

Broseley Typology - extracted from:-

THE INTERPRETATION AND
REGIONAL STUDY OF CLAY TOBACCO PIPES: A CASE STUDY OF
THE BROSELEY DISTRICT

Thesis submitted in accordance with the requirements of the
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Via : Bowls With Round Heels

Type 1 This is the earliest type of pipe found in the Broseley area and as is based on the contemporary London style. It is characterised by a fairly small round heel and a compact barrel shape to the bowl, which, like the London models upon which it is based, is rarely burnished. It is quite common to find London styles being copied as pipemaking moved to the provinces. But the use of local clays and the rapid evolution of regional forms show that the makers were actually working in the provinces, rather than the pipes being imported. This form is found in a range of sizes which gradually diverge from London styles as they grow in size. Atkinson divided this bowl form into three (a-c). His largest type, however, (c) is larger than any examples recorded in this study and, if it occurs at all, it must be extremely rare. The illustrated example is therefore somewhat smaller and a fourth intermediate size (d) has been inserted as a reminder that there was a gradual evolution of form rather than three specific sizes. This form was probably in use from the introduction of pipemaking to the area (?1630's or earlier) until about 1680.

1a Typical London form in use prior to about 1640.

1b Typical London form of about 1640-60.

1c Larger form, rather more bulbous than London types, c.1650-80

1d Largest form, now different from London types, c.1660-80.

Type 10 This is a new form which has been inserted into the series. It is characterised by a rather more slender, drawn out bowl than the type 1 pipes, although it still retains something of the barrel shape. This is not a London form and probably represents the earliest evolution of a new bowl type in Broseley. In contrast with the type 1

