An introduction to the identification of ceramics excavated from 18th and 19th century archaeological sites

Illustrations of ceramics found on Cape sites 1700-1900

Prepared by Antonia Malan, Historical Archaeology Research Group, UCT

September 2009

Figure 1. Coarse earthenware: ‘Khoi’ pots.

(Smith & Sadr)
Figure 2. Coarse earthenware (some lead glazed) made at the Cape in European style: cooking pots and kitchenware.

Figure 3. Tin-glazed earthenware: European.
Figure 4. Asian stoneware storage pots: martevaans.

Figure 5. Chinese stoneware: Yixing teaware.
Figure 6. Japanese stoneware *donabe*.

Figure 7. German salt-glazed stoneware: jugs/bottles.
Figure 8. German salt-glazed stoneware: bottles ('gins' or mineral water) and sherd sand showing internal ‘rilling’ from potters fingers.

Figure 9. English white salt-glaze stoneware: moulded plate and ‘debased scratch blue’ bowls.
Figure 10. British salt-glazed stoneware containers: bottles, jars, 'inks', etc.

Figure 11. British commercial liquid glaze stoneware: left, dipped in brown slip.
Figure 12. British unglazed black (basalt) stoneware, and cane ware.

Figure 13. Chinese export porcelain: underglaze blue-and-white.
Figure 14. Chinese export porcelain: teaware with brown exterior and underglaze blue and enameled decoration, and ‘mandarin’ ware.

Figure 15. Chinese export porcelain: European taste of 18th and early 19th century.
Figure 16. Chinese export ware: enamelled – red and gold, armorial ware, encre de Chine, famille rose.

Figure 17. Japanese export porcelain: ‘Company plate’, large handled bowl (used as chamber pot in the Cape) and small bowl.
Figure 18. Japanese export porcelain: enamelled bowl and saucer.

Figure 19. Asian market wares: underglaze blue dishes and bowls (note unglazed 'biscuit rings' inside the saucer-dishes).
Figure 20. Asian market ware: red and green enamelling on a creamy body.

Figure 21. English bone china: with gold decoration.
Figure 22. English bone china: sprigged.

Figure 23. English bone china: left, with hand-painted lustre decoration; right, with mother-of-pearl lustre glaze.
Figure 24. British creamware: moulded feather edge and plain undecorated plates, plain undecorated bowl, overglaze decorated plate rims.

Figure 25. British pearlware: shell edge, hand-painted (note the blue ‘gather’ underneath the tea bowl)
Figure 26. British whiteware: ‘stone china’ jug and ‘iron-stone’ bowl.

Figure 27. Whiteware plates, cups and candlestick
Figure 28. British 'teapot' ware: 'brown betty' teapots.

Figure 29. British yellow ware and Cornish ware.
Figure 30. British jasper ware.

Figure 31. Painted decoration: Chinoiserie on pearlware.
Figure 32. Painted decoration: blue floral.

Figure 33: Painted decoration: ‘soft’ colours.
Figure 34. Painted decoration: ‘harsh’ colours.

Figure 35. Painted decoration: lustre.
Figure 36. Gilding: on French, British, Chinese and Japanese ceramics.

Figure 37. Transfer printed: Staffordshire blue Willow Pattern and other Oriental scenes.
Figure 38. Transfer printed: single colour European scenes ('Rhine' pattern on right).

Figure 39. Transfer printed: blue floral design ('Asiatic Pheasants') on lidded serving dish and plate.
Figure 40. Transfer printed: sheet designs.

Figure 41. Transfer printed: multi-coloured ‘print & paint’ and ‘lithographic’ print (right).
Figure 42. Transfer printed: left, flow blue; top right, bat printed; bottom right, tissue printed with stippling.

Figure 43. Slip decorated.
Figure 44. Sponged.

Figure 45. Lined.
Figure 46. Shell edged.

Figure 47. Industrial slipware with rouletting at rim.
Figure 48. Engine turned (on a lathe), and moulded refined stoneware

Figure 49. Undecorated whiteware: moulded
Figure 50. Chinese ‘ginger jars’.

Figure 51. Motto plates, miniature cup, dolls and doll’s teaset
Figure 52. Domestic hygiene

Figure 53. Late 19th / early 20th century decoration and forms.
Figure 54. Egg holder, moustache cup, motto cup, breakfast service, and a table centre-piece.

Figure 55. Some forms and functions are really difficult to describe …
Figure 56. Afrikaaner icon: the meaning of the kommetjie.

Vessel forms

Figure 4.44: A Selection of Common Vessel Profiles (adapted from Blair and Freeman 1991).
VESSEL FORM NOMENCLATURE

1. PLATE

2. JUG

3. KRAST