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CLAY PIPES FROM THE CROMWELL DISTRICT, CENTRAL OTAGO

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The artefactual material discussed here was derived from surface collections and excavations undertaken in the course of the Clutha Valley archaeological programme between 1978 and 1981, under the direction of Neville Ritchie. The sites were occupied by Chinese and European goldminers, and date from the initial Central Otago goldrushes of the mid-1860s until about 1910 (see Fig. 1).

As only a limited number of manufacturers exported pipes to New Zealand, it should be possible to use pipe collections from dated sites to establish narrower time spans for New Zealand historical sites (McKinlay, 1977:136). Although the dates of occupation of some of the Central Otago sites (for example, Cromwell's Chinatown) have already been assigned from historical records and other artefactual studies, it is anticipated that an examination of pipe material from the district will supplement this information and provide comparative data for future research.

The collection consists of a minimum number of 29 clay pipes (53 sherds), and 18 other pipes (25 sherds), composed of bone and synthetic materials, making a total of 47 pipes (see Table 1). Due to the relative lack of pipe material despite the large number of sites from which the pipe components were recovered, it is feasible only to describe the diagnostic sherds, rather than attempt a detailed analysis.

No attempt has been made to describe or illustrate pipes other than clay pipes, (although the presence of other types at sites has been noted) because: neither the makers' names nor the place of manufacture is evident from the recovered sherds, and there is a lack of comparative data available to enable the pipes to be dated (this also applies to the clay pipe material to some extent).

It is necessary to examine why there are so few tobacco pipe sherds, especially in the case of large excavated sites. Five huts from Chinatown yielded only 13 pipes in total while the maximum number recovered from any one of the other sites was eight; most sites produced four or less. There are several possible reasons:

1. The Chinese may have been using the Cromwell township's rubbish removal service (Ritchie, 1980:14).
2. The Clutha or Kawarau Rivers may have served as dumps for the adjacent sites.

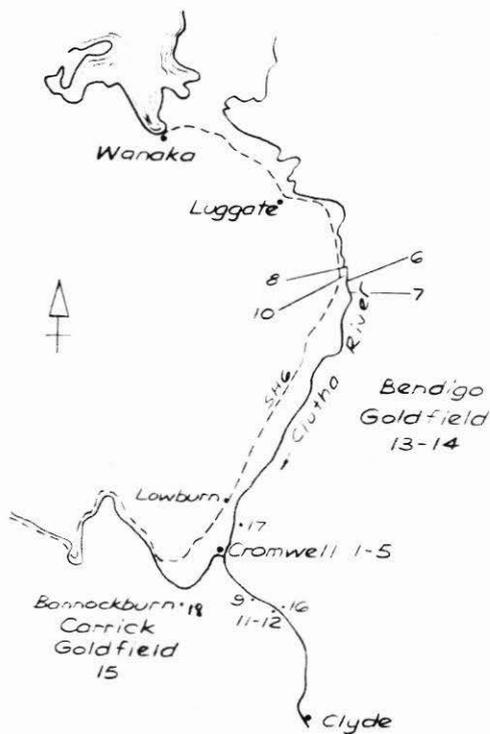


FIGURE 1. Sites mentioned in text. 1-5 Chinatown (Cromwell) S133/48; 6 Chinese miners' hut S134/212; 7. Chinese miners' hut S124/207; 8 Chinese miners' hut S124/231; 9 Chinese rock shelter S133/21; 10 European (?) campsite S124/390; 11-12 Rockfall I (S133/121) and II (S133/169) Chinese rock shelters; 13 Logantown, European mining settlement S124/272; 14 Welsh-town, European mining settlement S124/348; 15 European hut at Carricktown; Caliche (Chinese) rock shelter S133/223; 17 Firewood Creek (Chinese) rock shelter S133/424; 18 European house at Bannockburn.

