

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 99/91

THE IDENTIFICATION OF SLAGS FROM  
DLGA SITES ROYAL MINT AND CALVERTS  
BUILDING.

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Summary

Morphological examination of the slags indicated the presence of smithing activity at the Royal Mint Site, during the 17/18th century when it was a victualling yard. There was only a background scatter recovered from the Calverts Building Site.

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# Identification of the Slags from DGLA Sites Royal Mint and Calvert's Building.

Dr Gerry McDonnell

## 1 Introduction

The slags were classified using the same typology as described in the report on the National Gallery and Peabody slags (McDonnell 1990). The nomenclature is used is summarised in Table 1

Table 1 Nomenclature

SSL	- smithing slag lumps
HB	- hearth bottom
CIN	- cinder
HL	- hearth lining
OTHER	- other material (ferruginous concretion etc)

## 2 The Royal Mint Site

The slags derived from the 17th century victualling yard which succeeded the Cistercian Abbey and preceded the construction of the mint. Appendix 1 lists the slag by phase and context. This shows that the majority was deposited in Phases 5.1 and 5.2, and suggests that iron smithing was practised in or close to the area excavated. Further analysis of the distribution and correlation with the known plan of the victualling area would be beneficial.

## 3 Calvert's Building Site

Excavations of Calvert's building in Southwark revealed Roamn deposits. The slags are listed in Appendix 2. There was no phase or spatial distribution information available, but the quantity of diagnostic smithing debris is very low and would normally be considered as a background scatter. The absence of hearth lining would support this interpretation, since HL is usually recovered close to areas of smithing activity.

## Reference

McDonnell G 1990 The Identification of the Slags and Residues from DGLA Sites National Gallery and Peabody, London. AM Lab Report 69/90

Appendix 1 Royal Mint Slag Listing (Weight in grammes)

CONTEXT	SSL	HB	CIN	HL	OTHER
PHASE Unphased					
247	105				
1531					118
2572	371				
6728	84				
8656					78
8668		696			
phase total	560	696			196
PHASE 1.1					
6032	128				
6309	59				
phase total	187				
PHASE 2.2					
5254					147
phase total					147
PHASE 3.13a					
9312					105
phase total					105
PHASE 3.2b					
13626	334				
phase total	334				
PHASE 3.8					
716	60				
phase total	60				
PHASE 4.3					
3322				28	
8437	173				
phase total	173			28	
PHASE 5.1					
379	29				
383	304				
3491	10900	6060		123	7500
3512	157				
3780	239				
3811					239
5113	57				
6199	172				
7639	992				
7908	770	560			
7919	24				
7957					1
7978	25				
7979	320				45
8500		455			
8637		444			
8684					430
8687	2300				
9278	532				
13063	842				
phase total	17663	7519		123	8215

Appendix 1 Royal Mint Slag Listing (Weight in grammes)

CONTEXT	SSL	HB	CIN	HL	OTHER
PHASE 5.2					
849	84				
6014			109		
6394	135				
7030	1065				
7115	197				
7397	1293				
7971	1264	487			250
7973					46
7981	80				20
8086	56				
8516	174				
8562		552			
9570					1650
14014					4600
14158	1150				
15140	43				
phase total	5541	1039	109		6566
PHASE 5.3					
1035	140				
13013	95				
13153	301				
phase total	536				
PHASE 5.4					
12370	467				
15018					220
phase total	467				220

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 Total on Site      25521    9254      109      151    15449  
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Appendix 2 Calvert's Building Slag Listing (Weight in grammes)

CONTEXT	SSL	HB	CIN	FAS	HL	OTHER
39	26					
112						32
121						15
135	605					
136	14					
181						45
184	100					
187	70					
188	14					
209	106					
210	180					
225						83
237	2					
304	42					
312	29					
327	13					
346	81					
445	56					
468				7		
492	353					
541	13					
600	31					
616	87					
701	63					
706	46					
724	260					
725	55					
749	311					
795	77					
871	81					
912	190					
924	90					
955						377
971	53					
977	155					
981	19					
982	266					
1000			38			
1001	116					
1062	86					
1191	105					
2063						17
2174	15					
2217	3					
2249						59
2277	4					
2588	195					
2815	87					
5056	2					
*****						
*****						
Total on Site	4101		38	7		628
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