



THE NATIONAL PIPE ARCHIVE

Registered Charity Number 1043065

Accession Number: LIVNP 1997.74.03

Description: Typology extracted from: Atkinson, D. R., 1975, *Tobacco Pipes of Broseley, Shropshire*, privately published, 92pp.

Comments:

Key Words: Clay tobacco pipe; Atkinson; Broseley; Shropshire; pipe makers; makers marks

Scanned: PDF 18 January 2017

Any images in this PDF must not be lent, copied to another party, sold or reproduced in any way without prior permission from the National Pipe Archive and the copyright owner, if applicable. Reproduction or publication in any medium is expressly forbidden without written authorisation and should include an acknowledgement worded 'Courtesy of the National Pipe Archive' and quoting the relevant accession number.

would have been the case 100 years previously, before the industrial revolution had started.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

9. "Clay Industries of the Severn Gorge", 1877.
10. In this section I have quoted freely from "The Mining of Clay" (in the Broseley area) by Ivor J. Brown.
11. "The Chemistry of Pottery".
12. See also "Beginnings of the Devon Ball Clay Trade" by J.A. Bulley, 1955.



Chronology of Bowl Types

Development of styles and size

The first typology for Broseley was published by Oswald and James in 1955. Although accurate as far as it goes it does not cover the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In this typology I have endeavoured to produce a complete series right up to the modern pipes so that it should now be possible to identify and date any pipe bowl to within 20-30 years.

To avoid confusion I have numbered the types or groups of the seventeenth century as Oswald did, and carried on after that in chronological sequence.

