
7 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED AND IMPORTED CERAMIC MATERIAL

Key ceramics are catalogued below with the following information in the title line: Fig. no; ceramic type; year of excavation; context.

7.1 Ceramic material from demolition rubble

Illus 11a; SPMOW; money box; 1983; AR

One knob and top from a SPMOW money box or 'pirlie pig' covered with a thick olive green glaze.

Illus 11b; Drug pot; 1974; BP

Complete profile from a small drug pot in a pale grey sandy fabric with slightly oxidised surfaces and patches of green lead glaze over its exterior. The paste has sparse inclusions, including haematite, quartz and black lumps in what looks somewhat like a Late White Gritty. Published as a possible inkwell by Holmes (1975, 147 Fig. 5 No. 14).

Illus 11c; Drug pot; 1974; AK

One rim shard from a small drug pot in a high-fired fine quartz-rich paste with oxidised surfaces and a reduced core. This pot, which is covered on both surfaces with an iron-stained lead glaze and has heavy rilling, has been well thrown (Holmes 1975, 147 Fig. 5, No. 10).

Illus 11d; SPMOW; 1974; AX

One rim shard from a large SPMOW storage vessel covered on both surfaces with a thick green glaze reduced dark grey core with light grey oxidised surfaces (Holmes 1975, 147 Fig. 5, No. 12).

Illus 15a; Low Countries Redware; 1983; AB

One folded strap-handle from a Low Countries Redware frying-pan or skillet with a thick green-brown lead glaze on upper surfaces and slight traces below (Holmes 1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 8).

Illus 11e; SPMOW; 1974; BP

Three rim and folded strap-handle shards from a SPMOW skillet with a thick olive green lead glaze on upper surfaces and heavy sooting on exterior (Holmes 1975, 147 Fig. 5, No. 11).

Illus 11f; SPMOW; 1983; AB

Two conjoining rim shards from a SPMOW globular storage vessel covered with an internal olive green glaze with a finger-pinched spout (Holmes 1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 5).

Illus 15b; Low Countries Redware; 1983; AC

One rim shard probably from a Low Countries Redware skillet covered with a lead glaze on its interior and sooting on its exterior.

Illus 15c; Low Countries Redware; 1974; AR

One leg and body shard from a Low Countries Redware skillet covered with a lead glaze on its interior and sooting on its exterior.

Illus 15e; Low Countries Redware; 1974; AR; demolition rubble

One rim shard with handle scar, from a Low Countries Redware frying-pan whose interior is covered with a thick lead glaze.

Illus 6b; Raeren Stoneware jug; 1983; AD

One grey stoneware rim shard from a Raeren jug covered with a patchy grey/brown glossy glaze, late 15th or early 16th century. Not illustrated: a base shard (1974 BX).

Illus 16b; Loire jug; 1983; AB

One rim and neck shard from a Loire narrow-necked jug in a buff sandy fabric with sparse mica and red haematite grains, published in Holmes (1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 7). Not illustrated: Loire jug shard; 1974; AR

Illus 14a; German Whiteware; 1974; AG

One rim and two body Whiteware shards from what may be a well thrown and delicate small pipkin with a clear lead glaze with what may be a few tiny specks of iron on its interior.

Illus 14b; German Whiteware; 1974; AA

One well potted, carinated, body shard in a white fabric decorated on its exterior with a bright glossy green glaze and on its exterior with pale yellow.

Illus 7b; Chinese Porcelain; 1974; BF

Two rim shards from a small blue and white Chinese Porcelain dish of probable Late Ming date.

Illus 17; Iberian; 1974; AJ

Six conjoining body shards from a jar in a red sandy fabric under a dark red skin or heat sheen, surviving round handle fragment and groups of fine horizontal cutting. 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.

Illus 12a; North European Earthenware; 1983; AB

One rim shard in a red fabric tempered with quartz sand. The exterior has deep horizontal grooves and the interior is covered in a brown lead glaze. Published by Holmes (1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 9). The fabric is grittier than the normal North European Earthenware Redware recovered in Scotland and we cannot suggest a source.

Illus 13b; North Holland Slipware; 1983 AR

Six shards from a North Holland slipware bowl with a developed footrim.

Illus 12b; North European Earthenware; 1983; AB

Two unglazed shards conjoining to form the leg from a pipkin in a red fabric tempered with fine quartz sand. Published by Holmes (1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 6). The fabric is grittier than the Low Countries Redware vessels recovered in Scotland and we cannot suggest a source.

