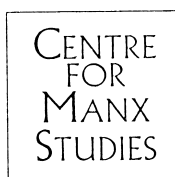


P J DAVEY, D J FREKE and D A HIGGINS

Excavations in Castletown, Isle of Man 1989–1992





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P J Davey, D J Freke and D A Higgins

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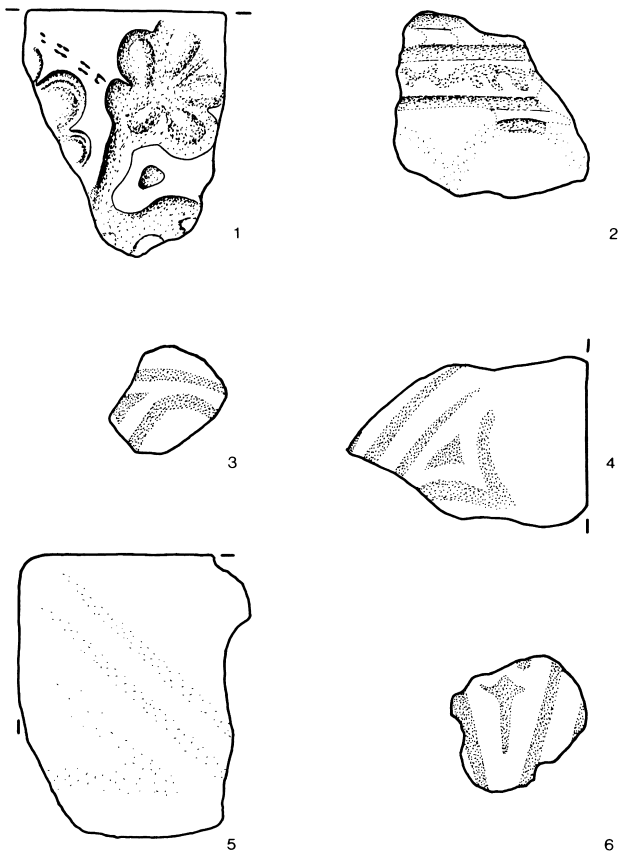


Fig 53 Castle Rushen Stores, Floor Tiles (Scale 1:2)

parallel lines (55). The curve of these lines suggests that this formed part of a 16-tile composition. Only one other fragment from a 16-tile composition appears to be known from the island (Butler 1988, Fig 13.6), but insufficient of this example survives to be able to tell whether it is the same.

3–5 Three examples, probably from tiles of the same design (89, 89, 36). The first two examples are 37mm and 36mm thick respectively; the third is in a very poor state of preservation and the thickness cannot be determined. The complete pattern has been reconstructed by Jewitt (1885, Fig 4) and would have consisted, when laid, of double lined lozenges surrounding double lined circles, within which were octofoils. The spandrels were filled with a sexfoil flower and foliage. Butler (1988, 92) dates this design to the fifteenth century and quotes parallels from Rievaulx, Chester and Valle Crucis; Campbell (1986, Fig 8) illustrates a similar design from Drogheda in Ireland. Brotherton-Ratcliffe (forthcoming) notes that the design on these tiles was originally in very high relief but that, in a worn condition, they look like line-impressed tiles.

6 Small fragment of incomplete thickness which appears to be from a similar but different design to Fig 53.3–5 above. The converging lines appear to be from a lobed pattern, but in this case enclosing a decorative motif which the previous ones lacked. Also, the angle of these lines suggests a design with 12 segments rather than 8. No parallel from the island can be found for such a design (98).

Discussion

The absence of inlaid tiles, the use of line-impressed or relief decoration and the presence of some quite thick plain tiles, all suggest that this is a relatively late group, probably dating from the fifteenth or early sixteenth centuries. By far the largest collection of tiles from the island comes from Rushen Abbey at Ballasalla, some 3km to the north-north-east of Castletown. At least two of the decorative types can be paralleled there. Tiles were also found in 1905 on the floor of a former chapel in the north tower of Castle Rushen. These were of the same types as those found at the abbey and were presumed to have come from there (Kermode and Herdman 1914, 117). Although possible, this need not have been the case, since Castle Rushen was the administrative centre of the island and was owned by the Lords of Man. As such, it may well have been furnished with tiles in its own right. There are also some secular buildings, such as Bagnio House in Arbory Street ('The Lord's Bath House' in the Manorial Roll of 1511), which might conceivably have had tiled floors.

