

PART I of this article described briefly the development and decline of the tin-glazed pottery industry in London. The importance of this centre should be stressed as potters probably from London moved out to establish workshops in Bristol, Liverpool, Ireland and Glasgow¹. Once established, these and the London workshops provided a pool of experienced potters and decorators who moved from one pottery to another, making it difficult to attribute a ware or decoration to a particular workshop without the evidence of excavated material from a waste dump. It was this problem which instigated the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society's research programme and eventually led to the excavation of the kilns now to be described on a site in Lambeth. The general location of the site was described in Part I (S2 on map).

Documentary Evidence

The site is marked *Pot H* on Rocque's map of 1737-1746 and the adjacent area to this is called *Potters Fields* on Horwood's map of 1799 (see map part I *pf*). The first documented owner of this workshop was James Barston, first heard of in Lambeth in 1680, although he was already well established as a potter in Southwark for some 17 years before this date². The workshop remained in the Barston family until in 1721 it passed by marriage to the Chilwell family from Vauxhall, in whose hands it remained until about 1785 when it is described as derelict. Other documentary evidence suggests the pottery declined about the middle of the 18th century. The structures uncovered were near the site of Norfolk House which appears to have been converted for industrial use about the year 1680.

Excavation

The remains of two kilns (see map, part I *k*) were located, both having been partly destroyed by later concrete footings and also badly damaged by building operations before and during the period of the excavation. Kiln A was represented by an area of burning and ash between two red brick walls 6ft. apart. Almost the whole of this structure had been destroyed and in the short time available every effort was made to excavate the most substantial structure (B).

The southernmost structure, Kiln B, (fig. 1) was covered by a layer of loose rubble left by the drag-line operator. When this was removed a rectangular structure was exposed orientated North/South with its western side destroyed by the existing concrete

1. A. Ray, *English Delftware Pottery* (1968).

2. Personal communication, Miss R. Edwards.

LONDON T POTTERY -

Excavation of an 18th century



IN-GLAZED

2

y Delftware Kiln in Lambeth

By BRIAN BLOICE
JAMES THORN



Fig. 1 Kiln B from south-east with ash layers removed.

(Photo: George Willson)

footings. Its total length was 12 feet and the width of the surviving structure was 6 feet although at the southern end a brick platform or floor projected a further 2 feet eastwards.

The north wall (F1 on plan) was 2 feet wide and survived to the greatest height of 2 feet; the east wall (F2) was 2 feet wide but had been almost totally destroyed at its southern end (2, 3); no wall was found to the south. Contained within these red brick walls was an uneven grey floor (stippled on plan and sections) composed of fused clay and bricks on end, which had been subjected to extreme heat for a length of 6 feet from the north wall. The southern part of the floor (F4) was unburnt and probably represents the stoking or rake out area as the upper course (4) was covered with a thin layer of black carbon deposit. A possible relining or corbelling of the north wall was found (1) which projected over the several ash layers (2-5 on section) which were superimposed above the kiln floor to a height of 16 inches. From the east wall of the kiln a structure (F3) projected out for 2 feet; some indication of burning on this brickwork suggests that this could have been part of a flue. Section A-B shows details of the north wall (1) and the southern floor (F4) with details of the bonding of the eastern wall (2).

The whole structure had been constructed by cutting a 9 inch depression into brown clay (6) and it would appear that the kiln floor was laid down finally on a thin layer of broken brick and pottery fragments (layer 1). A small amount of extremely fragmentary pottery was contained within the ash layers; the pottery in the lower black ash (layer 2) was extremely highly fired to a black, hard consistency. The red ash (layer 4) contained very friable pottery and saggars suggesting exposure to burning together with many fragments of brickwork, possibly derived from an upper kiln chamber.

The Wares

In general the pottery from within and around the kilns, in addition to that from the loosely stratified associated groups from the area of the site marked *Potters Fields* on the 1799 map, included delftware tiles, plates, drug-pots, bowls, chargers, cups and mugs mostly in a once fired biscuit condition, together with kiln furniture such as saggars, pegs, trivets and supports. The manufacture of these wares involved two processes of firing in a kiln. The first stage brought the pottery to the biscuit state, which was fired at a temperature of 850°C. The second process is where the wares had been glazed and decorated and were ready for the final consolidation of the glaze at a firing temperature of 1,100°C. The drawings illustrated here are mainly of biscuit wasters which generally show on the exterior turning marks

and sometimes a slight vibration known as "chatter" on the surface. On the interior are slurry marks, usually done with a wet cloth or sponge, especially on the rims as in No. 18 (fig. 2) where slurry was found on the underside of the rim profile. On glazed wares scars left by kiln furniture can be detected on the underside of the rims, but with No. 13 on the inside.

