Assessment of the accessioned and related bulk finds (excluding glass, clay pipe and building material) from

12 Goslett Yard, London Borough of Camden, WC2 (TCG09)

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July 2013

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5 Quantification and assessment

Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Accessioned finds	97 accessions, mainly ceramic and glass and of post-medieval date

5.1.1 The accessioned finds

Table 2 Summary of selected accessioned finds by material and period

Material	Med	Post-med	Not known	Total	Comment
Ceramic (excludes BM, stamps)		7		7	6 stoppers, 1 clay pipe
Glass		43		43	Bulk accessions, 858 objects mainly stoppers (see glass assessment);
Iron		15		16	Bulk accessions, 55 objects, mainly stoppers
Copper alloy (including coins)		4		4	
Lead/tin		3		3	
Bone		1		1	
Rubber		2		2	5 objects
Wood		6		6	Bulk accessions, 31 objects, all stoppers, plus a number of unaccessioned finds
Total		**81**		**81**	

5.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

The following summarises the main categories of accessioned finds other than glass lids and stoppers, which are included in the glass assessment, and building materials and clay pipes, which are considered individually. All finds were recorded in line with standard Museum of London practice on record cards and on the MoLAS Oracle database. Also included in this report are some currently non-accessioned finds that should be given accession numbers (leather, cork stoppers). Slag is noted separately.

5.1.1.1.1 POST-MEDIEVAL

Ceramic

Excluding clay pipes and building material, there are six ceramic accessions, although four of these are bulk accessions, comprising a number of composite lid fittings, of which two are from [34] (<37>) and 17 are from [36]. All are of the same general construction, consisting of flat-topped ceramic disc with bevelled sides, and a central pin made of a dark silvery metal, possibly lead; in every case a white powdery substance survives around the pin. In most cases the pin is incomplete, but on the five

intact examples it projects for *c* 6mm and has an expanded round base with stamped lettering; mostly this is hard to read but one find from [34] (<37>) appears to have an 'O', others from [36] have an 'A' (<38>; possibly preceded by 'H'), 'JG' (<66>) and 'Y &' (<66>). Two sizes and three types are present, the smaller being *c* 38mm in diameter, the larger *c* 40–41mm. Three examples, two of the smaller group) are well-formed with a well-defined recessed circular area at the centre (*c* 21–23mm across); and this is also present on the second group, which comprises nine larger, flatter and more crudely finished examples. The third group comprises five flat-topped examples. These objects would have been part of a composite closure that probably involved an iron clip-on cover as supplied with stoneware jars made by Doulton and Watts, Lambeth (cf Green 1990, 362, 366). It is recommended that a selection of these finds are illustrated.

The base and lower body of a large thick-walled crucible or mortar (<34>; weight 540g) was found in [127]; this is in a highly-fired, buff-coloured flint-tempered fabric and has an incised horizontal line around the body (?post-firing); a darker residue covers the surface of the base and lower body. Slag recorded in the ceramic material category is considered below.

Glass

See glass assessment.

Iron

Most of the 15 accessions are lids/stoppers that were presumably used with preserving jars, of which 43 examples were found in [36] (<18>–<21> and <65>), two in [43] (<22>, <23>) and two in [149] (<26>); most are *c* 57mm in diameter and 15mm thick. One of the examples from [149] shows that these were made with a tin or aluminium core within an outer case of iron (to illustrate); no complete handles were found but it is possible that they were a form of ring pull. Two smaller discs from [43] (<24>, <25>) are the same size as the heads of the glass and wooden stoppers and it is possible that they are not iron as such but simply covered in corrosion (to be confirmed). Four unstratified examples were also retained (<4>).

A near complete iron spoon-shaped paddle (<32>) was found in [43] (to illustrate). Its length is now 420mm, but was probably up to 450mm; the bowl/blade is now 160 x 18mm but was probably a bit longer than this. The handle is a simple shaft with round-section and bevelled heel. This is probably a piece of 19th- or 20th-century equipment used in the Crosse and Blackwell factory. Context [77] contained a possible handle (<29>) and a heavy rectangular bar (<30>), presumably both of structural and/or industrial origin. Context [113] contained a T-shaped object with pointed end with mortar adhering to the underside and wood to the upper side (<31>). This has been listed as a hinge but as there is no X-ray this cannot be confirmed.

