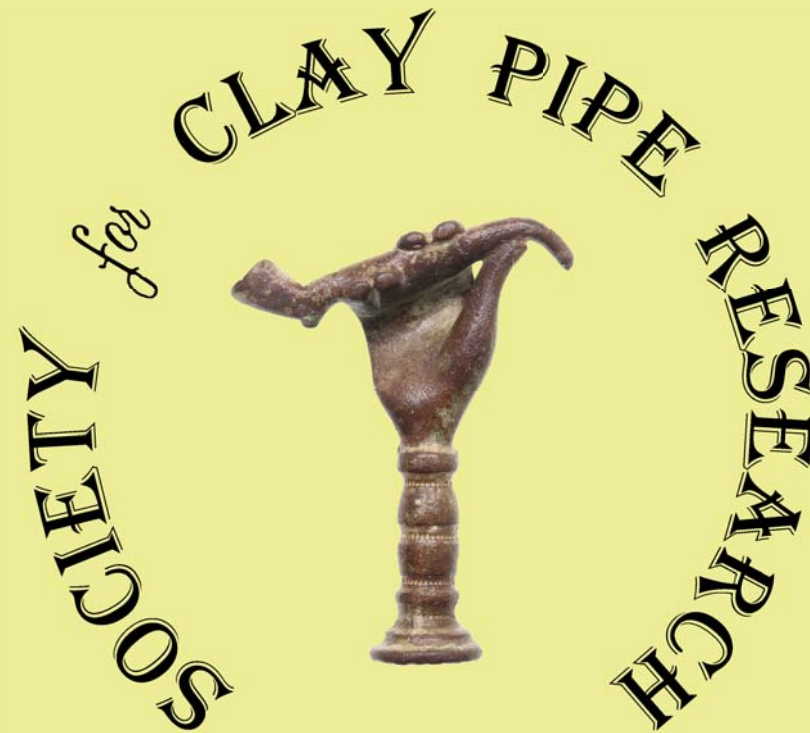




NEWSLETTER

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An Armorial Pipe from Glen Coe, Argyll, Scotland

David Higgins

Recent excavations by the University of Glasgow and the National Trust for Scotland in Glen Coe, Argyll, have produced an eighteenth-century armorial pipe featuring the crowned Hanoverian arms (Fig. 1). Armorial bowls, i.e., ones decorated with some sort of royal or corporate arms or badge, form a distinctive class of decorated pipe that first appeared around 1740 in Britain. By far the most common eighteenth century armorial designs comprise the Prince of Wales feathers or the Hanoverian Arms used by George I to George III (1714-1801), although some versions anachronistically copy the earlier Royal Arms of William III or Anne. Despite the moulds having been finely engraved, the detail on the pipes is often poorly defined, as either the clay has not made a clean impression, or it has become smudged during manufacture, handling, or during subsequent wear. What is clear, however, is that the arms were often incorrectly engraved, with minor omissions to the design or lettering, and sometimes the incorrect motto having been used, for example the Hanoverian Arms having been paired with 'Je Maintiendrai' from the arms of William III, or 'Ich Dien' from the Prince of Wales feathers. Despite these inaccuracies, these pipes were visually very distinct from the plain bowls that had been the norm before 1740, and the imagery they conveyed would have been instantly recognisable to those using them. Armorial pipes remained popular until around 1770, and were even made in spurless forms (Noël Hume 1970, 145), a style made specifically for the export markets and not used in Britain itself. Armorial pipes continued in production in smaller numbers, and in more diverse designs, until the early twentieth century, but the Glen Coe example belongs to the initial phase of production dating from c1740-1770.



Figure 1: An eighteenth-century armorial pipe excavated at Achnacon in Glen Coe.
Photo by Derek Alexander.

What makes the Glen Coe example particularly interesting is not so much the pipe itself, but where it was found, and the social and political implications of its iconography. In his study of armorial pipes, Oswald showed that there was a marked regional concentration of these pipes around London and the south-east, with the distribution extending to Plymouth in the south-west and Norwich in the east, and with occasional finds from the Midlands (Oswald 1975, Fig 20, Map 6). He did not record any early examples from north of a line between Bristol, the Midlands and Norwich and it is clear that the main focus for their introduction and production was London itself. So far as the current author is aware, there has been little change to Oswald's distribution map of eighteenth-century forms as a result of more recent work, and he does not know of any examples having been previously recorded from Scotland.

