
6 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The following specialist reports are edited versions. The full texts, drawings and appendices are stored with the rest of the site archive in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (RCAHMS). Building material, animal bone, metal artefacts and a piece of leather were also catalogued and archived but are not included in this report.

6.1 *The coin assemblage, Nicholas Holmes*

The eight coins recovered are all examples of the small change which would have circulated in Scotland in the 1630s. The earliest is an example of the last copper coinage of James VI, a twopence of the second post-Union issue, minted in 1623. No example of the very similar first issue of Charles I (1629) was recovered, but the overall pattern of Scottish finds shows far fewer of these than of the previous or subsequent issues.

From the same site context as the James VI coin came six specimens of Charles I's second issue of turners/twopences, minted during the period 1632–9. Those which are sufficiently well preserved for the degree of wear to be assessed display very little, and on this basis a date of loss in the 1630s would seem highly probable. Furthermore, the fact that all these six coins, and the James VI issue, were found within a very small area might suggest that they represent a small hoard, possibly lost from a purse or pocket. Two further specimens of the 1632–9 issue were recovered from other areas of the Tron Kirk site during earlier excavations (Holmes 1986, 297–8).

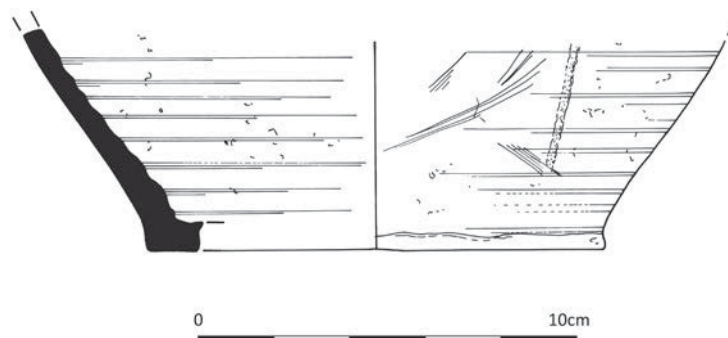
A slightly more unusual find is a broken half of an English royal farthing token of Charles I, dating from the period 1625–34. These issues were not legal tender in Scotland, although there have been occasional previous finds from Scottish soil, and the fact that they are of similar size and general appear-

ance to the 1632–9 turners suggests that some may have circulated unnoticed. Although this specimen comprises almost exactly half of the coin, it would be unwise to believe that it had been deliberately cut in order to provide smaller sums of money. There is no evidence that this treatment was ever applied to Scottish copper coins of the period, which were of very low purchasing power anyway.

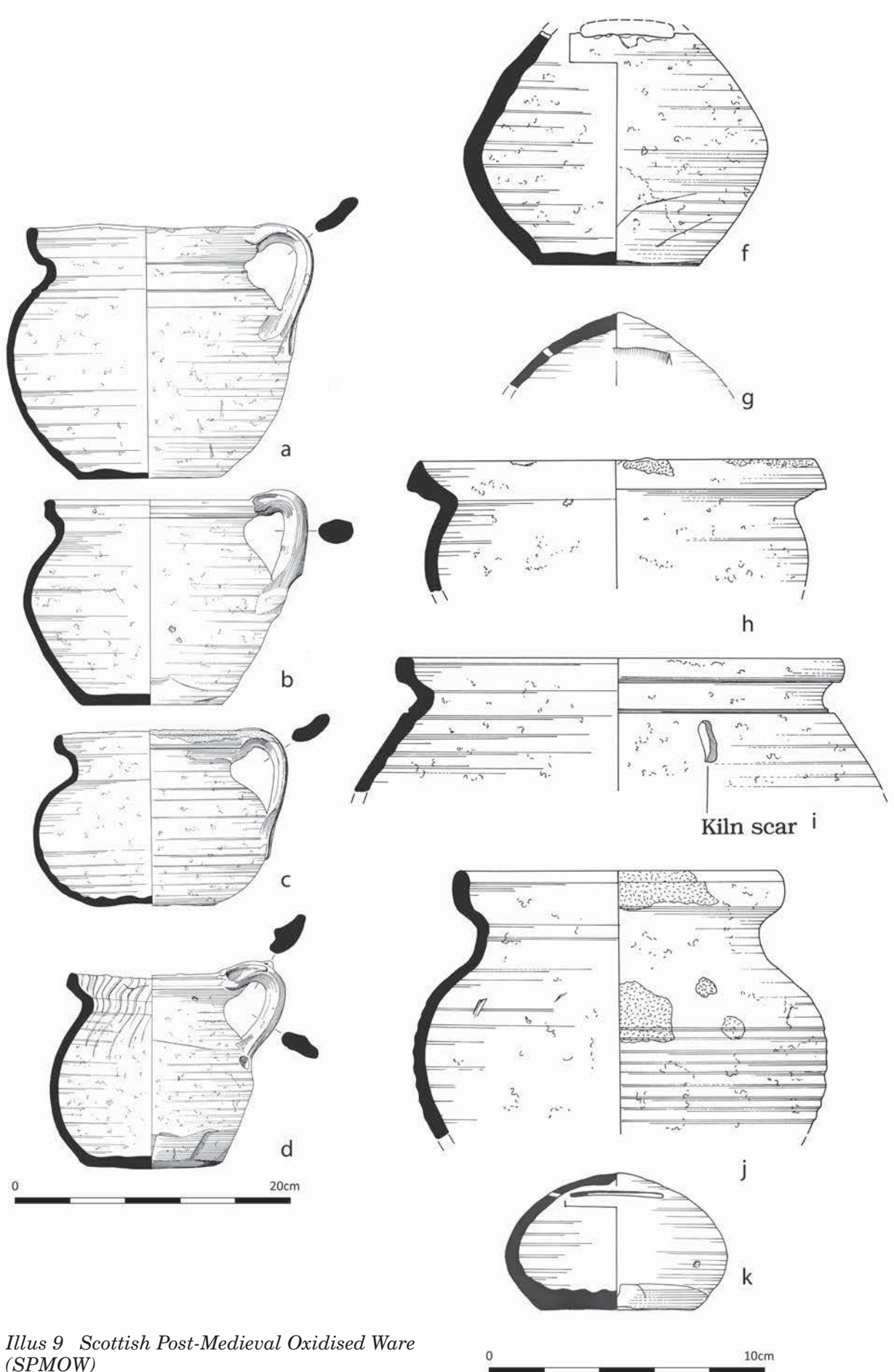
6.2 *The pottery assemblage, George R Haggarty & John A Lawson*