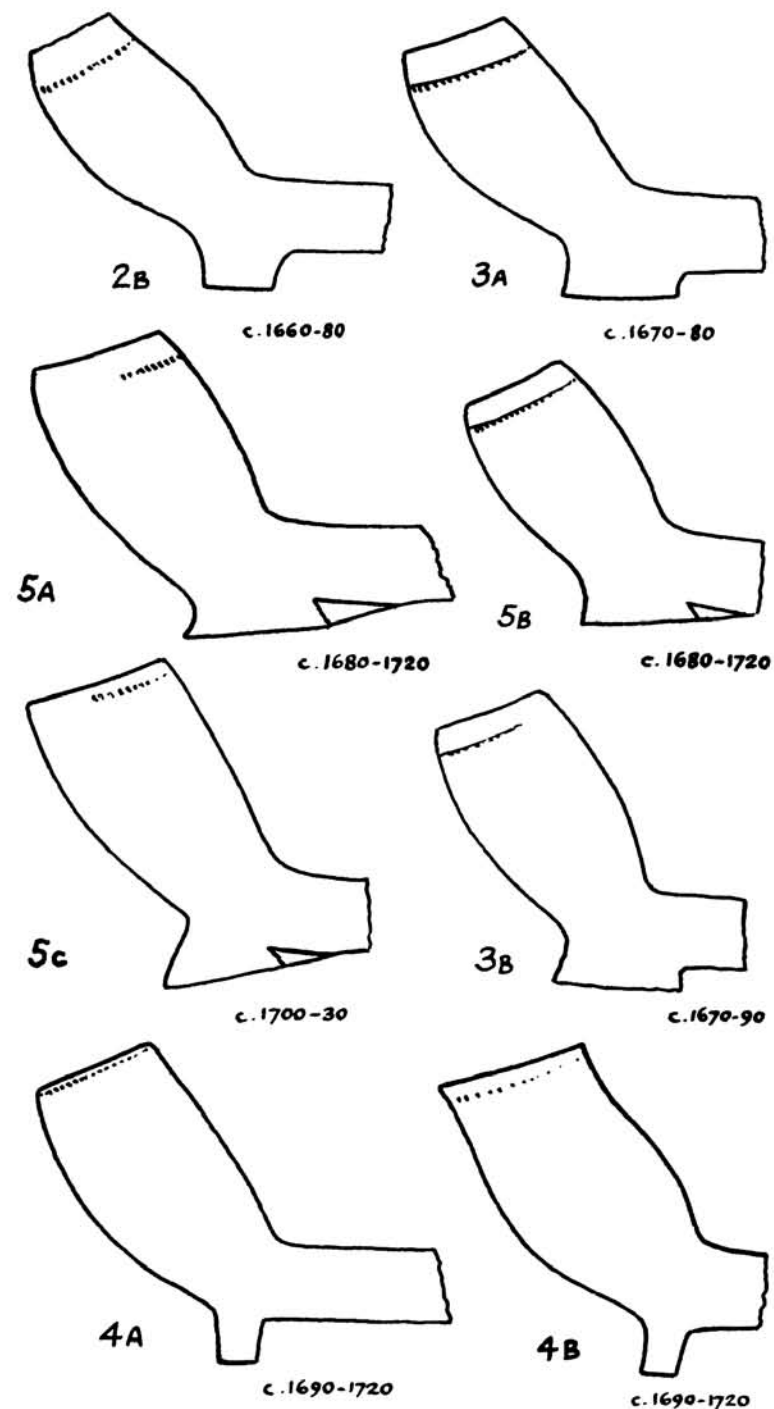
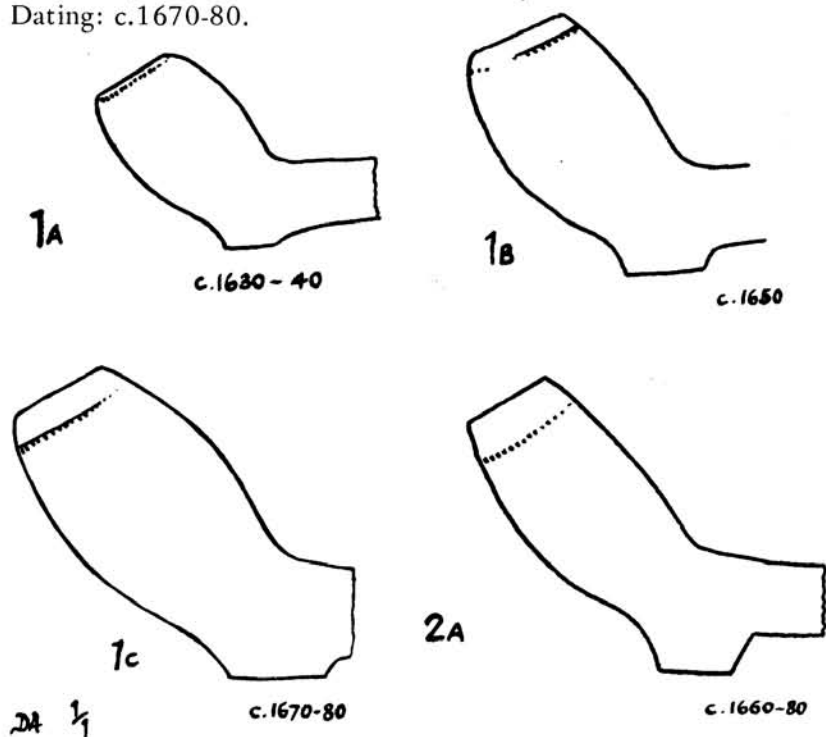
This typology could be more complete. There are many sub-types of the main groups besides certain shapes which do not quite belong to any group. However if all of these were to be illustrated it would mean further plates, which in these days would be uneconomical. The following descriptive notes should, however, taken with Figs 1 & 2, serve to make identification of most pipes found fairly straightforward.

Type 1 (Oswald type 1) This type is found in three sizes which cover the period c.1630-1680 and I have divided it into three groups.

Type 1A This is the earliest group of pipes found at Broseley and must represent the first makers to work here. It is clearly of contemporary southern style, the small bulbous bowls having a tiny flat base. The stems are fairly thin with a wide bore in most cases. Usually unmarked but occasionally have small initials on the base. This type is common at Ludlow, usually unmarked also. Dating: c.1630-40.

Type 1B A larger version, still of contemporary southern style. Type common in London. Larger heel, thick stem and bore. Very few found at Broseley. Initial marks on the base. Dating: c.1650.