There are clearly a number of known or possible sources from which these tiles could have come. It is not known what sort of building occupied the Malew Street plot during the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. It is just possible that it was an important secular building with its own tiled floors, but it seems more likely that the tiles were brought to this property, for whatever reason, from elsewhere.

The tiles themselves can be paralleled with examples from Ireland, Wales and England and show that the Isle of Man was keeping abreast of developments in the material and design of flooring during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Clay and Briar Tobacco Pipes

D A Higgins

The 1991 and 1992 excavations produced a total of 309 pieces of clay tobacco pipe consisting of 41 bowl, 255 stem and 13 mouthpiece fragments. Two

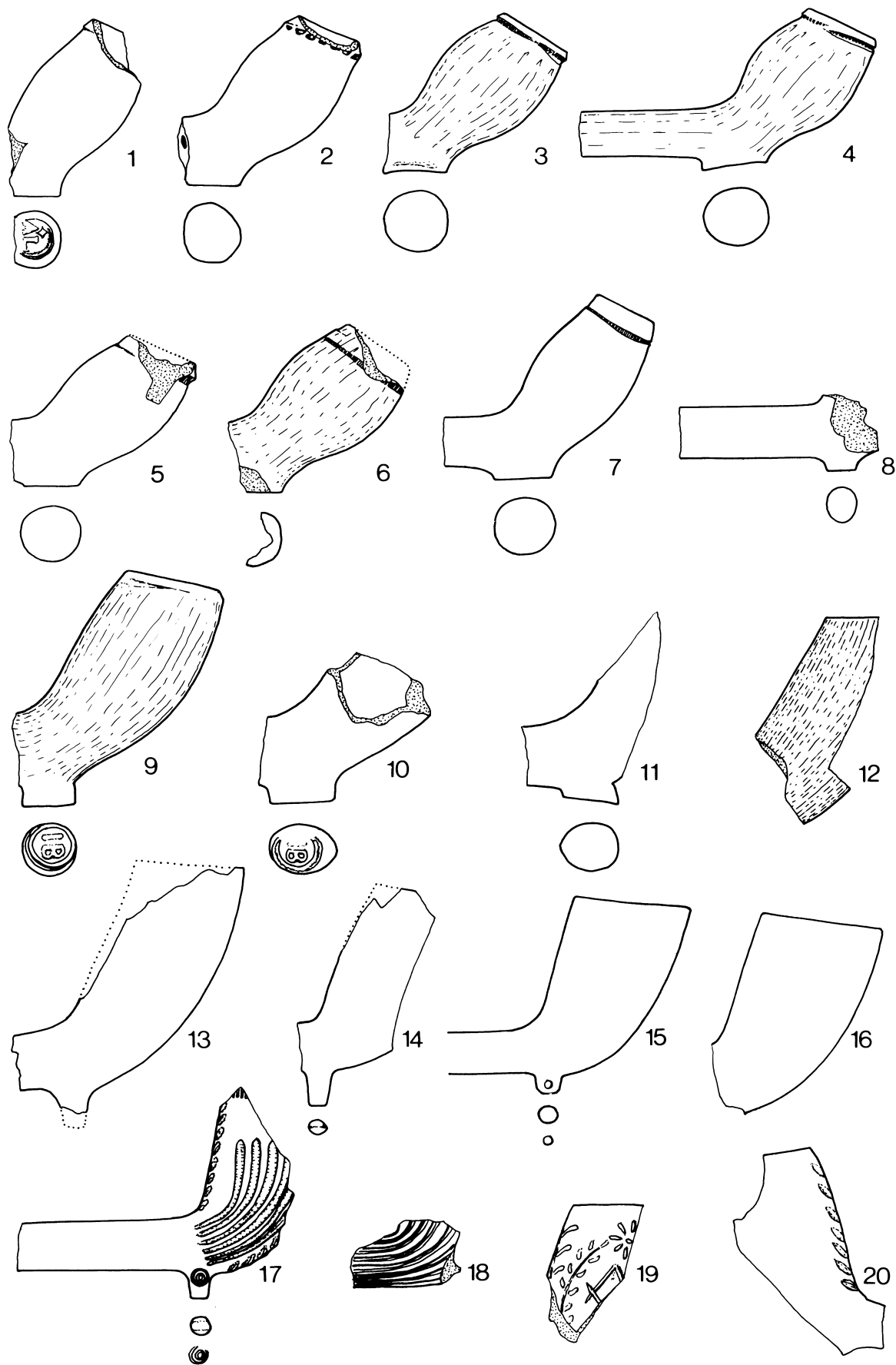


Fig 54 Castle Rushen Stores, Clay Tobacco Pipes; Nos 1-20 (Scale 1:1)

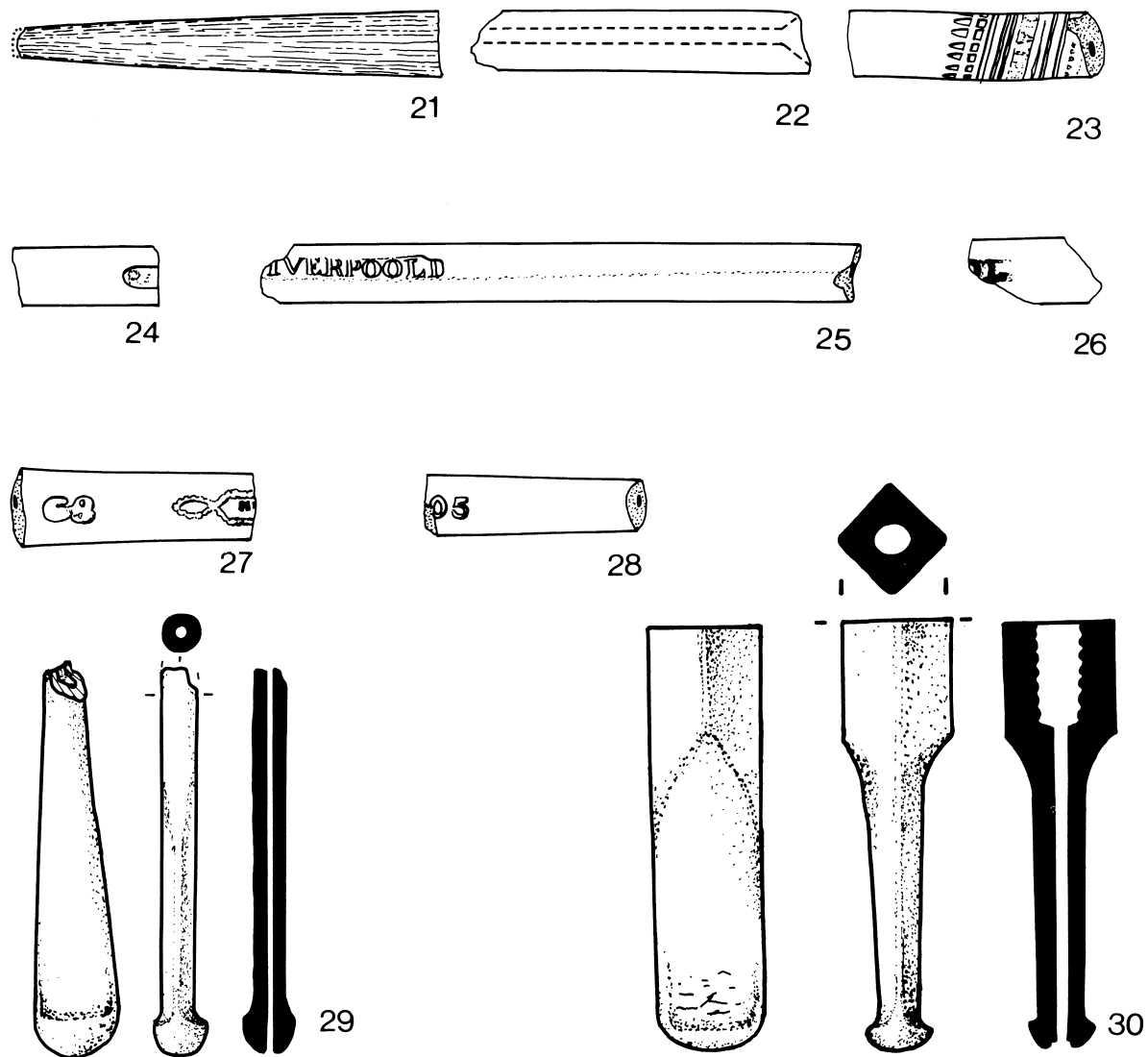


Fig 55 Castle Rushen Stores, Clay Tobacco Pipes; Nos 21–28, and Briar Pipe Mouthpieces, Nos 29–30 (Scale 1:1)