The pipe itself was found during a current project to explore the archaeology of Glen Coe, the location where the infamous massacre of 1692 took place, when around 30 to 40 members and collaborators of Clan MacDonald of Glencoe were killed by Scottish government forces. This was a fiercely Stuart area and they had allegedly failed to pledge allegiance to the new monarchs, the Protestant William III from the Dutch House of Orange, and his wife Mary II. The excavation took place on the site of an eighteenth-century stone walled farmstead in the now abandoned township of Achnacon, which is about two miles south-east of Glencoe itself. Residents of Achnacon in 1692 included MacDonald of Achnacon, the Clan Chief's cousin, who famously escaped death by throwing his cloak over the soldiers who had taken him outside to be shot, and ran off into the darkness.

Glen Coe remained a strongly Stuart area following the 1692 massacre, and supported the Jacobite rising of 1745/6. Government troop movements in the area are documented in the aftermath of the rising, and the settlement at Achtriochtan, a little further up the Glen, had soldiers billeted in the later 1740s. The excavated farmstead by then would have lain in the lands of Stewart of Appin, and his tacksman Stewart of Achnacon. There are also records of government troops in the area in the aftermath of the Appin Murder of 1752, which was a reaction to the forced estate clearances resulting from the Jacobite rising.

The building where the pipe was found is thought to have been abandoned during the late eighteenth century and the pipe itself (F0009) was found in context 1B01, at the interface between this context (topsoil) and the collapsed material associated with the demolition of the walls of the structure itself (context 1B02). It is not certain, therefore, whether the pipe relates to the occupation of this structure, or to the demolition and subsequent robbing of the stone from its walls. What is clear, however, is that this pipe with its overtly Hanoverian iconography is way out of the normal distribution pattern for this class of object, and in an extremely unexpected social and political setting.

The underlying bowl form of the pipe itself (Fig. 2) is a London Type 25 (Atkinson and Oswald, 1969), which dates from no later than *c*1770, and so this example can be dated on stylistic grounds to *c*1740-70. The back of the bowl features a crowned roundel containing the Hanoverian arms but lacks the supporting lion and unicorn that are usually found on these pipes, nor does it have a ribbon under the arms with the motto 'Dieu et mon droit', which is normally present. The front of the bowl is missing, but the maker's initials IW are moulded on the sides of the heel.



Figure 2: The armorial pipe from excavations at Achnacon in Glen Coe.
Photos by Michael Given.

While the lack of supporters and motto initially make this example look different from the typical forms found in London, there are parallels that can be found there. Examples from the Thames include both heel forms (Fig. 3) and spur forms (Fig. 4) that have a similar crowned roundel containing the Hanoverian arms without supporters or motto. These examples both have maker's marks. The Christian name initial on the heel of Figure 3 is rather faint, but is probably a G, while the surname is S. The marks on the spur bowl (Fig. 4) are also a little unclear, and appear to have been cut over earlier initials, suggesting that the mould changed hands, but also appear to most likely read GS in their latest form. This suggests the GS maker was producing this particular armorial design in both a heel and a spur style. The most likely maker for these pipes is a member of the Stray family, who worked at Wapping.

The Stray family appear to have come from Stapleford near Nottingham and were prominent London pipemakers during the eighteenth century, leaving large estates in their wills, and intermarrying / working in partnership with the Manby family, who were also prominent pipe manufacturers (Pearce 2013). George Stray Sr moved



Figure 3 (above) and Figure 4 (below): Heel and spur forms from the Thames, now in the author's collection, both of which appear to be marked GS. The former found by Nicola White (18525) and the latter by Amanda Weir (281010.7).
Photos by Susie White.



from Stapleford, was apprenticed to the London pipe maker Francis Sawell/Saywell in 1691, and took his freedom in London in 1698. George Sr died in 1727, leaving the business to his widow, Sarah (née Saywell), with the option of his oldest son, Francis, going into partnership with her when he was 21 (which would have been in 1731). Francis took his freedom as soon as he reached that age in 1731/2 and is then recorded as a pipe maker until his death in 1749, although it is not clear if he actually joined in

partnership with his mother or worked independently. Francis is specifically recorded working at Execution Dock, Wapping, when his daughter Mary was baptised in 1748, and he left his business to his widow (also called Mary) when he died in 1749. His mother Sarah died in 1751, with her whole estate to be divided into four equal parts, one each for her three surviving children, George Stray Jr, Elizabeth Manby and Ann Manby, and the other quarter to be equally divided between the three children of her late son Francis (John, Francis and Mary). Her younger son, George Jr, had taken his freedom as a pipe maker in 1740 and was her executor. He could, therefore, have worked with either his mother or brother as a pipe maker after that, although he is described as a biscuit maker in his will, which was proved in 1753. It appears, however, that the pipemaking business must have continued in some form, since a directory of 1763 lists a George Stray at Execution Dock, Wapping (Oswald 1975, 145). It is not clear whether this reference relates to the original business continuing under one of the earlier Georges' names, or another as yet unidentified member of the family.

