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## HULL PIPES: A TYPOLOGY

by Gareth Watkins

Thomas Sheppard's pioneer paper on Hull clay pipes (Sheppard, 1912) has stood for nearly seventy years as the only published work on this important production centre. It still retains much of its usefulness. This article attempts to expand Sheppard's original work and to present information on Hull's industry in a form more appropriate to the conventions of contemporary archaeology. A typology of Hull pipe shapes has therefore been established; it is dated solely by pipes bearing makers' marks. Hull is highly fortunate in this respect since a large proportion of the pipes made in the town bear their maker's initials, and a very high proportion of makers in this period were burgesses of the town and are consequently listed in the town's Apprentice and Freedom Rolls. A comprehensive list of makers from these and other sources is included. A small sample of Hull pipes has been subjected to thin-section analysis; the results, which were encouraging, are also included. Considerable work remains to be done, particularly on the unpublished Parish Registers, the Port and River Books, the distribution of Hull-made pipes and on material excavated from stratified archaeological deposits; all of which will serve to refine the dating of the typology. This article, therefore, is intended as a guide to the identification of Hull pipes; discussion of the wider aspects of the industry will, it is hoped, appear in a future publication.

### Typology

As noted by Sheppard, the earliest known Hull pipemaker is Hugh Atkinson, who bought his freedom in 1644. It is likely that he established the industry in Hull, and, having no local competition, did not need to distinguish his pipes by marking them with his initials. His first two known apprentices took up their respective freedoms in 1653 and 1660/1 but also did not mark their pipes. It is not possible, therefore to identify these earliest Hull-made pipes by mark.

#### Type I (Fig.1)

These, the earliest pipes which can be attributed with certainty to Hull, are very similar to London types 12 and 13 (Atkinson & Oswald 1969) and Oswald's general type 6 (Oswald 1975), which is dated c.1660-80. The type continued in production in Lincolnshire until c. 1690 (Mann 1977, nos. 105, 106). The bowl is somewhat bulbous and thick-walled; the base shape varies from round to oval to heart-shaped. Most examples show signs of rough knife-trimming; all are decorated with a groove underneath the rim which sometimes extends completely round the bowl but is more usually confined to the back of the bowl. Occasionally a groove has been cut into the heel. The stem bore diameter (SBD) of this type is commonly 7/64" but occasionally 8/64".

