

Tantallon Castle, East Lothian: a catalogue of the finds

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illustrations by Marion O'Neil

ABSTRACT

Description of medieval and later finds from several excavations at Tantallon Castle, East Lothian.

Tantallon Castle is well known as one of Scotland's most impressive medieval monuments, for long the home of the Douglas Earls of Angus. Its massive towered curtain wall rises from the cliffs three miles east along the coast from North Berwick, East Lothian, and is fronted by an array of earthworks, some associated with the siege of 1651. It has been in the care of the State since 1924. The task of tidying up and repairing the fabric of the castle and removing debris from the ditches was undertaken in the late 1920s. As a result of this work several relics came to light, some of which were gifted to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (now National Museums of Scotland), with others being retained for display in the castle. There is a third group of finds from the castle in North Berwick Museum which will be commented upon as appropriate.

Unfortunately, there is practically no information on how or where the various discoveries were made. Even when a small group of finds (3a, 35, 37, 38, 129, 130 below), recovered from the excavations carried out by the Commissioners of HM Works, was gifted to the National Museum in 1939 they were merely recorded as coming from the castle. In fact, many of the finds in the National Museums and North Berwick were not recovered from the castle itself but from the shore at the bottom of the cliffs on which it stands. The label in the display in the latter institution makes it clear why: 'Finds from Tantallon Castle – on the shore and rocks underlying the castle. During operations after the 1914–18 war the soil removed in clearing out the moat [meaning the inner ditch?] was thrown over the cliff and the relics were exposed by the washing of the sea'. These finds were gifted to North Berwick by a local man, Carl Henderson, who also gave some of his discoveries to the National Museum in Edinburgh.

Some clearance work was done at the castle in the late 19th century when the 16th-century masonry infilling the mural chambers in the curtain wall was taken out (Richardson 1960, 8, 10). This still left a heavy task for the Ministry of Works in the 1920s and some impression of what they did may be gleaned from its file on the monument now deposited in the Scottish Record Office (MW/1/309).

In 1924 debris at the foot of the cliff (at the East Tower?) was removed. It is clear from

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early views of the castle, for instance the engraving reproduced on the front of the present guidebook to the castle, that most of the superstructure of the East Tower must have fallen some time in the 19th century, and it may have been this collapsed material that was being removed. About the same time 'excavations' were taking place in the Fore Tower at the remains of the turret chamber on the east jamb of the original front.

In 1929 excavation and 'trial tracks' were being worked on at the east end of the great outer ditch where there were many blocks of fallen masonry lying near the outer gate. Presumably clearance of the outer ditch progressed westwards, for in the following year James Richardson, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Scotland, was able to observe that one of the traverses across the ditch had been cut. He considered it to be part of the ravelin, 'probably of 16th-century date and later than the ditch'. It may belong instead to the 17th century and have been dug in anticipation of the Cromwellian siege of 1651. The game-piece and dice (129 & 130) were found in 1929. It is likely that many of the finds come from this ditch as well as the inner one.

The ground at the seaward side of the flanking wall which extends southward from the outer gateway was also being lowered in 1930. A human skeleton, in good condition, was discovered, the second from this area, another having been uncovered some 30 years previously by the fall of earth from the cliff-top. Both were buried east/west (Richardson 1960, 3). The two iron keys (37 & 38) were found in January 1930.

In 1932 the foreman at the castle reported that while removing debris from the foot of the straight stair an old spiral stair was exposed. This, he considered, would have been in use when the building had three storeys instead of the present two. He also refers to the blocked-up spiral stair which gave access to the upper gallery in the hall and indicates clearance work was then being done on that range. Earlier editions of the castle guidebook also speak of the discovery of the foundations of 'out-house buildings of late date' to the south of the dovecot. There is no sign of these on the surface of the ground today.

It is evident that only a representative group of the finds was retained for display purposes. This is particularly clear in the case of the pottery and clay pipes. The former consists entirely of rims, bases, handles and decorated or unusual pieces. Some are composed of more than one sherd but there are no substantially complete vessels. The pipes are all substantially complete bowls, each associated with a piece of stem to make them visually more attractive in a display. In no case does the stem belong with the bowl.

Curiously, the Carl Henderson collection in North Berwick Museum contains no pottery at all. It is difficult to believe he would not have picked it up when he so avidly collected pins and musket balls. Perhaps the workmen at the castle had been instructed to keep all the sherds they came across and those considered surplus to requirements were jettisoned elsewhere.

Most of the finds can not be dated very closely. However, most could be dated to the years before 1699 when the castle and barony were purchased by Sir Hew Dalrymple. It is thought that the castle was then allowed to fall into decay (Richardson 1960, 26). There is no solid evidence for a castle or any occupation of the site prior to the construction of the curtain wall and towers in the 14th century, perhaps about 1350. Some of the pottery, however, could well be earlier than that.

Many of the finds are of a military nature, and, most obviously in the case of the pieces of shot flattened by impact, it is tempting to associate this material with the two notable sieges of the castle: the unsuccessful attempt by King James V in 1528 and the successful operation by George Monck in 1651. The other material is mostly of a domestic nature and reflects the castle's past as a residence of a noble family.

CATALOGUE OF THE FINDS

For the most part the approach adopted to listing the finds has been to order them by material, such as iron, pottery, glass, but significant groups – military equipment, coins and jettons – have been kept together irrespective of their material. The inventory numbers assigned to each item still in the possession of Historic Buildings & Monuments is given after the description of each piece; *NMS* followed by a registration number indicates those objects in the National Museums of Scotland, and *NBM* North Berwick Museum. Unillustrated items in the main catalogue are marked by an asterisk.

GOLD (illus 1)

- 1 Enamelled gold finger ring. It has a centrally ridged bezel with, on one side, an engraving of the Virgin and on the other a figure probably meant to represent the Angel of the Annunciation. The shoulders of the broad hoop are engraved with lilies, and on the back are the initials, twice, *IR*. 15th century. [NMS: NJ 7]

The ring was found at the castle in 1852 by one of the surveyors employed by the Ordnance Survey (James 1854, 168–9). Iconographical rings of similar form, dating from the late 14th to the early 16th century, are well known, and appear to be an English (and Scottish?) type (Bury 1983, 186). Characteristically they have two Christian figures or saints on the bezel or else the sacred monograph *Ihs, Maria*, etc. Others have been found in Scotland at, for example, Hume Castle and Broughty Ferry (Caldwell 1982, 92, 93) and Pluscarden (Oman 1974, pl 66c). (The ring featured in the *Tantallon Castle Guidebook*, 1986 edn, p 6, is actually the ring from Hume Castle.)

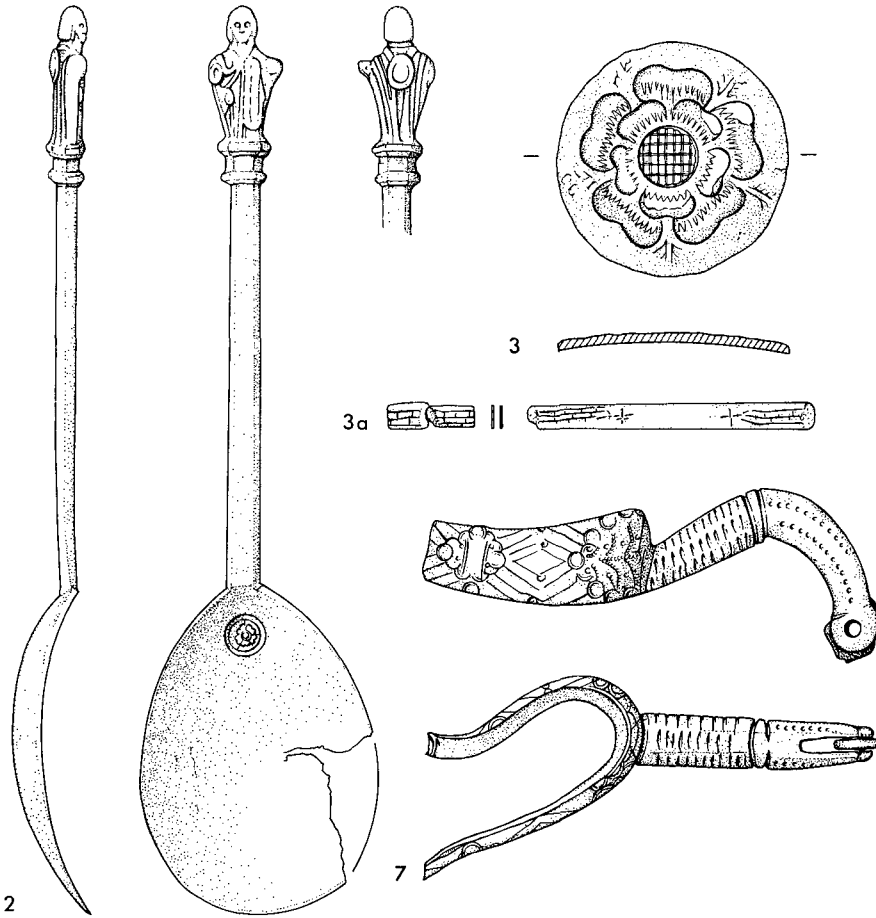
COPPER ALLOY (illus 2 & 3)