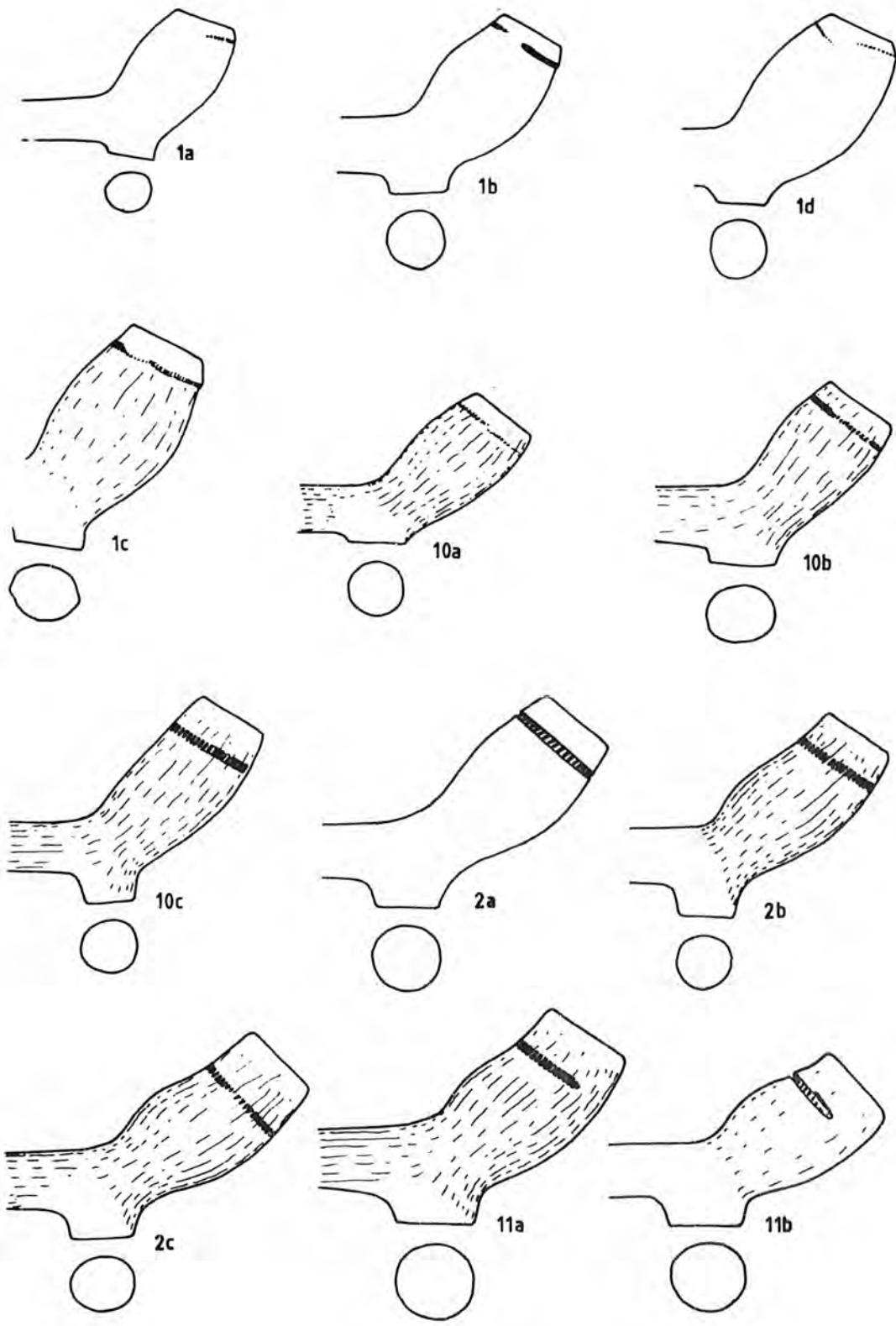


Fig 19 - Broseley Bowl Typology.

pipes, all of the illustrated examples are burnished, indicating the widespread adoption of this technique. The suggested dating for this form is c1640-70.

Type 2 This is one of the distinctive Broseley forms characteristic of the industry. It has a slender elongated bowl derived from the type 10 pipes but with a strongly curved form. There is generally a constricted top and bottom to the bowl, with a marked swelling in the centre. The bowl leans away from the smoker and has a well defined round heel, which is fairly small in comparison with the bowl size. Atkinson illustrated two forms (a & b) to which a third has been added (c) since many of the pipes have a more strongly defined swelling to the bowl than that illustrated in the first two types. This form dates to c1660-80.

Type 11 This type has been introduced to cope with the numerous bowls which fall awkwardly between forms 2 & 3. It has the same curved bowl form as the type 2 pipes, but is rather thicker and squatter. In addition, it has a markedly larger heel, although not as large as the type 3 pipes. Two sizes are illustrated but there are numerous variants of this type. This form probably dates to around 1670-90.

Type 3 This form is characterised by a very large round heel which often flares out from the base of the bowl. The bowls come in a wide range of sizes and forms but are generally rather squat and dumpy. Some retain the rather elegant curved form of the type 2 pipes (3a), while others become very thick and 'lifeless' (3d). This form probably dates to c1670-90.

