

Surface Finds

Alana Kelly

The following is a collection of information on surface archaeological finds from Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua. Additionally, some of the material received and cleaned was found in the harbour, either directly beside the shore by myself, or by students of Dive Otago.

Glass

A total of 15 pieces of glass were present in this assemblage and have been cleaned and investigated. Of those 15 pieces three are light green middle/body pieces of a bottle glass that provide no further information (See Figure 1).



Figure 1: Broken bottle glass



Figure 2: Milk glass fragment

There is a singular piece of white milk glass that is a base fragment of a bottle and includes part of the foot (See Figure 2).

There are three pieces of clear glass, all of which have embossing. The first is a small fragment of a round bottle with “NE” embossed on it (See Figure 4). The second is a fragment of a rectangular bottle (likely pharmaceutical) with the following embossed “OOKE//OTTLE C//O BY OTHERS” (See figure 3). The third piece is the fragment of a base of a bottle and has “E EDIN” embossed on it (See figure 5). Although I have been unable to interpret this piece further, a member of the Island’s community has suggested it was a baby feeder.



Figure 3: Pharmaceutical bottle fragment



Figure 4: Clear embossed glass



Figure 5: Base of clear glass bottle

A larger base fragment in the assemblage has the following embossed “11399// C.S & Co Ld”. This piece belongs to Cannington, Shaw & Co., dating between 1892-1913 and manufactured in Liverpool England. This piece was likely a whiskey bottle and the number describes the bottle model, further information on this company is available:

<https://sha.org/bottle/pdf/CS&Co.pdf>.

Perhaps one of the most interesting surface finds is the base of what was likely a whiskey bottle found on Goat Island. There is an image of a dragon and “P 823” embossed on the base. Despite research, no further information on this piece has been found.

There is one middle/body fragment of light olive bottle glass that includes part of the foot. This fragment is probably what is typically known a beer bottle, although without the top it is impossible to specify which type, and it is also important to consider its potential for reuse.

The base and body/middle portion of a light green bottle is present in the assemblage. It has a mamelon kickup and has a base diameter of 7.5cm (See figures 6 and 7). As with above it is likely a type of beer bottle, but due to the missing top is unable to be further identified.



Figure 6: Side view of light olive bottle



Figure 7: Base of light olive bottle

There are two codd bottles present in the assemblage and a water rolled fragment of the neck of a codd bottle. There is no further information available from the fragment, however the two codd bottles are well preserved and have clear embossing on them, identifying them with local and foreign companies.

The first codd bottle is an aqua green base fragment with "W M BARNARD// & SONS// LONDON" embossed on the back. On the front there is a cross symbol with "CR....//MARK" embossed inside it and "DUNEDIN" beneath that (See figure 8). It is likely that W M BARNARD & SONS directly exported their product from London to Dunedin as I have found no local supplier or distributor for their company. This piece was found by students of Dive Otago.



Figure 8: W M Barnard & Sons codd bottle

The second codd bottle is aqua green and broken at the neck, but has the whole middle and base and a range of embossing. On the front it has "THOMSON & Co// CRYSTAL SPRINGS// MINERAL WATER// WORKS// DUNEDIN", on the back it has a cross with "TRADE PURITY MARK" running through it and "REGISTERED" below that (See figure 9). Additionally, embossed around the base is "CANNINGTON SHAW & CoLd MAKERS ST HELENS" and has "1901" on the base, indicating the year it was made. Further information is available on Thomson & Co. in P. Robsons *A History of the Aerated Water Industry in New Zealand 1845-1986*.



Figure 9: Thomson & Co. codd bottle

The final glass vessel is a complete bottle, known as a shoofly flask, that is light green in colour and was found by students of Dive Otago. It has embossing on the front that says "SCRATCHERD & Co//WINE//MERCHANTS//HALIFAX". Despite the vessel being complete and having the company name present, I have been unable to find any further information about this piece.

Ceramics

There are 20 pieces of ceramic in this assemblage, three of which were recovered from the beach under the keepers cottage. The pieces recovered from the water include a piece of stoneware (See figure 10), a piece of porcelain and an edge piece of whiteware. The remaining 17 pieces were recovered from around the original and modern keepers cottage.

