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*Tobacco pipes from
Hólar, Iceland – The use of
ICP analyses to determine the
origin*



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Introduction and questions

Clay tobacco pipes are one of the most common artefacts from excavations dealing with Post-Medieval and Modern periods. The knowledge about these pipes is fairly good and we know that important production sites were located in especially the Netherlands and in England. Productions have also been found in other countries, but these productions are few compared to the sites in the Netherlands and England. Some of the most well known sites are Gouda, Amsterdam and London.

Clay pipes found at archaeological excavations are primarily used as an instrument for dating, but they can also be used to interpret contacts and trade. Especially different marks on the pipes can tell us about the origin and the date of the pipes. A skilled specialist can also identify information by study the shape, colour and the size of the tobacco pipes.

Archaeological excavations carried out at the former bishop's seat Hólar in the Northern part of Iceland (Fig. 1) have revealed a large material of clay tobacco pipes. The excavations have been carried out during the 2000's and layers from the 16th century until Modern times have been studied.

Hólar was founded in the 12th century and the bishop's seat was placed at the site in 1106. Hólar became one of the two most important places in Iceland and it was a place of prosperity. In 1530 Iceland first printing press was introduced at Hólar, which shows the importance of the site.

The clay tobacco pipes are one group of artefacts that can be used to study different social aspects and of course, give information about the dating of the excavated layers.

Aline Wacke at Reykjavik University is studying the pipes from Hólar and as a contribution to this work ICP analyses of a sample of clay pipes have been performed. The aim of the analyses is the identify pipes of the same origin. The analyses are combined with the archaeological interpretation of the pipes, which have been made by Aline Wacke.



Figure 1. Hólar is situated in Hjaltadalur in Northern Iceland.

Methods

Chemical analysis by ICP-AES: A chemical analysis decides the sherds chemical identity, and the sherds were selected to the ICP (Inductively Coupled Plasma) analysis. The chemical analyses can be used to point out the geographical origin of the pipes.

The selected sherds (minimum 1 g) are grinded to a fine powder and solved in a 4-acid solution. These solutions are injected into excited argon plasma. When atoms are exposed to energy the electrons change and recharge orbits, causing a coloured light (emission spectra) that can be measured by AES – Atomic Emission Spectrometry. 45 minerals and trace elements were measured, and the frequency is shown in appendix I.

The ICP analysis contains a large amount of data, and to process this data it is necessary to use a statistical method. The data from the ICP analyses is therefore processed in a factor analysis and a cluster analysis. The aim of the statistical work is to combine samples of same origin.

The pipes

A total of 18 sherds of clay tobacco pipes have been analysed (Tab. I). The analysed sherds are most likely from several production sites in Europe.

Gouda is the most common, but there are also samples from England, Amsterdam and perhaps Copenhagen among the analysed sherds from Hólar. The pipes are mainly from the 17th and 18th centuries.

| sample | find no. | origin | date |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2002-37-919 | | |
| 2 | 2002-37-1472 | Denmark? | |
| 3 | 2002-37-1551 | | |
| 4 | 2003-37-3517 | Rossi-Copenhagen | 1758-1764 |
| 5 | 2004-37-5377 | Amsterdam | 1635-1650 |
| 6 | 2004-37-5502 | England? | |
| 7 | 2004-37-5824 | Leendert De long, Gouda | 1744-1774 |
| 8 | 2004-37-5913 | Salisbury style, England | 1650-1670 |
| 9 | 2005-37-7619 | Dutch? | |
| 10 | 2005-37-7970 | | |
| 11 | 2005-37-7978 | | |
| 12 | 2005-37-7985 | | |
| 13 | 2006-37-9217 | Gouda imitation | 1719-1869 |
| 14 | 2009-37-12583 | Gouda | 1690-1819 |
| 15 | 2009-37-12590 | | |
| 16 | 2009-37-12720 | Haan, Gouda. Red fired | 1655-1872 |
| 17 | 2009-Area E | | |
| 18 | 2009-No context | | |

Table I. The analysed material consists of 18 pipes, found at Hólar from 2002 to 2009.

Results

The 45 different elements in appendix I have been processed in a factor analysis, which shows that about 10 elements can be used to connect and divide the samples. The ICP analyses and the statistical correlation show that one significant production can be identified (Fig. 2).