A selection of the wares found at Norfolk House is illustrated (fig. 2) out of a known 120 types recovered from the kilns and 15 groups of deposited wasters. The final publication type number in the Appendix is given for future reference and the source and location of similar specimens are indicated. Where no location is indicated the specimen is housed in the Cuming Museum, Southwark, and is from one of the Society's previous excavations.

Conclusions

The excavations established the position of two kilns and led to the recovery of a substantial part of the ground plan of a delftware kiln. The part surviving represents the ash and firing chamber; the pottery oven, which would have been above the surviving structure, had been completely destroyed by the later building activity. The kiln was 12 feet in length and although only 6 feet of the width survives, evidence exists to suggest a square kiln. Clay tobacco pipes found with the wares suggest a date of 1680 to 1750 for the dumped pottery groups, whilst a tentative date for the final firing of the kiln is 1725-50.

Considering that these are the first tin-glazed

earthenware kilns excavated in Great Britain, it is hard to draw analogies except with documented Continental kilns. It would appear that in England the rectangular plan is confined to the tin-glazed earthenware industry, as contemporary and later coarseware and stoneware kilns were circular in plan. Illustrations of an Italian maiolica kiln³ of 1560, a Dutch delftware kiln of 1737⁴ and a French delftware kiln of 1760⁵ show that they were all based on the rectangular plan; the only common use of a rectangular kiln in this country is represented by a number of tile kilns. The intrusive nature of this industry is thus indicated and the later British potters who were making delftware continued to use the type of kiln introduced by the first immigrant potters from the Netherlands.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance given by the staff of the London, Cuming, Guildhall, and Victoria and Albert Museums in allowing us free access to their respective reserve collections.

The continuing work in Southwark and Lambeth is made possible by the generous support of the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth, the Surrey, and London and Middlesex Archaeological Societies, The Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Public Building and Works, together with the continuing enthusiasm of the many volunteers from the Society who assist not only in the excavations, often in extremely trying and difficult conditions but who are carrying the study further than the trowel by assisting in the final publication with scrubbing brush and pen.

Excavations during July and August, 1969 in Montague Close, adjacent to Southwark Cathedral under the direction of Graham Dawson have uncovered a large dump of delftware kiln furniture, biscuit and glazed pottery.

Short preliminary reports of the Southwark and Lambeth excavations may be obtained free of charge from the Keeper, Cuming Museum, Newington District Library, Walworth Road, S.E.17, where the majority of the finds from the excavations will be deposited.

Appendix—see over

3. Cipriano Piccolpasso, *Three Books of Potters Art* (c1560) translated by B. Rackham and A. V. de Putl (1934).
4. Tile Picture in Ryksmuseum, Amsterdam dated 1737 showing kiln in Bolsward factory.
5. Diderot et D'alembert, *Encyclopédie des Sciences Des Arts et des Métiers* (1752-65).

Future Issues of

the London Archaeologist

will include articles by

MARIAN CANHAM—A Medieval Pottery Kiln at Kingston.

JOHN CROSS—Conservation.

NICHOLAS FARRANT — Romano-British Settlement at Putney.

DOROTHY GRIFFITHS — Pottery-making techniques.

M. KENSEY & R. EDDINGTON—Cast Iron Aqueduct at Clay Hill, Enfield.

PETER MARSDEN—Further Work on the Huggin Hill Roman Baths.

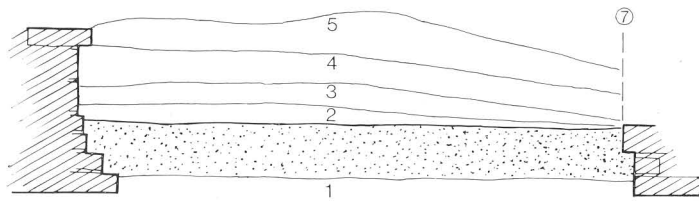
RALPH MERRIFIELD—Folk-lore in London Archaeology—2: Post-Roman Period.

DEWI MORGAN—St. Bride's Church.

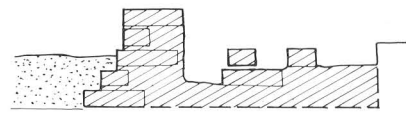
ROSALIND SANDFORD—Neolithic Occupation at Twickenham.

