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SURVEY OF VENETIAN AND *FAÇON DE VENISE*
ENAMELLED AND GILDED GLASS MADE c. 1500-1550
AND EXCAVATED FROM RELIABLY DATED CONTEXTS
IN GREAT BRITAIN

This paper results from the author's participation in a research project concerning enamelled and gilded Venetian Renaissance glass. The project (Project Cristallo) was initiated in 2009 by the Musée du Louvre, under the supervision of their curator of Renaissance glass, Françoise Barbe, and in collaboration with Isabelle Biron (Laboratoire du Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France [C2RMF]), independent glass scholar Rosa Barovier Mentasti and Marco Verità (Laboratorio di Analisi dei Materiali Antichi [LAMA] – Università IUAV, Venice). The project aims to establish, through chemical analysis of the glass and enamels, criteria that enable Venetian Renaissance enamelled glass to be distinguished from *façon de Venise* production. The project will also attempt to distinguish Renaissance examples from later pastiches or fakes. The database that is being developed is the first to be dedicated to this subject.

The project incorporates a historic and stylistic study of Venetian Renaissance enamelled glass in tandem with the physico-chemical studies being carried out by the C2RMF on glasses in various French collections. It is essential that the project includes analysis of well dated and/or well documented glasses to serve as references by which to gauge the groups of vessels from French museum collections that have been identified through chemical analysis. Recent finds of enamelled glass fragments datable to the Renaissance in archaeological contexts can provide rare evidence

about this problematic production. In 2013 the C2RMF made a European-wide appeal for information about such objects or fragments in museum collections or from archaeological excavations; this quest would lead, at the next stage, to requests to analyse some of this material.

This author's brief was to locate examples of Venetian Renaissance enamelled and gilded glass from reliably dated contexts in Britain¹. These are often either unpublished or published in an archaeological context. Furthermore, staff responsible for archaeological finds may be uncertain of the characteristics of Venetian Renaissance glass. In rare cases, fragments may be lost. A major source of information about glass in British excavations are the reports, published and unpublished, by the glass historian Robert Charleston (1916-1994), Keeper of Ceramics at the Victoria and Albert Museum (1963-1976). His *English Glass and the glass used in England* (Charleston 1984) provides useful information about glass from British excavations. Hugh Willmott's *Early post-medieval vessel glass in England c. 1500-1670*² also provides indispensable information on glass from archaeological sites.

The project undertaken regarding material from British sites comprised a survey of Venetian and *façon de Venise* enamelled and/or gilded glass dating from the later 15th to the 17th centuries and excavated from reliably dated contexts. The Venetian-style fragments yielded from such contexts were more wide-ranging and also included examples of *millefiori*, *lattimo*, *vetro a filigrana*, diamond-point engraved and other glass types. This article presents the Venetian and *façon de Venise* enamelled and/or gilded glass dating from the later 15th to the mid-16th centuries. While information on finds was sought throughout Great Britain, examples of this type were only found from excavations in England.

¹ Postscript: In November 2014 some of the fragments described here were analysed by Isabelle Biron and Marco Verità at the C2RMF. The results will be presented at the 20th Congress of the Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre (AIHV) in September 2015 and subsequently published in the *Annales du Congrès de l'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre*.

² Willmott 2002.

The fragments of Venetian enamelled and gilded glass all have decorative features that are generally dated to the late 15th – early 16th centuries, while at least some of the *façon de Venise* examples probably date from a little later.

The finds relevant to this paper are luxury imports rarely found at British archaeological sites. This is reflected in the locations of the sites discussed here: ports, the City of London, a royal palace, castles and manor houses. Outside London, the richest source of material is Southampton. This survey is arranged by county, place and, when more than one site is discussed in a city, in chronological order by excavation date.

THE SURVEY

HAMPSHIRE

Southampton

Southampton was one of England's leading medieval ports. In the 15th century its trade in commodities such as wine, wool and cloth made it one of the most prosperous and cosmopolitan cities in England. Italian merchants were frequently resident. This prosperity continued in the early decades of the 16th century, and there were active trade routes to the Mediterranean. From the later 16th century much of the international trade went to other ports, principally London, and Southampton entered a long period of decline.

Excavations and 15th-century port records indicate that Southampton was a prime port of entry for glass from Italy and the Netherlands. Historically, Southampton has produced the finest collections of late medieval and early post-medieval vessel glass outside London.

