

Renaissance cesspit from Malá Strana in Prague

Renesanční jímka z pražské Malé Strany

Eine Renaissance-zeitliche Grube auf der Prager Kleinseite

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Im vorliegenden Beitrag werden die Funde (vor allem Glas und Keramik) aus der Grabung einer Abfallgrube eines Bürgerhauses im Südteil der Kleinseite (Prag 1) veröffentlicht. Die Einzigartigkeit des Befundes liegt in der relativ kurzen Funktionsdauer der Grube, nachweislich nämlich nur 1609 bis 1656.

1. Location and circumstances of the excavation

Late medieval and early modern cesspits belong to structures exposed relatively often during archaeological excavations in historical city centres. The discovery of the cesspit found during the extensive rescue excavations in 2003-2006 in the southern part of Prague's Malá Strana in a block of houses demarcated by Újezd, Karmelitská, Harantova, Nebovidská and Helichova Streets is a typical example (*fig. 1*). The excavation was carried out by the archaeological department of the National Institute of the Care of Monuments, the territorial specialized department in Prague (project no. 20/03), as the result of the rebuilding of a baroque Dominican monastery into a hotel.

2. Brief history of the location

The oldest significant human activity on the site was an early medieval fortification uncovered by the researchers. It comprised of a sizeable moat, and a wood and clay wall with a grate-like structure. The front wall was made of quarried arenaceous marl. Preliminary estimates place its construction in the 10th century and destruction in the 12th century (Havrda – Tryml 2006, 109). Settlement in the 12th and 13th centuries was revealed by a quantity of various objects, including wooden houses built on stone bedding. Later construction in the location is described by written sources. At the start of the 14th century, no later than 1329, a convent of the Sisters of the Magdalene Order was established here. Significant fragments of the end of the convent Church of Saint Mary Magdalene were uncovered in the construction of neighbouring house no. 387/III. The next stage can be called secular, and can be dated between the start of the Hussite revolution and the arrival of the Dominicans. Five or six

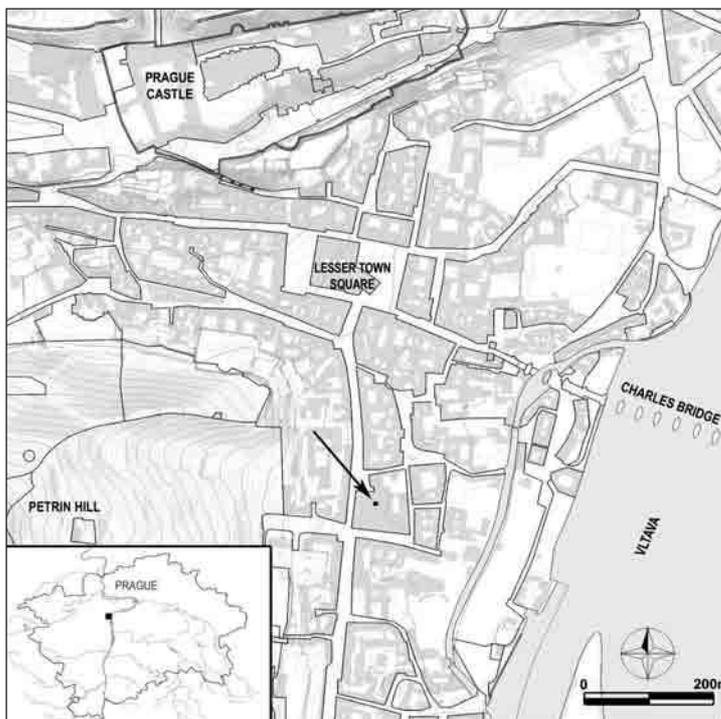


Fig. 1. Prague – Malá Strana, Karmelitská Street no. 387/III. The arrow marks the cesspit's location.

Drawing by J. Hlavatý.

Obr. 1. Praha – Malá Strana, Karmelitská čp. 387/III. Šipkou vyznačeno situování jímky. *Kresba J. Hlavatý.*

Fig. 2. Prague – Malá Strana. The grey-marked area is the site of the Baroque Dominican Monastery of Saint Mary Magdalene. The red-marked area is a pre-Baroque masonry revealed during the archaeological rescue excavation. The arrow marks the cesspit's location at the back of the lot.

Drawing by J. Hlavatý.

Obr. 2. Praha – Malá Strana. Šedě vyznačen areál barokního dominikánského kláštera sv. Máří Magdalény. Červeně vyznačeny předbarokní zděné konstrukce odkryté při záchranném archeologickém výzkumu. Šipka ukazuje na situování jímky v zadní části parcely.

Kresba J. Hlavatý.

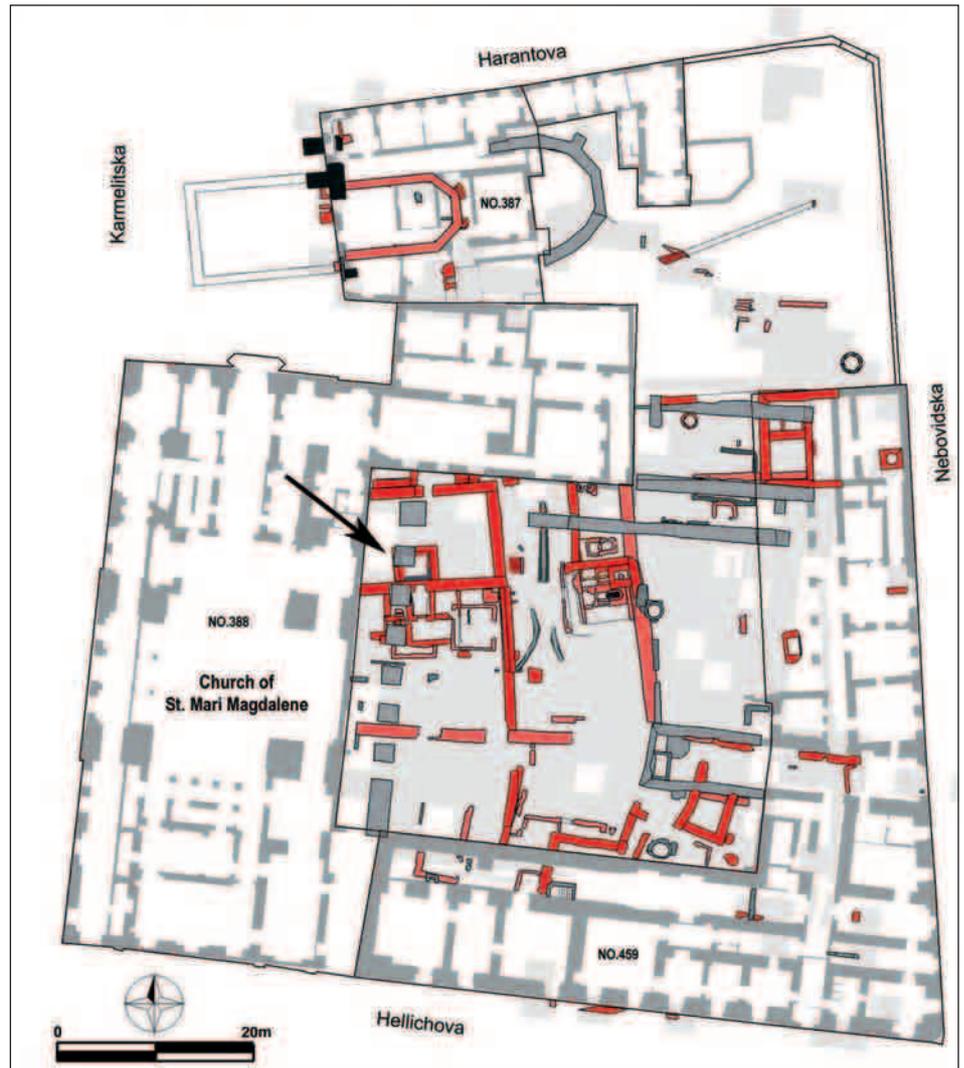


Fig. 3. Prague – Malá Strana. The north-west part of the garth of the Dominican Monastery of Saint Mary Magdalene. Uncovered medieval to early modern structures at the back of the lot, including the cesspit (marked with an arrow) built on the site of a double-space oven. The older structures were altered in the second half of the 17th century by the construction of the western ambit of the monastery courtyard, of which the foundations of massive pillars survived.

Photo by J. Hlavatý.

Obr. 3. Praha – Malá Strana. Severozápadní část rajského dvora dominikánského kláštera sv. Máří Magdalény. Odkryté středověké až raně novověké konstrukce v zadní části parcely včetně jímky (vyznačena šipkou) vybudované na místě dvouprostorové pece. Starší konstrukce byly ve druhé polovině 17. století narušeny výstavbou západního ambitu klášterního dvora, z něhož se dochovaly základy mohutných pilířů.

Foto J. Hlavatý.



burghers' houses were built on the ruins of the convent, which were, after the order's arrival, purchased and progressively re-built or demolished. The site of developing Baroque monastery included both a medieval monastery church and town houses along Karmelitská Street. The foundation stone of the grand monastery Church of Saint Mary Magdalene was consecrated on 19 June 1656 (Vlček *et al.* 1999, 492). Unfortunately, the church's position along the road (north-south orientation) means that the main buildings belonging to the older phase of urban development were destroyed, or covered by its construction, and the researchers could only excavate the rear of the lots (*fig. 2*).

3. Field context

The Renaissance pit was discovered in the northwest part of the current courtyard. It was not built on a free space, but inside a late medieval oven (*fig. 3*). The almost square space of the oven's fire chamber was formed by walls (Z18, Z27 and Z28) made of quarried arenaceous marl with an inner brick face. They were set against the interior of the building's southern wall (Z20) on a joint. The oven included a forehearth semi-circular vaulted space (stokehold chamber) with several surviving floor levels. The fire chamber, which was sunk more than 2 metres into the then ground level, was deepened by a further 2.5 metres when it went out of service, and its peripheral walls were underpinned inside (including wall of building Z20) by a slanted retaining wall. This was made using masonry from quarried arenaceous marl placed on grey lime mortar (Z314). The crown of wall Z27 and part of walls Z18 and Z28 were re-done to suit the new needs of the building, and the vaulted stokehole was walled up with bricks at the same time. The body of the pit was extended to the infilling of the moat of the early medieval Malá Strana fortification. At the level of the foundation joint, oak beams with a cross-section of 28 x 35 cm were found under the retaining wall. The beam collar defined the square perimeter of the pit, 2 metres long on the inside (*fig. 4*).

The northwest corner of the pit was broken by a block of masonry (Z15H) with a ground plan of 200 x 185 cm. It was mostly made from quarried arenaceous marl of varying sizes, with a number of larger pieces joined together with a firm white lime mortar. Pieces of brick were only used in places. The masonry in question is part of the foundation walls of one of the pillars, from which the foundation strips bearing the perimeter masonry of the western part of the Baroque ambit run out (*fig. 5*).

