

CLAY PIPES FROM HEREFORD CITY EXCAVATIONS

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Note: Dates from the text have been added to the bowl forms in Figures 71 and 72, but these are not shown on the original figures.

CLAY PIPES

by A A Peacey and R Shoesmith

Pipe smoking began in England in the 1570's and was widely practised by the end of the 16th century. By this time clay pipes were being made in moulds, originally in the London area but by the 1640's production had expanded to most parts of the country. The industry found local sources of clay wherever possible, making use of white clays which had been used for the production of glazed and unglazed white wares and for slip decoration (Oswald, 1975).

The manufacture of clay tobacco pipes in Herefordshire started in the second quarter of the 17th century and reached its peak, both in quantitative production and in the assertion of regional design characteristics, towards the end of the 17th century. Local products continued to be used in the early 18th century but were gradually superceded by Bristol pipes, which doubtless came as part of cargoes on barges travelling up the River Wye, and eventually by the wares from the Broseley, Shropshire kiins.

The following clay pipe manufacturers have been identified in the county:

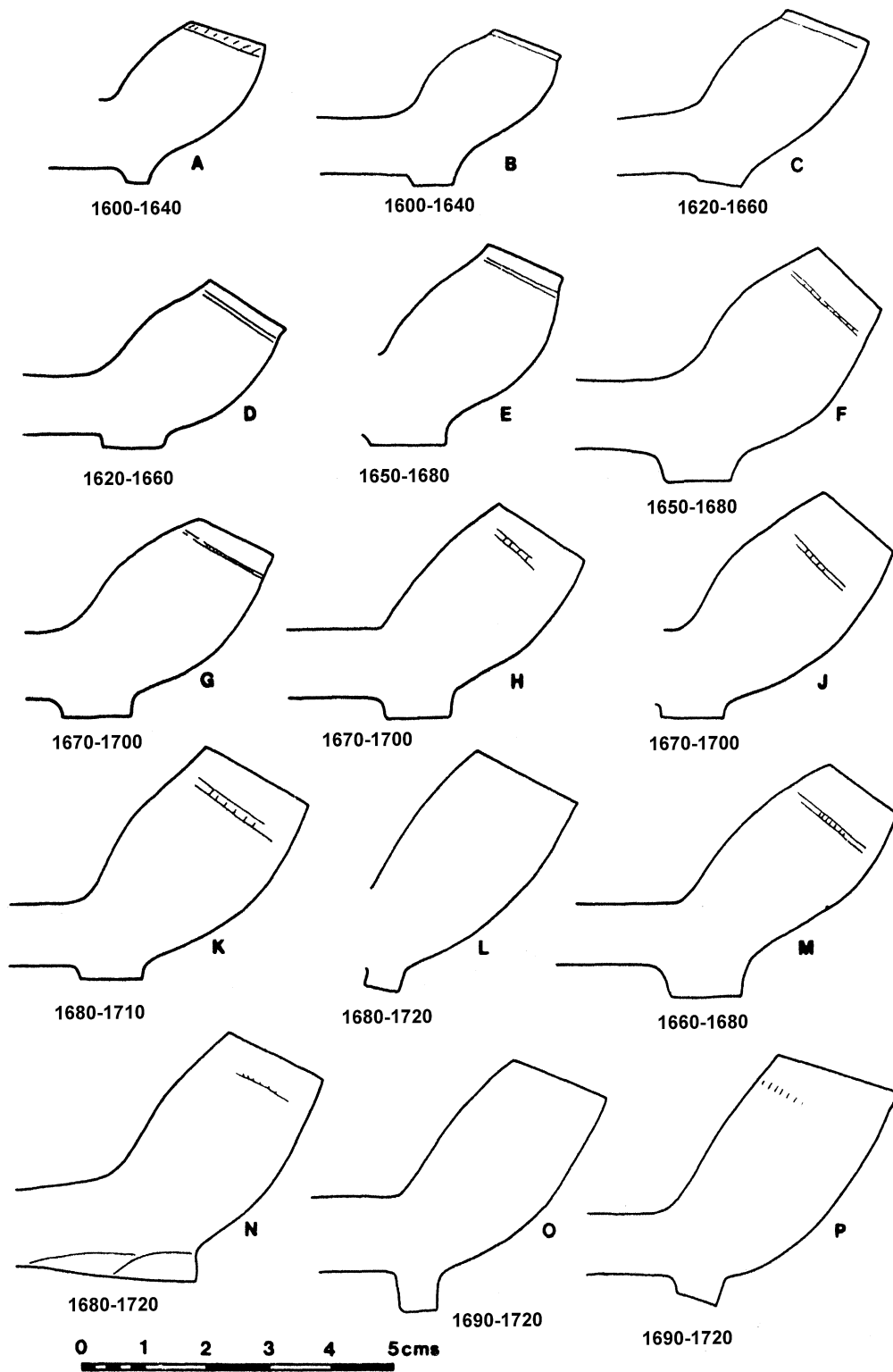
NAME	PLACE	DETAILS AND DATE
Thomas Purton	St Nicholas parish, Hereford	Moved from London to Hereford between 1663 and 1669. Had Francis Jones as apprentice 1669-70

