
8 THE POTTERY JC MURRAY

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8.1 SUMMARY REPORT JC MURRAY

LINLITHGOW PREHISTORIC POTTERY

A small quantity of prehistoric pottery, characteristic of W neolithic pottery found in Scotland, was recovered during the excavations at Linlithgow friary. Several sherds derive from a post pit which produced charcoal samples radiocarbon dated to $3315 \pm 55\text{bc}$, possibly making this one of the earliest groups of neolithic pottery from Scotland. A full report is contained in Chapter 8.3mf (11:G9-10).

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Medieval and post-medieval ceramic was recovered from all three Carmelite friaries excavated, but quantities were small, frequently abraded with much of the earlier medieval ceramic occurring in residual deposits.

With regard to the Perth and Aberdeen sites, the pottery recorded is typical of the range found on a wide variety of domestic sites excavated over the last decade or so (Murray 1982; Holdsworth 1987), and due to the small quantity and fragmentary nature of the material, does not allow for any useful comparative studies. The friary at Linlithgow, although having produced the largest quantity of ceramic recorded from the three sites, has still not produced sufficient for a study of the vessel types and forms in use prior to and during the development of the friary. It does, however, extend our knowledge of the range of wares, both local and imported, in use in central Scotland in an area where previous archaeological investigation has been limited (see Chapter 8.5mf, 12:A3-10).

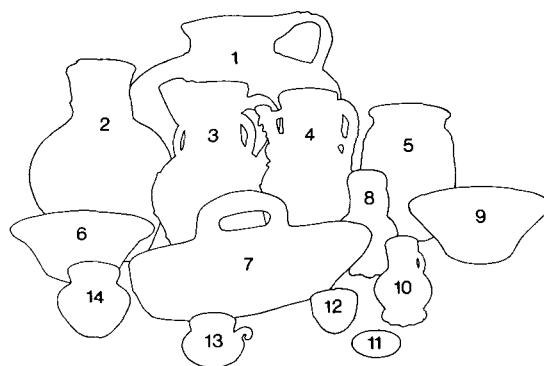
A limited range of non-Scottish ceramic was recovered from all three friaries (see Table 59) but it must be stressed that with the exception of the Scarborough ware, other imports are frequently represented by as little as one, or at most, a handful of sherds. Table 59 therefore merely indicates the presence of these imports at each friary and due to the small quantity and condition of the ceramic recovered is not expressed in percentage terms. Also, while it has been possible to identify the source of the pottery from the body sherds present, in many cases the exact form of the vessel remains unknown.

Of the Scarborough ware from Aberdeen, one example is a zoomorphic jug spout (Ill 86mf, 1, 11:G8) similar to one found some years ago at 42, St Paul Street (Murray 1982, ill 95, no 742), while two other sherds (Ill 86mf, 2, 31, 11:G8) bear portions of the animal decoration commonly found on knight jugs (Ill 85).

Although many of the imported wares were probably in use in all three friaries, the presence of some (especially those earlier and much abraded wares) must be due to the manuring of the friary areas prior to their construction or the movement of 'night soil' from other sites, especially in the burghs of Perth and Aberdeen. The occurrence of the 16th-century Surrey White ware (a rare find in Scotland) at Linlithgow may, as Lindsay points out (see Chapter 8.5mf, 12:A3-10) be due to contact



ILL 85 : Main types of pottery vessels associated with medieval and post-medieval activity at Aberdeen, Linlithgow and Perth Carmelite friary sites. 1) Jug, locally produced, Linlithgow (15/16th century). 2) Jug, locally produced, Aberdeen (13/14th century). 3) Zoomorphic jug, Scarborough ware, Aberdeen (13/14th century). 4) Knight jug, Scarborough ware, Aberdeen (13/14th century). 5) Cooking jar, S Scottish, Aberdeen (13/14th century). 6) Bowl, locally produced, Linlithgow (15/16th century). 7) Dripping pan, locally produced, Linlithgow (15/16th century). 8) Jug, locally produced copy of imported stoneware, Linlithgow (15/16th century). 9) Bowl, locally produced, Linlithgow (15th century). 10) Drinking vessel, Raeren stoneware, Perth (16th century). 11) Dish, locally produced, Perth (15/16th century). 12) Cup or mug, locally produced, Aberdeen (17/18th century). 13) Ladle, Rhenish, blue-grey, Aberdeen (13/14th century). 14) Beaker, locally produced, Aberdeen (13/14th century).



between the friary there and the founding Carmelite house at Aylesford, Kent, just prior to the Dissolution.

