

I. Editorial

Although the Society is still in process of formation, now seems a good time to foreshadow some of its aims, and in particular the aims of its Newsletter. We see these at present as falling into three groups:

1. The presentation of news on forthcoming events of interest - digs, lectures, exhibitions, field trips etc.
2. The exchange of news items, information and references between groups and individuals in all parts of Australia, as well as overseas, to keep members well up to date with recent work.
3. Instruction and guidance in various methods of recording sites and artefacts, and in the preservation of antiquities.

A point of some importance at this stage is that the Society is in no sense in competition with any existing bodies or groups now working in the field of 19th century research. On the contrary, we hope to affiliate with such groups as soon as possible. Our emphasis is mainly upon the exchange of progress reports and news throughout Australia, and particularly on the study of 18th and 19th century artefacts so that interested students anywhere can make useful and systematic contributions.

We propose to issue the Newsletter six times a year, with five main sections - Editorial, Forthcoming Events, News Items, Recent Publications, and Research Techniques. This last section will be devoted to one or more topics per issue, and will outline specific methods of research.

Contributions from members are an essential part of this programme, so please send us

1. News about activities in your own area - recording or reconstruction projects, marine activities, demolition and salvage activities, research in progress into Historical material (in general the relevant dates are 1788 - 1900 or shortly after, but some contact precedes , while many traditional crafts and processes continued long after World War I)
2. Information about, and preferably copies of, local publications (museum guides, articles in local papers and society proceedings) concerning 18th-19th century artefacts and industries for inclusion in the bibliographies being prepared.
3. Information about local museums and their collections, especially in relation to the topics occurring in the Research Techniques section of the Newsletter (see list below)

In turn, we hope to make available to members roneoed lists of publications, notes etc. as more information is gathered.

In 1971, we propose to deal in a preliminary fashion at least with the following topics in the Research Techniques section: Clay pipes, Recording domestic buildings, Nails, Glass Bottles, Stoneware Bottles, Transfer-Printed Earthenware (including Willow Pattern), Dairying Utensils, Sealing and Whaling artefacts, and Flour Milling. An editorial committee made up of people with specialist interests in these various aspects will prepare text and bibliography on each.

Information on any of these topics will be welcome as from now.

II. Forthcoming Events

Irrawang: Excavations will be in progress between December 7th and 20th, and interested visitors are welcome. The site is 3 miles north of Raymond Terrace, just east of the new Pacific Highway, but better reached by turning off right to the old Pacific Highway about 2½ miles north of R.T.
N.S.W.

Kurnell, Excavations will be in progress at Kurnell
Sydney Dist: Peninsula for about a fortnight, beginning on December 28th. The site is in the vicinity of the Banks monument on the foreshore.

Wybalenna Excavations at the Aboriginal Settlement will
Flinders Isl. take place January 16th -24th. Enquiries to the
Tasmania: Adult Education Board, 51 York Street, Launceston 7525 (although the excavation camp itself is now full)

NB: We are dependant on information from other states about dates and locations of excavations which welcome visitors and/or volunteer diggers. Please give us details in good time

III. News Items

N.S.W. Bottle Auctions The three recent auctions in Parramatta have inevitably aroused considerable interest in the collection of 19th century bottles, already well-established in the U.S.A. Attractive as individual bottles can be in their own right, they are considerably more informative when they retain some information about their origin. However, at present the looting of bottle dumps in both cities and country districts is uncontrolled, and pending legal action under the new Act we can only encourage local members to record any dumps they know of as fully as possible (cf. Research Techniques, this issue)

Sydney City Demolition and building excavation continue to yield items of interest which need adequate recording. The Eastern Suburbs Railway site at Edgecliff has produced a pharmaceutical bottle dump. Rich blood-red clay can be seen emerging from the vicinity of the old Tivoli, the former Brickfields Hill...The fight to save Kelly's Bush on the Hunters Hill promontory has brought into notice the former site of the Sydney Smelting Works, one of the rare tin smelting sites in Australia, founded in 1892.

Victoria Williamstown A good collection of artefacts from this earliest suburb of Melbourne, founded 1837, is recently reported, including a large number of clay pipes and stems. Very useful comparative material for the contemporary sites of Irrawang, Wybalenna, and Port Essington.

W. Australia: Following the appalling account of the looting of the Batavia wreck (Westerly July, 1970) comes the welcome news from Dr. Crawford of the W.A. Museum that the site has now been mapped, and that excavation will begin shortly. A Curator of Marine Archaeology is to be appointed shortly.