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NAME	PLACE	DETAILS AND DATE
John Purton	Hereford	Probably operative between 1676 and 1714. His son, William, was apprenticed to a Bristol pipemaker in 1714 (Walker, 1972)
Francis Jones	Hereford	Apprentice to Thomas Purton 1669-70 and then to Richard Everton in 1670
Richard Overton	Birtley, N Herefordshire	Certainly operative between 1664 and 1670. Had Francis Jones as apprentice 1670. Kiln probably at Birtley Farm (Watkins, 1930, 133)
Thomas Overton	3 miles from Hereford	1660-1690 (Oswald, 1975, 174)
John Grub	Leominster	Married in 1666 (HRO)
Humphry Wall	Leominster	Died in 1678 (HRO)
William Caldewell	Leominster	Beneficiary of the will of H Wall (HRO)
Stephen Watkins	Kington	Bondsman at marriage in 1681 (HRO)
?	Pipe Aston	Kiln found at Pipe Aston (Watkins, 1930, 132)

CLAY PIPES



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Fig 71 Clay pipe bowls - types A-P

A few clay pipes were stratified in period 6 at Berrington Street site 4 and in periods 7a, 7b, and 8 at Bewell House and these pipes have been used to date these later levels. Contexts are not given in the type series but the main groups from these sites are listed in the inventory.

The collection of some 250 makers' stamps gives an indication of the variety of manufacturers selling or making pipes locally during the 300 years they were common. The Herefordshire regional types are isolated and the increased imports into the area in the early 18th century can be seen.

THE BOWL TYPES (Figs 71:M8.A8 and 72:M8.A12)

Comparative bowl types are taken from the simplified general typology published by Oswald (1975, 37-41) and for the Broseley types by Atkinson (1975)

FIG	TYPE	PROBABLE DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
71	A	1600-40	This is similar to Oswald type 16, and examples are known to have been made in north Herefordshire at Pipe Aston and Lingen (personal observation)
71	B	1600-40	This is Oswald type 4, similar to A but with a well-formed heel on which the maker's mark is sometimes found
71	C	1620-60	A West Country variation of Oswald type 5, with a small overhung bowl
71	D	1620-60	This is another variation of Oswald type 5, with a squat barrel shape and flat heel

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FIG	TYPE	PROBABLE DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
71	E	1650-80	A variation of Oswald type 6. Some examples are from Bristol and others local. Wheel stamps first occur on this type
71	F	1650-80	A distinct Herefordshire variation of Oswald type 6 with a long barrel shape and projecting heel. Stamps, which occur both on the heel and back of the bowl, include a crowned rose and wheel marks
71	G	1670-1700	This is similar to F, but has a different angle at which the bowl rim is trimmed
71	H	1670-1700	This is another regional development of Oswald type 6, more open than the earlier types. Few pipes of this type have been found but K, of which this appears to be an embryonic form, became one of the mainstays of the period
71	J	1670-1700	One of the popular Herefordshire types at the end of the 17th century. It differs from F in that the broadest part of the bowl has moved up from the centre towards the rim but marks occur in similar positions
71	K	1680-1710	A very common local type, the rear bowl profile turning back to produce a wider mouth. This is reminiscent of the Broseley type 4 (Atkinson, 1975), but this type has a heel whereas the Broseley has a spur. Rouletting is still general on the rim

