

NOTES UPON CLAY TOBACCO PIPES OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FOUND IN BRISTOL.¹

By F. G. HILTON PRICE, D.R.S.A.

Since I had the pleasure of reading a paper before this Institute in 1900 upon "Some early Clay Tobacco Pipes found in the City of London" I have had the good fortune to receive from Mr. John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., a very interesting account of some early tobacco pipes of the seventeenth century found in the City of Bristol during recent excavations. In addition to this information he has kindly presented me with some excellent examples of these pipes, which bear upon the heels either the names of the makers or their initials, and he has further most kindly given me permission to exhibit and publish these pipes as a supplement to my previous paper. In that paper I remarked that in order to definitely fix the dates of the manufacture of the pipes it was necessary that a thorough investigation into the records of the pipe makers in various places should be undertaken, as had been done by Mr. Thursfield in the parish registers of Broseley, in order to ascertain when the makers lived, together with the marks they used.

I am glad to be able to state that Mr. Pritchard has been searching the lists of the burgesses of the City of Bristol and has made some valuable discoveries concerning pipe makers in that city. Excavations appear to have been proceeding, and in some rubbish pits he has found many pipes, together with Bristol farthing tokens of 1652, a piece of Delft pottery dated

¹ Read July 3rd, 1901.

1647, and a brass seal top spoon, all corroborating the dates of the pipes.

All the pipes sent to me belong to the middle of the seventeenth century, and the best known makers of whose handicraft he has found specimens are various members of the Hunt family, *i.e.* Thomas Hunt, John Hunt, Jeffry Hunt, and Flower Hunt.

In my former paper, when describing pipes bearing the names of Thomas and John Hunt, I remarked that these Hunts had a factory in the vicinity of Bath in the early part of the seventeenth century, and that these pipes belong to the period covered by the reigns of James I. to Charles II. Thus it will be seen that I was not far out in their date; but I was wrong as to the locality of their factory.

The specimens then exhibited and since figured in the *Journal*¹ are of the same shape as those now shown from the Bristol find, but are nearly double the size.

Three of these Hunts, *i.e.* Jeffry, John, and Flower, were admitted freemen of the City of Bristol in 1651; and another pipe bearing the name of Nathaniel Howell on the heel is precisely of the same form and size as the foregoing, and from the list of burgesses it is seen that he was also admitted to the freedom in 1651.

In addition to these Mr. Pritchard found examples of the pipes of other makers—Thomas Smyth, admitted a freeman in 1651, who placed his initials T.S. on the heel; Philip Edwards, whose mark was P.E., admitted in 1649, and his son in 1680; Humphry Partridge, H.P. on the heel, admitted in 1650; and a few others whose initials and marks have not yet been identified.

The following is a list and description of the pipes exhibited:—

I will begin with those made by the Hunts, as they are all of the same form and like those found in London by the same makers. These pipes are of elegant shape, with a graceful lean back from the heel.

John Hunt, admitted a freeman of the City of Bristol, 23rd May, 1651.

¹ LVII, 224-240.

His mark is

IOH
N·HU (Fig. 1.)
NT

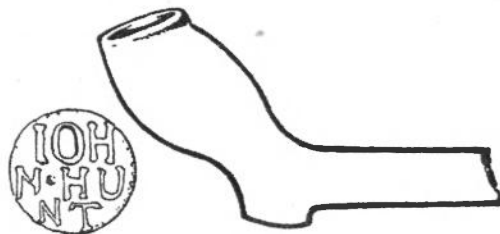


FIG. 1.

Flower Hunt, admitted a freeman 23rd May 1651. His
pipes are marked FLO
WERH and FH. (Figs. 2, 3.)
VNT

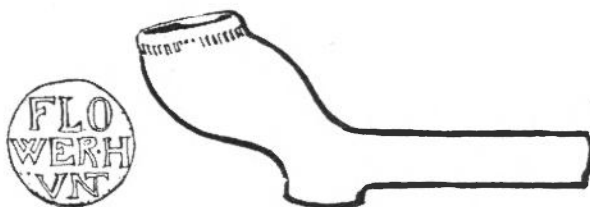


FIG. 2.

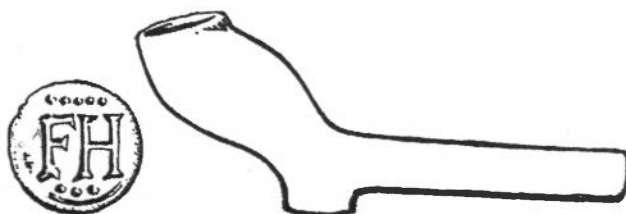


FIG. 3.

