

# Glass Vessels of the XVI Century and Later from the Site of the Bodleian Extension in Broad Street, Oxford

By E. T. LEEDS

NONE of the glass found during the recent excavations in Broad Street can with certainty be dated earlier than the 16th century. This accords with what is generally known about the history of glass in this country after Anglo-Saxon times, namely, that it was little used in mediaeval times for any purpose other than as window-glass, and that mainly ecclesiastical. Glass for domestic use began to come into fashion in the 15th century and the 16th century saw the establishment of glass-making in England with Huguenot and/or Italian workmen. The activities of the former were chiefly directed to window-glass and green glass, that commonly employed in the blowing of wine-bottles, drug-bottles, and other receptacles, including many of the beer-glasses, of which last, curiously enough, no remains are included in the Broad Street material.

## BOTTLES

Numerous unstamped wine-bottles of thick green glass in the globose or squat shapes that belong to the later 17th and early 18th centuries, together with examples of the earliest stout cylindrical bottles have been unearthed intact. Their dates can in the main be closely determined by reference to the series of stamped or sealed bottles of the Oxford taverns, ranging between 1650 and 1720, as I was able to demonstrate in 1914.<sup>1</sup> The earliest from Broad Street, which bears a misshapen, unmarked seal (PLATE XII, A.1) falls between 1660 and 1670: the latest of the tavern-type are rather more advanced than a bottle of Alexander Richmond of the Crown Tavern (1711-c. 1730) and so can be placed about the latter date. The cylindrical shape belongs to the middle and end of the century.

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquary*, August, 1914. Mr. W. A. Thorpe in his *English Glass*, p. 118, carried their date backwards to 1630, without, in my opinion, any adequate warrant: the Humphrey Bodicot bottle he cites is identical in form with that of Thomas Wood, which is limited in date on the one hand by his removal from the Crown Tavern in 1647 to the Oriol Racket Court, the sign of which it bears, and on the other hand by his death in 1663.

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Of the stamped tavern-bottles no complete specimen can be recorded here, but there are several stamps.<sup>1</sup>

1. [A.M.1937.272]. H.B. and a Vintner's bush, for Humphrey Bodicot of the Three Tuns, High Street (1630-1660), as *Antiquary*, fig. 1, no. 12.
2. [A.M.1937.556]. R.E.P. and the arms of the Vintners' Company for Richard and Elizabeth Pont, of the Three Tuns. Several variations of this stamp were in use between 1666 and 1687, for, though Pont himself died in 1671, his widow carried on the business until 1687, without altering the initials on the stamps; too many exist to refer to Pont alone. This specimen, a version hitherto unrecorded, cannot be exactly placed, because no portion of the bottle remains to indicate the shape to which this particular stamp was attached. (PLATE XII, C.5).
3. [A.M.1937.268]. W.A.M. and a crown, for William and Anne Morrell of the Crown Tavern, No. 3, Cornmarket Street (1660-1679). This may be the stamp of Morrell's earliest bottles, because it is here attached to part of a globose bottle (1650-1660) like that bearing Bodicot's stamp (*Antiquary*, fig. 2, no. 12): it also occurs on a 1660-1670 angled form<sup>2</sup> in a bottle found in the Radcliffe Square in 1910 [A.M.1919.6]. (PLATE XII, C.1).
4. [A.M.1937.975]. W.A.M. and a crown, for William and Anne Morrell, as *Antiquary*, fig. 1, no. 7, occurring on the 1670-80 shape from the Radcliffe Square [A.M.1913.925].
5. [A.M.1937.555]. Cypher of William and Anne Morrell, and 74 for 1674 (PLATE XII, C.2), also known from the Radcliffe Square [A.M.1915.8].
6. [A.M.1937.278]. Cypher of William and Anne Morrell, and 75 for 1675. This is the same stamp as the last, but the figure 4 has been altered to 5 on the stamping iron (as *Antiquary*, fig. 1, no. 8).
7. [A.M.1937.279]. Cypher of Anne Morrell, **OX OH** and 168[3], for Anne Morrell alone (from William Morrell's death in 1679 down to 1696). The final figure of the date is known from a complete stamp (PLATE XII, C.3) found at No. 3, Cornmarket Street [A.M.1934.199].
8. [A.M.1937.270]. Cypher of Anne Morrell, **OX OH** and 1688 (PLATE XII, C.4); not hitherto recorded.
9. [A.M.1937.267]. R.W., a King's head and 1693, for Richard Walker, of the King's Head Tavern, High Street, 1687-1704 (as *Antiquary*, fig. 1, no. 22). (From Pit D).

