

been thought, a similarity in shape for many new forms is evident. The sgraffito decoration on the bowl (no. 17) and the vase (no. 24) seem linked with Dutch sgraffito decoration, also on white slip, of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. There are, especially, two plates from Rotterdam and Middleburg¹² depicting pigeon-like birds which even show a very similar "ring" neck. Sgraffito decoration is relatively rare on English pottery at this time and when it does occur it is often on vessels very akin in shape to Dutch types¹³.

The jug forms, very different to the taller medieval shapes, once they are developed change very little in the post-medieval period — groups of the coarsewares from the abandonment phases at Nonsuch Palace¹⁴ are surprisingly similar in general shape. As at Cheam and Woolwich there are no cup forms and this has been noted elsewhere

12. J G N Renaud 'Laat-middeleeuws aardewerk met ornament in sgraffito' *Berichten Rijksdienst Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek* 9 (1959), 225-37.

13. A bowl similar to no 13 was recovered from a pit on the Tannery site, Kingston (ER 14) with an

in red-ware kiln sites in southern England; even further afield at Fulmodeston in Norfolk¹⁵, of the two sixteenth century phases of red-ware production it is only in the second that there is a small range of tankard types. In East Anglia, unlike Surrey, there is no equivalent centre producing fine forms so the development of cup types in red wares presumably occurs earlier.

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apparently late fifteenth century group.

14. M Biddle 'Nonsuch Palace 1959/60 — Interim report' *Surrey Archaeol Collect* 58 (1961), 1-20.

15. P Wade-Martins 'Sixteenth Century Pottery from Fulmodeston' *East Anglian Archaeol* forthcoming.

Letters

TURTLES TURNED

THE ARTICLE by Messrs. Armitage and McCarthy (*L.A.* 4 No. 1, 8), stemming from turtle remain found in a well below Leadenhall Buildings, provides a good springboard for further research. They could not in such an article fully excavate the 'information well' and in their review of the history of the turtle trade in the late 18th and 19th century London the first half of the 19th century was virtually passed over and we were hurtled into the ease of distribution of turtle products when canning became widespread in the second half of the century. The purpose of this note is to indicate one line of evidence for the use of stoneware packaging in this field from at least 1840.

In the Vauxhall Pottery excavation (1977-81) by The Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society a northward factory extension built by Alfred Singer (c. 1835 - 1865) was rebuilt about 1851, and this involved the backfilling of a cellar-like area with roughly 12-15 tons of stoneware waste, of which some 5-6 tons were excavated. Among the many vessel types present was a series of simple straight sided jars with full width rims grooved below, and for convenience called 'drug jars.' These jars came in sizes ranging from a few ounces up to 1, 2 & 3 pint and larger capacities. In the versions with a groove below the rim a flexible cover would have been tied over the top, but in later types without the groove a stoneware lid was provided (e.g. Crosse & Blackwell). Of the many customer stamps some were found on these 'drug jars' and indicated use for drugs (human and

vetinary), salt, cheese, confections, and probably pickles (Crosse & Blackwell). In addition three stamps had a turtle context.

According to Directory evidence, a little way up Leadenhall St. at No. 129, P. Whitlock occupied the Ship Tavern up to 1839, and then George Painter took over in 1840 renaming the tavern 'The Ship & Turtle' which became famous for the live turtles kept in the cellars. Between 1869 and 1873 his presumed sons, Charles and Adolphus took over the establishment. The Vauxhall material shows the 'Geo. Painter, Ship & Turtle . . .' stamp, and in the Museum of London Reserve Store there are two examples (not Vauxhall made) stamped 'C & A Painter, Purveyors to HRH The Prince of Wales, Ship & Turtle Tavern, 130 Leadenhall St' (Accession No. 25894 and 'Upchurch Marshes'). A second Vauxhall stamp gives 'W. Mabey & Co., 38 New Bond Street' on some of these jars. William Mabey appears in business at Lloyds Coffee House in 1846, and by 1851 also has premises at 38 New Bond Street where the company is styled as Turtle Dressers & Dealers, and also as Confectioners. A third, fragmentary sherd, not fully interpreted is believed to read, after a personal name, '(Selle)r OR (Maste)r of Turtle, (? to) (Th)e Queen, (New) Bond Street, London'. A purchased jar of similar type in the authors' possession is stamped 'Ring & Brymer, Birch's, 15 Cornhill' and following the citation in the article (Ref. 14) this must be post 1836.

In the case of the tavern(s) it seems unlikely that alcohol would have been sold in these jars, and it can reasonably be assumed that turtle products were packed in them. There must be abundant evidence elsewhere to fill out the trade and distribution pattern. The few items above arose from routine search for dating evidence at the Vauxhall site.

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