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APPEIDIX III FABRICS

Following experimentation with different methods of fabric classification, it was decided to adopt one similar to that employed by the Museum of London DUA (Orton 1978). The fabric code is descriptive and is of the form:

Lx/yl

The initial letter 'L' represents the major temper employed in the manufacture. The first numeral 'x' indicates the variation of the major temper and the acceptable combination of minor inclusions. The numeral 'y' after the slash may be omitted, but when present indicates the probable source of the pottery. The final string of one or more lower case letters 'l' indicates that there are additional distinguishing features. An example of the system in use is Thameside 'black burnished ware' from Cooling, known here as Sl/6bs. One could refer to similar pottery from the region as a whole as Slbs. Sandy fabrics with a similar composition from the entire region could be referred to as simply Sl.

Fabrics are listed according to temper. Where fabrics from different production sites are very similar, only the most typical is described in full. The remainder are listed in numerical order. Only Upchurch and Thameside fabrics are described, those of Thameside Essex and West Kent being beyond the scope of this work. The philosophy of the chosen system is outlined in chapter 4.

Temper Codes

C - chaff	F - flint
G - grog	H - shell
I - no temper	S - sand

Production Area Codes

- 1 - Upchurch, including Hoo and all Medway marshes.
- 2 - Isle of Grain.
- 3 - Higham and the High ground above the Thames.
- 4 - Cliffe parish.
- 5 - Shorne parish and marshes to the east of Chalk.
- 6 - Coaling and Halstow marshes.

Technical Variations

b - burnished.
h - hand made body (rim may be wheel finished),
p - pitch-painted,
s - slipped.

Fabric Description

Hardness : soft / fairly hard / hard / very hard.
Feel : harsh / rough / smooth / soapy.
Fracture : clean / finely irregular / hackley / laminar.

Inclusion Description

Size : Very fine (<0.1mm) / fine (0.1-0.25mm) /
medium (0,25-0.5mm) / coarse (0.5-1mm) /
very coarse (over 1mm).
Frequency : occasional / sparse / moderate / abundant
Sorting : i - ill sorted / w - well sorted
Rounding : A - angular / SA - sub angular / R - rounded /
F - flat / I - irregular

Note an 'occasional' inclusion need not be present in every sherd nor indeed in every vessel. Too much importance should not be attached to the presence or absence of such an inclusion. The above descriptive terms are based on those in Orton (1978), where criteria are more fully explained.

Sand tempered fabrics

Sl/1

Colour : Grey, occasionally brown or orange.
Section : as surface, occasionally sandwiched shades of grey.
Texture : rough.
Fracture : hackley.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Surface : undecorated, untreated.
Decoration : none . May have a finishing gloss near rim.
Manufacture : wheel thrown.
Inclusions : Quartz, abundant, medium, i, SA.
Magnetite, sparse, medium, i, SA.
Ironstone, sparse, fine, i, R.
Greensand, occasional, medium, i, R.

Variations:

Sl/3: As Sl/1 except the fabric includes Quartz, moderate, medium, w, SA in addition to larger grains.

Sl/4: As Sl/1 but quartz tends to be less abundant. Also includes:
Flint, occasional, coarse, i, A
Shell, occasional, medium, i, F

Sl/5: As Sl/4 except that colour tends towards brown and buff shades of grey.

Sl/6: As Sl/1 except that quartz tends to be fine.

Sl/4b

Colour : black to mid grey.
Section : lighter grey than surface, often with black core.: Texture : smooth. Hardness : fairly hard. Fracture : hackley.
Surface : burnished all over on dishes, on exterior and rim of enclosed vessels.
Decoration : burnished zones, open or closed acute lattice, sine waves, burnished parallel lines or crosses, tooled cordons and grooves.
Manufacture : wheel thrown. Some turning on bases and on rims. Inclusions : Quartz, abundant, medium, w, SA.
Magnetite, sparse, very fine, w, R.
Mica, occasional, fine, i, F.
Chalk, occasional, medium, i, SA.
Flint, occasional, coarse, i, A.
Shell, occasional, medium, i, F.