What is likely, however, is that the Stray's were one of the families who were particularly associated with making armorial pipes, such as the GS examples shown in Figures 3 and 4. Armorial pipes marked WM were also made by the Manby family, with whom they intermarried, and examples marked FS can be attributed to Francis Stray, who was pipemaking from 1731-1749. He also appears to have made pipes specifically for the export trade, such as those decorated with the Portuguese Arms, examples of which have been found in Lisbon. One example has been found at the site of the Corpo Santo Lisbon Historical Hotel, and that illustrated in Figure 5 from the site of the Machadinho Palace. It is interesting to note that the palace site was occupied from 1719 until about 1742/43 by José Machado de Freitas, who was the secretary of the *Mesa Grande da Alfândega do Tabaco de Lisboa* (the Great Council of the Lisbon Tobacco Customs), and later the *Monteiro-mor* (the High Huntsman of the Royal House). Perhaps his work with the tobacco customs or the royal household was linked with his access to these imported pipes decorated with the Portuguese arms. These examples marked FS, GS and WM show that some of the principal London pipe manufacturers of the mid-eighteenth century were making these armorial designs, a few of which were especially designed for the export trade.

Examples of armorial pipes like the Glen Coe example are also known without any initials at all, for example, Figure 6. This shows that other makers were producing this style as well, the only difference being that this particular version also has decoration on the front seam that is probably intended to represent a tobacco plant. Most of the armorial types from London have decoration on the front seam, with a variety of different motifs represented (Atkinson and Oswald 1980). In this respect, the examples with just a simple roundel containing the Hanoverian arms are comparatively plain. The same is true of an example with a crowned roundel containing the other very common eighteenth century motif, the Prince of Wales feathers (Fig. 7). This also lacks the accompanying decoration, motto ribbon below, and decorated front seam that are

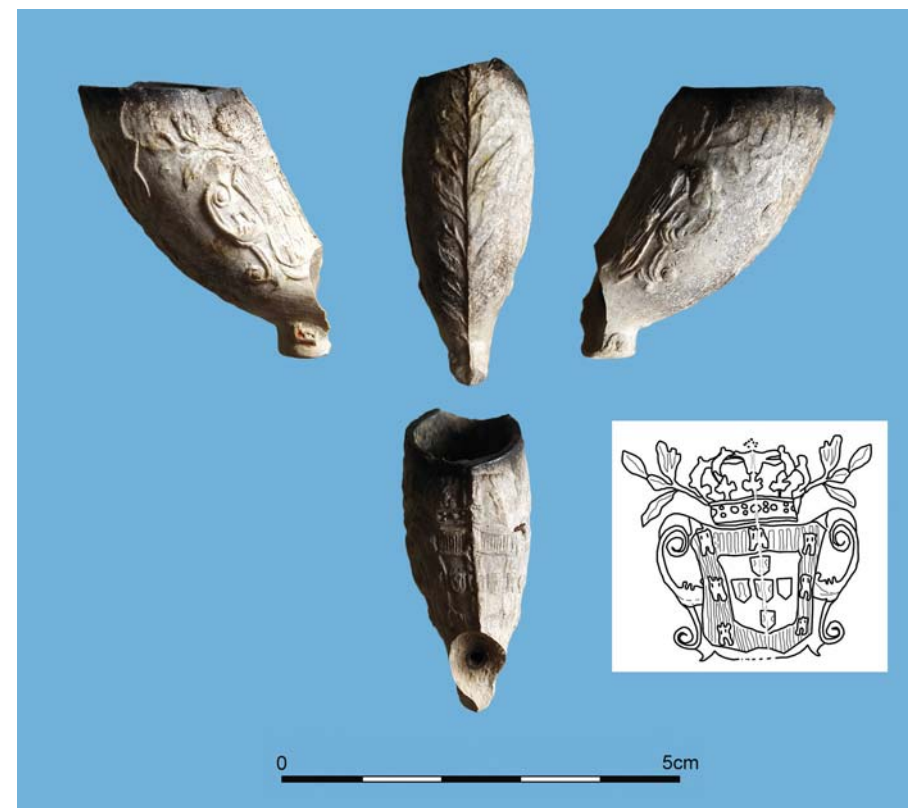


Figure 5: An armorial pipe from the Machadinho Palace in Lisbon depicting the Portuguese Arms and marked FS for Francis Stray of London, who was working from 1731-1749. This design probably dates from the 1740s.