- 2 Apostle spoon, made of latten, with fuculate shaped bowl and hexagonal stem. The bowl is stamped with a rose mark. The apostle is St James ‘the greater’ dressed as a pilgrim with a hat on his back and a satchel or pilgrim’s bottle on a strap over his shoulder. English, late 16th or early 17th century. [NMS: SK 22]
- Apostle spoons are a well-known medieval and later type. The apostles are normally represented with halos but apparently never on the spoons made of latten (Homer 1975, 27). These would invariably have been coated in tin, no traces of which remain on the Tantallon spoon. This rose mark occurs on several other English base metal spoons but has not hitherto been noted on latten apostle spoons (Price 1908). Benker (1978, fig 43) illustrates a German 16th-century brass spoon plated with silver which has an apostle derived from the same model as the Tantallon one. It is in the *Bayerisches Nationalmuseum*, Munich. There is the bowl and part of the stem of a 17th-century base metal spoon in NBM.
- 3 Disc with ‘Tudor’ rose pattern with traces of gilding and red enamel. There are no signs of how it might have been fixed to a backing. English, 16th century. [6263]
- 3a Crude finger ring. The shoulders of the hoop on either side of the bezel, now missing, are crudely engraved with chequered designs and crosses. [NMS: HX 232]
- 4 Buckle, lacking its pin. [6266]
- Ring-shaped buckles and brooches are a typical medieval type. There are 15 others from Tantallon in NBM.
- 5 Dome-shaped quatrefoil mounting, probably for decorating a belt. [6264]
- 6 Brass mount, pierced for a handle. 17th century. [6265]
- 7 Spur of cast bronze. The arms have been squashed together and their terminals broken off. The shank is fairly steeply angled downwards and the points have been broken off the brass rowel. It would have been about 25 mm in diameter and is decorated with strapwork. Late 16th–17th century. [6274] A similar shaped but plain spur of brass was recovered from Glenluce sands (Seaby 1959, 277–8).



ILLUS 1 Iconographic finger ring from Tantallon Castle

- 8 Small double-loop buckle. [NMS: HX 60]
- 9 Double-loop buckle. [6275]
- 10 Double-loop buckle, lacking its pin. [6276]
- 11 Large double-loop buckle with strap end containing remains of leather strap. [NMS: HX 59]
Double loop buckles such as nos 8–11 are a common medieval and later type for fastening military or civilian dress. There are another seven in NBM.
- 12 Needle. [NMS: HX 62]
There are two others in NBM.
- 13–16 Pins with wire-wound heads. [NMS: HX 62, 67]
There are several more in the collections retained by HBM, NMS and NBM, some with traces of tinning. Two in NBM have large globular heads, and this collection also has a copper alloy dress-fastening pin with a globular head.
- 17 Lace-end. [NMS: HX 63]
There are another two in NMS and 12 in NBM.
- 18 Nail. [NMS: HX 68]
There are another two similar pieces in NBM, and also two tacks with flat rectangular heads and triangular shafts.
- 19 Strip of wire decoratively twisted. [NMS: HX 66]
- 20 Stud. [NMS: HX 57]
NBM has another 25 dome-headed pins like this.

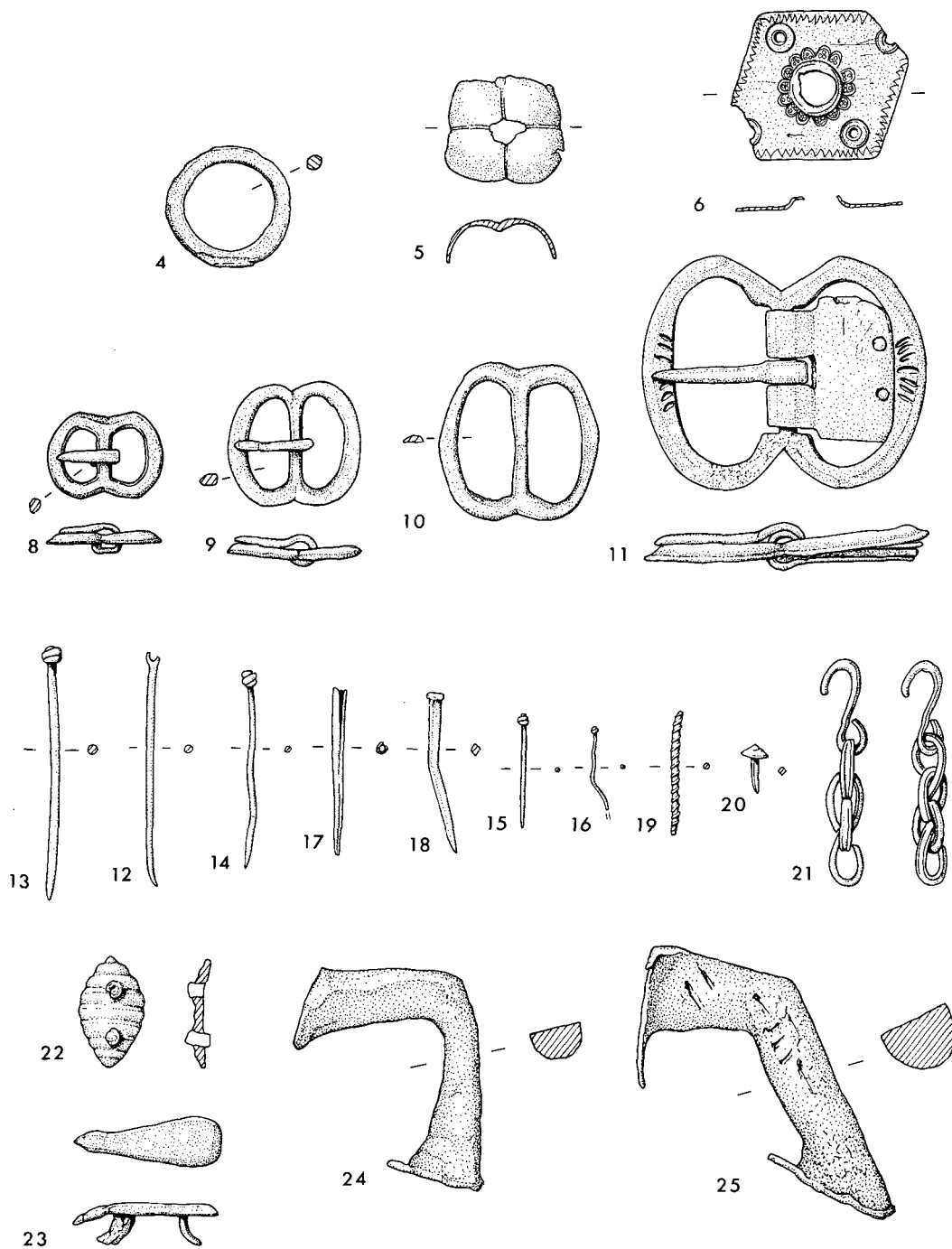


ILLUS 2 Copper alloy finds from Tantallon Castle. Scale 2/3

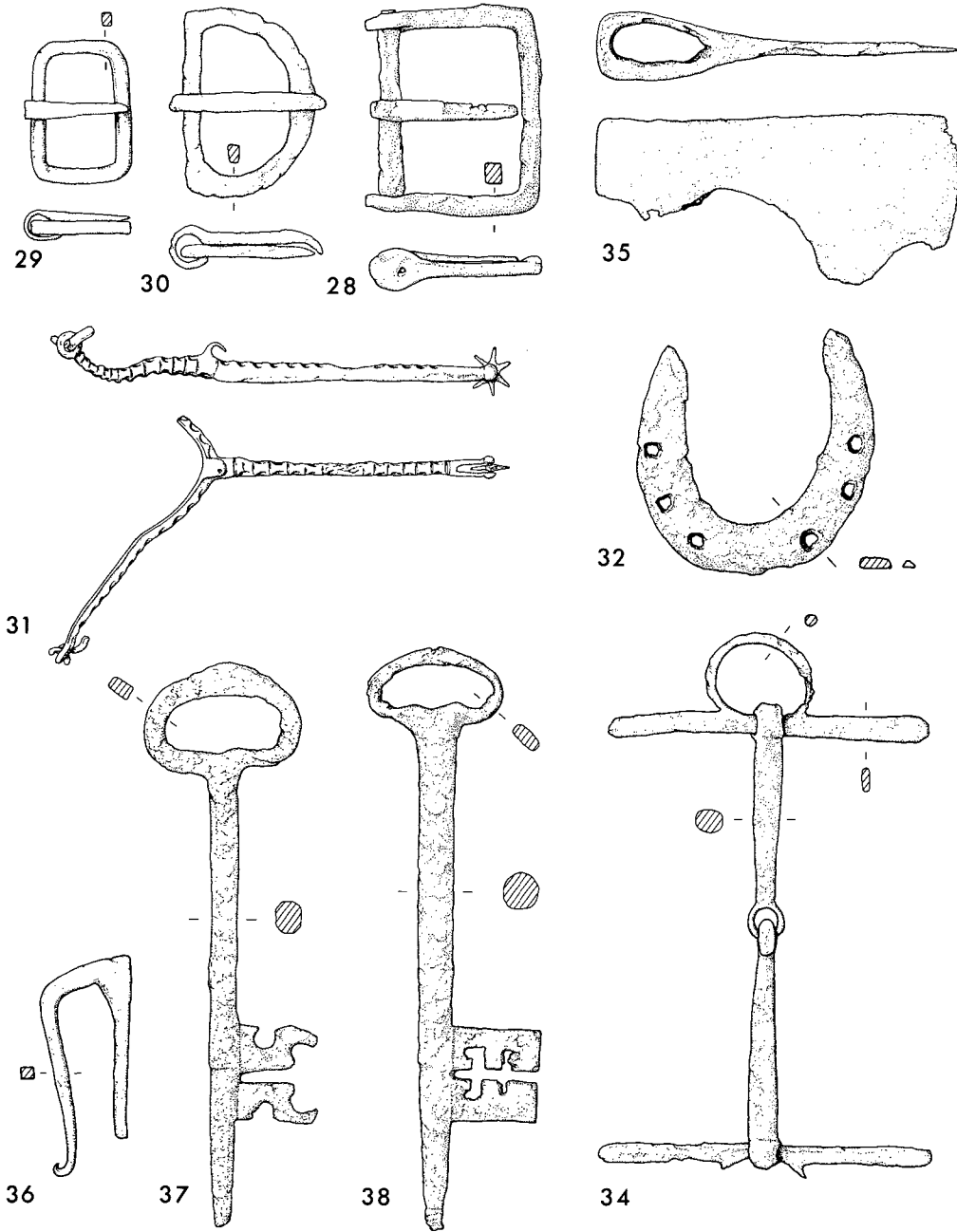
- 21 Chain with figure-of-eight links made of rectangular sectioned wire. [NMS: HX 58]
There are four other pieces of chain in NBM.
- 22 Mount, vesica shaped, decoratively ribbed, pierced by two iron rivets. [NMS: HX 56]
- 23 Mount, droplet shaped, with two pins to fasten it to a backing. [NMS: HX 55]
Mounts, such as nos 22 & 23, were probably used to decorate and reinforce leather straps and belts. NBM has a series of 16 other copper alloy belt mounts, including five hollow lozenges and a fleur-de-lis.
- 24-5 Handles from large cooking pots; no 24 has been repaired by welding. [6268, 6267]
- 26*-7* Rim sherds from large cast-bronze cooking pots: the former is too buckled to allow an estimate of its rim diameter; the latter was c 240 mm. [6269, 6270]