The excavations within Edinburgh's Tron Kirk have provided a rare and important opportunity in Scotland to examine a tightly dated group of local and imported pottery with a *terminus post quem* of 1637. One of the major research aims of the most recent programme of work was to reassess the ceramic assemblage from the earlier two excavations undertaken by the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service in 1974 and 1983 (Holmes 1975; 1986), in particular the imported material, much of which had been misidentified, including the reputed Werra ware noted by Hurst and Gaimster (2005, 288).

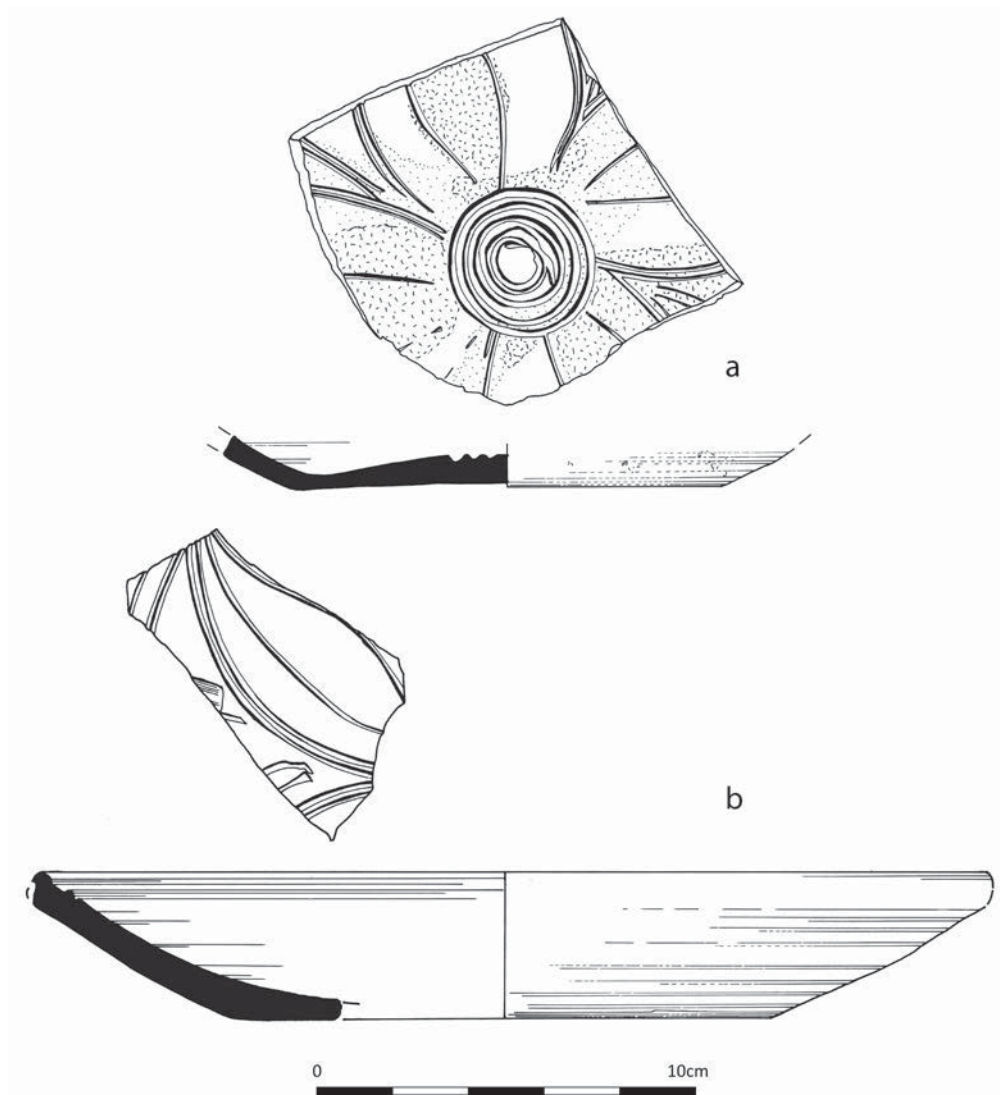
The assemblage supports the idea that the site had been significantly redeveloped during the 15th and early 16th centuries, with the newly constructed tenements removing the majority of the earlier urban deposits. The only surviving medieval feature was the small pit, excavated in 1974 in the south-east corner, which had been truncated by a later cellar (Holmes 1975, 143, fig 2). However, the authors have not been able to reassess the pottery from this feature identified by Holmes (1975, 148) as belonging to the 13th/14th century as these shards have subsequently gone missing. Nevertheless notes taken at the time by one of the authors shows the pit contained a shard of Saintonge Mottled Green Glaze (Haggarty 2006, Word File 41, 8), dating to



Illus 8 Mid-French-type chafing dish



Illus 9 Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware (SPMOW)



Illus 10 a) Beauvais dish of double Sgraffito; b) Beauvais dish of single Sgraffito

the late-13th/14th century, which supports the published date.