mouthpieces from briar pipes were also recovered. These pipes constitute one of only three significant assemblages so far recovered from the Isle of Man. The other two are both from excavations at castle sites: the 1982–87 excavations at Peel Castle, which produced 704 fragments, and the 1989 excavations at Castle Rushen, where 159 were found. The Castle Rushen Stores group is the only substantial assemblage so far recovered from a purely domestic site on the Isle of Man.

The clay pipes were recovered from a total of 51 contexts. Only five of these contexts contained ten or more pieces of pipe, and all of these were disturbed garden soils containing material of mixed date. Although lacking any individually significant groups, the assemblage as a whole is sufficiently large to provide a valuable indication as to the changing styles of pipe which were used in Castletown.

The clay pipes

The earliest pipe recovered appears to be a stem fragment from Context 92.103/82 (Fig 55.21). This has an unusually pronounced taper towards the mouthpiece and has been finely burnished all over. Both of these features tend to be associated with very early pipes and it is likely that this fragment dates from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century. Pipes of this date are rare anywhere in the British Isles, and this fragment represents the earliest known evidence for smoking on the Isle of Man.

Apart from the single early stem it is not until the 1620s or 1630s that the next evidence for smoking occurs on the site. From this date the habit appears to have been much more common and pipe fragments occur regularly amongst the domestic waste. There are ten bowls dating from the period 1625 to

1660 (for example, Fig 54.1–7). All of these are heeled forms and all are made of a fabric which has fired to a light buff colour on the surface. The fabrics of these pipes are generally moderately gritty although in some cases, such as the AL pipe (Fig 54.1), it is very fine with no inclusions visible to the naked eye. The bowl forms are generally rather crude and of average finish. Only one of the pipes is marked and this can be attributed to the Chester maker Alexander Lanckton (Fig 54.1; see below for fuller discussion). The pipes are generally well-milled and half of them have a burnished surface. The forms, fabrics and finish of these pipes can all be paralleled in the north-west of England, and it seems likely that this is where they originated.

The period between 1650 and 1680 is less well represented, although there is a heel fragment from Context 92.104/4 which probably dates from this period, as does a bowl fragment from Context 92.103/5. As with the earlier examples, these pipes are made of 'local' north-western type fabrics. The bowl fragment also has part of a Rainford style stamp facing the smoker. This particular form of mark almost invariably occurs on spurred pipes, thus indicating their presence during the seventeenth century, even though no spurs were actually recovered from the site. There is also an unusually small heel fragment which dates from between 1630 and 1680 (Fig 54.8).

The link with the north-west appears to have been maintained during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. During this period more pronounced and often flared heels (Fig 54.9–11) were in use alongside spurred forms (Fig 54.13). These pipes were still being made of 'local' fabrics. Burnishing also occurs, although milling is not generally found on these forms. Two of these pipes are marked (Fig 54.9–10) and both are likely to have been made in Rainford, south Lancashire. There is also a marked stem (Fig 55.23) which was probably produced in Rainford or Liverpool.

No fragments attributable to the mid-eighteenth century were recovered. Material of this date is often scarce, probably as a result of both the reduction in smoking due to the popularity of snuff, and because of the introduction of thin-walled bowls which were easily crushed.

A number of fragments dating from the late eighteenth century onwards were recovered (Fig 54.14–20). By this date fine white 'imported' clays from the west country were being used to make the pipes. The late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century pieces appear to have come principally from the north-west, for example, the decoration on Figure 54.19 is typical of that area and some of the marks, such as Figure 55.25, have clearly come from Liverpool. The later nineteenth-century

pipes, however, appear to have come from more diverse sources and there are certainly some Scottish pieces present, for example Figure 55.27. Quite a number of later nineteenth-century Scottish pipes are known from the island.