Illus 12c; North European Earthenware; 1974; AG

One badly abraded hammer-headed rim shard in a reddish-brown slightly micaceous fabric decorated on its upper surface with traces of white slip under what looks like a degraded very light green lead glaze. It is hard to be sure but it looks as though thin concentric Sgraffito bands were cut through the white slip before the glaze was applied.

Illus 12d; North European Earthenware; 1983

One rim shard from what is probably a large jug in a reddish sandy fabric with traces of reduction mainly on its exterior. The exterior is also covered in a nasty brown glaze and it is possible that this shard has been subject to later burning.

Illus 16b; Unknown Slip decorated; 2007; 006

One base shard from a slip decorated vessel in a hard red-brown sandy fabric covered on both surfaces with a brown lead glaze. Only slight traces of the white slip decoration survive all around its exterior, and there is purple heat sheen on its base. This is not

a local slipware but we are at a loss in suggesting a source.

7.2 Ceramic material from sewer/drain fills

Illus 9a; SPMOW; jug; 1974; BB

One almost complete and restored SPMOW jug with a rim diameter of 160 a base diameter of 105 and a height of 185mm. Traces of a mottled green/brown lead glaze on its exterior and knife trimming around base (Holmes 1975, 145 Fig. 4, No. 4).

Illus 9b; SPMOW; jug; 1974; BB

One almost complete and restored SPMOW jug with a rim diameter of 143 a base diameter of 100 and a height of 148mm. Suggestion of soot on its exterior and traces of a brown lead glaze over its rim and exterior (Holmes 1975, 145 Fig. 4, No. 5).

Illus 9c; SPMOW; jug; 1974; BB

One almost complete and restored SPMOW jug with a rim diameter of 126, a base diameter of 90, and height of 124mm. Thick bright green lead glazes on its interior and over rim and handle (Holmes 1975, 145 Fig. 4, No. 3).

Illus 9d; SPMOW; jug; 1974; BB

One almost complete and restored SPMOW jug with a rim diameter of 121, a base diameter of 90, and a height of 140mm. For some reason Holmes only illustrated the top half of this jug (1975, Fig. 4, No. 6).

Illus 9f; SPMOW; money box; 1974; BB

One shard comprising almost two thirds of a SPMOW money box or 'pirlie pig' with a base diameter of 60mm and covered with a red-brown lead glaze on its exterior. There is an indistinct maker's or owner's mark incised on its base (Holmes 1975, 145 Fig. 4, No. 7).

Illus 9g; SPMOW; money box; 1974; AS

One shard from a mammiform SPMOW money box or 'pirlie pig' with degraded green glaze and surviving top lip of cut slot.

Illus 9h; SPMOW; chamberpot?; 1983; BB

One rim shard from a SPMOW jug, with a rim diameter of 142mm (Holmes 1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 1).

Illus 9i; Unknown; jug; 1983; BB

One rim shard from a jug in an unknown fabric and with a rim diameter of 120mm, Holmes states in his report that the fabric of this shard is smooth grey fired reddish-brown on surface, greeny-brown glaze on interior, decayed remains on exterior and soot blacked (1986, 301, Fig. 2, No. 2). However on close inspection the fabric is more reminiscent of a Scottish White Gritty and the pot has been much better thrown than most SPMOW vessels of the period.

Illus 9j; Unknown; jug; 1983; BB

One rim shard from a jug in an unknown fabric and with a rim diameter of 120mm. Holmes (1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 3) states in his report that the fabric of this shard is grey, fired red on surfaces and has brownish-green glaze on interior and part of rim exterior and blackening on exterior. However on close inspection the fabric is similar to illus 8 and the pot which has extensive rilling and has been well thrown. In his report Holmes suggested that this vessel may have had a handle (ibid), but we can find no evidence for this assertion.

Illus 9k; SPMOW money box; 1974; BU/BO

One substantial shard from a mammiform SPMOW money box or 'pirlie pig' covered with green lead glaze. The very thin money slot survives intact. Published by Holmes (1975, Fig. 4, No. 2) who suggests that a hole in

the bank was used to hang a cord from. This strikes us as unlikely as the hole is tiny.