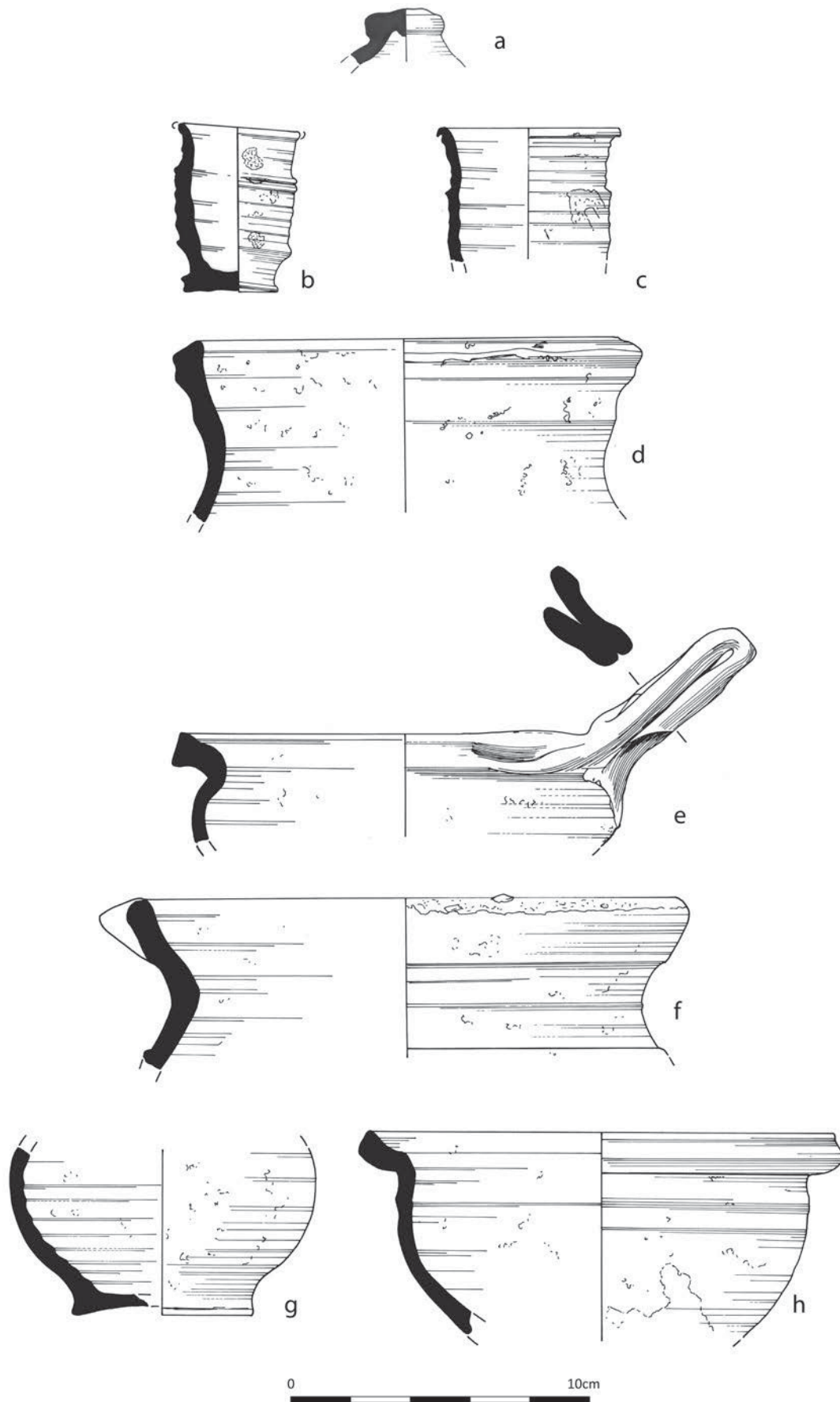
There is also a small assemblage of stratified material deriving from a series of later small pits excavated in 1983. These underlie both the cobbled courtyard (Holmes 1986, fig 1, 298–300) and the floor of Cellar 4 (ibid, 298). Pit 1 in the cobbled courtyard contained fragments of both a Raeren Stoneware bottle (illus 6a) of the late 15th/early 16th centuries and a Scottish Medieval Redware jug (illus 7a). This jug is probably from Aberdeen and of a slightly earlier date. The reassessment of this material has newly identified three conjoining shards from what would seem to be the bottom of a Mid-French-type chafing dish of 16th-century date (illus 8). It was recovered from a shallow pit, F11, in the south-west cellar.

Of particular significance in terms of dating are examples of locally produced Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware (SPMOW) (illus 9) recovered from the drain underlying Marlin's Wynd during both the 1974 and 1983 excavations. This material was found in association with two shards from Beauvais