The finds are from three areas of the city, excavated during three campaigns that were undertaken between 1953 and 2006. They are in the care of Southampton City Council. Unless deposited with a museum, they are located at the Collections Management Centre under the responsibility of the Archaeological Curator.

Excavations carried out 1953-1969

The earliest excavations were carried out between 1953 and 1969 and published in 1975³ (various site codes). Two locations revealed material pertinent to this study. The Quilter's Vault (site code SOU127) deposits, found in an early 16th-century context, included fragments from a goblet bowl with a gilt band below the rim⁴, a shallow bowl with pale blue and white enamelling and gilding below the rim and *mezza stampaura* ribbing⁵ (compare with Upper Bugle Street, Southampton, invs SOU124.451, 452 and Winchester, acc. no. ARCH 1585.153 below and an intact example in the Museo del Vetro, Murano, inv. Cl. VI. 1083⁶), and the foot and gilt knob from a goblet⁷. High Street C site (site code SOU161) contained a fragment of purple glass with white, green and yellow enamel and gilding⁸ and fragments from two goblet bowls, one with white, blue and red enamels⁹, the other with traces of gilding on the knob¹⁰.

Upper Bugle Street excavation, 1976

The second Southampton excavation cited here was carried out in 1976 on the site of a medieval tenement on the corner of Simnel Street and Upper Bugle Street (site code SOU124). It contained a remarkable assemblage of over 200 glass fragments from about ninety vessels at the bottom of a garderobe, together with Dutch and Italian maiolica and English tableware. The material is dated to the late 15th to early 16th centuries. Many of the glass vessels can be reconstructed almost completely, suggesting they were discarded together soon after breakage.

³ Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975. The glass was written up by Robert Charleston (Charleston 1975), whose analysis here, according to Hugh Willmott (Willmott 2011: 46), remains one of the key reference works on vessel glass of the late medieval and early post-medieval period.

⁴ Charleston 1975: cat. 1524; fig. 223.

⁵ Charleston 1975: cat. 1526; fig. 223 and pl. III.

⁶ Illus. Barovier Mentasti and Tonini 2013: cat. 15.

⁷ Charleston 1975: cat. 1527; fig. 223.

⁸ Charleston 1975: 208 and cat. 1548.

⁹ Charleston 1975: cat. 1553.

¹⁰ Charleston 1975: cat. 1554; all three illus. in Charleston 1975: fig. 224.

The glass has only been published in a small general booklet on the excavation¹¹. However, Robert Charleston compiled an unpublished report on the glass, and it is also discussed in a recent doctoral thesis about Roger Machado, who occupied a house on the site from 1486 until 1497¹². Machado (d. 1510) was a diplomat and officer of arms of Portuguese extraction. He was an important courtier and Henry VII's roving ambassador to the courts of Naples, Spain and France. Machado probably entertained visiting dignitaries, so if the glass is from his occupancy it may include gifts received by him.

Unfortunately, the glass and ceramics from the site were disturbed by later activity (especially the top layer of the garderobe), which may explain the presence of later material. However, the vast majority of the assemblage can be dated to the later 15th century.

The glass includes fragments from Venetian flasks, beakers, jugs and bowls. Many have worn gilding with etched bands of gold leaf. Others have enamel dots and vertical ribs. In his report, Charleston observed that the site was notable for perhaps the greatest concentration of long-necked flasks with pushed in bases¹³ from one find spot: eighteen necks and bases, three of each ribbed. Three of the necks have a band of gold leaf an inch or two below the rim (SOU124.350, SOU124.353, SOU124.354).

The site also contained fragments of significant sections of three ribbed beakers, two with enamelled and gilt rim borders (SOU124.279, with brown dots; SOU124.281, with white dots). Compare these and similar beakers from Southampton's French Quarter, Christchurch (Dorset), Acton Court (Avon) and Gateway House (City of London), all below, with an intact example in the Hockemeyer Collection¹⁴. A large blue glass bowl fragment with extensive incised gilding and white enamel dots probably had a pedestal foot originally (SOU124.450). Two colourless glass bowls

¹¹ *Luxury Goods from a Medieval Household* (Holdsworth n.d.).

¹² Gemma Watson, University of Southampton, 2013. The subject of the thesis was the 15th-century herald Roger Machado.

