

The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe

VI. Pipes and kilns in the London region

edited by
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ARMORIALS FROM PAUL'S WHARF

Richard Le Cheminant

All the bowls shown in the photographs were dug by the writer out of an area of the north Thames foreshore, measuring approximately 8 yards by 6 yards, a little upstream from the site of Paul's Wharf near Blackfriars. In this small patch, not far below the surface, were found over 60 specimens bearing the Hanoverian arms, Prince of Wales feathers or other decoration, dating between c. 1740 and c. 1780 and comprising some three dozen different moulds and makers. Most were in exceptionally good condition and many were duplicates of examples excavated from the kiln and surrounds of William Heath of Brentford 1723-64 ob.¹ Some 300 undecorated bowls of the same period also came to light, all of Oswald's London types 12 and 22² or variants, nearly 40 of the t22s bearing the signature S/P on the spur, and another dozen with incuse WT basemarks (one of these from Brentford). The armorials etc. are described below. Stem bore diameters are $\frac{5}{64}$ " except where stated. When the front mould is mentioned it indicates the outer edge of the pipe pointing away from the smoker. It is worth noting that the same theme (e.g. Watermen's Arms, Bacchus) occurs with different initials both from Paul's Wharf and elsewhere, suggesting they might have been the work of a central mould maker or makers. When referring to thickness of bowl and stem the following measurements have been adopted:-

Thin bowl	1-1.5 mm
Medium	1.5-2.5 mm
Thick	Above 2.5 mm

and stem, where enough remains to judge,

Thin	below 8.5 mm
Medium	8.5-9.5 mm
Thick	above 9.5 mm

Paul's Wharf was from medieval times, and probably long before, an important City landing stage. The first mention of it is in 1276³ when it was known as St Paul's Wharf. Harben⁴ records references to it in 1338 as the Quay of St Paul's, in 1345 as Pouleswharf, in 1366 as Pauleswharf and in Elizabethan times as Powyls Wharffe or Sondayes Wharffe. Stow⁵ in his guide to the embarkation points along the river in Castle Baynard Ward quotes a 1423 description of "Powle's wharf, also a free landing place, with a common stair upon the river of Thames." The extent of the river traffic to and from the wharf by the mid 17th century was such that even a token was struck to record it for posterity. Its obverse has the inscription 'YE NEXT BOAT BY PAUL'S' with a boat containing three men, and the reverse 'WHARFE AT PETERS HILL FOOT'. Many of the watermen's outward passengers would have been bound for the bear-garden and theatres on Bankside, and 'Next Boat'

was all that the oarsmen needed to advertise their destination. There was also a popular tune of the time entitled 'Paul's Wharf', to be played on the fiddle and virginal.

The wharf was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666 and was rebuilt, together with many others downstream on the Thames' north bank. Phillips⁶ provides glimpses of the sort of merchandise landed there at a date contemporary with the pipes and reprints a 1750 entry in the 'London General Advertiser' which announced the auction of 7000 feet of Jamaica mahogany to be viewed and sold at the wharf. This newspaper also reported in that year that 'the compting house of Christopher Barratt, sugar baker of St Paul's Wharf was broke open', sugarbakers at this time being refiners or boilers.

The concentration of such a large number of pipes in such a small area with the adjoining stretches of foreshore barren of artefacts, is puzzling. Only four of the bowls have remaining stems exceeding three inches in length and most show signs of having been smoked, so there is no possibility of a shipload of new pipes tipped overboard accidentally. The large number of armorials and Prince of Wales Feathers, scarce in any quantity from the 18th century, may possibly be accounted for by the landing place having led directly to the fashionable St Paul's Cathedral area, so being used habitually by the well to do commuter or local resident. William Morgan's large scale map of London printed in 1682, shows it as a quayside extending back from the river-wall with two wooden step-ladders on the outside of the wall reaching down into the water. The brothers S. and N. Buck published their 15 feet panorama of London's riverside in 1749, about the date when many of these pipes would have been manufactured, and the relevant section provides no evidence of stairs at Paul's Wharf extending out into the river as e.g. there were at the Steelyard or Coldharbour further downstream. No sign of the remains of a wooden walkway leading out along the foreshore was found beneath the surface and the only pier built at the site, the remains of which can still be seen, was in late Victorian times. Additionally, the mid-eighteenth century shoreline would, if anything, have been situated further inland than the present-day retaining wall with its riverside walk, and it can only be surmised that the pipes sank into the mud after having been accidentally broken whilst being smoked, and dropped overboard from watermen's boats (there were five bowls bearing their arms) or from cargo vessels riding at a particular anchorage off the quayside.

The writer has illustrated several of the Prince of Wales feathers bowls in a separate paper under that name. He gratefully acknowledges Adrian Oswald's generosity in giving him access to the manuscript and associated drawings of his forthcoming papers on pipes excavated in and surrounding William Heath's kiln at Brentford;¹ reference has also been made to The Dating and Typology of Clay Pipes bearing the Royal Arms by D. R. Atkinson and Adrian Oswald, B.A.R. III, 1980. Photography is by Ian Beames.

