PIPES FROM THE ISLAND OF POMEGUES  
IN MARSEILLE

Some new dating hypothesis for Ottoman Empire clay pipes

In France we say : « Mieux vaut un bon croquis qu’un long discours » that means « a rough drawing is better than a big speech », on top of it, my English is not very academic. That’s why you will find in the following pages numerous pictures and figures.

Geographical context :
Pomegues island is included in the Frioul archipelago inside Marseille roadstead.

Frioul archipelago is compounded of three islands: Ratoneau, Pomegues and If. The antique harbour first used by Phoenician and Roman galleys (slave ships) is located in Pomegue island. See after that a picture according to « A » sight.
Historical context:

Since antiquity, people of Marseille have had trading relations with the Levant, probably because 600 years BC, Phocean people took part in the establishment of Marseille. This lasted until the 19th century. During a period from the last years of the 16th century to early 19th century, numerous ships where coming from the different satellite French settlements established in Levant: Istambul, Salonika, Athens, Mosconissy, Alexandretta, Tripoli, Sidon, Tunis, la Calle and cap Negre. Some of these were old Fondouks dating from the Crusader period, for example St Jean d’Acre and Smyrna (Izmir).

At that time plague was endemic in Ottoman Empire, and that's why every ship from these origins and going to Marseille was obliged to clear a quarantine period in Pomegues port, in consequence of which, the bottom is in fact a kind of archaeological rubbish dump.

During the last decade the scuba divers of A.R.H.A (Association de Recherches Historiques et Archeologiques) directed by Michel Goury, have excavated underwater the Pomegues port bottom (by courtesy of DRASM) and came up to the surface with a very important cargo of various artefacts: pottery, crockery ... and clay tobacco pipes of course.

The author's job was to classify and, when possible, identify over a thousand clay tobacco pipes. At first this was set up very roughly and according to supposed origin, there are three main groups of pipes:

1) Italian pipes (venetian country) 16% likely datable
2) Dutch, British and French pipes 24% likely datable
3) Ottoman Empire pipes 60%

It’s why the Ottoman Empire clay pipes study is the most important part of our investigation.

The archaeological evidence, a very close context.

The dating context of Pomegues quarantine port is particular, and in fact we had to say "closed": The reason is that this natural antique harbour was during XVIe, XVIIe and XVIIIe utilised for quarantine, and after that, deserted for another more suitable port in another island of Frioul: Ratoneau. The ultimate and exceptional quarantine in Pomegues occurred in 1801 exactly on October 11 (19 Vendemiaire) with the return of “Armee de l’expedition d’Orient” directed by General Bonaparte.
On the diagram, the thick black curve gives the number of ships a year in Pomegues from the Levant, the slim curve gives the number of clay pipes clearly identified found in the excavation, classified according to decades. We notice is a very good synchrony between the two curves, the dating of pipes checked during the closed period of using Pomegues harbour, to confirm that hypothesis. Moreover we have not found any XIX° century French pipes.

Surprising when XIX° is considered to be the golden age of French clay pipes (Age d’or de la pipe en terre française) Particularly Bonnaud’s pipes in Marseille! In opposition to that, Bonnaud’s pipes were found in several Ottoman archaeological sites, for example in Malta and Tunisia.

In Pomegues the archaeological levels were continuously disturbed by ship’s anchors.

Dutch, British and French pipes are numerous enough to be significant:

- **250 dutch pipes from early types to late XVIII° types, as following samples, dated according to D. Duco**

Types 1 Early types: 1620-1690 (six examples)

On the picture, a very early

Hypothesis: Amsterdam production, dating circa 1620-1640

---

1 John Wood « Pipes from Gozo, Malta » SCPR 36 – « from Tunis Dar Othman collection »
2 D. Duco « De Nederlandse Kleipijp »
Types n°2 “trechter” : 1690 – 1740 ( about 100 examples )

* “A” sub-types Gouda production :
  like 1690 – 1710

* ”B” sub-type Gouda production :
  like 1700 - 1730

* “C” sub-type Gouda production :
  Like 1720 - 1740

Heel-marks dating of course confirmed by stem bore diameters.

Type n°3 “ovoï de” :
1730 – 1900
( about 110 examples )

Type n°4 “kkromkop” :
1730 – 1900
( about 30 examples )
- 50 British pipes from early styles to late XVIII° styles, as following samples, dating according to B.A.R. ³

**Early types:**
1610-1640
(2 examples)

White and orange clay, no maker’s mark as we can see on the picture.