¹³ Two examples of this type, dated 1492, were excavated in Cremona (Zecchin 1990: 161-63).

¹⁴ Dreier 1998: cat. 26.

with *mezza stampaura* ribbing below an applied trail have enamelling and gilding below the rim (SOU124.452, with pale blue and white dots; SOU124.451, the gilding including a horizontally running scallop motif, and white dots). Fragments from a colourless footed bowl with *mezza stampaura* ribbing on the bowl, a ribbed foot and dark blue trails round the bowl and foot rim include a blue handle with traces of gilding (SOU124.453).

French Quarter excavation, 2005-2006

Excavation of the French Quarter (site code SOU1382) was carried out by Oxford Archaeology in 2005-2006 and published in 2011 with the glass written up by Hugh Willmott¹⁵. The finds have not yet been deposited.

The glass comprised 2,073 fragments from 191 contexts, at the time of its publication the most important assemblage of its kind to have been excavated in the last decade¹⁶.

The largest property, and the most significant for finds assemblages and documented history, was Polymond's Hall (tenement 237 [including tenement 236]), in the 15th century home to notable residents such as the Venetian Consul. The finds from here included a large assemblage of glass dating to *c.* 1500-1550 and incorporated good quality tablewares as well as more utilitarian storage vessels. Five fragments are from an enamelled and gilded Venetian ribbed beaker dated to the first decades of the 16th century¹⁷ and similar to those already described from Upper Bugle Street. Willmott describes it as the most complete example of this type found archaeologically. It is enamelled below the rim with a band of red, yellow and white rosettes between horizontal lines of white dots and its ribs are gilded.

Another important vessel is represented by six fragments from a French enamelled pedestal beaker¹⁸. It has a band of lettering between horizontal lines of dots below the rim, above a male head in profile wearing a beret. The glass is dated to the first half of the 16th century,

¹⁵ Willmott 2011.

¹⁶ Willmott 2011: 182.

¹⁷ Willmott 2011: cat. 43; fig. 5.37.

¹⁸ Willmott 2011: cat. 82; fig. 5.41.

but the fragments are unstratified, being from a disturbed area of the site, and cannot be assigned to a specific tenement.

Finds from tenement 172 include a small fragment from the rim of a bowl with at least one surviving trail and some small patches of opaque white enamel¹⁹. It is dated to the early to mid-16th century.

Winchester

Winchester was an important religious centre and trading city, directly connected by the River Itchen to Southampton. Fragments of a shallow Venetian colourless glass bowl of a type dated to *c.* 1500 were excavated in Winchester in 1957 at a site called TSLH 57, The Slaughter House (East Wing), in St George's Street. The bowl has *mezza stampaura* ribbing below an applied trail and a rim border comprising incised gilding and two rows of white enamel dots that appear to be overlaid with red (Fig. 1). The excavation was carried out by Frank Cottrill but only partially published²⁰; plans to publish the post-medieval finds, including the bowl, were not fulfilled. Charleston referred to the bowl in two publications²¹. The bowl (acc. no. ARCH 1585.153) is in the care of Winchester City Council and is displayed in the Westgate Museum.

DORSET

Poole

Poole in Dorset was an established southern English port in the medieval period and the town was moderately prosperous for much of the 16th century. Salvage excavations were carried out between 1973 and 1983 and published in 1992, with the glass catalogued by Robert Charleston²². The finds are located in Poole Museum. Charleston observed that the glass included some rare and interesting examples, the majority imports.

¹⁹ Willmott 2011: cat. 5; fig. 5.34.

²⁰ Cunliffe 1964.

²¹ Charleston 1975: 208 and Charleston 1984: 45.

²² Charleston 1992.

Several fragments from enamelled colourless glass vessels were excavated at the Orchard Car Park site. Charleston catalogued them as probably French, *c.* 1525-1550²³. He noted that they lacked the gilding found in association with enamelling on Venetian glasses and that the enamel colours, white, blue and red, were characteristic of French glass. Some of the fragments appear to be from a rim border and incorporate lettering from an inscription.

Christchurch Priory, Christchurch

Christchurch was in Hampshire until 1974, when the county boundary changed. Christchurch Priory was an Augustinian foundation dissolved during the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, in the reign of Henry VIII. The conventual monastic buildings were soon demolished. Excavations carried out between 1969 and 1980 were published in 1983, with the glass identified by Robert Charleston²⁴.