IRON (illus 3 & 4)

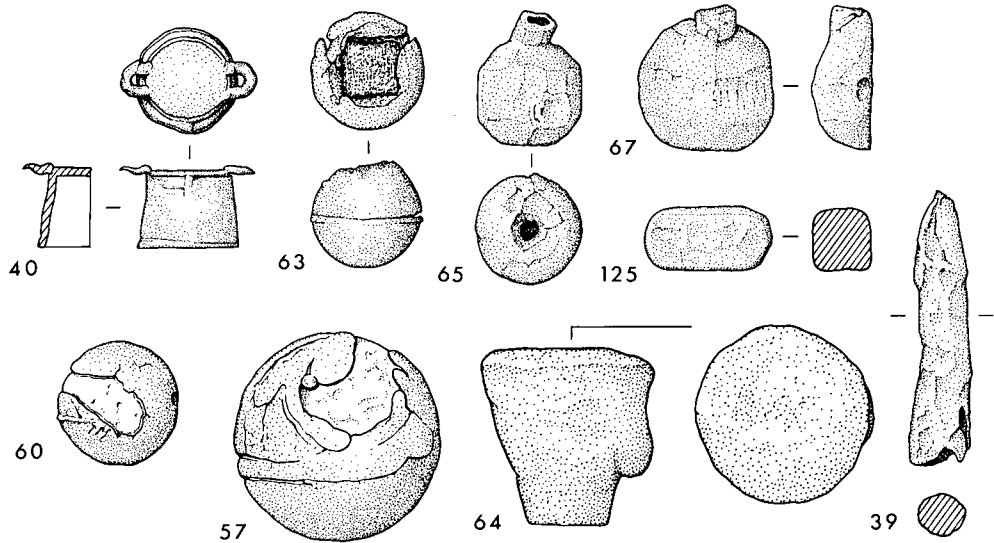
- 28-9 Rectangular harness buckles. [6306, 6308]
- 30 D-shaped harness buckle. [6307]
- 31 Spur, one arm broken away, the other twisted out of alignment. The arms and shank are



ILLUS 3 Copper alloy and iron finds from Tantallon Castle. Scale 2/3



ILLUS 4 Iron finds from Tantallon Castle. Scale 2/3



ILLUS 5 Military equipment from Tantallon Castle. Scale 2/3

decoratively faceted and retain traces of tinning. The remaining terminal is of single hole type and contains remains of a strap-end and buckle. There is a hook at the junction of the arms and the long shaft and the rowel has six points. Second half of the 15th century. [6312]

32 Horseshoe. Later medieval type. [6310]

33* Horseshoe, similar to no 32. [6309]

34 Horse-bit. [6311]

35 Bearded axe. [NMS: HX 235]

For cutting wood rather than a weapon, it is type 3b in Goodman's typology of medieval axes (Goodman 1964, 28). The collections of NMS contain several other axes of not dissimilar form from other localities in Scotland, in particular RY 25 from Boat, Kincardine O'Neil; RY 29 from Burghhead; RY 32 from Stromness; and RY 27 from Aberdeenshire.

36 Tinder striker, or steel. [6305]

Known in Scotland as *fleerishes*. The Tantallon steel is a post-medieval type and can be paralleled by several in the Bryant & May Collection, now in the Science Museum, London (Christy 1926, nos 200–80). Sir Arthur Mitchell (1880, fig 78) illustrates a steel of the same type bought with a tinder box in a shop in Thornhill (in the 19th century).

37–8 Door keys. [NMS: HX 232, 233]

Both are *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* type VII B.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT (illus 5)

39 Iron arrow or bolt head, socketed, with lozenge sectioned head. [NMS: HX 70]
London Museum Medieval Catalogue type IX.

40 Lead cap from a powder flask. Early to mid 17th century. [NMS: HX 52]
Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928–9), 14, fig 2 no 10.

41*–2* Powder flask caps, similar to no 40. [NMS: HX 51, 53]

Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928–9), 14, fig 2 nos 9, 11.

These caps are simply made of a strip of metal turned into a cylinder with a disc-shaped lid and suspension loops soldered on. These were fitted on to little flasks, normally of wood, which

were hung by strings passing through loops on the flask and lid to a sturdy belt – a bandolier – worn over the shoulder by hagbutters or musketeers. Each flask held just enough powder for one shot and the norm was to have 12 flasks hanging from each bandolier, a pouch for bullets and a larger flask for priming powder. NBM has another similar lid and another four have been recovered from the excavations at Sandal Castle in Yorkshire which, like Tantallon, suffered a devastating siege in the middle of the 17th century (1645– Credland 1983, 263, fig 12, nos 1–4). There is also the nozzle for a powder flask (for priming powder?) in NBM.

- 43* Gunstone. dia 9.6 in (244 mm) wt 12.6 kg. [6215]
- 44* Gunstone. dia 8.6 in (218 mm) wt 12 kg. [6216]
- 45* Gunstone. 210 × 229 mm; wt 13.2 kg. [6217]
- 46* Gunstone. 210 × 229 mm; wt 16.4 kg. [6218]
- 47* Gunstone. [6219]. Not located.
- 48* Gunstone. dia 74 mm. [RMS: LM 52]
Found in the debris under the cliff at the north-east of the castle.
- 49* Gunstone, only half surviving. dia 51 mm. [6227]
All these stone balls are made from sandstone. No 43 has a flat side and nos 45 and 46 are markedly cylindrical in form. Stone shot were fired from guns in the 16th century and earlier, particularly guns of wrought-iron construction which were too weak to take the charge necessary to propel metal shot. The larger pieces listed here, however, might equally have been fired by stone-throwing machines.
- 50* Eight pieces of cast-iron gun shot, as follows:
- | | | | |
|-----|--------|----|----------|
| dia | 165 mm | wt | 17.02 kg |
| | 165 mm | | 16.4 kg |
| | 165 mm | | 16.2 kg |
| | 163 mm | | 16.4 kg |
| | 159 mm | | 16.4 kg |
| | 159 mm | | 15.72 kg |
| | 159 mm | | 15.7 kg |
| | 153 mm | | 14.62 kg |
- 51* Cast-iron gun shot. dia 134 mm wt 7.9 kg. [NMS: LM 51]
Found on the beach below the castle.
- 52* Two pieces of cast-iron gun shot, as follows:
- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|----|---------|--------|
| dia | 89 mm | wt | 2.42 kg | [6220] |
| | 86 mm | | 2.23 kg | [6221] |
- 53* Cast-iron gun shot, badly honeycombed with casting flaws. dia 89 mm; wt 2.33 kg. [NMS: LM 53]
- 54* Cast-iron gun shot. dia 83 mm; wt 1.97 kg. [NMS:LM 45]
- 55* Cast-iron gun shot. dia 56 mm; wt 1.12 kg. [6222]
Cast-iron gun shot were fired by the cast-bronze pieces of artillery which were the main siege guns from the late 15th to the 17th century. The largest balls of 153 mm (6 in) and more in diameter would have been fired from cannon. The smaller balls of less than 102 mm (4 in) in diameter were fired from field pieces and were effective primarily as anti-personnel devices.
- 56* Lead shot, flattened by impact. wt 3.35 kg. [6228]
- 57 Lead-covered pebble shot, formed in a two-piece mould, though probably as a parcel of sheet metal and stone. dia 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in (42 mm); wt 3.10 kg. [6223]
- 58* Lead-covered pebble shot similar in construction to no 57. dia 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (42 mm). [NMS: LM 46]
- 59* Lead covering for a pebble shot. dia 42 mm. [6226]

- 60 Lead-covered pebble shot. dia 1 in (25.4 mm); wt 53.8 g. [6224]
- 61* Lead-covered pebble shot. dia 0.8 in. (21 mm); wt 45.3 g. [NMS: HX 43]
- 62* Lead covering for a small pebble shot, badly misshapen. [62225]
NMS has eight pieces of lead-covered pebble shot.
- 63 Gunshot formed of a cube of wrought-iron cast in a coating of lead. dia 23 mm wt 43.5 g. [NMS: HX 42]
Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928–9), 14, fig 2 no 2. NBM has another similar.