The infilling of the pit could be divided into two basic levels. The upper was formed by strata of rubble backfill, mostly comprising fragments of marl (up to 40 %), bricks, tiles and blobs of mortar. This level arose more or less as a one-off,

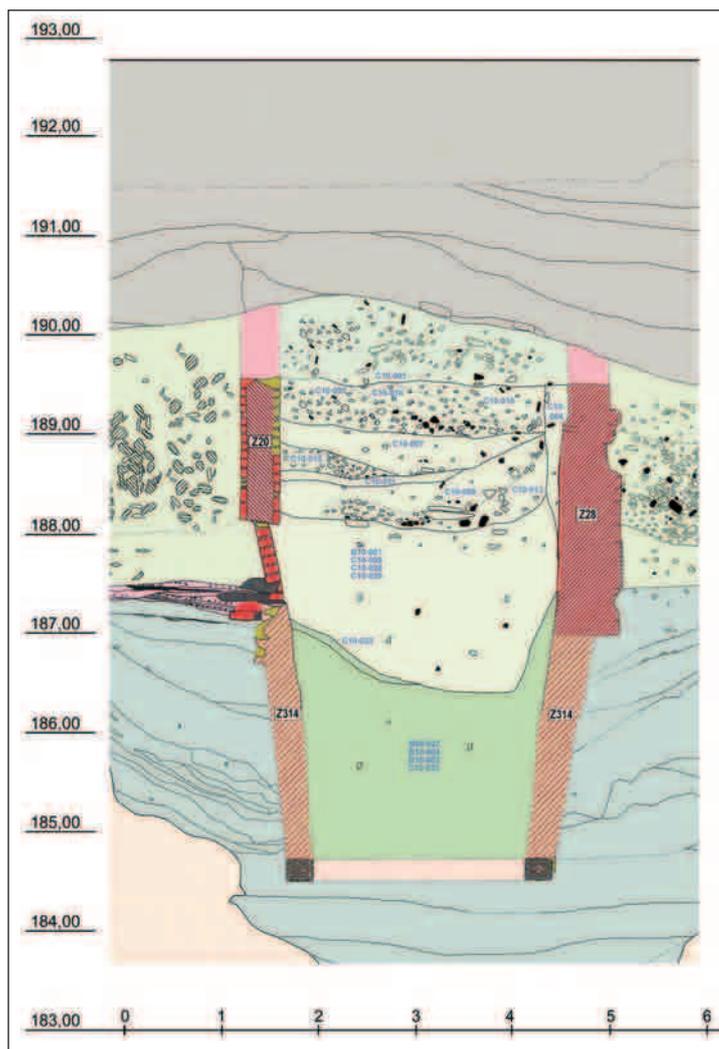


Fig. 4. Prague – Malá Strana. A lengthwise north-south section through the pit, view from the east. An early medieval ditch dug in the ground. A Renaissance cesspit was recessed into the infilling of the ditch.

Drawing by J. Hlavatý.

Obr. 4. Praha – Malá Strana. Podélný složený řez jímkou ve směru sever – jih, pohled od východu. Do podloží zahlouben raně středověký příkop. Do jeho výplně byla vložena renesanční jímka. *Kresba J. Hlavatý.*



Fig. 5. Prague – Malá Strana. Ground plan of the cesspit. The construction of the older oven’s fire chamber was used to build the pit, which was then supported by conically slanting walls. A collar made from oak beams was placed by the foundation joint.
Drawing by J. Hlavatý.
Obr. 5. Praha – Malá Strana. Půdorys jímky. Pro výstavbu jímky byla využita dispozice konstrukce vytápěcí komory starší pece, která byla následně podezděna kónicky se svažujícími zdmi. Při základové spáře se nacházel věnec z dubových trámů.
Kresba J. Hlavatý.

Note 1:
 We would like to thank the following for their many comments and willingness to discuss the material presented here: Z. Černá, J. Podliska, H. Sedláčková, F. Suchomel, V. Štajnochr, P. Vařeka and J. Žegklitz. J. Hlavatý, J. Křepelová and L. Miková, without whose devoted help this article would never had been published, also deserve our thanks.

as a consequence of the demolition of the pre-monastery development. The lower part of the pit’s infilling, almost 250 cm high, was represented by a typical faecal fill. It comprised strata of brown and dark brown soft clays with a very fertile mix of organic matter (*fig. 4*). As the level of underground water at the time of the excavation was relatively high, only the uppermost part of this infilling (down to a depth of less than one metre) could be archaeologically excavated. The lower part was extracted later when the site was excavated, and the wood of the foundation collar was revealed and raised.

4. Dating

Dendrochronological analysis showed that the oak beam came from a tree that was cut at the end of 1609, or the beginning of 1610 (*Kyncl 2005*). The cesspit was therefore very probably built

a short time afterwards. It ceased to be used when the Dominicans, after buying the houses along Karmelitská Street, demolished them and started to build a new monastery church and then a monastery. It is hard to imagine there were houses in the street after 1656. Buildings at the rear of the lots could possibly still have stood, but evidently not for a long time. Written sources do not provide certainty about the year in which the western corridor of the ambit, whose foundation pillar broke the pit, was built along the long eastern side of the church.

With certain reservations, we can base further work on the assumption that the time interval in which the cesspit was used was between 1609 and 1656. The pit therefore served its purpose for a relatively short time, not more than half a century.

5. Finds¹⁾

5.1 Glass

The collection of Renaissance glass from the pit’s infilling comprises 234 fragments, of which 204 are hollow, and 29 are flat window glass. Due to their fragmented nature, it was not possible to determine whether 59 fragments were anything other than hollow or flat glass. As two types of infilling were distinguished when the pit was excavated (in the upper layers rubble backfill, in the lower layer a large amount of organic material), we will keep to this division in the following analysis of the collection. Given the general character of the rubble backfill, it can be expected that smaller artefacts will be in the lower parts, or may even fall into the lower organic layer. In our case, this process is clearly documented by one example of a cylindrical beaker on a bell-shaped foot, decorated with enamel, fragments of which were found in both infillings (see below). The collection of glass in the lower organic infilling, which arose

over a longer time period during the use of the cesspit, is evidently contaminated by later intrusive material. In contrast, the rubble backfill is very probably the result of a more or less one-off backfilling, and thus it represents the context the origin of which – according to written sources – ranges within the bounds of few years at most.

5.1.1 Finds of glass from rubble backfill

A total of 137 fragments of hollow and flat glass were recorded in the upper rubble backfill (figs. 6, 7).

5.1.1.1 Hollow glass

The collection of hollow glass from the upper rubble backfill comprises 125 fragments. Table glassware is dominant. 37 fragments could not be morphologically identified due to their fragmentariness.

Goblets

Goblets are, statistically, the most significant group in the collection (39 fragments). There are both pieces with a higher degree of luxury, and more accessible products of a lesser quality.

A discoid foot made from clear colourless glass with small bubbles, with one depressed ringlet and part of a hollow baluster node, is a fragment of luxurious goblet in the “Venetian style” (fig. 8: 1), as is the lower part of a goblet bowl with relief decoration in the form of drops, also made from high quality colourless glass with small bubbles. The drops are in two rows, the lower with a vertically drawn thread which forms relief ribs at the very bottom (fig. 8: 2). We can find similar examples in Prague and Olomouc (Podliska 2003, 27; Sedláčková 1998, cat. no. 13.2-4, probably a home-made product). Based on the quality and similarities of the molten glass, it is possible to assert that they are fragments of the same goblet, of a type which was only used by the highest social class (Drahotová et al. 2005, 165). The possibility that it may come from a Dutch glassworks cannot be excluded (Henkes 1994, 209, figs. 46.17, 46.18).

Of the lower quality types, we can mention two solid, bell-shaped feet with a part of stem formed by two ringlets made from clear, greenish and yellowish glass with bubbles and small grains of sand, of which one has part of a semi-ovoid bowl; also a thin-walled bell-shaped foot with two ringlets of stem made from greenish glass with small bubbles (fig. 8: 3, 4, 5); and, lastly, an example of a goblet with a conical bowl on a twisted stem, and with a foot from spirally-coiled fibre made from clear colourless glass with bubbles (fig. 8: 7). A similar foot with a twisted stem from greenish glass with bubbles also survived (fig. 8: 6).

Beakers

Fourteen fragments represent three types of beakers. The first type is a luxury cylindrical beaker (its lower part) on a hollow bell-shaped foot (so-called humpen), decorated with enamel painting (fig. 9: 1). The beaker was stuck

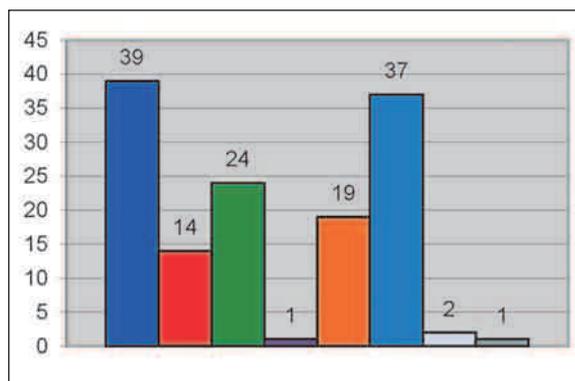


Fig. 6. Numbers of registered types of glass (upper rubble backfill). Dark blue - goblets; red - beakers; green - bottles; dark red - technical and laboratory glass; orange - window glass; blue - unidentified (hollow) glass; light blue - unidentified (flat) glass; grey - varia.

Obr. 6. Početní zastoupení registrovaných typů skla (svrchní suťový zásyp). Tmavě modrá - poháry; červená - číše; zelená - lahve; tmavě červená - technické a laboratorní sklo; oranžová - okenní sklo; modrá - neurčené (duté sklo); světle modrá - neurčené (ploché sklo); šedá - varia.

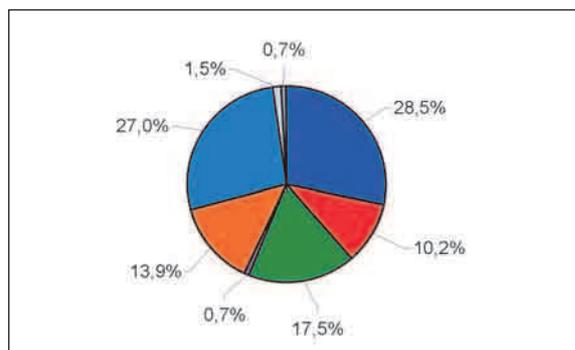


Fig. 7. Percentages of registered types of glass (upper rubble backfill). Dark blue - goblets; red - beakers; green - bottles; dark red - technical and laboratory glass; orange - window glass; blue - unidentified (hollow) glass; light blue - unidentified (flat) glass; grey - varia.

Obr. 7. Procentuální zastoupení registrovaných typů skla (svrchní suťový zásyp). Tmavě modrá - poháry; červená - číše; zelená - lahve; tmavě červená - technické a laboratorní sklo; oranžová - okenní sklo; modrá - neurčené (duté sklo); světle modrá - neurčené (ploché sklo); šedá - varia.