IV. Recent Publications

Not yet out, but due in July or August, is a long-awaited first - a History of Australian Bottles written by Mr. I. Steer, head of a firm already well-known for its bottle auctions, and Mr. Terry Ingram writer on antiques. We hear it is to retail at under \$2.00.

Meanwhile the major works for the bottle collector still come from the U.S.A. A number of these, priced between \$1.50 and \$4.50, are put out by the Old Time Bottle Publishing Co., 611 Lancaster Drive, N.E., Salem, Oregon 97301, who will doubtless send a catalogue on request.

NB. Can we nevertheless repeat our plea to bottle collectors? Keep the bottles by all means (until there is adequate legislation to protect historic sites, including bottle dumps, in all states) but give any information you can about bottle sites and their contents to you local museum - or to us - before all record is lost.

The Directing of Archaeological Excavations by John Alexander. London: John Baker Ltd., 5 Royal Opera Arcade, Pall Mall, London S.W.1. £4.50 1970.

This excellent but expensive book is only incidentally concerned with the specific problems of historical and industrial archaeological sites. Instead it follows a more systematic classification of sites into residential, military, industrial etc. regardless of period. Indispensable reading for all who have been or plan to go on an excavation.

V. Research Techniques

2. Old Australian Pottery

Pottery was made in the colony virtually from its beginning, but as yet there are few marked pieces located that date before the later 19th century. A random selection of some early potters known from records would include:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sydney: | Samuel Skinner, Jonathon Leake, Anson Moreton, Baldock and Co., Bradford and Co., William J. Carter, T. Field, Gilbert Macarthur, Liebentritt, Enoch Fowler, Bakewell Bros., H & W. Mashmann. |
| Newcastle: | Irrawang, Anthony Hillecoat, Nathan Wellam, Robert Turton. |
| Lithgow: | Lithgow Pottery |
| Melbourne: | Luke Nolan |
| Bendigo: | Bendigo Pottery |
| Hobart: | William Sherwin |
| Launceston: | Cornwell's |

Much of our information about these 19th century potteries comes from their catalogues and bills, where these still exist. The oldest surviving in Sydney to our knowledge is a Lithgow catalogue of 1889, and a Fowler illustrated booklet of 1903. These give the main ranges in both earthenwares and stonewares (the latter of course tougher than the earthenwares and gradually in the course of the 19th century displacing it for domestic vessels of heavy use), together with an indication of the various sizes for each shape. The commonest stoneware containers, which can still be found in old tips, cellars, under floors and on demolition sites, are usually those bought on a large scale from the potteries by manufacturers of acid, ginger beer, ink, vinegar and spirits, who usually add their own names on the front of the container. Into this category also belong water filters, once a common household and railway carriage item, often elaborately marked with the manufacturer's name. Domestic wares in both earthenware and stoneware had a more restricted distribution; they included table wares and teapots, kitchen storage, cooking and

dairying utensils, bathroom bowls, ewers, footwarmers and chamber pots, flower vases, garden urns and flower pots. Already it seems clear in N.S.W. at least that lead-glazed and red earthenwares for ordinary table use were not produced much after about 1850.

One category of pottery continues to pose problems - that is the blue-and-white china so common in the earlier part of the 19th century and decorated with transfer printing (including willow pattern designs) or feather edging, later produced in green, red and brown as well as blue. It is as yet not clear how much of this was produced in N.S.W., or how soon it became a commercial proposition. The Irrawang pottery attempted it, apparently without great success. Our knowledge from other states is even less.

The Lithgow catalogue of 1889 lists the five glazes made (Bristol, Cane, Majolica, Rockingham, Salt) and the 67 items of household use for sale. In the kitchen wares there are four styles of store jar - the squat, straight and globe covered forms, and the bung jar (with cork or bung) - and three types of stoppered bottle, the bottle, demijohn and screw-top. More specialised vessels include bread crocks, butter pots, cream pans, milk pans and churns, and for cooking piedishes, pudding basins, baking dishes, patty pans, pipkins and Dutch jars, as well as miscellaneous items like butter coolers, safe stands and jelly moulds. In table ware there is a good range of Rockingham and Majolica teapots and pitchers, including Toby jugs, carafes (monkeys), mugs, jam pots and cheese covers. As well as these we find spittoons, spirit and tobacco barrels, bread plates, bedpans, footwarmers, footbaths, and a variety of flower pots, fern pots, seed pans and vases for cut flowerstogether with four varieties of bird water fountain.