In the 16th century iron shot was invariably imported as the Scots lacked the ability to cast iron. This was an expensive business and there must often have been supply difficulties. It is not surprising that few large pieces of iron shot were recovered which can be associated with the 1528 siege as they would have been collected at the time for re-use.

The Scots found an ingenious way round their inability to make cast-iron shot. They made dice or diamonds of wrought-iron as early as 1496 which were then coated in lead to make shot of the desired rotundity, just as no 63 from Tantallon Castle (*Treasurer's Accounts* i, 293, 295, 299, 384). The other pieces of shot from Tantallon composed of pebbles wrapped in lead, by reason of their lack of weight and lack of solidity, could only have been effective as anti-personnel devices. They are more likely to date to the 16th than the 17th century.

It is possible that the main motive in manufacturing them was to economize on lead, but an alternative suggestion has been made for several composite lead and iron pieces of shot recovered from the wreck of a European ship on the Molasses Reef in the Turks and Caicos Islands (Simmons 1988). The ship, which is thought to have sunk sometime in the years from 1492 to 1522, was provided with an armament of wrought-iron guns. Other pieces of shot from the wreck were of cast iron, with a few pieces of wrought-iron. Guilmartin (1988, 41) has pointed out that lead is about 30% denser than iron and is far more malleable. A lead ball could be safely forced into the barrel of a wrought-iron gun and would remain in place, if necessary for a long period of time, until fired. Cloth or fibre wadding to hold a looser fitting projectile in place would not have been so effective since it would have absorbed moisture.

- 64 Iron plug for a mortal shell. 17th century. [NMS: LM 66]
There are two others in NBM.
- 65 Piece of shot consisting of a hollow lead ball with a tubular opening at the top and a hole at the bottom. wt 36.1 g. [NMS: HX 45]
Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928–9), 14, fig 2, no 3. There are four of those in NBM, one of them flattened by impact.
- 66* Piece of shot, as no 65, but lacking tube at top. wt 52.2 g. [NMS: HX 46]
Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928–9), 14, fig 2, no 4.
- 67*–72* Pieces of shot, as no 65, but flattened by impact: [NMS: HX 47–8, 6244–7]
These are apparently bullets designed to be fired in rapid succession from the one gun barrel. This would have been loaded for as much as two-thirds of its length with powder and bullets alternately. The holes in the bullets would have contained some percussion-compound to enable the fire to jump from one charge to the next. Superimposed charge guns made an early appearance in the history of firearms, certainly by the first half of the 15th century in Europe (Blackmore 1965, 76), and were considered to have a serious military potential as late as the mid-19th century in Denmark at least (Hansen 1987). The size of the shot from Tantallon makes it unlikely that they could have been fired from a hand-held gun without any support. They may have been used with multiple-barrelled pieces mounted on wheels or tripods. While it is impossible to date them it is worth noting that there was a particular interest in developing rapid-fire guns in Scotland in the 1630s and 1640s and multiple-barrelled guns mounted in frames, designed by Alexander Hamilton, a veteran of the Swedish service, were in use (Stevenson & Caldwell 1979).

73*-106* Lead bullets for firearms:

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| 73 | dia 19 mm | wt 36.8 g | [6229] |
| 74 | 19 mm | 35.9 g | [6230] |
| 75 | 19 mm | 32.5 g | [6231] |
| 76 | 18.5 mm | 33.1 g | [6232] |
| 77 | 18 mm | 32.7 g | [6233] |
| 78 | 18 mm | 32.6 g | [6234] |
| 79 | 18 mm | 32.2 g | [6235] |
| 80 | 18 mm | 31.0 g | [6236] |
| 81 | 17 mm | 31.2 g | [6237] |
| 82 | 17 mm | 30.6 g | [6238] |
| 83 | 17 mm | 30.6 g | [6239] |
| 84 | 16 mm | 22.0 g | [6240] |
| 85 | 16 mm | | NMS: LM 49 (not found) |
| 86 | 15.5 mm | 22.1 g | [6241] |
| 87 | 15.5 mm | 22.0 g | [6242] |
| 88 | 15.5 mm | 21.8 g | [6243] |
| 89 | 15.5 mm | 21.6 g | |
| 90 | 15.5 mm | 21.6 g | |
| 91 | 15.5 mm | 21.0 g | |
| 92 | 15 mm | 21.5 g | |
| 93 | 15 mm | 21.4 g | |
| 94 | 15 mm | | NMS:LM 50 (not found) |
| 95 | 14.5 mm | 21.7 g | |
| 96 | 14.5 mm | 19.4 g | |
| 97 | 14.5 mm | 18.1 g | |
| 98 | 14 mm | 19.2 g | |
| 99 | 14 mm | 15.0 g | |
| 100 | 13 mm | 11.9 g | |
| 101 | 12 mm | 9.8 g | |
| 102 | 12 mm | 9.3 g | |
| 103 | 11.5 mm | 8.5 g | |
| 104 | 11 mm | 7.0 g | |
| 105 | 8.5 mm | 3.7 g | |
| 106 | 6.5 mm | 1.8 g | |

107*-17* Lead bullets for fire arms, flattened or misshapen by impact:

| | | |
|-----|------------|--------|
| 107 | wt 34.49 g | [6248] |
| 108 | 34.4 g | [6249] |
| 109 | 31.7 g | [6250] |
| 110 | 29.1 g | [6251] |
| 111 | 28.4 g | |
| 112 | 28.0 g | |
| 113 | 18.0 g | |
| 114 | 5.6 g | [6253] |
| 115 | 6.6 g | [6254] |
| 116 | 6.6 g | [6255] |
| 117 | 5.1 g | [6256] |

118*-24* Lead waste from producing shot, and untrimmed pieces of shot, including:

| | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|--|
| 118 | dia 15 mm | wt 20.1 g | |
| 119 | 15 mm | 20.5 g | |
| 120 | 12 mm | 12.5 g | |
| 121 | 7 mm | 1.9 g | |
| 122 | 5 mm | 1.0 g | |
| 123 | 5 mm | 0.9 g | |
| 124 | strip of lead with four casting sprue for bullets. | | |

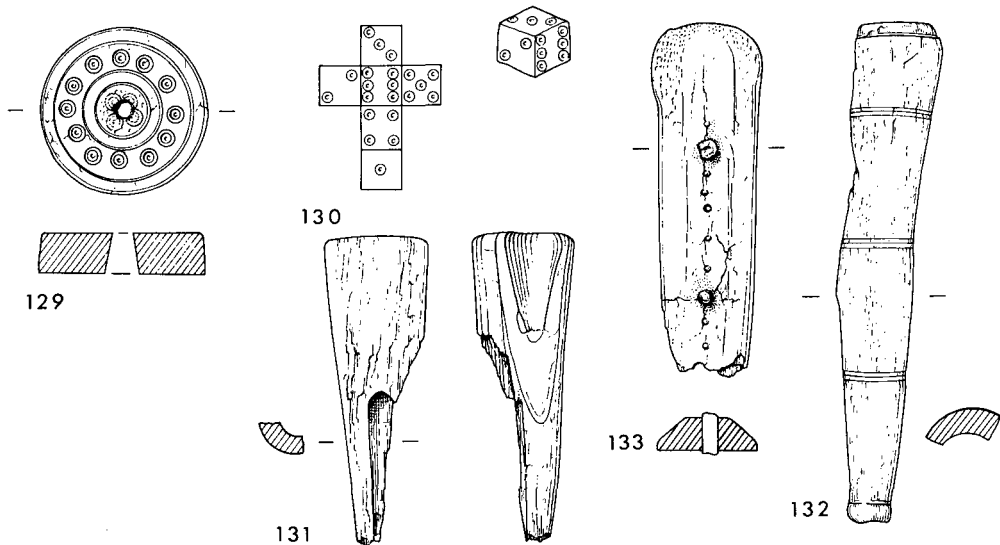
Many of these pieces of shot may date to the siege of 1651. They are, at least, not likely to pre-date the late 16th century. The largest ones, with a weight of over 28 g, were for heavy, long guns requiring to be supported on a rest when being fired. Such guns are, and were, called muskets though it is probable that in Scotland the term hagbut was also sometimes employed to describe them. The smaller, lighter balls could have served lighter long guns or pistols, or else have been fired from pieces of artillery as grape.

The technology of making bullets for firearms was fairly simple, lead having a low melting point. Many of the shot would have been made in multiple moulds of stone or metal, as is indicated by no 124. There are a pair of pliers for casting individual bullets in North Berwick Museum.