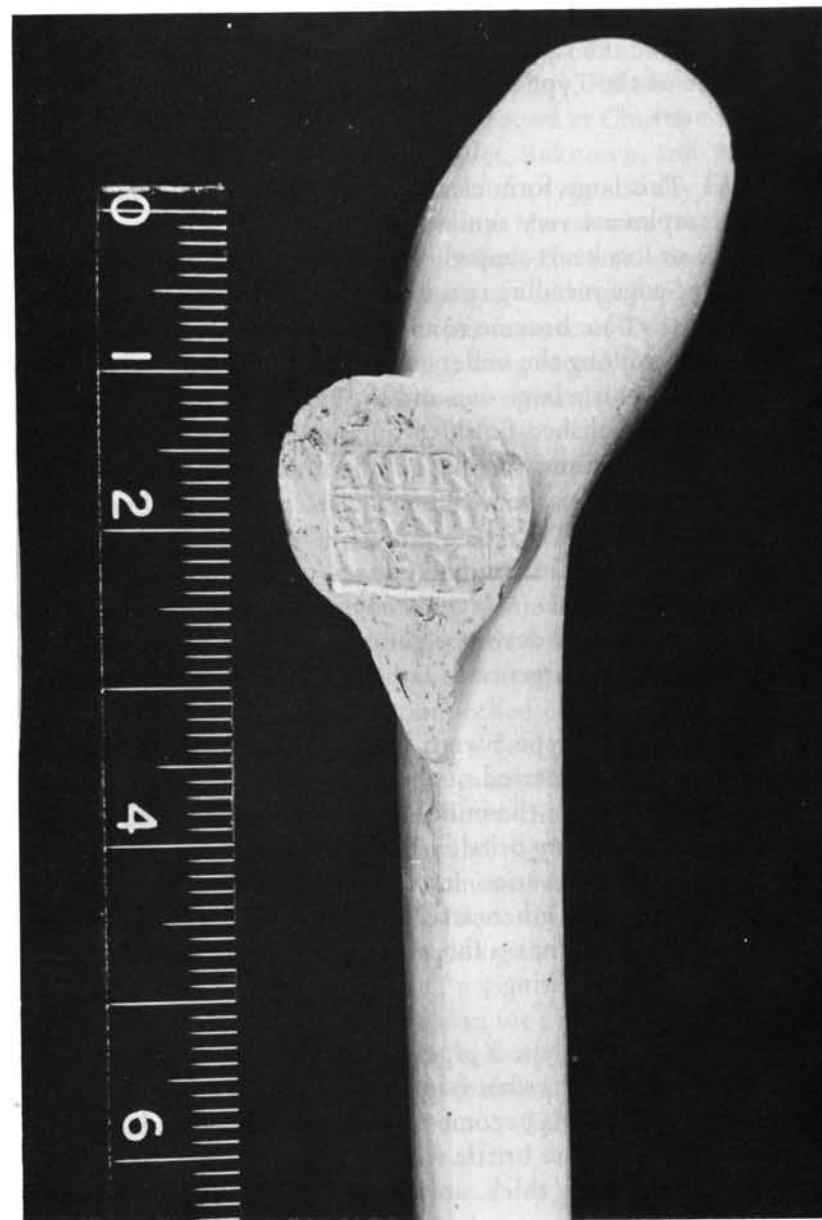
Type 1C The largest form of type 1. A more elongated bowl which is a more typical Broseley shape. The heel is not outstanding very much from the line of the stem. Circular or heart-shaped initial marks or occasionally semi-full name. Dating: c.1670-80.



Type 2 (Oswald Type 2) These have narrow elongated bowls with the heel markedly projecting which is in diameter relatively small. They occur in a variety of sizes, some of which are considerably smaller than those illustrated. Medium sized or large examples with the initials HB (Henry Bradley) or GH (George Hartshorne) are particularly common at Broseley. An example of the latter is known dated 1659. The stems are usually thick with a wide bore but vary very considerably. Dating: c.1660-80.

Type 3 (Oswald Type 3) These have a wider bowl with the distinctive very large round heel which projects beyond the diameter of the stem. They vary in size, some being smaller than the two illustrated (3A, 3B) and some examples have the bowl leaning outwards further than those shown in Fig. 1. Many makers used this type, particularly when they began stamping abbreviated full name marks, i.e., GRIF/POVL, RICH/LEG, IOHN/LEG, TOME/JONE, RAN/PECK etc. Initial marks are often found, particularly GH and MD (Morris Decon), and even the later full name square stamps begin to appear, e.g. Morris Decon. This type was the immediate predecessor of the 'tailed heel' pipes (Type 5) which developed from it. Stems are usually thick with a wide bore. Dating: c.1670-90.

