ring and small fragments of hollow-ware, all probably made in Liverpool. Thirty-four sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware [WSS] from at least nine vessels were recovered, together with six sherds from different vessels in the much rarer transitional white dipped stoneware [WDS]. This ware type dates from the first two decades of the eighteenth century, whilst the true white-bodied ware is a little later. The site also produced evidence for stoneware use during the second half of the century in the form of brown stoneware types usually associated with production in Nottingham and Derby [NDS]. Twenty-one sherds from at least eight vessels were recovered, almost all tankards.

Most of these products are typical of the material circulating in England at the time; although a

majority were probably made in the South Lancashire potteries or Liverpool, individual examples from Buckley and Staffordshire and elsewhere in the English Midlands are discernible.

Discussion

Owing to the loss of much of the medieval and post-medieval stratigraphy during Rigby's 'restorations', the ceramic evidence for the site is extremely fragmentary and partial. The small quantity of certainly medieval pottery reflects a similar situation to that established at Peel Castle. A quarter of the group is French; almost all of the remainder derive from a variety of sources in England, including the Bristol Channel area, Cumbria and Cheshire, with a small group of Manx granite-tempered ware and granite-free ware. This is too small a collection for any firm conclusions to be drawn about the status or economic connections of the inhabitants.

The early post-medieval finds are dominated by types which were probably made in the north-west of England, in South Lancashire. Given the importance of this area as the home territory of the Stanleys and the number of apparently Lancastrian names in the list of cottagers in the early sixteenth-century Manorial Rolls, this is not surprising (see Appendix 1). Manx granite-tempered wares form a significant group at this period and appear widespread in the island. There remains a small continental element within the assemblage.

The eighteenth-century finds from the castle demonstrate the kind of range which would be normal in a medieval town in north-west England. They include finewares such as hand-painted creamware, white salt-glazed stonewares and good quality tablewares in brown stoneware, mottled ware and dark-glazed ware. The more expensive of these items probably derive from the occupants of Derby House during this period.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

D A Higgins

The 1989 excavations at Castle Rushen produced 162 fragments of clay tobacco pipe from 32 excavated contexts. A total of 27 bowl, 128 stem and seven mouthpiece fragments were recovered.

Treatment of the material

Each pipe fragment was examined and a detailed record made using a standard recording sheet which

has been developed at the University of Liverpool. After the individual pieces had been assessed, an overall date range was attributed to the pipes from each context. These date ranges were then entered onto a context matrix. Examples of the bowl forms, marks and decorated pipes were selected for illustration (Fig 12). Copies of the record sheets and pipe matrix have been deposited in the site archive.

The main problem encountered in examining the material was that some of the context numbers actually written on the pipes did not tally with the context numbers of the bags which contained them. It was considered that the numbers on the pipes were more likely to be reliable than the numbers on the bags into which they had been placed and they were resorted accordingly. The nature of the finds

often supported this rationale; for example, this resulted in the removal of an eighteenth-century piece from the predominantly nineteenth-century group from Context 36. It also added another nineteenth-century piece to Context 36 from Context 72, leaving Context 72 as a purely seventeenth-century group. Six pieces were moved in this way. Each piece moved has been marked with a pencil cross so that it can be recognised again. The pieces which have been moved are:

- 1 piece of stem from Context 5 to Context 36.
- 1 piece of bowl from Context 36 to Context 37.
- 1 piece of bowl from Context 37 to Context 72.
- 1 piece of bowl from Context 72 to Context 36.
- 2 pieces of stem from Context 74 to Context 52.