The Fowler catalogue of 1903 shows a slightly different range with less domestic varieties since all were salt-glazed. Ginger beers, bung jars, spirit bottles, acid and vinegar bottles and screwtops, & bread crocks are all illustrated. By 1932 when the next catalogue is available, several of the traditional forms are no longer being made.

The repertoire so far available from the Irrawang site of James King's pottery is of course earlier yet than Lithgow. King's own records of his range are not extensive, although he mentions ewers, wine coolers, water monkeys, wash basins, filters, mugs, pickle and preserve jars, milk pans etc. (1844 Maitland Mercury) in advertisements. Some whole pots still exist - wine jars, monkeys and ginger beers, and the shapes of many more can be reconstructed from fragments found around one of his kilns: piedishes, pudding basins, dinner plates, cups, saucers bread and milk pans, chamber pots, Toby jugs, and a variety of salt-glazed store jars

Another point of interest is the very close correspondence between Australian and Eastern U.S.A. earthen and stoneware ranges in the 19th century. (cf. Watkins, Early New England Potters and their Wares Harvard Univ. Press, 1950) (J.M.B. and K.F)

Further information about Australian pottery can be found in several issues of Pottery in Australia, e.g. 4.1 on Lithgow, the Australasian Antique Collector 3, 1967, and two articles in the J.R.A.H.S. 1971.

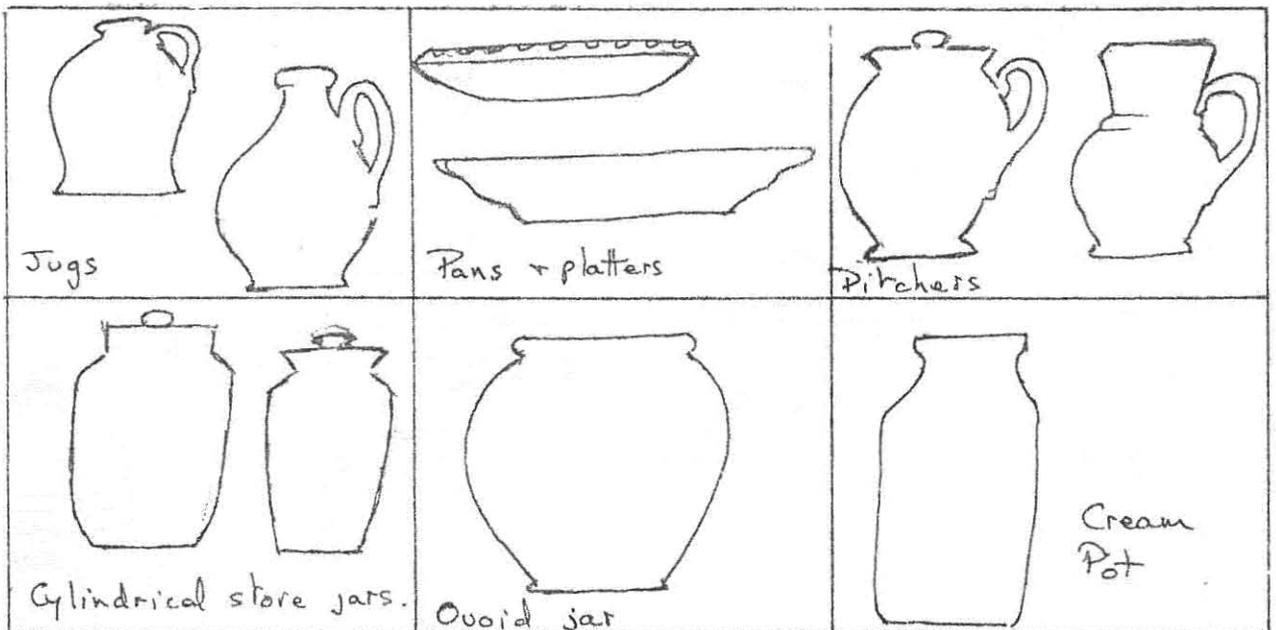
The Society's major research project this year is the compilation of an Index of Australian Potteries, with marks and dates, and Catalogues where possible. We are therefore most anxious to hear from readers, including those working in museums) about

1. Any marked pieces of 19th century Australian pottery (with details of shape, size colouring and mark
2. Any records - bills, catalogues, newspaper refs. etc.