Illus 10a; Beauvais Double Sgraffito bowl; 1983; BB

One base shard from a small 16th-century Beauvais double Sgraffito rosette bowl in an off-white fabric covered first with a red slip over which a layer of white slip has been laid (Hurst 1986, 113 Fig. 52, No. 1620). A Sgraffito design has then been executed by cutting through the white slip showing red petals and a central spiral which has then been covered with a lead glaze highlighted with patches of green and very pale blue. Holmes published this shard without a source (1986, 301 Fig. 2, No. 4). For a catalogue and summary of Beauvais pottery in Scotland, see Haggarty 2006, Word file 26.

Illus 10b; Beauvais Single Sgraffito bowl; 1974; BB

One base shard from a large 16th-century Beauvais single Sgraffito rosette bowl in an off-white fabric covered with a red slip. A Sgraffito design has then been executed by cutting through slip showing white petals, which has then been covered with a lead glaze. Holmes published this shard as German Slipware (1975, 145 Fig. 4, No. 8). For a catalogue and summary of Beauvais pottery in Scotland, see Haggarty 2006, Word file 26.

7.3 Ceramic material from occupation layers

Illus 11g; SPMOW; 1974; BN

One basal angle shard probably from a SPMOW money box or 'pirlie pig'.

Illus 11h; SPMOW; 1974; BL

One rim shards from a SPMOW skillet with a degraded olive-green lead glaze on its internal surface.

Illus 15e; Low Countries Redware; 1974; BL

One leg and body shard from a Low Countries Redware skillet covered with a lead glaze on its interior and sooting on the exterior.

7.4 Ceramic material from fill of pit F11

Illus 8; French; 1983; AE

Three fairly thick shards, of which two conjoin in an off-white body with red inclusions, probably haematite and a run of green glaze and handle scar just above its base. 16th century. The handles from Saintonge chafing dishes do not normally spring from just above their bases (Hurst 1974), so it is probable that this example, which has a handle scar, derived from central France. Not illustrated: one shard of Saintonge Plain; 1974; AW

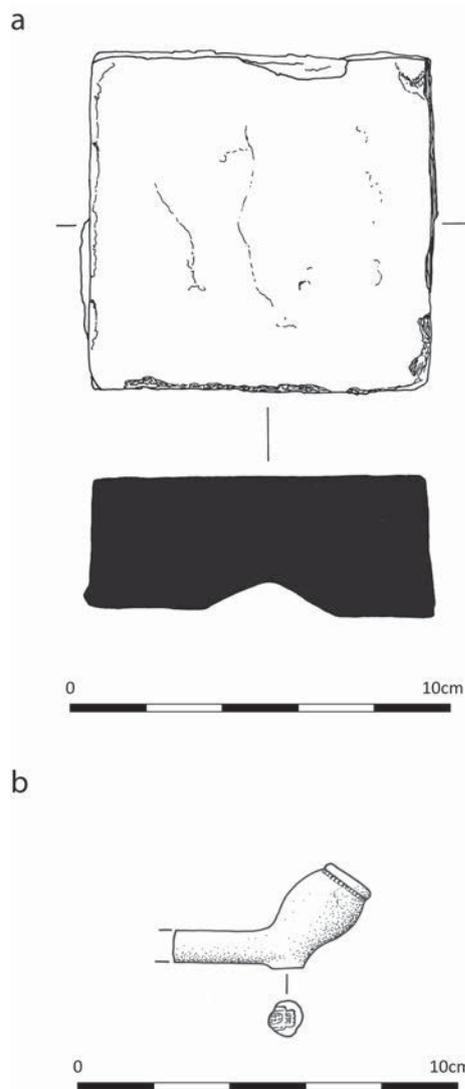
7.5 Ceramic material from pit 1

Illus 6b; Raeren Stoneware bottle; 1983; AQ

Twenty-one stoneware shards mostly conjoining to form a large fragment from a Raeren Stoneware bottle with frilled, splayed footrim, although this example also looks similar to material published from Aachen, late 15th, early 16th centuries. This material was published as probable Langerwehe (Holmes 1983, 299).

Illus 7a; Scottish Redware; 1983; AQ

Fifteen shards which conjoin to form the rim, shoulder and handle of a jug in a red sandy fabric decorated with two shoulder cordons alternating with wavy horizontal bands. This jug fragment was recovered in association with a large portion (illus 5), of a Raeren Stoneware



Illus 18 a) Floor tile; b) William Bank clay pipe

bottle of late 15th- or early 16th-century date. A similar jug fragment has been recovered from the ongoing excavations at the Scottish Episcopal Palace at Fetternear in Aberdeenshire.

