

## TOBACCO PIPES

A private collection at Ghajnsielem, Gozo. Without provenance unless stated.

## Reed pipes:

D1 Sack shaped pipe, mould made in terracotta clay. The slightly oval bowl has an internal diameter of 24mm x 25mm. The terminus is undecorated, has a 6mm opening and is slightly chipped. The shank is angled at approximately 30° to horizontal, this feature has ribbed decoration which curves the length of the artefact to become vertical at the rim. The rim has two horizontal bands each 5mm deep.

There are two more artefacts in private collections bearing a resemblance to D1, one at Gharb Folklore Museum, another at Naxxar (but not from that village). However these have a band of 'arabesque' between the horizontal rim bands.

Two similar pipes, but with much of their rims missing, were collected during a fieldwalking programme near San Vincenzo in Molise, about 180km west of Rome.<sup>1</sup>

A further pair of both the former and latter styles were recently found 'as new' in their straw packaging in a shop in Gzira, these are currently in a reserve collection at Birgu Maritime Museum, cat. no. MM722.<sup>2</sup>

Comparable surface finds were found in Sicily by Lo Cascio & Maurici (1977)<sup>3</sup> but are thought by the authors to have been imported.

This pipe may well be Italian. A mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century date has been suggested.<sup>4</sup>

D2 Mould made terracotta pipe with a rounded, gadrooned bowl. There is a raised horizontal ring at the base of a slightly tapering rim. Internal diameter at the rim is 20mm. There is evidence that this artefact has been underwater for some time. The keel jointed shank has a 10mm opening and is stamped with the maker's mark BONNAUD MARSEILLE (see appendix). This mark was used between 1824 and 1880.

D3 A similar artefact to D2 but abraded with much of the shank missing. The inward tapering rim is partially chipped on the outside.

D4 Mould made terracotta bowl and shank. Much of the rim is missing. Shank opening 10mm. The shank has a flattened keel joint and at this point the foot of the bowl has a raised 'sunburst' pattern. At the base of the rim is a depression creating a flanged effect. Found in soil outside the Citadel bastion.

Whilst the decoration underneath the bowl is unusual the shape was common throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

D5 Sack like pipe in greyish clay with a smooth 'shaved' finish. Shank and bowl complete, more than half of the slightly flared rim is missing. Shank opening 10mm. Around the narrow part of the shank is a ring of raised bumps.

Four similar artefacts were found in Dockyard Creek.<sup>5</sup> Further afield (Gosse 2007)<sup>6</sup> published seven others from the Marseille quarantine which he attributes to Balkan origin and Kondorosy excavated several comparable pipes from Szeged castle in southern Hungary. The

<sup>1</sup> Directed by Richard Hodges, then head of the British School in Rome. These artefacts are currently held at the UK National Archive, Liverpool.

<sup>2</sup> Pers. comm. Emmanuel Magro Conti, Director, Malta Maritime Museum.