- 125 Lead 'slug'. wt 31.7 g. [NMS: HX 50]
Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928-9), 14, fig 2, no 7.
- 126* Lead slug, similar to no 125. wt 31.2 g. [NMS: HX 49]
Previously illustrated in *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 63 (1928-9), 14, fig 2, no 8.
- 127* Lead slug, rectangular, flat at both ends. length 22 mm; wt 14.78 g. [6252]
These slugs may have fitted into canisters or shells to be fired by field guns or mortars.
- 128* Lead bullet, flattened by impact. It is .41 calibre and has rifling engravings. [6257]
This is probably a revolver bullet, with centrefire cartridge, of c 1870-90. Such guns were used extensively for target practice.

BONE & IVORY (illus 6)

- 129 Bone playing piece with ring-and-dot decoration. [NMS: HX 230]
The central piercing is secondary, or an afterthought, but would have served to secure the piece to a pegged board or tie it together in a set with other pieces.
- 130 Bone dice. [NMS: HX 231]
- 131 Piece of an ivory knife handle. 15th century. [6277]
- 132 Piece of a bone knife handle. Medieval. [6278]
- 133 Bone plate from a scale-tang knife with iron fixing rivets and decorative copper alloy pins. Medieval. [6279]



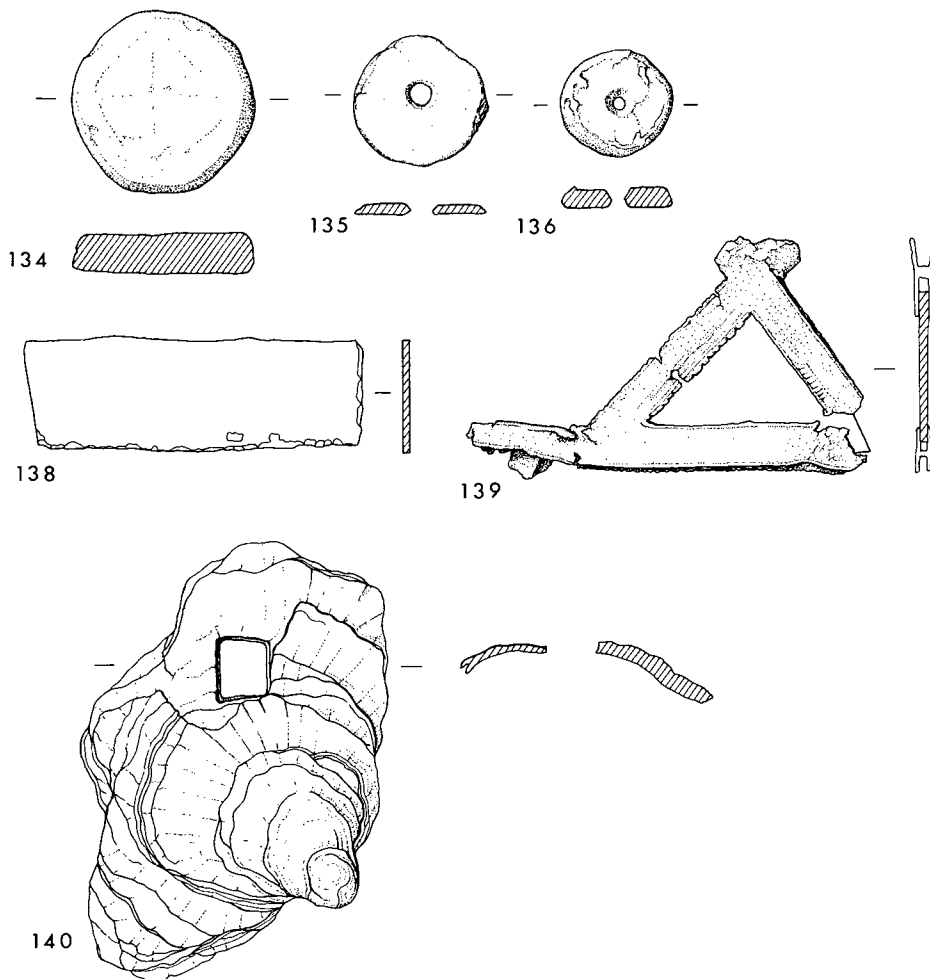
ILLUS 6 Bone and ivory finds from Tantallon Castle. Scale 2/3

STONE & CERAMIC (illus 7 & 8)

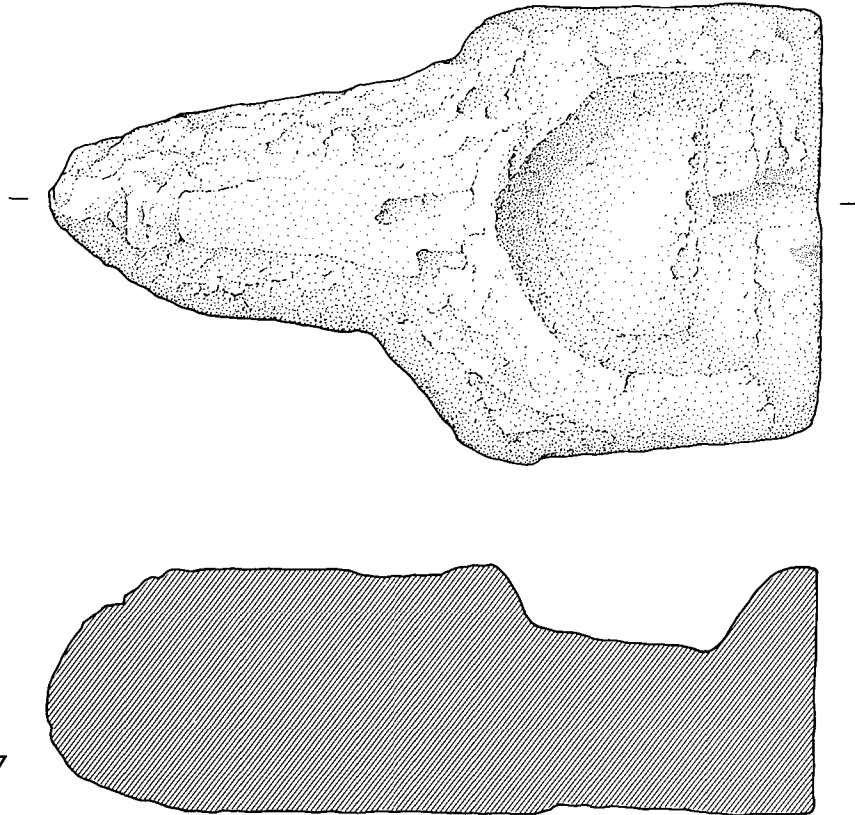
- 134 Playing piece, crudely engraved with a cross within a lozenge. It is made from micaceous siltstone. [6258]
- 135 Slate button core. [6259]
- 136 Button core made from a sherd of grey/pink earthenware with tiny traces of green glaze on its exterior surface. [6260]
- 137 Cresset, made of fine grained sandstone. The tail was probably to key the lamp into a well. There is a groove at the front end of the pan for a wick and two burnt patches beside it. [6302]

GLASS (illus 7)

- 138 Glass quarry of pale green glass, grozed on two adjacent sides. [6300]
- 139 Glass triangular quarry of pale green glass, retained in lead cames. [6301]



ILLUS 7 Finds of stone, glass, ceramic and shell from Tantallon Castle. Scale 2/3



ILLUS 8 Sandstone cresset from Tantallon Castle. Scale 1/2

SHELL (illus 7)

140 Oyster shell with rectangular hole cut in it. [6299]

141*-2* Oyster shells, one with a triangular, the other with a rectangular perforation. [6297, 6298]

POTTERY (illus 9 & 10)

Of the 82 pieces of pottery retained for display at the castle only 26 have been listed and selected for illustration. None of the fabrics has been subjected to any meticulous scientific analysis. Instead, the sherds have been sorted by visual examination into two main groups: imports and local wares. As far as possible pieces in the first group have been attributed to regions or kilns. Sherds in the second group have merely been allocated to one of four broad groupings as follows:

(white) gritty wares: a hard, often pale, quartz-gritted fabric, normally finely potted and turned into medieval forms of vessels. Cf the descriptions of broadly similar material from Colstoun (Brooks 1980) and Kelso Abbey (Cox 1984).