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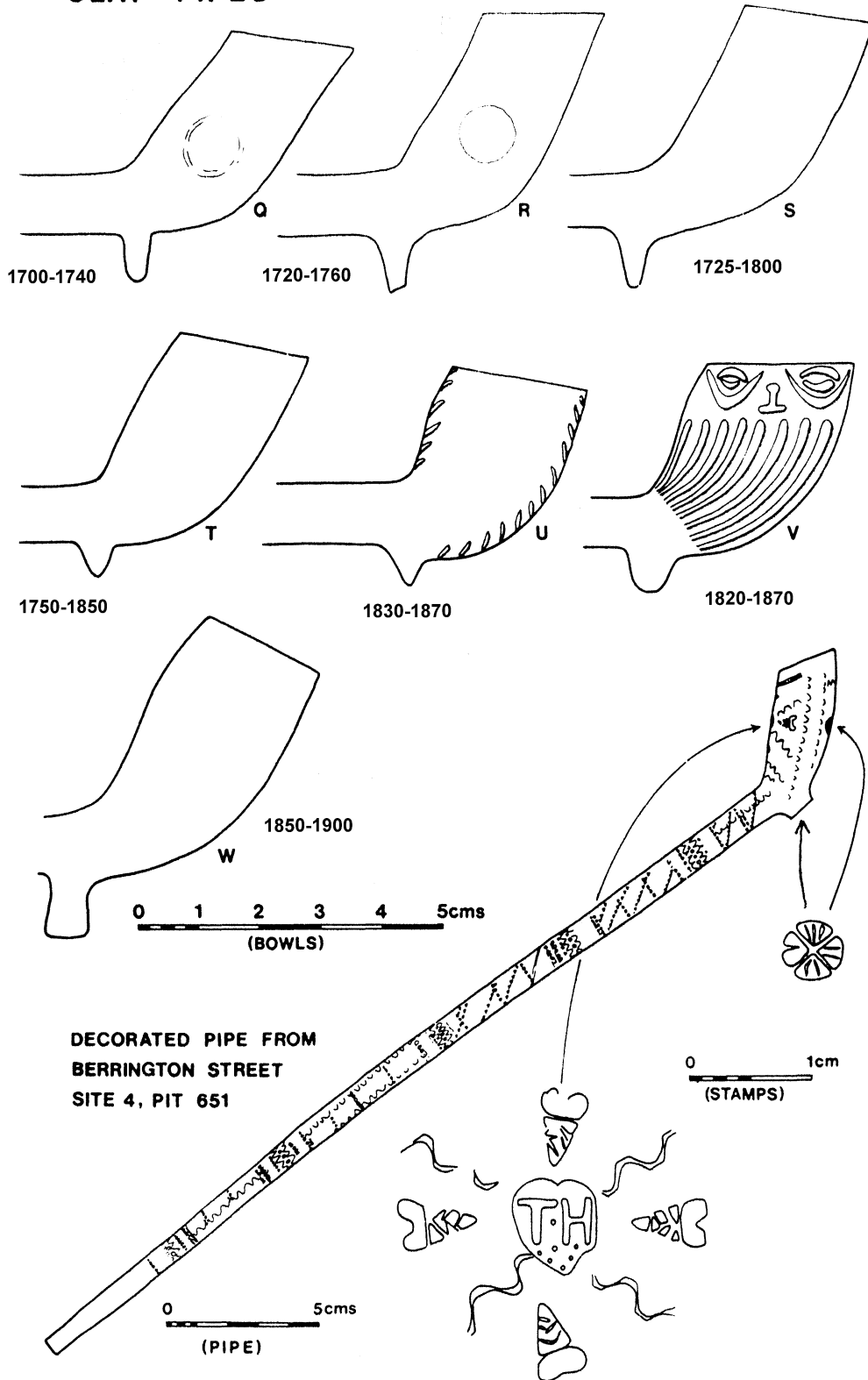
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FIG	TYPE	PROBABLE DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
71	L	1680-1720	A Herefordshire variety of Broseley type 4 (Atkinson, 1975), marks are impressed on the base of the spur
71	M	1660-80	Broseley type 2 (Atkinson, 1975). The occurrence of a mark not recorded from Broseley could indicate local production of this type
71	N	1680-1720	Broseley type 5 (Atkinson, 1975). This type was also made at Pipe Aston and Birtley in north Herefordshire (personal observation) The mark, often a full name, is on the heel
71	O	1690-1720	Broseley type 4 (Atkinson, 1975). Locally made examples are distinguished by the poorer quality of both form and fabric. Marks occur on the base of the spur
71	P	1690-1720	A local form derived from O. The marks occur on the shorter and enlarged spur
72	Q	1700-40	This type, embodying a mark on the bowl side, was favoured by Bristol (Oswald, 1975, 56) and Gloucester (Peacey, forthcoming) makers
72	R	1720-60	This is a later variant of Q, with the bowl form more upright
72	S	1725-1800	This is a long lasting 18th century type, but there is insufficient local data to date it more accurately