Of interest, although unstratified, is a large rectangular plate (30 x 13mm) from a cold storage unit (<27>) with eyes for fixing to the wall at the mind-point of either side, and octagonal bolts that secure a separate element on the back, made of folded sheet metal and apparently designed to grip a rectangular object. The front bears the words

'J&E HALL LTD / DARTFORD' with 'B1' in the bottom right corner; at the centre of the right side is a smaller plate (60 x 30mm), held in place by round-headed screws. The incised lettering upside down in relation to the main panel), reads 'USE MINERAL / OIL ONLY / VACUUM DTE AA'. See below for more details on this company. This find merits illustration.

In addition, an iron nail was found in context [43], and two others in [129] (from sieved sample {4}).

Copper alloy

The only stratified finds are a single dress pin in two pieces <14>, found in [59] and a button <10> from [129], the latter in poor condition (diameter 18mm). In addition there is a coin from [75], identified as a Victorian farthing.

Of interest is an oval brass plate (<28>, unstratified) with eyes for attachment on either side, which merits illustration. The lettering in relief reads 'J. & E.HALL, LD / MAKERS. / REFERENCE NO / M323 / DARTFORD, ENGLAND' on a cross hatched background and within flat border. J and E Hall were established in 1785 as maker of foundry equipment but later branched into refrigeration, supplying ships and warehouses, hospitals and hotels with cold storage facilities from the early 20th century onwards. The present find is from such a storage unit. Another development was in transportation, including lifts and escalators, and chassis for buses and lorries

Lead

Two crumpled items of lead-tin alloy from [43], both distorted, are seals that would probably have covered the glass bottle stoppers (see glass assessment). The smaller <12> has a diameter of *c* 23mm; it is unclear whether it had any markings or not. The larger <11> has a diameter of *c* 43mm and bears a large circular motif in relief. At the centre is a crown, around which are the words 'PURVEYORS TO HER MAJESTY' and around this are traces of 'CROSS & BLACKWELL'; below the crown is possibly part of an address (hidden where the edge is bent), and below this 'LONDON'. This probably read / 21 SOHO SQ / (see also glass stoppers). A third example, also bent, is <13> from [149] has part of a lentoidal border in relief, at the centre of which is a circular motif. Above this is the word 'PATENT', with 'BETTS CO' to the left and 'LTD' to the right. The lettering below this is very faint and has not yet been deciphered.

Composite

A few glass stoppers were originally recorded as composite objects; they are considered in the glass assessment.

Bone

A complete button was found in [43] (<7>; this is a flat-backed circular disc with a centring hole for the cutting tool and four holes in the central recess. The closest

parallel in the typology devised by South and published by Noël Hume (1969, 90–3) is type 19, which is most common between 1837 and 1865.

Leather

A small amount of dessicated leather (not accessioned) was recovered from a sieved sample of context [46] (weight *c* 20g). One fragment appears to be from the toe of a shoe, while others are rand fragments from the heel or toe, one with an iron nail in situ. Three other pieces (maximum size 16 x 27mm) have a number of closely spaced nails and/or screws up to 28mm in length in situ and may be from another type of object.

Rubber

Stopper <17> from [43] and the four screw-top closures from [36] are made of vulcanite, a specially treated rubber. The stopper has a screw thread and chisel top of rectangular form with recessed panels on each side, one containing the word 'RILEY'S', the other ' PATENT'. Nothing has yet been found out about the inventor.

The four screw-top stoppers are similar in size with milled sides (diameter of head *c* 30mm) and are clearly from beer bottles. One reads '[JOHN] LOVIBOND & SONS / BREWERS / GREENWICH'; the second reads 'WHEATLEY & BATES Ld / BEACON / RILEY'S PATENT'; the third reads 'KOPS BREWERY FULHAM'. The fourth is the most worn but reads 'C HAMMERTON & Co BREWERS'; the octagonal field at the centre contains an unclear motif and the word 'STOCKWELL'. All five finds merit discussion and illustration.

Wood/organic compounds

Three mould-made round-topped lids/stoppers with milled sides from [30] (<8>; diameter *c* 46mm) are in a buff-coloured material that includes abundant fine organic matter; they are not of pure cork or wood and so could be of papier mache (this needs further research). At the centre of the recessed upper surface is a crown motif flanked by the words 'TRADE' and 'MARK'; the lettering around the flat-topped border is largely worn away and has not yet been deciphered. The short cylindrical neck is hollow.

Two smaller examples from [36] (<16>, <52>) differ in that the heads are smaller (diameter 29–30mm) with a cylindrical shank around which is a cork collar (remains still in situ). Example <16> is in an orange-coloured fabric, with the royal coat of arms of England flanked by the lion and the unicorn at the centre; the lettering in relief, within a beaded border, reads 'CROSSE & BLACKWELL / PURVEYORS TO HER MAJESTY' around the upper edge, with '21 SOHO SQUARE LONDON' horizontally at the base. Stopper <52> is probably the same but the lettering is obscured by later deposits.

