

VESSEL GLASS (Fig. 44) by J. Haslam

Discussion

In this category there are two clearly defined types: vessels of probably indigenous manufacture, of pale green glass; and imported vessels, with one exception of southern European, probably Italian, manufacture.

English Glass

Fragments of 7 individual vessels can be identified. These are:

Phase	No.	Vessel Type
Phase 3/1	1	vessel of indeterminate form
(or earlier)	21	" "
	[22]	" "
Phase 4/2	6	urine inspection flask
Phase 5	16	vessel of indeterminate form
U/S	2	base of large flask
	15	urine inspection flask

The two identifiable vessel types, the large flask (2) and the urine inspection vessels (6 and 15), are common finds in medieval contexts, both occurring for instance in later medieval groups in London.¹

Imported Glass

There are fragments of 7 different vessels of medieval date, all of them from Phases 4/2 and 5. These are:

Phase	No.	Vessel Type
Phase 4/2	4 & 13	vessel of white (probably originally colourless) glass with blue-green trails.
	18	vessel of pale yellowish-green glass.
Phase 5	5	bulbous vessel in nearly colourless glass with yellowish tinge, with applied prunts.
	17	base of drinking vessel, clear glass.
	19	kuttrolf, blue glass.
	20	fragment of uncertain form, clear glass.
	23	rim, clear glass.

These are of particular interest, in that they represent a group from the latest phase of occupation of the manor (Phase 4/2), and from layers resulting from its destruction (Phase 5). They are therefore all likely to have been in use by 1415 at the latest, when

their probable owner, Reynold Barentin, left the manor.² They thus represent one of the more interesting groups of imported glass from a domestic context in the country. From the fact that Reynold Barentin had close connections in London (his uncle was a wealthy London goldsmith) it is a reasonable inference that these glass pieces would have been obtained there. Glass from Venice is documented as being imported into London in 1399, implying that it was an established item of trade.³

While most of these vessels are represented by fragments of too small a size to permit certain identification of vessel type, a number of broad identifications can be suggested. Nos. 4 and 13, decorated with greenish-blue applied trails, belong to a class of Italian imports of the 14th century.⁴ These comprise cups, flasks, bowls and tall-stemmed wine glasses. Possibly also belonging to this class is the vessel with applied prunts (No. 5). The other fragments are from possibly undecorated vessels, the common 'cristallo' of southern European origin.⁵

The single exception is the fragment of the kuttrolf (No. 19), of blue glass. This is from a bottle with a neck constricted to form several narrow channels, and used as a dropper for pouring small quantities of liquid such as scents.⁶ Finds of this type are rare from English contexts; three from unassociated contexts, of green glass, are known from London.⁷ These appear to be of northern European manufacture, as well may be the find from Chalgrove.

Post-medieval glass

There are a number of small fragments of glass bottles of the 18th and 19th centuries (8, 10-12, 14, and ?22). None of them is either large or significant.

Window Glass (see also 'Window Glass' report by Jill Kerr)

Amongst the items of vessel glass studied were finds of window glass from medieval contexts, all in very fragmentary and decayed condition. These are: Nos. 7 (Phase 5), 9 (Phases 3/3 - 4/2), and 16 (Phase 5). They show little more than that the windows of the 14th- and 15th-century manors were glazed with glass which had a marked green tinge. It could however be inferred from the rarity of finds of window glass from the site that the windows of the manor were removed (in their frames) when the building was abandoned or demolished in the 15th century, a common practice which reflected the comparative rarity and expense of domestic window glass in the early 15th century.⁸

Catalogue

(please note: phases in square brackets [] do not agree with probable dates of the finds).

1. Small fragments of originally probably green glass, much decayed, from vessel of indeterminate form (pre 1255 - c. 1300). SF541, F68, 69, 70, 71, Phases 1-3/1.
2. Part of base of large flask of green glass, much decayed; late medieval. SF542, U/S.
3. Small fragment wine bottle, olive green glass; late 18th century. SF25, U/S.