M8.A11

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CLAY PIPES



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Fig 72 Clay pipe bowls - types Q-W and a decorated pipe from Berrington Street

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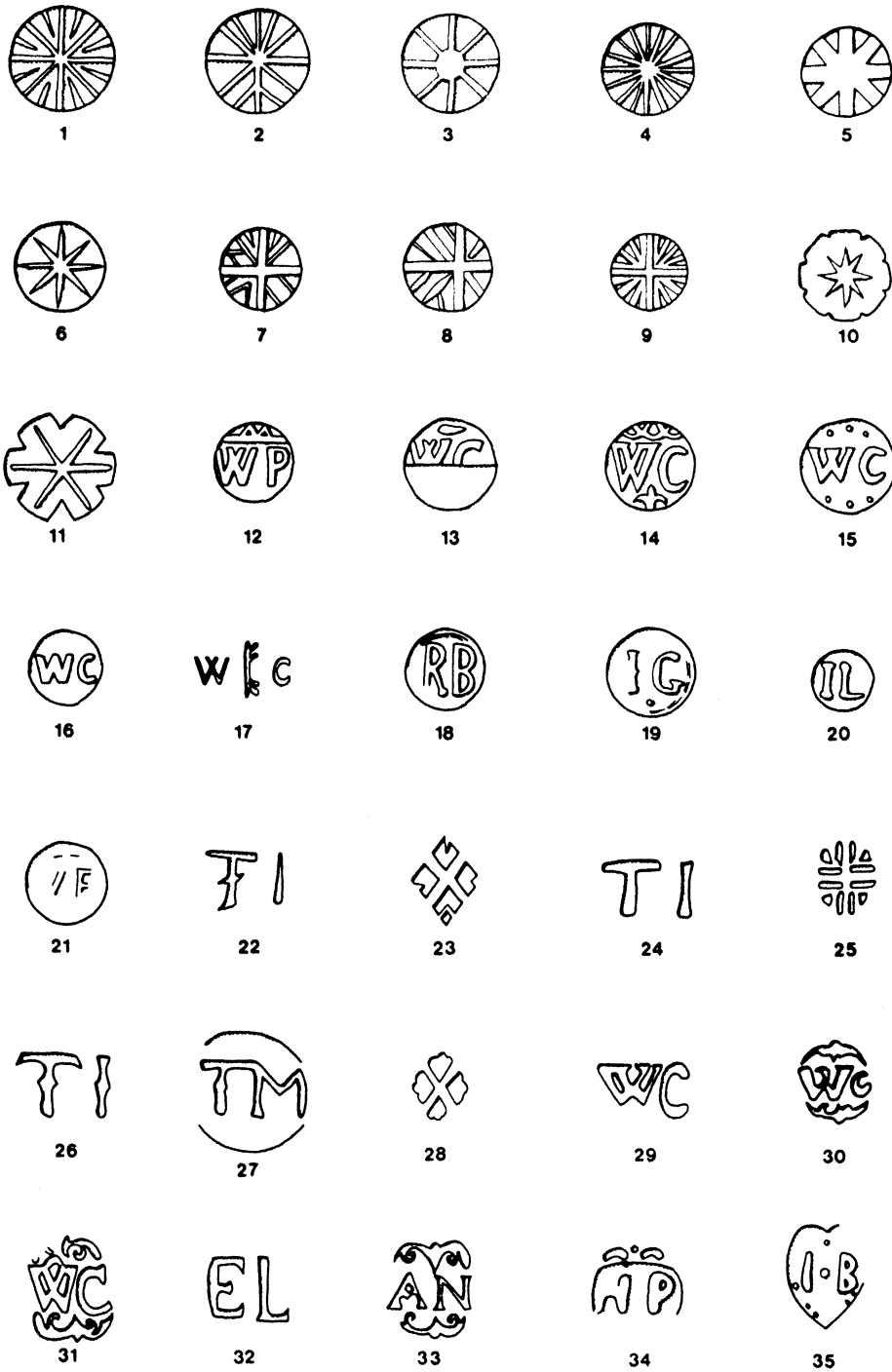
FIG	TYPE	PROBABLE DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
72	T	1750-1850	An undistinguished bowl form which survived alongside other types for a long period
72	U	1830-1870	A plain bowl, similar in shape to V but with a chevron decoration of clay pellets on the seams
72	V	1820-70	A small upright bowl with a slightly flattened cross-section and spur, decorated with relief motifs
72	W	1850-1900	An elegant round bowl with a dominating round spur. Similar pipes were made by William Pardoe at Nantgarw, Glamorgan (personal observation)