Variations:

"early" Sl/4b: The quartz is consistently more abundant and larger than above.

Sl/1b: As Sl/4b except that quartz is more abundant and burnish tends to be inferior.

Sl/3b: As Sl/4b except that quartz is fine and abundant.

Sl/5b: As Sl/4b except that colour is often black-brown whilst section margins are often light green-buff shades.

Sl/6b: As Sl/4b except that the colour in section tends to be sandwiched with a grey core and orange margins. Quartz is often moderate, medium.

Sl/6bs: A burnished and slipped ware identical to Sl/6b, but with a grey slip applied to the shoulders of jars and bowls prior to burnishing. The slip remains darker than the body of the pot, but may turn red in burnished areas when misfired.

Sl/1bs: As Sl/1b with grey slip.

Sl/3bs: As Sl/3b with grey slip.

Sl/4bs: As Sl/4b but slipped finish is burnished a very glossy black.

Sl/5bs: As Sl/5b with a dark or light grey slip.

S2/1

Colour : grey but frequently orange.
Section : light grey or as surface.
Texture : rough.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Fracture : hackley.
Surface : untreated.
Decoration : cordons and stabbing.
Manufacture : wheel thrown.
Inclusions : Quartz, sparse, medium and coarse, i, R.
Greensand, sparse, medium, i, R.
Magnetite, occasional, medium, i, R.
Flint, occasional, medium, i, SA.
Vegetable charcoal, occasional, medium, i, I.

Note :

Probably a coarse aberration of S1/1 with larger, less frequent inclusions. Other sites produce a few equivalent fabrics, but only S2/6 is noticeable in any quantity.

S3/lhb

Colour : black or shades of brown, grey or orange.
Section : as surface.
Texture : smooth.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Fracture : hackley,
Surface : usually burnished overall or in parts, occasionally wet burnished, giving the appearance of a slip.
Decoration : vertical combing or burnishing in zones.
Manufacture : hand built. Some rims may be wheel finished. Some pot bodies and bases are knife-trimmed.
Inclusions : Quartz, moderate- abundant, medium & coarse, i, SA.
Greensand, occasional, medium, i, R.
Vegetable charcoal, occasional, medium, i, I.
Flint, occasional, coarse, i, A.

Variations :

S3/lh: Unburnished variant of above. Texture is rough, surface untreated.

S3/1: Wheelmade version of above. Intermediate between S3/lh and fabric S1/1.

S3/4h: Almost insignificant in quantity as S1/4 fulfils same role. A variant of S1/4 with more, coarser sand.

S3/6h

Colour : orange or grey.
Section : orange or grey.
Texture : rough,
Hardness : soft.
Fracture : hackley.
Surface : untreated.
Decoration : horizontal combing, cordons, grooves.
Manufacture : handmade.
Inclusions : Quartz, abundant, coarse, i, SA.
Magnetite: sparse, medium, i, A.
Shell, sparse, medium, i, F.
Ironstone, sparse, fine, i, SA.
Flint (pink), occasional, coarse, i, A.

Variations :

S3/6hb: As above except burnishing is used to produce a smooth texture on the surface or is employed in zones as decoration.

S4/6: Wheelmade version which includes sparse, coarse, vegetable charcoal producing a softer fabric.

S4/1b: As S1/1b with the notable exceptions that the colour tends to be brown shades of grey. Moderate, coarse vegetable charcoal pieces discolour the section and make the fabric soft.

S5/4b

Colour : matt black or dark grey.
Section : pale grey.
Texture : smooth.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Fracture : fine irregular.
Surface : burnished, but with a matt finish.
Decoration : latticing, burnished lines or sine waves.
Manufacture : wheel made.
Inclusions : Quartz, moderate, fine-very fine, w, SA.
Quartz, sparse, medium, i, R.
Magnetite, occasional, medium, i, R.
Vegetable charcoal, occasional, medium, i, I.

Note :

Less glossy, less robust and distinctly finer version of SI/4b, normally confined to dishes.

Variations :

S5/1b: As S5/4b but with: Flint, occasional, medium, i, F.