REFERENCES

- 1(a) Clay pipes from the areas surrounding William Heath's Kiln at Brentford, A. H. Oswald
- 1(b) The Kiln of William Heath of Brentford, A. H. Oswald (cf. pp. 15-66 above).
2. Clay pipes for the Archaeologist, A. H. Oswald B.A.R. 14, 1975.
3. Calender of the Letter Book of the City of London A. p. 5.
4. Dictionary of London, Henry A. Harben, 1918.
5. The Survey of London, John Stow, 1598.
6. The Thames about 1750, Hugh Phillips, 1951.
7. London Clay Tobacco Pipes, D. R. Atkinson and Adrian Oswald, 1969.
8. The Dating and Typology of Clay Pipes bearing the Royal Arms. D. R. Atkinson and Adrian Oswald, B.A.R. III, 1980.
9. 'New Light on some 18th century Pipemakers of London', A. H. Oswald Collectanea Londiniensia. Studies presented to Ralph Merrifield. Special paper No. 2, Lond. and Middx. Arch. Soc., 1978, p. 358.
10. English Clay Tobacco Pipes bearing the Royal Arms from Williamsburg, Virginia, Audrey Noël Hume. Post Med. Arch. 1970.
11. A note on the Vernon bowl. R. A. C. Le Cheminant.

Photographs of the Bowls Figs. 1-17

For description see pages 122-126

Apart from the bowls illustrated, all of which are in the R. A. C. Le Cheminant collection, there were three or four others from Paul's Wharf bearing the Hanoverian Arms, either with spurs missing or unsigned, plus several fragments of varying size of the pipes described above.

Photographs of the bowls (Figs. 1-17)

1. Square spurred pipe signed T/T perhaps Thomas Thompson 1728-63, Golden Square; crowned rose and thistle on back and feathery branches decorating either side of the front mould; smoked, medium bowl and stem. Similar example signed R/G from area surrounding Heath kiln at Brentford.^{1(a)} The writer also has from the Thames foreshore at Chiswick a spurred type with identical decoration signed I/M. The decorative style perhaps relates to the United Kingdom of England and Scotland under the Hanoverians.
2. Prince of Wales Feathers, signed W/S on square spur with wide plumed upright ribbing and beaded decoration at front, bisected by three horizontal ribs in the middle. Well smoked, medium bowl; identical example from Brentford excavations. A maker T/G also used this mould.
3. Another square-spurred Prince of Wales Feathers bowl with exceptionally crisp moulding. Motto ICH DIEN in ribbon, entwined rose and thistle on front; maker I/W. Thick stem, medium bowl; duplicate from Brentford excavations.
4. A bowl first illustrated by Atkinson and Oswald⁷. Unknown arms of lion rampant within a shield surmounted by another lion rampant holding a slip or flail. Two examples, smoked, white and semi-polished clay. The distinctively flared base of the oval spur signed H/P (another at 5 below) has been attributed to Humphrey Parbatt, working 1729, but the pipe illustrated probably dates to the decades 1760-80. The front mould seam is covered by a continuous scalloped effect varying between 5 and 8 mm in width (see William Heath's kiln^{1(b)} B. A. R., layer No. 37). Medium bowl, thin stem. Identical specimen from the Heath Kiln fill. The writer has a third example of this armorial at Queenhithe and knows of several others from the City foreshore.
5. Another H/P bowl, this with Hanoverian Arms. Motto SEMPER EADEM in the ribbon below the lion and unicorn supporters instead of the usual DIEU ET MON DROIT. Smoked. Another from area surrounding Heath kiln^{1(a)} (no. 33 of illustrations). The scalloped decoration on the front is the same as on 4 above. Medium bowl and stem, Stem bore diameter 4/64".
6. Hanoverian Arms but no supporters and with leaves interspersed between flowers moulded on the front of the smoked, square-spurred bowl. Medium stem, no initials. Similar, signed A/P, from surrounds of Heath's kiln. The writer has two corresponding though not identical bowls from Putney and Queenhithe.
7. The only pipe found with any appreciative length of stem—overall measurement to break 11 inches. Prince of Wales Feathers on back of square-spurred bowl, no lettering on ribbons. Signed R/B either side of heel, no front decoration. Thin bowl and stem, smoked; Perhaps by Robert Baldwin working at Westminster in 1749 though Atkinson and Oswald⁸ list other possibilities. For a discussion on RB pipes see Oswald.⁹