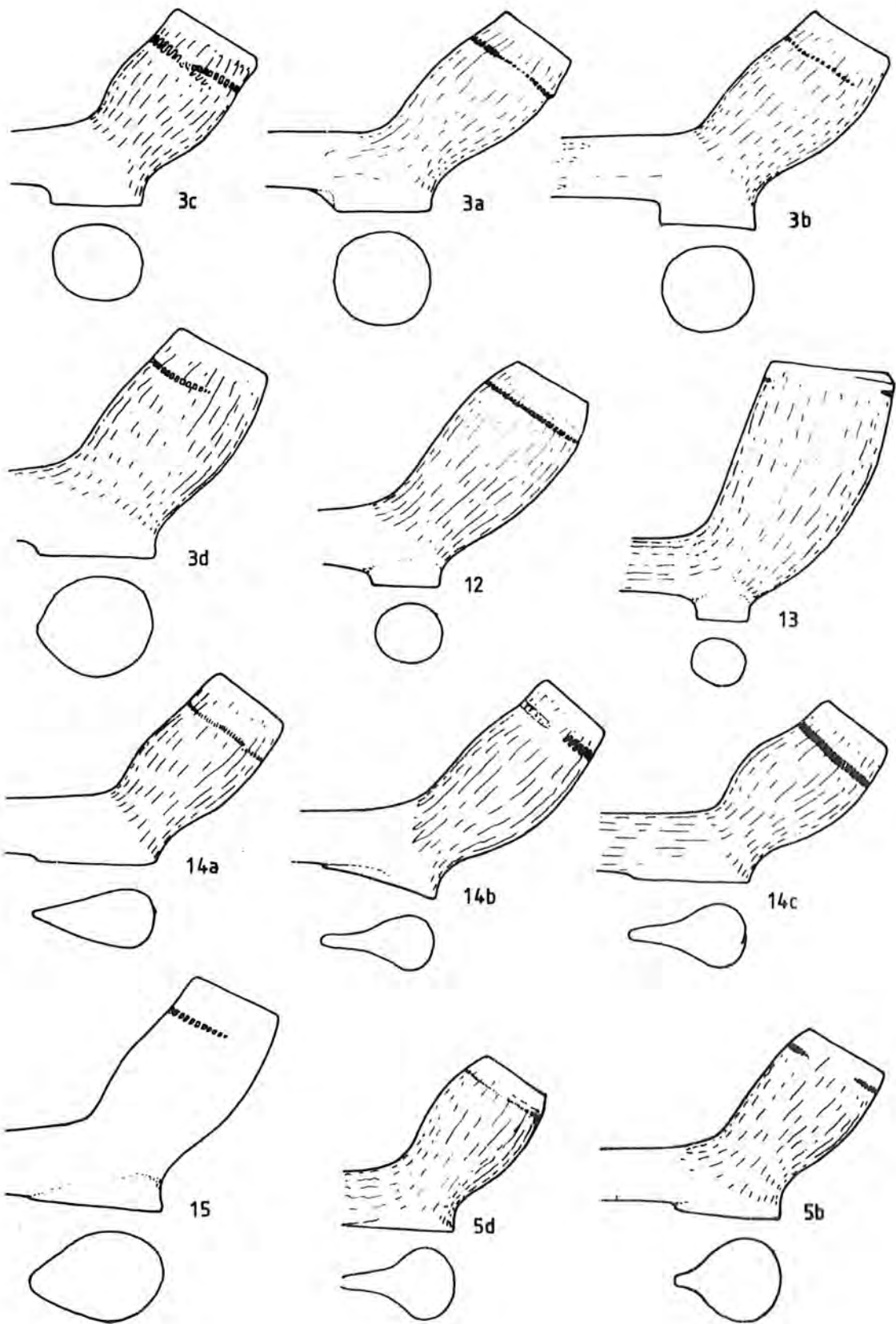


Fig 20 - Broseley Bowl Typology.

Type 12 This is a rare bowl form which appears to be a late derivation of the type 2 pipes. It has a more slender bowl and smaller heel than the type 3 pipes but a larger form than the type 2 pipes. Suggested dating c1680-1700, although a slightly fuller bodied version of this form was found in the Mount Street pit, Stafford, which was more like a type 5a bowl with a small round heel. The pit contained material of c1700-20. It may, therefore, be possible to differentiate early and late forms of this type during the period c1680-1720.

Type 13 This is another rare bowl form which must be based on an imported model, since it owes nothing to the developing Broseley styles. The large upright bowl and small heel are very similar to the London type 25 pipes (Atkinson & Oswald 1969, 180) which dominated the London and south-eastern markets for most of the eighteenth century. Similar forms were introduced at many centres during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and similar forms have been found at Keele in Staffordshire (Barker 1985, fig16.116) and in Chester (Rutter and Davey 1980, fig 18.11). This example possibly dates to c1700-20.

VIb : Bowls With Tailed Heels.

Type 14 The earliest bowls with tailed heels are closely related to the type 10 and type 2 pipes. The bowl forms are almost identical but the heel has been modified to run back under the stem to form a kite (14a) or 'tadpole like' (14b/c) base. Griffith Powell of Much Wenlock marked type 14b pipes which, since he died in 1673, gives us one of the few reliable dates for any of the bowl forms. The type 14 pipes were probably produced c1660-80.

Type 15 This is another form which appears to be a round heeled type adapted with a tailed heel. The bowl form in this case appears to be modelled on the type 3 pipes. Atkinson appears to include these with his type 5a forms but, given the early form of this type and the long duration of the type 5 form, it seems sensible to differentiate them. Several bowls based on the type 3 form but with oval or tailed bases have been noted and, when more examples are available, it should be possible to sub-divide them into more types. This type was probably current from c1670-90.

Type 5 This type is probably the best known and most widely copied, style of Broseley pipe. It is one of the most distinctive styles produced at Broseley and was widely used from about 1670-1730. It is characterised by the large round heel which flares out from the base of the bowl and has a tail extending back under the stem. As it had such a long life, there are many slight variations in form but it is hoped that the six types illustrated will cover most of them. These forms do not include regional variations of this style produced in other centres. Close dating of the individual forms is currently very difficult and the suggestions below are very tentative. In general terms the thicker and heavier the construction of the bowl, the earlier in date it is likely to be.