Jeffry Hunt, admitted a freeman in 1651. His mark is
IEF IER
FRY·H (Fig. 4), which must be the same as RYH shown
VNT VNT

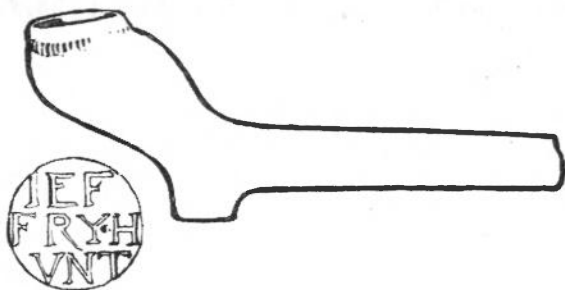


FIG. 4.

on p. 105 of *Jottings in the Stonehenge Excursion*, 1876, by the late Edward T. Stevens, F.S.A., the name Jerry being incorrectly drawn.

Another specimen by probably the same maker is marked IH, *i.e.* Jeffry Hunt. (Fig. 5.)

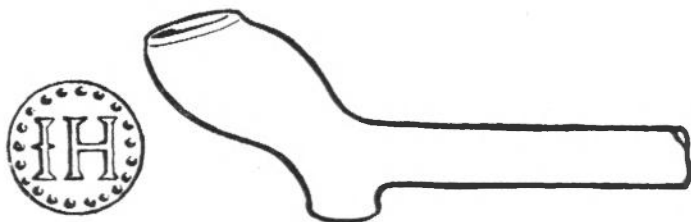


FIG. 5.

Nathaniel Howell, admitted to the freedom 1651.

His pipes are marked $\begin{matrix} \text{NATH} \\ \text{HOW} \\ \text{ELL} \end{matrix}$ (Fig. 6.)

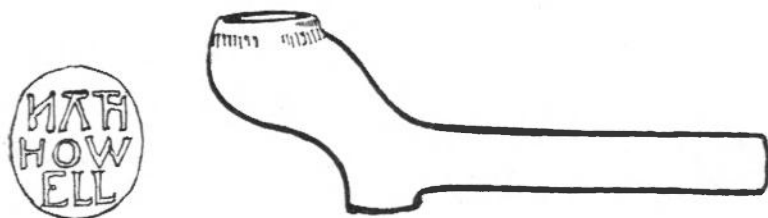


FIG. 6.

The next specimens are of a short barrel-shaped form, less elegant in outline.

Pipe marked HP upon the heel was made by Humphry Partridge, who was admitted to the freedom of Bristol in 1650. (Fig. 7.)

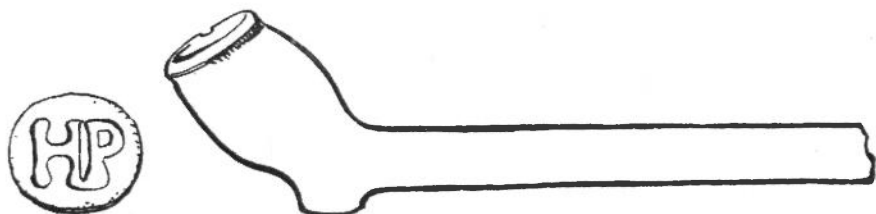


FIG. 7.

Pipes marked TS are ascribed to one Thomas Smyth, admitted a freeman in 1651; three specimens, the bowl of one more elongated than the others. (Figs. 8, 9, 10.)



FIG. 8.

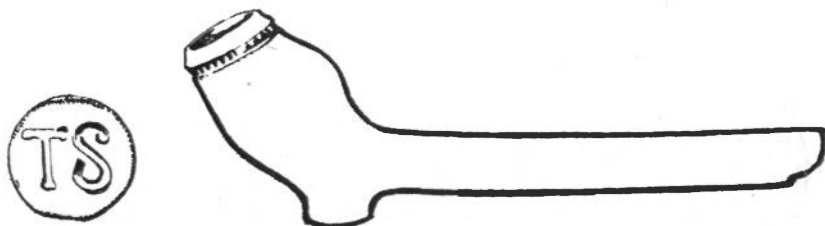


FIG. 9.



FIG. 10.

Other pipes of the same shape marked PE bear the initials of one Philip Edwards, who was admitted a freeman in 1649 (three specimens). (Fig. 11.)

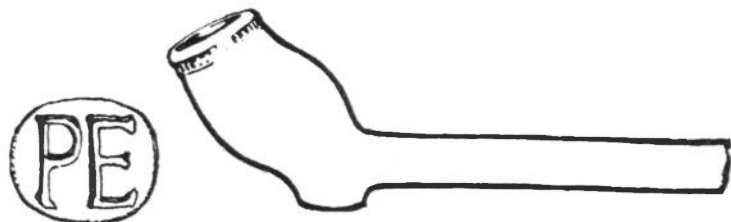


FIG. 11.