There are, in addition, several stamps and one complete bottle of innholders and other owners. It has here to be remembered that by the Statute 7 Edward VI

<sup>1</sup> Seventeen of these bottle-stamps were collected from Pit D, including several with the stamp of William and Anne Morrell. The nomenclature of the pits and other features of the site will be explained in a general article on the small finds to be published in the next volume of *Oxoniensia*.

<sup>2</sup> In its less pronounced form this shape is known as far back as 1661, when it occurs in combination with a stamp bearing a King's head, C.R. and 1661, in the collection of the late Mr. Francis Berry.

PLATE XII



A. 1-3



B



C. 1-12



D. 1-9

- A. Wine-bottles ; nos. 1 and 3 from Broad Street, no. 2 from Alfred Street (‡).  
 B. Finial of bird's feeding-trough from Broad Street (‡).  
 C. Stamps of wine-bottles from Oxford (chiefly Broad Street) (‡).  
 D. Phials and drug-bottles from Broad Street (‡).

GLASS OF XVI CENTURY AND LATER DATE.

## GLASS FROM BROAD STREET

only taverns (and those limited to three in Oxford, though owing to disputes between the City and University the licences issued amounted to six) might sell wine by retail. However, a bottle bearing a stamp with a bear and R.I.F., for Ralph and Joan Flexney<sup>1</sup> (PLATE XII, A.2 and C.6), found in 1932 during work at the Presbyterian Church Hall in Alfred Street and so on the site of the 'back-side' of the Bear Inn, goes to show that these bottles served rather as decanters than for long storage. The hosts of inns, eating-houses, etc., were wont to send out to the taverns for their clients' orders, as is well illustrated by an Oxford vintner's day-book (1636-1639), which, from internal evidence, is that of John Harris of the Mermaid Tavern, at Carfax:<sup>2</sup> members of colleges and private patrons appear in the same accounts. This practice may supply the true reason for the numerous bottles of the Crown Tavern found on the Broad Street site, though another explanation is suggested below. The restrictive regulations did not presumably prevent private individuals from having cellars, but they can hardly have been common, since even the colleges do not appear to have laid down wine until Blackstone instituted the practice in All Souls at the beginning of the 18th century. Previously they 'had to go to the tavern [the Three Tuns] across the street and drink bad wine.'<sup>3</sup>

1. [A.M.1937.273]. *R.T.* and a bell, possibly for the Bell Inn in Magdalen Street, from a bottle of *c.* 1670-1680. The initials have not been identified. In the Ashmolean Museum [A.M.1896-1908, M.67] there is an almost complete bottle found in the excavations in the Clarendon Quadrangle in 1899:<sup>4</sup> it bears a stamp with *E.H.* and a bell and dates about 1660. In a footnote to *Wood's City of Oxford*, III, 27, Clark records of one John Haynes, that he was a 'baker, lived at the Bell, Magdalen Street; also a vintner, see Twyne xx, p. 26a; *Reg. Univ. G.* p. 258, 289b.' This entry belongs to an earlier time (between 1505 and 1517), and thus comes before the restrictive Statute of Edward VI: there was certainly no wine-licence attached to the Bell at the time of these stamped bottles. *E.H.* may be the Edward Haynes of a Poll Tax list of 1667 who is then at the Globe Inn, located near No. 20, Cornmarket Street;<sup>5</sup> *R.T.* might well be his successor at the Bell. (PLATE XII, c.7 and 8).
2. [A.M.1937.267]. *T.H.*, a variant of the stamp on a bottle of 1660-70 [A.M.1915.2], found in the Radcliffe Square.
3. [A.M.1937.280]. *A.T.*, in style akin to nos. 1 and 2, and probably of the same date.

