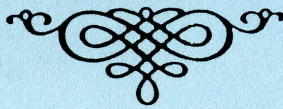


NEWSLETTER

44



Autumn 1994

Near Eastern Pipes from British Contexts

David Higgins

St John Simpson from the British Museum is preparing a volume on Middle and Near Eastern pipes (see above) and I have agreed to write a paper on Near Eastern pipes from British contexts as a contribution to it. Such pipes were always rare in this country but they do turn up occasionally from both rubbish deposits and as souvenirs brought back by travellers. If anyone has come across examples of this type of pipe, or knows of collections where examples are lurking, I would be most grateful if they could get in touch with me to pass on details (address inside front cover).

* * * * *

EXHIBITION Bowls! A Pipe Full of History

Lloyd Edwards is organizing a clay pipe exhibition at Bede's World, Jarrow Hall, Church Bank, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, from 29 March to 14 May 1995.

This exhibition will be centred on the J.E. Parsons Collection, but will also have pipes from various excavations that he was associated with. These include the monastic sites at Jarrow and Monkwearmouth excavated by Professor Rosemary Cramp of Durham University in the 1960s and 1970s. Apart from pipes, there will be biographical details of pipemakers and tobacconists together with copies of probate documents, etc, relating to various individuals.

It promises to be a fascinating exhibition, and SCPR members will doubtless find a visit to be worthwhile. Hopefully, members of the public will also be interested - more on this later.

Several articles written by Lloyd have appeared in recent issues of the SCPR Newsletter, and his 1988 publication, 'Seventeenth and eighteenth century Tyneside tobacco pipe makers and tobacconists' (BAR 192) should still be available from Oxbow Books.

A POSSIBLE 'ADMIRAL VERNON' BOWL FROM DURHAM CITY

Lloyd J. Edwards

In 1961 a new dining hall was built for St Chad's College at 15 North Bailey, Durham City, Co. Durham. This involved the demolition of some properties along the adjacent Bow Lane as well as alterations to the interiors of 16-18 North Bailey. Eric Parsons carried out salvage recording of the archaeological deposits and material uncovered after the site had been cleared prior to building (Lowther *et al.* 1993).

A total of 35 clay pipes are known to have been recovered. Amongst these was a damaged spurred bowl depicting a sailing ship on the left side and a naval officer on the right. The officer is standing facing to his right and holding a sword in his right hand. There are wheatears on both seams and the pipe has a stem bore of 5/64. It is possible that the pipe commemorates the victory of Admiral Vernon over the Spanish at Cartagena in 1741. Unfortunately, there is no indication of where this particular example was produced.

The pipe is now stored at the Old Fulling Mill Museum, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, Archive Ref. 1984.017 (CH 61).

Reference

Lowther, P., Ebbatson, L., Ellison, M. and Millett, M., 1993, 'The City of Durham: An Archaeological Survey', in *Durham Archaeological Journal* 9, 27-119

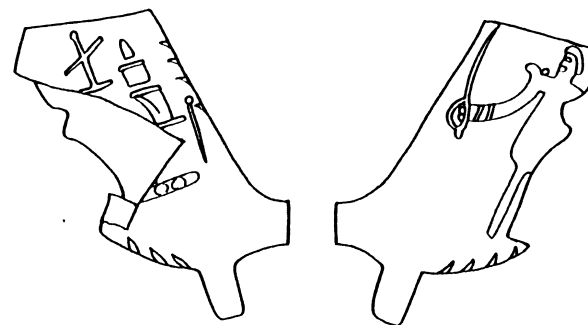


Fig.3 A possible Admiral Vernon bowl, Durham City

LATE 18TH-CENTURY TOBACCO IN A DURHAM PIPE

Lloyd J. Edwards

In 1969 Eric Parsons recovered a considerable number of archaeological finds from a building site at 41-42 North Bailey and Bailey Court (Bailey House and the rear of Bishop Cosin's Hall) in Durham City. The vast majority of finds were unstratified, but could be divided into two groups: medieval and 18th century. The latter would seem to represent a single-period midden from a large affluent household dating to the last quarter of the 18th century, or post-1760 (Lowther *et al.* 1993).

Only two tobacco pipes are known to have been recovered. Both are plain spurred bowls similar to Tyneside Type 14 (c.1700-80), and have a stem bore of 5/64. One of the bowls is filled with a material believed to be tobacco. One can only ponder why a full pipe of tobacco was discarded some two hundred years ago, but it has survived to become the oldest known tobacco in the north-east of England.

The majority of pipes smoked in Durham at that period were produced in Gateshead, the probable origin of these particular examples. The pipes are now at the Old Fulling Mill Museum, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, Archive Ref. 1985.15 (BCH 69-70).

Reference

Lowther, P., Ebbatson, L., Ellison, M. and Millett, M., 1993, 'The City of Durham: An Archaeological Survey', in *Durham Archaeological Journal* 9, 27-119

PATENT No.561, WILLIAM BROWN

Paul Jung (PO Box 817, Bel Air, MD 21014, USA) has sent the item reproduced below.



Pipe Clay

A.D. 1859, 2nd March. N° 561.

Manufacture of Pipe Stems, Cigar Tubes, &c.

(*This Invention received Provisional Protection only.*)

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by William Brown at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 2nd March 1859.

I, WILLIAM BROWN, of 4 and 5, Edgar Place, Mile End, in the County of Middlesex, Pipe Maker, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PIPE MOUNTS OR STEMS, CIGAR TUBES, AND SIMILAR ARTICLES," to be as follows:—

The object of this Invention is to make or manufacture the stems of pipes, cigar tubes, or such like similar articles of the ordinary English pipe clay, in lieu of the bone, horn, or other substance heretofore used for that purpose, and ornamenting it either in moulds or by hand to represent the pipe stems, mounts, or cigar tubes now in use.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SCOTTISWOODS,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1859.

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