The six samples in the upper part of the dendrogram are most likely from the same production site, or at least made by the same type of clay. These samples are: C9, C10, C12, C13, C14 and C18. These have been interpreted by A. Wacke as Gouda, Dutch and non-classified.

Samples C5 and C17 are also more or less made by the same clay. These have been identified as one from Amsterdam and another that is non-classified.

Samples C1 and C7 are classified as non-classified and another from Gouda.

The rest of the material seems to be from different production sites in Europe. These productions may not have been of the same size as the fabrics from Gouda. Samples C2 and C15, in the lower part of the dendrogram, differs mostly from the others. These are from Denmark respectively non-classified.

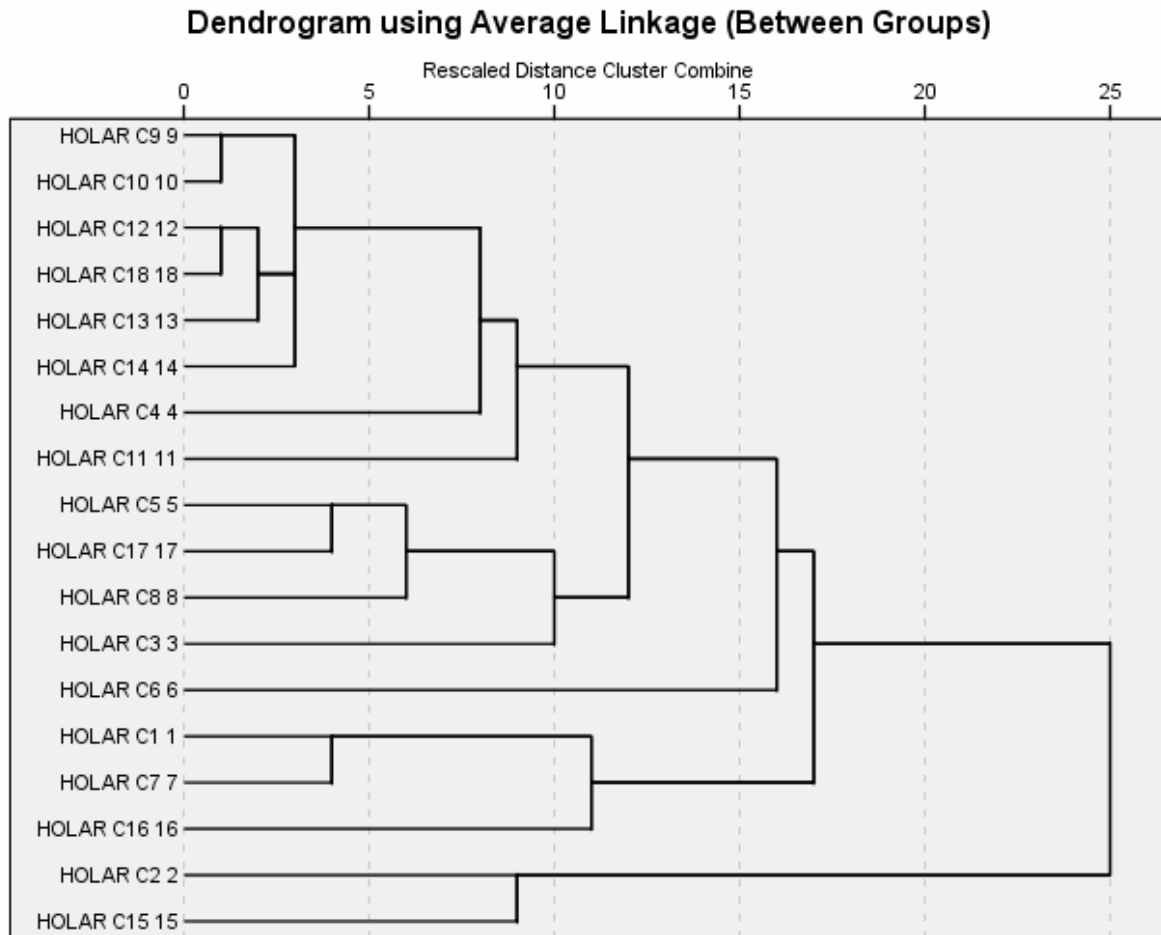


Figure 1. Dendrogram of the cluster analyse based on the pipes chemical identity. It shows that the samples are from several different productions, but samples 9 to 14 in the upper part of the dendrogram are from the same site.