5d c1670-90, small, almost miniature, form produced by Samuel Deacon of Much Wenlock. He died in 1673 but Alice, presumably his widow, was a pipemaker until her death in 1690 and there are later pipes marked Samuel Deacon, indicating a later maker of that name..

5b c1670-1700, medium sized bowl.

5a c1680-1730. This is the most common form, widely used by the Broseley makers for a long period of time.

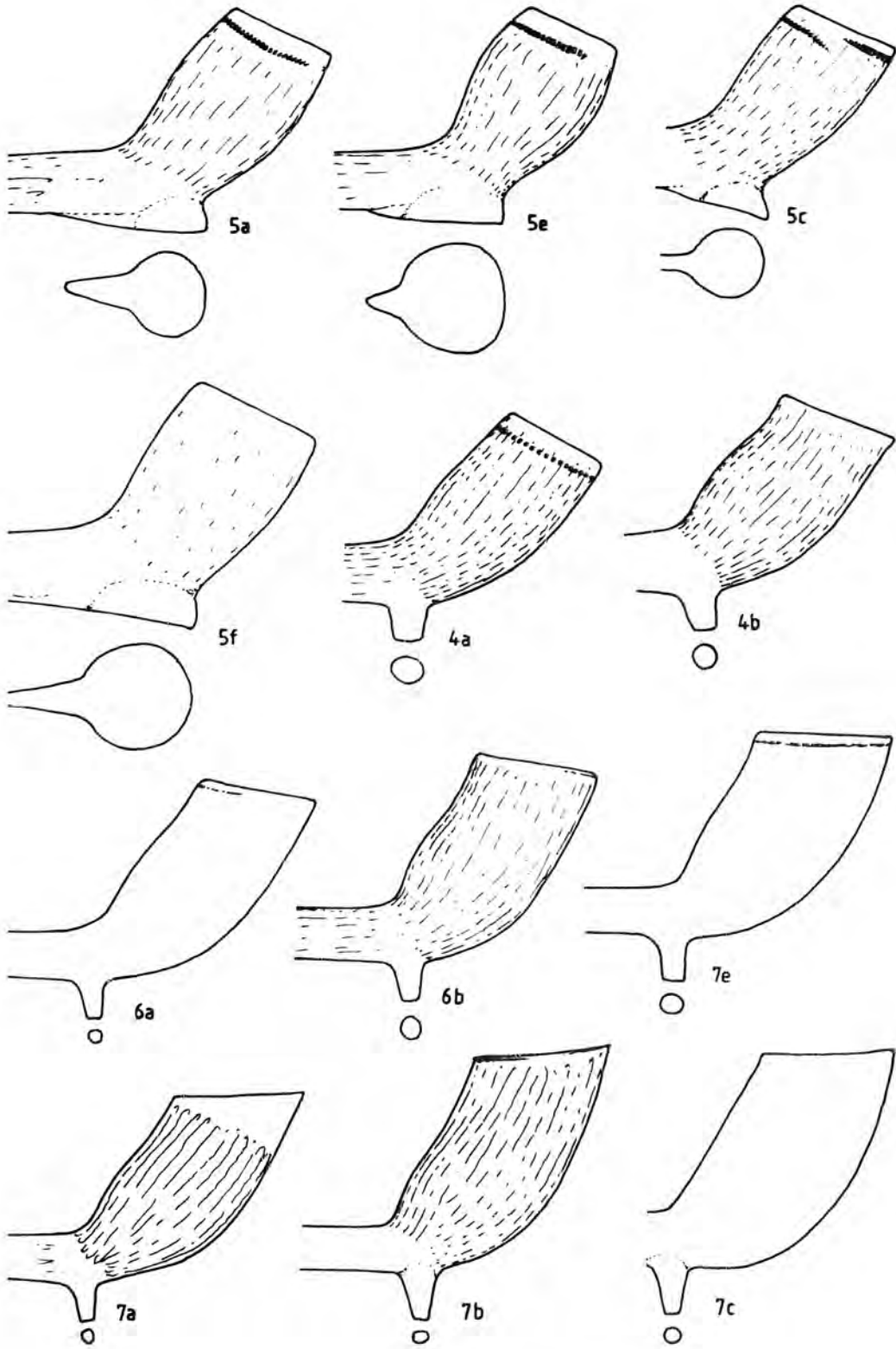


Fig 21 - Broseley Bowl Typology.