<sup>1</sup> The bottle on grounds of shape falls between 1660 and 1670. In a marginal note to his *City of Oxford* of 1666, Wood mentions Widow Flexney as living in a house on the site of Knap Hall; this is probably Joan Flexney.

<sup>2</sup> Bodleian Library, *Rawlinson MSS.* D.321.      <sup>3</sup> J. Wells, *Oxford and its Colleges*, pp. 153-4.

<sup>4</sup> F. H. Penny, *Buried Oxford Unearthed* (James Parker & Co., 1899), pl. IV: the date there assigned to it 'about 1680' is too late.

<sup>5</sup> H. E. Salter, *Surveys and Tokens* (O.H.S. LXXV), p. 287.

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4. [A.M.1937.281]. *R.H.*, the latter letter elided, within a ring of dots.
5. [A.M.1937.992]. **Thomas Swift Oxon** in two lines, on a complete bottle (PLATE XII, A.3 and C.9) dating to c.1690. The name appears in leases of 1691 and 1695, as occupier of No. 47, Broad Street,<sup>1</sup> and may well be the person referred to by Anthony Wood on November 18, 1692, 'At the Coffee House and at Swift's . . . 2s. 3d.'<sup>2</sup> Is he to be identified with the Thomas Swift, 'sometime of Balliol College,'<sup>3</sup> whom Wood so describes, and who, he records, had married a daughter of Sir William Davenant,<sup>4</sup> and thus a granddaughter of John Davenant of the Crown Tavern? The discovery of remains of several bottles of the tavern at or near No. 46, Broad Street is at least suggestive.
6. [A.M.1937.271]. A variant of the stamp of no. 5. (PLATE XII, C.10).
7. [A.M.1937.276]. *I.S.*, and, above, a small, full-faced bust within an oval frame (apparently copied from a fob-seal or signet-ring) and disposed sideways across the circle of the stamp. Probably 18th century (PLATE XII, C.11).
- 8-9. [A.M.1937.274 and 275]. **Etty**.<sup>5</sup> The same lettering used for stamps on large and small bottles. Members of a family of this name appear as lessees or sub-lessees of a vault at No. 101-103, St. Aldate's between 1771 and 1802. Thus: 1771, executor of Alderman Ives for a vault, now Mr. Etty; 1781 Mr. Etty, a vault; 1799, Mrs. Etty;<sup>6</sup> and lastly, 1802, Simon Etty, brandy merchant.<sup>7</sup> From the style of the lettering the stamp is probably connected with the first two entries. (PLATE XII, C.12).
10. [A.M.1937.277]. Arms of Lisle with mantling; Or, on a chief azure three lions rampant. Crest, a stag trippant argent attired or. HOLT MINERAL WATERS, and round the border, H. EYRE PURVEYOR FOR MINERAL WATERS TO HER MAIESTY. A spring of mineral water was discovered (or exploited) at Holt, near Trowbridge, Wilts., in the early 18th century; the style of the lettering on the stamp belongs to the early 19th century.

BIRD'S FEEDING-TROUGH (PLATE XII, B)<sup>8</sup>

The male head in a three-cornered hat, of clear lead-crystal glass, 2 ins. high, is a finial of a bird's feeding-trough. The complete trough would have been tall and conical, about 6 ins. high, with a projecting tray for bird-seed at the base, behind the man's head. Heads of this type are not infrequent, but complete troughs are rare; for one found in London and now in the Guildhall Museum, complete but for a broken tray, see W. A. Thorpe, *History of English and Irish Glass* (1929), pl. LXXXII.