MAKERS' STAMPS - GENERAL (Figs 73:M8.A14 and 74:M8.B5)

FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
73	1-11	1650-1710	-	Various wheel or star derived stamps, which are exceedingly common in this area and are found on the heel or back of the bowl. It first appears on type E and also on F, G, H, J, and K. Marks of this type are known from the kilns at Pipe Aston (personal observation) and Broseley (Thursfield, 1907) but their

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CLAY PIPE STAMPS



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Fig 73 Clay pipe stamps - nos 1-35

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
73	1-11 (cont)			numbers and variety speak for several local sources.
73	12	1620-60	WP	One example on the heel of type C
73	13	1620-60	WC	One example on the heel of type C
73	14	1620-60	WC	One example on the heel of type D
73	15	1670-1710	WC	Thirteen examples on heels of types J and K. This type is also common at Ross-on-Wye (J Parry collection), and Leominster (personal observation) and together with nos 13, 14, 16, and 17 could be products of William Caldewell of Leominster
73	16	1690-1720	WC	One example on the spur of type O
73	17	1650-80	WC	Three examples on heels of type E
73	18	1670-1700	RB	One example on the heel of type J

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
73	19	1670-1700	IG	One example on the heel of type J which could be the work of John Grub of Leominster
73	20	1600-40	IL	One example on the heel of type B
73	21	1620-60	-	Damaged stamp on the heel of type D
73	22-26	1620-80	TI	Six examples on the heels of types D and E. The initial heel mark is accompanied by a quartered design on the top of the stem (23 and 25). This pipe is also recorded from Ross-on-Wye (J Parry collection), Gloucester and Stroud (personal observation) and a connection could exist between this and the next stamp
73	27-28	1620-60	TM	One example on the heel of type D. Variations of this mark with a similar quartered design to 23 and 25 are recorded from Ross (J Parry collection), Gloucester, Stroud, Wooton-under-Edge (personal observation) and

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M8.B2

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
73	27-28 (cont)			Marlborough (Atkinson, 1965)
73	29	1620-60	WC	One example on the heel of type D
73	30	1620-60	WC	One example on the heel of type D. This is definitely a product of the Bristol kilns (Jackson and Price, 1974)
73	31	1620-60	WC	One example on the heel of type D; as with 30, a Bristol pipe
73	32	1631-52	EL	One example on the heel of type D; made by Edward Lewis of Bristol (Jackson and Price, 1974)
73	33	1620-60	AN	One example on the heel of type D, also recorded from Stroud (personal observation), Cirencester (Museum collection), and Bristol (Jackson and Price, 1974)
73	34	1620-60	HP	One example on the heel of type D
73	35	1650-80	IB	One example on the heel of type E