5e c1680-1710. This is a more bulbous version.

5c c1700-30. Thinner-walled, more parallel sided version produced in the early eighteenth century. This type is not very common and the illustrated example is not as tall as Atkinson's type since none of that size were seen during the course of this study.

5f c1700-40. Large baggy form, often rather crudely made. This form seems to have been made particularly by the Taylor family of Much Wenlock, who were working well into the eighteenth century.

Vic : Bowls With Spurs.

Spur pipes were not made at all in Broseley until the end of the seventeenth century. They were then introduced at a time when there seems to have been a general vogue for larger and more elegant spur pipes all over the country. Many production centres at this time introduced or developed spur forms which often totally replaced the older heel forms during the eighteenth century. This was the case at Broseley and, although the type 5 pipes continued alongside spur forms for many years, they did not develop any further and the entire production gradually switched to the spur types. The eighteenth century spur bowls present a number of problems for the archaeologist. Being much larger and with fine walls, they are easily crushed or damaged and so are less frequently represented in available collections of material. Also, the maker's mark was placed well down the stem, so it is rare to have both mark and bowl form as a guide to date. The bowl forms too appear to have been very long lived and, with so little data on form or maker it is difficult to build up a comprehensive or well dated sequence. This has always been the case and in Atkinson's typology there is a gap between 1770 and 1780 for which no form is

given. It is suggested that this is not due so much to the absence of forms for this period but to an underestimation of their currency.

Type 4 The type 4 pipes are the earliest spur forms produced at Broseley. The form is typical of late seventeenth century spur pipes in production in surrounding areas and could have been copied from a number of models. This early form is characterised by a rather thick bulbous body, based on the type 5 bowl, with a rim line which dips down away from the smoker. The bowl shape is rapidly developed to include a slightly flared lip (4b) which is not characteristic of the type 5 pipes. The type 4 pipes are dated to c1690-1720.

Type 6 These are finer, thin-walled versions of the type 4b pipes. The rim still drops away from the smoker slightly but not so much as in the type 4 pipes and the bowl has delicately curved lines. It is hard to separate some of these forms from type 7 pipes. Types 6a and 6b are provisionally dated to c1710-40 but the problems of dating are underlined by type 7e which has been placed here for comparison. It was excavated on the site of Bedlam furnaces (constructed 1757/8) and, therefore, probably dates to c1760-80, despite having a very similar form.

Type 7 This form covers the majority of pipes produced in Broseley from c1730-90. The very subtle changes in form make sub-division or accurate dating difficult and the eighteenth century industry is definitely an area in need of more research. The bowls are characterised by large, thin-walled bowls, often very well designed and produced. The rim in this type is either horizontal or dips back towards the smoker. The spur tends to be long and tapering and the

bowl away from the smoker tends to be formed of a single strong sweeping curve. There is no clearly defined sequence of development in these forms. Type 7d, with the top cut sharply back towards the smoker, was the dominant form in the St Mary's Grove pit group in Stafford which was dated to c1770-80. The form, however, is quite different from type 7e (mentioned above) was probably current c1760-80. The presence of these late forms, however, show, that they bridge the 1770s gap in Atkinson's typology. Tentative datings for the forms are:-

7a c1720-40.

7b c1740-70.

7c c1740-80.

7d c1770-90.

7e c1760-90.

Type 8 At the end of the eighteenth century the bowl form does start to change again, when it becomes thinner and more upright, with rather more parallel-sided walls. The bowl often has a simple tubular or funnel-shaped appearance and the spur generally becomes smaller and rather triangular and tends to move away from the smoker under the bowl. It is also well separated from the form of the bowl in that it has little to do with the curves and lines of the bowl and stem. Many of these bowls are rather poorly designed and manufactured. Once again, there is quite a range of individual styles and there is much scope for a closer definition of these forms. There are virtually no bowl forms which can be matched with makers' marks and suggested dates are very tentative. In addition, some forms had a very long life. In the author's collection is a complete pipe of type 8b which was certainly produced this century by Southorn's and could be as late as the closure of the firm in about 1960. Several of the types may, therefore, also have been