Type 5 (Oswald Type 5) This occurs in various sizes and sub-types and lasted from c.1680-1730 approximately; the last survivors of this type must have been in use concurrently with two or three eighteenth century spur types. The earliest dated pipes of this type were made in 1687 (John James, John Jones, Richard Legg) so they were probably introduced in the 1680's. Oswald gives a starting date of c. 1670 for the type but in the light of pipe size development over the country as a whole this would appear slightly early. However, one maker who seems to have had a long working life (possibly a father and son are represented), Morris Decon, used many different MD stamps on pipes of Type 1 (medium size), Type 2, Type 3 and even Type 5, and one small example of the latter bears the small



Type 5 pipe showing the distinctive tailed heel and large square full name stamp of Andrew Bradley, c.1690.

circular MD mark found on type 3, whereas his Type 5 pipes normally have the square full name stamp. This could indicate earlier use of the Type 5 or alternatively late use of an earlier type of mark.

Type 5A This large form clearly developed out of Type 3, and early examples are very similar. In fact the heels are not 'tailed' but more or less heart-shaped, the leading edge being round and the trailing edge receding to a blunt point underneath the stem. Gradually the base became rounder and the 'tail' grew out of the back of it along the underside of the stem. The example illustrated (5A) is a large one and the type has many varieties. Most have the polished finish of fine shiny lines, but by no means all. Specimens without milling round the lip are rare (one of the few is marked OP for Oliver Price).

Type 5B These are uncommon and are a small version of 5A. Examples marked MD (Morris Decon) or RL (Richard Legg). In style they are well developed and therefore probably contemporaries of the larger ones rather than predecessors.

The bowls of Type 5 were first of all thick and rather bulbous but during the period of their use, though all except Type 5C retain the curve in the middle, the bowls became thinner in construction and more brittle. The heel becomes smaller and the length of the tail varies—in some cases it is reduced to almost nothing and in others stretches for half an inch. This depended to some extent on the way each individual pipe was trimmed off before firing.

Type 5C The later Type 5 pipes, after c.1700, begin to show features more characteristic of the larger eighteenth century spur pipes. The bowls become taller, more straight-sided and have thinner and more brittle walls as already stated. The stems and bores, previously thick, are narrower, and the heel becomes much smaller, often more pinched in below the bowl and the tail becomes narrower and sometimes extends further along the underneath of the stem. Many of these later ones have a

different form of marking, frequently including a gauntlet or fleur-de-lis, sometimes square or sometimes circular. Marks include TT with a gauntlet (Thomas Taylor), RS with gauntlet (Richard Sir), EB with gauntlet (also found at Church Stretton, unidentified maker), GW with gauntlet, unknown, and TH with fleur-de-lis, a small square mark of a type usually found on stems, c.1720-30, probably Thomas Hartshorne (see section on makers' marks). Many examples have the small heel inclined at an angle, and the original purpose of the large heel as a stand can no longer have applied. Another feature of Type 5C pipes is the retention of the traditional milling round the lip, which was discarded on pipes of Type 6 and onwards which had the name stamped on the stem.

A note on milling might not be out of place. The dotted line round the lip of the bowl appears very early in the seventeenth century on clay pipes and seems to have been more or less universal in its use. It was produced by the little gadget the pipemaker used to finish off the inside of the rim of the bowl. This was twisted round, and had a little wire or spring attached to it. On the end of this was a tiny wheel with a milled edge. When the gadget was turned it smoothed off the inside of the bowl's lip and at the same time the wheel ran round the outside, impressing the line of milling. On many Broseley pipes (except Type 4) the milling is lower down the bowl than is usual in other parts of the British Isles, and this is a feature of other pipes from the Shropshire area. Lines of milling were also quite often applied round the stems for decorative purposes or to indicate the point of balance for holding the pipe.

