

The pipes from Morlaggan represent a range of 19th century products, mainly from the factories of Glasgow. During the 18th century, snuff was the usual way of consuming tobacco in Scotland, but pipes became popular again after c 1800. In the 19th century Glasgow became a major centre of the tobacco pipe industry, overtaking Edinburgh. This small group from Morlaggan includes an interesting range of designs and pipes from a range of Glasgow makers, including some unusual examples from small makers.

THE PIPE DESIGNS

The North Country Head pipe

Bowl (No 1) is a design that is described in the pipe catalogues as a North Country Head. The term 'North Country' may apply to the bowl form; in this case decorated with a head. A variant appears in the catalogue of Davidson Jun & Co of Glasgow described as a 'Faced R Head' (Gallagher and Price 1987, 122). While some pipes are decorated with portraits, this pipe is a more generic design based not on a particular person. The rather benign image of a man with a curling moustache and strange head gear is probably derived from that of the Turk's Head. The motif of the Turk's or Saracen's head with a turban and prominent moustache is a frequent occurrence in popular art. Found on pipes throughout western Europe, it occurs on Hungarian pipes where the Turk was closely associated with smoking and later occurs on pipes through Britain. The motif also gave its name to numerous Turk's Head or Saracen's Head public houses. It has been suggested that the pipes may have been produced for the taverns, but it is more likely that both were making use of the same popular motif. The image of the Turk's head, long popular in folk art, may have its origin in the court art of the 16th century, where demonic masks of Turks were used in pageants and mock battles. These have turbans, curling moustaches and glaring eyes. Fine examples of these survive in the former Habsburg collections in the Golden Roof museum and Ambras Castle, Innsbruck.

Let Glasgow Flourish

Pipes No 2 and 3 bear the arms of Glasgow, a tree with bird, fish and bell and the motto 'Let Glasgow Flourish'. Pipes with this motif were produced by various Glasgow pipemakers as well as some from outside the city.

The Rifle Pipe

The Rifle pipe (No 4) has its origins in the aftermath of the Crimean War. The first major war for half a century had produced strains on the armed forces and in 1859 the decision was taken to boost home defence with the creation of the volunteer rifle corps (Hammond 1985, 36). The National Rifle Association was inaugurated in July 1860, with strong support from the Queen. The movement proved popular; its patriotic fervour was given expression in a poem published by Tennyson:

THERE is a sound of thunder afar,
Storm in the south that darkens the day,

Storm of battle and thunder of war,
Well, if it do not roll our way.
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Various makers produced Rifle Pipes to cater for the enthusiasm of the volunteers. The Rifle Pipe (No 4), whose maker is unknown, is one example.

The TW pipe

There are two examples of a TW pipe (Nos 5 and 6), with the initials TW facing the smoker. These were an extremely popular type and were produced by most makers. The meaning of the letters is unknown, although it may originally have been used by the early 19th century Edinburgh maker, Thomas White, who was renowned for his high quality pipes.

Rope Pipe

There are several fragments of bowls decorated with horizontal bands of rope in high relief. A similar example is illustrated in a 19th catalogue from the factory of Duncan McDougall, Glasgow where it is described as 'Rope' (inf P Hammond).

THE MARKED STEMS

The stems show pipes from a range of Glasgow makers. Some are from the large factories that produced pipes both for the home market and for export, mainly to North America and Australia. Most prominent of these was that of William White which continued from 1805 to 1955. Another of the larger factories represented in the assemblage is that of Alexander Coghill who was in business from 1826 until his death in 1860, other members of the family continuing until 1898.

The presence of stems marked with the marks of much smaller pipe making workshops shows that, despite the competition of large factories, these small makers were successful in selling their pipes to the home market. The improvement of transport, including more efficient steam shipping, must have helped the distribution of pipes. The stems include some very short-lived businesses. Nos 22-3 are the products of two short partnerships of the pipemaker McLuckie. The first (No 22) is that of his partnership with Thomas Prentice, recorded in the Glasgow trade directories for 1873-5. This was followed by a partnership with Thomas Fenton, represented by stem no 23. Fenton was one of a number of inventors around this time who tried to introduce a more mechanised means of making clay pipes. On 11 June 1874 he registered a patent, 'for improvements in making tobacco pipes, and in the apparatus thereof' (Patent no 2036).

