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CHAPTER 11

EUROPEAN-MANUFACTURED OBJECTS FROM THE 'EARLY MISSION' SITE OF TOTALAI, MUA (WESTERN TORRES STRAIT)

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Torres Strait Islanders have been directly or indirectly exposed to European, American and/or Asian items of material culture since the early 1600s, and on a sustained basis after the mid-1800s. While numerous archaeological sites of the colonial period have been recorded across the Strait, there is, to date, not a single published record systematically documenting such artefacts. This paper presents a catalogue of imported objects dating to that colonial period, serving as a reference resource for future researchers in the region.
❒ *Mua, colonial period, historical archaeology, colonial objects, trade.*

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This paper is a photographic catalogue of selected artefacts surface-collected from the village of Totalai on the island of Mua (Western Torres Strait) in 2004 and 2006. Our aim is to provide a comparative database of material culture found in post-contact village sites in Torres Strait dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries AD. Here artefacts are grouped by material (and again by sub-material) categories; however, our groupings were selected for ease of reference rather than to lend particular weight to the origin of manufacture or use. Each artefact has an ID number that may be cross-referenced to the accompanying tables.

A notable feature of the Totalai surface collection is the extent to which it reveals the degree of interaction between Torres Strait Islanders and Europeans within a global context of trade (in particular, maritime trade). This is not surprising given that Torres Strait Islanders have been in contact with Europeans (and indirectly, possibly also Asians) – on and off – for some 400 years (see McNiven, 2001a; Swadling, 1996). At Totalai we have thus identified artefacts from the United Kingdom, East Asia, the Netherlands, Australia and possibly the United States. Past Australian research on 19th century Aboriginal missions, such as at Ebenezer Mission in western Victoria (Brooks, 2004: 53), tend to also signal a diversity of imported goods. From a global trade perspective, there is nothing unusual about the types of imported artefacts at Totalai (with the possible exception of the Queensland Federation commemorative medallion, artefact ID number 2004 [43]), and the collection is perhaps more characterised by utilitarianism than the exceptional. Nevertheless, archaeological research in Torres Strait is currently occurring at a fast pace; the availability of diagnostic artefact catalogues (i.e. of artefacts with features identifiable to specific manufacturers, places of origin, periods or functions) offers valuable comparative databases for researchers.

MARITIME TRADE & MATERIAL CULTURE

Torres Strait is a shallow sea passage difficult to navigate because of the strong spring-tides, numerous coral reef systems, submerged rocks and sandbars. European maritime traffic increased in the 1830s following hydrographic surveys of the Great Barrier Reef by Philip Parker King in 1819 (Illidge et al., 2004: 347-348). Additional surveying expeditions by H.M.S. *Fly* (1845-1846; Jukes, 1847) and H.M.S.

Rattlesnake and H.M.S. *Bramble* in the late 1840s (MacGillivray, 1852; Moore, 1979; Nicholson, 1996) further improved sounding depths vital for safe-navigation (see Stokes, 1856). European maritime activity in the area again increased from the mid-1860s following the establishment of European settlements at Somerset near Cape York (1864-1877) and Thursday Island (Waibene) in southwestern Torres Strait (1877-present), and the discovery of commercially viable quantities of pearl shell (*Pinctada* sp.), trochus (*Trochus niloticus*) and beche-de-mer (trepang, generally *Holothuria* sp.; see Beckett, 1977; Ganter, 1994, Illidge et al., 2004; McNiven, 2001a; McPhee, 2004; Mullins, 1995).