7.6 Ceramic material from Tron Kirk construction trench c 1637

Scottish White Gritty; 2007; Context 043

Two conjoining green glazed rim shards in a light-grey fabric, probably from a jar with an everted rim. This fabric is thought to be the tail-end of the Scottish Medieval Whiteware industry and the dating of these shards helps confirm this. They have been recognised from a number of sites around the Forth estuary but predominantly from Leith, Edinburgh and Inverkeithing.

7.7 Clay pipe and tile report, George Haggarty & John A Lawson

Of the four medieval floor tiles recovered from the site, only one, the complete example illustrated in

Holmes (1975, 148, Fig. 1) can now be found. This tile (87 × 85 × 40mm) (illus 18a) was extensively denuded of the lead glaze on its upper surface, suggesting a long period of use. It was recovered from the demolition rubble and has a hemispherical depression in its base, 11mm deep. This feature is thought to have aided bedding into a wet mortar floor and can be seen on a number of examples which are thought to have been produced locally, during the mid-13th century at Newbattle and Melrose Abbeys (Richardson 1929).

A small number of clay-pipe fragments were recovered from the 2007 excavations, of which only one bowl warrants publication (illus 18b). As a group this material corresponds extremely well with the 44 fragments thought to date from between 1620 and 1650, recovered during the 1974 excavation and which were published by Lawson (1975, 150, Fig. 7). The only Edinburgh manufacturer who marked his pipes at this date was William Banks, whose firm appears to have had the monopoly in clay pipe production in Edinburgh during the early part of the 17th century.