1



2



3

Fig. 1



4



5



5

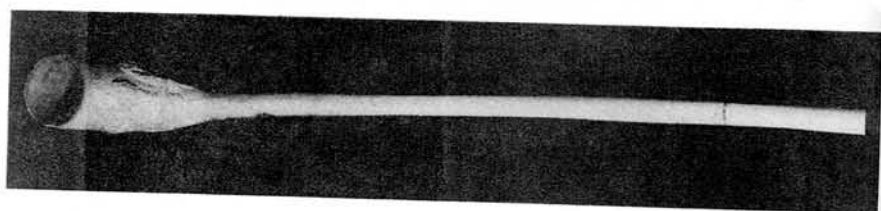


6

Fig. 2



6



7



8



Fig. 3

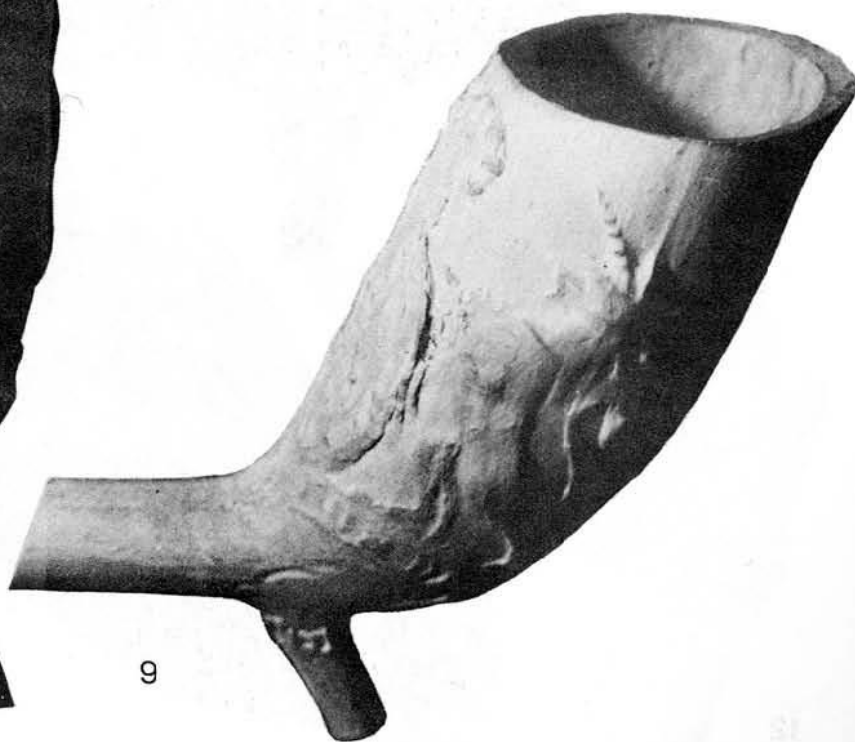
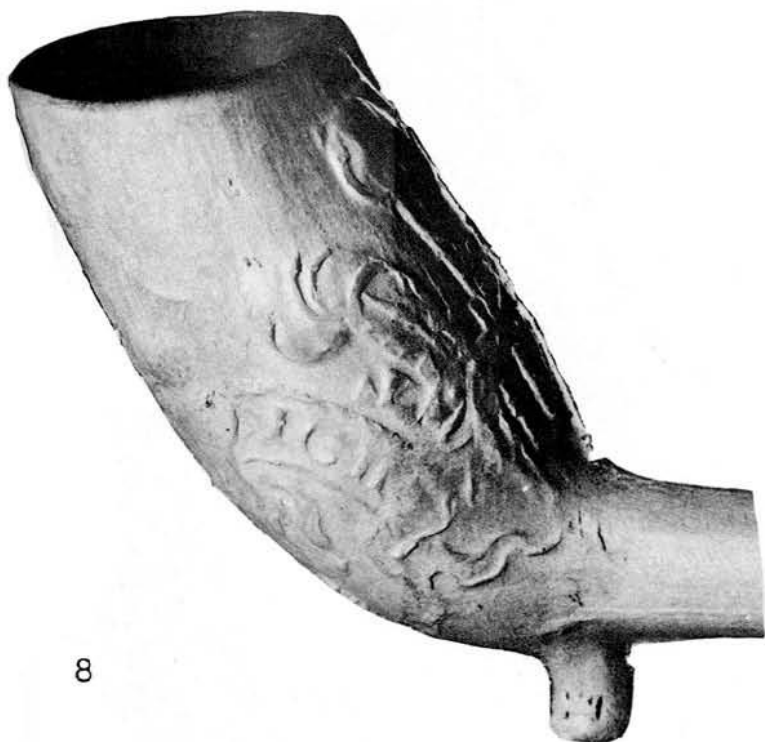