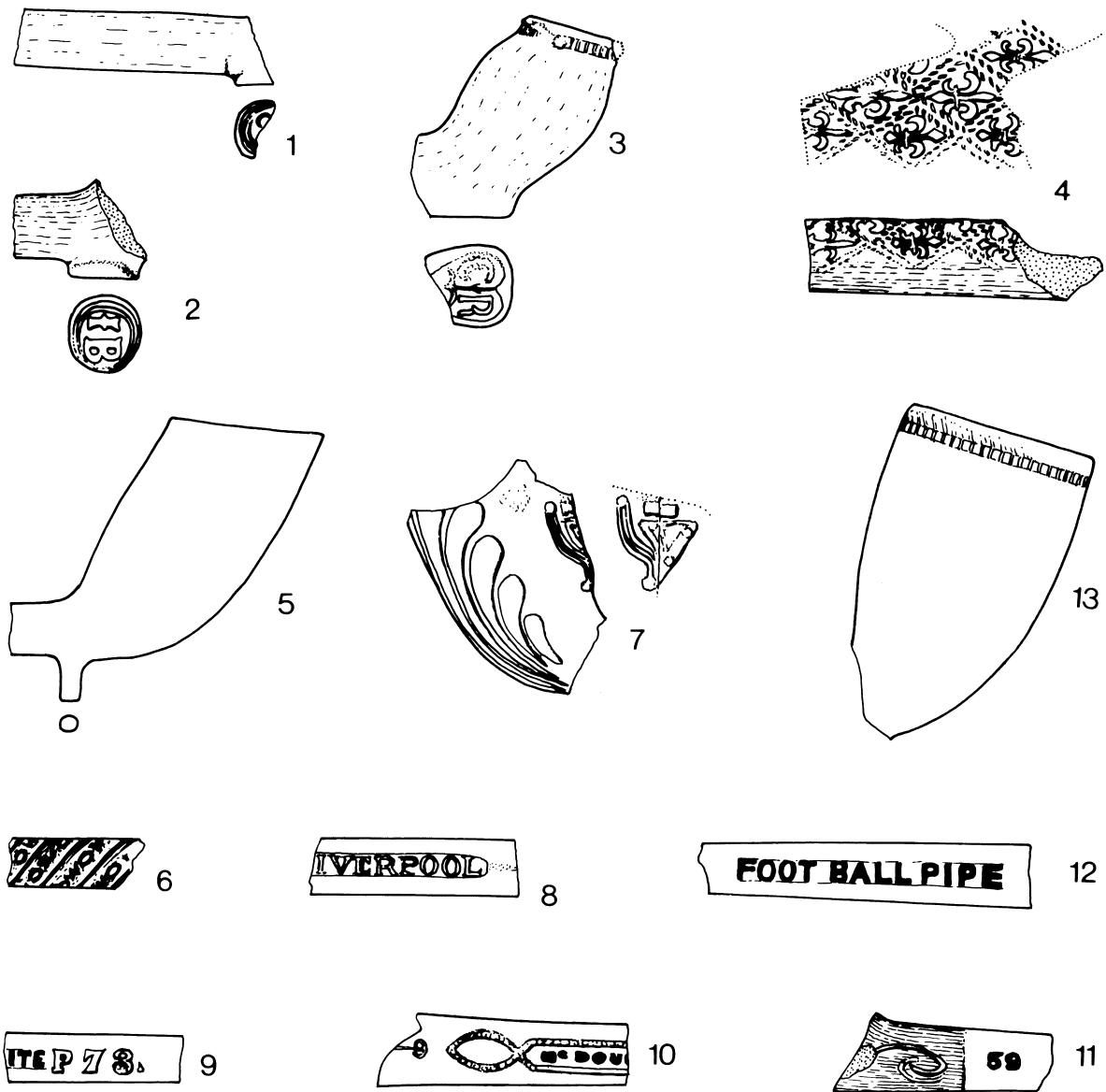


Fig 12 Castle Rushen, Clay Tobacco Pipes (Scale 1:1)

The pipes

The context groups are all small, the largest containing only 17 fragments, and almost all contain material of mixed date. The pipes are generally rather fragmentary, with only two or three relatively intact bowls from the whole excavation. No joins were noticed either within or between the context groups. These factors suggest that most, if not all, of the groups consist of disturbed or re-deposited material. The presence of nineteenth-century fragments in almost all of the pipe-bearing contexts suggests that the majority of the post-medieval deposits on the site have been affected by nineteenth-century or later activity. Despite this, fragments covering a 300-year span are present and provide a valuable addition to the corpus of information available for the Isle of Man.