Marked and decorated pipes

Twelve marked pipes (seven stamped and five moulded) and four decorated pipes were recovered from the excavations. All but one of these are illustrated and are discussed in the catalogue entries below. The only piece not illustrated is a bowl fragment from 92.103/5, which dates from about 1650 to 1680. This has just the very edge of a Rainford style crescent-shaped border facing the smoker on the bowl and would probably have been produced in Rainford or Liverpool. The stamped marks are shown in Figures 54.1, 9, 10 and Figures 55.23–25, the moulded marks in Figures 54.15, 17 and Figures 55.26–28 and the decorated pipes in Figures 54.17–20.

Glazed mouthpieces

Six stem or mouthpiece fragments with glaze were recovered. One of these consisted of a 'nipple' type mouthpiece from Context 92.103/5 which survives to a length of 12mm and is entirely covered with a yellowish-brown glaze. It probably dates from between 1850 and 1910. The other five pieces all have a thin olive-green glaze. Two pieces, from Contexts 91.129/300 and 92.103/5, are mouthpieces surviving to lengths of 37mm and 32mm respectively. Both pieces have simple cut ends, typical of long-stemmed pipes, and are entirely covered with glaze for their surviving lengths. The other three fragments are all from near the mouthpiece and have varying amounts of glaze. They come from Contexts 92.102/10, 92.102/12 and 92.103/5. All of these pieces date from the nineteenth century.

'Reused' pipe

Sometimes pipe fragments, generally stems, are recovered which have been carved after firing. The form of this carving varies considerably and the reason for it is not always apparent. Suggestions include reusing a broken pipe, making whistles or hair curlers or simply doodling. One stem which may fall into this last category was recovered from Context 92.102/14. The stem fragment survives to a maximum length of 47mm, has a stem bore of 6/64" and probably dates from the late seventeenth or

early eighteenth century. At the thicker end something sharp has been inserted into the bore and twisted to form a conical depression — the bore and cone are shown dotted in Figure 55.22.

The briar pipe mouthpieces

Two briar pipe mouthpieces were recovered from Context 92.104/7, a large ash pit which dates from the earlier part of the twentieth century. These reflect the continuing habit of smoking at a time when clay pipes had fallen out of common use. Both are made of a hard man-made material, almost certainly ‘bakelite’, and are illustrated in Figures 55.29–30.

Discussion

The single late sixteenth- or early seventeenth-century stem fragment constitutes the earliest evidence for smoking from the Isle of Man. It shows that new trends were being taken up at an early date and argues against any suggestion that the island was in any way a cultural backwater. It was not until the second quarter of the seventeenth century, however, that pipes start to form a regular part of the excavated assemblage. This is in keeping with the date at which pipes regularly occur in English assemblages and suggests that, as in England, this was the date that smoking became widely disseminated through Manx society.

For the rest of the seventeenth century and throughout the eighteenth century, the forms, marks and decoration of the excavated pipes can be paralleled in numerous assemblages from the north-west. Whilst this does not preclude Manx makers having copied these styles, or there being imports from other areas of the Irish Sea basin, it seems most likely that the bulk of these examples were actually imported from that part of England.

It is even possible to suggest the principle source of these pipes. During the seventeenth century Chester pipes generally had a finer fabric than those from south Lancashire. Between about 1690 and 1790 Chester also produced a distinctive series of pipes with decorated stems. Apart from the single AL pipe these finer fabrics and decorated stems are not represented amongst the excavated finds, and so it is unlikely that Chester was a supply source for pipes. On the other hand, the coarser fabrics and distinctive marks found in groups from south Lancashire and Liverpool are well represented amongst the excavated material. It seems likely that the majority of the pipes used in Castletown were produced in the workshops of either Rainford or

Liverpool and that they were shipped out to the island from the docks at Liverpool.

This suggestion is borne out by the finds from Castle Rushen and Peel Castle, where there were also very few Chester pipes but a large number of south Lancashire products. These sites, however, did seem to include a greater diversity of material, for example, some CR pipes which do not appear to be of a north-western form and some examples of Dutch pipes. These more exotic imports may hint at the wider maritime contacts enjoyed by the island. At present it is impossible to say whether these are real differences reflecting the higher social status of the castle sites, or merely a product of the small body of evidence which is available for study.