Type 4 (Oswald Type 4) The reason for placing this out of order with Type 5 is to avoid confusion by keeping to Oswald's Type numbers. In fact Type 4 probably appeared 10 or 20 years after Type 5 was introduced and had a shorter life. At most it may have been in use from c.1690-1720.

These were the first spur pipes used at Broseley and most of them are distinctly seventeenth century in style. They vary considerably in shape and size (4A, 4B). The early ones have a basic shape of Type 5, thick walled and slightly bulbous with

milling close round the lip and a small circular mark on the base of the spur. At least 16 makers used this type, mostly concurrently with Type 5. Proof of this is provided by a deposit of kiln waste from a bank behind a cottage at Benthall of Andrew Bradley, which included Type 5 both with initial and full-name square marks besides several varieties of the small AB circular mark on spurs of Type 4.

With cheaper tobacco in the decades after 1700 bowls became gradually larger to take a bigger fill for longer smokes. This is very noticeable on Type 4 pipes. The lip of the bowl begins to turn outwards producing an attractive shape mindful of a flower opening. While the early ones have thick bulbous bowls and stems the later ones, probably c.1720, have quite thin, brittle bowls and relatively thin stems. The small marks stamped on the base of the spur are sometimes illegible. They vary in size, as do the spurs. Some are sharp and more or less pointed, leaving a very small area for the mark on the base while others are shorter and have a flat base accomodating a larger mark. Large examples are WD (joined) for Will Darbey and AB (joined) for Andrew Bradley, though these two makers used small marks also.

Eighteenth Century

Oswald and James did not illustrate any later eighteenth century pipes. Many stems with names or marks have been found but few of the bowls of these pipes have survived, the majority being of an extremely fragile nature owing to their being both large and having thin walls. During the past few years close searches at Broseley and Benthall of excavations for drainage and for the foundations of new buildings on old sites have revealed a fair quantity of these elusive pipes. Accurate dating is still problematical owing to the marker's name being impressed so far along the stem that an almost complete pipe would have to be found to include both bowl and mark. However, several groups have turned up where bowls and stems,

including some with marks, can with reasonable certainty be considered as belonging to a batch of the same pipes.

The fact that the sequence of development of pipe shape in the eighteenth century follows more or less the same pattern all over England makes it possible now to formulate a typology of bowl shapes for this century at Broseley. After about 1840 there was no sequence as such. Pipes of every description were produced and some even copied the traditional shapes of Broseley 150 years back. Oswald's Type M, really quite a crude affair, is found with the marks of Edwin Southorn and W. Southorn & Co., and the same mould was still being used in the 1950's when this pipe was still available at toccacconists!