Stoneware: "One of the three overall ceramics divisions, stoneware is a vitrified (non-porous), highly fired (1200-1250 celsius), opaque (nontranslucent), ware originally developed in the European tradition in thirteenth-century Germany" (Brooks 2005, 33). Mostly bottles, jars and storage vessels, common in New Zealand (Smith 2013, 5).



Figure 10: Stoneware fragment recovered from beach

Porcelain: "True porcelain is a hard, non-porous, vitrified (glassy) and slightly translucent material formed by firing a highly specific mixture of clays at temperatures of about 1280-1400 degrees Celsius" (Brooks 2005, 31).

Whiteware: "White-bodied, clear-glazed refined Earthenware" (Brooks 2005, 35). The most common ware in New Zealand archaeological sites (Smith 2013, 4).

There is a fragment of a tile present in the assemblage with red decoration, but due to wear there is little more to tell from it.

There is a fragment of glazed whiteware, with a slight curve on one side indicating it is a fragment of a plate, but little more can be interpreted from this.

A large and thick fragment of whiteware that has rhine pattern is present in the assemblage (See figure 10). The pattern includes a boat and parallel lines indicating water, typical to the rhine style of decoration. The edge of this vessel would likely have had a floral boarder, and due to its size and thickness, this piece likely represents a large serving platter.

Rhine Pattern: Typically have a scenic centre and a floral rim and are usually grey in colour (Brooks 2005, 44).



Figure 10: Ceramic fragment with rhine decoration

There is one piece of whiteware with willow pattern (See figure 11), and one with what is likely to be asiatic pheasant (See figure 12). Both are rim pieces of a plate.

Willow Pattern: A distinctive and elaborate blue chinoiserie pattern.



Figure 11: Ceramic fragment with willow pattern

Asiatic Pheasant: Typically, a light blue transfer printed decoration with a floral and banded rim, and pheasants and floral scene in the centre.



Figure 12: Ceramic fragment with asiatic pheasant decoration

A single fragment of whiteware with roeun patter is present in the assemblage It is a rim fragment of a plate (See figure 13).

Rouen Pattern: Typically, brown/black with a ribbon motif around the rim.



Figure 13: Ceramic fragment with Rouen decoration

There are three pieces of whiteware with an unidentified green pattern on the rim (See figure 14). The pattern includes a pheasant, fruit and a dragonfly in the boarder motif. The three fragments represent three different large ceramic vessels that were likely serving

platters. One piece has a bend in the edge, perhaps highlighting it as an octagonal or hexagonal plate. The second is a very thick fragment with a straight pattern, indicating it was larger than the other two. The final piece is thinner than the previous two and is curved, indicating it was a plate.



Figure 14: Ceramic fragment of an unidentified decoration

Seven of the ceramic pieces are porcelain belonging to two teacups that have gilt clover and band decoration. Most of the pieces have a gilt band and the fragment of a base of a teacup has a gilt clover in the middle (See figure 15). The bottom of the teacup say "AIRS// CHINA// ENGLAND". There are two handles present, indicating two teacups.



Figure 15: Base of teacup with gilt "tea-leaf" clover decoration

Gilt Decoration: Use of gold paint, banding and “tea-leaf”, a clover-like design is common (Brooks 2005, 39).

The final piece of ceramic is a creamware cup (See figure 16). The handle and rim are present, as is part of the base. This is likely the oldest ceramic as creamware was not popular after the 1820s, therefore making this piece antique by its time of arrival on the island (Smith 2013, 4).

Creamware: A light cream-bodied refined earthenware with a slightly tinted lead glaze over a white body (Brooks 2005, 29).



Figure 16: Creamware cup

References

The following were used to identify ceramics and glass artefacts in the surface finds assemblage from Quarantine Island.

Brooks, A. 2005. *An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia 1788-1901*, a guide compiled by The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and The La Trobe University Archaeology Program.

Smith, I. 2004. *Bottle Glass Identification Guide: A Brief Introduction to the description of Bottle Glass from New Zealand Archaeological Sites*, laboratory guide Anthropology and Archaeology Department, University of Otago.

Smith, I. 2013. *Historic Period Ceramics: Identifying Ware Type and Vessel Form*, laboratory guide Anthropology and Archaeology Department, University of Otago.