

Casa Rocca Piccola
74 Republic Street, Valletta, Malta
Four Ottoman Pipes from Istanbul



Figure 1 CRP1

CRP1. Shank opening 17.5mm. Burnished red clay. A lily-shaped pipe with faceted rim and bowl. There is a line of rouletting around the termination and a double row around the underside of the shank. A flint oval seal is pressed into the left side of the shank. 19th - 20th century.

The lily-shaped pipe corresponds to Hayes¹ type VIII from Sarachane, Istanbul. Similar shapes have been found in Athens, Corinth² and Kastelloriso³ in Greece and in the Tunis Medina⁴. They have also been found in northern Iraq (pers. comm. St. John Simpson).



Figure 2 CRP2

CRP2. Shank opening 16mm. Burnished red clay. An area of transparent green glaze, which approximately covers the rayed dot decoration, also spills haphazardly down the front of the bowl. The rim and bowl are faceted with diamond shaped decoration in the facets. The shank has one similar decoration pressed into the underside of the bowl. There are two incised lines near the termination and an eight pointed wreath around it. An oval seal is impressed into the right side of the shank. 19th - 20th century.



Figure 3 CRP3

CRP3. Shank opening 15mm. Burnished yellowish-red clay. Rounded panelled bowl under a straight faceted rim. The stem is also faceted. The rim facets have panels with rayed dot decoration. The bowl has impressed ovals with a raised middle surrounded by elongated dots, separated by stamped triangles. The termination has a scalloped wreath. A seal is applied to the right hand stem, the details of which are indiscernible. Robinson says of these pipes that the idiosyncratic seal seems to be a meaningless imitation of an Arabic monogram seal. Above the rim there is an ornate hammered and cut brass cap with hinged lid. 19th century.



Figure 4 CRP4

CRP4. Shank opening 18mm. Burnished yellowish-red finish on all but the rim, which is fitted with a ferrous collar. What looks like knife cuts at the leather hard stage prior to firing make the collar fit the shank. The collar is fastened to a highly decorated hinged brass lid. The panelled bowl has impressed ovals with raised centres and a dotted fringe. There is rouletting under the bowl, a smooth shank and scalloped termination. After 1850.

CRP3 and 4 correspond to Hayes type X from Sarachane (note 1) and Varna type 1 (note 2). Similar pipes have also been found in Athens, Corinth (note 2) and Kastellorizo Greece (note 3), Tunis-Medina (note 4), Auberge de Castille, Valletta (pre 1840)⁵, Xlendi bay, Gozo (pers. comm. Geo. Azzopardi, National Museum, Gozo) and most bizarrely Sitka in Alaska (post 1830). Although Sitka was a cosmopolitan city at the time, 'The Paris of the north'⁶.

¹ Hayes, J.W. (1980) 'Turkish Clay Pipes: A provisional Typology'. In: Davey, P., (ed). 'The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe'. *BAR International Series* 92, 3-10.

² Robinson, R.C.W. 'Tobacco pipes of Corinth and the Athenian Agora'. *Hesperia*. 54 (1985), 149-203.

³ Wood, J. (1990) 'Pipes from the island of Kastellorizo'. *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter* 25, 8-9.

⁴ <http://members.aol.com/jwood19319>

⁵ Excavation by Nathaniel Cutajar, National Museum of Archaeology, Malta.

⁶ See: McMahan, D. <http://www.alaska.net/~cha/index.htm>