

TOBACCO PIPES FOUND ON FARMLAND AT SWIEQI

These artefacts are in a private collection at St Julian's and were found on farmland at Is-Swieqi by the collector.

A map showing the distribution of Maltese settlement in 1807 excludes Is-Swieqi and St Julian's, although the latter is listed in 1901.¹ Modern maps show how little agricultural land remains.

The pipes

AC1 A rounded bowl fragment made in a mould. The rim is missing but a keel jointed shank and the termination are complete. The termination has a 9mm opening. Undecorated. This plain style was immensely popular from the late 18th to mid 19th century and possibly beyond.

AC2 A mould made shank fragment in terracotta clay. There is an off centre 8mm hole for a reed and a modern repair between shank and termination. 18th – 19th century.

AC3 Fragment of bowl and keel in pale terracotta clay. Practically all the rim is missing and most of the keel jointed shank. The bowl has an impressed chevron design. The base of the vestigial rim and keel to bowl joint is delineated by bands of rouletting. 18th – 19th century.

AC4 Pale terracotta shank, termination and small fragment of a bowl. Shank opening 9mm. Undecorated. Almost illegible maker's mark BONNAUD MARSEILLE on the right hand side of the shank (see appendix). This mark was used between 1824 and 1880.

AC5 A pipe bowl in pale terracotta clay with a pale grey blush. There is a minimal amount of rim. The shank is missing beyond the keel joint. The bowl is finely gadrooned under a horizontal band of impressed circles. At the base of the rim is a band of rouletting. 18th – 19th century.

AC6 Abraded shank fragment in pale terracotta clay with a dark grey sheen. Mould made. The termination has two bands of impressed decoration leaving a raised zigzag interspersed by single raised hemispheres, a further ring of rouletting is impressed closer to the reed end.

AC7 Shank end and termination in pale terracotta with a grey sheen. Two rings of rouletting encompass the shank with a further ring closer to the socket.