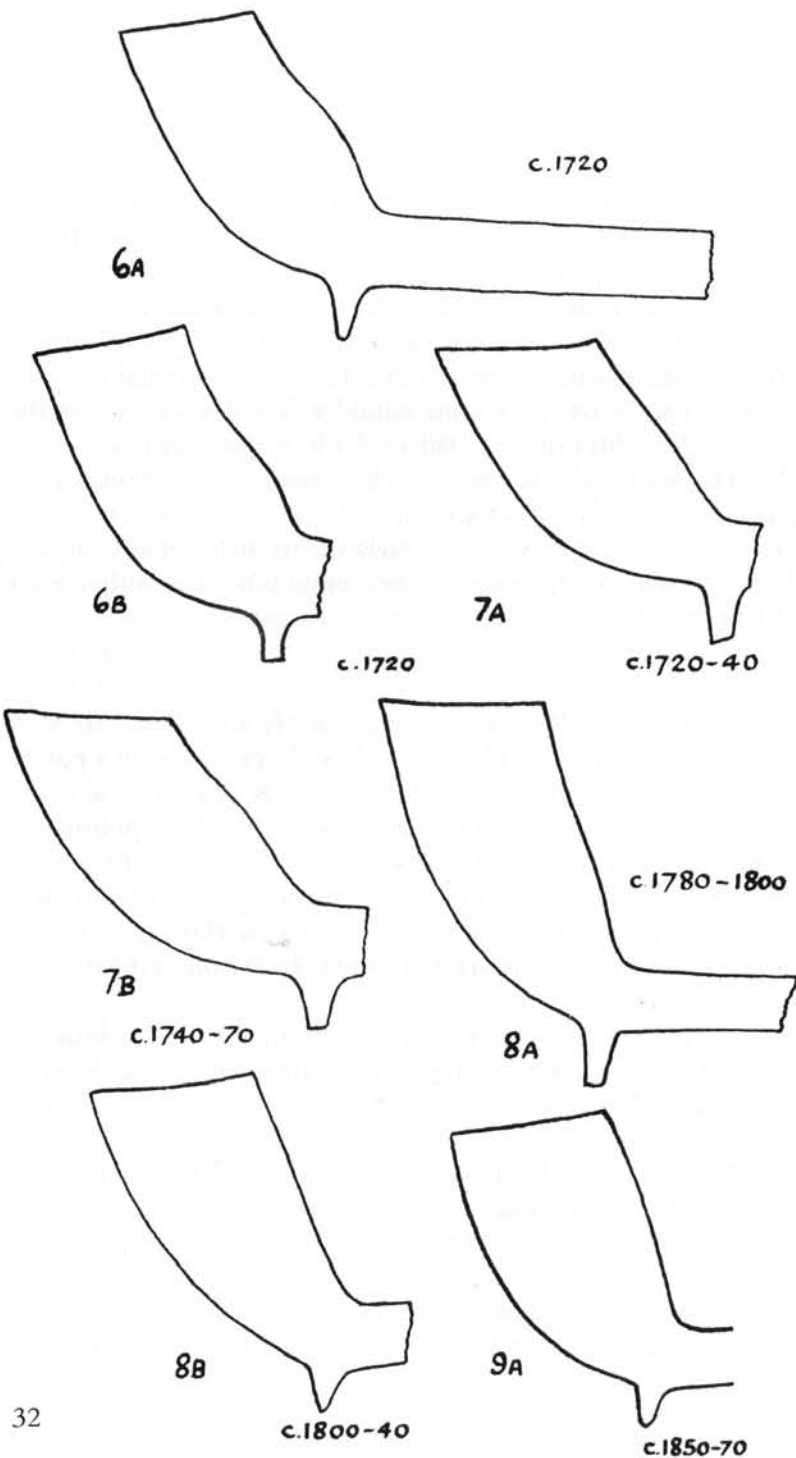
Decoration did not begin to be introduced on Broseley pipes until very late, probably after 1850. The eighteenth century 'armorial' types and their early nineteenth century copies do not appear at all, though quite common in many other parts of England.¹³

Type 6 These are similar in style to the 'Thomas Hunt' of Marlborough spur pipes.¹⁴ They are delicately curved with a pointed spur and have no milling round the bowl. Bowls, of local clay (as with all other types up to date) have a fine shiny polished finish. The stem is fairly thick with a medium bore. Examples are uncommon. John James, whose marks occur on quite thick stems, was probably one of the makers to use this type. Two varieties (6A, 6B) are illustrated in Fig. 2. Dating: c.1720.

Type 7 These have larger bowls with thinner walls, medium to thin stems and begin to be found in imported as well as local clays. No milling round the lip.

7A More straight sided bowl, though still curved. Thinner walls, pointed spur. Local clay, thinner stem. These are the earliest of the group, c.1720-40.

7B A larger bowl, still delicately curved, with very thin walls. Pointed spur. Found in local or imported clay. Some of these



have a cross moulded in relief in the bottom of the inside of the bowl.¹⁵ Medium to thin stem. Dating: c.1740-70.

7C In these the bowl curves straight upwards and the lip often slopes downwards towards the line of the stem. Large size, in local or imported clay. Dating: c.1740-70.

Type 8A This type appeared in the last few decades of the eighteenth century. Very large, brittle and upright bowl, still retaining a trace of the traditional bulge in the middle. Large pointed spur, thin stem and still has the polished finish of fine shiny lines which was discontinued in the nineteenth century. Imported clay.

