

PETROLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MEDIAEVAL POTTERY

FROM THE TUDOR MERCHANTS HOUSE, TENBY

AND CARDIGAN CASTLE

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Six sherds of mediaeval pottery thought to be Spanish imports were submitted for thin section examination under the petrological microscope.

- 1) Tudor Merchants House, Tenby, PRN 8886, nos. (12), (35), (84)/(85).  
Cardigan Castle, 1082, nos. (1), (105).

All the sherds are in a distinctive micaceous fabric, normally light red in colour. Under the microscope the fabric has much in common with imported 'Merida-type' vessels from a number of sites in Britain (Williams, 1979). It is likely that late mediaeval red micaceous pottery was produced at other places in Spain besides Merida, and was made in Portugal as well (Hurst, 1977; Williams, 1979). The importation of Merida-type wares into Britain spans the period from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries A.D. (Hurst, 1977).

- 2) Cardigan Castle, 1082, no. 1

Small bodysherd in a hard, slightly rough sandy fabric, creamy (Munsell 10YR 8/3) slip on the outer surfaces, red (10R 5/6) core. Thin sectioning in this case is unhelpful, revealing little but subangular grains of quartz and giving no idea of origin.

References

- Hurst, J.G. (1977) 'Spanish pottery imported into Mediaeval Britain',  
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