

# **A note on the medieval and later pottery and a crucible fragment from 'Pile Line General Watching Brief' at Broadgate Ticket Hall (XSM10) phase 4**

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## **Introduction**

The post-Roman pottery assemblage from this watching brief amounts to 88 sherds (75 ENV, 3.912kg) from six contexts ([919], [925], [945], [947], [949] and [974]). The sherds were examined macroscopically and using a binocular microscope (x 20), and recorded on paper and computer using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. No finds merit illustration. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database and also in an excel spreadsheet.

## **The medieval wares**

One residual sherd from a London-type ware jug in the highly decorated style (date range c 1240-1350) and two sherds of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware were found in [947] (total 80g). One of the latter is from the handle of a jug or cistern, indicating a date of after 1340 for this find.

## **The post-medieval wares**

Post-medieval wares are present in all six contexts, ranging from later 16th- to 19th-century in date. Coarse redwares from London area, are the most common category, with 33 sherds (29 ENV), mainly cauldrons and pipkins, bowls and dishes, but including a few jugs and jars; of note are two large sherds from a large lid and part of the base of a bunghole jar (both [925]). Tin-glazed wares are the second most common category, with 19 sherds (14 ENV), of which nine sherds have a plain white glaze; these include the spout from a wet drug jar ([925]) and a burnt bowl rim ([945]). Context [925] includes part of a dish decorated in blue and yellow showing part of the upper body of a royal figure holding a sceptre, apparently female; if so this is likely to be Queen Anne (c 1705). Also present are three sherds with polychrome decoration which date contexts [919] and [925] to after 1701, and possibly before 1711; five sherds could be of mid 18th-century date. In third place are Surrey-Hampshire border wares, the whiteware and redware variants together totalling 11 sherds; of interest is a sherd that could be from a *Schweinetopf*, a form of portable casserole on legs that was invented in Germany in the early 16th century (Ruempol and van Dongen 1991, 121) and later made in England by German potters (Pearce 2007, 194–99, figs 111–2). The form is very uncommon, either in London or anywhere else, but there is a complete example in the Museum of London collections (MoL acc no 69.12/1; *ibid*, fig 112, no 709; fig 117), and fragments are known from Southwark (Knight 2002, 18, fig 25) and Leonard Street (Blackmore 2012), amongst other sites.

Imports amount to nine sherds, with a mix of German stonewares from Raeren, Frechen and Westerwald, tin-glazed wares from the Netherlands, Italy and Spain. The former include part of a small Bartmann jug with early style face mask and decorated band around the girth ([949]). The tin-glazed wares comprise sherds from two south

Netherlands maiolica vases ([919], [925]), a sherd from an Italian jug ([947]) and another from a dish in Isabela polychrome ware.

Minor fabric types include post-medieval fine redware from Essex (two sherds), Midlands purple ware butterpot (one sherd), Staffordshire-type combed slipware, including two sherds from a posset pots) and two sherds of possible Brill ware: a porringer handle and the ladle handle from a pipkin (both [925]). Of interest is part of the base of a possible industrial vessel with an applied thumbed strip around the cut-out opening, which is made in Peninsula House ware ([945]). There are no industrial finewares in this group.

## **Discussion**

The medieval pottery could be derived from a number of sources in the area, or simply rubbish brought out of the city. The same applies to the post-medieval pottery, although there does appear to be a chronological progression from the earliest finds in [974] (dating 1480–1600) to the latest in [919] (dating 1701–11). Industrial ceramics occur sporadically across the Broadgate area, but the find from [945] is unusual and possibly unique in London.

## **Bibliography**

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