Context [19] contained four complete and three incomplete stoppers of the same type, with heads ranging between 26mm and 31mm in diameter (<96>; all have the same design as <16>. Also from this context are two larger stoppers with octagonal heads

(<97>); the design comprises the letters / C & B / above and below the royal arms within a roundel at the centre.

In addition there is a large group of purely cork stoppers from contexts [19], [34], [36] and [43], totalling 108 examples (830g), of which 17 from [19] have been accessioned (<6>). Most are from [36] (84 examples, 614g); the others are from [19] (17 examples), [34] (two examples) and [43] (six examples). The corks vary in shape and size, and measurements are hindered by the fact that several are somewhat distorted. All were measured to ascertain their diameter and thickness, and the data was recorded in an excel file.

The majority are flat discs used to seal jars; diameters range between 30mm and 95/97mm, with a small group of 30m to 45mm (six examples) and two between *c* 43mm and 54mm). Most are over 50mm across, with 10 examples at 52–55mm, and three more at 56–57mm. The main cluster is at 58–63mm (58 examples), with three at 65–66mm and two with diameters between 94mm and 97mm. Thickness is between 13mm and 25mm, with most examples being between *c* 16mm and 22mm. Most have more or less straight sides, but in a few cases that are more bevelled, and it was sometimes apparent from a constriction in the side that a cork had been reused to seal a jar slightly smaller than that which it was originally made for. An interesting feature, noted on three examples, is a central perforation that is larger on the upper side than on the underside; two are round, but one is rectangular in outline. Two other corks have semi-finished perforations.

In addition there are 15 corks from [36] and [43] which are of cylindrical form; four from [36] are of wine bottle type (diameter *c* 20mm), but others are larger in diameter (32–50mm; thickness 20–48mm) and must have been used for other bottles or narrow-necked jars.

5.1.1.2 Functional analysis

5.1.1.2.1 POST-MEDIEVAL

The bulk of the collection comprises stoppers and lids and other equipment associated with the food processing and distribution carried out by Crosse and Blackwell. The very few non-industrial items comprise a button, a dress pin <14>, a coin, two glass vessels and a few structural fittings.

5.1.1.3 Provenance of objects

5.1.1.3.1 POST-MEDIEVAL

Only three finds predate the Crosse and Blackwell occupation. The earliest is a copper alloy button <10>, which is from the late 18th-century levelling [129]. The other finds are the possible iron hinge <31>, from the fill of an 18th-century drain [113], and cooper alloy pin <14> from a levelling deposit/garden soil ([59]).

Of the remaining finds, only three are from the lower cistern fill [149]. One is a moulded cut-glass vessel <53>, while the others are a glass stopper <15> and part of the cap from another <13> (see glass assessment), all of which could be derived from the overlying deposit [131]. The largest group is from the dumps under the warehouse floors ([19], [36], [59], [77], with 54 accessions, although 39 of these are glass (see

glass assessment). Most are associated with food packing, but a copper alloy pin <14>, a crucible (<34>), an iron handle (<28>) and a structural fitting (<30>) were also recovered. Sixteen accessions are from the demolition levels, which contain material dating up to *c* 1925 ([19], [34], [43]); they mainly comprise lids/stoppers of pottery, iron, rubber and wood, but also include an iron paddle <32>, a bone button <7>, and some possible slag (<33>, see below).

5.1.1.4 Assessment work outstanding

No X-rays have been made of the iron; this is needed for the supposed hinge <31> and would inform on the construction of the iron lids/stoppers.

5.1.1.4.1 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR INVESTIGATIVE CONSERVATION

See section 9.1.1.1.

5.1.1.4.2 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR ILLUSTRATION

See section 9.1.1.2.

5.1.2 The slag

Four large pieces of slag (total weight 4.002kg) were recovered from [59]. These have a mixed texture, being partly slag and partly clinker; pieces of coal are also embedded in the surface. All pieces have relatively flat surfaces and one has a rounded edge suggesting that all could be from the base of a hearth, but this not the kind of hearth bottom associated with smithing, and so it has been recorded as undiagnostic furnace slag. A small piece of vitrified hearth lining was found in a sieved sample from [129].

Context [34] contained a large cake of solidified matter containing coal, charcoal and other matter (<33>; diameter *c* 220mm, thickness up to 4mm). The underside is smooth and convex, with an outwardly bevelled edge, while the upper surface is partly smooth but also uneven, suggesting that this is contents of a crucible or hearth.

