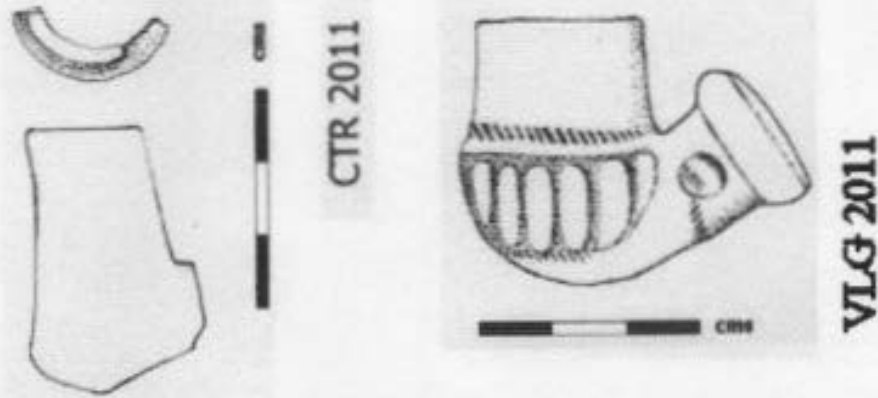


Malta 20/09/2012

A pipe from Saint Catherine of Alexandria's chapel, Auberge d'Italie, Valletta.

Reference: CTR 2011

No catalogue number. Rim and bowl fragment of pale terracotta clay. Most of this undecorated artefact is missing. Age and provenance are difficult to assess with so little to go on. However, projecting the internal and external diameters indicates a relatively early artefact when tobacco was less available i.e. more expensive – so earlier rather than later, possibly 1st half 17th Century.



A pipe from the back fill of a kiln on a plot adjacent to the Opera House, Valletta.

Reference: VLG 2011

Mould made bowl and shank fragment of red clay, half of the rim is missing. Diameter of shank opening 10mm. The rim is undecorated. Around the waist there is a rouletted band and the bowl has well defined gadrooning. The shank is decorated with a band of rouletting around the centre and there is also rouletting where the keel joins the bowl. The bulbous termination has an incised line on both sides. Inside, the bowl has a black deposit. On the shank there is a circular stamp, possibly a maker's mark. 18<sup>th</sup> century.

According to Robinson (1985)<sup>3</sup> very few pipes before the 18<sup>th</sup> century carried the maker's monogram seal; in the 19<sup>th</sup> century very few did not - but there were pitfalls such as imitation Arabic seals, pirated pipes made from moulds taken from signed pipes and deliberately false seals.

There are other instances of monogrammed pipes in Maltese collections, i.e. Ca1 from the old sewer system at the Auberge de Castille which has the 'bird' stamp of Varna, Bulgaria, unpublished. MP21 and MP22 with Arabic characters.<sup>4</sup> QH48, QH104 and QH199 from a 2001 excavation in the quarantine harbour.<sup>5</sup> Similar stamps to that on QH48 also occur on 18<sup>th</sup> century pipes from Jerusalem.<sup>6</sup>



**VLG 2011 maker's mark?**

<sup>3</sup> Robinson, R. (1985) 'Tobacco Pipes of Corinth and of the Athenian Agora' *Hesperia* 54).

<sup>4</sup> Wood, J. (2001) 'Tobacco pipes from Manoel Island, Malta'. *Mariner's Mirror* 87, 1. 83-88.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid* MAR 7.

<sup>6</sup> Harper, R. and Pringle, D. (2000) 'Belmont Castle: the excavation of a Crusader Stronghold