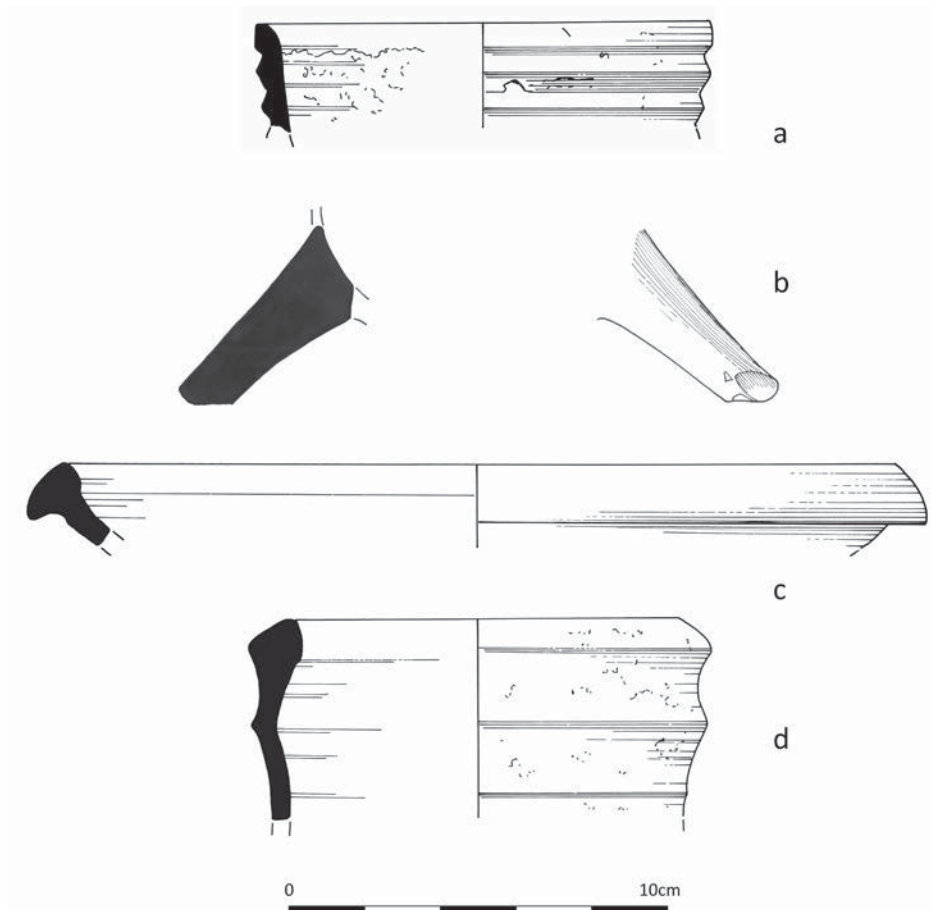
dishes, one with double and one with single Sgraffito decoration (illus 10). Traded Beauvais Sgraffito pottery has a wide Scottish distribution (Haggarty 2006, Word File 26), and is generally thought to date to the mid-16th century (Hurst et al 1986). Neither of these shards was recognised as Beauvais in the original reports and their proper identification has enabled us to provide a more secure framework for a number of SPMOW forms.

The large range of imports recovered from the demolition of the tenements prior to the beginning of the construction of the Tron Kirk in 1637 helps with our dating of SPMOW (illus 11a and d–h) and its reduced ware variant (SPMRW), by providing a fixed date for this material to be referenced against. The imports cover the following types and can be broken down into the following broad types (un-illustrated unless stated) and their geographical areas:

- A: Germany & Low Countries: including – Low Countries Red Earthenware (illus 15a–e); North Holland Slipwares (illus 13b); German/



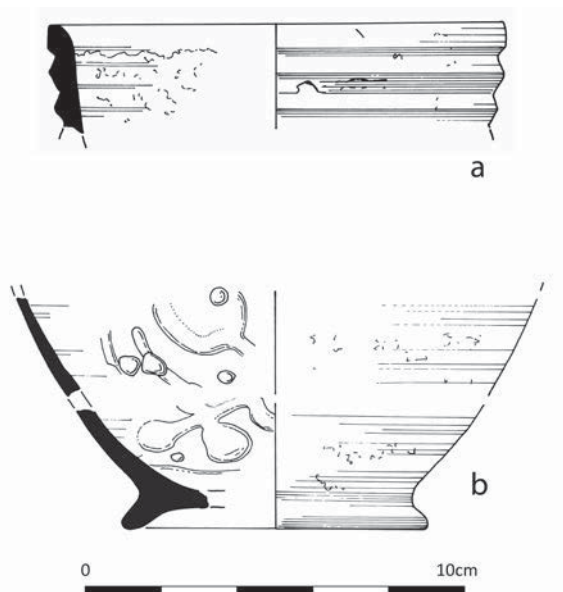
Illus 11 Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware (SPMOW)



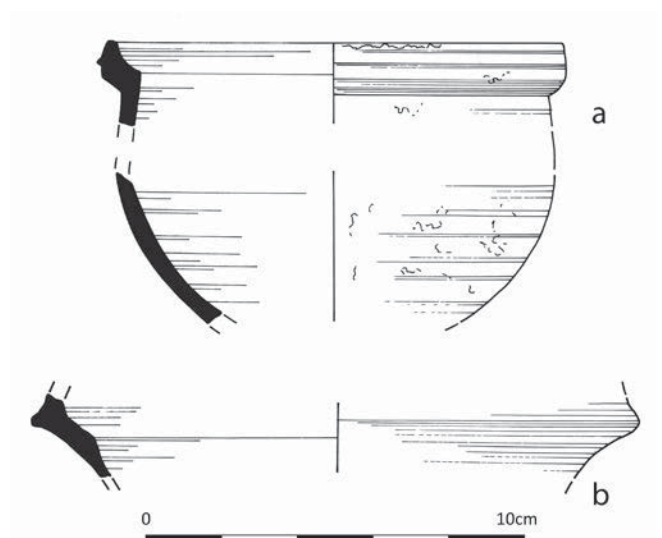
Illus 12 North German Earthenwares

Low Countries White-Ware (illus 14); North European Redwares (illus 12a-d; illus 16b); Raeren Stoneware (illus 6b) and Malling Type Tin-Glazed Earthenware.