<sup>1</sup> H. E. Salter, *Oxford City Properties* (O.H.S. LXXXIII), pp. 263-4.

<sup>2</sup> A. Clark, *Wood's Life and Times*, III (O.H.S., xxvi), p. 408.

<sup>3</sup> H. E. Salter, *Surveys and Tokens* (O.H.S. LXXV), p. 330.

<sup>4</sup> A. Clark, *Wood's City of Oxford*, III (O.H.S. xxxvii), p. 173.

<sup>5</sup> From pit D.

<sup>6</sup> H. E. Salter, *Oxford City Properties* (O.H.S. LXXXIII), pp. 62, 70, 78.

<sup>7</sup> H. E. Salter, *Cartulary of St. John Baptist*, II (O.H.S. LXVIII), p. 170.

<sup>8</sup> For the substance of this note I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. W. A. Thorpe of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

## GLASS FROM BROAD STREET

In 1706 (*Post Man*, 12 Feb.) a London bird-fancier, T. Meyer of the Bird Cage, Long Acre, advertised: ' . . . new fashion Cristal Bird glasses which effectually prevent the littering of the seeds into the Room '. To judge by the head moulding and ' modelling ' the present piece and the Guildhall example were made in the same glass-house, though the hat on the former is tooled plain, while that on the latter is criss-cross moulded.

A head with three-cornered hat, similar but not identical, occurs as the finial of a good-quality drinking-glass cover now in the Garton collection (Francis Buckley, *History of Old English Glass* (1925), pl. VII: *Cat. Marlborough Exhibition, Chesterfield House*, 1934, No. 174). The cover contains, in a bulb, a coin of 1709, the date of the battle of Malplaquet. This cover has accompanied a drinking-goblet containing, in a bulb in the stem, a coin of 1714, but the difference in coin-dates and the lack of proportion between the cover and goblet suggest that they did not originally belong together. If we date these three-cornered-hat glasses *c.* 1706-9 it will fit in well with the date of Meyer's advertisement for feeding-troughs.

The heads are probably meant to represent either the Duke of Marlborough or Prince Eugène. Buckley quotes a contemporary phrase ' a hat that was shaped in the Ramillie cock ', referring to the battle of Ramillies (23 May, 1706). If our hats are ' Ramillie ' hats, as they well may be, it is probably Marlborough himself who is intended, for Prince Eugène had no part in that battle, and had no great popular vogue in England until his visit in 1712.

### DRUG-BOTTLES (PLATE XII, D.3-9)

Numerous complete specimens of the small, cylindrical bottles of varying height and diameter, with short necks and broad, flat rims were found. These mostly belong to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, although two have the body tapered upwards, not unlike examples for which a mediaeval date has been established.<sup>1</sup> The shape, however, survives in one whiter in colour, which bears the name DALBYS in relief, presumably 19th century (PLATE XII, D.8).

### PHIALS (PLATE XII, D.1-2)

One in plain, green glass with a globose body and a deep kick [A.M.1937.534], is of a type (PLATE XII, D.1) found often enough before in Oxford, *e.g.* at Brasenose [A.M.1886.575] and in Cat Street [A.M.1921.253]. Less common is another (PLATE XII, D.2), oval in section with the body spirally fluted [A.M.1937.535]; it is exactly like one from the Examination Schools [A.M.1885.43]

<sup>1</sup> W. A. Thorpe, *English Glass*, p. 85, pl. xv, b.