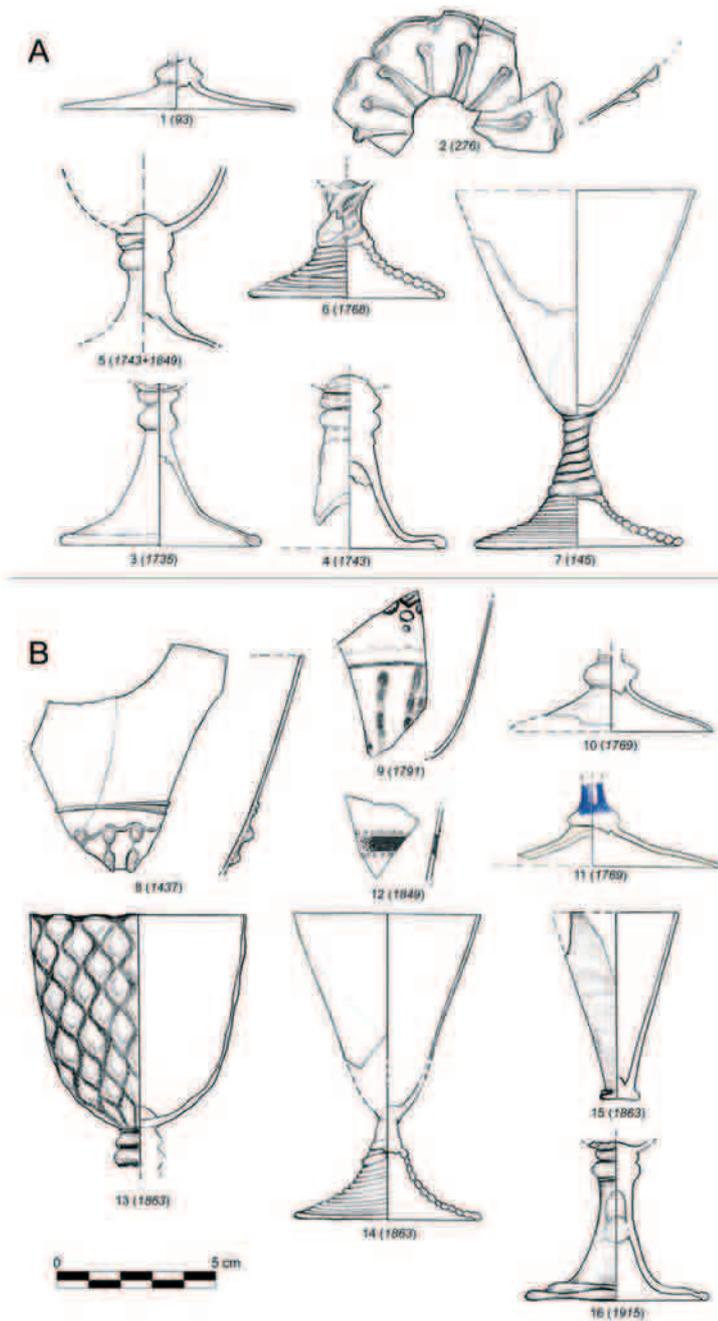


Fig. 8. Goblets: A – upper rubble backfill; B – lower faecal infilling.

Obr. 8. Poháry: A – svrchní suťový zásyp; B – spodní fekální výplň.

together from 5 fragments, of which the 3 smallest ones were found in the lower organic infilling, and therefore document its contamination by intrusive material. The enamel decoration represents a female figure (from the waist down) in Renaissance clothing (a long skirt gathered in at the waist, with an apron and narrow sleeves, extended at the top); a small angel approaches her from the left, and gives her a basket of flowers. The scene is supplemented by simple floral motifs and by a row of white points around the perimeter of the bottom. A precise parallel of the scene cannot be found, but we can speculate that this was a betrothal or wedding festive goblet, and assume that there was a male figure on the opposite side that has not survived. The rim with a gilded border supplemented with white enamel points belongs probably to the identical beaker (fig. 9: 2).

The second type, which is less luxurious and therefore more readily available, is represented by smaller, cylindrical or slightly conical beakers with optical decoration, and a slightly pricked bottom wound around with fibre. There are two examples present in our collection. The first, which survived in the whole profile, is a slightly conical beaker made from translucent, cobalt blue glass with small bubbles, with a slightly pricked bottom wound around with pinched fibre, and with optical decoration in the form of markedly embossed lentiles (fig. 9: 3). The second is a fragment from a beaker made from translucent greenish glass with bubbles, with a pricked bottom wound around with simple fibre (fig. 9: 4). The beaker bears lentile-shaped optical decoration. This type of beaker appears in the Czech lands from the end of the 16th century (Drahotová et al. 2005, 163).

One fragment of an outwards bent rim with part of a bowl (fig. 9: 5) is probably part of a slightly conical beaker wound around with fibre and then blown in a mould (“waffle” decoration). This shape appears in the Czech lands from the end of the 16th century. The models can probably be found among products from Dutch glassworks (Drahotová et al. 2005, 163; Tait 1967; Henkes 1994, 132-136).

Bottles

Bottles are represented by 24 fragments. Unfortunately, no whole shape has survived, so our knowledge of the bottles’ forms is based mostly on fragments of the bottoms. We can state with certainty that these were tetrahedral bottles, with bottom dimensions from 46 x 46 mm to 76 x 76 mm, bottles with a circular bottom whose diameter ranges from 35 to 90 mm, and one hexahedral small bottle. The fragments are made from clear colourless, greyish and greenish glass (fig. 10: 1, 2, 3).

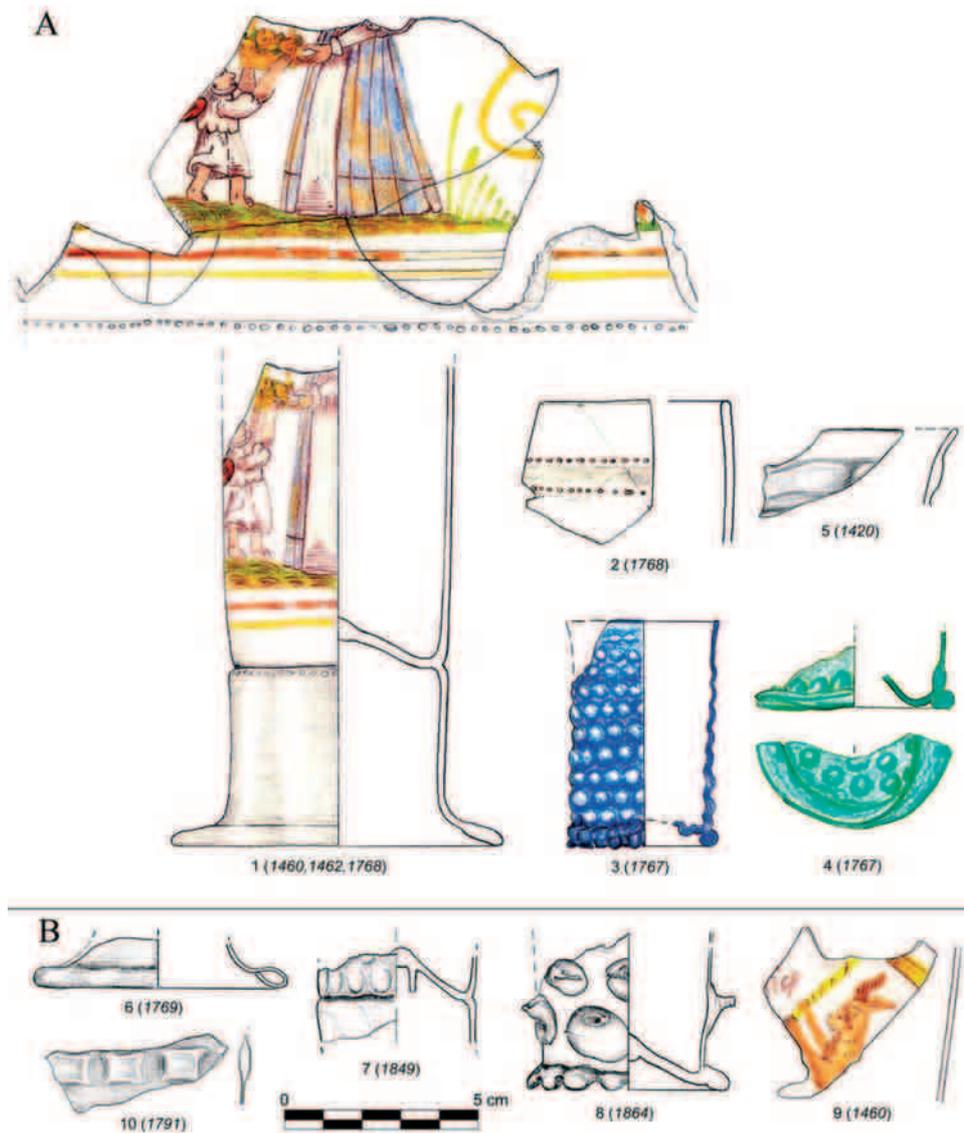


Fig. 9. Beakers: A – upper rubble backfill; B – lower faecal infilling.

Obr. 9. Číše: A – svrchní suťový zásyp; B – spodní fekální výplň.

Laboratory and technical glass

Only one fragment can be classified as laboratory glass. It is a fragment of a cylindrical vessel with a collar-like rim and an optical decoration of ribs (fig. 10: 4). This type was probably used in pharmacy for storing ointments and other substances, and is usually called albarello (Drahotová et al. 2005, 169).

Other hollow glass fragments

Two hollow glass fragments that cannot be precisely classified are worth mentioning, due to their unusual nature. The first is a fragment of a thin-walled vessel (thickness of 0.6 mm) made from greenish glass with a small turned prunt, the second a hollow glass fragment made from opaque, milk-coloured, light blue glass with part of enamel decoration in yellow and brown (fig. 11: 1, 2).

5.1.1.2 Window glass

As illustrated by excavations performed in various parts of Prague over the last fifteen years, fragments of window glass of this period at the collections excavated in Prague are an entirely ordinary phenomenon (Podliska 2003, 29). There are 19 fragments of window glass from the rubble backfill, which represent represent 15 % of the whole collection. They can be typologically

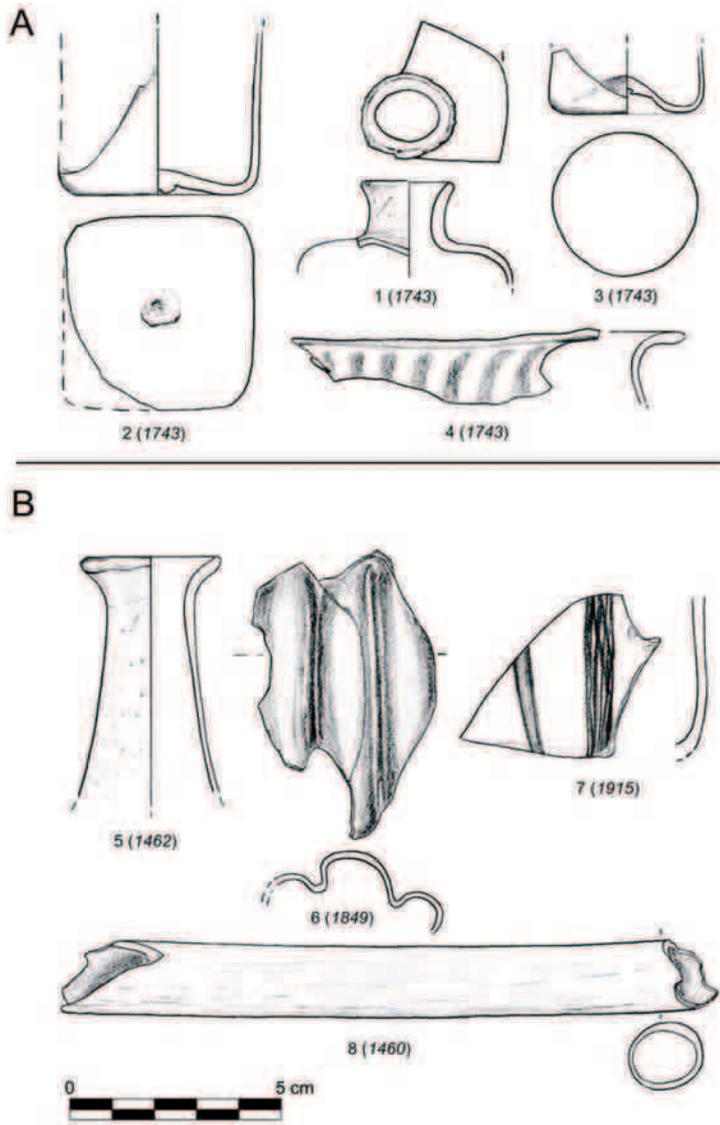


Fig. 10. Bottles, laboratory and technical glass.
Obr. 10. Lahve a laboratorní a technické sklo.