Photo courtesy of Adriana Gomes and Marina Évora, ArqueoHoje.

typical of other examples featuring the Prince of Wales feathers (e.g., Le Cheminant 1981). Although not the most common arrangement, the types described above show that the London pipemakers were making 'sub-types' of both the Hanoverian arms and Prince of Wales feathers, where the principal motif was reduced to a crowned roundel facing the smoker, without supporters or accompanying motto ribbon, and usually without decoration on the front seam.

These examples clearly demonstrate that the Glen Coe example falls within the known range of London armorial types, rather than coming from one of the provincial centres that also made pipes of this style. The final and most compelling evidence that it is a London product comes from an example found in the Thames and posted by Jae Bond on the Society for Clay Pipe Research Facebook page on 25 August 2018 (Fig.



Figure 6: An unmarked example with the Hanoverian arms and a decorated front seam from the Thames at Paul's Wharf, London (author's collection, 121015.8; this example previously published by Le Cheminant, 1981, p105 and in Figs 2-3).
Photos by Susie White.



Figure 7: An armorial marked TW depicting the Prince of Wales feathers within a crowned roundel. Found in the Blackfriars area of the Thames in London (author's collection; 20313.2).
Photos by David Higgins.

8). This not only exhibits the same design and maker's mark (IW) as the Scottish example but appears to have been made from the same mould. The only difference is that the design on the Scottish example appears to be a little less crisp than the London example, and the rim height looks to be a little shorter. This is typical of a pipe made from a mould that has been in use for some time, whereby the design becomes worn in the mould from the slightly abrasive clay, and the top of the mould becomes a little shorter due to wear from repeated trimming of excess clay from that part of the mould during the manufacturing process. This suggests that the Scottish example was made a little later than the example from London, but that it came from the same workshop and using the same mould. Unfortunately, there are several London pipemakers with the initials IW who could have been working at the right period to have produced this pipe, and so the specific manufacturer cannot currently be identified.

Having established that the Glen Coe armorial was produced by the IW maker in London, the remaining question is what it was doing in Scotland? There is no pattern of these pipes being traded around the coast of Britain and the most obvious conclusion is that it was carried there either as some sort of provisions for the British army posted there, or as a personal possession belonging to one of the soldiers. Excavations at Williamsburg in Virginia suggested a strong correlation between taverns and armorial pipes (Noël Hume, 1970), suggesting that they were particularly associated with recreational drinking in a colonial context. There has not been any corresponding



Figure 8: An armorial bowl marked IW from the Thames in London that was made in the same mould as the example from Glen Coe. Photos by Jae Bond.

association noted in Britain, even where finds from near a tavern in the Tower of London moat might have been expected to show this (Higgins 2004, 245-246). The Tower of London excavations did, however, produce an unusually high number of eighteenth-century armorial pipes, suggesting that they were particularly favoured by the soldiers stationed there. Smoking a pipe bearing the Royal Arms would fit with their military role and show the soldiers allegiance to the crown. This would provide a reason why the Glen Coe example might have been taken to Scotland with the troops during the 1740s or 1750s, but does not explain how it came to be on a local farmstead. This is especially true given that it dates from around the time of the Jacobite rebellion when a pipe with Hanoverian iconography would most likely have been reviled by the farmstead's occupants. Was this a pipe that had been traded with the locals in exchange for fresh produce, or gifted to them as a sign of royal authority? Or was it stolen from the troops in some sort of petty pilfering, kept as a souvenir of a successful raid against the soldiers, or dropped by one of the troops as the occupants of the dwelling were evicted and their building levelled? The exact circumstances of its deposition may never be known, but this pipe and its Royalist imagery provides a fascinating glimpse into the complex social and political situation at the time, as well as tangible evidence of the movement of troops and/or supplies from London to the Highlands around the middle of the eighteenth century.

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Little Tubes of Mighty Power and Other Small Things Forgotten: Smoking Artefacts on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database

Susie White

In the world of historical or Post-Medieval archaeology, clay tobacco pipes have long been acknowledged as objects that can shed light on and inform us with regard to the close dating of archaeological contexts; as indicators of social status, as well as the extent of market areas and trade patterns. A recognition of the research potential

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Edited by S. D. White and D. A. Higgins.

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