The study of ceramic industries in medieval and post-medieval Scotland on a regional basis is seriously impaired by the paucity of kiln evidence for the main production centres. Regardless of this, a range of fabrics and vessel types found at each friary, because they predominate or are not exactly paralleled elsewhere, are described as being of 'local' origin. These are, of course, regarded as being local to each specific area and we have little knowledge as yet of where precisely they were produced or how far their distribution extended. The predominant local vessel forms from all three sites are jugs and jars in the earliest periods with the addition of bowls (cf Ill 86mf, 50, 51, 11:G8; Ill 85) and a dripping pan (Ill 87mf, 56, 12:A10; Ill 85) found at Linlithgow. At Perth and Aberdeen the range of forms show little variation from the range of forms found on other domestic sites, with the exception of a small dish (Ill 88mf, 58, 12:A13) from the Perth friary which, as has been

stated (Chapter 8.6mf, 12:A11-13) has not been found elsewhere in Perth and may, therefore, have served a specific ecclesiastical function.

At Kirkstall Abbey, Moorhouse (1987, 102-7) has demonstrated how a study of the spatial distribution of pottery on the site can be used to interpret stratigraphic relationships, and the uses of specific areas of buildings on the site. Regrettably no such study was possible at any of the three Scottish friaries published here. In the case of Aberdeen and Perth this is due to the very small portion of each friary excavated, while at Linlithgow, where considerable portions of the friary complex were excavated, the bulk of the pottery came from insecure contexts in the claustral area.

Each site report has been divided into periods and given date ranges based almost entirely on the pottery. The exception to this is Period 3 at Linlithgow which contained a number of coins (see Chapter 9.5.7mf, 13:A3-14). Accepting that a silver penny of Edward I (258) and some of the pottery is clearly residual in this context, a billon penny of James I (260) provides an extremely useful and important mid 15th-century date for the introduction and use of the locally-produced bowl 51 (Ill 87mf, 12:A10; Ill 85) in the post-medieval range of vessel types.

In general the pottery recovered from all three friaries dates between the 13th and 18th centuries, but because of the disturbed nature of most of the contexts and the problems of residuality, caution must be exercised when using the dates given to each period. A breakdown of period and date is given in each individual site pottery report (Chapters 8.2mf, 11:G1-8; 8.5mf, 12:A3-10; 8.6mf, 12:A11-13).

Table 59 Aberdeen, Linlithgow, Perth. Non-Scottish medieval and post-medieval pottery.

	ABERDEEN	LINLITHGOW	PERTH
SCARBOROUGH WARE (13/14th century)	X (cat no 1,2,30,31)	X	X
YORK WHITE WARE (13/14th century)	X	—	—
SURREY WHITE WARE (16th century)	—	X	—
AARDENBURG-TYPE WARE (14th century)	X	—	X
LOW COUNTRIES RED WARE (14/15th century)	X	—	—
LOW COUNTRIES GREY WARE (14th century)	—	—	X
BLUE-GREY WARE (RHENISH) (13/14th century)	X	—	—
ROUEN WARE (13th century)	X	—	—
SAINTONGE GREEN-GLAZE WARE (14th century)	—	X	—
VALENCIAN LUSTRE WARE (15/16th century)	—	—	X
BEAUVAIS SCRAFFITO WARE (16th century)	—	X (cat no 53)	—
SIEGBURG STONEWARE (14th century)	X	X	—
LANGERWEHE STONEWARE (14/15th century)	X	X	—
RAEREN STONEWARE (15/16th century)	X	X	X
WESTERWALD STONEWARE (17/18th century)	—	X	—

8.2 ABERDEEN POTTERY JC MURRAY

In microfiche 11 : G1-8

8.3 LINLITHGOW PREHISTORIC POTTERY T COWIE

In microfiche 11 : G9-10

8.4 LINLITHGOW ROMAN POTTERY WJ LINDSAY

In microfiche 11 : G11

8.5 LINLITHGOW MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY WJ LINDSAY

In microfiche 12 : A3-10

8.6 PERTH POTTERY NL MACASKILL

In microfiche 12 : A11-13