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
74	36	pre-1700	TB	One example on a heel fragment
74	37-41 & 43-44	1670-1710	RE	34 examples on the heels of type J and K. Common also at Ross-on-Wye (J Parry collection) and certainly the work of a local pipe maker
74	42	1690-1720	RE	Two examples on the spurs of types L and O
74	45	1680-1710	ReCe ED	One example on the heel of type K
74	46	1660-80	EF	One example on the heel of type M
74	47	1690-1720	TH	One example on the spur of type O; this is also recorded from Broseley from whence this probably came
74	48-49	1690-1720	RH	Three examples on spurs of type O; probably a Broseley product
74	50	1690-1720	WC	One example on the spur of type O, not known from Broseley and probably a local product

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CLAY PIPE STAMPS



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Fig 74 Clay pipe stamps - nos 36-71

(cont)

FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
74	51	1690-1720	IB	One example on the spur of type O; not recorded from Broseley
74	52	1690-1720	II	One example on the spur of type O; also recorded from Broseley (Thursfield, 1907)
74	53	1690-1720	AB	Two examples on the spurs of type O; also recorded from Broseley (Thursfield, 1907)
74	54	1690-1720	WD	One example on the spur of type O; also recorded from Broseley (Thursfield, 1907)
74	55-58	1680-1720	various	One example of each on the heels of type N. All except 55 are of Broseley manufacture (Thursfield, 1907)
74	59	1700-60	?A	One example on the side of a damaged bowl of type Q or R, which is indicative of origin or influence from the south-east
74	60	1700-40	IB	One example on the side of a bowl of type Q

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
74	61	1700-60	IP	One example on the side of a bowl of type Q or R. This is also recorded from Welsh Newton (J Parry collection) and Bristol Jackson and Price, 1974)
74	62	1720-60	MP	One example on the side of a bowl of type R
74	63	1700-40	IB	One example on the side of a bowl of type Q. This is also recorded from Stroud (personal observation), Gloucester (Museum collection), Cirencester (Museum collection), and Hailes Abbey (personal observation) and could be a product of either Gloucester or Bristol
74	64	1740-60	IOHN BRADLEY	One example on a stem fragment
74	65	-	-	Incomplete stem mark of unusual style
74	66	1670-1700	HW	One example on the back of a bowl type J which may be a product of Humphry Wall of Leominster

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
74	67	c1890	M. PH... BOOTHH.. HER..	One example on the back of a bowl fragment. This is an indelible ink stamp and refers to the pipe purchaser not the maker. Mary Phillips was the proprietor of the Booth Hall, Hereford in 1890 (Jakeman and Carver, 1890). The directories for 1885 and 1895 show the Booth Hall in different hands and the pipe must have been made between these dates. A collection of similar pipes, unearthed in Gloucester (Museum collection) shows that the method was still in use up to 1910
74	68	1700-40	IS	One example incuse on the back of a bowl similar to type Q but without side roundel
74	69	1830-70	RR	One example on the side of a spur, common all over south-west England (personal observation) and probably a Bristol product
74	70	1750-1850	-	A five pointed star on the sides of the spur on type T

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FIG	TYPE	DATE RANGE	INITIALS	COMMENTS
74	71	post-1750	TM	One example in relief on the sides of a spur fragment

MAKERS' STAMPS - ROSE AND CROWN (Fig 75:M8.B10)