These finds have no potential for further analysis.

6 Analysis of potential

6.1 Accessioned finds

6.1.1 Post-medieval

There are virtually no finds from deposits predating the Crosse and Blackwell occupation and they have very limited potential for further analysis.

The accessioned finds from the different phases of dumps associated with the warehouse and food processing have the potential to inform on the activities and processes carried out on the site and to answer questions regarding patterns in the numbers and sizes of different vessels. The range of different lids and stoppers is of particular interest, especially those of the unusual wood/fibre compound, which if identified may merit a note in its own right. A study of lid/stopper diameters carried out as an integrated study alongside the glass and pottery analysis will inform on the relationship between the two, on the different sizes of container that were distributed (ie cork stoppers and iron for larger jars, ceramic, wood and other types for smaller containers), and possibly on changes in vessel forms and closures over time. The beer bottle lids shed some light on non-industrial activities and, with a little research, they can almost certainly be more closely dated. Several items bear the Crosse and Blackwell name in different formats; with some documentary research it should be possible to establish a chronological sequence that reflects that changing image and marketing of the brand from the 19th to 20th centuries, and in turn, changing consumerism (Jeffries et al in prep).

7 Significance of the data

7.1.1 Post-medieval

The post-medieval finds predating the Crosse and Blackwell occupation of the site are of local significance only. Those from the later 19th- and 20th-century levels are few in number but of national and international importance within the context of the world-famous Crosse and Blackwell industry.

8 Revised research aims

8.1 Accessioned finds

The following are preliminary suggestions for the finds associated with the Crosse and Blackwell premises. More may arise as the study progresses.

8.1.1 Post-medieval

- What is the material of the stoppers and lids <8>, <16> and <52>, currently listed as wood?
- What are the materials used in the composite ceramic lids?
- What is the construction of the iron lids? What were they used on and how did they work?
- How do the diameters of the different closures relate to those of the glass and pottery containers?
- How do the Crosse and Blackwell logos used on the various lids and stoppers change over time? How does this reflect changes in management and branding?
- How can other finds inform on the organisation and equipment of the Crosse and Blackwell premises?

9 Method statements

9.1 Accessioned finds

9.1.1 Post-medieval

The following concentrates on the finds associated with the Crosse and Blackwell era.

1. To confirm and report on the distribution of the finds, considering the nature of each group in relationship to the other finds (pottery, glass): 1.5 days
2. To research the materials and construction and history of the iron and composite lids/stoppers: 1 day
3. To research the diameters of the lids/stoppers and compare with ceramic and glass forms: 0.5 day
4. To research the dating of the logos on the various stoppers and lids: 1 day
5. To research the beer bottle stoppers: 0.25 day
6. To write a report based on the above: 2 days
7. To finalise a selection of finds for illustration/photography, attend finds review and check artwork: 1 day

8. Meetings: 0.25 day
9. Editorial process: 1.5 day

Total: 9 days

9.1.1.1 Finds analysis/investigation

9.1.1.1.1 POST-MEDIEVAL

- What is the material of the stoppers and lids currently <8>, <16> and <52>, currently listed as rubber?
- What are the materials of the composite ceramic lids (<37>, <38>, <39>, <66>)?

9.1.1.1.2 WORK REQUIRED FOR ILLUSTRATION/PHOTOGRAPHY

At the very least, the following should be illustrated (Table 3). Conservation input is needed to clean some of the stoppers for illustration and photography.

Table 3 Preliminary list of objects for illustration

Cxt	Acc	Material	Object	Frags	Comment
30	8	Wood	Stopper	3	Selection; group photo?
36	67	Rubber	Stopper	4	Selection; group photo?
43	17	Rubber	Stopper	1	
36	38	Ceramic	Stopper	3	Selection; group photo?
36	39	Ceramic	Stopper	7	Selection; group photo?
36	66	Ceramic	Stopper	5	Selection; group photo?
19	96	Wood	Stopper	7	Selection; group photo?
19	97	Wood	Stopper	2	Selection; group photo?
43	32	Iron	Spoon/paddle	1	Draw/photo
19	6	Wood	Stopper	17	Selection; group photo?
0	28	Copper	Mount	1	Named plate; photo
0	27	Iron	Mount	1	Named plate; photo

10 Bibliography

Jeffries, N, Featherby, R, ad Werner, E, in prep *Living in Victorian London: material histories of everday domestic life in the nineteenth-century metropolis*, AHRC funded research in progress

Noël Hume, I, 1969, *Guide to artifacts of Colonial America*, New York