NORFOLK HOUSE, LAMBETH : 1968

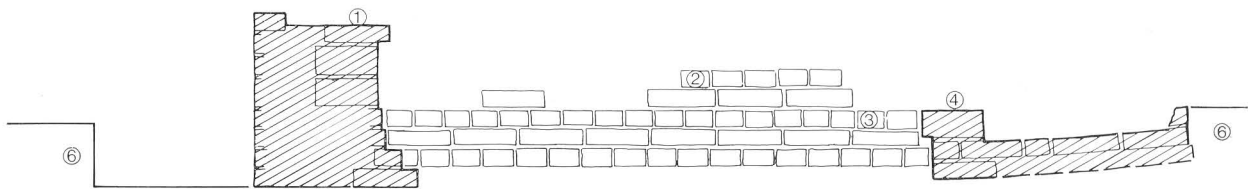
KILN B



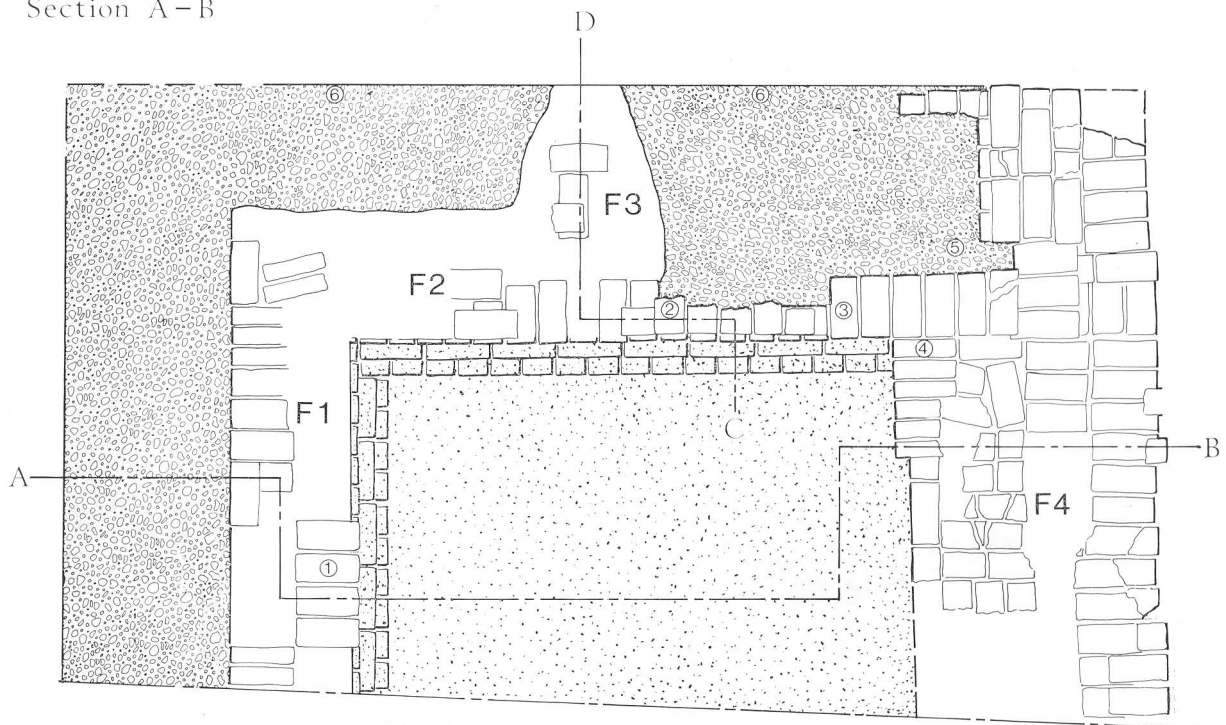
Section of ash layers



Section C-D



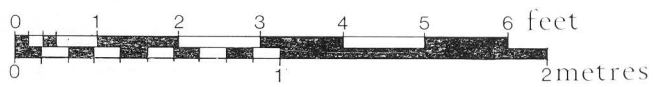