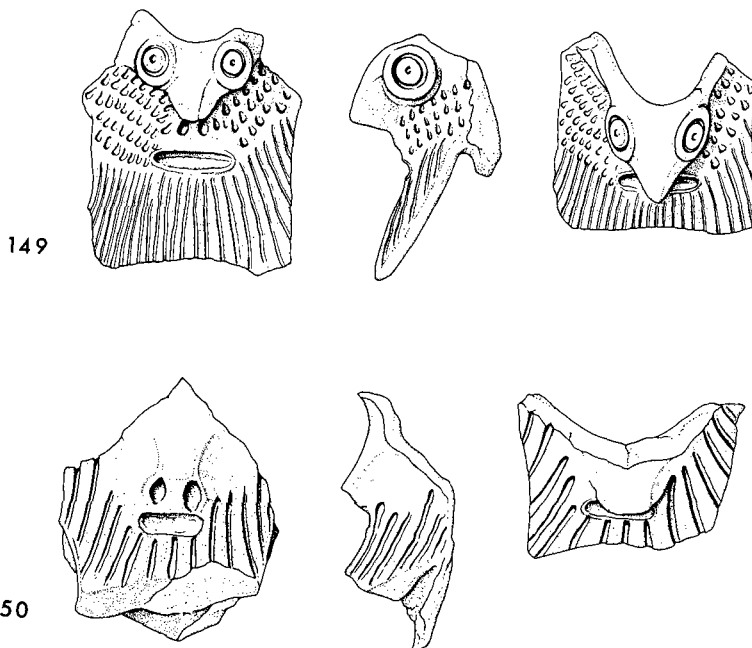
reduced gritty wares: the fabric of these pieces is not unlike that of the previous grouping except that the core is often reduced and there is more range in fabric colour. Cf material from Eyemouth described as reduced gritty ware, types 1 and 2 (Crowdy 1986, 50).

post-medieval gritty wares: a hard, reduced grey fabric, containing quartz grits and, often, voids. Normally the surface is pink where not covered by glaze. There is similar pottery (fabric and forms) from the excavations by D Caldwell and G Ewart at Eyemouth Fort, dating to 1547 to 1559.

post-medieval smooth wares: a reduced grey, hard, homogenous fabric with very few inclusions. It often has a pink surface where not covered by glaze. Cf the reduced grey material from the kiln site at Throsk (Caldwell & Dean 1981).

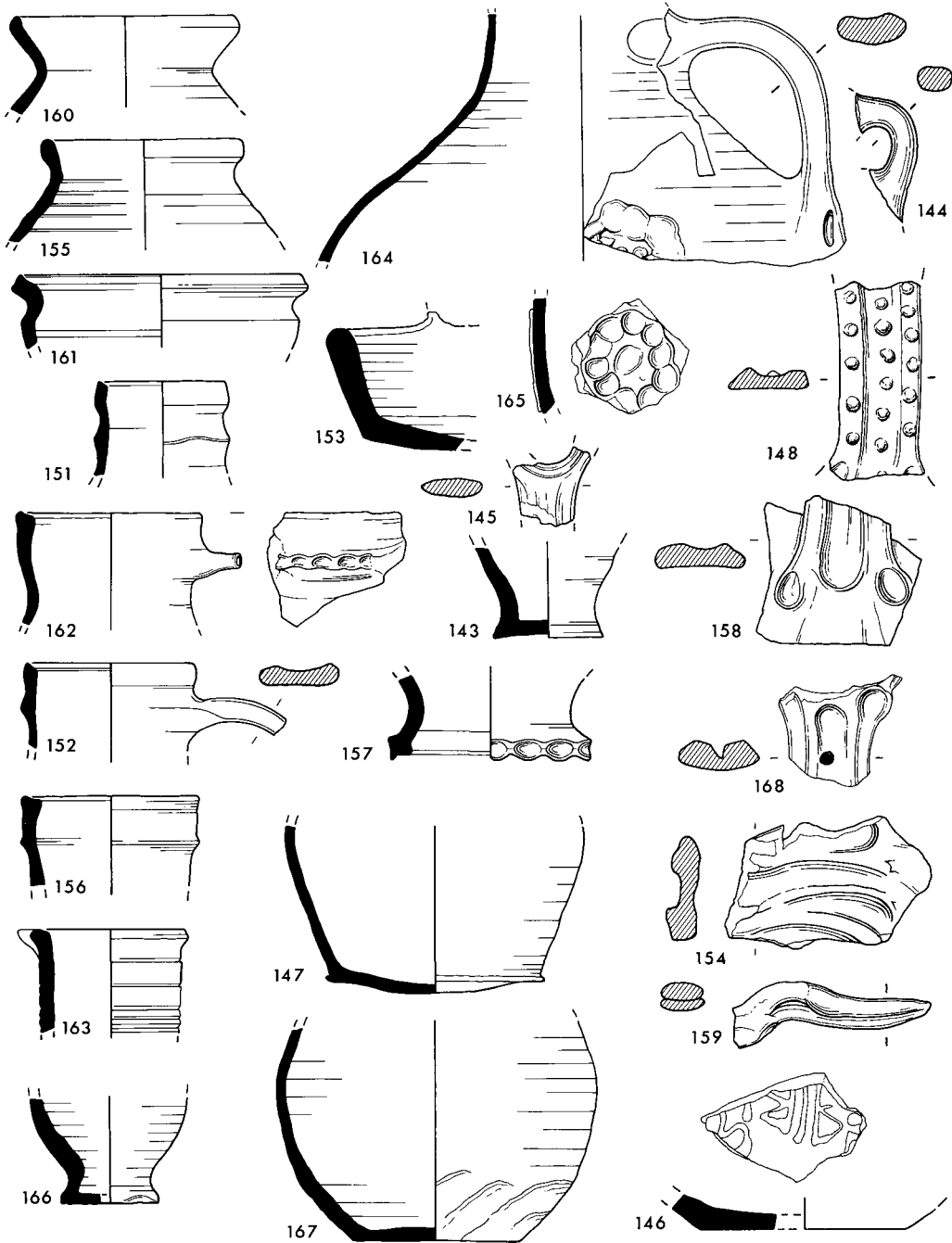
The dating of the Tantallon pottery is difficult in the lack of associations or stratigraphic information. The white gritty wares might be expected to date to the 14th century or earlier and the two post-medieval groupings may span the 16th and 17th centuries. The reduced gritty wares appear to be medieval.

- 143 Base of a baluster-shaped jug in a fine light red fabric. It has a white slip almost to the base and is covered with a lead glaze, mottled green over the slip but brown at the bottom and base where applied directly to the red fabric. Low Countries, 13th–early 14th century. [6150] This appears to be an example of the so-called Aardenburg type of ware rather than the type X, which may be of southern English origin, identified by Verhaeghe (1983, 34–6).
- 144 Rod handle in fine red fabric, covered with a white slip under a green glaze. Low Countries, 14th century. [6135]
- 145 Small jug (?), part of the rim and handle only. The fabric is pink/buff with red haematite inclusions and is covered with green glaze. French, 16th–17th century. [6201] Cf the fabric of Loire jugs.
- 146 Part of the base of a slipware dish. English, 17th century. [6198]
The imported pieces also include two sherds of Spanish olive jars, green glazed inside and out [6199, 6204]; 10 sherds of stoneware [6205– 6214]; a West French (Saintonge ?) plain strap handle [6144]; a small piece of the rim of an English (Surrey/Hampshire ?) 17th-century dish [6197]; and two sherds of tin glazed ware [6200 and 6202] – part of the base of a drug jar and the rim of a plain white fluted bowl. The collection does not include fragments of Martincamp flasks as noted by more than one recent writer. This may be an error traceable to a remark by Cruden (1952, 168).
- 147 Base of jug with foot rim and slightly sagging base. Its off-white fabric is encrusted on the outside with a glaze which has been burnt or has taken badly in the kiln. White gritty ware. [6145]
- 148 Strap handle with pale green glaze, decorated with dark brown blobs. White gritty ware. [6195]
The collection also contains four rim sherds [6175–8] in white gritty ware; two are typical cooking pot rectangular rims.
- 149 Jug spout in the form of a face mask with ring-and-dot eyes and a beaky nose. The fabric is brick-red in colour, partially reduced, and is coated with a dark green lustrous glaze. Reduced gritty ware. [6156]
- 150 Face mask from rim of a jug. It has a well-formed human nose, slit mouth and forked beard. The reduced fabric has a buff surface and a covering of pale green glaze. Reduced gritty ware. [6157] The modelling of the faces is superior to that on most other anthropomorphic vessels of Scottish origin and the forked beards are difficult to parallel anywhere. They may date from the 14th century.
- 151 Jug with orange/buff fabric, partially reduced, and remains of glaze. Reduced gritty ware. [6154]
- 152 Jug with broad strap handle and orange/brown fabric, partially reduced. There are patches of green glaze on the exterior with yellow/brown edges and yellow dots. Reduced gritty ware. [6143]
- 153 Dripping pan (?) with remains of loop handle on its rim. It is glazed inside and out, mostly green but with patches of orange/brown on the outside. Reduced gritty fabric. [6179]
- 154 Part of strap handle with pale green glaze. Reduced gritty ware. [6130]
This appears to have been attached to a vessel horizontally, possibly a urinal. The collection also includes two other pieces in reduced gritty fabric – a ridged rod handle [6173] and a green glazed body sherd with raised brown bands [6190].
- 155 Pot with globular body, glazed inside. Post-medieval gritty ware. [6170]
- 156 Jug with dark green, almost black, glaze. Post-medieval gritty ware. [6153]