The ICP analyse can be used to connect sherds of the same chemical identity and it shows that Gouda was the most common among the analysed pipes. A third of the pipes may have been from Gouda. The clays from England and the Netherlands are quite similar, and the most unique classified sample could be from Denmark (sample C2). Finally, sample C4 (Rossi-Copenhagen), which has a vague connection to the Gouda group, may have been produced by a foreign clay in Denmark.

| SAMPLE NO. | Ag | Al | As | Ba | Be | Bi | Ca | Cd | Ce | Co | Cr | Cu | Fe | Ga | Ge | Hg | K | La | Li | Mg | Mn | Mo | Na | |
|------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|--|
| | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | % | |
| HOLAR C1 | <.5 | 12.06 | 13 | 239 | 1 | 7 | 0.24 | <1 | 71 | 3 | 178 | 51 | 1.11 | 35 | 5 | <1 | 0.76 | 49 | 26 | 0.20 | 31 | 3 | 0.08 | |
| HOLAR C2 | <.5 | 10.78 | 6 | 504 | 3 | 7 | 0.18 | <1 | 87 | 13 | 143 | 52 | 2.14 | 30 | <2 | <1 | 2.63 | 49 | 97 | 0.72 | 237 | 3 | 0.13 | |
| HOLAR C3 | <.5 | 10.32 | <5 | 445 | 2 | 7 | 0.40 | <1 | 120 | 4 | 112 | 126 | 1.67 | 30 | 3 | <1 | 1.89 | 66 | 47 | 0.25 | 51 | 2 | 0.24 | |
| HOLAR C4 | <.5 | 9.96 | <5 | 309 | 2 | <5 | 0.32 | <1 | 77 | 5 | 144 | 36 | 0.86 | 30 | 3 | <1 | 1.11 | 45 | 26 | 0.19 | 44 | 2 | 0.13 | |
| HOLAR C5 | <.5 | 10.59 | <5 | 352 | 2 | <5 | 0.16 | <1 | 98 | 8 | 126 | 59 | 0.90 | 30 | <2 | <1 | 1.70 | 52 | 67 | 0.34 | 49 | 2 | 0.17 | |
| HOLAR C6 | <.5 | 10.25 | 5 | 322 | 2 | <5 | 0.28 | <1 | 41 | 9 | 119 | 51 | 0.98 | 33 | 2 | <1 | 1.23 | 25 | 176 | 0.37 | 87 | 2 | 0.12 | |
| HOLAR C7 | <.5 | 10.56 | 6 | 243 | 2 | 6 | 0.21 | <1 | 66 | 2 | 160 | 41 | 0.91 | 35 | 4 | <1 | 0.84 | 43 | 32 | 0.18 | 30 | 3 | 0.09 | |
| HOLAR C8 | <.5 | 11.22 | 7 | 470 | 3 | 6 | 0.15 | <1 | 143 | 6 | 119 | 147 | 0.82 | 33 | 3 | <1 | 1.98 | 75 | 62 | 0.23 | 37 | 1 | 0.19 | |
| HOLAR C9 | <.5 | 9.94 | <5 | 416 | 2 | <5 | 0.17 | <1 | 128 | 2 | 149 | 28 | 0.63 | 32 | 4 | <1 | 1.90 | 71 | 109 | 0.27 | 44 | 1 | 0.16 | |
| HOLAR C10 | <.5 | 10.35 | 7 | 360 | 2 | <5 | 0.21 | <1 | 118 | 2 | 138 | 27 | 0.64 | 34 | 3 | <1 | 1.64 | 66 | 69 | 0.24 | 37 | 1 | 0.15 | |
| HOLAR C11 | <.5 | 12.89 | 7 | 327 | 2 | <5 | 0.23 | <1 | 104 | 5 | 117 | 41 | 1.07 | 35 | 2 | <1 | 1.40 | 61 | 159 | 0.37 | 50 | <1 | 0.12 | |
| HOLAR C12 | <.5 | 10.46 | <5 | 317 | 2 | <5 | 0.15 | <1 | 88 | 5 | 135 | 36 | 0.70 | 30 | 3 | <1 | 1.31 | 50 | 58 | 0.23 | 27 | 2 | 0.13 | |
| HOLAR C13 | <.5 | 9.98 | <5 | 326 | 2 | 6 | 0.18 | <1 | 100 | 2 | 133 | 23 | 0.82 | 31 | 3 | <1 | 1.37 | 58 | 33 | 0.23 | 92 | 2 | 0.12 | |
| HOLAR C14 | <.5 | 10.73 | <5 | 288 | 2 | 7 | 0.35 | <1 | 82 | 2 | 142 | 37 | 0.95 | 31 | 2 | <1 | 1.29 | 50 | 34 | 0.23 | 30 | 2 | 0.12 | |
| HOLAR C15 | <.5 | 8.26 | <5 | 440 | 2 | <5 | 0.13 | <1 | 80 | 9 | 93 | 42 | 1.83 | 23 | <2 | <1 | 1.98 | 46 | 108 | 0.51 | 231 | 2 | 0.12 | |
| HOLAR C16 | <.5 | 9.57 | 5 | 213 | 1 | <5 | 0.25 | <1 | 43 | 1 | 127 | 59 | 0.80 | 32 | <2 | <1 | 1.25 | 32 | 11 | 0.19 | 45 | 3 | 0.12 | |