Pipe marked R·N is larger and of stouter make, more like the shape of the Hunts than any others. (Fig. 12.) It was probably made by Richard Nunny, who was admitted a freeman in 1655.

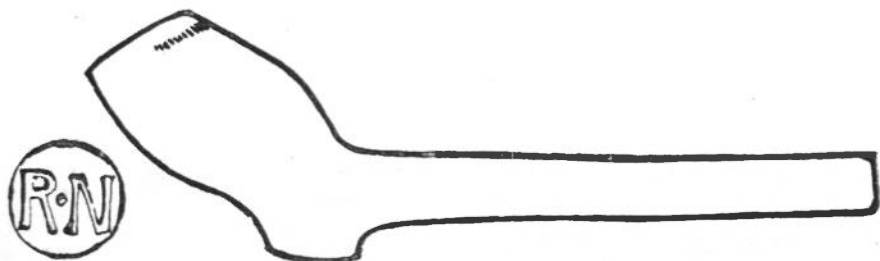


FIG. 12.

Pipe marked HS is similar in form to that by Thomas Smyth, but the maker is unidentified. (Fig. 13.)

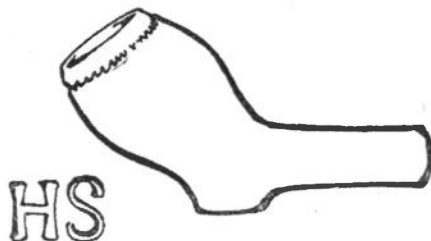


FIG. 13.

Pipe marked EC is of a short barrel shape, and the initials are unidentified. (Fig. 14.)

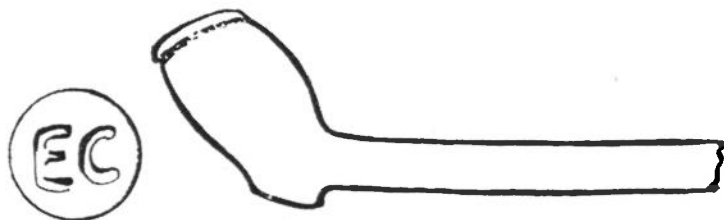


FIG. 14.

Pipe marked TM (?). The maker is as yet unknown (Fig. 15.)



FIG. 15.

Pipe marked with what looks like a maple-leaf in a small circle varies in form somewhat from any of the foregoing. (Fig. 16.)

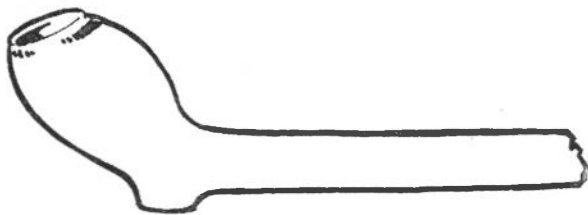


FIG. 16.

A pipe with a plain heel and longer stem and a narrow barrel-shape bowl (Fig. 17) Mr. Pritchard tells me he

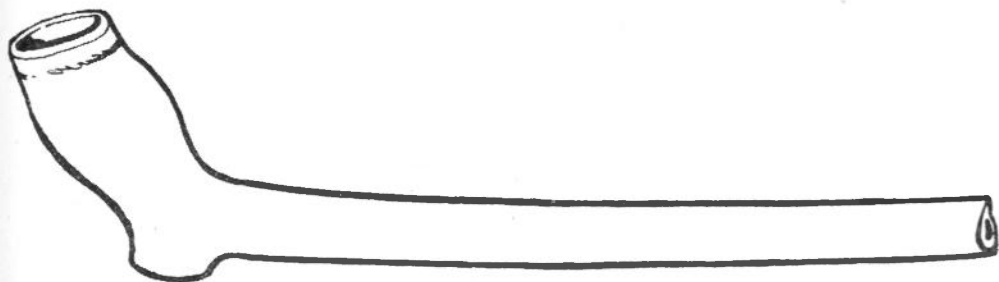


FIG. 17.

can date *circa* 1662. It is, however, singularly similar to a specimen marked TS ascribed to Thomas Smyth. Most of these latter pipes are like those described in my first paper as belonging to the period between James I. and Charles II., which appears to agree satisfactorily with their actual dates.

In addition to the above, specimens bearing the following marks were met with in the course of the excavations :—

An anchor, W.C., I.H., E.L., A.N., C.B., R.B., EDWARDS, L., T.M., and I.P., also a specimen of the celebrated "Gauntlet" pipe.

I cannot conclude these notes without again thanking Mr. Pritchard for his gift of these pipes, which has enabled me to place this valuable information on record. And I hope that he will be able further to investigate the subject, and trust that others when they have the opportunity will examine the registers of their cities or towns for the like results.