The finds from 1969/70 include three sherds from the bowl of a Venetian colourless glass ribbed beaker dating to *c.* 1500, its rim border comprising incised gilding and white and blue enamel dots, with further gilding below²⁵. They were in a 13th-16th-century context in a waterlogged garderobe. The finds are in the care of Hampshire County Council, and the beaker fragments (acc. no. A 1980.62) are at the headquarters of the Arts & Museums Service, Chilcomb House in Winchester.

AVON

Acton Court, near Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire

An important group of Venetian glass fragments came to light during the excavation carried out by English Heritage in the late 1980s at Acton Court, a moated manor house near Iron Acton in South Gloucestershire. The excavation has been published, with the

²³ Charleston 1992: cats. 5-10, illus. fig. 79: 135 for discussion; cat. 106, beaker base, perhaps belonging to cat. 10, not illus.

²⁴ Charleston 1983.

²⁵ Charleston 1983: cat. 2; fig. 31; Tyson 2000: cat. g175-6.

vessel glass catalogued by Paul Courtney²⁶. The glass is in the care of Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives.

Acton Court was inherited from the widow of the last of the Actons by her nephew, Sir John Poyntz, in 1364 and remained in the Poyntz family until 1683. The glass may be associated with a royal visit. Henry VII dined there in 1486, when it was in the ownership of Robert Poyntz. Robert's grandson, Nicholas Poyntz, also received royal favour. Henry VIII, Queen Anne Boleyn and their retinue stayed at Acton Court in August 1535 and it appears that pottery and glass were imported for the occasion.

Superb Venetian glass vessels were found in association with a set of ceramic plates, the latter discarded no later than the 1540s. Coin evidence indicates a mid-16th-century date for the purchase and deposition of this group. Thus, the deposits of glass are very important in presenting a large group of vessels discarded around the 1540s and 1550s.

The enamelled and gilded Venetian glass finds comprise fragments from four vessels. A rarely found deposit is a fragment in *lattimo* glass with green and dark brown (probably red originally) enamel dots and traces of gilding²⁷ (Fig. 2). For an intact enamelled *lattimo* object compare the Rothschild Bowl, Corning Museum of Glass, inv. 76.3.17²⁸. The rim and body sherds from a colourless beaker have blue, white and red enamel dots and traces of gilding²⁹. A very rare fragment comprises the upper neck and rim from a colourless flask enamelled in red and white, perhaps with additional colours, and scales on the neck that were probably achieved by gilding³⁰. The enamelled pedestal flask occurs primarily in the 15th-century, but examples can date to the very early 16th century³¹. A colourless rim sherd is enamelled with white dots³².

²⁶ Courtney 2004.

²⁷ Courtney 2004: cat. 4; fig. 9.12. BRSMG 36/1989/SF1467.

²⁸ Charleston 1980: no. 35.

²⁹ Courtney 2004: cat. 28; fig. 9.14. BRSMG 36/1989/SF918; BRSMG 36/1989/SF1000a,b; BRSMG 36/1989/SF907.

³⁰ Courtney 2004: cat. 40; fig. 9.15. BRSMG 36/1989/SF1363.

³¹ Willmott 2002: 83.

³² Courtney 2004: cat. 41; fig. 9.15. BRSMG 36/1989/SF1424.

*SURREY**Nonsuch Palace, Cuddington*

The royal palace of Nonsuch, at Cuddington in Surrey, was first excavated in 1959. The excavation was published in 2005, with the vessel glass catalogued by Robert Charleston³³.

Henry VIII began building Nonsuch in 1538. Queen Catherine Parr dined there in September 1544 and Henry VIII visited her there in 1545. Unfinished at Henry's death in 1547, in 1556 it was sold to Henry Fitzalan, 12th Earl of Arundel, who, with his son-in-law John, Lord Lumley, completed it. During the thirty-six years of Arundel/Lumley occupation the palace seems to have been in constant use and the family kept their art collection there. Queen Elizabeth 1 visited Nonsuch on numerous occasions. Later, Henrietta Maria owned the palace until her death in 1669.

The glass excavated at Nonsuch was probably deposited between 1665 and the 1680s. It comes under the auspices of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC)³⁴ and is stored at Mortimer Wheeler House in London. The Nonsuch site code is NON 59 GL1. Fragments from two Venetian enamelled and gilded glass vessels dated to the first third of the 16th century were among the finds.