| HOLAR C17 | <.5 | 12.66 | <5 | 517 | 3 | <5 | 0.11 | <1 | 112 | 5 | 122 | 37 | 0.84 | 34 | <2 | <1 | 2.09 | 66 | 56 | 0.28 | 40 | 2 | 0.22 | |
| HOLAR C18 | <.5 | 9.11 | 6 | 320 | 2 | <5 | 0.19 | <1 | 93 | 4 | 116 | 26 | 0.83 | 26 | 2 | <1 | 1.28 | 58 | 75 | 0.23 | 51 | 2 | 0.12 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Nb | Ni | P | Pb | Rb | S | Sb | Sc | Se | Sn | Sr | Ta | Te | Th | Ti | Tl | U | V | W | Y | Zn | Zr | | |
| | ppm | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | % | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | ppm | | |
| HOLAR C1 | 44 | 28 | 0.120 | 112 | 93 | 0.03 | <5 | 15 | <10 | 12 | 108 | <2 | <5 | 16 | 10878 | <5 | <5 | 83 | <5 | 8 | 53 | 120 | | |
| HOLAR C2 | 24 | 44 | 0.042 | 76 | 212 | 0.01 | <5 | 19 | <10 | 6 | 73 | <2 | <5 | 16 | 7164 | <5 | <5 | 136 | <5 | 16 | 78 | 96 | | |
| HOLAR C3 | 21 | 22 | 0.470 | 99 | 177 | 0.03 | <5 | 17 | <10 | 10 | 138 | <2 | <5 | 13 | 6875 | <5 | <5 | 116 | <5 | 11 | 71 | 63 | | |
| HOLAR C4 | 29 | 24 | 0.571 | 82 | 109 | 0.04 | <5 | 13 | <10 | <5 | 111 | <2 | <5 | 15 | 8196 | <5 | <5 | 94 | <5 | 12 | 68 | 92 | | |
| HOLAR C5 | 22 | 28 | 0.046 | 64 | 166 | 0.01 | <5 | 18 | <10 | 6 | 104 | <2 | <5 | 13 | 6565 | <5 | <5 | 123 | <5 | 11 | 87 | 58 | | |
| HOLAR C6 | 24 | 41 | 0.034 | 93 | 101 | 0.01 | <5 | 16 | <10 | 7 | 67 | <2 | <5 | 16 | 7335 | <5 | <5 | 85 | <5 | 13 | 31 | 92 | | |
| HOLAR C7 | 46 | 25 | 0.038 | 328 | 81 | 0.02 | <5 | 13 | <10 | 8 | 94 | <2 | <5 | 15 | 11687 | <5 | <5 | 97 | <5 | 8 | 34 | 116 | | |
| HOLAR C8 | 34 | 26 | 0.065 | 156 | 180 | 0.02 | <5 | 18 | <10 | 13 | 125 | <2 | <5 | 15 | 10394 | <5 | <5 | 123 | <5 | 12 | 60 | 66 | | |
| HOLAR C9 | 31 | 26 | 0.059 | 54 | 174 | 0.01 | <5 | 15 | <10 | 8 | 99 | <2 | <5 | 12 | 9462 | <5 | <5 | 113 | <5 | 10 | 31 | 74 | | |
| HOLAR C10 | 29 | 25 | 0.024 | 72 | 159 | 0.01 | <5 | 14 | <10 | <5 | 111 | <2 | <5 | 13 | 8517 | <5 | <5 | 86 | <5 | 6 | 32 | 63 | | |
| HOLAR C11 | 33 | 42 | 0.026 | 70 | 151 | <0.1 | <5 | 16 | <10 | 6 | 138 | <2 | <5 | 13 | 11076 | <5 | <5 | 108 | <5 | 9 | 71 | 88 | | |
| HOLAR C12 | 28 | 35 | 0.021 | 73 | 141 | <0.1 | <5 | 14 | <10 | 6 | 87 | <2 | <5 | 13 | 8098 | <5 | <5 | 81 | <5 | 7 | 38 | 64 | | |
| HOLAR C13 | 36 | 20 | 0.075 | 70 | 128 | 0.01 | <5 | 14 | <10 | 6 | 103 | <2 | <5 | 14 | 10261 | <5 | <5 | 94 | <5 | 8 | 28 | 77 | | |
| HOLAR C14 | 33 | 28 | 0.154 | 140 | 127 | 0.02 | <5 | 13 | <10 | 7 | 92 | <2 | <5 | 14 | 9133 | <5 | <5 | 99 | <5 | 7 | 46 | 81 | | |
| HOLAR C15 | 21 | 35 | 0.039 | 46 | 165 | <0.1 | <5 | 15 | <10 | <5 | 56 | <2 | <5 | 14 | 5941 | <5 | <5 | 123 | <5 | 12 | 61 | 81 | | |
| HOLAR C16 | 39 | 14 | 0.092 | 70 | 69 | 0.02 | <5 | 9 | <10 | 8 | 58 | <2 | <5 | 12 | 9914 | <5 | <5 | 90 | <5 | 9 | 93 | 107 | | |
| HOLAR C17 | 25 | 27 | 0.053 | 63 | 175 | 0.02 | <5 | 20 | <10 | 6 | 122 | <2 | <5 | 13 | 7500 | <5 | <5 | 134 | <5 | 12 | 59 | 69 | | |
| HOLAR C18 | 29 | 23 | 0.093 | 66 | 116 | 0.01 | <5 | 13 | <10 | <5 | 98 | <2 | <5 | 11 | 8299 | <5 | <5 | 95 | <5 | 8 | 46 | 69 | | |