Section A-B



Plan



Scale



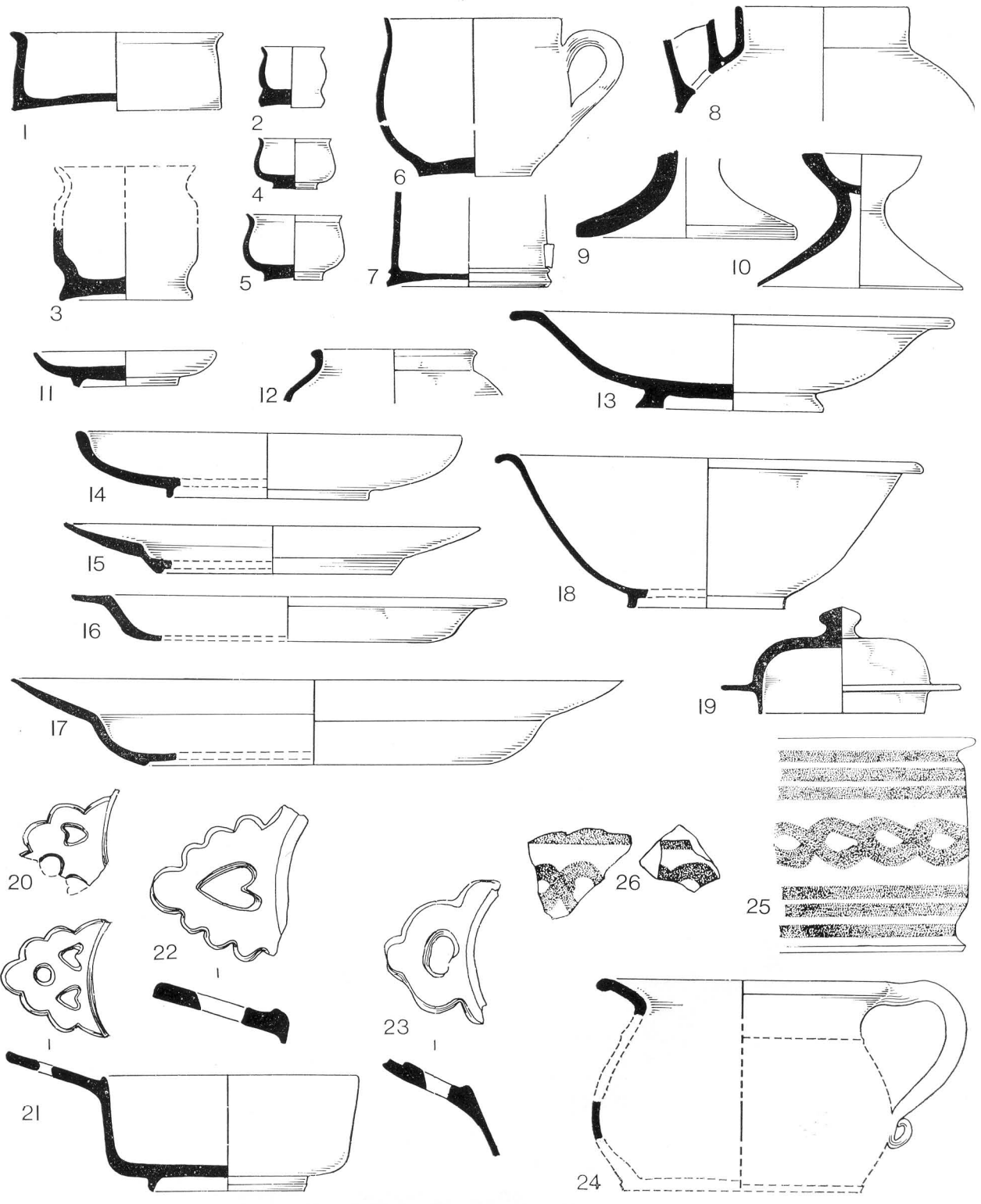
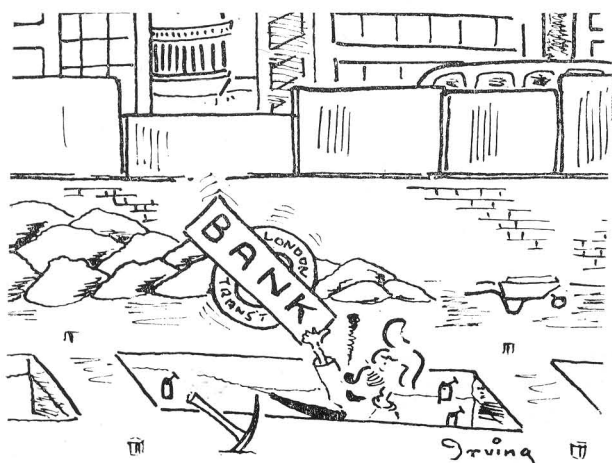


Fig. 2. Pottery types from the Norfolk House site, Lambeth (1/3).