Dating period confirmed by stem-bore diameter 3.2 mm

**Types N° 2**
sub-types B 1670 – 1710
( four examples)

Our hypothesis: Broseley style for these 3 pipes. The third has circled IB maker’s mark on the bowl-side, possibly Joshua Billing or John Baxter 1709, or James Birchall 1691, all three of Rainford.
Dating period: late 17ᵗʰ or early 18ᵗʰ confirmed by stem-bore diameter 2.2 mm

**Types N° 3** 1710 – 1820  (thirty five examples)
For example sub-types B 1730-1770 (fifteen examples)

**Décorated – bowl pipes** sub-type 3B (fifteen examples)

Pipes bearing the royal arms, with maker’s mark H&B on each side of the heel. Probably Henry Bundell of London 1740-1770.

³ British Archaeological Reports « The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipes.
- Vol III Britain: the North and West
- Vol IV Europe I
- Vol VII More Pipes and Kiln from England
- Vol IX More Pipes from the Midlands and Southern England
- Vol XI Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Tyneside Tobacco Pipes makers and Tobacconists
- 40 French pipes included a lot of Dutch copies made in Dunkerque or St Omer, and several typically French pipes like the examples described below.

The middle pipe is particularly in good condition. We can see a balloon with the basket and inside two people bearing flags, our hypothesis: commemorative pipes for the first balloon crossing over the Channel in 1785.

Three pipes bearing the French royal arms:
3 crowned lilies
Dating obviously before 1789 !!!!

Finishing the Northern clay pipe collection, several “curiosity”

The following pipes are in fact a kind of demonstration of the “non adaptation” of our long stemmed clay pipes to sailors use. No doubt the weak point of the pipes was localised on the stem, as proved by the extremely large number of bowls only found. This type of broken pipes was unusable, excepted with a little bit of stem, the seamen, always thrifty, found several means to re-utilise this kind of broken pipe, that is to say:

- like that, the pipe was named in French “Brule-gueule” that means (we suppose) “burned mouth”

On the upper picture on the left is such a pipe with obvious teeth marks. On the right a French model manufactured by Blanc Garin of Givet and bearing n° 238, the pipe represent a seaman smoking a “brule-gueule”
- or like that:

On the right hand picture the stem remnant has been sharpened probably with the objective of fitting a wooden stem.

**To confirm this dating period (1600 / 1800): the Venetian pipes**

A very curious kind of clay pipes excavated from Pomegues, these pipes were, in the past, wrongly identified as Chioggia pipes⁴, probably because they shared the common feature of three holes in the bottom of the bowl.

250 of this kind of pipes were collected

Another typical feature of Venetian pipes is the manufacturing method⁵, these pipes have been made on a potter’s wheel according to Giorgio Boscolo⁴ who named the pipes as “al tornio” and dated those 1670 – 1750.

The pipe is compounded of three parts:
- the bowl where tobacco is burnt.
- the air chamber under the bowl.
- the shank or stem holder.

We have named the Venetian pipes “AT” (Al Torno)

On this picture three broken pipes, two with the bottom of the bowl and the three holes, one with the only air base.

The shank is missing on the three examples.

These pipes unlike Northern clay pipes, have no stem but only stem holders also named “Sub-stemmed pipes” or “reed pipes” (probably because some stem was made with a piece of reed). These “Southern” pipes are typically Mediterranean. To clearly understand the different kind of “Southern” pipes it’s necessary to have a look on the following comparative design.

- N° 1: AT venetian pipes (with three holes in the bowl)
- N° 2: Chioggia pipes (with three holes in the bowl)
- N° 3: Oriental pipes (and further during XIX° Northern pipes)

---

⁴ Giorgio Boscolo «La pipa Chioggia»
⁵ Pipes made on potter’s wheel seem to be “fancy” and this hypothesis is controversial. However we have produced several irrefutable proof of it in the survey on Venetian pipes.
This design was made in the same way by Lucas Bekic

- A type: Schemnitz pipes (Austro-Hungarian)
- B type: Chioggia pipes
- C type: AT pipes

Several pipes rediscovered “complete”

A.R.H.A. scuba divers came up to the surface with several “complete” pipes that would not be possible in the case of land archaeology.

the right hand: “AT” pipe

On the right hand: Ottoman pipe.

In fact we have proof of using “Chibouck” with a short stem.

It’s obvious that seamen never used long stem pipes, like Viziers and other wealthy oriental people commonly seen in popular literature.

According to the author’s opinion, ordinary Turkish people (in French “hommes du peuple”) probably used a short stem, in spite of it not smoking “cool”.

The object of the previous pages was more to confirm the dating context of Pomegues, than to produce a survey sample on Northern pipes (150 pages) and Venetian pipes (20 pages).

---

6 Luka BEKIK « Uvod u problematiku glinenih lula na području hrvatske (Odsjek za arheologiju Filozofski Fakultet I. Lucica 3 HR-10000 ZAGREB p 255)
Ottoman Empire clay pipes:
( study under construction )

We were very well advised to begin this study, by Dr John Humphrey and John Wood, and we are very grateful to them for pointing us to the main survey written on the question 7.

As we can verify, we have found in Pomegues a very large and various collection regrouping all different types and, moreover, the pipes already studied in the listed survey.

