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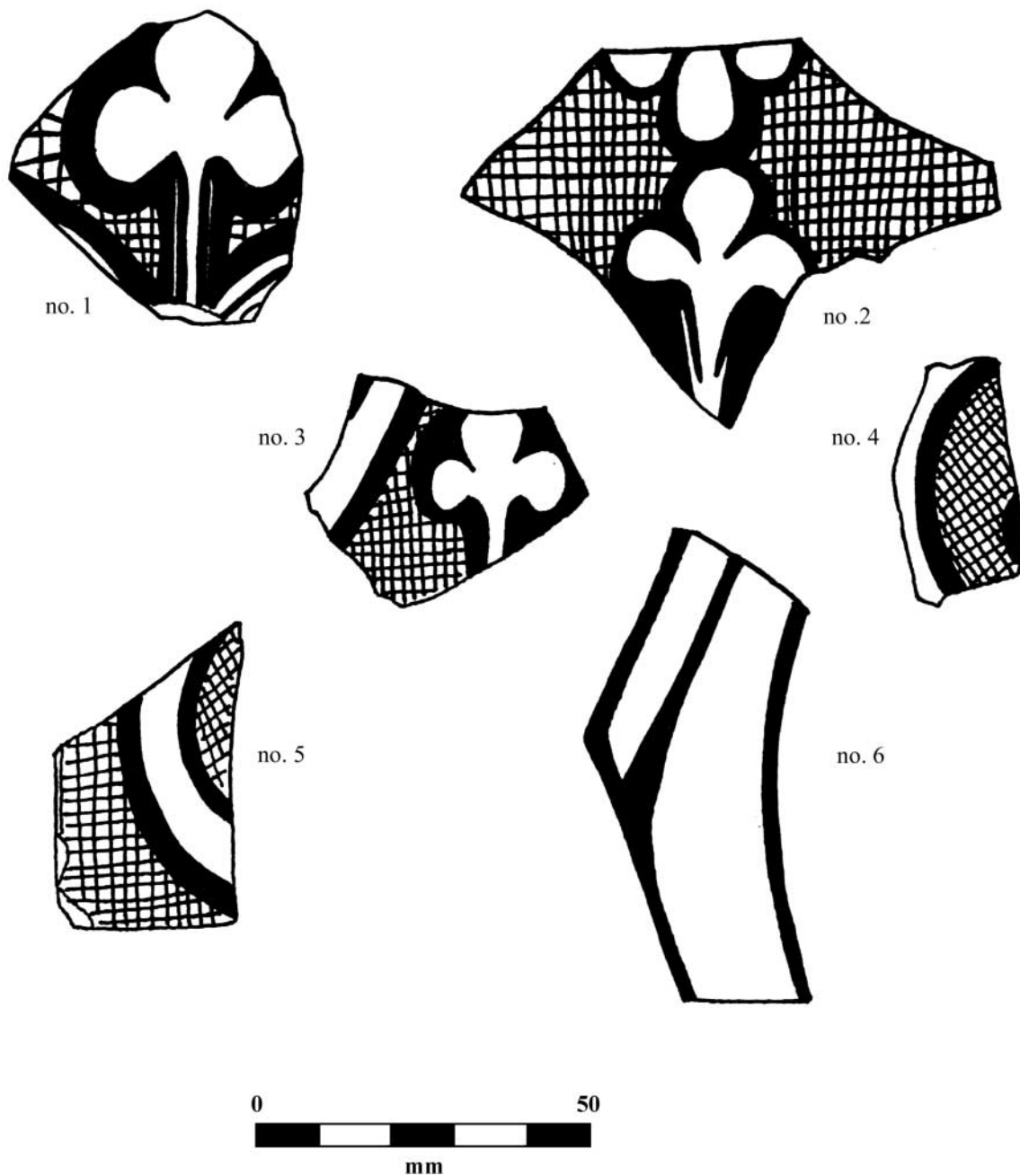
## 8 Window glass *by Andrew Dunn*

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In total, some 66 fragments of window glass were retrieved and conserved following the excavations in 1991. All were recovered from within a single pit, cut into the rubble infill of room 11, the refectory (context no 048/060, Period IV–V). Further fragments of painted glass were retrieved during subsequent excavations in 1992 and 1993 (mostly from contexts 127, 197, 198 & 222) but unfortunately

these were not in a condition which allowed positive identification. The fragments represent a relatively large collection of Scottish medieval painted glass, and allow for comparison with other Scottish abbeys, most notably the major Augustinian house at Jedburgh, in Roxburghshire (Graves 1995).

Many of the sherds are of grisaille, where the surface of the glass is painted with iron and lead



*Illus 40 Painted window glass*

oxides mixed with gum arabic. This results in the characteristic red/brown colour of the decoration. Grisaille glass generally formed the border to a more ornate panel of coloured glass, and as such was considered as being to some extent dispensable, being removed and renewed more often than the probably imported coloured glass.

No fragments of coloured glass were identified in the collection from Dundrennan, although the condition of the sherds, even after conservation, is such that their surfaces are heavily patinated, and no colour is visible. Where the sherds remain mostly transparent, no obvious colouring was recorded.

### 8.1 Grisaille (illus 40)

Much of the Grisaille glass shows signs of the characteristic cross-hatching decoration popular in the 13th century, alongside geometric banding and trefoil designs. The more naturalistic foliage designs and beaded borders reported from Jedburgh (Graves 1995) do not occur in this assemblage. In short, the Grisaille glass from Dundrennan probably dates to the 13th century, and possibly slightly earlier.

### 8.2 Five windows

The sherds represent the remains of at least five windows/panels, and possibly more, based on variations in thickness and decoration.

*Window I* A number of the sherds appear to derive from a single window of unknown size, up to 2–3mm in thickness. This window was decorated with a series of circles/ovals outlined by two bands of red/

brown paint, defining a central area up to 10 mm in diameter with no decoration (illus 40, nos. 2–5). Within and outside the circles/ovals was the characteristic cross-hatching, and the occasional trefoil design, executed with a border of grisaille, with the trefoil itself possibly painted. Due to the presence of cross-hatching in the decoration, this window/panel may be dated to the 13th century.

*Window II* A single sherd of glass with cross-hatching and a larger trefoil (illus 40, no. 1) may have belonged to a separate window/panel, in that the glass is somewhat thicker (4 mm), and the design slightly different. Again, the sherd is indicative of 13th-century activity.

*Window III* A large number of the sherds display signs of the banding seen on the sherds with cross-hatching, but with the cross-hatching itself being absent (illus 40, no. 6). These may represent a less ornamental window or panel, or may simply be derived from the less heavily decorated parts of the window.

*Window IV* Some of the sherds are painted in the usual grisaille manner, but in these examples the red/brown bands are accompanied by a band of lighter, beige paint. The lighter paint is not apparent on the remaining sherds in the assemblage, and so it seems likely that these sherds are derived from a discrete window or panel.

*Window V* Some sherds display markedly less patina than the remainder of the assemblage. In addition, these sherds are much thinner, between 1 mm and 2 mm in thickness. None is painted, and it seems likely that these sherds derive from an unpainted, more modern (post-Reformation?) window.