

Note on selected pottery from TCG09

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Introduction

This note comments on pottery from TCG09 that has not been included in the assessment carried out by Nigel Jeffries, based on the very large dumps of material recovered from contexts [34], [43], [131], [149] and others that have not been recorded on the MOLA Oracle database. The very considerable quantities of pottery collected from the Crosse & Blackwell premises have been recorded in detail on an Excel spreadsheet, which is reported on separately by Jeffries. The pottery considered here comes largely from contexts that predate this material, although some individual items of note from the main dumps have been included. All finds were recorded in accordance with current MOLA procedure, using standard codes for fabric, form and decoration, with quantification by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grams. These data, coming from 19 contexts, were entered onto the Oracle database and form the basis of the present note, which is to be seen as complementary to the main assessment by Jeffries.

The pottery

A breakdown of the pottery recorded on Oracle is given in Table 1 by context, with quantification for those that form the subject of this note. Contexts listed as VL (very large) are without quantification since this is included in the assessment by Jeffries. Context [131] is one of these, although five sherds were recorded on Oracle in addition to those on the Excel spreadsheet. The dating applied here is based on the TPQ of ceramic fabrics and forms that include long-lived types remaining in production and circulation for longer than the span indicated. Some of these dates, notably those of late 19th-century contexts associated directly with the Crosse & Blackwell premises, may need adjustment in light of the overall range assigned in the assessment.

Ctxt	TPQ	TAQ	Size	SC	ENV	Wt
3	1612	1700	S	7	7	263
15	1580	1700	S	5	4	182
16	1630	1700	S	4	4	95
34	1900	1930	VL	0	0	0
36	1870	1900	S	22	12	767
43	1900	1930	VL	0	0	0
59	1670	1700	S	16	11	560
77	1870	1900	M	45	18	3020
78	1870	1900	S	15	3	1673
98	1650	1700	S	11	10	634
105	1680	1710	S	8	6	628
113	1780	1800	S	4	2	45
127	1740	1800	M	33	21	2181
129	1670	1720	M	52	45	4345
130	1750	1900	S	1	1	1109
131	1870	1900	VL	5	5	380
144	1870	1900	S	1	1	218
149	1870	1900	VL	0	0	0
151	1550	1700	S	1	1	24
Total				230	151	16124

Table 1: dating and quantification of pottery recorded on Oracle

A total of 230 sherds from a minimum of 151 vessels (16124 g) were recorded as part of the present exercise. These are in addition to those entered onto the Excel spreadsheet by NJ. Many of these come from contexts that yielded only a handful of sherds and which can therefore be difficult to date closely. There are 11 contexts dating to the 17th to 18th centuries, two of which are of medium size (with between 30 and 100 sherds in each: [129] and [127]).

Contexts dated to the 17th century include fabrics and forms in common everyday use throughout the London area. The main types are Surrey-Hampshire border ware, London-area redware and delftware or tin-glazed ware. Much of the more closely datable pottery is typical of the mid to late 17th century, as shown by distinctive forms and styles of decoration. Border whitewares with green, clear (yellow) and brown glaze were recorded in addition to redwares from the same source in common forms including flanged dishes, bowls, tripod pipkins, porringers and chamber pots. Two of the flanged dishes from context [129] (dated to c 1670–1720) are decorated, one with a series of dimples around the rim and the other with multiple wheel-shaped stamps. London-area redwares were produced throughout the post-medieval period; those datable to the 17th century include bowls and dishes in various forms and sizes, large storage jars, cauldrons or pipkins, a jug and a large, deep, oval straight-sided trough with horizontal side handles at each end (context [129]). The last is an unusual form, the purpose of which is unclear. There is also part of a large domed lid, glazed externally only, from the same context, although the form for which this was intended is again uncertain. Fine Essex-type redwares are of minimal importance, with sherds from two mugs in post-medieval black-glazed ware the only examples recorded at this date. There are also sherds from seven butter pots in Midlands purple and Midlands orange ware – tall cylindrical jars used to transport dairy produce and common throughout the London area. The main decorative pottery consists of tablewares and pharmaceutical jars in delftware. Styles typical of the early and mid 17th century include both blue and white and polychrome decoration, typically in geometric patterns. These are found on jars and dishes, with sherds from plain white delftware also recorded. The latest 17th-century material consists of sherds from bowls decorated with the so-called ‘chinamen in grasses’ style and ‘Persian blue’, current during the last quarter of the 17th century (contexts [59], [105] and [129]). The only imports recorded are part of a jug in pale grey Rhenish stoneware, probably Westerwald, a sherd from a very large Spanish amphora in [129] and part of a saucer in Chinese blue and white porcelain in [105].

Three contexts have been dated to the 18th century. The largest of these is [127] (c 1740–1800), with 33 sherds. A similar range of fabrics was recorded, continuing the trends observed in 17th-century contexts. Surrey-Hampshire border wares are less frequent by comparison with London-area redwares, although the same range of forms is represented. Delftware is also less frequent, consisting of part of an ointment pot with pale blue glaze overall and the complete profile of a saucer-dish with finely painted floral decoration typical of the mid 18th century (context [127]). The same context also yielded part of a bowl probably made in Dutch tin-glazed ware, with oriental-style figures finely painted around the exterior. The only imported ware is a mineral water or selzer bottle in Westerwald stoneware from [130]. It is substantially complete, lacking only the base, and has an impressed mark on the shoulder bearing the word ‘SELTER’ in a circle, surrounding a cross with the letters C and T each side, an R below and the number 191.

Three contexts have been dated to the late 19th century in addition to the very large groups reported separately: [77], [78] and [36], all of which include pottery typical of the finds made in the large assemblages. These consist of large sherds from a range of large shouldered and cylindrical jars in English stoneware with Bristol glaze, typical of the output of the Doulton

factory during the last quarter of the 19th century, some of them marked accordingly. There are also examples of the medium cylindrical jars with plain or ribbed bodies in refined white earthenware, as produced by Maling in Newcastle during the same period. No further comment is offered here on these wares since a more detailed assessment has been prepared by Nigel Jeffries. The only other pottery found in these contexts includes a near-complete small cylindrical jar in blue stoneware, glazed inside, from [36]; the base of a rounded one-handed bowl in red border ware and sherds of refined white earthenware with sponged decoration and transfer-printed ware in [77].

Distribution

The earliest pottery is from [129] (52 sherds) and [151] (one sherd), both interpreted as fills within a former brickearth quarry, which are dated to 1680-1720 and 1550-1700 respectively. Above this, levelling deposits [98] and [105] yielded 11 and 8 sherds with a central date of 1680-1700, dated to

The pottery from the earliest deposits shows that the filling of the quarry and levelling of the ground took place shortly before the construction of the first buildings, as all date to the late 17th/early 18th century. As the buildings are shown on Morgan's map of 1682 it is possible that some pottery types might have been in use earlier than formerly thought, or very new when discarded.

Recommendations

The pottery from TCG09 represents a very important collection of late 19th-century material with very specific connotations relating to Crosse & Blackwell. The recommendations of this note are that the finds covered here should be considered as part of the whole project and integrated in due course with the full record prepared by NJ.