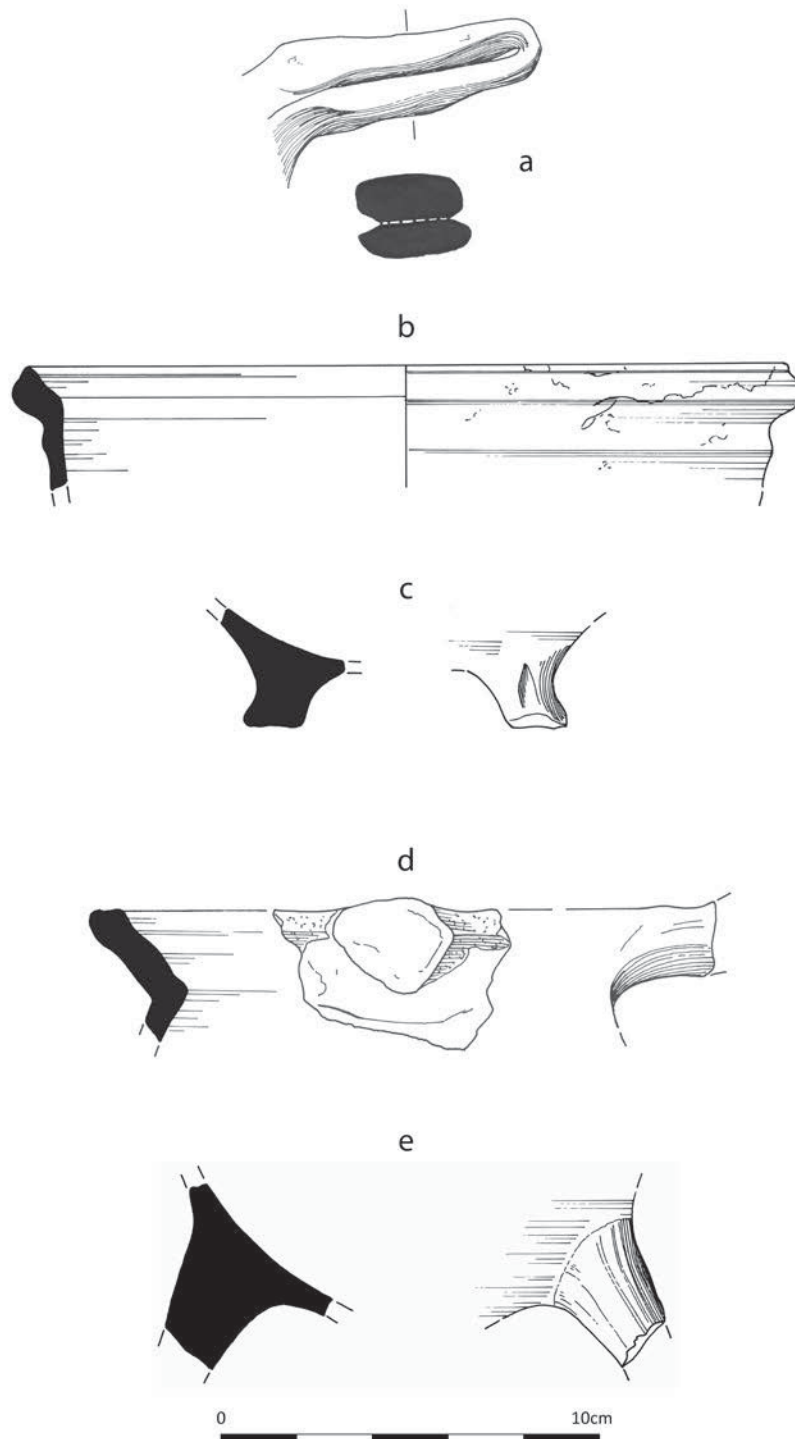
B: France: Saintonge – Mid-French-type chafing dish (illus 8) and Loire Type jug (illus 16a).
 C: Iberian: a Cantaro shaped vessel (illus 17).
 D: Chinese Porcelain (illus 7b).



Illus 13 a) North European Earthenware; b) North Holland Slipwares



Illus 14 German / Low Countries White-Ware



Illus 15 Weser: Low Countries Redware

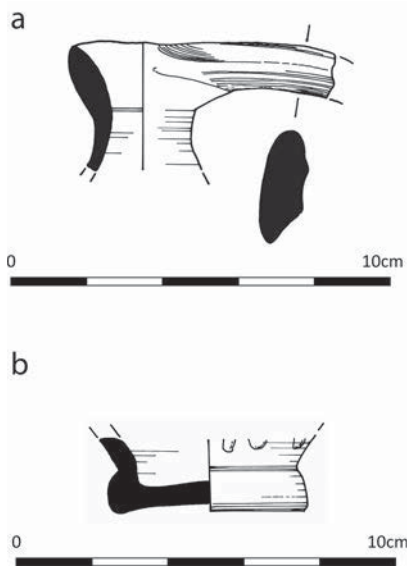
6.3 Wares

6.3.1 Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware (SPMOW) & Reduced Wares (SPMRW)

Characteristically in the late 15th and early 16th century in Scotland both white and red gritty fabrics began to disappear and potters, for reasons not yet fully understood, began to produce pottery which was much smoother to the touch. This change may be the result of cultural factors, but it is just as likely

to be due to the introduction of new technology, for example the use of larger kilns and the exploiting of new clay sources. This could be in part due to large-scale peat extraction of the carse-lands, allowing new and sometimes extremely thick estuarine clay beds to be utilised.