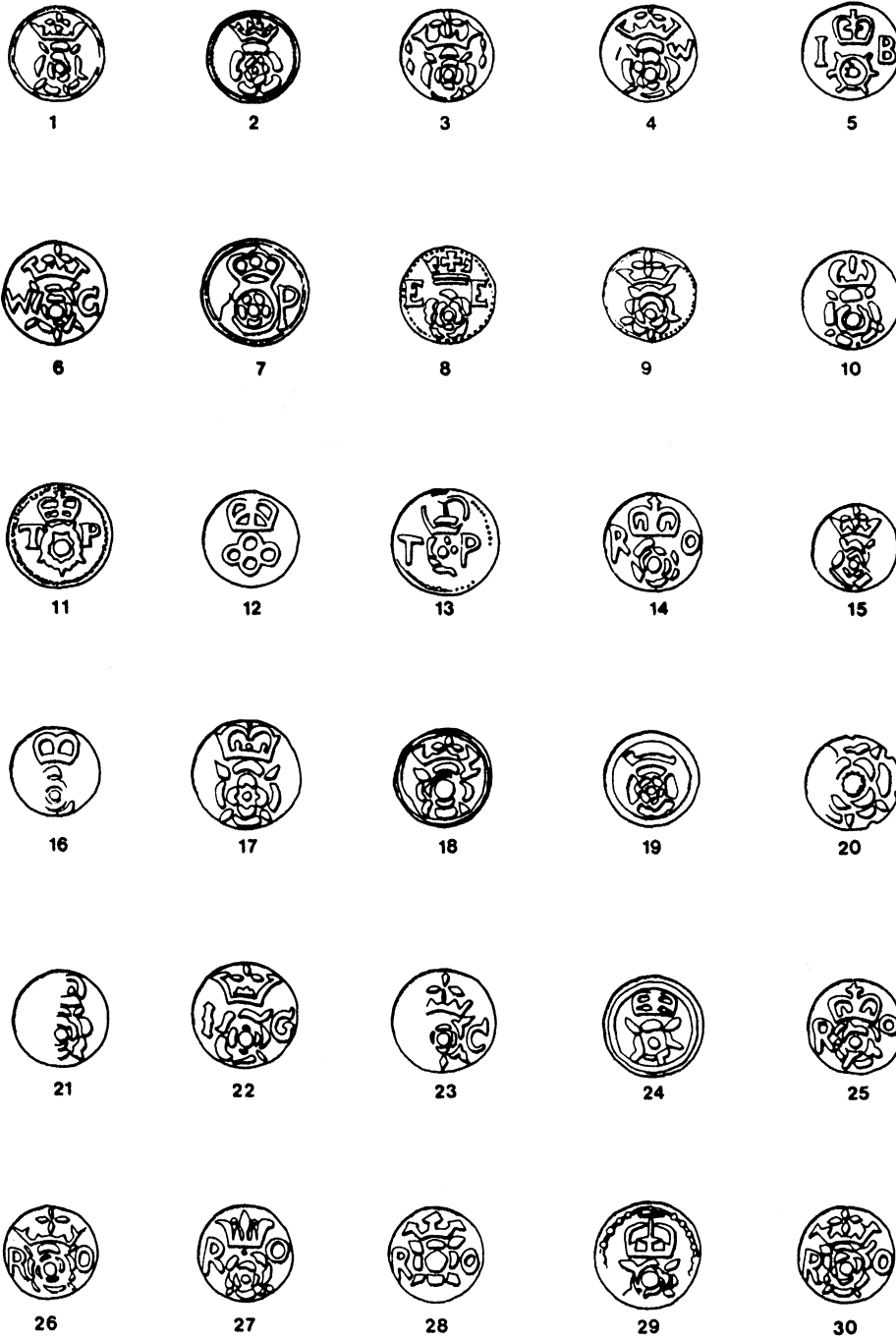
Rose and crown designs of various styles are exceedingly common in Herefordshire. 53 examples were found with marks on the heel and the back of the bowl and often both. They occur only rarely on bowl types E and F but commonly on types J and K. Nos 14, 25-28, and 30 are the work of Richard Overton of Birtley in north Herefordshire (Watkins, 1930, 133). He is recorded in the parish registers from 1664 to 1667 and also in the sherriff's court records for 1669 in connection with an apprentice who was transferred to him from Thomas Purton. Nos 7, 11, and 13 may be the work of this Thomas Purton who was working in the parish of St Nicholas in the city of Hereford in 1676. No 22 could be the work of John Grub of Leominster. The remaining marks are certainly products of this region.