Numerous fragments survive from an exceptional goblet³⁵. It is of greyish-colourless glass with enamelled and gilded bowl and foot. The enamel colours are white, pale blue and brownish iron-red with lines in black. The bowl was extensively decorated with floral ornament; the upper and lower bowl and the lower part of the foot were embellished with enamels and incised gilding.

The fragments from the second vessel show that it had mould-blown ribbing below an applied trail and a gilt rim border incised with

³³ Charleston 2005.

³⁴ LAARC is responsible for the Museum of London's archaeological collections excavated between 1972 and 1991 as well as the material from a few earlier sites and archives from excavations undertaken since 1991.

³⁵ Charleston 2005: cat. 1; Frontispiece and fig. 110.

a scale pattern and embellished with red and white enamelled dots³⁶. Although Charleston indicated elsewhere³⁷ that this vessel was a small bowl of shallow ribbed type, and the comparatives cited in Charleston 2005 suggest this possibility, Charleston observed in his catalogue entry that it is hard to determine the shape of the lower part of the vessel, while the accompanying illustration indicates a relatively deep profile.

CITY OF LONDON

Several sites in the City of London have included deposits of Venetian or *façon de Venise* Renaissance enamelled and gilded glass. The sites are described in Schofield and Maloney 1998. The quays in the vicinity were important for foreign trade and wealthy merchants were among the residents of the area.

Dyer's Arms, Cannon Street

The Dyer's Arms, 78-80 Cannon Street site was excavated in 1966. The finds are in the LAARC (site code GM29). They include a ribbed and gilded flask neck of *inghistera* type in greenish glass, probably dating to the late 15th – early 16th century (context no. ER1118, acc. no. 25005). Context ER1118 was the uppermost fill of a chalk-lined pit, a lower layer of which yielded a rare coin of Henry IV (r. 1399-1412). Context ER1118 contained several ribbed flask necks and many bases and body sherds in green glass. Compare an intact example of the type in the Museo del Vetro, Murano, inv. Cl. VI. 1172, illus. Dorigato 2003:17.

Baynard's Castle (Baynard House), Queen Victoria Street

Excavations were carried out in 1972 on the site of Baynard's Castle, a prominent waterfront townhouse in Queen Victoria Street that was probably named after an earlier castle formerly on a nearby site. The house was built in 1428 and extensively modified by Henry VII. Its foundations overlay earlier tenements and a public Watergate. The finds, in the LAARC (site code BC72), include two fragments

³⁶ Charleston 2005: cat. 2; fig. 110.

³⁷ Charleston 1984: 45.

from the rim of a blue glass vessel with a pattern of white enamel dots (acc. no. 30) and a rim fragment of colourless (now cloudy) glass with blue enamel dots framing a horizontal gilt band (acc. no. 56).

Abacus House, 33-39 Gutter Lane

Abacus House, 33-39 Gutter Lane, was excavated in 1987. The finds are located in the LAARC (site code ABC87). A cesspit deposit near the Gutter Lane frontage contained a range of mid-16th-century drinking vessels, including fine glass and pottery. The deposit appears to be associated with the guild hall of the Embroiderers livery company (Embroiderers' Hall). Founded in 1520, the hall's functions would have included hosting celebrations and feasts. There are several fragments from various enamelled glass vessels perhaps dating to the mid-16th century, but possibly more broadly within the century³⁸. Some of these are French, such as sections from the rims and upper bodies of two drinking vessels, probably beakers. One of these last is of colourless glass enamelled in white, red and yellow with horizontal and vertical bands of ornament and an inscription below the rim that included the letters 'S' and 'P' (acc. no. 65). The other comprises four fragments of blue glass, also enamelled in white, yellow and red, incorporating a horizontally framed inscription including the letters '...N:SALVT:ET:MON' and an indication of floral ornament below (acc. no. 51)³⁹. Probably also French are a blue glass beaker foot and lower body fragment with a vertical pattern in white enamel (acc. no. 54) and the lower bowl and foot of a colourless goblet with similar enamelled decoration (acc. no. 67). Further enamelled fragments are a blue glass with, below the rim, a profile of part of the head of a person in a red hat (acc. no. 56); a small piece of blue glass with white and red enamels (acc. no. 285); two rim fragments of colourless glass with a double horizontal band of blue dots (acc. no.

