

## Mancetter Cherry Tree Farm Mortarium Decoration Typology by Rowan Ferguson

*Re-typed by Hazel Whitefoot January 2019 as surviving copy too faint to scan*

In looking at decoration we are dealing with 3 types of information:

- i) basic elements of design
- ii) how these are arranged relative to each other
- iii) overall scheme of design

With a two-digit space available on the form it is not possible to take these three variables into account. I have therefore decided to ignore iii) because this can only be determined when large portions of the rim are present and it is advisable that complete decorative schemes should be drawn.

The first column on the form is to be used to denote the basic elements of the design, e.g. straight lines, triangles etc. As there are more than ten different elements already I have used letters. This makes the system very flexible and, should there be overspill from one category it can easily be assigned a further letter, e.g. diagonal lines are at present denoted by a 'B' in the first column; should more than ten arrangements of diagonal lines be encountered then the next free letter (at present 'L') could also be used to indicate diagonal lines and a further ten arrangements can be described if necessary.

In theory the second column on the form shows the arrangement of the design elements, e.g. singly, overlapping etc., but this breaks down in the case of the curvilinear motifs and three-pronged motifs where different motifs have been grouped together under a general heading and so each number refers to a different motif within this general group (it may also describe its arrangement), e.g. G1 – repeated 'S'; G5 – 'C' and reversed 'C'. A '0' may be used in this column where the arrangement is indeterminate.

In category 'J' (composite decoration) it is only possible to say which general categories are combined, e.g. J2 – straight and wiggly lines, it does not give any details of how the elements are arranged.

The term 'complex/confused' is used to describe decoration where it is possible to fit the example into a general group but the intention of the potter as to the arrangement of the motif is not clear. 'Simple' means that the intention of the potter is clear.

### Decoration Codes

#### A: Straight Lines

- A0 – Indeterminate
- A1 – Arranged singly
- A2 – Arranged in groups
- A3 – Arranged singly; paint on top bead
- A4 – Arranged in groups; paint on top bead
- A5 – Arranged singly; paint on top and bottom beads
- A6 – Arranged in groups; paint on top and bottom beads
- A7
- A8
- A9

#### B: Diagonal Lines

- B0 – Indeterminate
- B1 – Arranged singly
- B2 – Arranged in groups
- B3 – Arranged singly; paint on top bead
- B4 – Arranged in groups; paint on top bead
- B5 – Arranged singly; paint on top and bottom beads
- B6 – Arranged in groups; paint on top and bottom beads
- B7 – Arranged in groups; sloping in opposite directions

B8 – Arranged singly; sloping in opposite directions; paint on top bead/paint on top and bottom beads  
B9

### C. Wiggly Lines

C0 – Indeterminate  
C1 – Arranged singly  
C2 – Arranged singly; paint on top and bottom beads  
C3 – Arranged in small (2-4) groups  
C4 – Arranged in small (2-4) groups; paint on top and bottom beads  
C5 – Arranged in large (more than 4) groups  
C6 – Arranged in large (more than 4) groups; paint on top and bottom beads  
C7  
C8  
C9

### D. Chevrons

D0 – Indeterminate  
D1 – Arranged singly  
D2 – Arranged in groups (zigzag)  
D3 – Zigzag; paint on top bead  
D4 – Zigzag; paint on top and bottom beads  
D5 – Arranged singly/in groups; double chevrons  
D6 – Arranged singly/in groups; multiple chevrons; overlapping  
D7  
D8  
D9

### E. Triangles

E0 – Indeterminate  
E1 – Arranged singly  
E2 – Arranged in groups; paint on top bead  
E3  
E4  
E5  
E6  
E7  
E8  
E9

### F. Horizontal Lines

F1 – Single  
F2 – Two  
F3  
F4  
F5  
F6  
F7  
F8  
F9

### G. Curvilinear

G1 – Repeated 'S'  
G2 – Overlapping 'S'  
G3 – Repeated 'C'; paint on top bead  
G4 – 'C'; paint on top and bottom beads

G5 – 'C' and reversed 'C'

G6

G7

G8

G9

#### H. Comb motifs

H1 – Simple

H2 – Complex/confused

H3

H4

H5

H6

H7

H8

H9

#### I. Three-pronged motifs

I1 – Arrows

I2 – 'W'

I3 – Fork

I4 – Inverted fork

I5

I6

I7

I8

I9

#### J. Composite

J1 – Straight and diagonal lines

J2 – Straight and wiggly lines

J3 – Straight lines and chevrons

J4 – Straight lines and circles

J5 – Comb and diagonal lines

J6 – Straight lines and three-pronged motifs

J7

J8

J9

#### K. Oddities

K1 – Rectilinear; simple

K2 – Rectilinear; complex/confused

K3 – Floral

K4

K5

K6

K7

K8

K9