Fig. 4

10



11



12



Fig. 5



12



13



13



14

Fig. 6



15



16



16



17

Fig. 7



18



19



Fig. 8

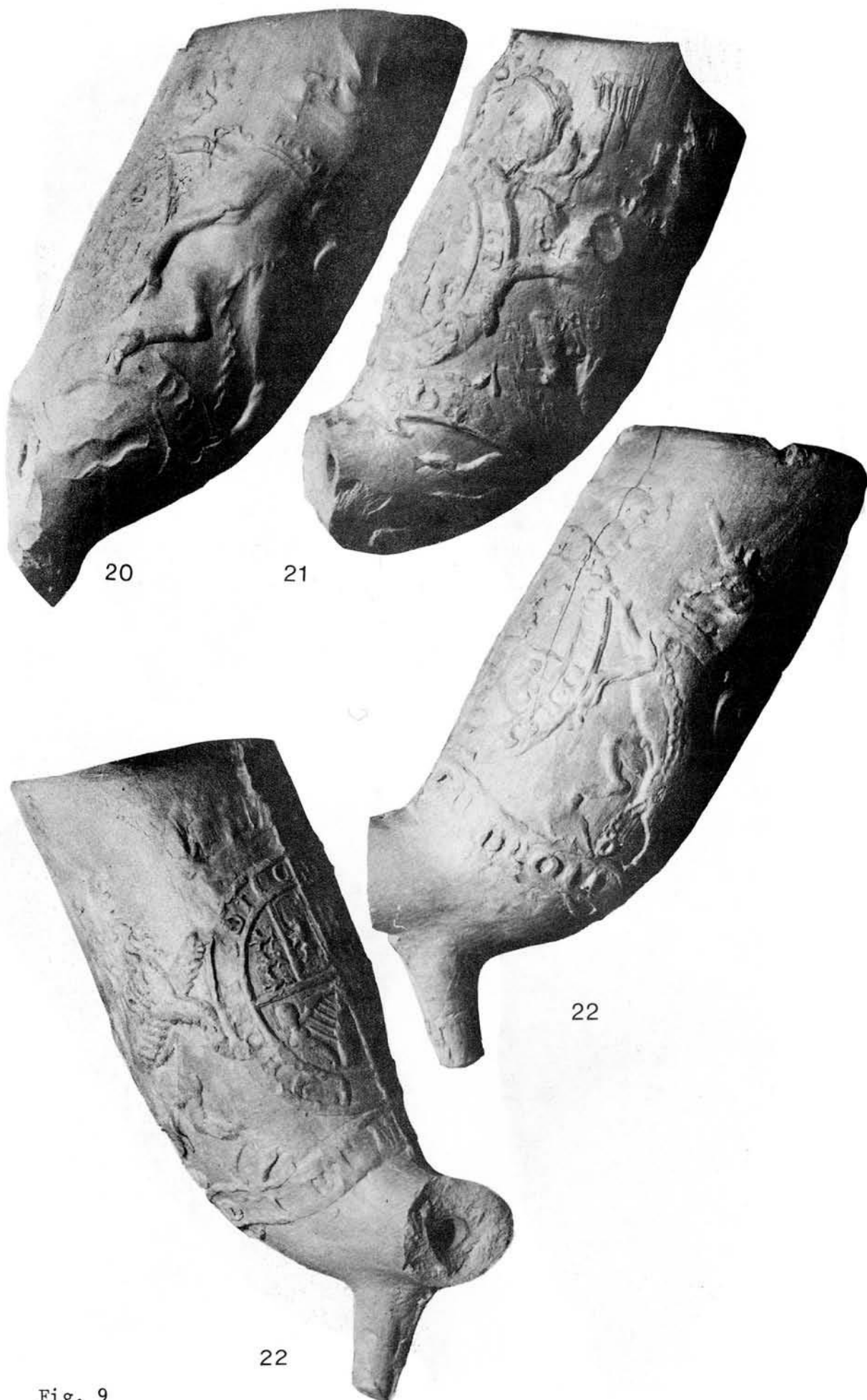


Fig. 9