4. Small fragment of vessel, possibly a lid, thin opaque white glass (possibly originally colourless), with decoration of 2 horizontal applied trails of greenish-blue glass 1 mm. thick, one of which ends in a thicker blob (the beginning of the trail). Probably same vessel as No. 13. SF187, F639/1, Phase 4/2, Group 10.
5. Two fragments of thin, colourless glass with slight yellow tinge, unweathered, from cylindrical or tall bulbous vessel of diameter approx. 8cm. Each fragment decorated with an applied prunt, 7-10 mm. width, in the same coloured glass, with slightly pinched top; probably Italian. SF221, F726, Phase 5, Group 23.
6. Fragmentary remains of thin-walled vessel, probably green glass (?urine inspection vessel). SF227, F561, Phase 4/2, Group 21.
7. Completely decayed fragment of ?window-glass. SF534, F134/1, Phase 5, Group 23.
8. Small fragment wine bottle, olive green glass. Probably 18th century. SF543, F548/1, [Phase 4/2], Group 20.
9. Fragment of window glass, much decayed, slightly curved with one edge possibly grozed. SF544, F554/1, Phase 3/2-4/2, Group ?11.
10. Fragment of wine bottle, olive green glass. Probably 18th century. SF545, F621/1, [Phase 4/2], Group 19.
11. Nine fragments of late post-medieval vessel-glass, dark green, light bluish-green and light brown glass. Probably all 18th-19th centuries. F186, 186/1, [Phase 5], Group 23.
12. Three fragments of wine bottle, dark green glass; 1 fragment phial, light green glass. All 18th century. F284, [Phase 5], Group 23.
13. Small fragment of vessel, thin opaque white glass (possibly originally colourless), with remains of 2 applied trails of greenish-blue glass 1 mm. diam., 8mm apart; probably Italian. F639/1, Phase 4/2, Group 10.
14. Bag full of small fragments vessel glass, dark or pale green glass; all late post-medieval. U/S.
15. Many small fragments of thin-walled vessel, possibly a urine inspection vessel, glass much decayed; medieval. SF16, F45, Phase ?
16. Several small fragments of completely decayed glass, either vessel or window. SF265, F234/1, Phase 5, Group 23.
17. Folded base of drinking vessel, clear glass with slight brownish tinge, weathered on surface; probably Italian. SF266, F186/1, Phase 5, Group 23.

18. Small fragment of pale yellowish-green glass, without noticeable curvature - window or vessel; probably Italian. SF269, F923/1, Phase 4/2, Group 10.
 19. Fragment of curved tube attached to flat flange, from neck of kuttrolf, pale blue glass; probably northern European. SF282, F523/1, Phase 5, Group 20.
 20. Small fragment of clear, colourless glass, no decoration; possibly Italian. SF284, F935, Phase ?5
 21. Small fragments of much decayed, pale green glass, 2.5 mm. thickness, from vessel of indeterminate form. SF290, F971/1, Phase 3/1, Group 7.
 22. Small fragment of pale olive green glass from vessel of uncertain form. Possibly post-medieval. SF302, F999/1, [Phase 3/1], Group 7.
 23. Two joining fragments of rim of vessel, colourless glass only slightly weathered; Italian. SF306, F119, Phase 5, Group 23.
- Fragment of glazed stone. F666/2, Phase 5, Group 23.

Notes

1. Haslam forthcoming, 'Medieval glass finds from London'. 2. See 'The Manorial History of Chalgrove', p...
3. H.A. Gasparetto, 'Les Relations entre l'Angleterre et Venise aux XVI et XVII Siecles et leur Influence sur les Formes Verrieres Anglaises', in R.J. Charleston et al (eds.), *Studies in Glass History and Design* (1968), 68; R.J. Charleston, 'The Glass Finds', in C. Platt and R. Coleman-Smith *Excavations in medieval Southampton 1953-1969*, vol. 2 (1975), 206.
4. Charleston op. cit. 204; R.J. Charleston, 'The Glass', in S. Moorhouse 'Finds from Excavations in the Refectory at the Dominican Friar, Boston', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 1:7, (1972), 45-8; see also H. Tait, *The Golden Age of Venetian Glass*, (British Museum 1979), 11.
5. Charleston op. cit. (1975), 205-7.
6. W.A. Thorpe, *English Glass* (1935), 41-3; H. Rademacher, *Die Deutschen Glaser des Mittelalters* (Berlin 1933), 60-70.
7. Museum of London accession nos. A12601 and A27738, and one nearly complete piece from the collection of Dove Brothers. These probably date from the 15th or 16th centuries. See Haslam, forthcoming.
8. L.F. Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540* (2nd ed. 1967), 185.