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Letter Report on Ninety Six Pottery Fragments

Description

A 2 1/2 page letter from Ivor Noel Hume, Director/Department of Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, to Richard R. Polhemus at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. In the letter, Noel Hume states that he can be of little help in identifying the fragments which were in the list sent by Polhemus on Dec. 14 beyond the identification Polhemus has no doubt already made, although he does provide some commentary on selected fragments and marks. Following the letter is the eight page fragment list that was sent to Noel Hume by Polhemus.

Keywords

Pottery, Cream pots, Ninety-Six, South Carolina, Archeology

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December 20, 1971

Mr. Richard R. Polhemus
Division of Advanced Studies and Research
Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Dear Richard:

Thank you for your letter of December 14 and for sending us a list of the marked fragments from the Ninety Six site. I am afraid that I can be of little help to you, for those marks that are obvious you will already have identified, while those that are obscure are, I think, destined to remain so. As I am sure you are aware, the most up-to-date source for the identification of English ceramic marks is Jeffrey Godden's Encyclopedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks, Crown Publishers, New York, 1964. It should be remembered when using the book, however, that it is not complete and that many marks have been encountered since Mr. Godden went to press. With that said, the following observations may or may not be of use to you:

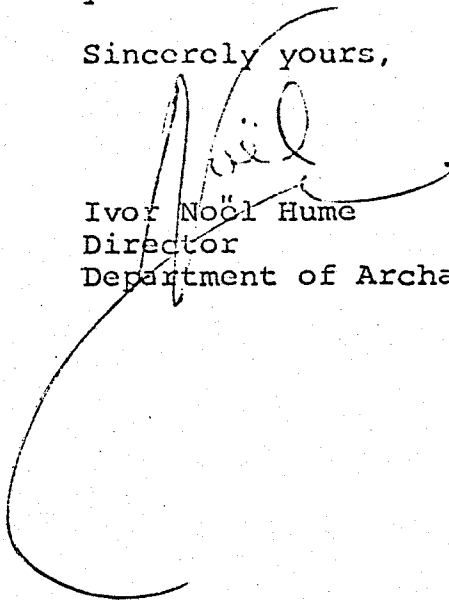
1. The "J E" initials seem to me to cry out to be identified as those of John Ellis of Bristol and Bovey Tracey, for it was Ellis who had ceramic associations with South Carolina. Godden does not illustrate this mark, but all too little is known about the products of the India Pottery of Bovey Tracey, and it may well be that unrecorded marks remain to be encountered.
2. ^{BB}₁₂ I am convinced that this relates not to a manufacturer, but to the body and means "Best Body".
3. The hatched and starred circles are workman's marks and not those of a specific manufacturer--as indeed are most of those illustrated on your page 3.
4. The anchor mark at the bottom of page 3 is almost

- certainly that of John Davenport and dates between 1795 and 1820, with a strong likelihood that the terminal date is around 1810. I am not too certain about the date range of the anchor mark, for it is only datable is association with the name Davenport, which, according to Godden, can be dated between 1795 and 1810 when lower case letters are used. However, in his Illustrated Encyclopedia of British Pottery and Porcelain, he shows the early mark in a straight line on page 117, whereas those that we find are invariably arched and very much more poorly printed. I have a feeling that we have more to learn about the dating and evolution of the Davenport mark.
5. Top of page 4 -- ^{DD}CASTLE This is certainly David Dunderdale of Castleford and dates between 1790 and 1820. The "DD" should read D D & Co.
 6. NEALE & Co. Godden places this mark between c.1784 and 1795, though his differs in that the "o" of "Co" is in upper case. I am a little uncertain about Godden's attribution of the NEALE & Co mark, for in his encyclopedia of marked pieces, he refers to Neale & Co as occurring from 1778-1788, and as this is the more recent book, one may be inclined to accept it. I am, of course, very uncertain as to whether the typesetting of the captions for Figs. 436 and 439 is correct.
 7. Anchor (page 6) - I suspect that this, too, is part of a Davenport mark.
 8. Pp. 7-8 All these appear to be painter's marks and, therefore, cannot be tied to individual factories.

The vast majority of your marks are, as I say, those of either painters or potters and served any one of a variety of purposes. Some were intended to indicate the pairings between cups and saucers or entire services. Others indicate sizes and some identify batches, or an individual craftsman's output. I do think, however, that a careful study of these kinds of marks in relationship to tight archaeological dates may be able to contribute something quite useful, but it would call for a great deal of work and a very sizable corpus of evidence to support the date range for any one of these simple and probably long used marks.

Should you decide to take on such a chore, you may be certain that we will be most happy to assist and to make our collections available to you at any time.

Sincerely yours,



Ivor Noël Hume
Director
Department of Archaeology

Enclosure

CREAMWARE - Impressed Marks

38 GN 2
Ninty-six
Catalog Number

Mark Vessel Form

J≡

Plate Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 224C - 69
38 GN 2 - 224C - 44
38 GN 2 - 224C - 61
38 GN 2 - 224C - 95
38 GN 2 - 224C - 95
38 GN 2 - 225I - 41
38 GN 2 - 224C - 72
38 GN 2 - 224C - 72
38 GN 2 - 203 - 4
38 GN 2 - 203 - 4

Deep plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

Plate base sherds

Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 224C - 56
38 GN 2 - 224C - 65
38 GN 2 - 225I - 36
38 GN 2 - 224A - 134
38 GN 2 - 224C - 52

J-W

Platter, Royal Pattern (mark under rim)

W . . .

Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"
(in conjunction with)

38 GN 2 - 224C-55

[W . . .]

Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 224C 67

CREAMWARE - Impressed Marks

38 GN 2
Ninty-six
Catalog Number

Mark Vessel Form

WEDGWOOD Plate base sherd (no foot ring)

38 GN 2 - 225L - 40



Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 224C - 42



Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 224C - 97

38 GN 2 - 224C - 96



Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 224C - 93

38 GN 2 - 2240 - 24

(BB mark also on pearlware over 2 in the same form)



Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 224C-63

38 GN 2 - 224C - 62



Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 225B - 104

CREAMWARE - Impressed Marks

Mark

Vessel Form

38 GN 2
Ninty-six
Catalog Number



Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 225H - 2
38 GN 2 - 224E - 11



Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 7 1/2"
Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 224C - 66
38 GN 2 - 225A - 49



Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 224C - 92



Platter, Royal Pattern

38 GN 2 - 225I - 24



Plate, Royal Pattern Diameter 10"
(in conjunction with)
Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 224C - 55

38 GN 2 - 225U - 12



Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 224A - 111

Dated p. 5.

CREAMWARE - Impressed Marks

Mark

Vessel Form

Catalog Number



Base sherd, form not determined

38 GN 5 - 63

"Oval New Royal Salad"

38 GN 2 - 168 - 20

NEALE & Co

(Vessel form illustrated in
a Ledds pattern book reproduced
in The Leeds Pottery by Donald
Towner)

PEARLWARE - Impressed Marks

38 GN 2
Ninty-six
Catalog Number

Mark	Vessel Form	Catalog Number
HERCULANEUM . *	Plato, Blue Shell Edge Diameter 8 1/4"	38 GN 2 - 224C - 7
BB 2	Plate base sherd	38 GN 2 - 224C - 20
◇	Deep Plate base sherd	38 GN 2 - 224C - 24
◇	Plate, Green Edgeware Diameter 10" occasional green glaze on base	38 GN 2 - 225L - 16
⊕	Plate base sherd	38 GN 2 - 225A - 49
⊕	Plate base sherd	38 GN 2 - 224A - 109

PEARLWARE - Impressed Marks

Mark

Vessel Form

38 GN 2
Ninty-six
Catalog Number

C

Deep Plate, Blue Edgware Diameter 10"

38 GN 2 - 224C - 12

O

Plate, Green Shell Edge Diameter 9 3/4"

38 GN 2 - 224C - 37



Plate, Blue Shell Edge Diameter 9 1/2"
Deep Plate, Blue Shell Edge Diameter 9 1/2"
Plate base sherd

38 GN 2 - 225B - 64
38 GN 2 - 225B - 68
38 GN 2 - 225G - 22

E

Plate fragment, Blue Shell Edge

38 GN 2 - 225B - 69



Platter fragment, Blue Shell Edge

38 GN 2 - 225C - 17

PEARLWARE - Painted Marks

Mark	Vessel Form	Mark Color	38 GN 2 Ninty-six Catalog Number
6	Blue painted bowl fragment	Blue	38 GN 2 - 203 - 9
10	Blue painted bowl fragment	Blue	38 GN 2 - 225L - 6
8	Polychrome pitcher fragment	Brown	38 GN 2 - 224C - 131
N	Blue painted cup with handle	Blue	38 GN 2 - 224C - 153 38 GN 2 - 225A - 20
Z	Polychrome painted saucer	Brown	38 GN 2 - 224A - 83
X	Ribbed Blue painted bowl	Blue	38 GN 2 - 224R - 22
R	Blue painted bowl fragment	Blue	38 GN 2 - 224C - 151
*	Blue transfer-printed cup with handle	Blue	38 GN 2 - 224C - 176

PEARLWARE - Painted Marks

38 GN 2
Ninty-six
Catalog Number

Mark	Vessel Form	Mark Color	Catalog Number
V	Blue painted saucer fragment	Blue	38 GN 2 - 224C - 147
h	Blue painted saucer	Blue	38 GN 2 - 225B - 77
C	Polychrome painted bowl fragment	Brown	38 GN 2 - 2240 - 9
R	Polychrome painted saucer fragment	Brown	38 GN 2 - 224A - 68
1	Polychrome painted saucer (yellow band around rim with small flowers dotting interior)	Brown	38 GN 2 - 225B - 72
Partial mark	Polychrome painted saucer (pattern same as 225B - 72)	Brown	38 GN 2 - 224C - 123
V I	Polychrome painted cup (pattern same as 225B - 72)	Brown	38 GN 2 - 224C - 134
D	Polychrome painted cup (pattern same as 225B - 72)	Brown	38 GN 2 - 225B - 73