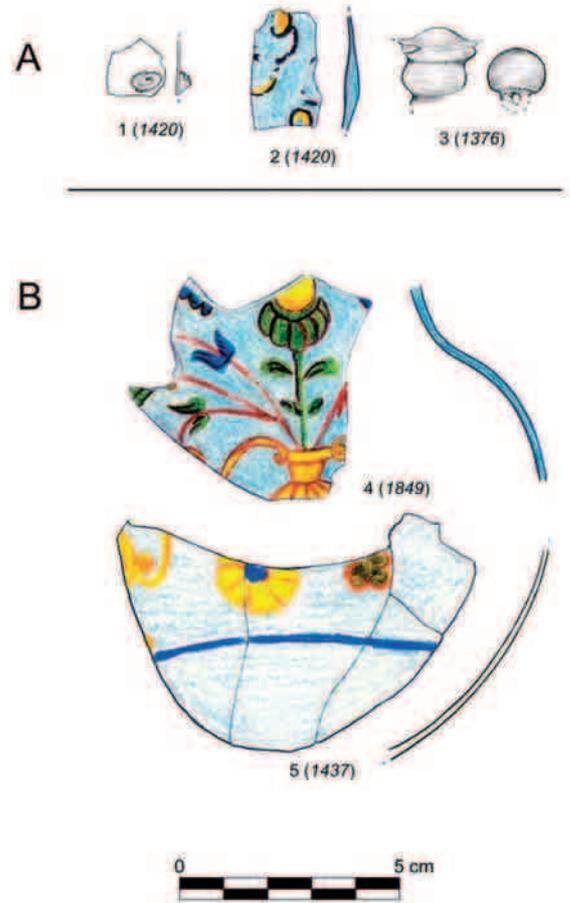


Fig. 11. A – Unclassifiable fragments from the upper rubble backfill; B – jugs and tankards from the lower cesspit contents.
Obr. 11. A – nezařaditelné fragmenty ze svrchního suťového zásypu; B – džbány a konvice ze spodní fekální výplně.

divided into 3 groups: window discs, panels from between window discs, and window panes of various shapes (most frequently oblong). All of them are markedly fragmented.

Statistically, the most important group are the round window discs (13 fragments) from colourless, greenish (lighter and darker shades) and greyish glass, with simple sealed or hollow folded rims (some sealed rims are slightly thickened – fig. 12: 1-3). The window discs are 1-3 mm thick, with the diameter of 80-130 mm. In one case a disc was of an oval shape (fig. 12: 3). The second group comprises two fragments of triangles from clear greenish and slightly yellowish to colourless glass, which served as infilling between a round window discs. The rims of the triangles are slightly concave, and in the case of the first fragment there are marked traces of pinching (fig. 12: 4). Unusually, the second fragment has a part of the lead frame (fig. 12: 5). The thickness of the fragments is 1.4 and 1.7 mm. The third group contains only one fragment. This is a corner of a right-angled window pane made from clear colourless glass. The pane is 2 mm thick (fig. 12: 6). The shape of three fragments of flat glass with one preserved rim with traces of pinching could not be determined in more detail (fig. 12: 6).

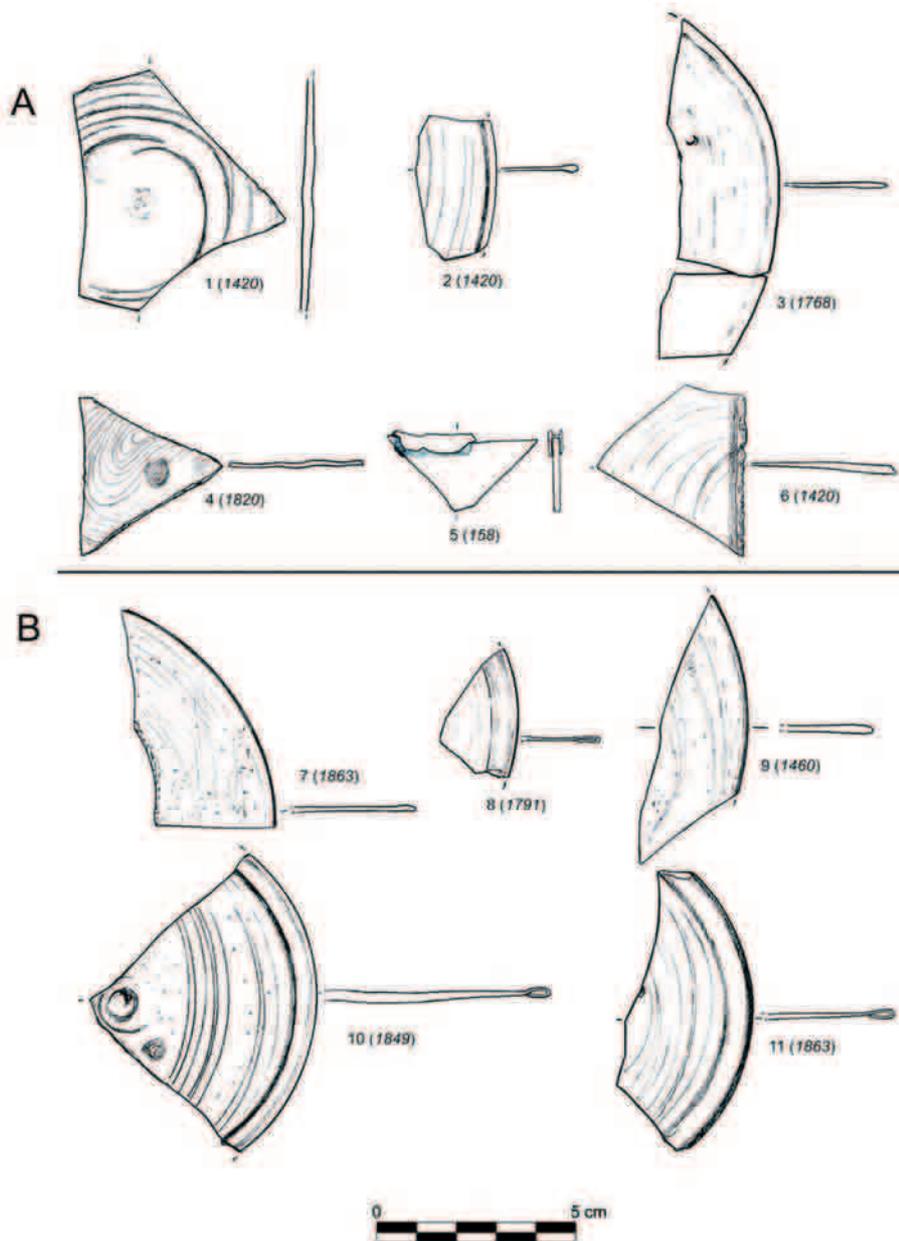


Fig. 12. Window glass:
A – upper rubble backfill;
B – lower faecal infilling.
Obr. 12. Okenní sklo:
A – svrchní suťový zásyp;
B – spodní fekální výplň.

5.1.1.3 Varia

The rubble backfill contained a button of a loaf-like shape and circular cut, made from opaque black glass. Fragments of a sealed iron tie have survived on the flat side (fig. 11: 3).

5.1.2 Finds of glass from the lower faecal fill

A total of 97 fragments of hollow and flat glass were found in the lower cesspit level (fig. 13, 14). Unfavourable influences at the time of the excavation (raised underground water level) meant it was only possible to excavate the upper parts of the organic contents. The collection comes therefore from the end of the cesspit's use, and it can be dated with high probability to the second quarter of the 17th century. As mentioned above, the cesspit contents were contaminated by intrusions from the upper rubble backfill.

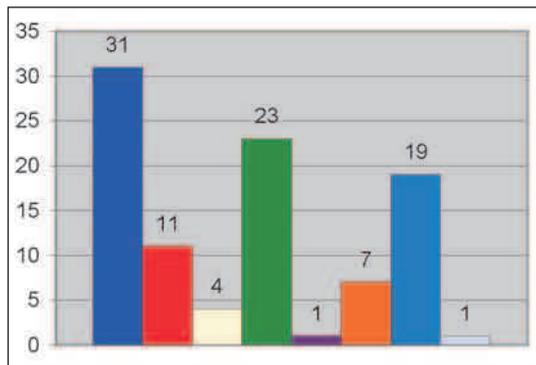


Fig. 13. Numbers of registered types of glass (lower faecal infilling). Dark blue – goblets; red – beakers; yellow – jugs, tankards; green – bottles; dark red – technical and laboratory glass; orange – window glass; blue – unidentified (hollow) glass; light blue – unidentified (flat) glass.
Obr. 13. Početní zastoupení registrovaných typů skla (spodní fekální výplň). Tmavě modrá – poháry; červená – číše; žlutá – džbány, konvice; zelená – lahve; tmavě červená – technické a laboratorní sklo; oranžová – okenní sklo; modrá – neurčené (duté sklo); světle modrá – neurčené (ploché sklo).

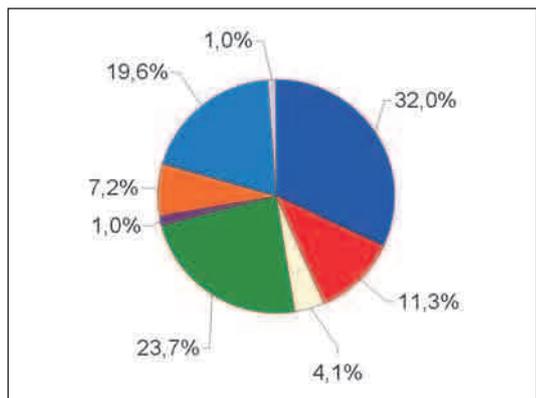


Fig. 14. Percentages of registered types of glass (lower cesspit contents). Dark blue – goblets; red – beakers; yellow – jugs, tankards; green – bottles; dark red – technical and laboratory glass; orange – window glass; blue – unidentified (hollow) glass; light blue – unidentified (flat) glass.
Obr. 14. Procentuální zastoupení registrovaných typů skla (spodní fekální výplň). Tmavě modrá – poháry; červená – číše; žlutá – džbány, konvice; zelená – lahve; tmavě červená – technické a laboratorní sklo; oranžová – okenní sklo; modrá – neurčené (duté sklo); světle modrá – neurčené (ploché sklo).

5.1.2.1 Hollow glass

The collection of hollow glass from the lower cesspit contents comprises 85 fragments. A dominant position is occupied by table glassware. 19 fragments could not be morphologically identified, owing to the extent of fragmentariness.

Goblets

Fragments of goblets are the most numerous group in the collection (31 fragments). As in the upper rubble backfill, there are both expensive, luxury examples, and a larger amount of more commonly available types of poorer quality.

The examples that are more luxurious and demanding in terms of craftsmanship are two discoid feet with a depressed ringlet and a partially preserved hollow baluster node (fig. 8: 10, 11), in one case from cobalt blue glass. Glass is clear, colourless and slightly yellowish. A find of a fragment of a conical bowl whose lower part is decorated with two rows of molten drops is quite unique (the lower row has a vertically drawn thread which thus forms three-dimensional ribs). The decoration is divided from the upper part by a horizontal fibre (fig. 8: 8). The high quality of the product is shown by the absence of any signs of corrosive activity, as well as the exceptionally clean, clear colourless glass with no bubbles. Sporadic parallels can be found in Prague and Olomouc (Podliska 2003, 27; Sedláčková 1998, cat. no. 13.2-4). Although it is impossible to rule out the possibility that these pieces were imported from Dutch production centres (cf. Henkes 1994, 209, fig. 46.18), without a chemical analysis its origin cannot be determined with certainty. The aforementioned examples are very high-quality products in the Venetian style. In our environment we encounter them primarily in the context of high society (Drahotová et al. 2005, 165).

