

## Appendix 8: Small Finds Report

### METALWORK AND GLASS FROM ST CATHERINE'S, LINCOLN (SCEL07)

#### Introduction

##### *Recording*

All objects were examined following X-radiography and remedial treatment by the Lincolnshire County Council Collections Care Team (Conservation), and recorded on a digital database (see Table 1). A catalogue of the window glass was prepared (Table 2) and selected fragments drawn (at 1:1 scale) by Yvonne Rose for the archive record.

##### *Recovery and Condition*

The metalwork mainly comprises iron and lead, with a single copper alloy object and a silver coin, together with 75 fragments of window glass. All finds were recovered by hand excavation. The metalwork, especially the iron, is heavily corroded while much of the glass is extremely friable, some pieces having become broken subsequent to recovery (see below).

##### *Dating and Provenance*

All of the diagnostic pieces are datable to the medieval period although virtually all appear to represent material that was redeposited within the graveyard and in later levels (accumulation etc.) over that area.

#### The Finds

##### *Metalwork*

The coin <1> is a silver halfpenny that can only be broadly dated by details visible on the X-ray; it is most likely to be a long cross issue dating to between 1272 and 1377. The copper alloy strap-end <2> is made from a single thin sheet folded widthways, with a single perforation; simple strap ends of this type appear among finds from 14th- and early 15th-century contexts in London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, figs 83-4), but could have been in use from the 13th century.

Virtually all of the ironwork is identifiable as nails, some with the remains of mineral-preserved wood adhering. Although all of these were recovered from burials, they need not necessarily be coffin nails; in view of the widespread accumulation of debris over the earlier phases of the graveyard, these could have derived from building demolition.

The lead includes offcuts of thick sheet and several fragments of melt waste, almost certainly relating to structural alterations or to building demolition, and all recovered from the made ground (182) sealing the cemetery. Three fragments of distorted window came were recovered from two contexts (106, 211) that also produced window glass. All are cast and none shows evidence of milling, suggesting that all predate the late 16th century.

##### *Glass*

All of the glass is of potash type, which is particularly susceptible to decay; it is now opaque and the original colour of the glass is impossible to determine, although two fragments (<8/16 and 17>) originally may have been green. The pieces are generally small and friable but several more robust fragments were recovered, measuring at least 30mm wide by up to 77mm long (<6/2>, <19/4>, <21/1 and 2>). Many show some degree of pitting on the external surface, produced by weathering while the glass was *in situ*. Fifty-two fragments (*i.e.* 69.3% of the total) have at least one grozed edge, while a number with several grozed edges are from

square or rectangular panes. Some fragments are grozed to produce an angled (triangular) end (e.g. <18/1>), and part of one rectangular fragment <8/17> has an incurved end as if to fit a roundel; several pieces have rounded edges (e.g. <8/10>). More than 50% of the fragments show evidence of red-brown painted decoration although most are too small or indistinct for the precise decorative scheme to be identified at present; however, the thickness of much of the glass would be consistent with 13th- to 14th-century glazing.

Several groups include fragments decorated with 13th-century grisaille: these mostly appear to be trefoil decoration on a cross-hatched ground (e.g. <7>, <8/1-3> and <22/1>), generally dated to the first half of the century. One piece (<18/1>) with more naturalistic (trilobate?) foliage in relief against a matt wash ground is likely to belong to the later 13th or early 14th century. A single (stained?) piece <19/4> may be from a patterned quarry, probably of 14th-century date.

Fragments perhaps representing drapery include <19/1>, <22/3> and <21/3>, the last piece also bearing matt wash on the reverse (external) face, while figural detail may be evidenced by one piece <9/3> that appears to depict feathers. Border decoration includes two fragments bearing a similar (stickwork?) design of open circles in relief against a matt wash ground; one of these <8/8> is straight, whereas the other <8/9> is slightly curved. A single piece <9/2> bears a relieved quatrefoil, again probably from a straight border. Two joining fragments <21/1> bear the remains of a running foliate scroll in relief against a matt wash ground, although this has been abraded away in places and in others obscured by adhering concretions.

The earliest levels to produce window glass - albeit only three fragments - related to a phase interpreted as abandonment, during which debris accumulated over the area occupied by the graveyard. A small quantity of glass (22 fragments) was recovered from the fills of later graves (211: SK11, 253: SK5) or from the general graveyard soil (196) that they cut. However, by far the majority (62.7%) was recovered from the later accumulation (105, 182) sealing the cemetery, and from the fill of a later building slot (221). The high degree of early modern disturbance to these levels doubtless contributed towards the fragmentary condition of the material.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The majority of the finds clearly relate to structural alterations or to building demolition; although the most likely source must be the structures whose remains were found here, it is possible that the material derived from other buildings in the immediate vicinity. Until recently, no window glass was known from the Gilbertine priory of St Catherine's (see Graves 2000, 498) or from the associated hospital of the Holy Sepulchre. Trial trench excavations by Allen Archaeological Associates at a nearby site produced a small group of medieval window glass that also included painted fragments; however, as with the assemblage discussed here, much of it was too fragmentary to determine the nature of the decoration (Hall 2007).

Despite the small size and fragmentary nature of the assemblage, the material merits inclusion in any work discussing the development of the priory and of the hospital. For the window glass, specialist examination is recommended so that more precise identification may be made wherever possible.

All finds should be retained and appropriately stored.

## References

Egan, G and Pritchard, F, 1991 *Medieval finds from Excavations in London: 3. Dress Accessories c. 1150 - c. 1450*, London.

Graves, C P, 2000 *The Window Glass of the Order of St Gilbert of Sempringham: A York-based Study*, *The Archaeology of York*, **11/3**, York.

Hall, R, 2007 Glass Assessment Report, in *Archaeological Evaluation Report: Trial Trenching and Photographic Survey at the Upper Witham Drainage Board Building, St Catherine's Road, Lincoln*, Allen Archaeological Associates Rep **2008/005**, 34-5.