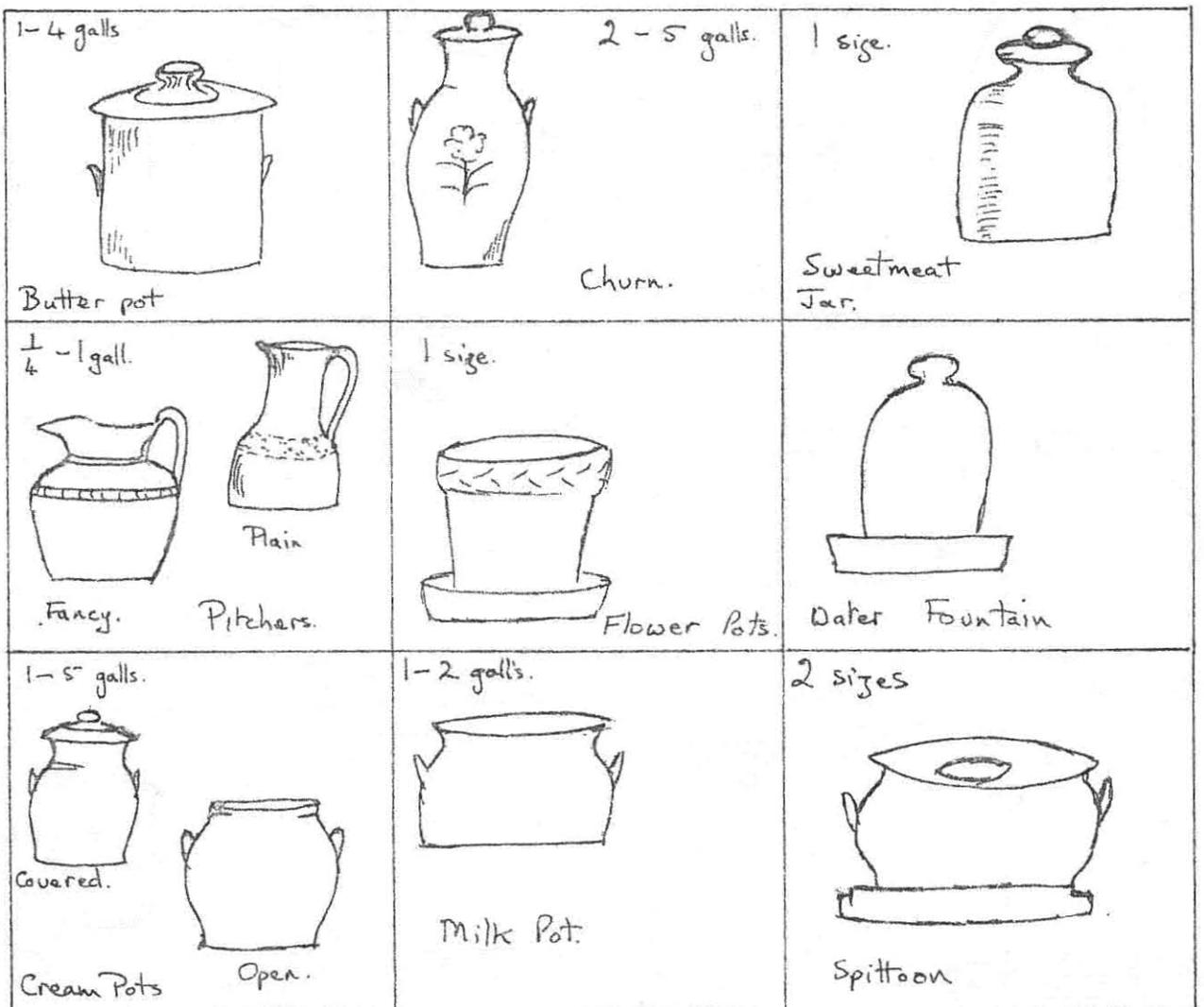
Please send c/o Miss J. Birmingham, ASHA Hon. Sec., Uni. of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.

