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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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CLAY PIPES FROM PAREMATA

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In his report on 1963 salvage work at the Paremata site (N160/50) near Wellington, Sinclair reported that a large quantity of clay pipe material was recovered (Sinclair, 1977:162), and he invited interested people to study this and other material in his possession. As a result of my work on European military sites of the 1860s in Taranaki I had become interested in clay pipes, and I therefore took up Sinclair's offer as providing an opportunity to study an assemblage from a military post which was occupied between ten and twenty years before the two excavated Taranaki sites (see Prickett, 1978a and 1978b). Subsequently I also looked at clay pipes belonging to Mr Ken Clarkson, one of Sinclair's fellow workers of 1963. This report describes the Paremata material and draws some conclusions on the nature of the assemblage based on experience at the Omata Stockade and Warea Redoubt.

Basic data on the Sinclair and Clarkson collections is given in Table 1.

	Sinclair collection		Clarkson collection	
	Number	Weight	Number	Weight
Marked or decorated bowl/ spur pieces	23	70.0	1	8.8
Marked or decorated stem pieces	43	120.0	1	1.4
Plain bowl/spur pieces	43	100.9		
Plain stem pieces	365	677.5	29	65.6
Glazed stem pieces	126	165.0	5	5.1
Brown clay sherds	5	6.6		
	605	1140.0 g	36	80.9 g

TOTAL 641 pieces, 1220.9 g

TABLE 1. The Sinclair and Clarkson clay pipe assemblages from Paremata.

Seventy-five percent of the material by weight is unmarked plain and glazed stem sherds. (Mouthpieces and the nearby end of stems were commonly dipped in a yellow/brown glaze to add strength to the gripped section of the stem.) A further 8% of material is made up of unmarked bowl sherds. Five sherds are made of a brown clay and can easily be separated from other material.

Significant marked and decorated pieces are illustrated in Figure 1. The left side of stems is depicted except in Figure 1D. Figure 1X depicts the remains of a very small bowl which can be compared with the more usual bowl size as shown in Figures 1P and 1R.

Manufacturers and brand names

Four known and perhaps three unknown manufacturers are represented in the Paramata assemblage.

	Stem sherds	Bowl sherds
Manufacturers:		
'A. COGHILL/GLASGOW'	24	
'MURRAY/GLASGOW'	1	
'THO. WHITE & Co/EDINBURGH'	3	
'W. WHITE/GLASGOW'	1	1
Other brand names:		
'AA'		5
'...IT. MAKER/MARKET. W...'	2	
'SQUATTERS/BUDGEREE'	1	
'TD'		6

TABLE 2. Manufacturers' names and brand names on Paramata pipes.

All stem marks are incuse, except for embossed marks on two Thomas White stems (Figs 1D and E) and the two 'MAKER/MARKET' stems (Figs 1F and G). On bowls, the 'AA' marks (Fig. 1T) are embossed, as are five of the six 'TD' marks (Figs 1M, N and Q).

The most commonly represented manufacturer is A. Coghill, Glasgow (Fig. 1B). From the lack of glaze splashes on the marked stem sherds it seems likely that Coghill pipes are not among the glazed pipes at Paramata. Dane and Morrison (1979:50) give Coghill as making pipes from about 1826 to 1904.

A single sherd with the letters '...AY' and 'GLA...' (Fig. 1J) comes from the Glasgow maker William Murray and Co. This firm made pipes from about 1826 to 1861-2 when it was taken over by Thomas Davidson and Company's 'Caledonian Pipeworks' (Humphrey, 1969:15).

The three 'THO. WHITE & Co/EDINBURGH' sherds were identifiable only after experience with Omata Stockade material. One sherd has incuse