Appendix I. The chemical identity of the analysed clay tobacco pipes from Hólar.

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- Nr 1 Godsanalys av keramik från sju lokaler inom Naturgasprojektet i Bohuslän, samt från Tega Prästgård i Ytterby sn. – en studie av framställningsteknik och kärlgods under senneolitikum, yngre bronsålder och äldre järnålder.
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- Nr 3 Lerbottnar från 1100- och 1200-talen. Analys av råleror som ett bidrag till lerbottnars funktion. Kv. Liljan, Malmö, Skåne
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Konserveringsrapport
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- Ware analyses and chemical analyses
- Nr 15 The pottery craft at Büssow and Penkun near Storkow in Vorpommern, Germany
- Ware analyses and chemical analyses of Slavonic vessels and Harte Grauware
- Nr 16 Godsanalys av stridsyxekeramik från Bunkeflostrand, Bunkeflo sn, Malmö
- Nr 17 Analys av rituellt nedlagda lerkulor från Göteborg 66, Kallebäck, Göteborg
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- Nr 21 Termiska analyser av bränd lera från kupolugn i Tumbo 148, Berga 1:3 & 1:5, Tumbo socken, Eskilstuna kommun, Södermanland
- Nr 22 Keramiken från Nibble, Tillinge sn, Enköping - Skärvor med rituell betydelse från slutet av bronsåldern
- Nr 23 Godsanalys av gropkeramik från Fembäcke, Vendel sn, Uppland
- Nr 24 Godsanalys av gropkeramik och stridsyxekeramik från Lötvreten, Valbo sn, Gästrikland
- Nr 25 Godsanalys av trattbägarkeramik från Nävertorp, Mogetorp och Östra Vrå, Södermanland
- Nr 26 Snäckskal, kalksten eller ben? Godsanalys av gropkeramik från Sittesta, Ösmo sn, Södermanland
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- Nr 42 Analys av förromersk keramik från Göteborg
- Nr 43 Analys av glas och tegel från Lödöse, Västergötland

- Nr 44 Analys av keramik och bränd lera från Qalhât, Oman
Nr 45 Godsanalys av senneolitisk keramik från Fors 125 och järnålderskeramik från Fors 143, Trollhättan, Västergötland
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