S6/6b

Colour : light grey or grey-brown.
Section : sandwiched grey with black core and often orange margins.
Texture : smooth.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Fracture : laminar.
Surface : burnished.
Decoration : none.
Manufacture : wheel thrown and turned.
Inclusions : Quartz, abundant very fine, w, SA.
Magnetite, sparse, medium, i, SA.
Quartz, occasional, medium, i, SA.

Variations : S6/6bs

As above, with a grey slip applied before burnishing.

Shell tempered fabrics.

H1/4h

Colour : orange or blue-grey.
Section : as surface or contrasting shade.
Texture : rough.
Hardness : soft.
Fracture : irregular.
Surface : 'corky' appearance when shell leaches out.
Decoration : thumbnail impressions or stabbing around jar shoulders. Grooves, cordons and occasional burnished areas.
Manufacture : hand built, wheel finished rim, often knife trimmed near base.
Inclusions : Shell, abundant, very coarse, i, F.
Quartz, sparse, fine and coarse, i, R.
Greensand, occasional, medium, i, R.
Chalk, occasional, coarse, i, A.
Flint, occasional, fine-very coarse, i, A.
Grog, occasional, medium-coarse, i, A.
Mica, occasional, very fine, i, F.
Voids, occasional, medium-very coarse, i, I.

Variations :

H1/4hp: As above, but the vessel rim and shoulder are painted with pitch. H1/6h:

As above. Shell is moderate, medium, i, F.

H2/4

Colour : Orange-pink or blue-grey.
Section : as surface or contrasting shade.
Texture : rough.
Hardness : soft.
Fracture : laminar-irregular.
Surface : 'corky' when shell leaches out.
Decoration : cordons, grooves, some occasional burnish.
Manufacture : wheel thrown.
Inclusions : Shell, abundant coarse, i, F.
Quartz, moderate, fine, w, SA.
Quartz, sparse, medium & coarse, i, SA.
Greensand, occasional, medium, i, R.
Charcoal, occasional, coarse, i, I.
Chalk, occasional, coarse, i, A.
Flint, occasional, coarse, i, A.

Note :

A very similar fabric was produced in the same area in the 14th century, but the surface is a darker grey, with lighter buff-grey sections.

Flint tempered fabrics

Fl/lh

Colour : all shades from orange to black.
Section : as surface.
Texture : harsh.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Surface : untreated.
Decoration : diagonal or vertical rough combing. Occasional finger stabbing.
Manufacture: hand built, some knife-trimming.
Inclusions : Flint, abundant, very coarse, i, A.
Flint, moderate, medium, i, A.
Quartz, sparse, coarse & medium, i, R.
Grog, sparse, medium, i, A.
Mica, occasional, fine, F.
Magnetite, occasional, medium, i, SA.
Charcoal, occasional, medium, i, A.

Variations :

Fl/lhb: As above, but has burnishing on upper parts of vessel producing a smooth silky finish.

Fl/lhp: As above, but black pitch is painted onto the rim.

F2/1

Colour : all shades from orange to black.
Section : as surface.
Texture : rough.
Hardness : fairly hard.
Surface : untreated.
Decoration : cordons or grooves.
Manufacture : wheel thrown.
Inclusions : Flint, moderate, medium, i, A.
Quartz, moderate, very fine to medium, w, SA,
Charcoal, sparse, medium, i, SA,
Magnetite, occasional, medium, i, SA.

Variations :

F2/lb: As above but vessels may be burnished on the shoulder and rim.

Chaff-tempered fabrics

Cl/lh

Colour : brown to orange.
Section : as surface.
Texture : soapy.
Hardness : soft. Fracture : irregular.
Surface : 'corky'.
Decoration : none.
Manufacture : hand built.
Inclusions : voids, abundant, very coarse, i, I.
plus occasional items as per M5/1.

Variations :

C2h: Salting 'briquetage' : bright orange in colour, crumbly in texture. Most areas had their own equivalent chaff-tempered salting vessels, but only Upchurch produced other vessels in Clh.