Trade played an important role in Torres Strait Islander societies, both between islands and with communities along the coasts of New Guinea and mainland Australia (Lawrence, 1994; McNiven, 2001a). Moreover, there is evidence for the existence of broader regional trading networks between Southeast Asia (including the Moluccas) and New Guinea after the 17th century in particular – such as the Seram Laut (see Swadling, 1996: 155-157; McNiven, 2001a) – although the degree to which Torres Strait Islanders were directly or indirectly involved in the eastern margins of this trade network remains unknown (cf. Hitchcock, 2004: appendix). Trade and exchange were key historical processes attendant in most Torres Strait Islander and foreigner interactions from the 17th to the 19th century (McNiven, 2001a). McNiven has noted that the Torres Strait maritime frontier of the 18th and 19th centuries was both dynamic and changing through time. Initially characterised by cycles of violence and retribution, the early Torres Strait maritime frontier slowly evolved into a nuanced and sophisticated cross-cultural interaction, largely a product of an increasing awareness of appropriate cultural protocols, thus paving the way for relatively stable and formal trading conditions (McNiven, 2001a: 178-179). Prior to the period of sustained colonial presence in the early 1870s, it is probable that the locus of Islander-European interaction was concentrated to some degree upon recognised 'European' navigational routes through Torres Strait. As evident in other colonial contexts, the circulation of European manufactured goods (at least during the early period prior to a sustained European and Pacific Islander presence) to the 'outer' islands was to some degree facilitated, conditioned and sometimes intensified by inter-island trading networks (McNiven, 2001a: 191-192). 'Those Islanders located close to shipping channels or near pearling stations (first established late 1860s) had the potential to renegotiate their relationships with neighbouring groups and reposition their status and role within the regional trade/exchange system' (McNiven, 2001b). In addition to direct and indirect trading relations, Islanders also gained access to European manufactured goods through the salvage of shipwrecks (McNiven, 2001a: 192; Moore, 1998: 259) and, later, rations and wages from employment in the maritime industries (Moore, 2000: 296), access to missions and pearling stations, with limited purchasing power in government stores amongst others.

Following the rise of maritime industries (see Beckett, 1977; Ganter, 1994), the establishment of missions in Torres Strait by the London Missionary Society (LMS) in 1871 (1872 on Mua, see Shnukal chapter 4, this volume) and the expansion of Thursday Island as a trade and administrative hub from the late 1870s (see Mullins, 1995), the colonial presence in Torres Strait gradually expanded to such a degree that Torres Strait Islander lifestyles underwent significant transformations in cultural and social expression (see Mullins, 1995; Beckett, 1977, 1987; Shnukal, 2004). Moore argued that during this time 'indigenous trade routes and concentrations of indigenous power were inadvertently refocused by the imposed patterns of exploitation and settlement' (2000: 298), and associated changes in social roles (such as gender roles) influenced both the distribution and types of material goods traded in the region (Moore, 1998: 259, 2000: 290-291).

Objects provenanced to European and Southeast Asian manufacturing centres have been recorded in a range of archaeological site types (villages, ritual sites, shipwrecks etc.) in Western Torres Strait (David & McNiven, 2005; Illidge et al., 2004; McNiven & Feldman, 2003; see also Ash & David, this volume). Both the ethnographic and archaeological evidence provoke questions regarding the mutability, reinterpretation, use and deposition of foreign objects in various types of sites across Western Torres Strait, and the polysemous meanings and values attached to them in the articulating trade and exchange systems of the colonial maritime frontier (see Erhardt, 2005; Thomas, 1991). In this connection it has been argued that during the 'passing trade' era of the first half of the 19th century, Torres Strait Islanders were highly selective as to which items they made

available for exchange and which European items they would accept in return (McNiven, 2001a: 188). Generally speaking, the economic and social dynamics embedded in interactions (such as trade) influence the selectiveness (and representativeness) of Torres Strait Islanders' material culture present in colonial period archaeological sites, a process manifested in the diverse array of Mualgal material culture represented in much of the Totalai assemblage.

The period 1872 to c.1900 represents a major transitional phase in Mualgal spiritual life, settlement systems and ritual practice (see Shnukal 'Historical Mua' chapter, this volume for a detailed history of Mua's colonial period). The Totalai assemblage is significant because occupation of the site spans this initial point of sustained entanglement with the institutions of colonialism. Indeed, while changes to domestic and household goods, dress, religious paraphernalia and village infrastructure represented in the catalogue seemingly reflect European interpretations of domesticity and modesty (and the agenda of the Christian missionaries), it is uncertain how these objects and ideas were perceived, rationalised and imported by Mualgal people into their social lives and interplayed with existing concepts and cultural practices. This remains a key area for future research into the colonial history of Mua and Western Torres Strait more generally.