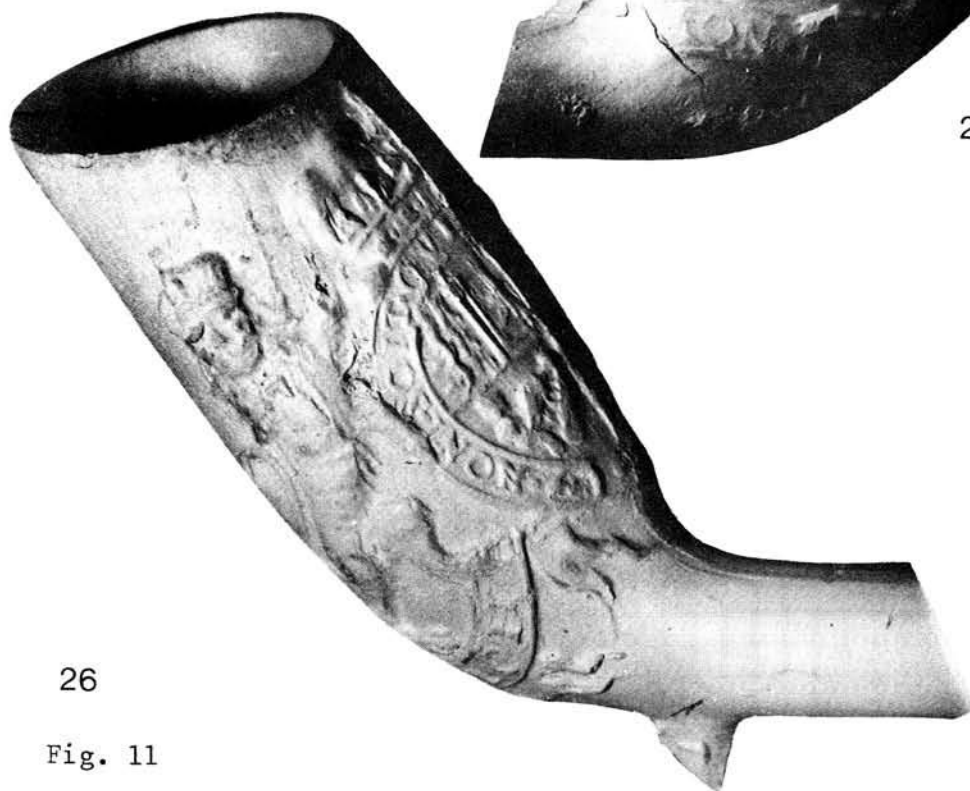
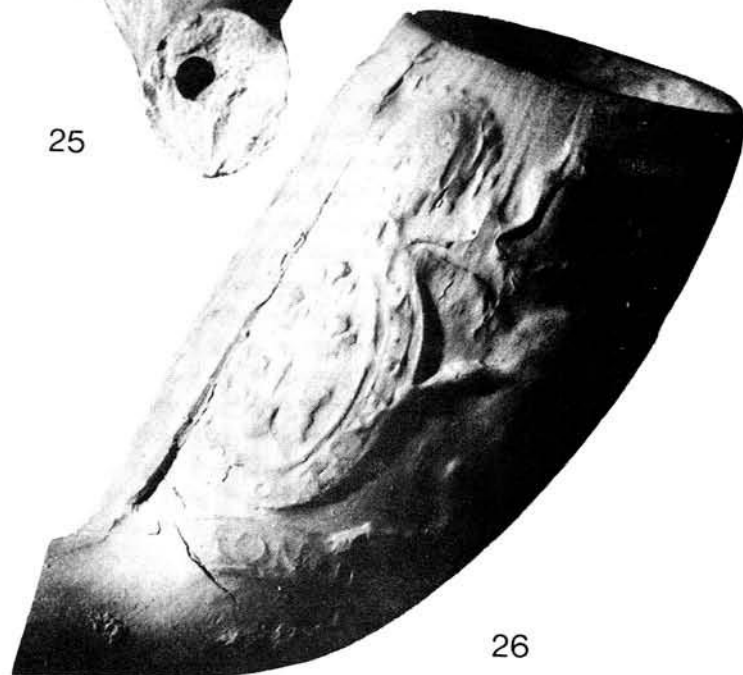


23



24

Fig. 10



26
Fig. 11

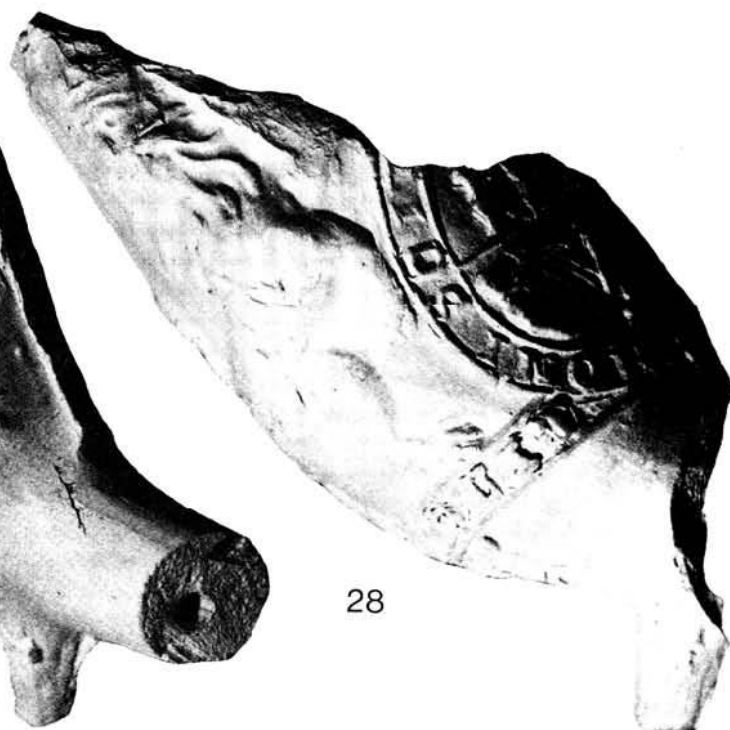
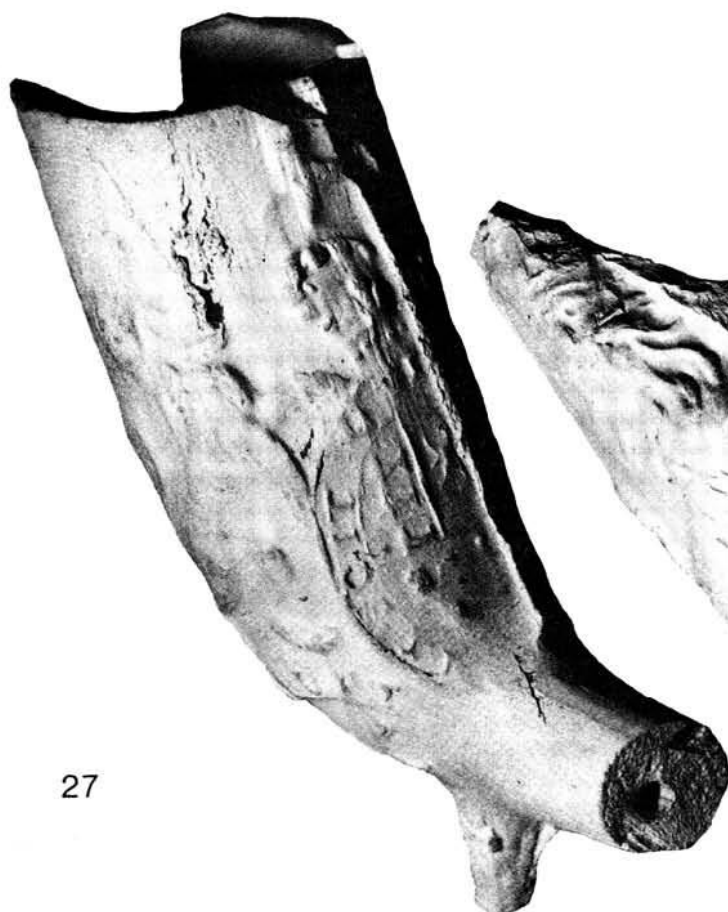