The more expensive products include a fragment of a bowl with a gilded border and white enamel points (fig. 8: 12), as well as a fragment of the lower part of a conical bowl decorated with vertical lines separated from the upper part by two horizontal lines (fig. 8: 9). The decoration was executed with white enamel and represents an imitation of goblets with embossed ribs from molten fibres of white, milk-coloured glass (see Henkes 1994, 201-202, fig. 46.2, 46.3). The upper section contains part of a gilded rhombus, probably from a four-pointed star. The point of the rhombus is framed by four white enamel circles that could imitate a decoration of small glass beads (the combination of a gilded star and such beads appeared on a goblet from Brno, see Jordánková – Sedláčková 2005, 130-131, appendix no. III/4). We can find parallels, for example, in Olomouc, where these goblets are dated to the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century (Sedláčková ed. 1998, 86, cat. no. 16.1-4, 16.1-5).

Of the more ordinary types we can point to bell-shaped feet with two ringlets on a smooth stem, made from clear greenish glass (2 examples, one with a very asymmetrically-shaped rim of the foot – fig. 8: 16), fragments of a goblet with a twisted stem on a foot from spirally-wound fibre made of clear greyish glass (fig. 8: 14) and a semi-ovoid bowl with two ringlets of the stem made from clear

greyish glass, with optical decoration in the form of rhombuses (*fig. 8: 13*). In all cases there are bubbles in the glass.

Two examples of “liqueur” cups have unusual shapes (*fig. 8: 15*). They are fragments of a small conical bowl, made from clear greenish glass with a rim diameter of only 40 mm and a height of 58 mm. A similar, slightly smaller cup came from a Renaissance glassworks in Rejdice (*Hejdová 1981, fig. 9: 15*, called a beaker here). According to this parallel, the bowl would sit on a very low foot made from spirally-wound fibre.

Beakers

Beakers are represented by 11 fragments (including 3 intrusive fragments, see below) in the collection from the earlier pit contents. The shape of a beaker on a bell-shaped foot is represented by a foot fragment from clear greenish glass with bubbles (*fig. 9: 6*). A variant of this type is represented by a bottom with part of a bell-shaped foot, and with a body bearing lentile-shaped optical decoration, made from clear greenish glass with bubbles. There are very marked traces of a blowpipe and imprecise cutting off on the lower side of the bottom. Moreover, the bell-shaped foot is not symmetrical, and deviates on one side. It is therefore a curious case of faulty (and therefore cheaper) product amongst ordinary consumer goods (*fig. 9: 7*).

Three fragments of an enamel-painted beaker belong to the aforementioned wedding humpen from the upper rubble backfill and therefore document the contamination of the lower layer by intrusive material, due to the influence of post-deposit processes. The only other example of figural decoration on a beaker is a fragment with the figure of a rabbit (*fig. 9: 9*). The rabbit appears in an upright position on its back legs; in its forepaws it holds a pole to the upper end of which a ribbon is probably attached. Three letters of a word that has not survived are visible by the left edge of the fragment (...ich – mich? dich? sich?). The scene can be included in the group of fables that appeared on hollow glass in the Czech environment from the end of the 16th century (*Drahotová 1985, 84*; see also *Henkes 1994, 181, fig. 43.1-2*).

A fragment of a berkemeier- or römer-type beaker made from clear greenish glass with small bubbles is a significant find, documenting the relative wealth of its owner (*fig. 9: 8*). As only the cylindrical body, without the upper bowl-like part, was found, the goblet cannot be classified exactly. The body is decorated with large spiky prunts. The slightly pricked bottom is wound around with pinched fibre. We usually encounter this shape in the most important sets in our domestic environment (*Drahotová et al. 2005, 164*).

Four fragments document a beaker with “waffel” decoration (*fig. 9: 10*; for the production and origin of such beakers see *Tait 1967*).

Jugs and tankards

Five fragments of opaque, milky bluish glass, decorated by enamel paintwork with the motif of an amphora-type vase with flowers, probably belong to a jug or tankard (*fig. 11: 4, 5*).

Bottles

There are 23 fragments of bottle-like shapes. The preserved pieces are again very fragmentary, so shape analysis is markedly limited. Tetrahedral and cylindrical bottles of small and large dimensions are documented. A conical neck with a widening rim is probably part of a pear-shaped bottle (*fig. 10: 5*).



Fig. 15. Fragment of newly defined ceramic class P5013. Photo by J. Hlavatý.
Obr. 15. Fragment nově definované keramické třídy P5013. Foto J. Hlavatý.

Less usual are two fragments of a lobed bottle, and one fragment of a multi-sided bottle from filigree glass with white fibres (*vetro and fili e retorti* – fig. 10: 6, 7). The colour of the clear glass of the fragments ranges from colourless to various shades of green.

Laboratory and technical glass

The only representative of this group is a slightly narrowing distillation pipe made from clear, slightly greenish glass with a maximum diameter of 18 mm and a length of 153 mm (fig. 10: 8). More specific identification is not possible.

5.1.2.2 Window glass

Only 7 fragments of window glass were found in this pit's contents. In five cases they are pieces of round window discs made from clear greenish and colourless or yellowish glass, with simply sealed or a hollow folded rim (fig. 12: 7-11). The window discs are 1-2 mm thick, with diameters of 90 and 120 mm. One fragment of window glass bears traces of pinching on a preserved rim. In one case there is a flat pane with a simple sealed rim.

Fig. 16. Selection of ceramics finds. Class 5001: 1, 2, 3; class 5002: 4, 5, 6; class 5010: 7, 8, 9; class 5011: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.
Obr. 16. Výběr z nálezů keramiky. Třída 5001: 1, 2, 3; třída 5002: 4, 5, 6; třída 5010: 7, 8, 9; třída 5011: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.



5.2 Earthenware, stoneware, majolica, porcelain

The collection of ceramics was analysed using a descriptive system proposed by P. Vařeka (*Vařeka 1998*), based on the observation of macroscopically apprehensible properties of ceramic matter. According to this system, modern Prague ceramics have the code P500x. 12 classes of ceramics were previously defined (P5001-P5012 – see *Dohnal – Vařeka 2002*, 253-254) and we added one new one (P5013 – *fig. 15*). Neither the stoneware nor the porcelain from this collection has yet been analysed in this way. As the only published collection of modern Prague ceramics to which this system was applied is also, at least partially, contemporary with our set (see *Dohnal – Vařeka 2002*), the use of this method for the possibility of comparison is recommended.

Registered ceramics classes (*fig. 16*):

Properties described²:

B – colour

M – material, technology (*macroscopic description of ceramic matter, creation of vessels, surface finish*)

V – firing (*quality, character*)

G – glaze (*type, location, colour*)

P5001

B – white to greyish-white

M – very high-quality compact potsherd, sparse macroscopic non-plastic components (max. 1 mm), indistinct minute mica, smooth surface of potsherd, traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard oxidation firing

G – transparent inner, outer and double-sided glaze; colour – clear, brown, light green, rich green, yellow, dark blue, and brown and violet.

P5002

B – brick red

M – high-quality compact potsherd, sparse macroscopic non-plastic components (max. 1 mm), indistinct minute mica, smooth surface of potsherd, traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard oxidation firing

G – transparent inner, outer and double-sided glaze; colour – clear, brown, green, yellow
P5003

B – ochre, light brown, greyish brown

M – very fine-grained potsherd, indistinct macroscopic non-plastic components (up to a size of 1 mm, larger grains only very occasionally), occasional minute mica, smooth surface, traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard oxidation firing

G – transparent inner, outer and double-sided glaze; colour – clear, brown, green, yellow

P5005

B – grey

M – Fine-grained potsherd, macroscopic non-plastic components mostly up to a size of 1 mm, numerous minute mica, smooth, fine surface, often marked traces of polishing, traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard reduction firing

Note 2:

See Dohnal - Vařeka 2002, 253-254. It should be mentioned that there have been several changes to the system of ceramic classification for modern Prague ceramics since the publication of the collection from náměstí Republiky (Republic Square): class P5010 has been separated from class P5001, class P5002 belongs to a finer variant of the original coarser brick-red ceramics, which is now called P50 (P. Vařeka, verbal communication).

P5006

B – grey

M – fine-grained potsherd, macroscopic non-plastic components up to a size of 1 mm, occasionally larger, numerous minute mica, grains protruding from the surface, smooth to rough surface of potsherd, traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard reduction firing

P5010

B – ochre, yellow and white, pinkish

M – very high-quality compact potsherd, macroscopic non-plastic components (up to max. 1 mm), indistinct minute mica, smooth surface of potsherd, sometimes grains protruding from the surface, traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard oxidation firing

G – transparent inner, outer and double-sided glaze; colour – brown, light green, yellow, orange

P5011

B – brick red

M – markedly grainy potsherd, densely non-plastic components up to a size of 1 mm (occasionally larger), indistinct minute mica, slightly grained surface (non-plastic components protruding from the surface), traces of turning on a wheel

V – hard oxidation firing

G – transparent inner, outer and double-sided glaze; colour – clear, brown, green

P5013

B – light grey core, dark grey near the surface

M – fine-grained potsherd, macroscopic non-plastic components up to 1 mm, numerous minute mica, polished surface, traces of turning on a wheel

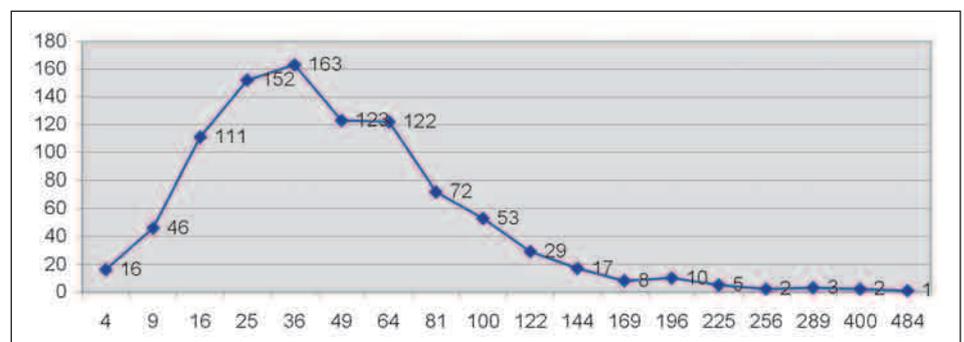
V – hard reduction firing

5.2.1 Finds from the lower faecal fill

A total of 970 ceramic fragments weighing 18,644 g were found in the lower layer.

Fig. 17. Representation of size categories of fragments (lower faecal layer). Horizontal axis – size of fragments in cm²; vertical axis – number of fragments.

Obr. 17. Zastoupení velikostních kategorií fragmentů (spodní fekální vrstva). Vodorovná osa – velikost fragmentů v cm²; svislá osa – počet fragmentů.



5.2.1.1 Fragmentariness (*fig. 17*)

To determine the degree of fragmentariness, each fragment was allocated to one of 22 size categories (1 – 1 cm², 2 – 4 cm², 3 – 9 cm², 4 – 16 cm², 5 – 25 cm², 6 – 36 cm², 7 – 49 cm², 8 – 64 cm², 9 – 81 cm², 10 – 100 cm², 11 – 121 cm², 12 – 144 cm², 13 – 169 cm², 14 – 196 cm², 15 – 225 cm², 16 – 256 cm², 17 – 289 cm², 18 – 324 cm², 19 – 361 cm², 20 – 400 cm², 21 – 441 cm², 22 – 484 cm²; see *Dohnal* –

Vařeka 2002, 257-258). The collection is dominated by medium-sized fragments (the most common categories are 4-9), which corresponds to our idea about the primary deposit of ceramic waste in the cesspit. Also the presence of pieces in categories 12-17, 20 and 22 shows the lesser degree of fragmentariness of the ceramics.