³⁸ Some of the examples from Abacus House listed here have similar decoration to examples attributed to France and dated to the latter half of the 16th century in Gaynor 1991. Compare also acc. no. 56 here and Gaynor 1994: 131, the Pontivy fragments, *illus.* See also note 52 here.

³⁹ Published in Clark 2003. Julie Edwards kindly provided information about the publication of acc. no. 51. Clark 2003: 5 dates acc. no. 51 as probably first half of the 16th century.

55), and a fragment of colourless glass with white enamel dots below the rim (acc. no. 64).

1-4 Great Tower Street

1-4 Great Tower Street (LAARC, site code TWR89) is just behind the quays between London Bridge and the Tower of London. Excavation of the site was carried out in 1989. No. 4 was on the site of a large 15th-century cesspit. Fragments from a magnificent Venetian late 15th-century colourless glass beaker with extensive incised gilt decoration, including an inscription and bands of leaves, embellished with dots of white enamel, were found here. The re-joined fragments are currently displayed in the Museum of London. The vessel has been published⁴⁰. Compare British Museum, reg. no. 1904,0706.19.

Gateway House, 1 Watling Street

An evaluation of the site of Gateway House at 1 Watling Street was carried out in 1996, when the building was demolished (site code GM160). Extensive burnt debris found in various cesspits is thought to date from the Great Fire of 1666. The finds, in the LAARC, include two fragments of Venetian enamelled and gilded glass (acc. nos 21435 and 21437), the former incorporating part of the rim of a ribbed beaker with a band of ornament below the rim⁴¹.

Plantation Place

Plantation Place is located near the Thames waterfront and close to Great Tower Street. Historically, it was a thriving area of shops, warehouses and merchants' residences. The site was excavated from 1997 to 2003. The glass assemblage from tenements here is one of the largest of the period in London, with vessels dating from the 12th/13th to the 16th/early 17th centuries. Finds include the largest assemblage of late medieval Islamic-style glass yet found in Britain.

⁴⁰ Tyson 2000: cat. g174; fig. 15.

⁴¹ Tyson 2000: cat. g177; fig. 15.

They are deposited with Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA)⁴² at Mortimer Wheeler House. The site code is FER 97. Fragments from two vessels are pertinent to this study. A colourless glass bowl rim fragment with white enamel dots and gilding is attributed to Venice or in the *façon de Venise* and dated to the late 15th to early 16th century (acc. no. 1243). It was found in tenement 17 in a context dated to *c.* 1200-*c.* 1550. Referring to this glass, Tyson⁴³ has observed that an enamelled blue glass fragment (tenement 17, acc. no. 3270) may be contemporary with it.

Three fragments from the everted rim of a glass attributed to Venice *c.* 1500 were found on the site of tenements 32-33. They have a gilt band incised with letters from an inscription ('..ON..' and 'N' are visible) framed by horizontal lines above a row of upright scales. The fragments have been published⁴⁴.

NORFOLK

Baconsthorpe Castle, Baconsthorpe

Baconsthorpe Castle in Norfolk was built by the ambitious Heydon family over a period of approximately a hundred years from *c.* 1450. They extended the castle as their wealth increased and furnished it luxuriously. In the 1650s they suffered a reversal of fortune when debt obliged them to demolish part of the castle to sell as building material.

Excavations of the site (site code: Norfolk HER no. 6561) carried out between 1951 and 1972 were published in 2002, with the glass catalogued by Robert Charleston⁴⁵. The finds are in the care of the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (site acc. no. 1989.58; English Heritage smallfind no. 546048). Fragments from the upper section and base of the bowl of a Venetian greyish-colourless enamelled 'wine glass' dated to the early 16th century were

⁴² MoLA is responsible for the archaeological collections that it has excavated from 1991 to the present.

⁴³ Tyson 2013: 93.

⁴⁴ Tyson 2013: cat. G63; fig. 58.

⁴⁵ Charleston 2002.

excavated from the moat. There are degraded traces of an enamelled border below the rim⁴⁶. Willmott has described these fragments as being from a pedestal goblet⁴⁷.