Fig. 12



30



31



32

Fig. 13

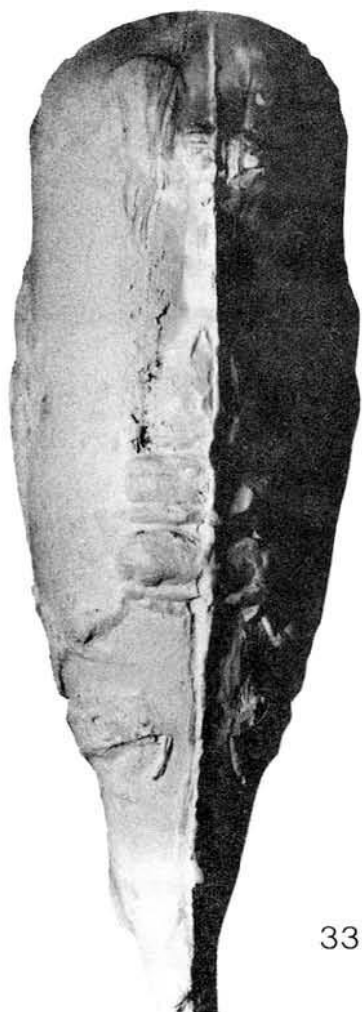


Fig. 14



34



34



35

Fig. 15



35



36



Fig. 16



37



Fig. 17

37

8. A smaller bowl with thin walls and stem and narrow square spur, bearing initials I/A. Smoked and well-moulded with Feathers on the back and ICH DIEN in the plumed ribbons. At the front are the rose and thistle with their respective foliage surmounted by a crown. Stem bore diameter $\frac{4}{64}$ ", probably c. 1770-85. The writer has an identical bowl from Putney. Perhaps John Andrews, working London, 1784.
9. Well moulded Hanoverian Arms with foreshortened motto DIEU ET MON DR in ribbons beneath supporters; forward pointed spur signed W/B, thin stem and bowl, front of which bears scalloped Prince of Wales Feathers. The overall length of remaining pipe measures five inches.
10. Prince of Wales Feathers. A thin stemmed and medium walled bowl with long narrow forward-pointing spur (obscured in photograph) carrying the faint initials I/W; no ribbon or motto below feathers and front of bowl is plain. Similar example, though with motto, from Brentford; cf. also 3 above.
11. Prince of Wales Feathers, medium stem and thin bowl. ICH DIEN in ribbons (reversed N). Faint initials on forward-sloping spur I/?S; undecorated front, Stem bore diameter $\frac{4}{64}$ ". For the reversed N see No. 23, area surrounding Brentford Kiln 1(a)
12. Well-moulded Prince of Wales Feathers, large thin-walled, semi-polished bowl. Large initials T/W on forward-pointing spur and F/P either side at top of bowl below ostrich plumes (? Frederick, Prince of Wales ob. 1751). ICH DIEN in plumed ribbons. Two others Lambeth Excavations. Another very similar F/P bowl (not illustrated) from Paul's Wharf with less decorative ribbons, small initials I/W and $\frac{4}{64}$ " stem bore diameter. Both c. 1740-50. There is an identical example of this second bowl from Brentford and these two bowls are probably by the same maker as no. 3.
13. A large Prince of Wales Feathers bowl, no motto and unusual leaf and floral decoration on the front, two of the leaves turned downwards. Medium bowl, thin stem; I/P on nearly-vertical, pointed spur, c. 1740-50.
14. Prince of Wales Feathers, off-white clay. Three pairs of broad leaves on front with smaller ones inside the top and bottom two. No ribbons, B/T in small letters on vertically-pointed spur; medium bowl. Maker probably Benjamin Turner, working c. 1749-84.
15. Prince of Wales Feathers, ribbons with correct motto. Well-smoked, medium bowl, rather bulbous with undecorated front; semi-polished clay, cut off forward-sloping pointed spur signed I/B.
16. Prince of Wales Feathers, smoked, polished bowl of medium thickness with spur missing; motto in plumed ribbons; four sets of leaves surmounted by tulip flower design at top.
17. A large upright bowl with a thick cut-off vertically-pointed spur, unsigned; bowl semi-polished and smoked. Hanoverian Arms, no supporters and undecorated front; thick stem. The I is omitted from QUI at the back seam of the mould; cf. no. 6.