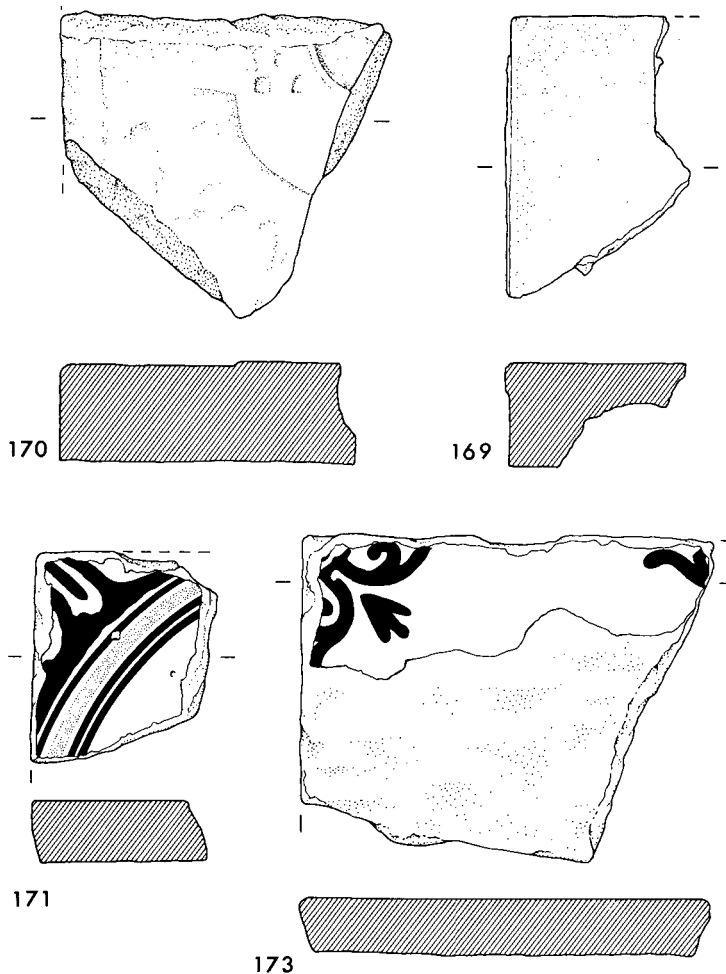


ILLUS 9 Face mask pottery from Tantallon Castle. Scale 1/2

- 157 Jug with 'pie-crust' base, glazed on the exterior. Post-medieval gritty ware. [6149]
- 158 Base of strap handle, green glazed. Post-medieval gritty ware. [6131]
- 159 Skillet handle, formed from a strap folded on itself. The pink/brown fabric is covered with a yellow glaze. Post-medieval gritty ware. [6180]
- 160 Pot with everted rim and globular body. There is green glaze on the outside and it is fire-blackened. Post-medieval smoothware. [6162]
- 161 Large bowl with everted rim, glazed inside and fire-blackened. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6169]
- 162 Jar (?) with thumbled flange, green glazed. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6186]
- 163 Jug with small pulled spout, rilled neck decoration, and glaze inside and out. Post-medieval smooth fabric. [6148]
- 164 Jug with strap handle, decorated with applied thumbled strip of clay, green glazed on exterior. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6147]
- 165 Sherd with thumbled roundel of decoration. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6189]
There are two other sherds in a similar fabric with thumbled strips of clay [6187 & 6192].
- 166 Small globular jug with disc base, green glazed on exterior. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6151]
- 167 Pot, green glazed on exterior and extensively knife-trimmed. It has a stacking mark on its base. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6146]
- 168 Part of strap handle with green glaze and secondary hole bored in it after firing. Post-medieval smooth ware. [6132]
- Other post-medieval smooth ware pieces in the collection include three jug sherds with bands of combed decoration on their shoulders [6188, 6193 and 6194], and a body sherd with wipe marks caused by cleaning it with a cloth prior to firing.



ILLUS 10 Medieval and post-medieval pottery from Tantallon Castle. Scale 1/4



ILLUS 11 Tile fragments from Tantallon Castle. Scale 1/2

TILES (illus 11)

The hall on the first floor of the northern courtyard range is said in earlier editions of the castle guidebook to have had a tiled floor (Richardson 1960, 9). Presumably fragments of tiles were recovered from this room in the course of the programme of consolidating the castle in the 1920s, but which, if any, of the following pieces is not known.

- 169 Fragment of plain glazed floor tile, fired to a pinkish buff colour, but reduced to a pale grey in its upper portion, giving the lead glaze covering a pale olive-green colour. The fabric contains large red haematite particles. The sides are bevelled, and where the glaze has flowed down one side a portion of another tile had stuck to it in the kiln. Netherlands, 15th century. [6181] Plain tiles like this were probably imported into Scotland from the Netherlands in large quantities. Others are known from excavations in *Edinburgh High Street and the church of the Trinitarians at Dunbar* (Eames 1978; 1984). The importation of Dutch tiles for the Archdeacon of St Andrews is recorded in 1499 in a merchant's ledger (Halyburton's Innes 1867, 162, 251).
- 170 Fragment of floor tile with pinkish, partly reduced fabric with green glaze on top and side. It is impressed with the prow of a ship. Scottish, late 16th century. [RMS: HX 133]

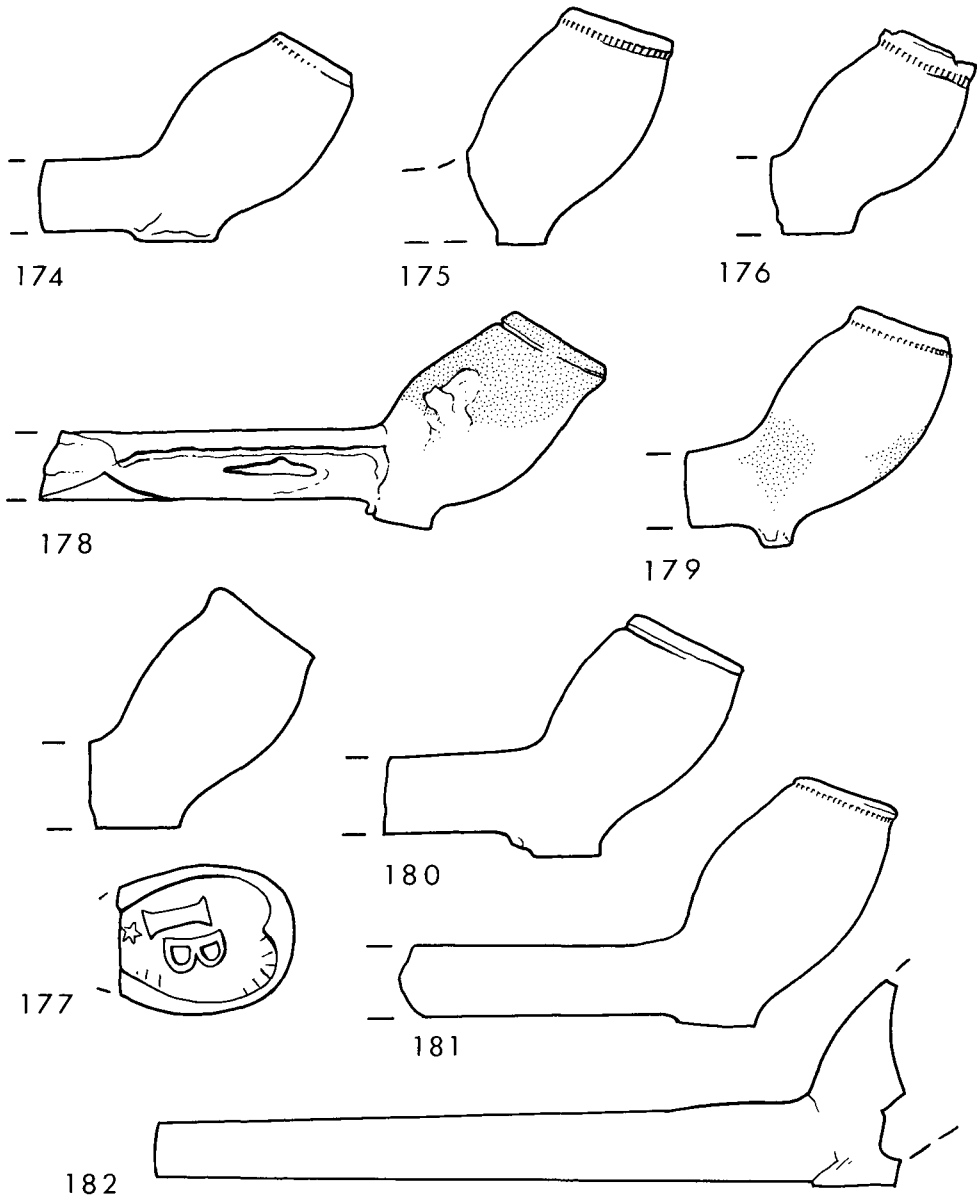
Part of another tile with the rigging of a ship has been found at Dirleton Castle, only a few miles from Tantallon, and was most likely made from the same mould. It belongs with a group of floor tiles with geometric and heraldic designs which decorated the Ruthven Lodging at Dirleton Castle (Richardson 1929, 305–8), and which can be dated on heraldic grounds between 1561–1600. Tiles of a similar type have been recovered from Crichton Castle in Midlothian and at Morham in East Lothian. They are almost certainly of local manufacture.

- 171 Fragment of a delftware tile with a medallion-type pattern, painted in blue, with one orange band. The fabric of the tile is pink. There is a rectangular nail-hole in the upper surface, probably the result of securing the stencil for the pattern. Dutch (?), early 17th century. [6184]
- 172* Fragment of medallion delftware tile, similar to no 171. [6183]
- 173 Piece of delftware tile with blue 'ox-head' corner motifs. Dutch (?), early 17th century. [6182] These three pieces of tile appear to be Dutch rather than English. Evidence is lacking as to how such tiles were used in the early 17th century but it is probably more reasonable to think they were used as wall or fireplace decoration rather than to pave the floor (cf Hume 1977, 18). There are also four pieces of tile or brick in North Berwick Museum, said to be from the 'oven lining' at Tantallon Castle – evidently the smaller of the two ovens on the edge of the cliff at the back of the bakehouse (Richardson 1960, 10).

