

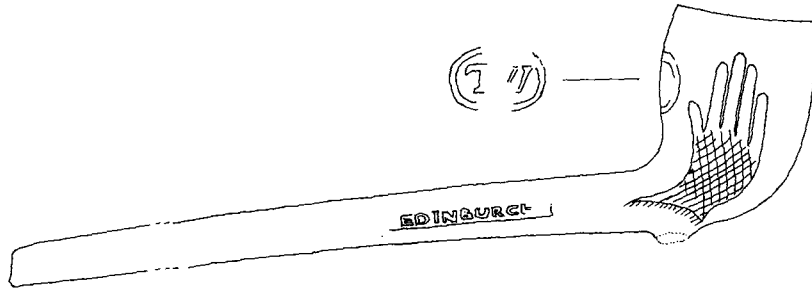
Notice of two clay pipes from an Edinburgh firm

Mary Harman*

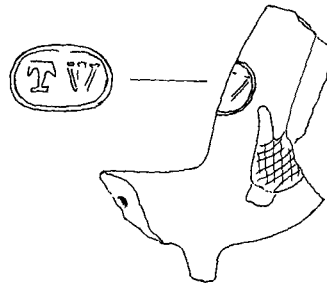
In the course of clearing the loft of 42 West High Street, Lauder, Berwickshire (NGR NT 529 477) preparatory to treatment for woodworm, a clay pipe was found (illus 1), broken, but with no signs of use. The initials on the bowl stamp and the place of manufacture suggest that it was produced by T Whyte & Co, a company based in Edinburgh between 1832 and 1864 (Oswald 1975, 206).

It is the initials and the design of the mittened hand on this pipe which have led to the identification of the second pipe (illus 2) as from the same maker. This broken and weathered pipe bowl was found by chance lying on the surface of the ground on Eilean Mor, Flannan Isles, Lewis, near the narrow part of the island towards the west end (c NA 724 469) in an area where the thin soil is seriously eroded. As the construction of the lighthouse was not begun until 1895, it seems unlikely that the pipe was left by those who built and occupied the light (Mair 1978, 231). It is possible that it was dropped by T S Muir, the ecclesiologist, who visited the Flannans

*42 West High Street, Lauder



ILLUS 1 Clay pipe found at 42 West High Street, Lauder (scale 3:4)



ILLUS 2 Clay pipe bowl, found on Eilean Mor, Flannan Isles, Lewis (scale 3:4)

in the late 1850s, but it is perhaps more likely that the pipe was exported to Lewis and was left on the Flannans by one of those who went on the annual expedition to shear sheep and harvest seabirds.

Whyte's products reached the Northern Isles: part of a pipe stem stamped THO^s WHIT- -/- -NBURGH was found near Scalloway Castle (Davey 1983, 584-5). Attributed to T Whyte & Co, it has at one end a small area of cross hatching bordered by three lines, possibly the lower part of a mittened hand. Another stem fragment stamped THO WHITE & CO / EDINBUR- - was found in Gunn's Close, Kirkwall (Caldwell 1982, 425-6)

Six pipe bowls with a 'tw' stamp were found in Edinburgh (Lawson 1976, 221, 224-5) some with a cross-hatched panel in the form of a heraldic shield on one side. Lawson points out that the same mark occurs elsewhere in southern Scotland and northern England associated with a cross-hatched shamrock-trefoil panel and a harp. None of the Edinburgh bowls was associated with a T Whyte and Co stem stamp though five such stamps were found, and Lawson points out that the tw bowl stamp does occur associated with stem stamps from two Northumbrian manufacturers, casting doubt on the identification of rw with T Whyte and Co. The link on the Scalloway stem between Thomas White of Edinburgh and a cross-hatch design and on the Lauder pipe between the rw bowl stamp, the cross-hatched mitten, and the Edinburgh stem stamp, support the identification of the Lauder pipe and thus also the Flannan Isle pipe as Thomas Whyte products.

REFERENCES

- Caldwell, D 1982 'Clay Pipes', in McGavin, N A, 'Excavations in Kirkwall 1978', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 112 (1982), 392-436.
- Davey, P J 1983 'The Clay Pipes', in Hall, D & Lindsay, W J, 'Excavations at Scalloway Castle 1979 and 1980', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 113 (1983), 554-593.
- Lawson, G 1976 'The clay tobacco pipes', in Schofield, J 'Excavations south of Edinburgh High Street 1973-4', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 107 (1975-6), 155-241.
- Mair, C 1978 *A Star for Seamen*. Frome and London.
- Oswald, A 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*. Oxford. (= *Brit Archaeol Rep*, 14.)