Seventeenth-century pipes

The earliest bowl seems to be the fragment from Context 72 and probably dates from between 1610 and 1640. It has a fine, hard fired fabric but insufficient of the form survives to suggest an origin for this piece. From the mid-seventeenth century there are two pipes which can be attributed to the South Lancashire industry, which was centred on Rainford. Both are made of an off-white, rather gritty fabric and have typical South Lancashire styles of mark. The first (Fig 12.1) has part of a double border which would have surrounded the maker's initials, now missing, while the second (Fig 12.2) has a single border around the initials IB. This is the most common set of initials amongst the Rainford makers and it is not yet possible to identify any of the numerous IB marks with a specific maker. South Lancashire pipes have been found in seventeenth-century contexts from excavations at both Peel Castle and at Castle Rushen Stores (see report in this volume). It would appear that South Lancashire provided the principal supply of pipes to the island during the seventeenth century.

A third mid-seventeenth-century pipe was recovered which does not come from South Lancashire (Fig 12.3). The bowl form and large heel, which would probably have had a tail originally, are not found in that area, and the use of a heart-shaped mark is extremely rare there. What is interesting is that an almost identical bowl stamped with a similar heart-shaped CR mark (but from a different die) has been found at Peel Castle (86.53, Context 17). The CR mark has not been found amongst the substantial body of material excavated at Chester (Rutter and Davey 1980), and must be regarded as an import to the region.

Another pipe that is certainly an import is the

stem from Context 75, which is decorated with a relief moulded pattern of *fleur-de-lys* (Fig 12.4). Duco, in his paper on pipes from the Netherlands, illustrates an almost identical example which he dates from between 1640 and 1660 (Duco 1981, Fig 131). Dutch pipes are not often found in the north-west and this piece may well reflect the shipping connections of the island.

Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century pipes

Although there are a number of plain fragments which probably date from the later seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, there are no more complete bowls, makers' marks or decorated pieces amongst the finds until the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There is a plain bowl from Context 50 which probably dates from the later eighteenth or early nineteenth century (Fig 12.5). This is a period which has produced very few well-dated pipe groups and so it is very difficult to be more precise about the dating. A similar problem is posed by the decorated stem from Context 5 (Fig 12.6). Although it bears comparison with the later stem borders of the Chester series, which may have been produced as late as 1790 or 1800 (Rutter and Davey 1980), it is most similar to an example from excavations at Speke Hall in Merseyside (Higgins 1992). This was recovered from a deposit datable to a refitting of 1867–68, which points to a much later date for this particular type. There are illustrations of what appear to be similarly decorated stems in the Davidson of Glasgow catalogue of around 1880 (Gallagher and Price 1987). This example can, therefore, be regarded as a late survival of decorative stem stamping, dating from between 1850 and 1900.

A piece which can be much more securely placed in the period 1770 to 1820 is the decorated bowl from Context 108 (Fig 12.7). The scalloped decoration is typical of this period, although not necessarily of this area. There are some possible kiln wasters of this type from the Grove Suspension Bridge site in Chester, but this style of decoration is not otherwise found in Cheshire or Merseyside. It is much more common in the Midlands and the east of England and this piece may have travelled from some distance to the island. The decorative device facing the smoker is unusual but cannot be identified with certainty. It is possibly intended to be an Irish harp. There is also a bowl fragment from Context 28 with traces of fluted decoration and a device facing the smoker. This probably dates from the first half of the nineteenth century. There is a long, single line stamp on the top of a stem from Context 60, which probably dates from the later

eighteenth or early nineteenth century (Fig 12.8). This style of marking was principally used in the West Midlands and north-west England. Examples are known to have been made in Worcester, Birmingham, Chester, Liverpool and Rainford.