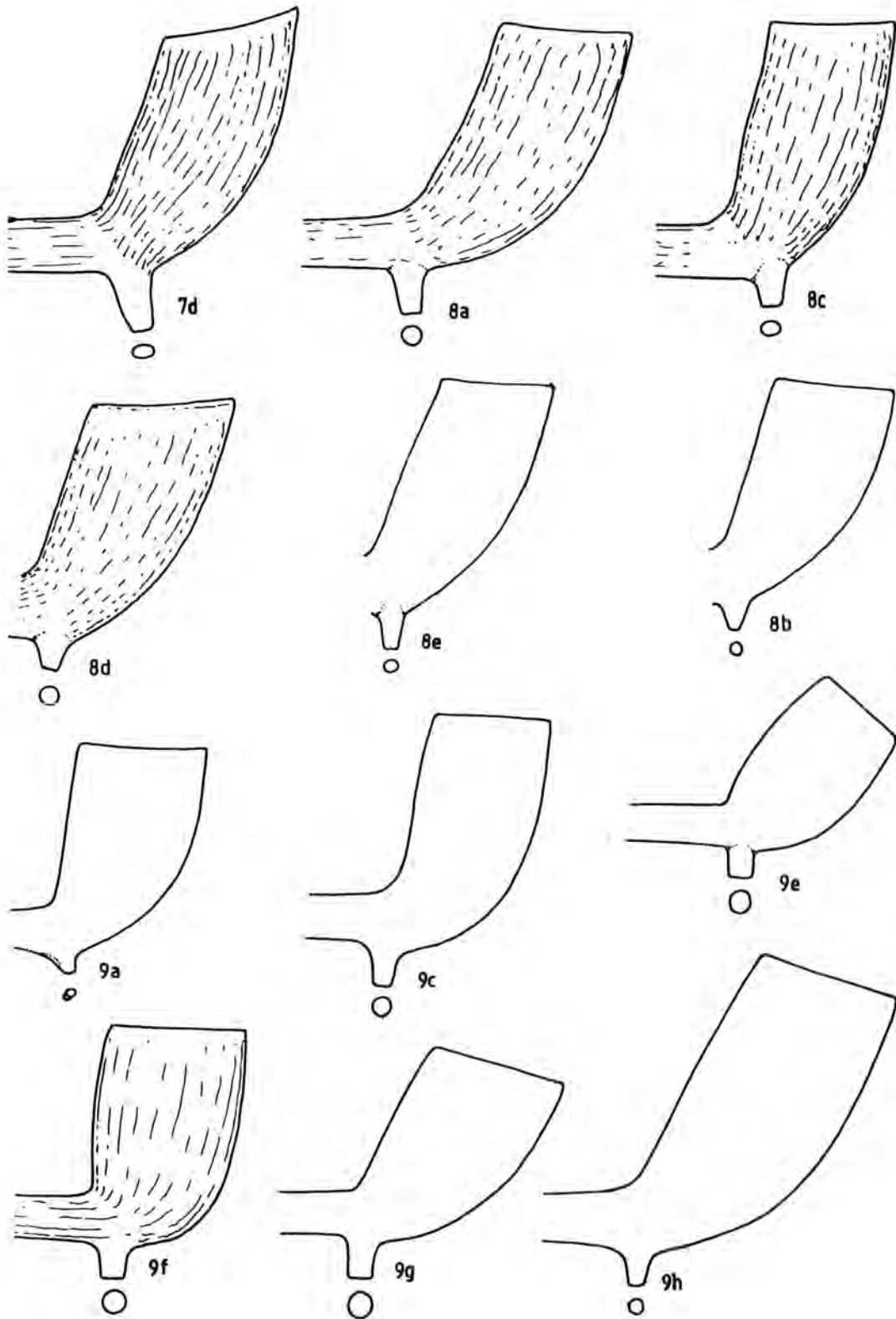


Fig 22 - Broseley Bowl Typology.

produced well after the suggested dates and reflect the Broseley tradition of making long stemmed pipes, to which these bowls belong.

8a c1770-1800, the illustrated example is from the St Mary's, Stafford, pit group of c1770-80.

8b c1800-1960.

8c c1790-1820.

8d c1780-1800.

8e c1800-30.