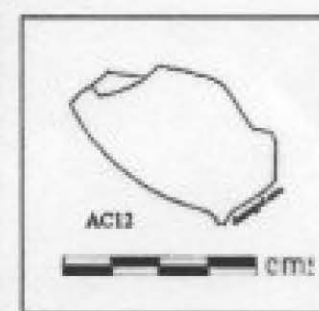
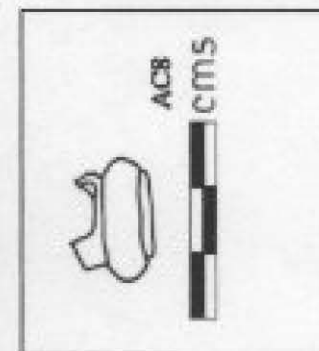
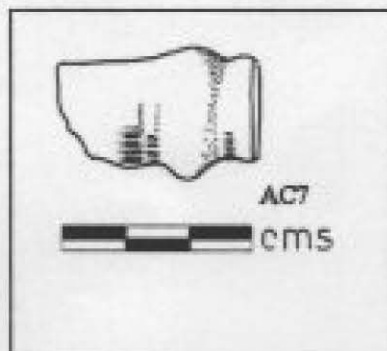
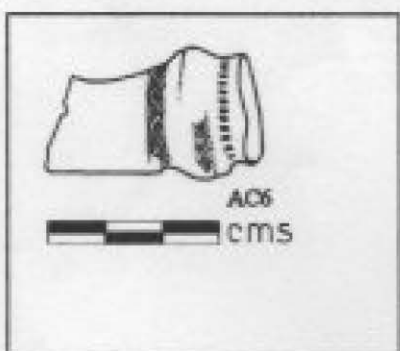
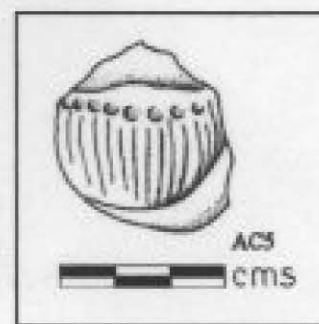
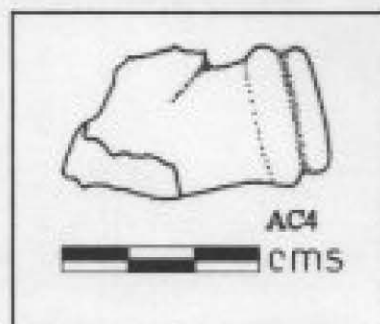
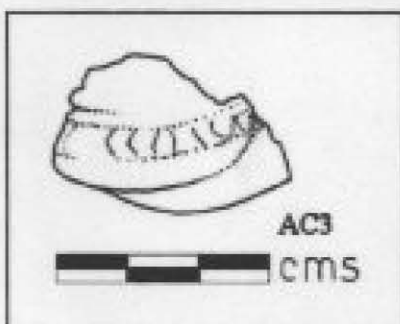
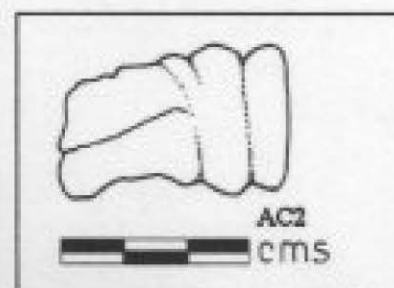
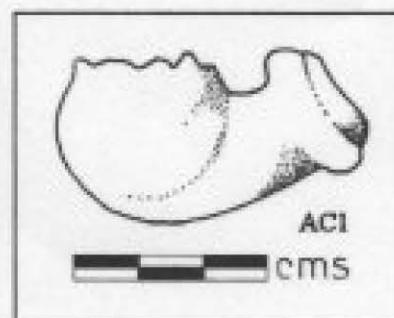
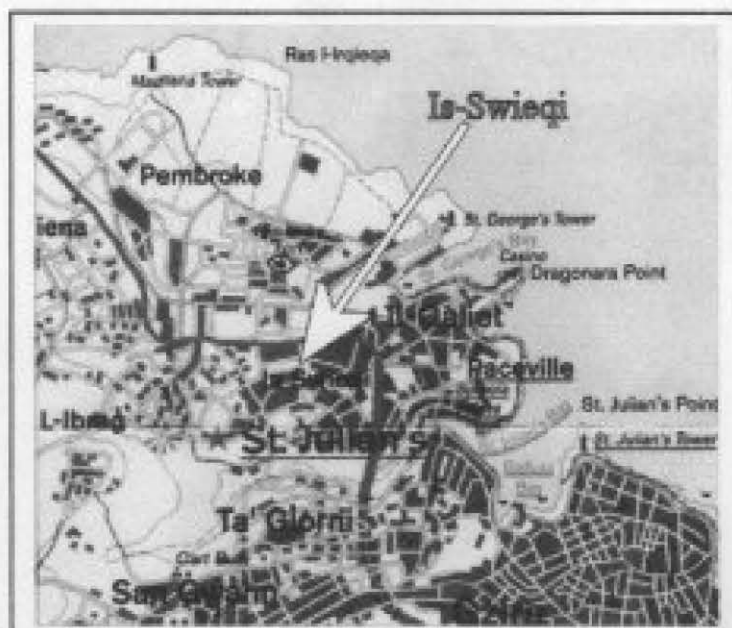
AC8 Terminal ring with a fragment of shank. Terracotta and grey clay. 9mm shank opening. Undecorated.

AC9 A keel fragment with remnants of a bowl. Abraded terracotta.

AC10 Fragment of European pipe stem end. White pipe clay stained earth colour in impressed areas. Embellished with a plain raised band 7.5mm from the end, the stem is horizontally fluted beyond that band.

¹ Blouet, B. (1992) *The Story of Malta* Progress Press, pp172-173.

SWIEQI PIPES ILLUSTRATED



AC11 Terracotta fragment. Possibly not part of a smoking pipe?

AC12 European pipe bowl in smooth white clay. The rim and heel are partially missing, the stem almost totally absent and the heel to stem area has damage. Late 19th early 20th century.

Conclusion

An interesting collection inasmuch as these artefacts were discarded over time in a very specific area, probably by agricultural workers (or hunters).

² Wood, J. (2000) 'A study of clay tobacco pipes in Tunis'. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 33, 233-241.

³ Pers com: Nathaniel Cutajar, National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta.

⁴ Wood, J. (1992) 'Pipes from Gozo (Malta)'. *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter* 25, 8-9.

⁵ Pers com: Silvio Felice, 99 Church Square, Gharb.

⁶ Thanks to Guido Lanfranco and his RTK Radio programme for eliciting this information.

⁷ Wood, J. (2001) 'Tobacco pipes from Manoel Island, Malta'. *Mariner's Mirror* 87.1, 83-88.

ploughing at Ras il-Bajda. That artefact was published in 1992 as part of a collection in the Gozo Museum of Archaeology.⁴ On display at the Gharb Folklore Museum are two more examples dated between 1880 – 1913.⁵ Two further pipes from this factory are known in private collections in Malta. Two further pipes from this factory are known in private collections in Malta, one from Ghajnsielem and another in Gzira, from the Lazaretto.⁶ The latter was published in 2001.⁷