It is these same iron-rich clays which under oxidisation fire red, forming the fabric known as Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware (SPMOW), whilst under reduction the same clays fire to a dark grey forming Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced

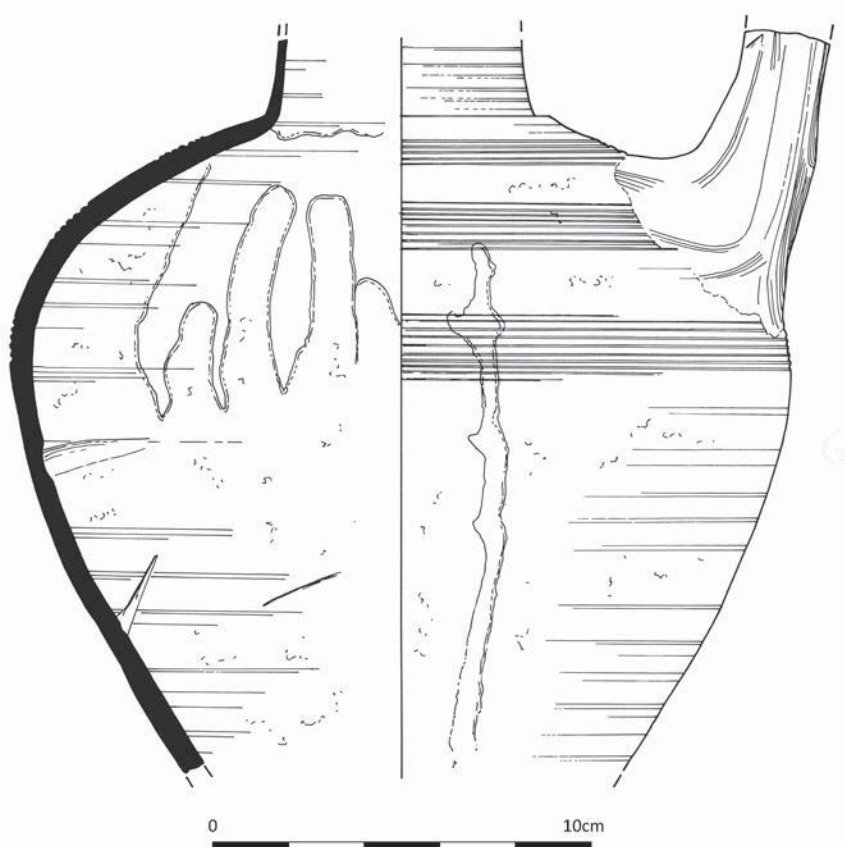


Illus 16 a) Loire jug; b) Unknown Slip Decorated

Ware (SPMRW). Fully reduced shards recovered from excavations would seem to be almost exclusively from large jugs, which by the 17th century nearly always had multiple wavy grooving on the shoulder just below the neck and are covered with a thick dark olive-green lead glaze. Oxidised shards are normally from a range of much smaller jugs, skillets, flanged bowls, drug pots, etc (Haggarty

1980a, 40–4; Haggarty 1980b, 45–64; Caldwell & Dean 1992, 11–22). These forms are often extremely hard to identify from body shards alone. It is worth noting that a great number of the oxidised shards have reduced light grey cores or patches of reduction on the surface. Where there has been no deliberate attempt to reduce the pottery it has been classed by default as SPMOW. Often the oxidised shards are covered with a thin red coating. This random glaze effect is almost certainly caused in the kiln by the iron in the clay body being drawn out then re-deposited back onto the surface.

Both SPMOW and SPMRW have a ubiquitous distribution within Scotland, and a long date range. The evidence would suggest that this industry started somewhere in the late 15th century (Haggarty 1980a, 36–46), and continued into the third quarter of the 18th century (Haggarty 2004). It had previously been suggested that there was a production site for this type of pottery in 17th-century Glasgow around the Old Calton area (Quail 1982, 1–3), and somewhere in the vicinity of Stirling Castle (Haggarty 1980a, 37). Archaeology has subsequently proven both assumptions to be correct. Ongoing work both by FIRAT Archaeology Services and AOC Archaeology has recovered substantial amounts of as-yet unpublished ceramic waste material at the Gallowgate, Glasgow, while work funded by Historic Scotland has since confirmed a large and important 17th- and early 18th-century production site for this type of pottery centred on



Illus 17 Cantaro shaped vessel

Throsk, a few miles to the east of Stirling (Caldwell & Dean 1992, 2–7).

In the last few years a pilot programme of Inductively-Coupled Plasma Mass Spectroscopy (ICP-MS) analysis has been carried out on a range of Scottish Post-Medieval iron-rich pottery from known production localities over a wide geographical area (Chenery et al 2001, 45–54; Haggarty et al 2011). The extremely exciting results obtained from this study strongly suggest that this industry was more complicated than we had previously believed and that there are many more Scottish production sites using iron-rich clays still awaiting discovery.

In the light of the ICP results evidence of ceramic production in the Edinburgh area has been sought. This has been borne out by research on the Edinburgh documents, which show at least seven potters working just outside the city wall, in the area of Potterrow in the first half of the 17th century (Haggarty et al 2011, 16). It is likely therefore that most of the SPMOW and SPMRW pottery recovered from the Tron Kirk and Edinburgh was produced locally. Over the last few years a number of well-dated groups from excavations have been published, ie Uttershill Castle, Penicuik (Haggarty & Alexander 1998, 1017–46) and Stirling Castle (Haggarty 1980a, 36–46). It was however the important excavations at Throsk which have contributed most to our understanding of the later chronology of this industry (Caldwell & Dean 1992, 1–46). Most writers on Scottish ceramics have in the past referred to the SPMOW single-handled, internally-glazed vessels as chamber pots. However, as chamber pot suggests a specific function, we will use the term jar, in line with the Medieval Pottery Research Groups guidelines.