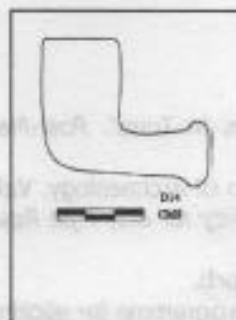
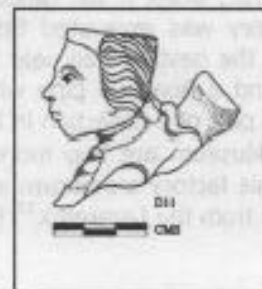
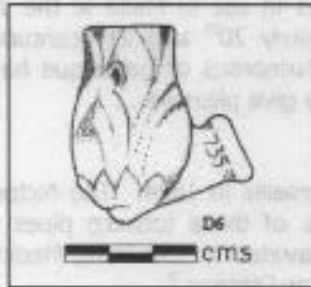
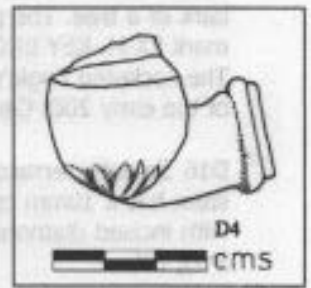
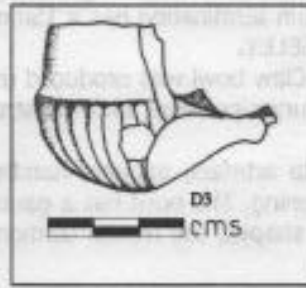
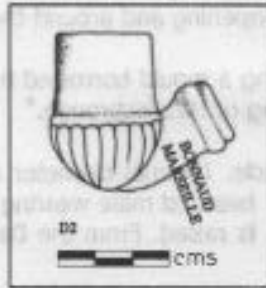
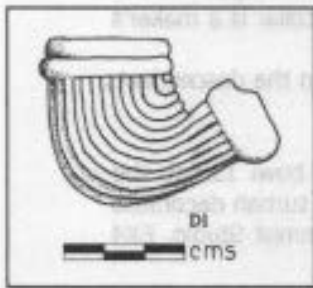
<sup>3</sup> Lo Cascio, P. and Maurici, F. (1977) *Rinvenimenti di pipe di terracotta in Sicilia, secoli XVIII e XIX*, unpublished manuscript.

<sup>4</sup> Pers. comm. Dr Susie White, Department of Archaeology, University of Liverpool.

<sup>5</sup> □ Wood, J. (1998) 'Pipes from Malta: a short account of the tobacco pipes found in Dockyard Creek, Birgu'. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 27.4, 313-330.

□ Wood, J. Forthcoming monograph: 'Tobacco Pipes from Dockyard creek, Birgu' *Academie Internationale de la Pipe* Volume 1.

<sup>6</sup> Gosse, P. (2007) 'Les pipes de la quarantaine: Fouilles du port antique de Pomègues (Marseille)' *BAR S1590: The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe 19* Edited by Peter Davey. ISBN 978 1 4073 0006 1.



latter site was on the northern edge of Ottoman territory, those pipes are described as 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

European pipes:

D6 Mould made in white pipe clay. 9mm shank opening. Number 735 on left hand shank just below the terminus. There is a hemispherical heel under the bowl above which open flower petals extend to the rim.

D7 Mould made in white pipe clay. The intact bowl resembles a French military character with a forward facing crescent with a yellow half moon inside a disc on the hat. The upper quarter of the shank and terminus are damaged. The left hand side of the shank has raised letters S<sup>T</sup> OMER over 2452 and the reverse DUMERIL over ?DEUNS?

Late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Might be a military leader of the far east.

D8 Mould made in white pipe clay. Lip of the upper left hand rim is chipped. The pipe appears to represent 'Bacchus – god of wine.' On the left hand shank are the raised letters GAMBIER over ?ARABA? with number 924 on the reverse.

D9 Mould made in white pipe clay. On the left hand shank are the raised marks RUBENS 436 and on the right GAMBIER over A over PARIS. Gambier closed in 1926.

D10 Mould made in white pipe clay. A familiar figure but anonymous as there are no makers' marks on this artefact. Shank opening 11.5mm.

I think this is a modern creation perhaps made in Holland in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> Century but could be more recent than that perhaps made from a mould by someone working with clay in northern Europe. It again I think represents Rubens.<sup>7</sup>

D11 Mould made in white pipe clay. Head of a young man with cravat - like a lawyer – his hair pulled back to the neck with a bow. A ponytail or clothing is draped over the shank and his eyes are blackened. Shank opening 10mm.

A pipe created by me (HC) and is Bonnie Prince Charlie. I originally designed this for a man in Scotland and created a mould after which I produced several dozen of them some time between 1998 and 2006. I still have the mould here. Formed in a three piece mould.

D12 Mould made in white pipe clay. Alexander II (of Russia 1818 – 1881). On the left hand shank inside an oval are the raised numerals 822. On the opposite side is GAMBIER PARIS and under the shank is a very small round stamp JG. The eyeballs are picked out in black. Above the visor on the hat is a disc under three feathers.