COLLECTION STRATEGY AND DATA BIAS

The artefacts represented here were collected in two separate field seasons in 2004 (directed by Bruno David) and 2006 (directed by Jeremy Ash) and employed two different methodologies.

2004. This fieldwork included the first detailed mapping of Totalai's major landscape and cultural features. The site was intensively but not systematically walked for the recovery of diagnostic surface artefacts that may reveal information on the antiquity of the early colonial village. A total of 52 artefacts were collected and mapped on the site plan with an automatic level, most with diagnostic features. Plans were then made to return to Totalai, to undertake a

TABLE 1. Glass bottle fragments from Totalai. ML=maximum length; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Sub-material	Form	Decoration & finish	Place of origin	Date range	Makers' marks	Notes	Dimensions
2004 (3)	Amber	Bottle	Polygonal.				'14' on base	ML: 5.1cm; Wt: 19.1g
2004 (22)	Amethyst	Bottle					Patent lip. Mould blown.	ML:4.0cm; Wt: 16.4g
2004 (9)	Green	Bottle - case	Square with flat chamfers. Moulded inscription.				Down-tooled lip. Fragmentary inscription illegible	ML: 8.7cm; Wt: 62.8g
2004 (52)	Green aqua	Bottle	Floral moulded body	UK	1890s	L. Rose & Co	Mould blown Rose's cordial	ML: 24.1cm; Wt: 590.0g
2004 (51)	Green aqua	Bottle	Flat octagonal and moulded inscription				'P.J. Hains Chemist Sandgate' – not found	ML:12.7cm; Wt:117.2g
2004 (11)	Green aqua	Bottle	Moulded cylindrical body				Mould blown, stopper finish	ML: 12.8cm; Wt:72.5g
2004 (19)	Green aqua	Bottle	Rectangular recessed panels with rounded corners. Moulded inscription.				Perry Davis finish, 2 piece vertical mould. Fragmentary inscription illegible. Pharmaceutical bottle.	ML: 8.0cm; Wt: 52.8g
2004 (4)	Green aqua	Bottle	Ovoid				'243' on base	ML: 8.6cm; Wt: 77.8g
2004 (20)	Green aqua	Bottle					Bottle base with mamelon	ML: 4.9cm; Wt: 28.2g
2004 (2)	Green aqua	Bottle	Moulded inscription				Fragmentary inscription illegible	ML: 5.2cm; Wt: 11.0g
BL#2/1, A1, 13	Milk glass	Base?						ML: 6.6cm; Wt: 42.5g
BL#5/2, A3, 46	Milk glass	Unid hollow						ML: 2.5cm; Wt 1. 9g
2004 (41)	Olive green	Bottle - case	Polygonal. Moulded inscription.	USA?	1850-1920		'AROM[ATIC] SCH[NAPPS]' – possibly Udolpho Wolfe's Aromatic Schnapps (date from http://www.iupui.edu/~anthpm/330mandep.html)	ML: 8.1cm; Wt: 29.3g

systematic survey and mapping of a larger area beyond the village itself.

2006. Seven parallel east-west baselines were strung up at 15m intervals. The transect extremes were triangulated to two permanent datum points located on nearby rock outcrops. At 15m intervals along each transect, all artefacts located within $2m^2$ to the northwest were recorded (n=1238 artefacts). A moveable 2 × 2m wooden frame with 50 × 50cm internal string divisions was rigged up on-site for this purpose. Leaf-litter was removed and all surface and partially exposed in situ artefacts were drawn to scale and recorded on preformatted recording forms. All diagnostic fragments (e.g. glass bottle bases, clay tobacco pipe bowls), and a representative sample of non-diagnostic fragments (e.g. ceramic sherds, flaked glass pieces) were also recorded, collected and individually bagged for analysis at Monash University (n=177 artefacts).