The second half of the 19th century saw the establishment of smaller makers away from the main manufacturing centres. The group includes a fragment from the workshop of Thomas McDonald, active in King Street, Alloa 1882-1900. There is also a pipe marked GREENOCK. This could have been produced by a number of makers who occupied the same premises, in succession, in Market Street. The first was William

Christie active there 1884-90, then David Arnott, followed by the Downs brothers. Christie's bankruptcy in Greenock may have been caused by the high rate of criminality amongst his employees. Christie moved on to found a successful business in Leith.

MOUTHPIECES

A large proportion of the fragments from context 037 are mouthpieces. While these may be merely the result of accidental breakages, it is possible that some were discarded from pipes that were deliberately broken at that place. This was a common practice among the working class in the 19th and early 20th centuries, producing a more compact object that would easily fit into a waistcoat pocket.

References

Gallagher, D B and Price, R 1987 'Thomas Davidson & Co, Glasgow', in Davey, P (ed) The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe 10, 110-138
Hammond, P J 1985 'Registered and Patented Clay Tobacco Pipes', in Davey, P (ed) The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe 9, 30-156

Catalogue of diagnostic items

1. Bowl and part of stem. The bowl is in the shape of a Turk's head with upturned moustache, early 19th century. 186/159.
2. Pipe bowl with the arms of Glasgow/ and the motto LET GLASGOW FLOURISH. Stem marked 68. 173/[022].
3. Bowl with motto LET GLASGOW FLOURISH, other side of bowl missing. 176/037.
4. Small bowl and part of stem. The bowl has RIFLE CUTTY and a crown on one side and hatched heart on the other/ 179/064
5. Bowl fragment with TW in oval facing smoker. 176/037.
6. Bowl fragment with TW in oval facing smoker. 178/050.
7. Bowl with oak leaf in relief on each side and acorn in high relief on seam. 190/022
8. Tall undecorated bowl. 184/091.
9. Fragment of a spurred bowl with hatched motif, probably Hand of Ulster. 176/037.
10. Three fragments of a bowl completely covered with wide horizontal bands of rope twist in relief. 176/037.
11. Stem fragment of a claw pipe with scales and a collar, and bowl fragments with claws in relief. 180/066.
12. Bowl fragment of a claw pipe with part of two claws in relief. 177/038
13. Fragment of small bowl with fluting, spur missing, early 19th century. 176/037

Stems

14. W.WHITE/ GLASGOW. 176/037
15. 318 W [WHITE]/ [GLASG]OW
16. Lower part of a spurred bowl with stem fragment, the latter marked A.COGHILL/ JACKSON S^T. 178/050
17. COGHILL/GLASGOW. 176/037
18. COG[HILL/ [GLA]SGOW. 176/037
19. [CO]OGHILL/ GLAS[OW] 176/037

20. COGHILL on one side of stem. 178/050.
21. ALEX.../{GLASG]OW. 176/037
22. Stem marked ...L&P. McLuckie and Prentice, 1873-5. 189/020.
23. Stem marked MCL&F/ GLASGOW. McLuckie and Fenton, 1875-7 at 65
Cumberland Street , Calton, Glasgow. 176/037
24. Stem with mouthpiece and GLA[SGOW]/ [McLA]CLIN in a rope twist frame.
Probably Thomas McLachlan, active 1887-1927
25. Stem marked GLA[SGOW]. 177/038
26. Stem with an indecipherable maker's mark/GREENOCK. 192/024.
27. MCDONALD/ALLOA. Thomas McDonald was active in King Street, Alloa 1882-1900. 176/037