D13 An undamaged mould made pipe in tan colour clay. The subject is a young woman, she is wearing a flat brimmed hat with a bow at the back and two roses on the right side. Her hair is gathered in curls at the front and drawn into a French pleat in line with her spine. Shank opening 10mm.

Lady Sarah Wilson. A design originally produced by John Pollock & Co of Manchester, England who began in 1879 and retired in 1990 after 111 years. This piece I think might be one dating from the 1920-50 period.

Lady Sarah Wilson 1865 – 1929 youngest daughter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough. The first woman War Correspondent, Boer War 1899.

<sup>7</sup> For this and much more I am indebted to Heather Coleman in a personal communication. See: dawnmist.demon.co.uk/pipdex.htm

D14 A white clay bowl and shank set at right angles. The artefact is white glazed with a crackle finish. Very slight damage to the lower left bowl. Shank opening 11mm.

D15 A white clay bowl and shank with claw shaped heel. The bowl has fore and aft lobe shaped handles, the fore handle has an exaggerated keel with scaly sides and a plait underneath. The side of the bowl has a generous cornucopia and the shank is ridged like the bark of a tree. The plain termination has a 15mm opening and around the collar is a maker's mark EX M. KEY BROSELEY.

The socketed Eagle's Claw bowl was produced using a mould borrowed from the descendants of the early 20th Century pipemaker Jack Armstrong of Middlesbrough.<sup>8</sup>

D16 Smooth terracotta artefact, appears handmade. Internal diameter of bowl 15mm, the stem has a 10mm opening. The bowl has a gaunt, bearded male wearing a turban decorated with incised diamond shapes, the frontal diamond is raised. From the Dawnmist Studio, EX4 2YQ, UK.

#### Conclusion

The reed pipes D1 – 5 were all common shapes in use in Malta in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The European pipes which range in date between early 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries are collectors pieces. Figural pipes whether commemorative, humorous or grotesque have been popular with connoisseurs since the 1760s and continue to give pleasure . . .

#### Appendix: BONNAUD MARSEILLE 1824 - 1958

Alphonse Bonnaud founded a pipe factory in Marseille in 1824. The factory produced clay pipes until the business closed in 1958. Some of these tobacco pipes were specifically designed for the foreign market. One was excavated in the Tunis-Medina by Abdelazziz Daoulatli and was held in a reserve collection at Dar Othman.<sup>9</sup>

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century many Maltese were involved in the cotton and salt trade to Marseille. A main street in Sannat, Gozo, is still called Triq Marsilija. Another terracotta stem fragment from the same factory was excavated from the lower fill of a cesspit situated between Inguanez street and the bastion wall near Greek's Gate, Mdina.<sup>10</sup> In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century a farmer in Xlendi found a Bonnaud pipe while ploughing at Ras il-Bajda. That artefact was published in 1992 as part of a collection in the Gozo Museum of Archaeology.<sup>11</sup> On display at the Gharb Folklore Museum are two more examples dated between 1880 – 1913.<sup>12</sup> Two further pipes from this factory are known in private collections in Malta, one from Is Swieqi and another in Gzira, from the Lazaretto.<sup>13</sup> The latter was published in 2001.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Pers. comm. R. M. Key.

<sup>9</sup> Wood, J. (2000) 'A study of clay tobacco pipes in Tunis'. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 33, 233-241.

<sup>10</sup> Pers comm: Nathaniel Cutajar, National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta.

<sup>11</sup> Wood, J. (1992) 'Pipes from Gozo (Malta)'. *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter* 25, 8-9.

<sup>12</sup> Pers comm: Silvio Felice, 99 Church Square, Gharb.

<sup>13</sup> Thanks to Guido Lanfranco and his RTK Radio programme for eliciting this information.

<sup>14</sup> Wood, J. (2001) 'Tobacco pipes from Manoel Island, Malta'. *Mariner's Mirror* 87.1, 83-88.