CHESHIRE

Amphitheatre, Chester

The site of the Roman amphitheatre just outside the city walls of Chester in Cheshire was excavated by Chester Archaeology (now Cheshire West and Chester [CWAC] Historic Environment Team) and English Heritage from 2004 to 2006 (site code CHE/AMP04 [3084]). The amphitheatre was filled and flattened during the English Civil Wars (1642-1651). Finds from a large pit contained the debris from a high status feast or banquet that took place during the 16th century – possible in the first half or mid-century – with fragments from at least one French enamelled drinking vessel (Fig. 3). The fragments are enamelled in pale blue, white and red with a rim border incorporating the white letters ‘.V.’ and ‘.AVX.’ and, below this, vertical bands of ornament and clusters of stems with white dots representing flower heads or blossom. Previously unpublished.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Eccleshall Castle, Eccleshall

Eccleshall Castle belonged to the bishops of Lichfield. It was demolished by parliamentarians in 1646. Between 1972 and 1975 a small area of the castle was excavated. The artefacts from the excavation are on long-term loan from the present owners of the castle (which was rebuilt after the demolition) to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent. Finds include fragments from two 16th-century *façon de Venise* enamelled vessels: a pedestal goblet⁴⁸ and the bowl of another goblet⁴⁹. The former, which is probably French,

⁴⁶ Charleston 2002: 68 and cat. 111; fig. 38.

⁴⁷ Willmott 2002, classification 13.7: 70-72.

⁴⁸ Sheale 1993, no. 3; Willmott 2002, classification 13.7: 70-72, fig. 81a.

⁴⁹ Sheale 1993, no. 4.

is enamelled on the bowl with a rim border comprising a row of dots above three horizontal lines above a now illegible inscription in yellow. The latter is enamelled in red, turquoise, white and yellow, with a rim border comprising two rows of white dots, each with a superimposed smaller red dot, above elements from motifs in turquoise, yellow, red and white enamel.

YORKSHIRE

Wood Hall, Womersley, West Riding of Yorkshire

Another enamelled pedestal goblet⁵⁰ was found at the site of Wood Hall, a medieval moated manor house near Womersley in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which was excavated from 1987 to 1998. It has gilding and enamelling in white, green and red. It appears to have been dropped from the first floor window of the gatehouse into the moat below⁵¹. Its sophisticated bowl decoration comprises an enamelled and gilded rim border including the inscription 'IESUS MARIA' incised into the gilding and, around the centre of the bowl, enamelled lilies. It is almost certainly of French origin⁵².

Sewer Lane, Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire

Hull is a port city on the Hull River at its junction with the Humber estuary, inland from the North Sea in the East Riding of Yorkshire. In the Middle Ages it had important trade links with northern Europe, but these declined in the 16th and 17th centuries. Finds from an excavation carried out in Sewer Lane in the Old Town in 1974 (site code SL 74) included a greenish colourless glass rim fragment with part of a border comprising 'a horizontal row of dark

⁵⁰ Willmott 2002, classification 13.7: 70-72, fig. 81b.

⁵¹ Supplementary information about the Wood Hall excavation not taken from Willmott 2002 is taken from 'The Wood Hall Moated Manor Project' online resource.

⁵² Compare, for example, elements of the decoration with Gaynor 1991: cat. nos 11, 13, 14 and 29. Gaynor 1991: cat. nos 41 and 42 comprise fragments of glass of the type under discussion in this article, excavated at Dartford, England, and Castle Loch, Mochrum, Galloway, Scotland and dated to the 16th century, but since the reliability of the dated contexts in which they were found is unknown to the author they are not included here.

brown enamel spots above a band⁵³. The deposit that included this fragment was probably made in the second half of the 16th century, possibly after 1560, rather than at mid-century as suggested by Armstrong⁵⁴. The finds are in the care of Hull County Council, deposited in Hull Museums.

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⁵³ Armstrong 1977, context Phase IV: cat. no. 61; fig. 26.

⁵⁴ Dave Evans by email, 13 August 2014.

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Fig. 1 - Rejoined fragments of an enamelled and gilded bowl excavated at The Slaughter House (East Wing), St George's Street, Winchester, Hampshire. Venice, *c.* 1500 (© Winchester City Council Museums).



Fig. 2 - Fragment of enamelled and gilded *lattimo* glass from Acton Court, Iron Acton, Avon. Venice, late 15th-early 16th century (© Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives).



Fig 3 - Fragments of enamelled glass from Chester amphitheatre, Cheshire. Early to mid-16th century (© Cheshire West and Chester Council).