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and with that from Oxford figured by H. J. Powell in *Glass-making in England*, FIG. 19. Finally there is the neck and part of the shoulder of a large spirally fluted flask, possibly resembling one found on the site of a glass-house at Chiddingfold, Surrey.<sup>1</sup>

### WINE-GLASSES (FIG. 17)

These are almost exclusively of white glass, and form a most interesting series, presenting in fact an epitome of the changes in fabric and form between the late 16th and the mid 18th centuries. None of the specimens has survived entire: indeed, of many no more than the stem with a complete or fragmentary foot and a remnant of the bowl is preserved, but these *ejecta* often supplement one another and thus have permitted reconstructions to be attempted on the lines of those illustrated by Francis Buckley in his *Old London Drinking Glasses*, and of John Greene's forms (Sloane MS. 857; A. Hartshorne, *Old English Glasses*, pl. 30); original portions are indicated by solid lines, or, where a section is presented, by solid shading. Three periods can be conveniently distinguished:—

- (a) Italian, down to *c.* 1650, which, starting from the importation of Venetian glass, sees the introduction of Italian gaffers, sometimes indirectly by way of Flanders, and the manufacture in English glass-houses of table-glass on Italian lines.
- (b) Transitional, *c.* 1650–1700, during which much of the work remained in the same hands, but within the Italian flow runs a strong under-current of English experiment in the metal, and a search for forms and strength more suited to English taste and requirements. Even importers like Greene demanded the latter quality from the Murano houses.
- (c) English, from 1700 onwards. The definite establishment of a native industry, in which forms, metal (lead glass) and weight have assumed a wholly native character.

#### (a) *Italian period.*

1. [A.M.1937.581]. Base of cup-shaped bowl, with baluster stem as Buckley no. 3.
2. [A.M.1937.569]. Base of cup-shaped bowl; moulded stem embossed with lions' masks, rosettes and swags; part of foot with delicately folded rim. Fine metal with a brownish tinge (FIG. 17, A).
3. [A.M.1937.570]. Part of cup-shaped bowl, stem and foot; type as no. 2, but taller.

<sup>1</sup> S. E. Winbolt, *Wealden Glass*, p. 68, fig. 1.