A DECORATED PIPE FROM BERRINGTON STREET (Fig 72:M8.A12)

Pit 651 on site 4, which contained an important collection of wine bottles and much environmental material, also included an unusually fine pipe and parts of a second which are unlike any previously recorded from Hereford. Though reminiscent of certain Dutch pipes in the all-over decoration, the form and intricate rouletting suggest an English source. The manner in which different wheels were used in combination to produce the intricate patterning along the stem is also found on pipes of this period from Gloucester (Peacey, forthcoming), but never on so lavish a scale, being normally limited to 5-8cm of the stem behind an undecorated bowl. The use of simple rouletting as an

CLAY PIPE STAMPS

ROSE AND CROWN SERIES
(Prefix RC)



0 1 2cms

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Fig 75 Clay pipe stamps - Rose and crown series nos RC1-RC30

embellishment to the stem is also recorded from Plymouth (Oswald, 1969), Taunton (Oswald, 1975), Broseley (Thursfield, 1907), and London (Oswald, 1975). The form of this fine pipe is similar to one from Clerkenwell, London dating to c1720, suggesting that it may be the product of a London maker (Oswald, 1975, 100). The other pipes from this pit are typical of those used in Hereford at the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries and comprise bowl types J, K, O, P, and Q.

WIG CURLERS

Four pipe clay wig curlers found at Bewell House date from the late 17th century. Three are marked on the end with an incuse WB, a mark common in Bristol and Gloucester. There is evidence for the manufacture of unmarked wig curlers at the Birtley pipe kilns (personal observation).

INVENTORY OF MAIN GROUPS

SITE/PERIOD	CONTEXT	QUANTITY	TYPE	STAMP	PROBABLE DATE RANGE
Berrington Street 4 Period 6	Cellar 701 (Filled before AD 1700)	5	1-11	Wheel & star	1650-1710
		1	17	WC	1650-80
		1	23	TI	1620-80
		1	24	TI	1620-80
		1	29	WC	1620-60
		1	32	EL	1631-52
		1	33	AN	1620-60
Bewell House Period 7a	Pit 99 (Filled by <u>c</u> AD 1720)	7	1-11	Wheel & star	1650-1710
		1	14	WC	1620-60
		1	15	WC	1670-1710

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SITE/PERIOD	CONTEXT	QUANTITY	TYPE	STAMP	PROBABLE DATE RANGE
Bewell House	Pit 99	1	21	-	1620-60
Period 7a	(Filled by	1	22	TI	1620-80
	<u>c</u> AD 1720	1	23	TI	1620-80
		1	37	RE	1670-1710
		1	49	RH	1690-1720
		1	52	II	1690-1720
		1	53	AB	1690-1720
		1	57	Morris	1680-1720
				Shaw	
		1	59	IA	1700-60
		1	RC1	-	1660-1710
		1	RC2	-	1660-1710
		1	RC3	-	1660-1710
		1	RC4	-W	1660-1710
		1	RC5	IB	1660-1710
		1	RC6	WC	1660-1710
		1	RC7	-P	1660-1710
		1	RC14	RO	1660-1700
Bewell House	Soil levels	9	1-11	Wheel	1650-1710
Period 7b/8	15 and 22*			& star	
		1	19	IG	1670-1700
		2	37	RE	1670-1710
		1	39	RE	1670-1710
		4	40	RE	1670-1710
		1	41	RE	1670-1710
		1	53	AB	1690-1720
		1	54	John	1680-1720
				James	
		1	66	HW	1670-1720
		1	RC6	WC	1660-1700
		1	RC18	-	1660-1710
		1	RC19	-	1660-1710
		1	RC22	IG	1660-1710

*The clay pipes from these two soil levels are taken together as there do not appear to be any significant differences. There was no firm sealing layer but the associated finds suggest that the main use should be during the first half of the 18th century.

It may be significant that the earliest group in cellar 701, which was filled at some date before 1700 and possibly before 1670, did not contain any pipes with Rose and Crown stamps. However there is some indication that pipe users had a preference for pipes from a particular maker as the Bewell House soil levels (L15 and L22) contained no less than eight pipes with RE stamps out of a total of fourteen pipes with initial stamps.

The earliest pipes found in Hereford are probably imports from the London area but it is evident that this trade was superseded in the second half of the 17th century by a flourishing local industry with several centres of production including several in the city. By the middle of the 18th century, at the latest, imports from Bristol and Broseley had effectively taken over from the local products.