Type 9 From the 1840s there was a rapid diversification in the form of pipes, as a wide range of specially shaped and decorated 'cutties' was introduced. Regional forms tend to die out as large scale production and improved transport facilities result in 'national' styles. Broseley, however, continued to specialise in the production of long stemmed spur pipes (see 8b above) and used similar forms for cutty pipes. The types illustrated are merely to indicate some of the forms produced and it is hoped to compile a fuller catalogue of the nineteenth century forms at a later date.

9a c1840+

9c c1870-1960, used for both long and short pipes.

9e c1880+ several styles of miniature bowl were produced.

9f c1880+

9g ?1860+

9h ?1860+ this example is from a complete 'churchwarden' with a twist stem produced about 1880-1900 but the form was probably in use before that and certainly until well into the twentieth century.

For quick reference the suggested dates of each form are given below, together with details of the type example used. Most of these can be found with any mark and associated material in the illustrated groups.

- 1a pre1640. From the Wharfage Excavations, Ironbridge, marked PF.
- 1b c1640-60. From the Wharfage Excavations, Ironbridge, marked PF.
- 1c c1650-80. Shrewsbury Mus. Coll, Unprov, marked RP.
- 1d c1660-80. Shrewsbury Mus. Coll, Unprov, marked RP.
- 2a c1660-80. Shrewsbury Mus. Coll, Unprov, marked GRFE/POVEL.
- 2b c1660-80. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 2c c1660-80. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 3a c1670-90. Scott-Davies Coll, Unprov, marked ?LB.
- 3b c1670-90. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 3c c1670-90. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 3d c1670-90. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 4a c1690-1720. Excavated at the Wharfage, Ironbridge, unmarked.
- 4b c1690-1720. Edward Coll, Preston Boatts, Shrewsbury, unmarked.
- 5a c1680-1730. From excavations in Stafford, marked DANL/OVER/TON.
- 5b c1670-1700. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 5c c1700-30. From excavations in Stafford, marked Sam Decon.
- 5d c1670-90. From the Stretton Rd, Much Wenlock, marked Sam Decon.
- 5e c1680-1710. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 5f c1700-40. Much Wenlock Mus. Coll, marked BT.
- 6a c1710-40. Found at Crewes Park, Broseley Wood, unmarked.
- 6b c1710-40. Edward Coll, from Preston Boatts, Shrewsbury, unmarked.
- 7a c1720-40. Much Wenlock Mus. Coll. Unprov. Marked RICH/ARD/LEGG.
- 7b c1740-70. Found at Crewes Park, Broseley Wood, unmarked.
- 7c c1740-80. Found at the old Severn Trow, Jackfield, unmarked.
- 7d c1770-90. From excavations in Stafford, marked EDW/DEA/CON.

- 7e c1760-90. Excavated at Bedlam Furnaces, Severn Gorge, unmarked.
- 8a c1770-1800. From excavations in Stafford, unmarked.
- 8b c1800-1960. Excavated at Bedlam Furnaces, Severn Gorge, unmarked.
- 8c c1790-1820. Andrews Coll (Shrewsbury), unmarked.
- 8d c1780-1800. Excavated at 15/15a Holly Rd, Little Dawley, unmarked.
- 8e c1800-30. Found at the old Severn Trow, Jackfield, unmarked.
- 9a c1840+. Excavated at 15/15a Holly Rd, Little Dawley, unmarked.
- 9c c1870-1960. Higgins Coll, complete pipe advertising Butlers Ales.
- 9e c1880+. Higgins Coll, made by Southorn or Smitheman Companies.
- 9f c1880+. Higgins Coll, made by Southorn or Smitheman Companies.
- 9g c1860+. Higgins Coll, made by Southorn or Smitheman Companies.
- 9h c1860+. Higgins Coll, complete pipe marked W.SOUTHORN & Co.
- 10a c1640-70. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked V.
- 10b c1640-70. Shrewsbury Mus. Coll, Unprov, marked WH.
- 10c c1640-70. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 11a c1670-90. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 11b c1670-90. From excavations in Stafford, marked IH.
- 12 c1680-1720. Judd Collection (Shrewsbury), marked WS.
- 13 c1700-20. Excavated at 15/15a Holly Rd, Little Dawley, marked WD.
- 14a c1660-80. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 14b c1660-80. Andrews Coll. (Shrewsbury), marked RICH/PRIS.
- 14c c1660-80. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.
- 15 c1670-90. Excavated at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall, marked HB.