After about 1850 the supply of pipes seems to have changed, with Scottish pipes from Glasgow finding a significant place in the Manx market. Although there is only one Scottish pipe from the excavations there are numerous other examples from the island, including examples made by the firms of Coghill, McDougall and White. These were, no doubt, circulating amongst other pipes from the north-west and pipes which were being produced on the island at this date, but more study material is needed before it will be possible to assess the relative importance of these different nineteenth-century supply sources.

The illustrated pipes (Figs 54 and 55)

- 1 Heeled bowl from between 1625 and 1650 with the stamped mark AL. Glossy surface but not apparently burnished; stem bore 7/64" (92.103/5). None of the surviving rim is milled, a feature typical of Alexander Lanckton of Chester, to whom this pipe can be attributed. Lanckton is recorded in 1657 and probably left Chester about 1664 (Rutter and Davey 1980, 246).
- 2 Fully milled heeled bowl; 1625–50. This has a stem bore of 6/64" and very coarse, deeply impressed milling all around the rim (92.102/18).
- 3 Fully milled heeled bowl; 1625–55. This has a good burnish on the bowl and an unusually small stem bore of 5/64" (92.102/23).
- 4 Fully milled heeled bowl; 1625–50. It has a poorly burnished surface and a stem bore of 6/64" (92.102/18). There are distinctive mould flaws on both sides of the heel, which suggest

- that this pipe was made in the same mould as an unstratified heel fragment recovered from Trial Trench 1 (91.129).
- 5 Heeled bowl; 1630–60. Probably half milled originally, stem bore 7/64" (92.103/5).
 - 6 Heeled bowl; 1640–60. Probably fully milled originally and with a stem bore of 8/64" (92.104/2). Average burnish.
 - 7 Fully milled heeled bowl; 1640–60. North-western type, stem bore 7/64" (92.103/89).
 - 8 Fragment of a pipe with an unusually small heel; 1630–80. Origin uncertain but made of quite a fine 'local' fabric. Stem bore 7/64" (92.104/2).
 - 9 Heeled bowl with a good burnish but not milled; 1680–1720. The heel is stamped IB; probably a Rainford product, where there were numerous makers with these initials. Stem bore 7/64" (92.103/5).
 - 10 Heeled pipe; 1690–1720, stamped IB. Probably a Rainford product. Not milled, stem bore 6/64 (92.103/89).
 - 11 One of two very similar fragments from this context with flared heels; a typical north-western form, 1690–1720. Both have fine fabrics, possibly imported, and stem bores of 5/64" (92.103/5).
 - 12 Two fitting bowl fragments of north-western form; 1690–1720. These have a finely burnished surface which has given an extremely glossy, glass-like finish (92.103/5).
 - 13 Part of a north-western type spurred bowl; 1690–1730. Stem bore 7/64" (92.103/5).
 - 14 Fragmentary spurred bowl; 1790–1840. Stem bore 5/64" (92.103/5).
 - 15 Plain bowl with a relief moulded dot on either side of the heel; 1800–40. Stem bore 4/64" (92.104/2).
 - 16 Plain bowl found lying on the surface of the excavation; probably late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century. Stem bore 5/64" (92.103/5).
 - 17 Bowl with relief moulded decoration consisting of moulded milling above flutes and with leaf decorated seams. There is also a symbol mark, consisting of a double ring motif on each side of the spur. This mark and the decorative scheme are both typical of north-western products of 1800–40. Stem bore 5/64" (92.104/2).
 - 18 Fragment of a spurless fluted bowl of 1840–1910. The design consists of seven thick flutes flanked by thin lines on each side of the bowl. Stem bore 4/64" (92.104/2).
 - 19 Bowl fragment with relief moulded plant decoration surrounding a square and compasses. These decorative elements are typical of pipes produced in the north-west; 1800–40 (92.102/14).
 - 20 Bowl fragment with large, crudely executed leaf decoration on the seam, 1800–40. Stem bore 5/64" (92.103/5).
 - 21 Very unusual stem fragment with a pronounced taper to the mouthpiece. The whole stem is finely burnished. Stem bore 7/64" (92.103/82). Probably late sixteenth- or early seventeenth-century.
 - 22 Stem fragment of late seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century date with a stem bore of 6/64" (92.102/14). A conical hollow has been made in the thicker end of the stem by twisting a sharp implement in the bore. This was clearly done after the pipe had been broken. There is no obvious function for this hollow, which may well be the result of someone doodling with a piece of broken pipe. The bore and hollow are shown dotted.
 - 23 Stem fragment with a Rainford style roller-stamped mark of 1710–40. The maker's name should occupy the central band of the mark, but is almost illegible in this example. It possibly reads 'John Atharton' or 'Tho Atharton'. The Atherton family were working in both Rainford and Liverpool. Stem bore 6/64" (92.104/1).
 - 24 Burnt stem fragment with part of a name stamp. This is almost illegible but may start 'R T'. The mould seams are not visible on this example, but this style of mark was usually placed on the top of the stem. This type of mark was most commonly used by the Liverpool makers, 1790–1840. Stem bore 5/64" (92.103/5).
 - 25 Stem fragment of 1790–1840 illustrated from above to show the end of a Liverpool maker's