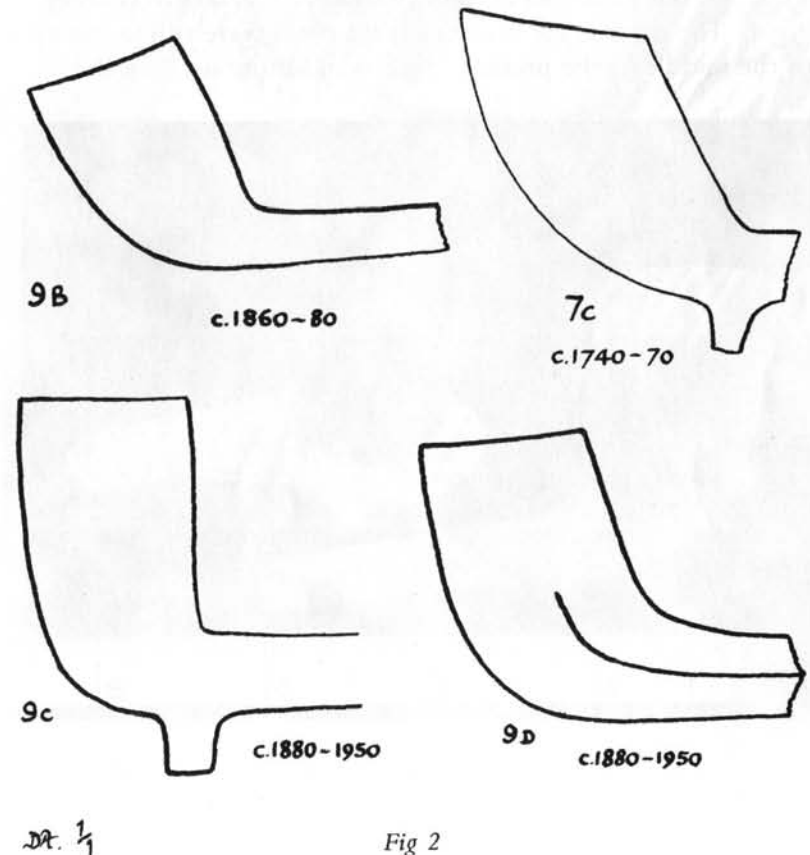


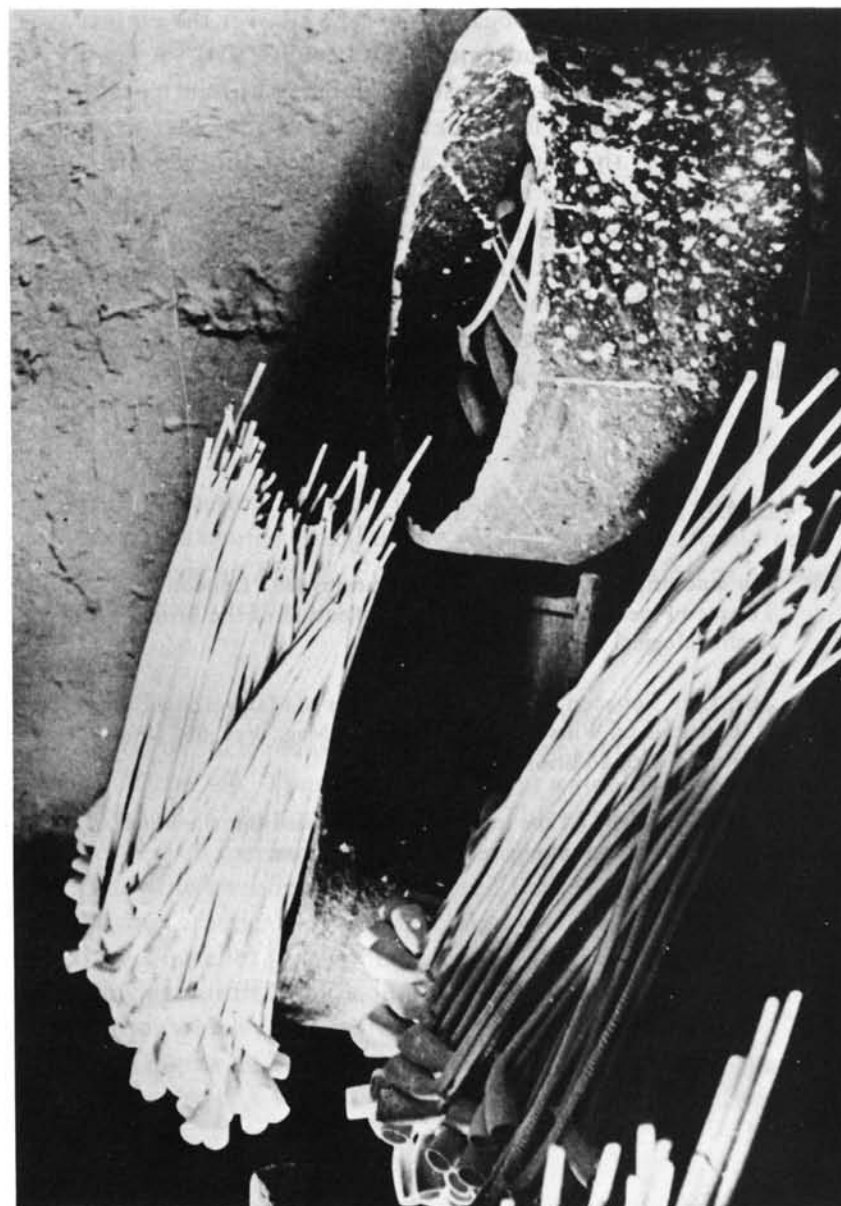
Fig 2

Type 8B This type was probably made by most makers in the first 40 years of the nineteenth century. Imported clay, and lacks the fine polished finish which characterises the majority of the seventeenth and eighteenth century products. The bowls are large, tall and very thin walled. The pointed spur varies in size and the stem is thin. There is no evidence of any form of decoration. They are common all over Broseley and were doubtless produced by nearly all makers before the decorated and fancy pipes began to appear in the middle of the century.

Type 9 Four examples are shown of later nineteenth century pipes. The moulds for many of these types were still in use up to the middle of the present century and those used by the



'Football' pipes were popular in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. These two were produced by W. Southorn & Co and were found in a layer of their kiln-waste from a quarry at Broseley Wood.



Long-stemmed pipes just after removal from the kiln, made by Harry Southorn, the last Broseley pipemaker.

Southorn family are still in existence. Possibly to save breakage at a time when they began to be sent all over the country the pipes began to be made much thicker (9C, 9D). A few of these from Southorn's kiln waste in a quarry at Benthall have the finish of fine shiny lines—perhaps one of the older workers could remember the days when all pipes were finished off in this attractive manner! Quite a variety of decorated pipes were also produced, including ones commemorating the coronations of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra and King George V and Queen Mary. Pipes of Type 9C sometimes advertise Butlers Ales and this type often has a line of 'milling' moulded round the rim, a survival of tradition.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