Later nineteenth-century pipes

The remaining marked and decorated pieces probably all date from the mid-nineteenth century or later. There are three pieces made by Whites of Glasgow, who were operating until 1955 (Anon 1987). All three have the maker's name moulded in incuse, *sans serif* lettering. Two of the pieces, both from the same mould, also have 'P73' moulded in relief on the left hand side of the stem (Fig 12.9). This may be the pattern number for the pipe, although these do not usually have any letter before the number. In Whites' 1900 list, 73 is simply given as, 'Plain and Carved Cutties' (Gallagher 1987, 148). There is also one piece from Context 113 which was made by McDougalls of Glasgow (Fig 12.10), who were working until 1967 (Anon 1987). This has the relief mould number 9 on the stem, although it is not clear whether this was the whole number or whether part of it is missing. In the 1900 list McDougalls give number 9 as a Masonic or Scotch Cutty (Gallagher 1987, 144). There is another stem from Context 113 (not illustrated) which has traces of a relief beaded border for a name, none of which is legible. Another pipe with a pattern number, probably 59, from Context 12 (Fig 12.11) and a pipe with 'WIGAN & DISTRICT/ FOOT BALL PIPE' on the stem from Context 36 (Fig 12.12) were also found. The latter type of pipe, which would probably have portrayed footballers on the bowl, was popular at the end of the nineteenth century and early in the twentieth century. It was, presumably, made somewhere in the Wigan area.

The nineteenth-century bowls are very fragmentary but it is possible to recognise a number of different types which were in use. There are a number of plain 'Irish' style bowls, (for example, Fig 12.13). These generally have moulded milling at the rim and were made at numerous centres in both England and Ireland. There are fragments of thick- (Fig 12.13), medium- and thin-walled versions amongst the excavated fragments. There is also a fragment from Context 36 of a similar style, but with a harp and shamrock moulded on the side of the bowl. This, too, was a common pattern. The only other decorated pieces have the Legs of Man moulded on the bowl sides. Three such fragments were recovered, one each from Contexts 8, 28 and 36. All three are from different moulds and demonstrate the obvious popularity that this design would have had on the island. Like the Irish patterns,

these were produced by English makers, as well as those on Man itself.

The final point to note is the occurrence of three glazed mouthpiece fragments and one glazed stem fragment from near a mouthpiece. These were all found in Context 2 and are all glazed with a thin, light green glaze. The mouthpiece fragments all have simple cut ends and probably come from long-stemmed pipes. All the fragments are about 20mm long, and completely covered in glaze over this length. Glazing of the mouthpiece is not a particularly common feature, although it was locally used during the nineteenth century. The similarity of these pieces suggests that they came from a common source.

Site interpretation

As would be expected, the pipes cluster in the upper layers of the site. The earliest deposit, stratigraphically, in which a pipe occurs is Context 149. This piece is just a very small chip of stem of eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date. The context is well below other pipe-bearing horizons and it is quite possible that this pipe fragment is intrusive. Amongst the rest of the deposits there is no discernible chronological gradation, with the lowest pipe-bearing deposits (21, 50, 108, 127) all containing nineteenth-century material. This suggests that most of the post-medieval layers on the site have been disturbed or re-deposited since 1800. The material in Contexts 50 and 72 may be predominantly early in date, since they include a high proportion of seventeenth-century pipes (six pieces) with just one later piece. This piece is the complete bowl (Fig 12.5), which is probably of later eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century date.

Summary

Although the excavation did not produce any particularly large or well-dated groups, the fragments recovered do add significantly to our knowledge of pipes from the Isle of Man. Further weight has been given to the suggestion that South Lancashire was the island's main supply source during the seventeenth century, while Glasgow appears to have supplied a significant number of the later nineteenth-century pipes. In addition, imports from Liverpool and the Netherlands have been identified. There are a few pieces which cannot be matched with known products from the north-west.

