

Post-medieval pottery from XSP10

Jacqui Pearce (24/08/11)

Introduction

A total of 18 sherds from a minimum of 14 vessels (3101 g) were spot-dated from two small contexts (neither with more than 13 sherds), and also includes unstratified material. All pottery was recorded using standard codes for fabric, form and decoration, with quantification by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grams. The data were entered onto the MOLA Oracle database. All sherds collected are quite large, some of them joining to form complete vessel profiles.

The pottery

All pottery recorded dates to the late 16th and 17th centuries, with fabrics and forms typical of those in widespread use across the London area. Context [25] is broadly dated to c 1550–1700 on the basis of base sherds from two Bartmann jugs in Frechen stoneware (FREC), one of the main imported wares from the Continent during this period. A near-complete Bartmann jug, embellished with bearded face mask and the arms of the city of Amsterdam was found in context [26], lacking only its neck and handle. There are also sherds from two more Bartmänner in the same context. London-area redwares (PMR) are represented by sherds from the base of a jar or jug and the handle of a tripod pipkin, and part of a handled bowl is made in Essex-type fine redware, from the Harlow area (PMFR), which was current in London c 1580–1700, providing a TPQ for the context. The remaining pottery comes from the Surrey-Hampshire borders and includes sherds from two flanged dishes in whiteware with yellow (clear) glaze (BORDY), one with green glaze (BORDG) and one in redware (RBOR). Part of a FREC Bartmann and a chamber pot in BORDY were also unstratified and date to the same period.

Potential and significance

All pottery is domestic in character and the size and condition of the sherds collected suggests that they were discarded over a relatively short period, with little subsequent disturbance. The finds include a good representation of fabrics and forms in current use during the late 16th to early 17th century and illustrate well the ceramic preferences of the time. The near-complete Bartmann from context [26] would make a good photograph.

The present note could be adapted to provide a descriptive commentary on the finds for any publication contemplated: estimated specialist time: 0.25 day.