SITE	CLAY PIPES				OTHER PIPES			MIN. NO. OF PIPES
	PLAIN BOWLS	PATTERNED BOWLS	EMBOSSSED BOWLS	PLAIN STEMS	EMBOSSSED STEMS	BOWLS	M.P.'S/ STEMS	
Chinatown								
Hut unnamed					1 471 WAT...?			1 clay
Hut 16						1 wood	3	3 other
Hut 18						2 wood	3	3 other
Hut 23	2					1 wood		2 clay
								1 other
Hut 26			1 BEN NEVIS CUTTY		1 A. TABIS?/ GAMBIER	1 wood		2 clay
								1 other
S124/212	2	1	1 WHITE'S RIFLE CUTTY	3				1 3 clay
								1 other
S124/207 QB II	1							1 1 clay
								1 other
S124/231	1	1	1 BEN NEVIS CUTTY (W.WHITE, MAKER)	2	1 W.WHITE/ GLASGOW			3 clay
S133/21	1						1	1 clay
								1 other
S124/390	1			1				1 clay
S133/121 Rockfall I	1		1 W.T. BLAKE LONDON	2				2 clay
S133/169 Rockfall II	2			2				3 clay
S124/272 Logantown	1							1 clay
S124/348 Welshstown				1				1 clay
Hut at Carricktown					1 112 DAVIDSON/ GLASGOW			1 clay
S133/223 Caliche			1 illegible		1 DAVIDSON/GLASGOW	2	6	1 1 clay
					1 illegible			7 other
S133/424 Firewood Creek			1 BEN NEVIS CUTTY					3 clay
House at Bannockburn			2 BEN NEVIS CUTTY 1 BEN NEVIS PIPE		1 illegible			3 clay
TOTALS	12	2	9	16	7			29 clay
								18 other

TABLE 1. Distribution of clay pipes in Cromwell sites.

3. There is a possibility that clay pipe breakages would have occurred more often at work sites, rather than dwelling sites. Consequently the broken pipes were discarded at work sites.
4. Some areas may have been fossicked, although there was little evidence of systematic fossicking in any of the sites. Furthermore, fossickers would be unlikely to remove all broken pipe sherds.
5. The evidence suggests that opium smoking may have been more prevalent than tobacco smoking amongst the Chinese population (Table 2).

Site	Opium	Clay	Other
Chinatown (S133/48)	22	6	7
Firewood Creek (S133/424)	40	3	-
Caliche Shelter (S133/223)	2	1	7

TABLE 2. Minimum numbers of pipes recovered from excavated sites. (opium data from Ritchie and Harrison, 1981:40).

The evidence from Chinatown and Firewood Creek tends to support the hypothesis that opium smoking was preferred to tobacco smoking, although all five factors may in part account for the lack of material. There was also a noticeable lack of tobacco tins in the sites but this may be attributable to the fact that they decompose more readily than the brass opium tins.

Eight of the 13 pipe stems recovered in the Chinatown excavation were composed of a synthetic black material, whilst the pipe bowls were made of wood, which had largely decomposed. The presence of synthetic pipes is attributed to the latter period of the occupation, although the date of introduction of synthetic pipes is unknown. Similarly, in Caliche Shelter, six of the eight recovered stems were composed of synthetic material (7 black, 1 amber). The other pipe remains include one clay pipe bowl and two embossed clay stem sherds. In this instance, the synthetic pipe types are believed to be associated with a later occupation by rabbiters (about 1930).

#### Manufacturers and brand names

Four manufacturers have been identified from this assemblage. A further three pipes bore unidentified makers' names (see Fig.2).

Brand	Stem sherds	Bowl sherds
W T BLAKE/LONDON		1
112 DAVIDSON/GLASGOW	2	
A TABIS (?) (Gambier & Co.)		1

WHITE'S RIFLE CUTTY		1
W WHITE/GLASGOW	1	
BEN NE(V)IS CUTTY		6
Unidentifiable		
471 WAT---(/)/GLASGOW (?)	1	
---- NTEER/(?)	1	
See 18(a) Fig. 15	1	

TABLE 3. Manufacturers' and brand names (see Figure 2).

Famous for their portrait head pipes, Gambier and Co. manufactured in Ardennes, France. From 1865 until 1895 they had offices in Carter Lane, London (Oswald, 1975:115). William White operated in Glasgow from 1908 until 1955, and also in London between 1838 to 1879 and 1884 until 1899. The firm advertised itself in the nineteenth century as the largest manufacturer of clay pipes (Prickett, 1981:129). Thomas Davidson and Co. (Caledonian Pipeworks) were in business in Glasgow from 1863 until 1910. William Thomas Blake operated in City Road, London, from 1873 until 1898.

#### Discussion

Pipes which could be dated to their period of manufacture in London or Glasgow were recovered from the following sites:

1. S133/48 (Hut 26, Chinatown) Gambier and Co., London:1865-95
2. S133/424 (Firewood Creek), European house site, Bannockburn.
3. S124/212; S124/231: William White, Glasgow and London: 1838-1955. (S124/212 and S124/231 date no later than 1910, Ritchie, pers.comm.).
4. S133/121 (Cromwell Gorge) W T Blake, London: 1873-98.
5. S133/223 (Caliche), Hut at Carricktown: T Davidson & Co., Glasgow: 1863-1910 Carricktown was virtually abandoned by 1880 (Parcell, 1976:86).