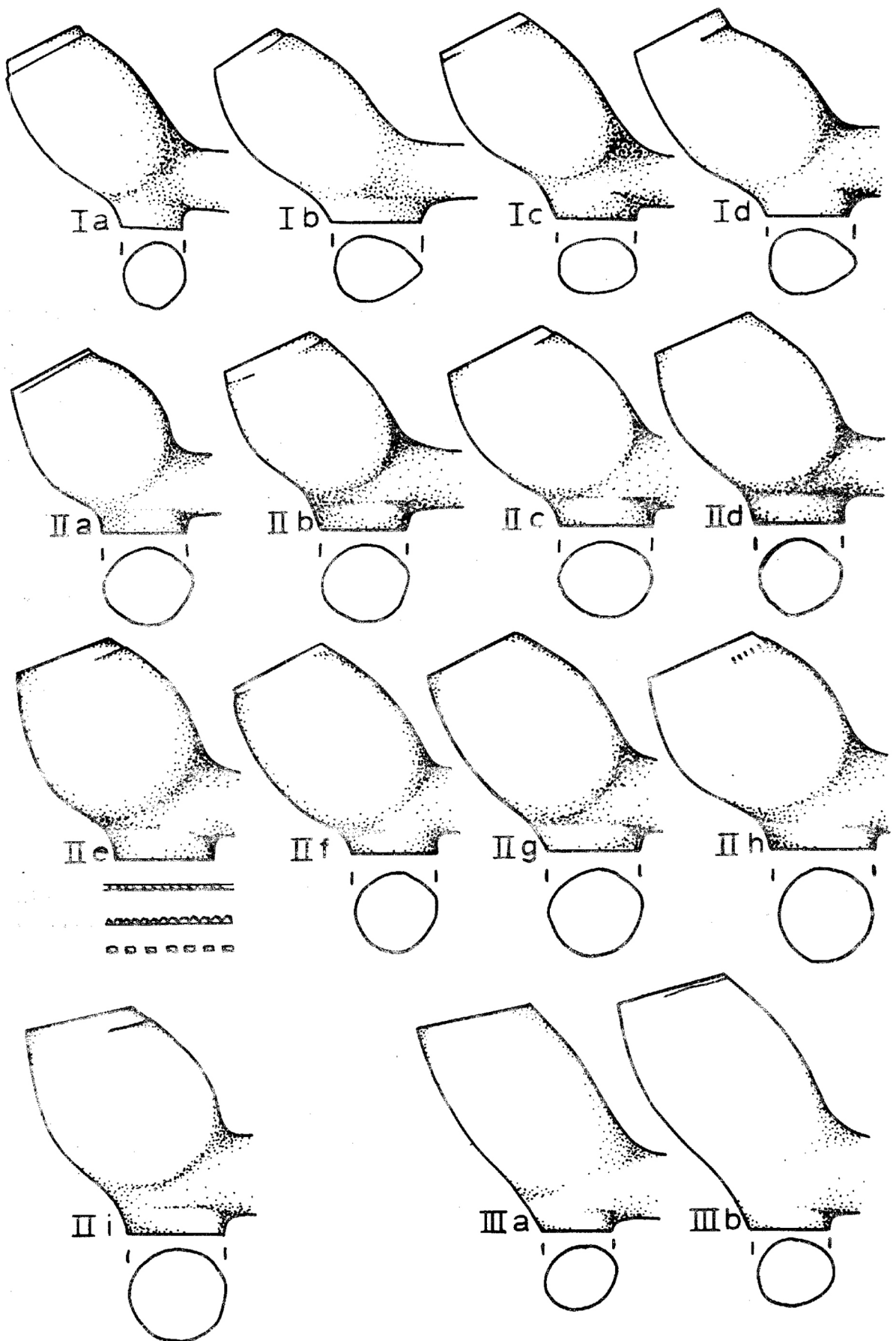


Fig. 1 Hull pipe bowl typology, shapes I-III. Scale 1:1.

0 5cm

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- Ia. Round heel. None marked.
- Ib. Heart-shaped heel. Mark no. 24.
- Ic. More upright version of Ib, wider mouth. Marks nos. 24 and 48.
- Id. Larger version of Ia/b. None marked.

Dating: No. 24 is the mark of Edward Fowler, free 1663, alive in 1671, probably dead by 1676. The type may thus be assigned to the period c. 1660-c.1675.

### Type II ('Yorkshire bulbous') (Fig. 1)

The style of bowl, which was extremely common in Hull in the late seventeenth century, was probably copied from the makers of York, since York type 8 can be dated to the period c. 1650-75 (Lawrence 1979) whereas the earliest possible date for its production in Hull is 1663. The thick-walled bowls of this type often show signs of crude knife-trimming. Marked examples are commonly polished but unmarked examples are rarely so treated. Practically all bowls of this shape bear a form of decoration beneath the rim, either a simple incised line or a rouletted pattern in one of three styles (illustrated beneath bowl IIe). The design may extend around the circumference of the bowl or be limited to the back of the bowl. Pipes of this type have an extremely large round base; occasionally this also bears a line of rouletting or a simple groove. Oswald (pers. comm.) suggests that pipes may have been marked in this way to allow the maker to recognise his output for the assessment of piecework. One example of type III has been found which bears a roulette pattern diagonally around the stem. SBD either 7/64" or 8/64".

- IIa. Small bulbous, Marks 25 and 27.
- IIb. As IIa but with wider mouth. Marks 2 and 5.
- IIc. Medium-sized, forward-leaning. Marks 3, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 28 and 48.
- IId. Upright version of IIc. Marks 3, 8, 10, 13, 16, 28, 34, 35, 39 and 40.
- IIe. Larger version of IId. Marks 4, 11, 13, 16, 17, 22, 27 and 29.
- IIf. Larger version of IIc. Marks 3, 8 and 12.
- IIg. Larger version of IIf. Marks 5, 9, 11 and 21.
- IIh. Large bulbous, forward-leaning. Marks 10, 12, 14, 21, 28 and 31.
- III. Large bulbous, upright. Mark no. 9.

Dating: Shape IIa bears the mark of only one maker; George Fowler, who probably died before 1676; and so may be dated c. 1660-c. 1675. Shapes 2b-i bear the marks of makers who were working in the decades from 1660 to 1700. No chronological progression can be detected in bowls 2b-i; they are probably contemporary.

### Type III (Fig. 1)

This shape, in which the sides of the bowl are almost parallel, is similar to London type 18 (Atkinson & Oswald 1969) and Oswald (1975) type G7, both of which are dated c. 1660-80. The type is found in Hull in two sizes, the larger of the two being the more common. All examples so far examined bear makers' marks on the heel and are polished. An incised line is sometimes present beneath the rim on the back of the bowl but the type does not bear rouletted decoration. SBD either 7/64" or 8/64".