Grog-tempered fabrics

G1/4b

Colour : orange, occasionally grey.
Section : black or grey.
Texture : smooth.
Hardness : soft.
Fracture : irregular-laminated.
Surface : burnished.
Decoration : rouletting, cordons, grooves.
Manufacture : wheel-thrown, some turning and knife-trimming.
Inclusions : Grog, moderate, medium to coarse, i, A.
Quartz, sparse, fine, w, SA.
Quartz, occasional, medium, i, SA.
Chalk, occasional, medium, i, A.
Charcoal, occasional, coarse, i, I.
Mica, occasional, i, F.

Variations :

G1/4hb: Handmade variant of above.

G1/1: As above, rare, but colour is normally grey.

Fabrics with no added temper

N1/lb

Colour : black to light grey, occasionally pale orange-pink.
Section : as surface, or sandwiched light and dark grey.
Texture : soapy. Hardness : soft, Fracture : clean.
Surface : burnished smooth. Becomes blotched when eroded.
Decoration : rouletting, 'barbotine' dots, incised lines, compass scribing, cordons, burnishing in zones.
Manufacture : wheel thrown and turned.
Inclusions : Magnetite, sparse to moderate, medium, i, SA.
 Voids, sparse to moderate, fine, i, R.
 Quartz, occasional, very fine, w, SA.
 Grog, occasional, medium, i, A.
 Chalk, occasional, fine, i, SA.
 Shell, occasional, fine, i, A.

Variations :

N1/lbs: As above, but slipped an upper parts before burnishing. Slip may be same colour as vessel, often black, occasionally white.

N2/lb

Colour : black to dark grey, occasionally pale orange-pink.
Section : grey or black core with pink or grey margins.
Texture : smooth. Hardness : fairly hard. Fracture : fine irregular.
Surface : burnished, often to a very high gloss.
Decoration : rouletting, 'barbotine' dots, incised lines, compass scribing, cordons, burnishing in zones.
Manufacture : wheel thrown and turned.
Inclusions : Quartz, sparse to moderate, fine, w, SA.
 Voids, sparse, fine, i, R.
 Mica, occasional, very fine, i, F.
 Shell, occasional, fine, i, F.
 Chalk, occasional, fine, i, R.

Note :

N2 was made from a siltier clay with a lower iron content than was used for N1. It can be distinguished from HI because of the latter's blotched appearance.

Variations :

N2/lbs: As above, but slipped black or grey.

N2/4b: As above but colour is black or steel grey. In section it is grey or black but seldom sandwiched, decoration is limited to rouletting, cordons and grooves. The fabric is only postulated and may be a version of Upchurch N2/1.

N3/lbs

Colour : light grey to buff-yellow.
Section : as surface or with black core and black interior face. Texture : soapy. Hardness : soft. Fracture : clean.
Surface : slipped grey or white, mica prominent.
Decoration : rouletting, incised grooves, compass-scribing. Manufacture : wheel thrown and turned.
Inclusions : Quartz, sparse to moderate, fine, w, SA.
Mica, sparse, fine, w, F.
Magnetite, sparse, medium, i, SA.
Voids, sparse, fine, i, R.
Grog, occasional, fine, i, SA.

Note:

Mica sheen is not a true mica dust, colour is main distinguishing feature.

N4/lb

Colour : orange-pink.
Section : as surface or has a black core and black interior face. Texture : soapy. Hardness : soft.
Fracture : clean.
Surface : slipped white.
Decoration : normally none. Odd forms may be rouletted.
Manufacture : wheel made, in 3 parts if flagon, and turned. Inclusions : Magnetite, sparse to moderate, medium, i, SA.
Quartz, sparse, very fine, w, SA.
Mica, sparse, very fine, w, F.
Voids, sparse, fine, i, R.
Grog, occasional, medium, i, A.

N5/6h

This 'fabric' is typical of a range of handmade, untempered fabrics probably employed in an *ad hoc* manner on home-made pots. The inclusions vary depending on the exact location of manufacture but may consist of quartz, grog, charcoal, flint, greensand, mica, chalk, shell, magnetite, ironstone and gravel in varying quantities. The resultant fabric is usually soft and soapy and the colour may vary as much as the inclusions.