NOTES UPON SOME EARLY CLAY TOBACCO PIPES, FROM THE SIXTEENTH TO THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES, FOUND IN THE CITY OF LONDON, IN THE POSSESSION OF THE AUTHOR.

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Before proceeding to describe the old pipes, I think it may be as well that I should preface these notes, by giving a short account of the introduction of tobacco, and for that purpose I cannot do better than make some quotations upon the subject from the interesting book entitled *Tobacco: its History and Associations*, by the late F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A., published by Chapman and Hall in 1859.

It is not certain whether the use of tobacco was known in the East before the discovery of America, but it has been supposed by some authorities that it was probably smoked by the Chinese long before.

Tobacco is said to have been first introduced into Europe by Franceso Hernandez, a Spanish physician, about 1560, who had been commissioned by his Most Catholic Majesty Philip II. of Spain to visit Mexico. Jean Nicot, Lord of Villemain and Master of Requests of the French King, was sent in 1559 as ambassador to the Portuguese Court, and while at Lisbon he purchased some tobacco seed from a Flemish merchant who had obtained it in Florida. This he sent to the Grand Prior of France, and the herb was originally known as *Herbe du Grand Prieur*. When Nicot returned to France in 1561 he presented the Queen, Catharine de Medicis, with some of the plants, and its name was then altered in compliment to her to *Herbe de la Reine*, and *Herbe Medicée*. The native name of Petun was, however, occasionally used. But all were allowed to fall into disuse for one constructed in honour of the original importer; thus *Nicotiana* became its recognised name, a term still preserved to us in *Nicotine*,

the scientific name for the essential oil the tobacco plant contains.

After receiving a variety of different names in many parts of Europe, the Spanish name *tabaco* triumphed over all and became (with slight variations) that universally recognised. The Spaniards still use the name in its old purity of spelling; the Portuguese and Italians add an additional letter and term it *tabacco*; we alter the first vowel improperly and call it *tobacco*; the Poles term it *tabaka*; the Danes and Swedes shorten it to *tobak*; the Germans, Dutch, and Russians spell it *tabak*, a close approach to the French *tabac*.

When tobacco was first introduced it was thought to be a panacea for all sorts of diseases and ailments, and was considered especially beneficial in cases of the plague and gout, as also against hunger and thirst.

It is a very vexed question to determine the period at which tobacco was first introduced into England, as is also the question as to who first introduced it; the honour has been variously assigned to Sir Walter Raleigh, Mr. Ralph Lane (Governor of Virginia, who returned to England in 1586), Sir John Hawkins, Captain Price, Captain Keat or Koet, and others.

Mr. Llewellyn Jewitt[1] states that it has been inferred that herbs and leaves of one kind or another were smoked medicinally long before the period at which tobacco is generally believed to have been brought into England. Coltsfoot, yarrow, mouse-ear, and other plants are still smoked by the people for various ailments in rural districts. He further states that he has known them smoked through a stick from which the pith had been removed, the bowl being formed of a lump of clay rudely fashioned at the time, and baked at the fireside.

Pennant, in *Tour in Wales*, 1810 (Vol. II, p. 151), speaks of Captain Myddelton, who fought at Azores in 1591: "It is sayed that he, with Captain Thomas Price of Plasyollin, and one Captain Koet, were the first who smoked, or (as they called it) 'drank tobacco publickly,' in London, and that the Londoners flocked from all parts

[1] *The Reliquary*, Vol. III, 1862-3, p. 74.

to see them. Pipes were not then invented, so they used the twisted leaves or segars." He gives this on the authority of the Sebright MS., and adds: "The invention is usually ascribed to Sir Walter Raleigh. It may be so, but he was too good a courtier to smoke in public, especially in the reign of James." Yet he enjoyed his pipe. At first they smoked silver pipes, but the ordinary folk before the introduction of the clay pipe used a walnut shell and a straw. It appears that one pipe was handed round from man to man when it first came into fashion as noted in Barnaby Rich's *Irish Hubbub* (1622): "One pipe of tobacco will suffice three or four men at once." This same writer records an amusing story of "a certain Welchman newly come to London, and beholding one to take tobacco, never seeing the like before, and not knowing the manner of it, but perceiving him vent smoke so fast, and supposing his inward parts to be on fire; cried out, 'O Jhesu, Jhesu man, for the passion of Cod hold, for by Cod's splud ty snowt's on fire,' and having a bowle of beere in his hand, threw it at the other's face, to quench his smoking nose."

In the early days of James I. smoking was called drinking tobacco, which no doubt originated in the practice of inhaling the smoke and passing it out through the nose. As an illustration: "We'll stay here to drink tobacco," *Miseries of Inforced Marriage*, 1607. (Dodsley's Old Plays.)

The term was used until the middle of the seventeenth century, for the catalogue of Rubens's effects, sent over by Sir Balthazar Gerbier to Charles I. in 1640, calls a Dutch picture of smokers "The Tobacco Drinkers."

Paul Hentzner, who visited England in 1598, notes the constant custom of smoking at all public places. He visited the Bear Garden in Southwark, and says:—"At these spectacles, and everywhere else, the English are constantly smoking tobacco, and in this manner: They have pipes on purpose, made of clay, into the farther end of which they put the herb, so dry that it may be rubbed into powder, and putting fire to it, they draw the smoak into their mouths, which they puff out again, through their nostrils, like funnels, along with it plenty of phlegm and defluxtion from the head."

At the beginning of the seventeenth century smoking had become so general that even the ladies indulged in it, and there are many allusions to the practice to be found in contemporaneous literature.

Tobacco in the early part of the seventeenth century was very expensive. Amongst the Penshurst papers is a note of expenses of Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, among which occurs 3*s.* for one ounce of tobacco. This was within three years of its first introduction into England and would be equivalent to about eighteen shillings of our present money.

Whittaker, in his *History of Craven*, p. 275, says: "The last heavy article of expense was tobacco, of which the finest sort cost 18*s.* per pound and an inferior kind 10*s.*"

In 1626 we read in the diary of Sir Henry Oglander, of Nunwell, Isle of Wight, that he paid 5*s.* for eight ounces of tobacco. I think the fact of the great expense of tobacco at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries fully accounts for the smallness of the bowls of the clay pipes. Smoking became so general that our King James I., who detested it, sent forth his *Counterblast*, which was soon followed by other crowned heads. In Russia it was punished with amputation of the nose, in the canton of Berne in Switzerland it ranked in the table of offences next to adultery, whilst Urban VIII. in 1624 excommunicated all those who used tobacco in churches, and Innocent XII. in 1690 did the same. Amarath IV. of Turkey even tried to suppress it by inflicting cruel punishments, as did the King of Persia. King James did not attempt to inflict any torture, but did all in his power to damage the cause of tobacco. He is thus described in the *Ingoldsby Legends* in the "Witches' Frolic": —

> "A gentleman called King James,
> In quilted doublet and great trunk breeches,
> Who held in abhorrence tobacco and witches."

He wrote very strongly against what he called an "evil vanitie," saying, amongst other things, "that it was the lively image and pattern of hell and that it was like hell in the very substance of it, for it is a stinking

loathsome thing; so is hell!" And further, "His Majesty professed that, were he to invite the devil to dinner, he should have three dishes; 1. a pig; 2. a pole of ling and mustard; and 3. a pipe of tobacco for digesture."

The importation duty up to this time was 2*d.* a pound, but he brought in an Act raising it to 6*s.* 10*d.* a pound.

Notwithstanding this, smoking increased, and hundreds of songs and poems in praise of it, and against its use, were written.

During the reign of Charles I. no alteration was made in the restrictive laws against tobacco. He, like his father, continued its sale only as a royal monopoly.

Cromwell believed with King James I. that growing tobacco in England was "thereby to misuse and misemploy the soill of this kingdom"; and he sent his troopers to trample down the growing crops wherever they found them.

At the restoration King Charles II. confirmed the laws for the suppression of its culture.

During the Great Plague tobacco was recommended as a preventive of infection, and it is said to have been used by the doctors attending the sick and by all people who came in contact with them, and those conducting the dead carts round the city always smoked pipes. Pepys in his Diary, under date 7th of June, 1665, writes: "The hottest day that ever I felt in my life. This day, much against my will, I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors, and 'Lord have mercy upon us!' writ there; which was a sad sight to me, being the first of the kind that to my remembrance I ever saw. It put me in an ill conception of myself and my smell, so that I was forced to buy some roll tobacco, to smell to, and chaw, which took away my apprehension."

Again, on 3rd November, 1665, Pepys records that he went to Greenwich, upon business of the Fleet. "We after this talked of some other little things and so to dinner where My Lord infinitely kind to me and after dinner I rose and left him with some Commanders at the table taking tobacco."

The same author mentions that on one occasion tobacco smoke was used for a horse suffering with the staggers by blowing it into his nose (Vol. VII, p. 72).

Towards the end of the seventeenth century, with William III., tobacco smoking increased and the bowls of the pipes became much larger. The incorporation of the craft of tobacco pipe makers took place on the 5th October, 1619. "Their privileges extending through the cities of London and Westminster, the kingdom of England and dominion of Wales. They have a master, four wardens, and about twenty-four assistants. They were first incorporated by King James in his seventeenth year, confirmed by King Charles I., and lastly on the twenty-ninth of April in the fifteenth year of King Charles II., in all the privileges of their aforesaid charters."

We are all familiar with the small clay tobacco pipes which are constantly being unearthed in all parts of the kingdom. Large quantities have been found in those places where soldiers have been quartered, notably where troops of King Charles I. and the Parliament have held their camps, or where there have been plague pits, or in the vicinity of towns. They are most especially numerous in the City of London, where they are found buried beneath the foundations of buildings, in cesspits, and elsewhere. During the excavations at Temple Bar some twenty years ago a large quantity were found in the cesspits, etc., on the site of the "Old Devil" tavern and the "Sugar Loaf" tavern.

The specimens I now exhibit were all found in the City and represent a fairly typical collection from the time of Queen Elizabeth to that of George II. These pipes have had different names and dates assigned to them in different places. For instance, the old pipes are called "Fairy Pipes" and "Danes' Pipes," "Mab Pipes," "Elfin Pipes," "Celtic Pipes," "Old Man's Pipes," "Cromwellian Pipes," etc. The usual name for them in Ireland is "Fairy Pipes," and in Scotland they are known as "Elfin Pipes."

The smallness of the bowl of the earliest examples is doubtless due to the great expense of tobacco in those days. These pipes have been even found in close

proximity to Roman remains, and some people have been puzzled to know what period they could assign them to, and it is stated that such specimens have been described in the Antwerp Museum as Roman! (See footnote p. 166 in "Fairholt.")

It is somewhat difficult to classify these pipes in chronological order, owing to insufficient data, so few of them having been found bearing dates. I have therefore arranged them very much in accordance with their size, considering those with the very small bowls to be the earliest, and taking into consideration the arrangement of pipes in the Guildhall Museum and elsewhere. I have classified them as follows[1]:—

Cards Nos. I, II, III, IV contain, in my opinion, the earliest forms in my collection. Beginning with No. I, which contains nine specimens, it will be seen that they all have very small bowls with flat heels to rest them upon. Four of them are stamped on the heels with the maker's initials or his marks, thus: I.R., S,  ,  , and some of these specimens have a kind of milled pattern round the mouth of the bowl (see Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4).

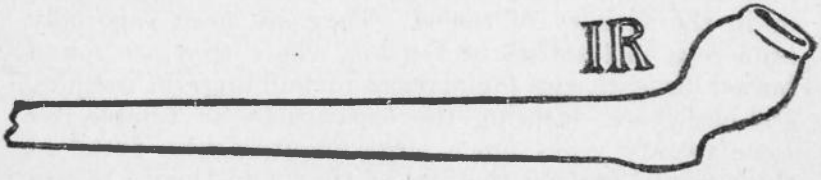


FIG. 1.

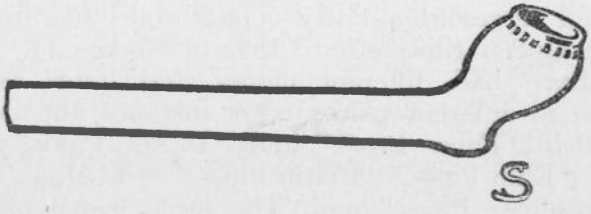
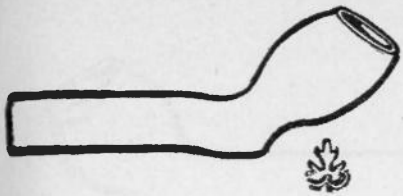


FIG. 2.

[1] As a matter of convenience in exhibiting these pipes, when the paper was read in the rooms of the Institute, June 6th, 1900, they were affixed in groups to cards, of which frequent mention is made in this paper. Selections have been made of the most interesting specimens for illustration. All illustrations are drawn to the full size of the originals.



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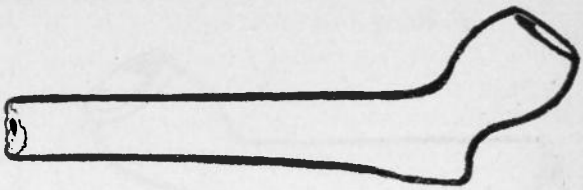


FIG. 4.

Card II also contains nine pipes, three of which have been well smoked. Two of them are quite black. They are much of the same form as on the preceding card. Two of them have marks stamped upon the heels—W.B. and S. (see Figs. 5, 6).

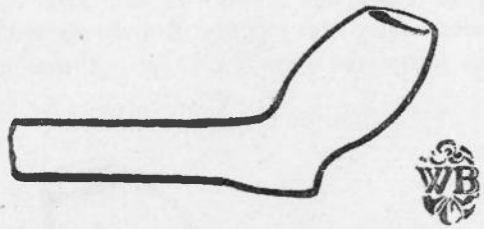


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

Card III gives examples of pipes of various form. The two specimens on the top of a cup-like shape, without either flat heel or spur, with a rim round the mouth, very thick stems, and stamped upon the heel with RA and IL respectively, are certainly of very early date (see Figs. 7, 8). But whether they be earlier than the specimens on Cards I and II, I cannot say, though I feel convinced that they must belong to the latter part of the sixteenth century; the other specimens on Cards III and IV are in my estimation of the same period. The last pipe upon Card IV is perfect and measures 7 inches in length (see Fig. 9). I think these four cards of pipes may be assigned to the end of the sixteenth century, that is to say, the reign of Queen Elizabeth,

and the beginning of the seventeenth century, the reign of King James I.

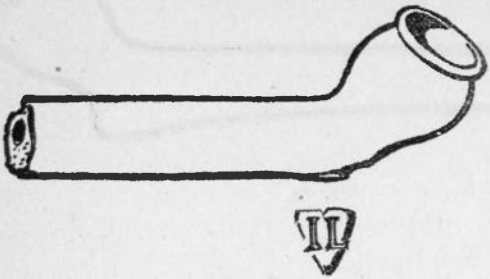


FIG. 8.

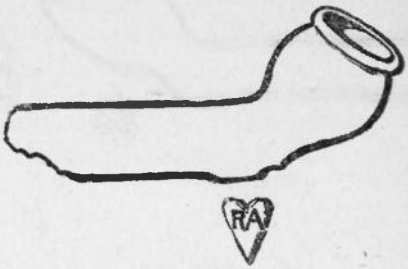
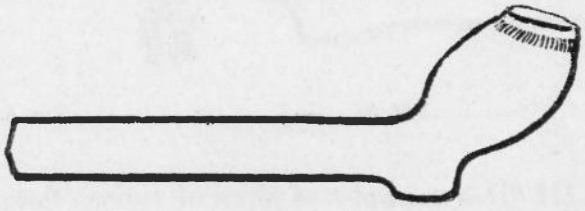


FIG. 7.

Card V.—This contains specimens of pipes belonging to the first half of the seventeenth century, that is to say, from the time of James I. to Charles II. They were all found in Childs' Place in 1878, on the site of the "Old Devil" tavern; they have plain flat heels without any makers' marks whatever (see Fig. 11). These pipes

FIG. 11.



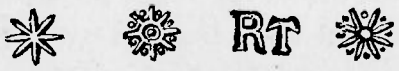


FIG. 11A.

are interesting to look upon, as they may very well have been used by famous people who frequented this tavern, to say nothing about Simon Wadlow the vintner and Ben Jonson, who was one of its most celebrated frequenters.

Card VI.—The pipes upon this card are of precisely similar forms and belong to the same period.

Card VII.—The specimens upon this card may be considered to cover the same period as the last; they are,

however, somewhat more interesting in consequence of their having the makers' marks stamped upon the heels, which heels are of rounder form than the foregoing, with the exception of one marked R.T. The other specimens are simply stamped with star-shaped marks of various designs, the makers of which we are at present unable to identify (see Fig. 11A).

FIG. 10.

The three extra marks (Fig. 10), are upon pipes of the same type as the preceding.

FIG. 12.

The next card, No. VIII, contains five pipes of similar shape bearing makers' initials upon the heels: I.B., W.B., I.R., H.S., and may be considered to belong to the first part of the seventeenth century, that is to say, up to the reign of Charles II. (see Fig. 12). The pipe marked I.A. (see Fig. 13) on the heel is somewhat larger and of barrel-shaped form, but may be included in the same period, it being merely a variety of the manufacture, as also may be the four pipes upon Card X, which are precisely similar, only without any marks on the heel; the remaining two, together with the four on Card XI and

Card XIA, are of different form and with long stems and small bowls which are furnished with a pointed heel and bear no makers' marks (see Fig. 14).

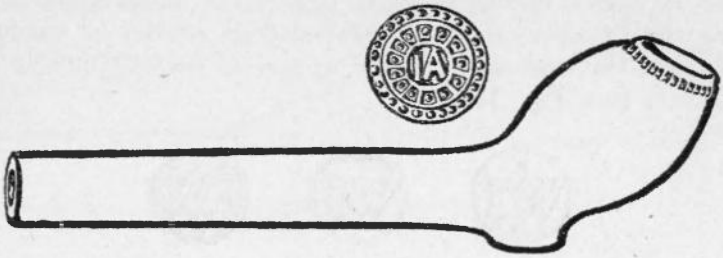


FIG. 13.

This style of pipe I am inclined to consider of slightly later date than the flat-heeled specimens, say late Charles II. or James II. It has been surmised that this pointed form of heel was introduced from Holland.

No. IX contains three pipes of quite a different shape from the preceding examples. They are barrel-shaped and possess flat heels stamped with the names of John Hunt and Thomas Hunt (see Figs. 15, 16). The third

FIG. 17.

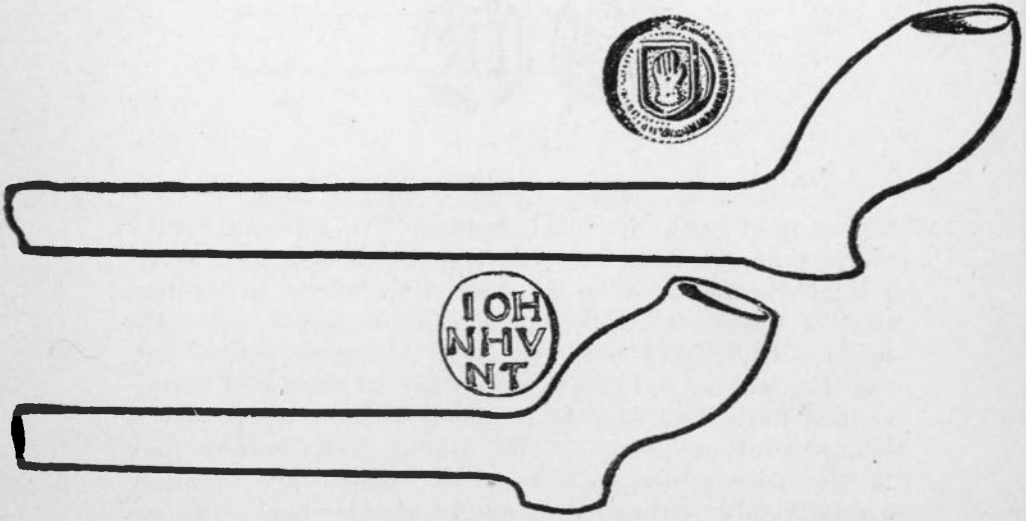


FIG. 15.

is stamped with an open hand, the badge of a celebrated pipe-maker named Gauntlett (see Fig. 17), whose factory was near Winchester, and from which circumstance these pipes were called Gauntlett pipes. Samuel Decon, of Broseley, employed the same mark, with the addition of his initials S.D., late in the seventeenth century and early in the next.

The Hunts had a factory in the vicinity of Bath in the early part of the seventeenth century. Therefore these pipes probably belong to the period from James I. to the end of the reign of Charles II. The shapes of these pipes are very similar to those found at Broseley by Richard Thursfield, figured in his paper "on Old Broseley," in the *Reliquary*, Vol. III, 1862–3, p. 80, which

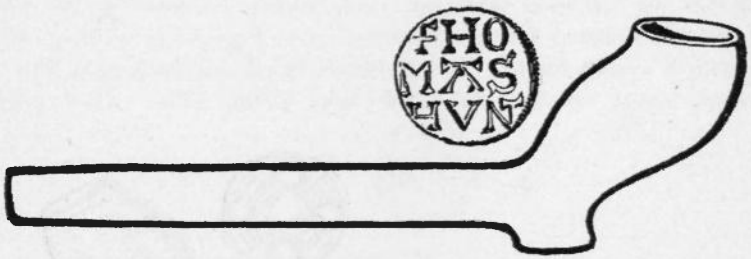


Fig. 16.

he has been able to date from 1600 to 1729 by reference to the Broseley parish registers, he having found a great many with the names of the makers on the spur or heel. These specimens were disposed of to Mr. Bragg, and are now in the British Museum.

Upon making a careful examination of these old pipes, it will be observed that many of the older forms appear to have been scraped by hand into shape after coming out of the moulds.

The pipes upon Card XII are probably of Dutch origin, as they compare very well with the specimens in Bragg's Collection—marked pipes from Holland, with the exception of the fifth or last pipe on the card marked G.B. upon the upper part of the stem close to the bowl, which is English, and probably belongs to the time of

James II. (see Fig. 18). Pipes decorated in the manner in which these are, are rather rare.

Fig. 18.

The top one on the card is curiously ornamented with bands of various designs, one band consisting of the letter B several times repeated (see Fig. 19). The bowl, though quite small, has a cross-lined pattern and has a mark upon its flat spur or heel (Fig. 19). This pipe

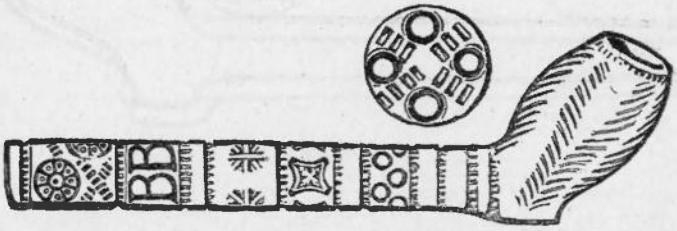


Fig. 19.

I consider to be of Dutch origin, and it may be regarded as belonging to the first half of the seventeenth century.

The next under consideration is a stout little pipe which has probably been twice as long, and has been broken off in the middle of the stem, where two milled lines encircle it; above this on the top of the stem are five *fleurs de lis* stamped upon it, and below the lines were probably some more, as the upper part of another is visible. It has a flat heel with maker's mark consisting of the figure of a bird standing with open wings (see Fig. 20).

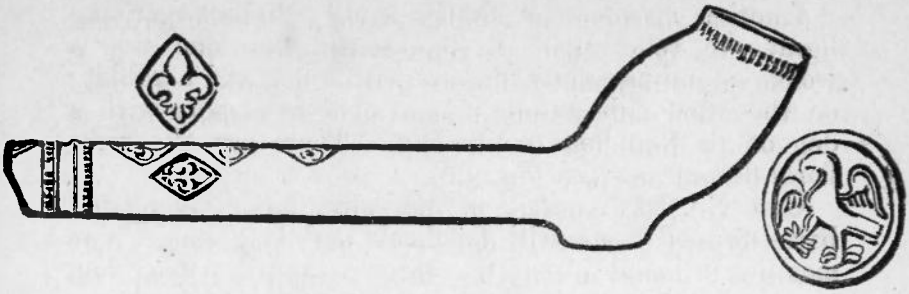


FIG. 20.

Another pipe of unusual shape, made of a more vitreous sort of clay, has slight milling round the rim, and a round flat heel marked D.D. It has also a concentric milling round the centre of the stem, which is very thick. It is evidently of the seventeenth century and possibly of foreign origin, and is very similar to the pipe marked with *fleurs de lis* last described (see Fig. 21).

FIG. 21.

The next bowl is small and has a face in profile on each side of it, surrounded with floral decorations in relief (see Fig. 22).

FIG. 22.

Another specimen of similar style, a little larger, has figures in relief upon it, representing on one side a woman standing amidst flowers with a dog and a rabbit; on the other side stands a man clad in armour with a dog on its hind legs beside him. There are also some floral decorations (see Fig. 23).

Card No. XIII consists of nine pipes having elongated barrel-formed bowls with flat heels and long stems; one measures 8 inches in length. From examples I have had to compare with them, I am inclined to think they may be assigned to the latter part of the reign of Charles II. and James II., and even a little later. It is quite

Fig. 23.

unusual to find old pipes with such long stems as these (see Fig. 24).

Card XIV contains thirteen pipes which have principally narrow elongated bowls with flat heels or spurs, although some of them vary slightly in form. I think they all belong to the reigns of William III. and Queen Anne. They appear to show the signs of the Dutch influence and are similar to those figured by Llewellyn Jewitt in the *Reliquary*, p. 76, said to illustrate the types found where Dutch troops are known to have been quartered. These evidently had long stems and were similar therefore to those pipes afterwards known as *aldermen*, and later still as *churchwardens* or *yards of clay* (see Figs. 25, 26, 27).

Card No. XV.—This is a peculiar and unusual shaped pipe (see Fig. 28). It has evidently had a long stem and is furnished with a long narrow bowl, having a milled

Fig. 9.

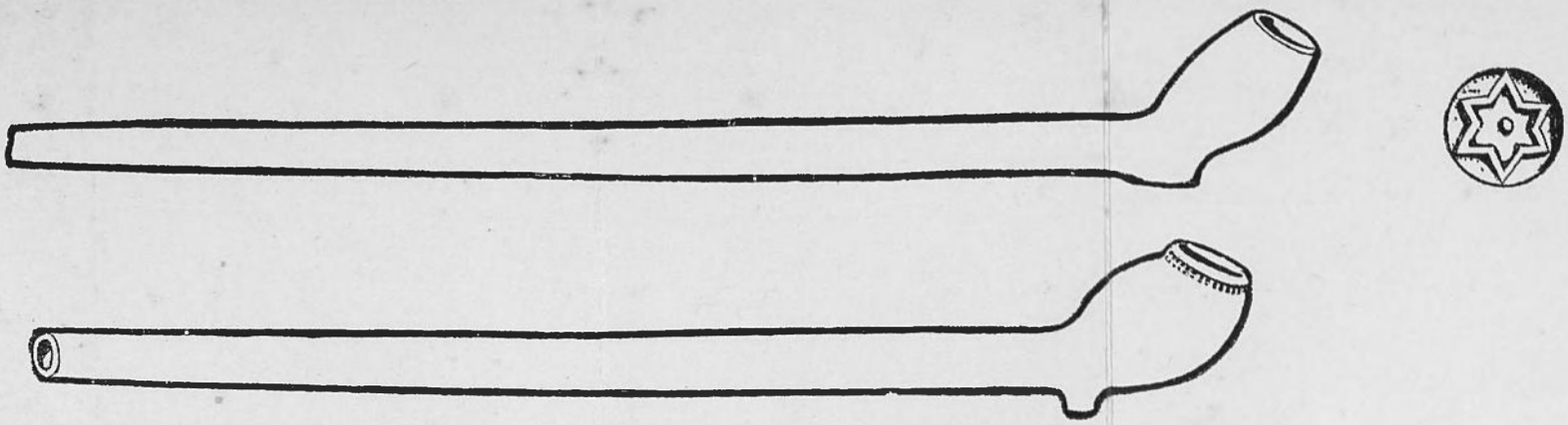


Fig. 14.

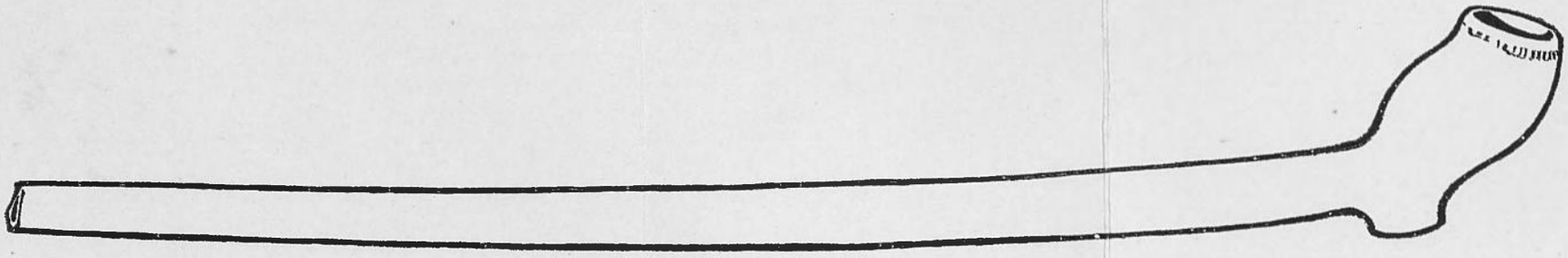


Fig. 24.

Fig. 25.

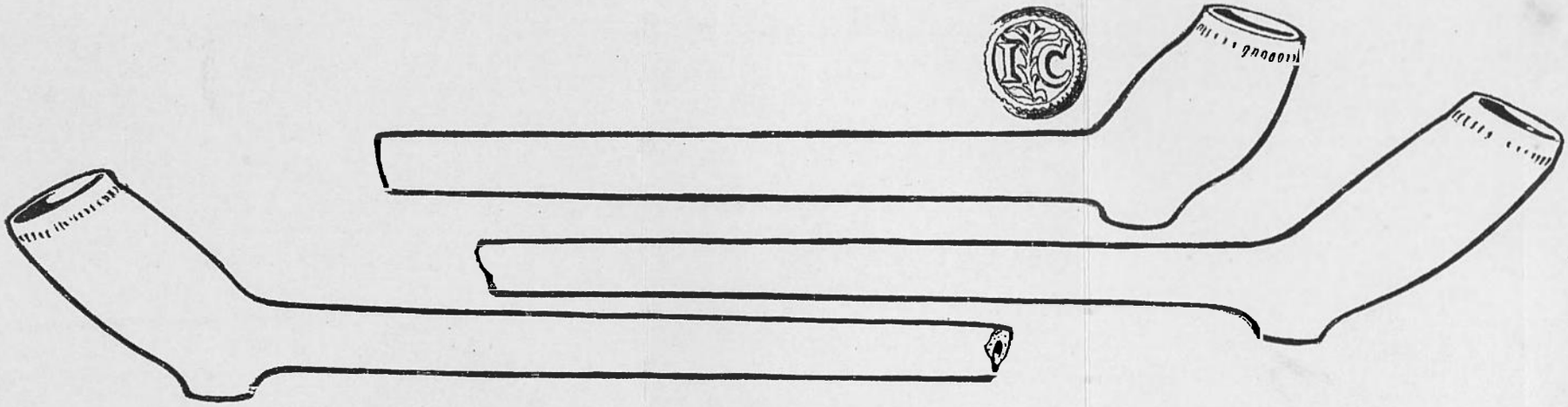


Fig. 26.

Fig. 27.

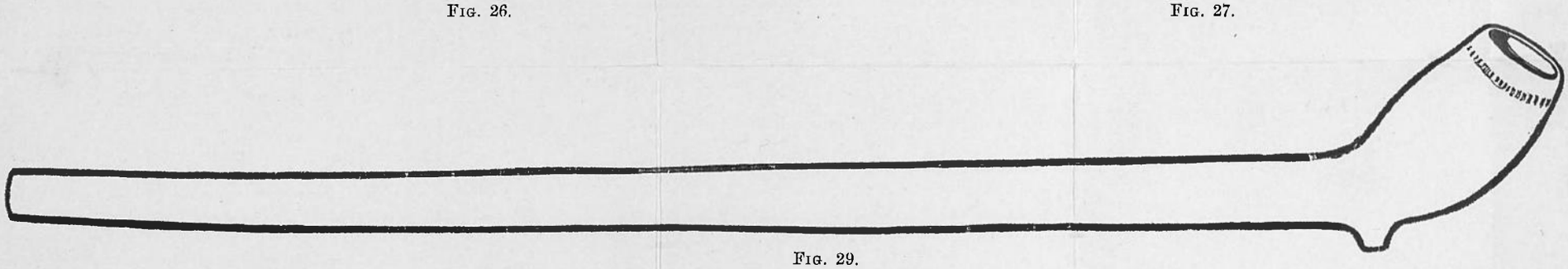


Fig. 29.

TYPES OF EARLY CLAY TOBACCO PIPES FOUND IN THE CITY OF LONDON. (*Full size.*)

ornament running round the mouth of the bowl and has no heel or spur. This pipe has perplexed me a good deal, but I consider it is a variety or fancy of some manufacturer of the time of William III.

Card No. XVI contains ten pipes with long thick stems with elongated bowls and pointed spurs on the heels. One is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length (see Fig. 29). It is rare to meet with such long stemmed pipes in excavations. As only one of this lot will permit of the ordinary seventeenth century pipe stopper being inserted, I am inclined to place them at the beginning of the eighteenth century, say during the reigns of Anne and George I. The last pipe on the card is of a different date ; you will observe it

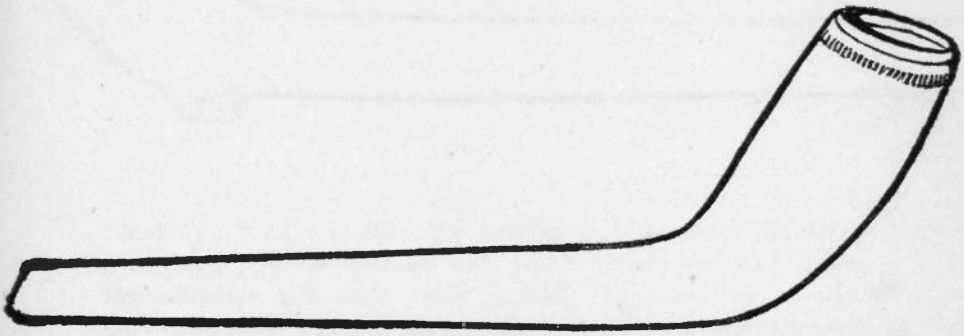


Fig. 28.

more fully agrees with those pipes I have assigned to the time of James II. The bowl is much smaller and the stem thinner than in the other specimens.

Card No. XVII contains four pipes, two of which have long narrow bowls and may be assigned to the time of William III., or of Anne, whilst the other two, with much wider mouths, are probably of the time of George I. and II. (see Fig. 30). They were found in excavations in Childs' Place, Fleet Street, in 1878, upon the site of the "Old Devil" tavern.

It is a difficult task to attempt to localise any of these pipes to particular manufactories, but I do not think any of them are of Broseley make, as upon comparing the pipe maker's marks given in Mr. Thursfield's paper on

"Old Broseleys,"[1] I fail to find any that I can actually identify with the marks upon my pipes. What we require in order to definitely fix the dates of these pipes is a thorough search into the records of pipe makers in various places as was done by Mr. Thursfield in the parish registers of Broseley, and to ascertain the periods

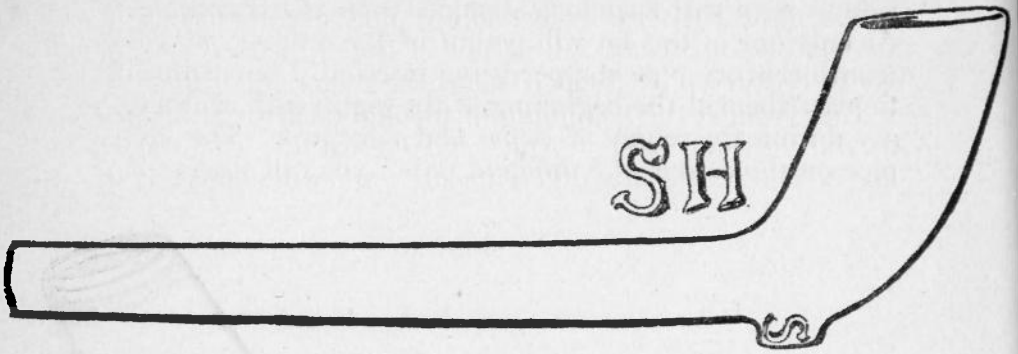


FIG. 30.

in which they lived, together with the marks they used; until that has been done, the dating of the pipes can only be provisional. But I trust that the details and descriptions with the illustrations I have given in this paper may prove serviceable to future investigators of the subject.[2]

[1] *The Reliquary*, Vol. III, p. 79.

[2] Mr. C. R. Peers has kindly shown me a tradesman's token of Billericay in Essex, which reads :—

O. MILES HACKLUITT · 1666 : Three tobacco pipes.
R. IN BILBEKEY · IN · ESSEX : HIS HALFE PENNY · ·

The pipes upon the token are similar to those I have figured as belonging to the period of Charles II.