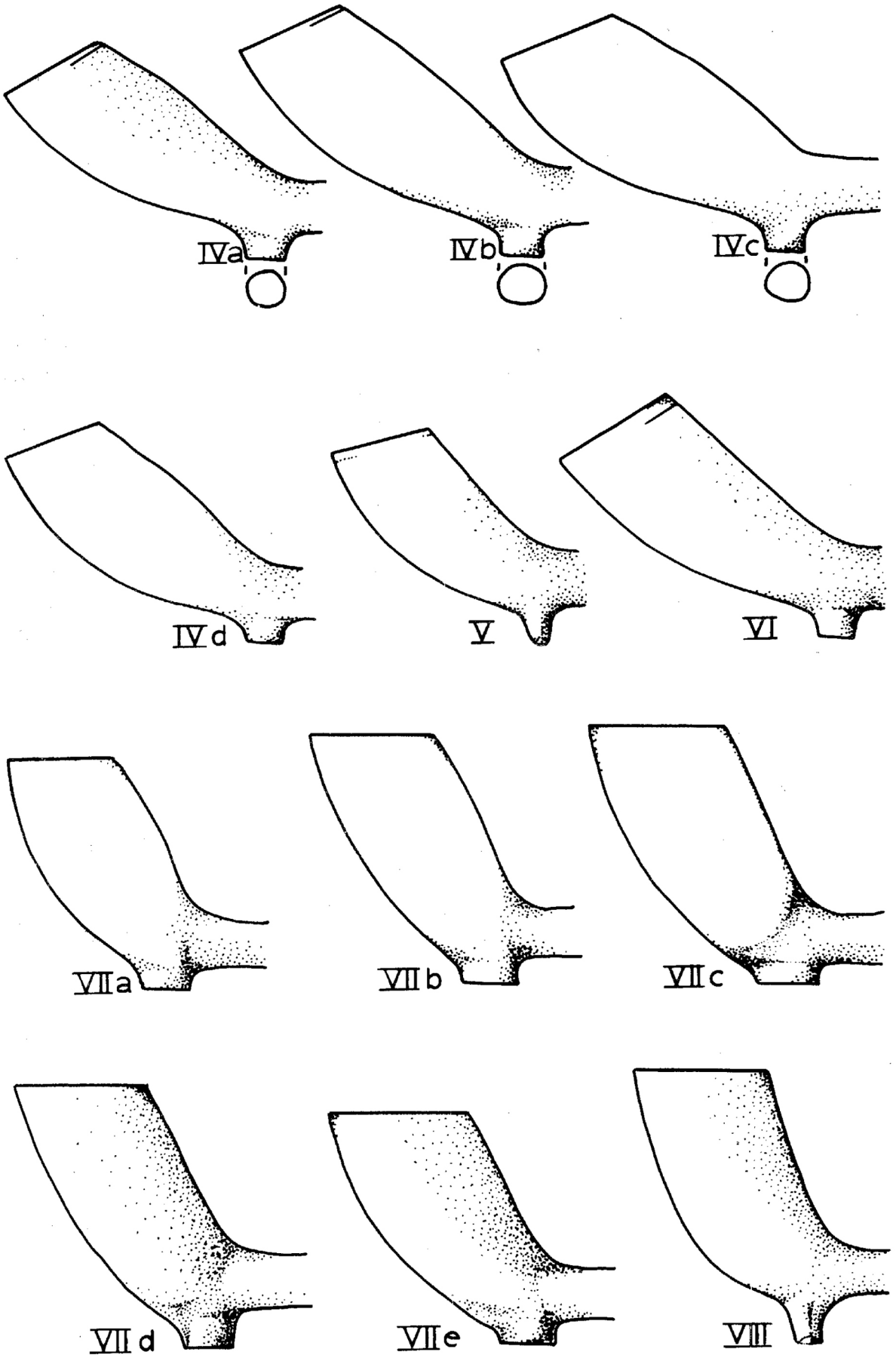


Fig. 2 Hull pipe bowl typology, shapes IV-VIII. Scale 1:1.

0 5cm

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IIIa. Small version. Marks 5, 6 and 41.

IIIb. Large version. Marks 41 and 47.

Dating: The three makers known to have produced this type took up their freedoms in 1682, 1683 and 1689; the style would therefore appear to have been current in Hull after its popularity in London had waned. The type is not common and may not have had a long "life"; production may have ceased by c. 1710.

#### Type IV (Fig. 2)

This type is similar to Oswald's types G8 and G9, dated c. 1680-1710 (Oswald 1975). Most Hull bowls of this type are neatly finished and highly polished; approximately half of those examined bear either an incised line or roulette-decoration beneath the rim. SBD is 7/64". The vast majority bear makers' marks in relief on the small round heel, but type IVd represents the first break with this tradition in Hull since on this type the maker's initials are mould-imparted on the side of the heel.