American East Coast shapes and wares

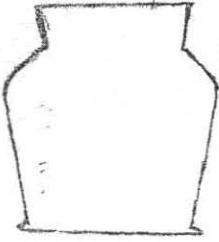
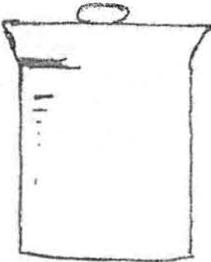
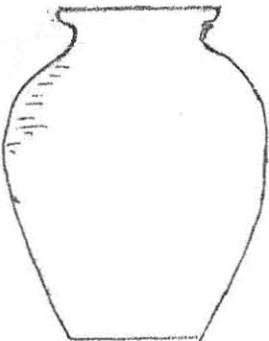
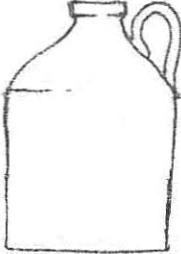
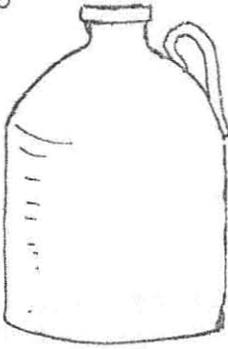
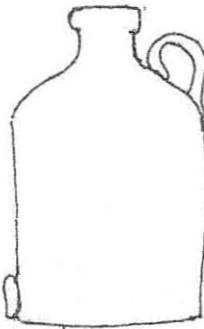
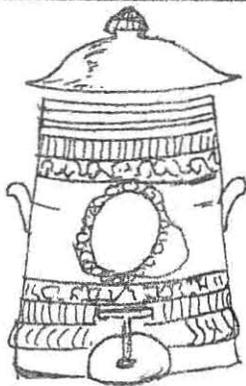
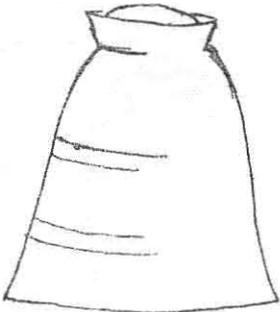
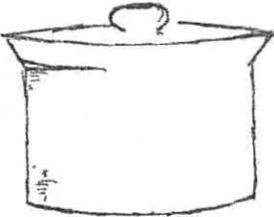
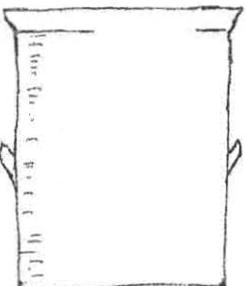
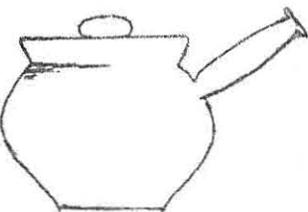
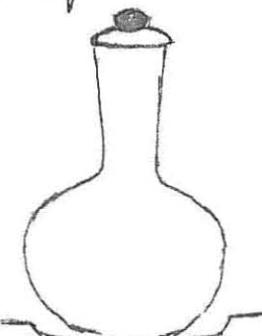
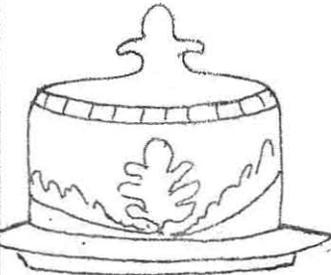
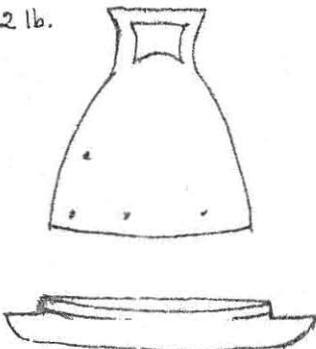
The main redware (earthenware) shapes by the mid and late 19th century in the eastern states were as follows:



Bills from Ashfield, Mass. (1848), Fairfax, Vt. 1840, and Bennington Vt. 1856, confirm that the stoneware range was very comparable to that of Lithgow, with a variety of specialised kitchen pots together with beers and ginger beers, inkstands, water fountains, spittoons and water kegs.



LITHGOW POTTERY..... Catalogue 1889.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1 pt. - 12 qts.  Squat covered jar. | 1 - 12 qts.  Globe covered jar. | 1 - 6 qts.  Cylindrical covered jar. | 1 - 12 qts.  Bung jar. |
| 1 qt. - 2 galls.  Bottle | 2 gall.  Screw topped. | 1 - 2 galls.  Demijohn. |  Filter. |
| 2 - 6 gall.  Churn. | 16" - 22"  Milk pan | 1 - 8 lbs.  Butter Pot | 2 - 6 galls.  Cream jar. |
| 1 pt. - 3 qts.  Dutch pot | 1 - 2 pts  Pipkin | 1 - 2 qts.  Monkey (carafe) | 1 size only  Cheese cover |
| 1 - 6 qts.  Water fountain | 2 lb.  Butter cooler |  Safe stand |  1/4" x 12" Terra cotta vase |