mark alongside the mould seam. The die is distinctive in that it has an additional vertical line, possibly a 1, at the end of the mark. There is a 'W. Morgan', Liverpool mark with the number 7 at the end in the Manx Museum. The Castle Rushen Stores example had a hard, highly fired fabric. Stem bore 5/64" (92.103/89).

- 26 Small stem fragment with incuse moulded lettering; 1850–1910. Only that on the right hand side survives, possibly an 'O' followed by an 'L'. This may be the end of 'Liverpool'. Stem bore 5/64" (92.104/7).
- 27 Stem fragment with an incuse moulded number, possibly 68 or 69, and the incuse moulded lettering Mc/ /GOW in a relief moulded border. Made by McDougalls of Glasgow, who were working from 1846–1967. Stem bore 5/64" (92.104/1).
- 28 Stem fragment with part of a relief moulded number on the left hand side. The other side is blank. Stem bore 4/64" (92.104/1).
- 29 Briar pipe mouthpiece. Brown bakelite, damaged at the bowl end, surviving to a length of 53mm (92.104/7).
- 30 Briar pipe mouthpiece. Black bakelite, 57mm in length. The end nearest the bowl is square and has a threaded hole for the pipe bowl and stem to be attached. The mouthpiece has numerous teeth marks visible where it has been clenched or chewed (92.104/7).

Hair Curler

D A Higgins

Although wigs are known to have been worn since at least the late sixteenth century, it was the period between 1660 and 1800 when they were at the height of fashion (Le Cheminant 1985). Hair curlers, or wig curlers, were used to fashion the curls and during this period would have been everyday objects.

One hair curler was recovered from Context 92.102/14, a deposit which pre-dated the nineteenth-century cellar on the Arbory Street frontage. The curler is likely to date from the later seventeenth or eighteenth century, when wigs were in vogue. The curler is a short example (Fig 56), having a length of only 42mm, and is made of a light brown clay with gritty inclusions. It has a slightly

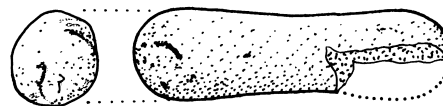


Fig 56 Castle Rushen Stores, Hair Curler (Scale 1:1)

uneven form, suggesting that it was hand rolled, and has been poorly fired, leaving the fabric soft and friable.

This curler is unusual both because of its short length and because of its fabric. Usually curlers were between 50mm and 100mm in length (Le Cheminant 1985, 345) and made of well-fired white pipeclay. An example from Liverpool has been thin-sectioned, showing it to have been made of 'an extremely inclusion free pure clay' (Davidson and Davey 1982, 336). Sometimes curlers were stamped with the maker's initials on their ends. A few of these examples are known to have been made by tobacco pipe makers, but the majority of the marked examples bear the initials of a small number of individuals who appear to have been specialist hair curler manufacturers.