18. A large finely-moulded bowl engraved with Hanoverian Arms and lion and unicorn supporters. M missing from MAL at back seam of mould. Motto DIEU ET MON DROIT in ribbons correctly spelt. The front of the bowl is decorated with two sets of ostrich feathers surmounted by a single large plume at the top and F/P to either side of it. Midway between first and second sets is the coronet of the Prince of Wales Medium bowl and stem, diameter of bore $\frac{4}{64}$ ". No maker's initials on forward-sloping pointed spur and overall length four inches. Two examples of this pipe from Paul's Wharf.
19. Large, polished bowl, very well moulded with Hanoverian Arms and supporters, mottoes correctly engraved. At front is a hand holding a rose (with rosebud) and thistle (with two small thistles either side). The writer has an identical bowl from Putney. Also from Paul's Wharf were one nearly complete and two fragmentary bowls with the variations of a large budless rose and thistle, the whole surmounted by in one case a large, and in another a small crown. Forward-pointed spur, no maker's initials; medium stem and bowl. Other similar examples from Tower Bridge and Southwark.
20. Two specimens of this medium-walled bowl, again bearing the Hanoverian Arms, broken, vertically pointed spur signed S/? Both supporters have a loop of hair in the middle of their tails. Motto mis-spelt DIEU ET MON DROT; cf. 28 below, and bowls illustrated by Audrey Noël Hume.¹⁰
21. Hanoverian Arms with rose and thistle to either side of crown; loop of hair in supporters' tails. Usual motto, plumes on ribbon, leaf decoration at rear. Medium bowl. Pointed spur, broken and initials obscured, but two other identical bowls from Putney (Lancaster Coll.) bear T/E. c. 1750-80.
22. A medium walled bowl, published with Hanoverian Arms, correct motto and no maker's initials on forward-inclined spur. Medium stem, undecorated front, well-smoked. Another very similar but not identical bowl was found at Paul's Wharf and the writer has a third example from Putney.
23. Hanoverian Arms, well-moulded, rose and thistle either side of crown. Undecorated front, pointed spur sloping forwards and signed I/W so presumably another example of this maker's work. Loop of hair in supporter's tail. $\frac{4}{64}$ " stem bore diameter, medium to thick stem and bowl. Correct motto.
24. A tall upright medium bowl in very white semi-polished clay bearing the Hanoverian Arms with rose and thistle either side of crown. Motto mis-spelt DIEU ET MON DRIT; loop of hair in tail of both supporters medium stem $\frac{4}{64}$ " stem bore diameter; forward-sloping pointed spur signed R/C. Smoked. The front of the bowl is decorated with two bunches of grapes at the base and has tendrils and stem rising above them, with another, smaller, rose and thistle above the supporters' heads. Overall length to stem break $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Another (broken) example of this bowl.