13. For a description of these and illustrations see "London Clay Tobacco Pipes", Oswald & Atkinson, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 1969.
14. See "Clay Tobacco Pipes and Pipemakers of Marlborough" by D.R. Atkinson, *Wilts. Arch. & Nat. Hist. Mag.*, Vol. 60, 1965, reprinted with additions, 1969.
15. Made by the end of the 'plug' which hollowed out the bowl. A feature of many mid-eighteenth century pipes.



Maker's Marks

In this section numbers in brackets refer to the examples illustrated, as being typical of the very varied marks found on Broseley pipes, in Fig. 3. Full details of all the different known marks are given in the list of makers.

Very few Broseley pipes are found unmarked, right through the period of their manufacture, with the exception of the very earliest, Type 1A. These sometimes bear a small initial mark on the tiny heel (1) but are often plain. This type is numerous at Ludlow and all specimens from there so far seen are also unmarked.

With the introduction of Types 1B and 2 marking became general and practically every specimen is stamped. The marks are always in relief (with one exception) and continued thus right through until Noah Roden II's first incuse mark about 1840, after which relief marks soon disappeared.

The marks on Types 1B and 2 are circular or heart-shaped and consist of initials only (2, 3, 4) sometimes accompanied by a dotted border or a fleur-de-lis etc. In the many WH and HB varieties the initials are joined.

The increase in the size of the heel with the introduction of Type 3 was at first clearly to enable the pipe to stand up, because the first marks on this type are usually very small, circular, and consist of initials only or semi-full names (5). Later