5.2.1.2 Registered ceramics classes, morphology, typology (figs. 18, 19)

The most numerous ceramics in the lower cesspit layer are oxidation fired pieces from class P5010 (amount: 70 %, weight: 63 %), followed by reduction fired ceramics from class P5005 (amount: 13 %, weight: 12 %) and ochre to grey-white oxidation fired ceramics from class P5003 (amount: 6 %, weight: 4 %). Oxidation fired brick-red ceramics from classes P5002 and P5011 amount to 6 % of the total amount (11 % of the weight). Other classes amount to less than 3 % of the total amount in the set (class P5001, only 2 % of the total amount and 3 % of the weight, class P5006 2 % of the total amount and 7 % of the weight; class P5013 is represented by a single fragment). Oxidation fired goods from classes P5001-P5003, P5010 and P5011 therefore amount to 84 % of the total amount and completely dominate the collection, although reduction fired goods from classes P5005 and P5006 play a non-negligible role (15 % of the total amount, 19 % of the weight).

87 % of the oxidation fired ceramics in classes P5001-P5003, P5010 and P5011 are glazed. Inner glaze was noted on 66 % of fragments, double-sided on 20 %, and fragments with outer glaze amount to a mere 1 %. The ratio of fragments with inner glaze, outer glaze and double-sided glaze in the various classes is shown on the graph (fig. 20), which makes it clear that, with the exception of class P5011, where unglazed goods appear most frequently, all other oxidation fired classes are dominated by inner glaze. The most popular coloured glazes are yellow, brown and green. Rich green, brown and blue glazes were used on ceramics in class P5001 (cf. Dohnal – Vařeka 2002, 261-262).

Of a total of 257 morphologically identifiable fragments in the collection, the vast majority are from pots (73 %), followed by tripods/pans (12 %) and flanged bowls (8 %). There are a few examples of other shapes (lids 2 %, deep bowls 2 %, jugs 1.5 %, cups and dishes amount to less than 1 %). The collection is therefore markedly dominated by cooking utensils, and there is a minimum amount of table ceramics.

Of 16 determinable fragments in class P5001, the most frequently occurring were flanged bowls (12), pots (2) and jugs (2). The most numerous type in class P5002, where there were a total of 13 determinable fragments, were pots (7), followed by flanged bowls (3). There was one example each of a conical bowl with high vertical handles, a tripod and a lid. In class P5003, of 7 identifiable fragments the majority were pots (5); there was only one tripod and one lid. Classes P5005 and P5006 are dominated by pots (19 pieces from a total of 21 fragments), there were 2 jug fragments, and other shapes were only represented by one fragment (lid, deep bowl – fig. 21: 5). The statistically most important class, P5010, is again dominated by pots (159 pieces of 208 assessable fragments), followed by tripods (28), flanged bowls (12), jugs (5) and lids (3). Deeper bowl-like shapes are only represented by one

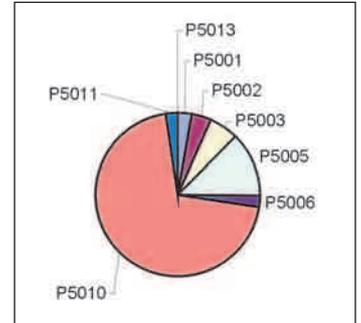


Fig. 18. Percentages of ceramic classes (lower faecal layer).

Obr. 18. Procentuální zastoupení keramických tříd (spodní fekální vrstva).

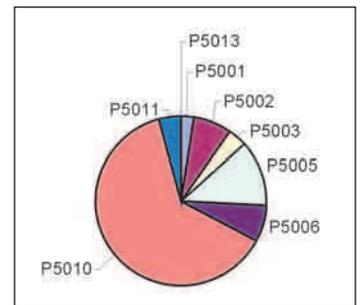


Fig. 19. Weight representation of ceramic classes (lower faecal layer).

Obr. 19. Hmotnostní zastoupení keramických tříd (spodní fekální vrstva).

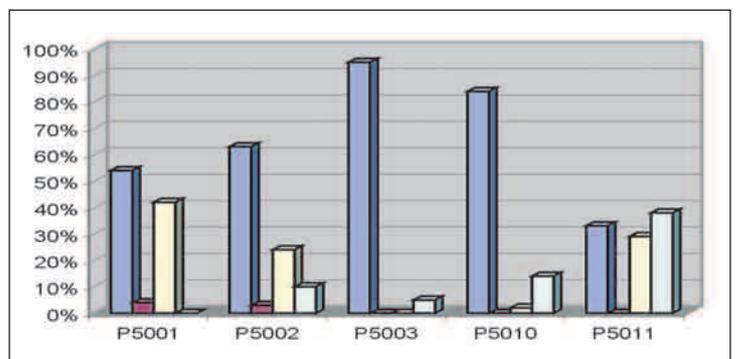


Fig. 20. Location of glaze (lower faecal layer). Blue – inner glaze; red – outer glaze; yellow – double-sided glaze; light green – unglazed.

Obr. 20. Umístění glazury (spodní fekální vrstva). Modrá – vnitřní glazura; červená – vnější glazura; žlutá – oboustranná glazura; světle zelená – rezně.

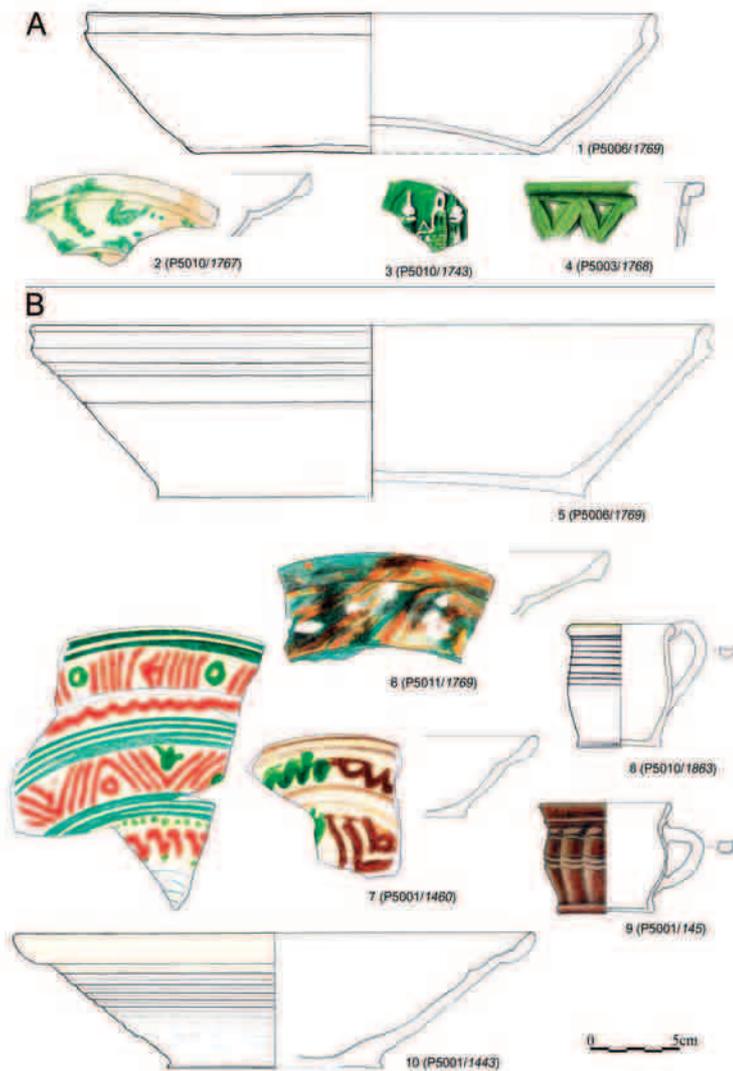


Fig. 21. Ceramics (A – upper rubble backfill; B – lower faecal infilling): bowls (1, 4, 5), flanged bowls (2, 6, 7, 10), cups (8, 9), fragment with embossed decoration from mould (3).
Obr. 21. Keramika (A – svrchní suťový zásyp; B – spodní fekální výplň): misky (1, 4, 5), talířovité misky (2, 6, 7, 10), hrnečky (8, 9), fragment s plastickou výzdobou z formičky (3).

fragment. Of a total of 4 assessable fragments in class P5011, the most frequent are bowl-like shapes (2 deep bowls, 1 bowl with high vertical handles).

A total of 173 measurable rims of pots were allocated to one of three size categories: small pots (diameter of up to 10 cm), medium-size pots (diameter of 10-20 cm) and large pots (diameter over 20 cm). We can place 15 pieces in the first category, 155 in the second, and only 3 in the large pots category. The medium-size category is dominated by rims with a diameter of 12-14 cm (total of 83 pieces).

Of the 26 measurable rims of tripods, 14 pieces have a diameter between 11 and 20 cm, 12 are in a size category with diameters between 22 and 26 cm. No large tripods (more than 30 cm) were noted.

Flanged bowls were found with diameters of 14 cm (4), 24 cm (1), 26 cm (1), 28 cm (1), 29 cm (1) and 31 cm (1).

Jugs were represented by rims with diameters of 8 cm (1), 9 cm (1), 10 cm (5), and 11 cm (2). Deep bowl-like shapes appear with diameters of 14, 15 and 36 cm (one example each). Lid diameters range between 10 and 16 cm (5).

5.2.1.3 Decoration

A total of 195 decorated fragments were noted in the collection (20 %). By far the most common method of decoration was by polishing (polishing the whole surface of a vessel or polished ornamental decoration), which is associated solely with reduction fired goods in classes P5005 and P5006 (approximately 42 % of decorated pieces). Painting with red clay on the unglazed outer side of a vessel (mostly a simple horizontal line) can be found on 38 pieces (19 %) and in most cases is associated with yellow inner glaze (34 pieces). Only in 4 cases were there pieces with inner brown glaze. This decoration appears only on pots in class P5010. There were also numerous examples of painting with clay, whether on a potsherd itself in combination with a clear transparent glaze (fig. 21: 7, 10), or on a white engobe in combination with a clear transparent glaze. Red, green, black and blue clays were documented. Dripped decoration into clear transparent glaze appears in 12 % of cases, in combination with white engobe in 11 % of cases. This type of decoration is dominated by dripped green glaze, but there are also blue, brown and orange glazes. Polychroming using brown, red and green pigment on white engobe only appears in 5 cases (about 3 % – fig. 21: 6). It is mostly decoration on the inside of open vessels (flanged bowls, deep bowls). No red engobe was noted.

Wheel-pressed decoration was noted in less than 1 % of cases (reduction fired goods in classes P5005 and P5006, and oxidation fired goods in classes P5002, P5003 and P5011). Of embossed decoration there is an embossed pressed moulding (only in 3 cases, only on brick-red oxidation fired goods in classes P5002 and P5011), and in one case the demanding technique of extruding a wall of a vessel from the inside into small moulds was documented (class P5001, in combination with outer deep green glaze).

5.2.1.4 Stoneware, majolica, porcelain

The only case where majolica can be considered is a fragment of a closed vessel (probably a jug) with stuck-on decoration from a mould. It is part of a lion's head inside a medallion framed by a plant wreath (coat-of-arms?). The motif is supplemented by a vertical band, showed off by engraving. Several such vertical lines presumably separated the various decorative areas of the jug. Brown and green transparent glazes were used on the fragment. The vertical band is most probably decorated with a yellow opaque tin-lead glaze³, so we believe it is majolica. Similar jugs come from Prague Castle, Jindřišská Street in Prague, and Orlí Street in Brno (see *Jordánková – Sedláčková 2005*, 136, colour supplement no. V/1-3, V/4, V/5).

Stoneware is represented by a single fragment of a jug or *Pinte* (mazer) with decoration in the form of stuck-on dark raspberry-like prunts (fig. 22: 9). The outer surface of the vessel oscillates between light grey, and orange and brown. This is probably a product of the Altenburg workshops (see *Horschik 1978*, 161-166).