25. Hanoverian Arms with lion courant to left on top of crown. Supporters, and motto foreshortened to DIEU ET MON DRO; forward-inclined spur, broken but no maker's initials. Front of medium bowl undecorated.
26. Hanoverian Arms, particularly well-moulded; very white, polished medium bowl with no decoration on front. I/W on forward-pointing spur, probably the same maker as no. 23. Medium stem and $\frac{4}{64}$ " bore. Both mottoes correctly spelt. c. 1770.
27. A more upright bowl with pointed spur, less sloping, signed I/P and bearing the Hanoverian Arms with lion courant to left astride crown. Medium stem and bowl. The front of the bowl is decorated in a manner similar to no. 14 with widely spaced sets of leaves. Motto DIEU ET MON DRO.
28. Broken bowl with Hanoverian Arms. Undecorated front, vertical, pointed spur signed I/S. Motto DIEU IT MON DROT, in ribbon with plumes.
29. Hanoverian Arms, yellowish clay, thin stem, bore $\frac{4}{64}$ "; nearly vertical, pointed spur, probably W/S (though second letter obscured) as the flowers on the front mould resemble a bowl bearing these initials from the Heath Kiln fill. Flowers and tendrils point upwards. Top of the medium-walled bowl is missing.
30. Hanoverian Arms with two sets of ostrich feathers on the front, bisected by a coronet and topped with a single plume. (cf. no. 18). Motto correct. A smaller pipe with a thin walled bowl and stem, overall length of pipe to break being 5 inches. Signed S/W on pointed, forward spur. Perhaps Samuel Weston of Spruce's Island, d. bapt 1731, St. George in the East.
31. One nearly complete example and one half of a bowl were found at Paul's Wharf of this representation of Bacchus seated astride a wine cask with a glass in his right hand and a bunch of grapes in his left (the writer has another of these from Putney). All these pipes have a nearly vertical spur bearing the small initials W/H (William Heath) and the front of the thin bowl is moulded with spaced tulip-shaped leaves, similar to 14 and 27. Duplicate from Heath's Kiln itself.^{1(b)} Perhaps surprisingly, the only pipe from Paul's Wharf by William Heath, working 1723-64 (ob).
32. Three examples; thin-walled bowl, the back well-moulded with large rose and thistle either side of and above the white horse of Hanover, surmounted by an escutcheon charged with the crown of Charlemagne. Motto DIEU ET MON DROIT is in the ribbon below and at the top is a large crown. On the sides of the bowl is embossed G R, probably referring to King George II (cf. 35 below). Thin stem, unsigned forward-sloping spur. Another example Atkinson Coll. from same area of foreshore.
33. Six examples, two different sized medium-thick bowls with finely embossed Watermen's Arms. The writer has a further specimen from the Thames, location unknown and there is another in the Atkinson Coll. from Mitcham. All pipes from Paul's Wharf smoked, fine white clay bearing a single letter S on the right hand side of the thick forward-pointing spur (maker's surname). Such a bowl was first illustrated by Atkinson and Oswald⁷

(though with a square spur and H/B the maker) and the Arms comprise two dolphin supporters with in the centre inside a shield a boat, and above it two crossed oars between two tasselled cushions. The crest is an arm holding an oar horizontally. Motto in ribbon below supporters and shield reads AT A COMMAND OF OUR SUPERIORS. On the front of the bowl is moulded what appears to be a church spire resembling a minaret, with a cockerel perched on top facing right. The significance of this may be that the watermen were at work at cock-crow but the design is also found on a GR bowl—see 36 below. It is odd that so few Watermen's Arms pipes have been noted as they must have been popular and widely used by the thousands of men plying this trade in mid 18th century London. Dating c. 1740-60.

34. Four examples of this previously unrecorded decorated pipe which has a medium bowl and stem. On the left-hand side of the back of the bowl facing the smoker is a knopped wine glass and the figure of a girl, hair and skirts (and no doubt language) flying while she lashes out with her right foot. In her hands she clasps some flowers or rushes. In the centre is a large bottle of contemporary shape and on the right is a devil, complete with wings and tail. Above the two of them and extending from left to right are the words in relief KICK HIM JENNEY (Ns reversed and dot between C and K instead of over I). This phrase is a play on words, the meaning of the pun being kick the habit and banish the Demon drink, the alcohol in this case probably gin. (cf. Hogarth's 'Gin Alley'.) The front of the bowl bears a large pair of leaves with a tulip flower at the top; no initials on forward-inclined spur, c. 1745-70.
35. Although only a fragment of this bowl was found at Paul's Wharf, the writer has included a photograph of a complete example (minus spur) from Putney to show its overall appearance. Ninepins are moulded on the left of the back of the medium-thick bowl with, on the right, a be-wigged man in loose shirt and breeches about to hurl a cheese at them. Behind and to the right of him, extending around the bowl's front, is a large, wide-branched tree in full leaf, probably an oak, and a further feature in the background is what looks to be a fisherman on a pier. There is an identical, though partially broken bowl with square spur from Heath's Kiln surrounds signed H/B (Probably Henry Blundell 1745-64, Sun Insurance Policy).
36. One complete and one broken specimen of a variant of the Hanoverian bowl at no. 32. It has the same design on the back with G R either side and on the front a similar church spire (if that is what it is) and cockerel as on no. 33, the Watermen's Arms. A large bowl, thin-walled, no initials on forward-pointing spur, $\frac{4}{64}$ " inch stem bore.
37. The Admiral Vernon bowl fully discussed in a separate paper.¹¹ The mould shows the Admiral accepting the sword of surrender from the Spanish High Admiral Don Blas after the Battle of Cartagena. Vertical, pointed spur, no initials, thin bowl, medium stem, $\frac{6}{64}$ " bore, dated to 1741, the shape fitting well into Atkinson and Oswald's 1740-50 type in Figure 1.⁸ One complete example, one broken.