There were plenty of pipe makers in the north-west who could have made curlers for the local and Manx markets and a wide range of curlers were produced by the specialist hair curler manufacturers, examples of which, in a buff/brown clay, have been excavated at South Castle Street in Liverpool (Philpott 1985b). None of these, however, is as short or made of such a friable brown fabric as the Castletown example. It is possible that the Castletown curler was made on Man in response to local demand. Whatever its origin, the presence of this curler demonstrates both that wigs were being used in Castletown and that contemporary fashions were being followed on the island.

Clay Marbles

D A Higgins

Two clay marbles were recovered from the excavations. Both are made of a fine white pipeclay which has been well fired. They were recovered from recent contexts and are likely to be of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date. The marbles are described below.

- 1 Half a marble, 18mm diameter. This marble has some sparse gritty inclusions, probably quartz, in the fabric. It had a regular spherical form but with a number of striations and small scratch marks on the surface. These run in a number of orientations and appear to have been made when the clay was in a leather hard state. They

may result from the marble having been lathe turned (92.102/2).

- 2 Complete marble, 15–16mm in diameter. This marble has a smooth surface with a ‘fold’ mark in the clay at one point. It has a slightly uneven form and has almost certainly been hand rolled. Without a broken section it is impossible to determine the nature of any inclusions in the clay (92.104/1).

Brick

N C Johnson

Introduction

The excavations provided a total of 108 fragments of brick clay from 36 contexts, distributed widely over the site. Most, but not all, of the phases identified by the analysis of the pottery are represented.

Method

In the majority of cases all brick fragments excavated were retained, recorded and subsequently stored in context groups. Where very large quantities of relatively modern brick fragments were encountered, however, a representative sample was taken. Where this was the case, it is noted below.

The nature of the material precluded the legible marking of individual fragments; identification of pieces in the archive is based on the bags and labels with which they are stored.

Trench 92.102

The Trench 92.102 finds assemblage includes 23 fragments of brick, some of substantial proportions, from 12 contexts. This total number of fragments does not represent the whole quantity of brick produced by the trench, since two contexts (7 and 9) were sampled only. These contexts consisted of building rubble and formed the back-fill of the cellar in this trench. As such, they contained a mass of brick material, the majority of which was modern; the brick retained was characteristic of the whole.

The single fragment from a Phase 2 context (as identified in the pottery report) was recovered from Context 41, a layer behind the wall adjoining the cellar steps. It has one very smooth face and is

Context	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	
004	–	–	–	2	
006	–	–	1	–	
007	–	–	–	1	
008	–	–	–	1	
009	–	–	–	2	
014	–	–	5	–	
016	–	–	1	–	
017	–	–	3	–	
028	–	–	1	–	
030	–	–	3	–	
033	–	–	2	–	
041	–	1	–	–	
Totals	–	1	16	6	23

Table 17 Brick fragments from Trench 92.102 by context and phase

remarkably hard-fired, although not in a fully controlled kiln, being part-reduced, part-oxidised. The fabric is relatively fine, with some sand present. It is not entirely credible to place this fragment in the late seventeenth century/early eighteenth century and, therefore, it has to be regarded as the result of contamination from the construction trench (28).

The material from Phase 3 is mainly small, most pieces being no larger than 64 cubic cm. It is quite homogeneous, with a relatively fine fabric, small 1.5 cubic mm voids, and fired to an even hue. Some fragments are sooted.

One larger fragment from Context 14 possibly represents four sides of a corner, with a thickness of 49mm. It appears sooted or heavily weathered, and retains some lime mortar. The iron content of this piece is higher than others from this group, but not as high as some of those from Trench 92.103.

There are two other relatively large fragments in the Phase 3 group, from Contexts 14 and 28. One of these (28) appears highly fired, and has discrete small patches of reduced material within it, representing the addition of grog. The fabric is fine, with only a few small inclusions.

The Phase 4 material is modern. Context 4 produced a half brick with frog originating from Glenfaba Brickworks, a company incorporated in 1927 (Bawden *et al* 1972, 135). This example measures 78mm × 109mm. The fragment recovered from Context 8 retains the arc of a cylindrical hole through it, characteristic of modern cored bricks. The two representative examples retained from Context 9 are both sooted, but are of differing types. One is possibly a Ballacoarey brick and measures 75mm × 113mm × 230mm; it retains mortar on all faces and has no frog. The other, a half brick, measures 72mm × 110mm, and is of