

LONG ISLAND KAOLIN TOBACCO PIPES

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The evolution of kaolin tobacco pipe styles has been an invaluable aid for the historical archaeologist in the refinement of site temporal affiliations. Until 1954 conclusions regarding pipes were inferred from the bowl only; but in that year a theory which used calibration of stem holes was published. J.C. Harrington, of the U.S. National Park Service, noticed that the stem borings had become increasingly smaller from 1620 to 1800. Lewis Binford later formulated a straight-line regression formula based on Harrington's work which facilitated a mean date for stem fragments. The formula appears to be accurate for the period 1680-1760.

Adrian Oswald published the first study of bowl evolution in 1951. Pipe bowls were noticeably smaller in the late 16th and early 17th century; originally this was due to a scarcity of tobacco. Bowl diameter was thicker and the stem could be as short as 1 3/4"; they averaged about 3 1/2".

Bowls became broader and were set at a greater angle to the stem through time. Nineteenth century bowls display a greater elaboration of stylistic design, including ribs, stars, and faces. Pipe lengths of 13" were common by the eighteenth century, with a variation from 9" to more than 2'.

These photographs illustrate kaolin pipes surface collected and excavated, mostly at the Hicks House site in Queens County, about 50 years ago by Richard Spooner. The Hicks House was located at the head of a tidal marsh at the head of Flushing Bay; it is now under Cross Island Blvd. between the Expressway and Northern Blvd between the areas of Bayside and Douglaston. This collection illustrates Dutch, English, and American types from the 1630s to the mid-1800s.

William Asadorian, Reference Librarian, Long Island Room, Queensborough Public Library, identified these Long Island kaolin pipes from the photographs, without examining them physically; therefore, some identifications are tentative. His assistance is greatly appreciated. Photographs by George Adams for S.C.A.A.

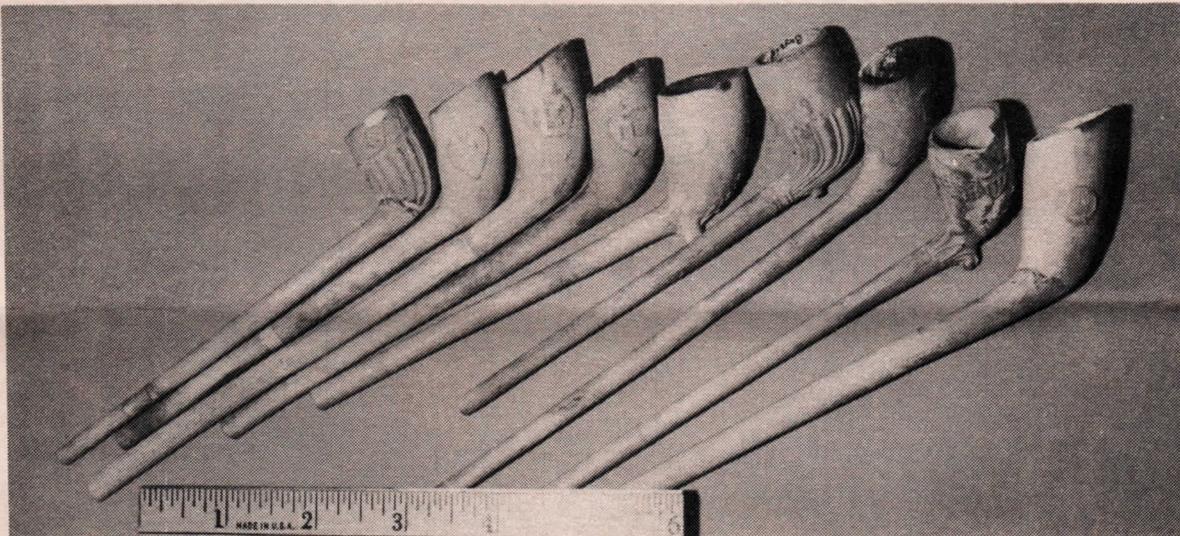
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Pipes from the Hicks House, c. 16--, Flushing Bay, Queens County, except Top Row no. 1 from a field in Lake Success on the Sperry Plant property; courtesy of Richard Spooner.

Left to right, Top Row: 1) Reed pipe, terracotta, American manufacture, c.1850-60; 2) English, c.1780-90; 3) Probably English, c.1820-40. Middle Row: 5) Probably American manufacture, c.1795-1805; 6) May be a Peter Dorni pipe, European; 7) Appears to be a marked Peter Dorni pipe, c.1810-30; Bottom: 8) Possibly Dutch with a number marking on the bottom of the heel, c.1810.



Pipes from the Hicks House, Flushing Bay, Queens County; courtesy of Richard Spooner.

Left to right: 1) Probably New York origin, c.1790-95; 2) Rare - Probably Robert Trivett, 1705, Nottingham, England (heart cartouche is unusual); 3) Rare - Robert Tippett, 1713, Bristol, England (dotted cartouche is unusual); 4) Rare - Probably the mark of Isaac Evans, 1699, Bristol, England; 5) Thomas David, 1835, Birmingham, England; 6) May be a Peter Dorni (his name would have appeared on both sides of the stem if complete), 1810-20, European; 7) Looks like a Scottish pipe with a thistle, c.1810-20; 8) Probably American manufacture, c.1790-95; 9) If WW mark on bowl facing smoker, would be William West, 1726, Bristol, England



Pipes from the Hicks House, Flushing Bay, Queens County; courtesy of Richard Spooner.

Left to right: 1) (WG) William Golding, 1740, London, England 2) Looks like (Wood), c.1800, probably American manufacture 3) Appears to be the same as 1; 4) Probably of Dutch manufacture, c.1835; 5) Probably American manufacture, c.1840-50.



Pipes 1-3, 5,6,8-10 from the Hicks House site, Flushing Bay, Queens County; pipes 4 and 7 from an unknown Queens site; courtesy of Richard Spooner.

Top to bottom: 1) American manufacture, c.1790-95; 2) American manufacture, c.1800-10; 3) Could be English, c.1830-40; 4) Looks like an eagle's claw foot pipe, c.1840; 5) TD with ("13 start "), probably American manufacture, c.1800-10; 6(Same as 5; 7 and 8) Probably English, c.1795-1815; 9) Rare - English coat of arms, Revolutionary War, c.1780); 10) If RT is on side of bowl, c.1713, Bristol, England



Pipes excavated at an unknown site, probably in Queens, possibly the Hicks site; courtesy of Matt Schreiner and Stan Wysniewski.

Top row, left to right: probably all English, with no marks, c.1680, c.1645-50, c.1655, c.1640.

Middle row, left to right: water worn, probably Dutch, c.1635, c.1638, c.1650-55, c.1630; below row, left: probably Dutch c.1628.

Bottom row, left to right: Dutch c.1630 (tip of stems looks shaved down to make a new tip), probably Dutch c.1640.



Pipes from an unknown site between Northern State Parkway and the Expressway, now Alley Pond Park, Queens County; courtesy of Richard Spooner. All of the pipes are c.1835-1845, except for the bottom left pipe with the bumpy stem, which may be c.1810-1820. These may all be of local (American) manufacture.