These are likely to have come from outside the region and reflect the island's shipping connections.

The illustrated pipes [Fig 12]

- 1 Hard fired, off-white fabric with poor burnish. Part of a Rainford-type double-bordered stamp of 1630–60 survives on the heel. Stem bore 8/64" (7).
- 2 Off-white local fabric with burnished surface and stamped IB mark. Probably Rainford, 1640–80. Stem bore 7/64" (28).
- 3 Light buff-coloured fabric, fully milled rim, stamped mark CR, 1640–60. The bowl appears to have been lightly burnished. Stem bore 7/64" (7).
- 4 Stem with relief moulded pattern of *fleur-de-lys* in beaded borders. The lower part of the stem has a good burnish on it. This is a Dutch stem, 1640–60. Stem bore 8/64" (75).
- 5 Plain, thin-walled bowl; 1760–1810. Stem bore 5/64" (50).
- 6 Stem fragment with incuse roll-stamped stem decoration; 1850–1900. Stem bore 6/64" (5).
- 7 Bowl fragment with moulded decoration consisting of scallops with a device facing the smoker; 1770–1820. Stem bore 5/64" (108).
- 8 Stem fragment with part of a Liverpool maker's mark stamped on the top of it; 1780–1830. Stem bore 6/64" (60).
- 9 Composite drawing of two overlapping stem fragments from the same mould. The maker's name (WHITE/GLASGOW) is incuse, the pattern number (P73) is in relief. Neat round stems with a bore of 6/64" (2). Whites were working from 1806 to 1955, but these pieces are likely to date from the later nineteenth or early twentieth century.
- 10 Stem fragment with relief moulded beaded border and incuse lettering which would have read McDOUGALL/GLASGOW. This firm was working from 1846 to 1967. The bowl would have been decorated; traces of this survive on the stem. Stem bore 4/64" (113).
- 11 Scroll each side, incuse moulded number 59 on left hand side of stem only; 1850–1920. Stem bore 5/64" (12).
- 12 Incuse lettering on stem WIGAN & DISTRICT/FOOT BALL PIPE; 1860–1920. Stem bore 6/64" (36).
- 13 Thick-walled 'Irish' style bowl with moulded milling; 1850–1920. Stem bore 6/64" (2).

Glass

J Lawrence
with a note on Fine Glass by
R Hurst Vose

A total of 570 sherds of glass were recovered at Castle Rushen from 50 different contexts. Nearly 70% (398) of the sherds were bottle glass and 24% (135) flat window glass. There was very little evidence of fine vessels, only 22 sherds (less than 4%) falling into this category. Miscellaneous items numbered 15.

Wine bottles

The thick dark olive-green metal which predominates over the olive-brown is of a fair quality with heavy patination. Very much in evidence is the broad base with a pronounced kick of up to 50mm in height. A complete wine bottle shape could not be reconstructed but a very few base sherds are possibly consistent with late seventeenth-century and early eighteenth-century forms: a squat body and broad base up to 180mm in diameter. Rather more show the straighter side and narrower base of the later eighteenth century. There are four bases and various necks of nineteenth-century moulded wine bottles of good quality, pale green metal, and one has a manufacturer's mark.

Analysis of the base diameters showed that two-thirds lie within the range 70mm to about 100mm. There are 11 examples of base diameters of 120mm or more, one-fifth of the total; one, possibly two, of these were multifaceted and can be compared with a dated example of 1769. Only five base sherds were less than 70mm in diameter (see Figs 13 and 14).

Beer bottles

About 20 very good quality brown beer bottle sherds were found, some with a distinctive cheese-grater pattern and lettering.

Mineral and medicine bottles

Forty-five sherds were thought to be from mineral or medicine bottles, of which two could be partially reconstructed. The good quality metal ranges from colourless, pale green, pale blue to a bright mauve. The latter provides an example of a parallel 'rig and furrow' design. Writing was evident on several, with one hailing from a limited company in Castletown.