A fragment of a porcelain bowl with cobalt blue vegetable decoration was a surprising find. This is very high-quality Chinese porcelain from imperial workshops dated to approximately 1575-1625⁴. Chinese porcelain is very rare in the Czech lands in archaeological contexts. In addition to our find, we are only aware of another three cases where it has been unearthed: two in Prague Castle (*Frolík – Žegklitz – Boháčová 1988*; *Matiášek, in print*) and one, surprisingly, in Nymburk (*Sedláčková 1998*, 28).

5.2.2 Finds from the upper rubble backfill

A total of 1,880 ceramic fragments weighing 29,357 g were found in the rubble backfill.

5.2.2.1 Fragmentariness (fig. 23)

This layer is also dominated by larger fragments (the statistically most important categories are sizes 4-7), although, in comparison with the collection from lower faecal fill, we can say that there is a somewhat greater degree of fragmentariness in the ceramic material.

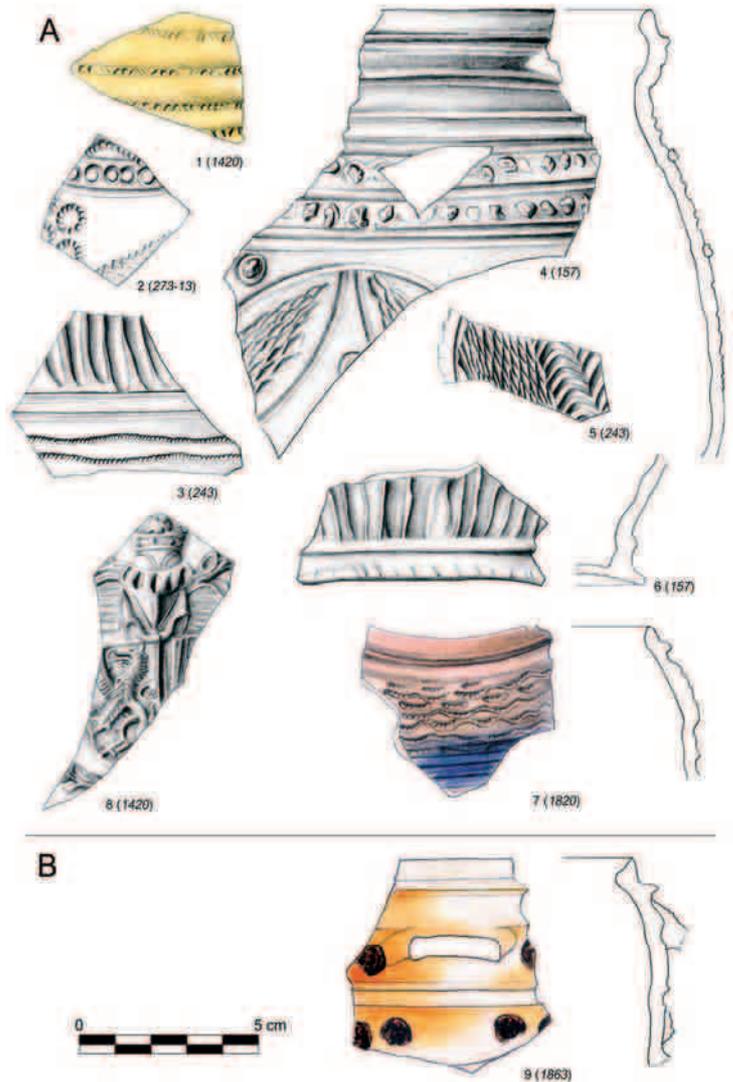


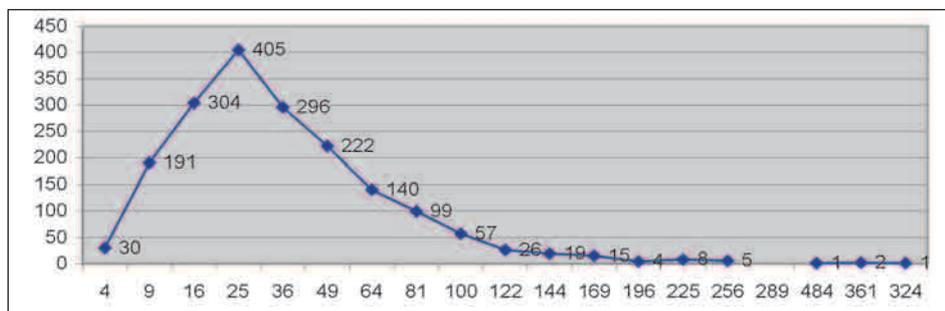
Fig. 22. Stoneware (A – upper rubble backfill; B – lower faecal infilling): Altenburg (1, 9), Muskau (2-6), Waldenburg (7), Cologne area (8).
Obr. 22. Kamenina (A – svrchní suťový zásyp; B – spodní fekální výplň): Altenburg (1, 9), Muskau (2-6), Waldenburg (7), oblast Kolína nad Rýnem (8).

Note 3:
V. Štajnochr, verbal communication.

Note 4:
Z. Černá and F. Suchomel, verbal communication.

Fig. 23. Representation of size categories of fragments (upper rubble backfill). Horizontal axis – size of fragments in cm²; vertical axis – number of fragments.

Obr. 23. Zastoupení velikostních kategorií fragmentů (svrchní suťový zásyp). Vodorovná osa – velikost fragmentů v cm²; svislá osa – počet fragmentů.



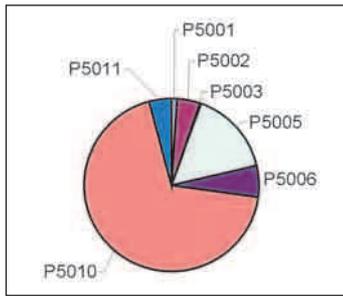


Fig. 24. Percentages of ceramic classes (upper rubble backfill).
 Obr. 24. Procentuální zastoupení keramických tříd (svrchní suťový zásyp).

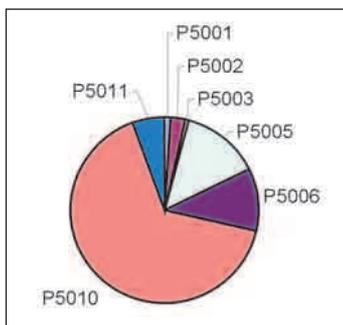


Fig. 25. Weight representation of ceramic classes (upper rubble backfill).
 Obr. 25. Hmotnostní zastoupení keramických tříd (svrchní suťový zásyp).

5.2.2.2 Registered ceramic classes, morphology, typology (figs. 24, 25)

The ceramic classes P5001, P5002, P5003, P5005, P5006, P5010 and P5011 are represented in the collection. The most numerous class is that of oxidation fired goods, P5010 (68 % of the number and 66 % of the weight), followed by reduction fired goods from classes P5005 and P5006 (total of 21 % of the number and 14 % of the weight). Brick red oxidation fired goods from classes P5002 and P5011 is represented by 4 % of the number (3 % and 6 % of the weight). Class P5001, distinguishing itself by its fine white potsherd, amounts to only 1 % of the number and weight. Class P5003 is only slightly represented (less than 1 % of the number). Oxidation fired goods again dominate the collection (73 % of the number), but in comparison with the above mentioned collection there is a greater proportion of reduction fired ceramics.

92 % of oxidation fired goods are glazed fragments. Inner glaze was noted on 66 % of fragments, and double-sided glaze on 25 %, whereas only 1 % had outer glaze. The ratio between inner, outer and double-sided glaze in the various classes is shown in the graph (fig. 26), which makes it clear that, with the exception of class P5011, where unglazed goods are again the most frequent, inner glazes dominate all oxidation fired classes. The most frequent coloured glazes were yellow, brown and green.

Of a total of 311 morphologically identifiable fragments in the collection, the vast majority belongs to pots (76 %), followed by tripods/pans (9 %). Flanged bowls, and other bowl-like shapes, both amounted to 5 %. Other shapes are represented only slightly (fryer 2 %, jugs 2 %). There are very occasional finds of lids (2 pieces), a candlestick (1 piece), a vessel of an apparently basket-like shape and a "saltcellar". The collection is again markedly dominated by kitchen goods, and table ceramics is represented only by minority of finds.

Of a total of 15 morphologically determinable fragments in class P5001, nine of them are flanged bowls; there were also 3 jug and tripod pieces, and only 1 pot and 1 bowl. There were 18 identifiable fragments in class P5002, the most numerous being from pots (5 pieces), followed by tripods and jugs (4 pieces each) and flanged bowls (3 pieces). In class P5003 there were only 3 identifiable fragments: there were 2 pieces of pots and one fragment of a vessel with a basket-like shape (with cut-through walls, fig. 21: 4). Classes P5005 and P5006 are dominated by pots (37 pieces from a total of 55 fragments), there are 9 fryer fragments, and two fragments of a deep bowl with vertical handles. Other shapes are represented only by 1 fragment (conical bowl – fig. 21: 1, bowl, tripod, deep bowl). The most numerous class, P5010, is dominated by pots (267 pieces), followed by tripods (30 pieces), flanged bowls (6 pieces), deep bowls (4 pieces), lids (2 pieces) and a single fragment of a jug. There was a candlestick in this class (the sole representative in the whole set). Class P5011 contains bowls (9 pieces), pots (3 pieces), a flanged bowl (1 piece), a jug (1 piece), and a fryer (1 piece). There is a single fragment of a close-shaped vessel perforated at the top (a saltcellar?).

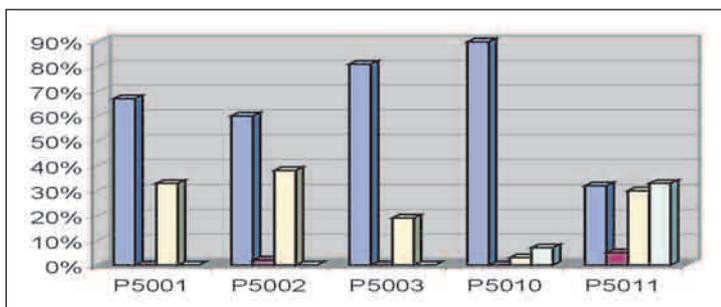


Fig. 26. Location of glaze (upper rubble backfill). Blue – inner glaze; red – outer glaze; yellow – double-sided glaze; light green – unglazed.
 Obr. 26. Umístění glazury (svrchní suťový zásyp). Modrá – vnitřní glazura; červená – vnější glazura; žlutá – oboustranná glazura; světle zelená – rezné.

