

John Murty.

Report
1578

Lincoln : A Preliminary Report
on petrological examination of pottery

A number of sherds of mediaeval sandy wares were submitted for thin section examination, the results are as follows :

1. Sherd from Silver Street kiln, probably twelfth century. The predominant temper is shell, and it is possible to see some recrystallization of calcite suggesting it is fossiliferous. Since Lincoln is situated on the Jurassic ridge it is probable that this was obtained locally. Also present are small quantities of subrounded quartz, average size 0.25-0.35mm., quartzite and muscovite.
2. Two sherds from the Torksey kilns, plus one from Flaxengate. Numerous grains of subrounded quartz and quartzite, average size about 0.35mm.
3. Two sherds from Flaxengate. Numerous subangular quartz grains of a uniform size, usually 0.25mm. across, together with rounded clay pellets about 0.2-0.3mm. across which are scattered liberally throughout the sections.
4. Sherd from Flaxengate. Abundant grains of subangular quartz and quartzite, average size 0.25mm, an occasional piece of flint.
5. Sherd from a green-glazed 13th-century jug from Nottingham. Rather sparsely scattered subangular grains of quartz and quartzite, average size about 0.25mm. across.

Report sent to
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6. Five sherds of splashed glaze ware jugs, of mid 12th-century date (including one from the Observatory Tower in Lincoln Castle dated on documentary evidence to 1152). The quartz inclusions consist of angular grains about 0.05mm. across which occur naturally with the clay, and somewhat larger subangular grains, average size 0.3mm. , which were added as temper. A little quartzite and an occasional piece of flint are also to be found.
7. One sherd of splashed glaze ware. Numerous subrounded grains of quartz, average size 0.25mm.
8. Two sherds of sandy green-glazed jugs, so-called 'Lincoln ware'. Abundant subangular grains of quartz ranging in size from 0.1mm. to 0.3mm. One or two pieces of flint were also noted.
9. One sherd of a sandy green-glazed jug, so-called 'Lincoln ware'. Subrounded quartz grains, about 0.35mm. across.
10. One sherd of a sandy green-glazed jug, so-called 'Lincoln ware'. Subangular grains of quartz, average size between 0.2mm. and 0.3mm.

On the face of it, even allowing for some element of washing out of sand, the clay used in the sherd from the 12th-century kiln at Silver Street does not appear similar to the 13th-to-15th-century 'Lincoln ware'. Torksey ware is certainly present in the 10th or 11th-century levels at Flaxengate, though it is clear that other centres were also producing this type of ware at this time. None of the splashed ware jugs from Lincoln matched the section from the Nottingham jug, and five out of the six samples analyzed of the former ware formed a homogenous group. However, none of the splashed ware samples were similar to the sections of later

'Lincoln ware', which seems to have been made at several centres.

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