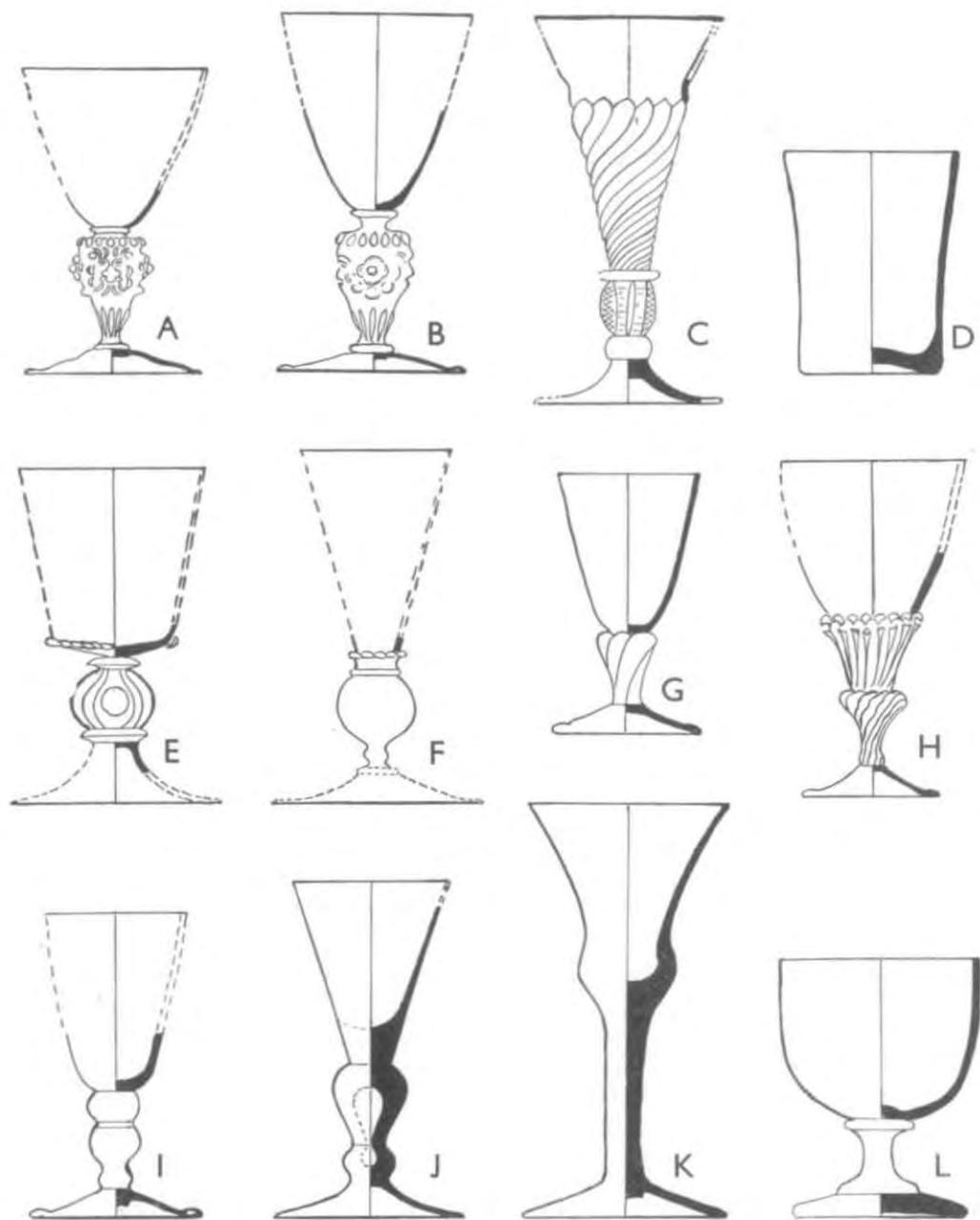


FIG. 17  
 DRINKING-GLASSES OF 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY DATE  
 FROM BROAD STREET, OXFORD (1).

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4. [A.M.1937.571]. Part of straight-sided bowl, stem and part of foot; type as no. 2, but taller and coarser (FIG. 17, B).
5. [A.M.1937.568]. Stem and part of foot with neatly folded rim: type as no. 2, tall and coarse, and with a globular knop above the moulded portion.
6. [A.M.1937.841]. Stem of short baluster shape, vertically ribbed. Through a blemish water has percolated into the hollow bulb and is now sealed up.
7. [A.M.1937.572]. Tall, conical glass, rim (imperfect) plain, remainder of bowl decorated by spiral ribs; below a merese the metal has been pinched up from a central stem into four wings bearing the trellis-marking of the pincers (*pucellas*); below this is a cushion-knop and a portion of the foot. It has been possible almost to complete the rim from a second specimen, recently found in excavations in Queen Street, Oxford: in this the wings have been twisted to a more pronounced diagonal. Both pieces are of rather opaque white glass, possibly the 'Clouded Caledonia' (chalcedony) of one of John Greene's letters to his Venetian correspondent in 1667-1672.<sup>1</sup> It appears to be an earlier version of those figured in Grant R. Francis, *Old English Drinking Glasses*, nos. 1 and 8. H. c. 6½ ins. (FIG. 17, C).