Clay pipes from Turkey, Greece, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, North Africa and Balkan countries were deposited in Pomegues.

So our object is to make a typology found on these different country styles according to their specific civilization.

---

7 - J.W. Hayes (Turkish clay pipes: a provisional typology and excavation at Sarachane, Istanbul, II)
- Rebecca Robinson (pipes found in the excavation of Kerameilos, Corinth and the Athenian Agora)
- St John Simpson Chapter 13 « the clay pipes » - BELMONT CASTLE – The excavation of a Crusader Stronghold in the kindom of Jerusalem. (British Museum)
- John Humphrey (The Turkish clay smoking pipes of Mytilene)
- John Wood (pipes from Gozo and Manoel island Malta, from Tunis)
Our first hypothesis:

We have identified three very typical styles: Greek, Turkish, and Syrian.

**Greek style:**
Rounded (spherical) bowl with keel and small rim, smooth clay, simply decorated.

**Turkish style:**
Egg-shaped (ellipsoidal) bowl, with keel, more sophisticated.

Very numerous and various according to several types of ellipsoid, from bulbous bowls to disk based bowls, probably influenced by the other countries of the Empire but, however, with typical features. For example under the bowls a V-shaped line incised or rouletted, used to mark the junction between keel and the bottom of the bowl.

**Syrian style:**
Rounded (spherical) bowl without keel and small rim, grey or buff coloured clay, heavily decorated with stamping dots or diamond shaped stamp on shank-end. Some similar to pipes found in Jerusalem, other similar to pipes found in Syria and Lebanon.

**Several attractive hypothesis:**

**Egyptian style** (Sack-like type 2):
Flat bottom bowl with keel and medium rim, rough siliceous clay reddish or yellowish, maker’s mark like Egyptian reed boat, and water lily.

---

8 St John Simpson Chapter 13 « the clay pipes » excavation in Jerusalem.
9 Personal correspondance with Bert van der Lingen, Dutch amateur clay pipe historian
Concerning the origin of Lily shaped bowls in Syria, according to the fact that the origin of Lily was in Syria.

Concerning reciprocal influence between lily shaped bowls and disk-based bowls.

The present objective is not to give an exhaustive view of Pomegues Ottoman pipes, (the study is more of 150 pages) but to point out the dating problem.

We first (of course) studied Turkish pipes and inside this type, decagonal bowl types, 30 pipes archaeologically complete and 30 other not complete.

Five sub-types A, B, C, D, E from the left to the right

Sub-type A\(^\text{10}\) (17 complete pipes), 2 samples complete and incomplete. Of the global style there is only one size of bowl 40 mm in diameter, several rim heights from 12 to 22 mm. Note typical decoration and maker’s marks.

---

10 - M Stanceva : pipes du premier groupe « La collection de pipes du musée de Varna »
- J.W.Hayes : type X « Turkish pipes, a provisional typology »
- R Robinson : A20, « pipes of the Athenian Agora»
- J Wood : MP25 « Tobacco pipes from Manoel island, Malta »
- D McMahan Castle Hill Archaeological Project (Sitka, Alaska) "Turkish style" clay pipe (catalog #98-113)
Sub-type B
(6 different pipes)
2 samples on the picture.

Sub-type C (only one pipe)
This sub-type is not so well known as the previous one.

Only one example has been found in Athens, and other one in Chioggia.

Also only one in Pomegues.

Notice the maker’s mark on the shank in Arab characters.

After translation probably “ALI”
Sub-type D
(4 pipes) 2 samples on the picture

Sub-type E
(3 pipes) 2 samples on the picture

This sub-type is previously unknown, small size 31 and 37 mm bowl diameter, 12 mm rim height. Probably an early type.

Discussion:

These five sub-types are usually dated circa XIX° or early XX° and that is a problem for us, according to the historical context of Pomegues as reported on pages 2-3 of this paper. According to the author, this context is to call the dating usually advanced (after 1850 and 19th century) into question.

In fact it seems that previous dating must be moved to 18th century:
- early XVIII° for Sub-types D and E (according to the small sizes)
- middle XVIII° for Sub-types A and B
- late XVIII° for sub-type C.

The problem is identical for lily shape bowls and disc base bowls (see the picture p 11.)

To finish this paper, one exemple of several curiosities, “ST” pipes (sans tuyau) like “AT” pipes but made in a mould, with air chamber, and three holes in the bowl.

14 - R Robinson : Tobacco pipes of Corinth - plate 56 : C98, C99.
- M Stanceva : la collection de pipes du musée de Varna – pipes du premier groupe : fig 7
- Giorgio Boscolo : La Pipa Chioggietta - p43 : n°75

15 J.W.Hayes : type X « Turkish pipes, a provisional typology » p6
16 R Robinson : C93,94,96,98,99,A20,21 « pipes of Corinth and of the athenian Agora»