6.3.2 North European Earthenwares

A number of abraded shards were recovered from the excavations which almost certainly come from a range of vessels produced in northern Europe and probably from sites situated in the area of the North German Plain (Kaufmann 1979, 8). It has been postulated that in excess of 100 kilns may have been producing these slipwares in various centres between the Weser and Werra rivers and that it was exported in some quantity, between 1590 and 1620 (ibid 49). At least some of this trade, in export terms, may have had its heyday between 1585 and 1623; it may have been interrupted during the turmoil of the Thirty Years' War, and it is thought to have stopped completely from 1622–25 (ibid).

North European Earthenwares are common on sites in Shetland and are generally recovered in contexts dating to the late 16th or 17th centuries, where they are recovered with Cologne/Frechen stonewares (Crowley & Mills 1999, 206; Lindsay 1983). Shards from the Tron Kirk occur in pre-1637 demolition and earlier occupation deposits. There are two upright pipkin rims with three grooves on their external faces and internal green glaze,

a form which was the most common type present in the Scalloway assemblage, with 63 shards (Lindsay 1983). These wares are also frequently now being identified especially from 17th-century deposits from excavations in Leith and Edinburgh (Haggarty forthcoming). Recent excavations on the Isle of May also produced a number of slip-decorated shards in various forms from which the white slip decoration has often flaked (Will & Haggarty 2008, 145).

Not illustrated is a shard from a Weser Wavy Band Dish of a type decorated with wavy, green and red lines (1974: AW) and a small redware shard (1974: AU).

6.3.3 North Holland Slipware

This orange sandy fabric has a glossy lead glaze over white slip and decoration highlighted with touches of green. These vessels are generally thought to cluster in the early 17th century, with a number having been recovered from the site of the Ursula monastery, Pieterstraat, in a general context dating to 1575–1625 (Hurst et al 1986, 165).

6.3.4 Beauvais Sgraffito

Amongst the high-quality Beauvais White Earthenwares recovered in Scotland are a fair number of both single and double Sgraffito decorated wares, in the form of large flat-based dishes with sloping sides (Haggarty 2006, Word File 26). A large quantity of double-fired Sgraffito wasters (including bisque examples), dating to the first quarter of the 16th century, were recovered from the French kiln site at Le Détroit. Although made throughout the 16th century, the classic types are datable to the first half of that century.

Sgraffito went out of fashion in the 17th century, when it was replaced by yellow-trailed decoration on a red slip background. Beauvais Single-Slipped Sgraffito Earthenware has a red slip over a white body, through which the decorative motifs were scored or incised. The clear lead glaze, which is then coated over the upper surface, appears yellow over the white exposed clay and brown over the red slip. On double-slipped Sgraffito examples the white body was first covered with a red slip, over which was laid a second covering of white slip. The incised or combed decoration found on both types includes concentric circles, large flowers, leaves and rosettes: there are also often mottos and proverbs incised around the body just below the rim. There is no doubt that the potters who produced Beauvais Earthenwares, especially the polychrome decorated double Sgraffito wares, created some of the nicest late medieval ceramics in western Europe. Employing as they did a judicious and proficient use of incised decoration, coupled with a clear lead glaze, enhanced with patches of blue

and green, they produced a very arresting and high quality product.

From the Tron Kirk there are two shards from two vessels, one a small double Sgraffito rosette dish not identified in Holme's excavation report (1986, 301 fig. 2, no. 4). The second is a base shard from a large single Sgraffito rosette bowl in an off-white fabric covered with a red slip which Holmes originally published as German slipware (1975, 145 fig. 4, no. 8). (For a catalogue and summary of Beauvais pottery found in Scotland see Haggarty 2006, Word File 26.)

6.3.5 Late Saintonge

The archaeological evidence in England clearly demonstrates that the medieval trade in pottery from the Saintonge area continued, although in reduced quantities. Through the 16th and into the 17th centuries (Watkins 1983, 31) trade in Saintonge pottery apparently increased with what may be interpreted as renewed vigour with the introduction of many new ceramic types and forms, many of which are illustrated in Hurst 1974 (221–255). These late Saintonge pottery vessels are generally thrown with a thick body and include tubular-spouted, rounded pitchers with narrower necks and single pulled-handles. Cooking pots – often with lids – and small jugs are also still reasonably common in the English archaeological record but are scarce in Scotland.

At the same time also making an appearance are Saintonge Pégau-style vessels, with their large, very broad pouring-spouts and three basket-handles attached to the rims. These types are also uncommon in Scotland, although there is a group of what may be four examples from what is thought to be a 17th-century midden in Tower Street, Leith (Julie Franklin, pers comm).

Not illustrated is another late Saintonge shard (1974: AW).

6.3.6 Loire-type narrow-necked jugs

The so-called Loire-type narrow-necked jugs found in Scotland come in a variety of fabrics, including one which is hard, slightly micaceous, creamy/off-white fabric, often with tiny inclusions which may be flint. Another is a softer fabric type with abundant mica and small red inclusions, probably haematite. These jugs come in a variety of different sizes, but no correlation can be readily identified between size and the fabric types (Haggarty 2006, Word File 32). Frequently Loire-type jugs have on their exteriors small spots of a yellow, amber or rarely a green lead glaze, apart from which they are undecorated. The source of these vessels has yet to be confirmed and the assumption that they come from the Loire valley should be treated with some caution (Hurst et al 1986, 99). At least one recent French publication (Lecler & Calderoni

1999, 61, fig. 184) suggests that there may also be a Seine valley source for jugs in this form, but gives no date for them.