(b) *Transitional.*

8. [A.M.1937.562]. Tumbler, with slightly concave wall; thick, heavy base. H. 3¾ ins. (FIG. 17, D).
9. [A.M.1937.580]. Base of rectangular bowl with trailed band; short, globular stem with narrow, vertical ribs interrupted on one side by a plain seal; small portion of a tall, hollow foot. Type as Buckley no. 20, but with a wider bowl; possibly one of Sir Robert Mansel's later forms (FIG. 17, E).
10. [A.M.1937.987]. Base of bowl; stem of short, vase form; foot with wide fold. It agrees exactly with Buckley's no. 26 omitting the two upper members of the stem, one of Greene's forms, about 1670. H. to bowl, 1½ ins.
11. [A.M.1937.579]. Base of narrow, conical bowl with trailed band; stem with large, globular knop and smaller one below. Possibly one of Greene's forms; the stem agrees closely with Hartshorne, pl. 30, first in second row, except that the two knops are in inverted positions; the bowl must have more nearly resembled the third in the third row. (FIG. 17, F).
12. [A.M.1937.573]. Base of cup-shaped bowl; short, pressed stem with heavy twisted mouldings; foot with wide fold; heavy metal. Cp. Buckley, no. 32 (for type of stem) assigned to George Ravenscroft, who worked at Henley-on-Thames as well as in London, c.1675. (FIG. 17, G). The figure is reconstituted from this and a second specimen (1937.969) in which most of the bowl is preserved, but only a fragment of the stem.
13. [A.M.1937.574]. Base of cup-shaped bowl; short, pressed stem with heavy mouldings twisted from left to right, as Buckley, no. 32; part of small foot.
14. [A.M.1937.988]. Short, pressed stem, carelessly made; foot with narrow fold.

<sup>1</sup> Francis, *op. cit.*, pp. 440 ff.

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15. [A.M.1937.989]. Short, pressed stem, with moulded shoulders, and left-to-right twists faintly indicated; wide, plain foot with curved fluting. Diam. of foot, 3 ins.  
Types 12-15 are attributed by Mr. Buckley to George Ravenscroft and dated about 1675.
16. [A.M.1937.577]. Conical bowl, the lower part moulded with vertical ribs terminating in beaks, as Buckley, no. 37; upper part cup-shaped (imperfect); short spirally fluted stem; foot with broad fold. Yellowish metal; diam. of foot,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. (FIG. 17, H).
17. [A.M.1937.576]. As no. 16, but with coarser stem, and only a small fragment of bowl preserved.
18. [A.M.1937.579]. Base of cup-shaped bowl; reel-shaped stem with heavy cushion atop, pressed into four unequal lobes. In quality it agrees with nos. 12-15 and seems to blend elements of these with Buckley's no. 41 in lead glass.
19. [A.M.1937.990]. Conical bowl with narrow curving ribs; waisted stem with low, lentoid studs at base; plain foot. Diam. of foot,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ins.

### (c) *English.*

20. [A.M.1937.575]. Base of thick cup-shaped bowl; stem with large globular knobs; foot with wide fold, diam. of foot,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. (FIG. 17, I).
21. [A.M.1937.991]. Conical bowl (rim imperfect), very thick at base, heavy baluster stem enclosing a tear; plain foot. Cp. Hartshorne, fig. 170; Francis, no. 23; by the latter the shape is 'definitely' assigned to the end of the 17th century (FIG. 17, J).
22. [A.M.1937.974]. Bell-shaped bowl, thick at the base, and containing a tear; plain tall stem and plain foot; heavy bluish metal. H.  $6\frac{7}{16}$  ins.; diam. of foot,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. Cp. Hartshorne, fig. 176; Francis, no. 71; early 18th century (FIG. 17, K).
23. [A.M.1937.583]. Base of trumpet-bowl; tall stem, plain foot. Cp. Hartshorne, no. 89; about 1725.
24. [A.M.1937.972]. Tall stem with opaque core and fine spiral twist; plain foot; from a shape like no. 23.
- 25-26. [A.M.1937.970-1]. Small cup-shaped bowl; part of stem with two flat twists. Cp. Hartshorne, figs. 221-4; Francis, no. 146, mid 18th century.
27. [A.M.1937.567]. Rummer; large bowl; reel-shaped stem; very thick foot. In tinge the metal resembles some Anglo-Venetian and early lead glass. H.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins., diam.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. (FIG. 17, L).
28. [A.M.1937.973]. Rummer; moulded fluting; plain foot. H.  $4\frac{3}{8}$  ins., diam. 3 ins.