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES (illus 12 & 13)

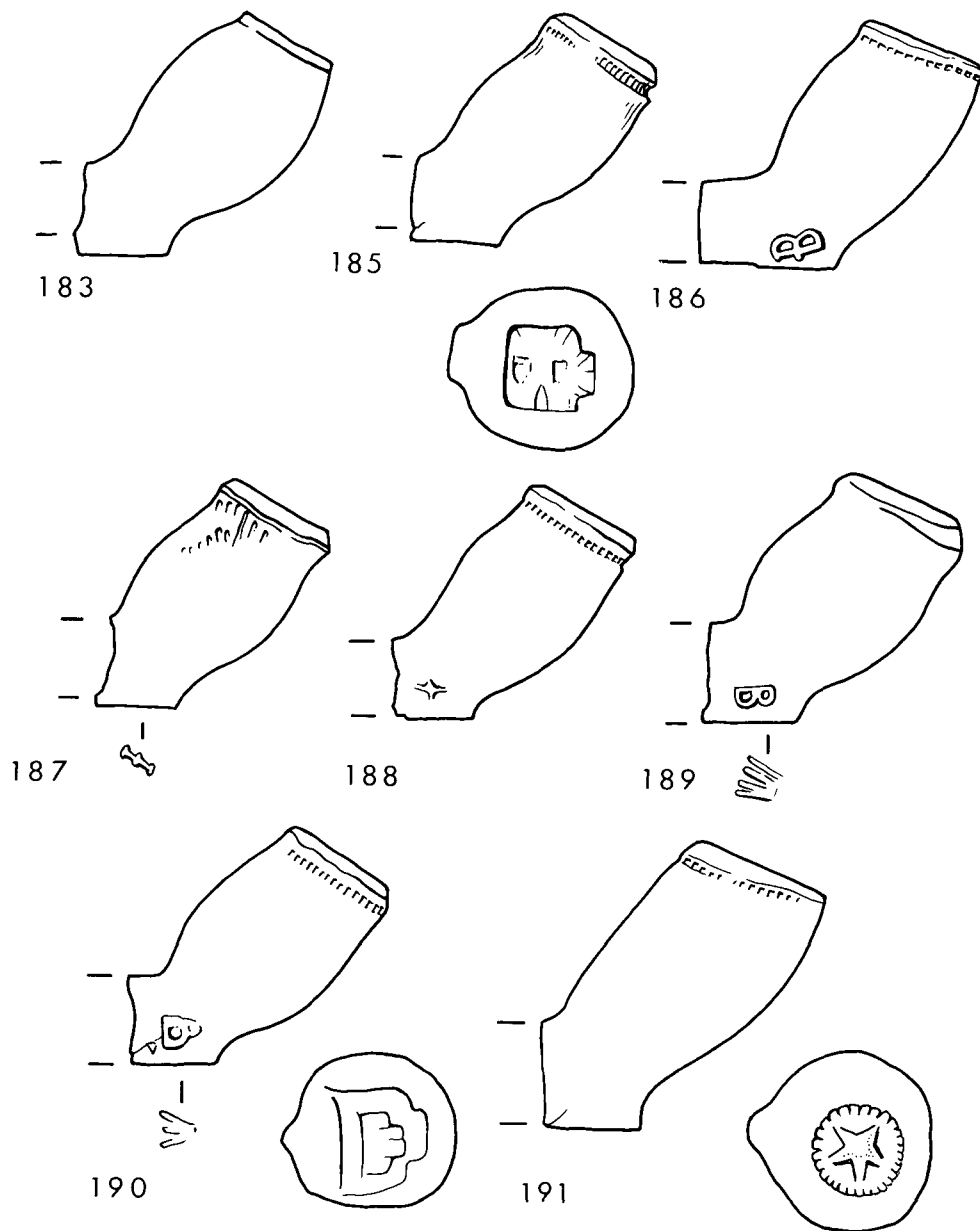
Most of the tobacco pipes from the castle date to the mid-17th century and may reflect the presence of the military. This is particularly the case with the pipes from Tyneside. There are another 10 pipe bowls in North Berwick Museum.

- 174 Pipe bowl, off-white fabric, bottered. Bore 7/64 in. Dutch? c 1640–60. [6284]
- 175 Pipe bowl, pinkish-brown fabric, bottered and finely milled. Bore 7/64 in. Dutch? c 1640–60. [6286]
- 176 Pipe bowl, pinkish-yellow fabric, milled and bottered. Bore 3/32 in. c 1600–40. [6289] Cf Oswald (1975, 39) type 4.
- 177 Pipe bowl, white-yellow fabric, bottered, with basal mark, IB, in a heart with a star below. Bore 7/64 in. c 1635–75. [6283] Apparently made by John Bowlan of Gateshead, active 1645–89. Edwards (1988, 33), Bowman stamp no1. Cf Bowman pipe from Stirling Castle (Gallagher 1987a, 330, no 32).
- 178 Pipe bowl, bottered, with yellow fabric with fire blackening. Bore $\frac{1}{8}$ in. Tyneside, c 1645–60. [6291] Edwards (1988), type 5.
- 179 Pipe bowl with a small spur, bottered and finely milled. It has a well-polished brown fabric, speckled black with a droplet of green glaze. Bore 7/64 in. Tyneside, c 1645–60. [6294] Edwards (1988), type 5.
- 180 Pipe bowl, bottered and partially milled. Bore 7/64 in. c 1640–60. [6285]
- 181 Pipe bowl, white fabric, bottered and finely milled. Bore 7/64 in. c 1640–60. [6290]
- 182 Rear of bowl and adjoining stem. Bore 7/64 in. c 1640–60. [6287]
- 183 Pipe bowl, well finished in a pinkish-white fabric, and bottered. Bore 7/64 in. c 1640–60. [6292]
- 184* Pipe bowl, similar in form to no 183, milled. Bore 7/64 in. c 1640–60. [NMS: NQ 522(9)]
- 185 Pipe bowl, burnished white fabric, milled and bottered, thick and clumsy, with portcullis stamp on its base. Bore 3/32 in. Edinburgh(?), c 1640–60. [6282] For the stamp compare one from Kelso (Gallagher 1987b, fig 17 no 1).
- 186 Pipe bowl, yellowish grey fabric with a conjoined IB on one side. It is milled and bottered. Bore 7/64 in. Scottish, c 1640–60. [6288]



ILLUS 12 Clay tobacco pipes from Tantallon Castle. Scale 1/1

- 187 Pipe bowl, white fabric, bottered, crudely made with milling slipped down the back of the bowl. It is marked with an I on one side. Bore $\frac{7}{64}$ in. Edinburgh(?), c 1640–60. [6293]
- 188 Pipe bowl, marked with an I, finely milled and bottered. Bore $\frac{3}{32}$ in. Edinburgh (?), c 1640–60. [6295]
- 189 Pipe bowl, milled and bottered, with mould imparted W/B. Bore $\frac{3}{32}$ in. Edinburgh, c 1640–60. [6296]
 This is one of William Banks' poorer quality pieces.



ILLUS 13 Clay tobacco pipes from Tantallon Castle. Scale 1/1

- 190 Pipe bowl, bottered and partially milled, with castle stamp on the base and mould imparted W/B. The B has been recut. Bore $\frac{1}{8}$ in. Edinburgh, c 1660–80. [6281]
 Made by William Banks of Edinburgh.
- 191 Pipe bowl, burnished, bottered and milled, stamped on the base with a mullet in a scalloped circle. Bore $\frac{3}{32}$ in. Scottish, c 1680–1730. [6280]
 Versions of this mark appear on several other Scottish pipes of 17th-century date and it has been suggested that they may have been made in Stirling (Gallagher 1987a, 332).

COINS (not illustrated)

- 192 Mary Queen of Scots bawbee (6d Scots), Edinburgh, billon. R for *regina* on obverse, plain saltire and reversed N on reverse. Similar to Burns (1887) no 40. wt 1.16 g. [6314]
- 193 James VI hardhead (2d Scots), copper, second issue before accession to the English throne (1588). Wt 1.43 g. [6315]
- 194 James VI 2d Scots, copper, first issue after accession to the English throne (1614). wt 2.03 g. [6316]
- 195 James VI 2d Scots, copper, second issue after succession to the English throne (1623). wt 1.09 g. Worn [6317]
- 196 Charles I turner (2d Scots), copper, third issue (1642, 44, 50). wt 2.29 g. [6318]

JETTONS (not illustrated)

- 197 Copper, with three secondary piercings. *Obv*, shield with French arms, *Leg*, +AVE M RI RAC. *Rev*, arcuate cross fleur-de-lis. Probably Tournai, 15th century.[6319]
- 198 Copper. *Obv*, shield with French arms, *leg*, (crown) D/B E: DONEOB: ES EV: DOB: *Rev*, the *reichsapfel*, *leg*, B/DONOB: BOVVNOB: V EE OVEO: [6320]
This is an example of a 'French shield' type of jetton made in Nürnberg c 1500–25 (Mitchiner 1988, 355–8).

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