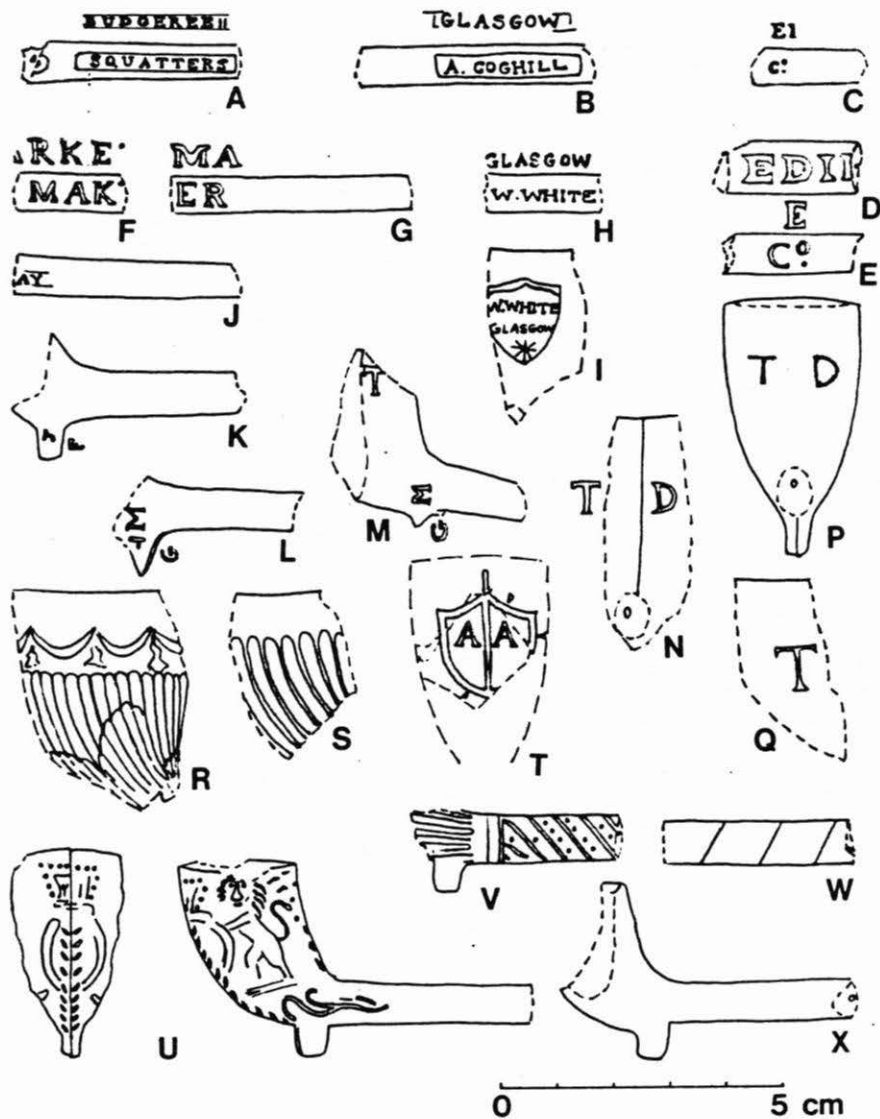


FIGURE 1. Paremata pipes: marked and decorated pieces.

marking (Fig. 1C), while the other two are rare examples of embossed marking (Figs 1D and E). Oswald (1975:206) lists the firm "T. Whyte & Co." of Edinburgh which was making pipes in the period 1832-1864.

The "W. WHITE/GLASGOW" pieces (Figs 1H and I) come from William White and Sons, a firm which advertised itself in the 19th century as the largest Glasgow manufacturer of clay pipes (see Humphrey, 1969:18). The firm operated over the period 1805-1955 (Dane and Morrison, 1979:50).

Two embossed stem sherds from Paremata allow the establishment of 'MAKER/MARKET' (Figs 1F and G). Similar sherds from Port Arthur, Tasmania, give '...IT. MAKER/MARKET. W...' (Dane and Morrison, 1979:18). The style of embossing on these pieces is similar to that of Dutch pipes.

'TD' pipes are represented by two embossed forms, and one incuse (Fig. 1P). There are four embossed TD's with small letters (Figs 1M and N), and one with larger letters (Fig. 1Q). Five 'AA' pipes (Fig. 1T) may give a brand name such as 'TD'. One 'SQUATTERS/BUDGEREE!!', with its distinctly Australian flavour, may have been made in Australia or, more likely, elsewhere, for the Australian market (Fig. 1A). In this respect it can be compared with the 'COO'EY' bowl from Port Arthur (Dane and Morrison, 1979:51), and 'EMU' and 'KANGAROO' stem sherds from the Omata Stockade.

Many of the spurs possess embossed marks perhaps giving the initials of the manufacturing craftsmen. There was a purpose in such identification since pipemakers were commonly paid by piecework. Seven of those that can be deciphered are marked 'M' just above the spur on the left side and 'G' just above the spur on the right side (Figs 1L and M). All of these have what appears to be another letter on the spur itself below the 'M', but this can in no instance be identified. Two sherds with these spurs have sufficient bowl attached for it to be determined that such spurs were on both 'TD' and 'AA' pipes.