A total of 250 measurable rims were again divided into three size categories. The first category (diameter of up to 10 cm) contains 10 specimens,

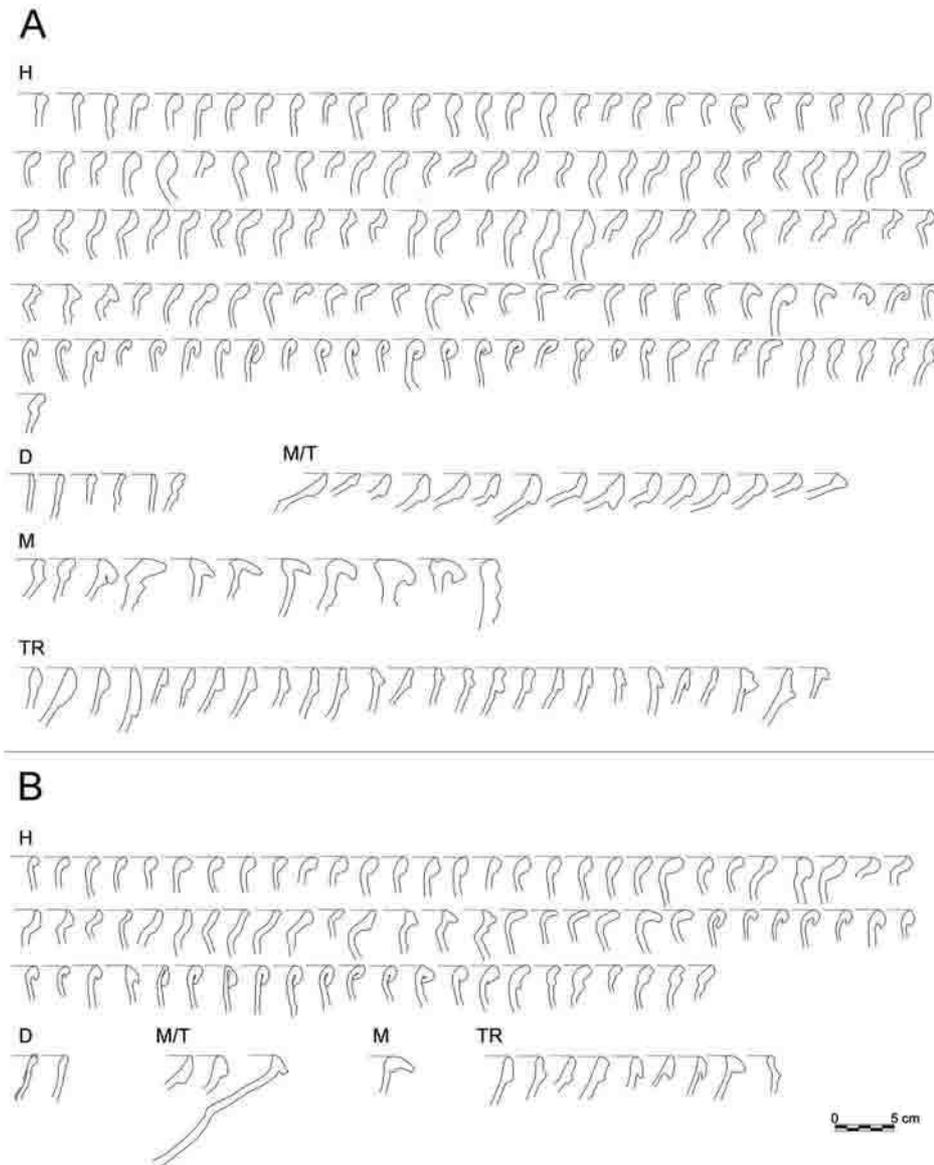


Fig. 27. Types of rims profiles of ceramic fragments (A – upper rubble backfill; B – lower faecal infilling):
H – pots,
D – jugs,
M/T – flanged bowls,
M – bowls,
TR – tripods / pans.
Obr. 27. Typář okrajových profilací keramických fragmentů (A – svrchní suťový zásyp; B – spodní fekální výplň):
H – hrnce,
D – džbány,
M/T – mýsy s talířovitým podokrajím,
M – mýsy,
TR – trojnožky / pánve.

the second (diameter of 10-20 cm) 228, and the third (diameter over 20 cm) 12 specimens. The second category (and the whole collection) was dominated by pots with rims ranging from 12 to 16 cm in diameter (163 pieces).

Of 35 measurable rims of tripods, one fragment had a diameter of only 9 cm, 19 fragments had diameters of 10-20 cm, and 7 fragments had diameters of 21-30 cm. Only one fragment did not even get into this category (diameter of 40 cm).

Flanged bowls were documented with diameters of 15 cm (1), 17 cm (1), 18 cm (1), 20 cm (1), 22 cm (2), 23 cm (1), 30 cm (4), 32 cm (2) and 34 cm (3). Other bowl-like shapes have diameters of 17 (1), 20 (1), 26 (4), 28 (5), 30 (2) and 32 cm (1).

Of six measurable rims of jugs, the most frequent were rims with a diameter of 9 cm (4 pieces); diameters of 10 cm and 12 cm was only found in the case of one exemplar each.

5.2.2.3 Decoration

The collection contains 416 decorated fragments (22 %). Quite the most frequent type of decoration was polishing (49 % of decorated fragments). This decoration was used solely on goods from classes P5005 and P5006. It is followed by painting with red clay under the neck of pots (one horizontal line, 16 %), again only on goods from class P5010. This decoration most frequently appears

in combination with yellow inner glaze (49 pieces of a total of 68), although there are examples of combinations with brown and green glazes and, in 6 cases, red clay appears on an unglazed potsherd. As in the previous collection, there is a relatively large group of pieces painted with clay, either on the potsherd itself or in combination with clear transparent glaze, or on white engobe in combination with clear transparent glaze (8 %). Red, green, black and blue clays were found. Dripped decoration into clear transparent glaze or into white engobe was only found in 2 % of cases. Dripped green glaze dominates in this type of decoration (*fig. 21: 2*), but blue, brown and orange glazes were also used. In contrast, polychroming with brown, red and green pigment on white engobe was relatively frequent (7 %), as was wheel-pressed decoration (also 7 %). An embossed moulding was noted in 7 cases, engraving on one fragment. More luxurious decoration in relief was found on 3 fragments (human head?, part of city architecture – *fig. 21: 3*).

5.2.2.4 Tiles

Only a few not-very-large fragments of chamber tiles with a simple smooth front side and profiled rims were found. A green transparent glaze had been applied.

5.2.2.5 Stoneware

The collection from the upper rubble backfill contained 22 fragments of stoneware. The production centres represented were Altenburg (wheel-pressed decoration – *fig. 22: 1*), Muskau (in one case decoration using chips of quartz – *fig. 22: 2-6*), Waldenburg (documented by the use of cobalt blue colouring – *fig. 22: 7*), and the Cologne area (jug with a partially preserved coat-of-arms – *fig. 22: 8*).

5.3 Leather products

Leather fragments were found in the lower pit infilling. Two of the fragments could be identified: the first from the instep part of a lady's sheepskin shoe (*Orlita 2005, 1*) decorated with a silver colour and a line relief in the form of a diamond (*fig. 28*), the second, similar, from finer leather used in a child's shoe. Another small triangle-shaped fragment with the remains of gold colour on one side may have been from a lady's handbag or purse.

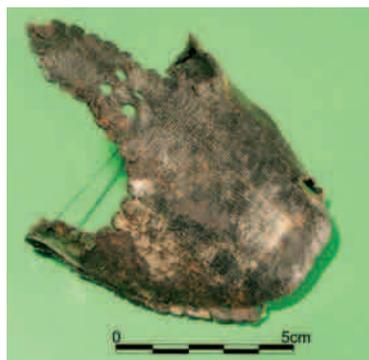


Fig. 28. Part of a woman's sheepskin shoe found in the lower cesspit contents.

Photo by J. Hlavatý.

Obr. 28. Snímek části dámské boty ze skopovice nalezené ve spodní výplni jímky.
Foto J. Hlavatý.

6. Conclusion

With today's knowledge about the cesspit's contents it is possible – outside the scope of this article – to express doubts about the correctness of the method of fieldwork, when part of the cesspit's contents under the water level was excavated by a bulldozer and most of it was not analysed archaeologically. The necessity of increased costs and insufficient time for decision-making turned out to be the most important elements in considerations, and the lower section remained uninvestigated. All decisions should be viewed in the context of the time they were made, and at that time the priority was the detailed disassembling of the early medieval parts of the site. Nevertheless, this is an interesting contribution to the discussion about the strategy for performing archaeological excavations.

Assessing the totality of finds from the cesspit is not without problems. One of them is clear from the above description of the field situation. We are not yet able to reliably determine the location of the various lots of the burghers'

houses, as they were built on the ruins of the medieval convent in the first half of the 16th century. In the middle of this century the district of the former convent was first called a jurisdiction, which comprised 5 to 6 houses at various times. The location of their lots, however, cannot be determined with certainty without further detailed research (*Pavlík – Lancinger – Líbal – Rulc 1965*, 9 nn.). Even it is impossible to rule out the possibility that the cesspit site was built up with temporary houses erected by the Dominicans (who arrived in Malá Strana in 1604) that had to be demolished when work on the large church began (*Pavlík – Lancinger – Líbal – Rulc 1965*, 18).

Any assessment currently relies on just the finds themselves. Some of them, in particular fragments of luxury glassware, as well as Chinese porcelain and stoneware, give the impression that higher social classes were present at the location. Regardless of the fact that making such a direct connection can often be deceptive, the biggest problem is the lack of published comparative material. The main aim of the relatively detailed publication of well-dated finds from the cesspit dated to the first half of the 17th century is therefore to at least contribute to the partial alleviation of this problem.

Resumé:

Presentovaná odpadní jímka byla odkryta při záchranném archeologickém výzkumu (2003-2006) domovního bloku v jižní části pražské Malé Strany. Výzkum, který byl vyvolán přestavbou bývalého barokního dominikánského kláštera na hotel, provedlo archeologické oddělení Národního památkového ústavu v Praze.

Jímka byla objevena v severozápadní části dnešního dvora, v zadní (východní) partii městiště domu postaveného na troskách středověkého kláštera magdalenitek v pohusitské době. Na přední, západní části městiště byl od roku 1656 stavěn kostel dominikánského kláštera. Jímka nebyla vystavěna ve volném prostoru, její půdorys byl dodatečně vložen do vytápěcí komory středověké pece. Ta byla zahlobena více než 2 m do tehdejšího terénu, po změně funkce byla prostora prohloubena o dalších 2,5 m a její obvodové stěny byly podezděny. V úrovni základové spáry podezdění byly nalezeny dubové trámy, jejichž věnec vymezoval čtvercový obvod jímky o vnitřní straně dlouhé 2 m. Dendrochronologická analýza ukázala, že dub, ze kterého trám pocházel, byl poražen na přelomu let 1609 a 1610 (*Kyncl 2004*). Severozápadní roh jímky byl porušen blokem zdiva základové partie pilíře, z něhož vybíhal pas nesoucí obvodové zdivo západní části barokního ambitu. Funkce jímky skončila v době, kdy dominikáni po vykoupení jednotlivých domů při Karmelitské ulici přikročili k jejich demolici a začali stavět svůj nový klášterní kostel a následně klášter.

Výplň jímky bylo možné rozdělit do dvou základních horizontů. Svrchní byl tvořen souvrstvím suťových zásypů vzniklých víceméně jednorázově, spodní část výplně jímky byla zaplněna typickou fekální výplní. Tvořilo ji souvrství hnědých a tmavě hnědých měkkých hlín s velmi hojnou příměsí organiky.

Z jímky byly získány poměrně početné nálezy, především skla a keramiky, jejichž rozbor tvoří vlastní část článku. Nálezy z obou horizontů jsou zpracovány zvlášť, a i když podrobné srovnání zatím nebylo provedeno, zdá se, že mezi nimi nebudou větší rozdíly. Mezi nálezy z dutého skla zaujímá naprosto dominantní postavení stolní sklo. Statisticky nejvýznamnější skupinu tvoří poháry. Mezi číši vyniká luxusní válcovitá číše zdobená emailovou malbou či fragment číše typu berkemeier.

Pro analýzu keramiky byl použit deskriptivní systém navržený pro pražskou novověkou keramiku P. Vařekou. Souboru výrazně dominuje kuchyňské zboží, stolní keramika je zastoupena minimálně. Mezi výjimečné nálezy patří fragment majoliky, úlomky kameniny či naprosto ojedinělý úlomek čínského porcelánu.

Při hodnocení nálezového celku jímky se setkáváme s řadou problémů. Mezi základní patří skutečnost, že zatím z písemných pramenů nejsme schopni určit majitele městiště, ze kterého nález pochází. Dalším problémem je fakt, že nemáme možnost srovnat charakteristické prvky našeho souboru s podobným materiálem z městského profánního prostředí.

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