A surface collection assemblage always presents a challenge for interpretation. In particular, there must always be doubt as to whether surface artefacts are in any way quantifiably representative. As a result, the following is more qualitative than quantitative, and no attempt at statistical analysis or minimum vessel counts has been attempted. For the purposes of this paper, we have only provided basic weights and maximum lengths for artefacts represented; only one 'diagnostic' fragment of each artefact type is presented here and 'undiagnostic' fragments are excluded. Broadly speaking, the catalogue is intended to assist researchers in the identification of European manufactured goods from a late 19th century Torres Strait village, and to offer an impressionistic picture of Mualgal material culture dating from this period.

GLASS

GLASS BOTTLES. (Fig. 1) It is tempting to interpret the presence of Dutch case bottles, indicated by bottle seals of the Van Hoytema and Van Maanen gin distilleries, as indicative of the proximity of Torres Strait and the Dutch East Indies. This cannot be discounted, but it is worth noting that Pedrotta & Bagaloni (2005: 186) have interpreted the occurrence of similar bottles – including Van Hoytema gin bottles – in the Argentinian Pampas as indicative of the integration of Indigenous Argentinian communities into 'regional and international trade networks' (Pedrotta & Bagaloni, 2005: 191). The seal of the Van Hoytema distillery seems to be distinctive from the similarly labelled Van Hoboken gin distillery, the former containing an embossed dot above the 'A' in the seal initial 'AVH'. It is significant in this context that the artefacts in the category 'glass bottles' originate from geographically more diverse manufacturing centres than any other artefact category found at Totalai. The Totalai assemblage contains Dutch case bottles, British cordial bottles, Australian vinegar bottles and, if the identification of a fragmentary bottle as an Udolpho Wolfe Aromatic Schnapps bottle is accurate, an American schnapps bottle. L. Rose & Co. manufactured the well known Rose's Lime Cordial. In a global context, the mission-period glass is therefore not merely potentially indicative of local trade between the islands, mainland Australia, the Dutch East Indies and areas further afield, but also offers more striking evidence of the extent to which 19th century trade had become truly global, encompassing and integrating areas such as Torres Strait, where a direct European presence may have been limited.

Vessels, cargo items and passengers passing through Torres Strait signaled regional and global trading networks, and therefore the range of material culture brought into the Strait as potential trade items were probably of comparable diversity. Vessels under Indian, French, English and Dutch flags, amongst many others, traded and were wrecked in the Strait. Vessels passing through Melanesia and the wider Pacific in the 18th and 19th centuries carried trade items specifically catering (and often made) for Indigenous markets, most notably iron, ceramic and glass beads (see Campbell & Gesner, 2000: 138). Submerged items of material culture recorded during a maritime archaeology project conducted by the Museum of Tropical Queensland (Illidge et al., 2004), such as Chinese coins and ceramics from the S.S. *Mecca* (1878), further point to the diverse range of material culture objects coming into the Strait following its incorporation into global networks of travel and trade during the 18th and 19th centuries.

GLASS BOTTLE SEALS. (Figs 2A-B) Two bottle glass seals were recovered, both of which were flaked (Table 2).

GLASS BEADS. (Figs 2E-G) Three glass beads were identified; these are listed in Table 3.

FLAKED BOTTLE GLASS. (Fig. 3) There are a variety of ethnographically recorded uses of broken pieces of bottle glass in Western Torres

FIG. 1. Glass bottles. A, Moulded cylindrical, 2004 (11); B, Rectangular recessed panels with rounded corners, 2004 (19); C, Square with flat chamfers, 2004 (9); D, Rectangular, 2004 (22); E, Floral moulded, 2004 (52); F, Ovoid, 2004 (4); G, Polygonal, 2004 (41); H, Flat octagonal, 2004 (51); I, Polygonal, 2004(3); J, Milk glass, BL#2/1, A1, 13, K: Bottle base with mamelon, 2004 (42).