Pipe bowls marked BEN NEVIS CUTTY (Fig. 2E) (one of which also had the maker's name, W. White, Glasgow) came from several sites. They make up 60% of the bowl collection. They were recorded from the following sites: Hut 26, Chinatown, S124/231 (Upper Clutha), Caliche, Firewood Creek, and the European house site at Bannockburn.

Most of the pipe bowls were of plain construction. The pipe depicted in Figure 2J has a foot-like attachment at the base of the bowl, whilst three had raised ridges extending as far as could be ascertained, from the top of the bowl to the beginning of the stem (Figs. 2M, N and O). The only decorated

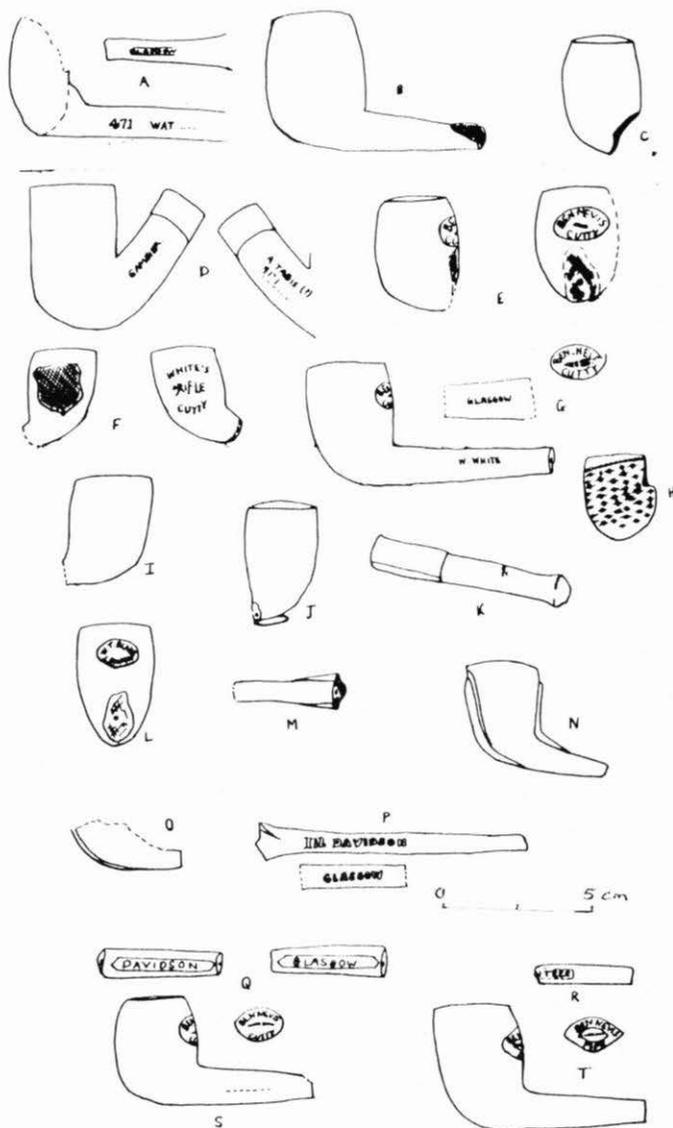


FIGURE 2. Clay pipes from the Cromwell district.

pieces were the patterned bowl (Fig. 2H) and the bowl embossed WHITES RIFLE CUTTY, which has a shield on the opposite side.

The documentation of sequences of changes in brand names, in approximately dated sites has considerable potential for accurately dating historic sites. For example, the limited evidence presented here supports the hypothesised change suggested by Prickett (1981:131) that Coghill (Glasgow) pipes were replaced by Davidson pipes in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Despite the limited sample, the inferred dates are generally consistent with the dates of occupation of central Otago sites as determined by dating matchboxes (D. Anson, pers.comm). The heyday of pipe-making in Glasgow was about 1875-85 - also the time of its largest export of clay pipes (Walker, 1971:23). Although an attempt was made to determine if there were any ethnic preferences (ie, Chinese or European) for particular pipe styles, the limited evidence precluded this.

It is concluded that in order to gain more useful information from pipe material it will be necessary to further define the years in which makers exported their pipes to New Zealand. To this end, historical records, such as sales catalogues and shipping manifestos, may yield useful information.

#### Acknowledgements

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