London Tin-glazed Pottery—Appendix

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Type 91 Wide-mouthed drug pot. White glazed similar one found with other kiln material at Royal Festival Hall: (County Hall).</p> <p>2. Type 99 Small drug pot. Similar one found in Kiln B and recovered at Kennington Palace.</p> <p>3. Type 87 Larger version of No. 2. Similar ones found at Hay's Wharf, Southwark: (Guildhall Museum), Lambeth High Street and Kennington Palace.</p> <p>4. & 5. Types 101/2 Two sizes of bag-shaped drug pot, one of which is known to be the same as that at Lambeth High Street.</p> <p>6. Type 62A Bag-shaped mug known at Lambeth High Street and in the Garner Collection; (Victoria and Albert Museum).</p> <p>7. Type 64 Large tankard with evidence for an applied looped handle, also found at Lambeth High Street and Potters Fields, Southwark.</p> <p>8. Type 66 Upper portion of wet drug pot generally having a base similar to No. 9, never yet encountered on any other known kiln dump sites.</p> <p>9. Type 67 Base of candlestick, same characteristics as one found at Hibernia Wharf, Southwark: (Guildhall Museum).</p> <p>10. Type 68 Salt, parallels only at Lambeth High Street.</p> <p>11. Type 36B Saucer, only known parallels in Garner Collection: (Victoria and Albert Museum), Royal Festival Hall, (County Hall).</p> <p>12. Type 72 Upper portion of rimmed jar. No known parallels.</p> <p>13. Type 21 Very small version of a charger of which decorated fragments showing a crown and part of a monogram were recovered from Groups I and XIV, which were found close to the kiln area. From the associated pipe evidence it seems likely that it belongs to the period 1670-90.</p> | <p>14. Type 34 Hors d'oeuvre dish. No known parallels.</p> <p>15. Type 26 Plate with counter-sunk foot-ring known to occur at seven different kiln sites.</p> <p>16. Type 30 Flanged plate. Similar example known only in the Garner Collection. (Victoria and Albert Museum).</p> <p>17. Type 22 Large dish with angled flange and counter-sunk foot-ring. Known to occur at three kiln dump sites.</p> <p>18. Type 50 This is a bowl with out-turned rim, a type which was found with a portrait of a monarch with the monogram WR III on the Doulton site: (Victoria and Albert Museum) and at Lant Street, Southwark in Pit D.</p> <p>19. Type 75 Lid to unknown vessel. Similar lid found at Lambeth High Street.</p> <p>20. Type 60B Lobed handle with two cut-out hearts and a roundel. No known parallels.</p> <p>21. Types 55 & 60A Porringer with lobed handle attached shows the cut-out hearts reversed compared with illustration above. For T60B parallels of this porringer are known from four kiln dump sites although in two of these dumps the T60A handle is attached to a different porringer profile.</p> <p>22. Type 56 Seven-lobed heart-shaped porringer handle of which no parallels are known.</p> <p>23. Type 59 One-lobed porringer handle with hole. Examples are known from two kiln dump sites in this country.</p> <p>24. Type 78 Small chamber pot, similar one found in Kiln B. This seems to be one of the most vital pieces of ware to be manufactured as fragments were recovered in large quantities from all of the 15 groups.</p> <p>25. & 26. Type 83 Drug jar. A type most commonly found on kiln dump sites and in domestic refuse. A decorated example is illustrated here which compares with fragments of the same motif discovered in Kiln B, (No. 26).</p> |
|--|---|

IN A HOLE



"Now, that's useful!"

Current Excavations

City, Huggin Hill, Upper Thames Street by Guildhall Museum and City of London Archaeological Society. Site of Roman public baths, part of which was excavated in 1965 (see *London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Transactions* Vol. 21, p.194, 1967). Inquiries to Peter Marsden, Guildhall Museum, Gillett House, 55 Basinghall Street, E.C.2. Society inquiries to Mrs. M. Smith, 26A Noel Road, N.1. (01-359 2078).

Mucking, by the Ministry of Public Building and Works. Ranges from a ditch of the late Bronze Age to Saxon Graves (see *the London Archaeologist* No. 1). Excavation takes place seven days a week. Inquiries to Excavation Supervisor for M.P.B.W., Mucking Excavations, Stanfords-le-hope, Essex.

Northolt, by Northolt Archaeological and Historical Research Group. The site is the medieval Manor but there is also an important early Saxon phase. Work continues on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Inquiries to C. H. Keene, 21 Islip Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex.