

Title: Note on the post-medieval bulk glass from the evaluation at 12 Goslett Yard, London Borough of Camden, WC2

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1 Quantification and assessment

1.1 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Bulk glass	62 fragments. Total 4.3kg
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1.1.1 Introduction and methodology

This report considers the post-medieval bulk glass – in this case limited to bottles and jars – from the archaeological evaluation at TCG09. This informative and well preserved assemblage was collected by the author as a sample of each identifiable form during a site visit in December 2009 in advance of further excavations.

Yielding 62 fragments from as many vessels, the vast majority of glass is early 20th century in date and mostly recovered from just the one deposit, context [19] in Trench 7, with only context [16] in Trench 6 yielding an mid to late 17th century bottle, either shaft-and-globe or onion shaped. The remaining glass is dateable and easily identifiable through the extensive typologies developed for this material (in particular the Society of Historical Archaeology/Bureau of Land Management website <http://www.sha.org/bottle/>) and the typologies and descriptions used in this report are drawn from this last resource. In addition to the paper archive, the assemblage was recorded onto the Oracle database.

1.1.2 Bulk glass

1.1.2.1 Categories by dating and material

Much of the glass from context [19] in Trench 7 was made in semi automatic & automatic non-Owens bottle machines and for this reason cannot be dated any earlier than the first decade of the 20th century when this technology was introduced. The valve or ejection marks present on some of the colourless glass 'beaker' jars (below) provide further proof of machine made manufacturing.

Given the sites linkage with the food manufacturer Crosse and Blackwell, it is perhaps unsurprising that all the glass was used as food containers. Some vessels still exhibit their paper product labels, with the underside of some bases embossed with the lettering of their manufacturer and patent number. Four main forms are observed. The most frequent are cylindrical shouldered jar forms that held a wide assortment of dried pickled foods with two size variations apparent. These vessels can be directly paralleled to the 'bung jar' shape made in stoneware, with numerous examples of the cork bungs used to stopper these glass jars retrieved from this site. Nearly all these jars have the manufacturer's marking of C S & Co Ld (for Cannington Shaw and Co. of St Helens,

Lancashire whom operated between 1875 and 1913) embossed on the underneath of the base together with what is assumed to be a range of individual patent or manufacturers numbers, in the 2000–4000 range. The only variation is supplied the manufacturers name J K & S, likely to be John Kilner and Sons of Yorkshire.

Represented by nine vessels, the second common form is a colourless glass ‘tumbler shaped’ wide mouthed cylindrical jar in two sizes (again likely to have been used as containers for food sauces such as mustard), with one vessel still bearing a partial and worn paper label. The third frequent type comprises 22 complete club sauce type stoppers, dozens of which were viewed on site and many with a shell cork sheave present around the shank. Around of third of the collected sample are embossed with the no. 6 on the finial. The stopper with a serrated edge finial and a screw threaded shank supplies the only other variation. Curiously, the glass food sauce bottles these stoppers once sealed were not common in context [19], with the three colourless glass examples with oil/ring rim finishes found representing the fourth and final common form collected.

This assemblage is completed by a few other singularly represented glass vessels. One is a complete example of a colourless glass mustard jar with a partial but unclear label. Another colourless glass vessel, surviving as a base fragment of a rectangular or square bottle with chamfered corners, is likely to have contained pickle or other preserved foods. The complete bases from two different sized vinaigrette (?) bottles were also retrieved. A small rounded bottle with a flared rim finish and the manufacturer’s initials of DD on the base appears to be a perfume or prescription bottle and therefore is the only glass from this context not used as a food container.

1.1.3 Discussion

The combination of the above suggests that the glass deposited in [19] is dated to the first quarter of the 20th century, with vessels having a clear local provenance related to the function of the site as the premises of Crosse and Blackwell. It appears that the area in and around Trench 7 is likely to produce further glass assemblages of this date and character, with very little of this material observed among the vault uncovered in Trench 3, which contains the ceramic marmalade jar assemblage.