IVa. Small version. Rare. Marks (relief) 37 and 42.

IVb. Medium-sized version. Marks (relief) 15, 18 and 19.

IVc. Large version. Marks (relief) 15, 43, 44 and 45.

IVd. Medium-sized version. Marks (mould-imparted) 52 and 54.

Dating: Five different Hull makers are known to have produced this type of pipe; all were working in the 1680s but two of them died in the decade 1700-1710. Oswald's date range for the type of c. 1680-1710 is therefore confirmed.

#### Type V (Fig. 2)

This type is extremely rare; Hull Museums' collection of pipes contains only three examples, all of which bear the mould-imparted initials B.B. on the sides of the thin pointed spur. None of these examples are polished. Bowl walls are fairly thin; SBD is 6/64". Mark no. 49.

Dating: Benjamin Bell was working in 1709; he is not listed in the Poor Rate Assesment List after 1726. The type may thus be dated approximately 1710-1725.

#### Type VI (Fig.2)

This is also an extremely rare type. Two examples are known; both are highly polished and one bears an incised line beneath the rim on the back of the bowl. SBD is 6/64". Mark no. 56.

Dating: This type was probably produced by John Dalton the elder, who took up his freedom in 1695 and was dead by 1723, and may thus be dated c. 1690-1720.

#### Type VII (Fig.2)

During the early years of the eighteenth century makers in Hull ceased to produce distinctive local types of pipes. Type VII, which is by far the most commonly encountered in eighteenth century deposits, is very similar to contemporary pipes made in London and the South-East (Atkinson & Oswald 1969, no. 25, Oswald 1975 nos. G10-12). Bowls are generally thin-walled; none are decorated with incised lines or milling. The vast majority bear the maker's

initials (mould-imparted on the side of the spur).

- VIIa. Convex profile front and back. Rare. Unpolished. SBD 6/64". Mark 50.
- VIIb. Common. Approximately half of the examples examined were polished. SBD 5/64" or 6/64". Marks 50, 53, 55, 61 and 68.
- VIIc. Common. Similar to VIIb but with less convex back. 50% were polished. SBD 5/64", occasionally 4/64" and 6/64". Marks 51, 57, 58, 60, 63, 64, 65, 67 and 68.
- VIIId. Rare. Taller version of VIIc. Highly polished. SBD 5/64". Mark 62.
- VIIe. Forward-leaning bowl. Uncommon. Usually slightly polished. SBD 5/64". Marks 58 and 66.

Dating: The sub-types of shape VII can be assigned different date ranges; these are at present rather broad since the duplication of makers' initials allows a number of possible attributions. VIIa was produced by Benjamin Bell, who probably ceased production in 1726; thus c. 1710-25. VIIb ranges from Benjamin Bell to William Westerdale (working in 1754 and 1774); thus c. 1710-75. Both VIIa and b, with their convex sides, closely resemble East Anglian pipes of the first half of the eighteenth century (Oswald & Atkinson 1979). VIIc ranges from William Kyte (free 1700) to William Westerdale; thus c. 1700-75. VIIId was produced by Henry Norman (2); thus c. 1700-60, but the tall narrow bowl and thickish stem point to the period c. 1710-40 (Laws & Oswald 1979). VIIe was produced by John Goldwell; thus c. 1710-75.

#### Type VIII (Fig. 2)

This type, with its upright bowl, thin walls and pointed spur, anticipates nineteenth century styles. Only two examples are known; both are polished, have SBD of 4/64", and bear the maker's initials on the sides of the spur. Mark no. 59

Dating: Mark 59 is that of John Goldwell. A man of this name became free in 1707; another voted in 1774. The thickness of the bowl and stem point to a date of c. 1780-1810 (Laws & Oswald 1979) and so the style may be attributed to the late period of John Goldwell's production.

#### Makers' marks (Fig. 3)

##### a) In relief on the heel.

1. (not illustrated) Design as no. 23, but with the initials MB. It is published by Sheppard (1912, no. 36) but no example of it has been found in Hull Museums' collection; it may not be the mark of a Hull maker.
2. Occurs on bowl shape IIb.
3. Occurs on bowl shapes IIc, d, f.
4. Occurs on bowl shape IIe.
5. Occurs on bowl shapes IIb, c, g and IIIa.
6. Occurs on bowl shape IIIa.
7. (not illustrated). Published by Sheppard (1912, no. 11a; the letters RB separated by an incomplete tobacco plant). Hull Museums have no examples of this mark.