Recent research (Haggarty 2006, Word File 32), suggests that Loire narrow-necked jugs have an even wider distribution within Scotland than was previously thought and are being under-reported as it is generally only the distinctive neck rims and handles which are being recognised. By far the most reliable Scottish dates are for the shards recovered from a deposit at Stirling Castle dating to 1594 and a c 1630–40 deposit in Pittenweem. In addition, a shard was recovered from 16th-century debris at Whithorn, while other shards from St John Street in Ayr, Carrick Castle, Edinburgh, Perth and a number of other sites all date from the 16th, or more often, the early 17th century (ibid). All these dates fit well with the vessels recovered from the Tron Kirk excavations.

6.3.7 Mid-French-type chafing dish

The handles of the more common Saintonge chafing dishes do not normally spring from just above their bases (Hurst 1974), so it is probable that this example comes from central France. Shards from three or four similar examples were recovered at Mid Shore in Pittenweem, Fife by Colin Martin (Haggarty 2006, Word File 34, figs 1 & 2). There may be some confirmation of a central French source for these chafing dishes and help with their dating. The Mid Shore shards were recovered along with fragments of at least five Loire-type narrow-necked jugs from a deposit which it is suggested may date to between 1630 and 1640 (Martin 1979, 7). It is also the opinion of the excavator that this pottery had been brought back to Scotland by a sea captain from Elie, and that it reflects his involvement in the French wine trade. A similar chafing dish was found in Amsterdam within a context dated to 1575–1625 (Hurst et al 1986, 80, fig. 36, 106).

6.3.8 Malling-type jug

Tin-glazed earthenware jugs of so-called Malling type are named after the Kent church of West Malling in which one was found, and are known speckled in both purple and blue. Malling-type jugs were produced in Flanders and possibly by immigrant potters active in London by around 1580. This jug was listed as a continental product, due to the evidence for the importation of tin-glazed earthenware in the Leith port customs documents, which show that at this period it comes mainly from Flanders. Perhaps the earliest identified English vessel with similar ornament in manganese is a London Southwark mug with its rim inscribed 1628 ELIZABETH BROCKLEHURST (Lipski & Archer 1984).

Not illustrated: Malling-type jug (1974: AA).

6.3.9 Cantaro Shaped Redware?

One large fragment of an Iberian Cantaro shaped vessel in a red sandy fabric under a dark red skin or heat sheen, surviving round handle fragment and groups of fine horizontal cutting (illus 17). The jar is covered with a thick lead glaze on the bottom of its interior, which has run towards its neck during firing. There are also traces and glaze runs on exterior from what looks like splashed bib glazing. This vessel was published by Holmes (1975, 147 fig. 5, no. 13), where he suggested that it was an import from either England or Holland; however, inspection of its fabric and its form clearly suggests an Iberian source.

6.3.10 Chinese porcelain

Fragment from a Chinese porcelain dish of probable Late Ming date (illus 7b). Shards of Chinese porcelain from Scottish archaeological deposits which can be dated before 1700 are still extremely rare in the literature, partly because it is only recently that post-medieval deposits in Scotland have been given the same treatment as their earlier counterparts.

6.3.11 German/Low Countries Whiteware

One rim and two body whiteware shards from what may be a well thrown and delicate small pipkin and bowl covered with a clear lead glaze with what may be a few tiny specks of iron on their interiors (illus 14).

6.3.12 German/Raeren Stoneware

Fragments of three Raeren stoneware vessels were recovered (illus 6) and, not illustrated, a base shard (1983: AB). Raeren is situated ten kilometres southwest of Aachen in Belgium, just one kilometre from the present German border.

6.3.13 Conclusions

The Old Town of Edinburgh was constructed on a classic crag and tail geological formation leading

down from the volcanic plug on which the castle sits. It was this natural layout which forced the medieval builders to create terraced platforms on either side of the side slopes for their buildings. Most archaeological debris is predominantly now to be found within the deep midden-rich soil deposits situated across the foot of the Old Town valleys or in truncated pits to the rear of the terraces. It is therefore of no real surprise that the small amount of medieval pottery recovered from the Tron excavation came from a single small truncated pit to the rear of the site and that the vast majority of ceramic material recovered came from what we believe were 16th-century drains and early 17th-century demolition deposits (and which importantly is backed up by the coin evidence – Holmes this paper). This reinforces the late dating for the so-called French Loire narrow-necked jugs which have a wide Scottish distribution (Haggarty 2006, Word File 32).

Although omnipresent on most excavated Scottish sites of the period, large Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware jugs are represented here by only a few shards from what is almost certainly only one vessel. Post-medieval oxidised forms are limited, mainly to what is probably chamberpots, with pirlie pigs, folded-handled skillets and small drug pots making up most if not all of this assemblage. Contemporary documentation, eg wills and inventories, shows that very large numbers of these chamberpots were to be found in higher-status houses of this period.

Imports from the 17th-century deposits include a number of north German slipwares, which are now being recognised in increasing numbers from archaeological excavation in Leith and Edinburgh. These dishes, often with hammer-headed rims, are almost certainly coming in as an adjunct to the increased demand by local coalmine owners for pit props, fuelling the expansion of the Baltic timber trade. At this time there was also an increasing Scottish market for Baltic iron. These German wares along with the French, Iberian, German and Low Countries imported ceramic types reinforces the impression given by the documents that the status of the inhabitants of the pre-Kirk tenements was towards the upper end of the social scale. However, one can only speculate whether it was the by-product of the trade in luxury and high value items like powdered almonds and pepper by John Adamson which brought the unusual Iberian pot to Edinburgh.