There is one spur marked 'J' (left) and 'F' (right) (see Fig. 1K). Another appears to be marked 'W' (left) and 'C' (right). At least two more spurs, including that on the only incuse 'TD' bowl, have indecipherable marks on them.

Decoration

There were few decorated pieces in the assemblage. An almost complete bowl with spur has traditional motifs of lion and crown (Fig. 1U). Seven sherds possess ribbed or fluted decoration: four pieces (from two pipes) have fluting as shown in Figure 1R, while two are of the simpler style pictured in Figure 1S. A decorated stem (Fig. 1V) has just

enough of the bowl to show that this was fluted like the bowl pieces. One sherd displays very slight decoration resulting from a sharp edge having been run around the stem (Fig. 1W).

Discussion

The Paremata site is located on the north side of the entrance to Porirua Harbour, at the seaward margin of a sand flat which lies between the harbour and the Puautahanui Arm to the east. The site is an important one, not just for its 19th century occupation from which the clay pipe material came, but also because of underlying Maori occupation which has yielded Archaic artefacts and extinct bird bone (see Davidson, 1978). Early in the 19th century there was a Maori settlement (Paremata Pa) at the site, and this was also the location of the late 1830s whaling station of Joseph Thom.

From 1846 to 1852 detachments of the 58th, 65th, 96th and 99th Regiments were stationed at Paremata (Burnett, 1963). A substantial two-storeyed stone barrack building was erected along with an encircling stockade and other building such as canteen and bakery. While some of the clay pipe pieces may belong to the earlier Maori settlement and whaling station, the bulk of the assemblage undoubtedly relates to the military occupation. It is clear from the plans in Davidson (1978: 206 and 209) and Sinclair (1977:154) that the area dug by Sinclair and Clarkson was very close to the military canteen. The relative lack of pipe sherds in the area excavated by Davidson (see Davidson, 1978:234), where the upper part of the deposit had already been stripped away by bulldozer, suggests that most of Sinclair's material came from his squares in intact ground at the eastern side of the investigated area.

The clay pipe assemblage is a restricted one in terms of the variety of manufacturers and decoration. Of 32 pieces from five different makers (this number including the 'MAKER/MARKET' stems), 75 per cent are the product of one firm, A. Coghill of Glasgow. This is similar to the situation at Warea Redoubt in Taranaki where 63 per cent of attributable pieces come from one firm, in this instance Thomas Davidson and Company, and a further 31.5 per cent are McDougall pieces. Similarly, the Warea assemblage of 35 identified manufacturers' marks were shared by a very few firms, in this case three only. This situation can be compared with that at the Omata Stockade where although half the pieces are from the Glasgow firm of McDougall, another ten known makers are represented among the 57 attributable pieces, and more will undoubtedly be identified from the range of marked pieces as knowledge of 19th century material grows. A recently excavated assemblage from the Albert Barracks in central Auckland also displays a wide variety of makers (R. Nichol, pers. comm.).

The explanation for the limited range of pipes at Paremata, as at Warea, must be sought in the post's isolated situation and its purely military character. A limited range of pipes at the army canteen and the lack of ready access to Wellington shops saw most of the soldiers in successive detachments at Paremata smoking Coghill pipes, just as most men at Warea used Davidson pipes. The variety of pipes at Omata and the Albert Barracks clearly reflects a civilian presence and the proximity of the two posts to New Plymouth and Auckland sources of supply.

The Albert Barracks assemblage, however, does share one characteristic with that from Paremata: the Glasgow manufacturer A. Coghill is very strongly represented in both. This maker is quite absent in the total of almost a hundred attributable pieces from the two Taranaki sites. This presumably can be related to occupation date. The military first occupied Paremata and the Albert Barracks in the mid-1840s, whereas in Taranaki the Omata Stockade was occupied in the period 1860-65, and Warea Redoubt, 1865-68. It will be interesting to see if a change from Coghill to Davidson and MacDougall pipes in the middle decades of the 19th century proves general for New Zealand - or perhaps for military sites at least, or if present indications are confounded by the excavation of a few more sites. Such apparent shifts in the availability of imported manufactured items, however, does point to the prospect of being able to date 19th century sites in New Zealand from changes in brand names among the abundant artefacts of the early industrial era.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Messrs Ellis Sinclair and Ken Clarkson for making available their clay pipe material from Paremata, and also Moira White for the drawing.

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