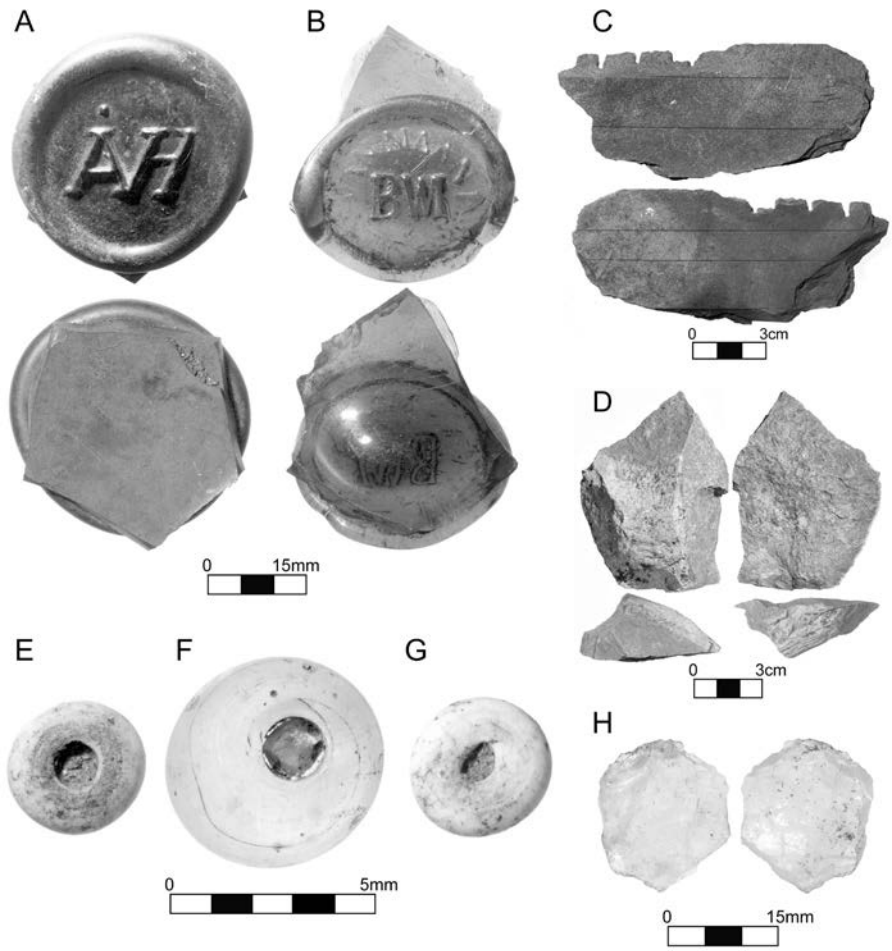

FIG. 2. Miscellaneous. A, Glass seal with AVH mark, BL#6/5, A2, 4; B, Glass seal with BVM mark, 2004 (32); C, Writing slate with perforations, 2004 (33); D, Volcanic flake, BL#3/5, D1, 4; E, Glass bead, BL#6/8, A2, 53; F, Glass bead, BL#6/5, A2, 3; G, Glass bead, BL#6/6, B3, 5; H, Quartz flake, BL#5/2, B3, 50.

TABLE 2. Bottle glass seals from Totalai. ML=maximum length; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Sub-material	Form	Decoration and finish	Place of origin	Date range	Makers' marks	Dimensions
2004 (32)	Dark green	Bottle seal	Moulded lettering	Dutch	c.1880s	Bos Van Maanen & Co (BVM mark)	ML: 4.1cm; Wt: 12.9g
BL#6/5, A2, 4	Olive green	Bottle seal	Moulded lettering	Dutch	1861-1928	AVH [A. Van Hoytema]	ML: 3.6cm; Wt: 14.9g

TABLE 3. Glass beads from Totalai. ML=maximum length; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Sub-material	Form	Notes	Dimensions
BL#6/5, A2, 3	Clear glass	Bead		ML: 5.4mm; Wt: 0.15g
BL#6/8, A2, 53	Clear glass	Bead	Appears white. Much smaller than BL#6/5, A2, 3	ML: 3.2mm; Wt: 0.03g
BL#6/6, B3, 5	Clear glass	Bead	Appears white. Similar to BL#6/8, A2, 53	ML: 3.2mm; Wt: 0.05g

Strait Islander societies. Flaked bottle glass has been (and occasionally still is) used in therapeutic bloodletting and in ritual scarification (e.g. Manas et al., 'An interview with Fr John Manas' chapter 7, this volume; McNiven, 2006) and the shaving of hair (Moore, 1979: 183-184).