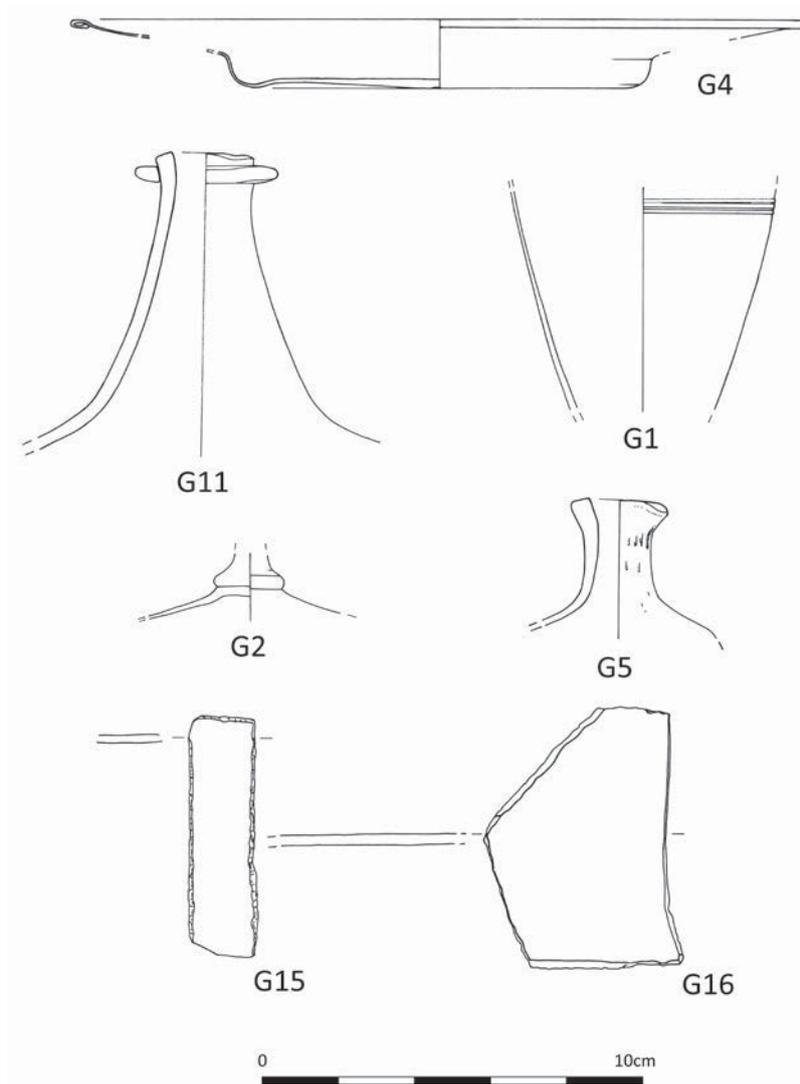
7.8 The glass report, Hugh Willmott

A small assemblage of glass, consisting of 60 fragments from a minimum of 25 vessels and windows, was recovered from the excavations conducted between 1974 and 2005. As might be expected, all is probably post-medieval, and most pre-dates the beginning of the construction of the kirk in 1637. Although some is weathered quite heavily, all the fragments were stable and required no specialist treatment. The glass can broadly be divided into two categories, vessels and windows, and is catalogued in detail at the end of this report.

7.8.1 Vessel glass

Fragments from approximately 14 different vessels were recovered from a variety of contexts. Whilst the majority are portions of simple containers, four come from tablewares. The first, G1, is a very fragmented bowl from a pedestal stem goblet (illus 19). Such vessels are blown from a single bubble, or parison, of glass and then folded to form the final shape. This particular example has a small section of surviving opaque white trailing which is typical for this form, and usually only used to decorate the upper portion of the vessel. This type of goblet, which dates to the earlier portion of the 16th century, is normally only found on relatively high-status sites although they are more common in the Low Countries and northern France, where they were probably produced (Willmott 2002, 70).

The remaining three tablewares, made in a good quality clear glass, are all late 16th, or more probably early 17th-century in date, and likely to be English in origin. Although there was an



Illus 19 Vessel glass (G1, G2, G4, G5 & G11) and window glass (G15 & G16)

established glass industry in Scotland from 1610 onwards, and one known to have been producing vessel glass, the character of its early output is unknown archaeologically (Turnbull 2001). The tablewares are all types typical of known Mansell-era production in England between 1615 and 1645. G2 is the most recognisable of these, being the lower portion of a stemmed goblet (illus 19) that mirrors waste fragments found at Mansell's furnace on Broad Street in London (Willmott 2005, 100–01). Much more fragmented, but probably from a similar vessel, is the lower portion of a thin tapering goblet bowl, G3, decorated with a single fine horizontal trail. More complete is the fragmented, but still reconstructable, profile from a small dish or saucer, G4 (illus 19). This has a flat base, low side and broad rim and again is a typical early 17th-century find (Willmott 2002, 96).

The remaining vessels are all from containers of various forms made in a green potash-rich glass. The earliest are fragments from six different phials or small case bottles with a square cross section. These

vessels were used for holding all types of domestic liquids, medicines and perfumes and are frequently found on sites of all statuses. G5 is the complete rim and shoulder of an early example dating to the beginning of the 17th century (illus 19), whilst G6–G7 are different low pushed-in bases from similar examples. Slightly later, somewhat larger and made in a better quality glass are the fragments from a more capacious case bottle, G8, which dates to the late 17th or 18th century. There are also two very small body fragments, G9–G10, from other case bottles, but these are too small for more accurate identification.

Given that wine bottles are one of the most ubiquitous of post-medieval finds, it is not surprising that there are fragments from four different examples in the assemblage. The largest and most diagnostic, G11, is the complete neck and upper shoulder from an onion or bladder-shaped bottle dating to the very end of the 17th or early 18th centuries (illus 19). The remainder, G12–14, are less indicative, being small fragments of body, although they all appear to come

from late 17th- to early 19th-century examples that are cylindrical in shape.

7.8.2 Window glass

A small but interesting assemblage of window glass was also found during the excavations. Five of these definitely predate the redevelopment of the site in 1637, being late 15th or 16th century in date based on their thickness and the quality of the glass, and as such must have come from a relatively high-status building that occupied the area prior to the construction of the Tron Kirk. Two of these fragments retain portions of their grozed edges allowing for a reconstruction of their original

shape. G15 is a narrow rectangular quarry and probably came from the border of a window, whilst G16 was originally triangular and would have been used in conjunction with diamond-shaped quarries to form the glazing pattern (illus 19). The remaining three, G17–G19, have no edges surviving and are therefore less diagnostic, although of the same date.

The remaining window glass is somewhat later. Only one piece, G20, can be broadly dated to the 17th century, and therefore might derive from the first glazing of the kirk. The remainder, G21–25, are 18th or even 19th century in date. All these later pieces are colourless, or have an unintentional tint to them, except G25 which is a deliberate light emerald green.