Some examples illustrating the range of flaked bottle glass fracture types are represented here:

A) Flaked fragments. These are defined as broken pieces of glass possessing one or more negative flake scars resulting from flake removal (either bipolar or free-hand percussion). They do not exhibit features diagnostic of a 'flake'. The size of flake removals ranges from tiny to large. As noted by others (see Harrison, 1999; Wolski, 2000), fragment morphology (size, bottle part, curvature) significantly influences flake removal strategies. To illustrate variation in flaking strategies at Totalai, we provide examples of two dimensions of fragment flaking – size of flaking and orientation of flaking. Three examples of different flake sizes are illustrated – cores (large flake removals associated with the production of flakes), retouching (systematic flaking and shaping/resharpening of an edge), and use-wear (systematic micro-scarring [nibbling/bevelling] of an edge). We acknowledge that considerable potential exists for morphological and functional overlap between these size groupings. Three orientations of flake removals across the outside surface of bottles are illustrated – longitudinal, diagonal and/or latitudinal. Longitudinal flaking is defined as flaking oriented along the axial length of the bottle (either towards the top or bottom of the bottle). Lateral flaking is defined as flake removal perpendicular to the axial length of the bottle. Diagonal flaking is defined as flake removals oriented midway between longitudinal and latitudinal flaking.

B) Flakes. These are defined as pieces of glass possessing a ventral surface, or part thereof (e.g. bulb of percussion, ripples from conchoidal fracture). Retouched flakes exhibit secondary flake removals, usually to reshape and/or to resharpen flake margins but in some cases to produce new flakes for subsequent use. Retouched flakes

TABLE 4. Flaked bottle glass from Totalai. ML=maximum length; Wt =weight.

Artefact ID	Material	Sub-material	Fracture type	Bottle part	Negative flakes scars	Notes	Dimensions
BL#1/4, 23	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (Core)	Partial base and some body	Longitudinal flaking towards neck; diagonal flaking towards base; lateral flaking across the base.	Use of base as platform	ML: 6.74cm; Wt: 91.9g
BL#6/8, A3, 20	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (Core)	Partial neck and some body	Longitudinal flaking towards base; lateral flaking; diagonal flaking towards base.		ML: 14.01cm; Wt: 69.4g
BL#6/8, A4, 1	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (Core)	Partial base with some body	Lateral flaking across base; diagonal flaking towards base	Kick-up removed	ML: 8.55cm; Wt: 54.8g
BL#7/2, C1, 65	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (Core)	Body	Diagonal flaking	Possible bipolar flaking	ML: 3.49cm; Wt: 9.4g
BL#6/8, A1, 74	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (Core)	Base	Lateral flaking through kick-up. Longitudinal flaking towards base.	Kick-up removed by lateral flaking.	ML: 8.90cm; Wt: 119.5g
BL#6/8, A3, 17	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (Core)	Body/base	Lateral flaking;.diagonal flaking towards neck.		ML: 8.34cm; Wt: 34.9g
BL#6/4, B3, 13	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (retouched)	Body			ML: 4.29cm; W: 3.3g
BL#4/2, D4, 2	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (retouched)	Body			ML: 5.05cm; Wt: 24.8g
BL#4/2, C3, 4	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flaked fragment (retouched)	Body			ML: 5.09cm; Wt: 12.6g
2004 (2)	Bottle glass	Green aqua	Flaked fragment (usewear)	Body	Consistently spaced micro-scars along one margin	Micro-scars suggestive of usewear.	ML: 5.21cm; Wt: 11.0g
BL#1/4, D3, 13	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flake	Body?			ML: 2.20cm; Wt: 0.9g
BL#7/2, C1, 69	Bottle glass	Olive green	Flake	Body?		Flake showing 90º core rotation (from the orientation of dorsal flake scars)	ML: 3.00cm; Wt: 4.0g
BL#1/4, 24	Bottle glass	Olive green	Retouched flake	Body with some base		Retouch along 3 margins.	ML: 3.27cm; Wt: 5. 6g

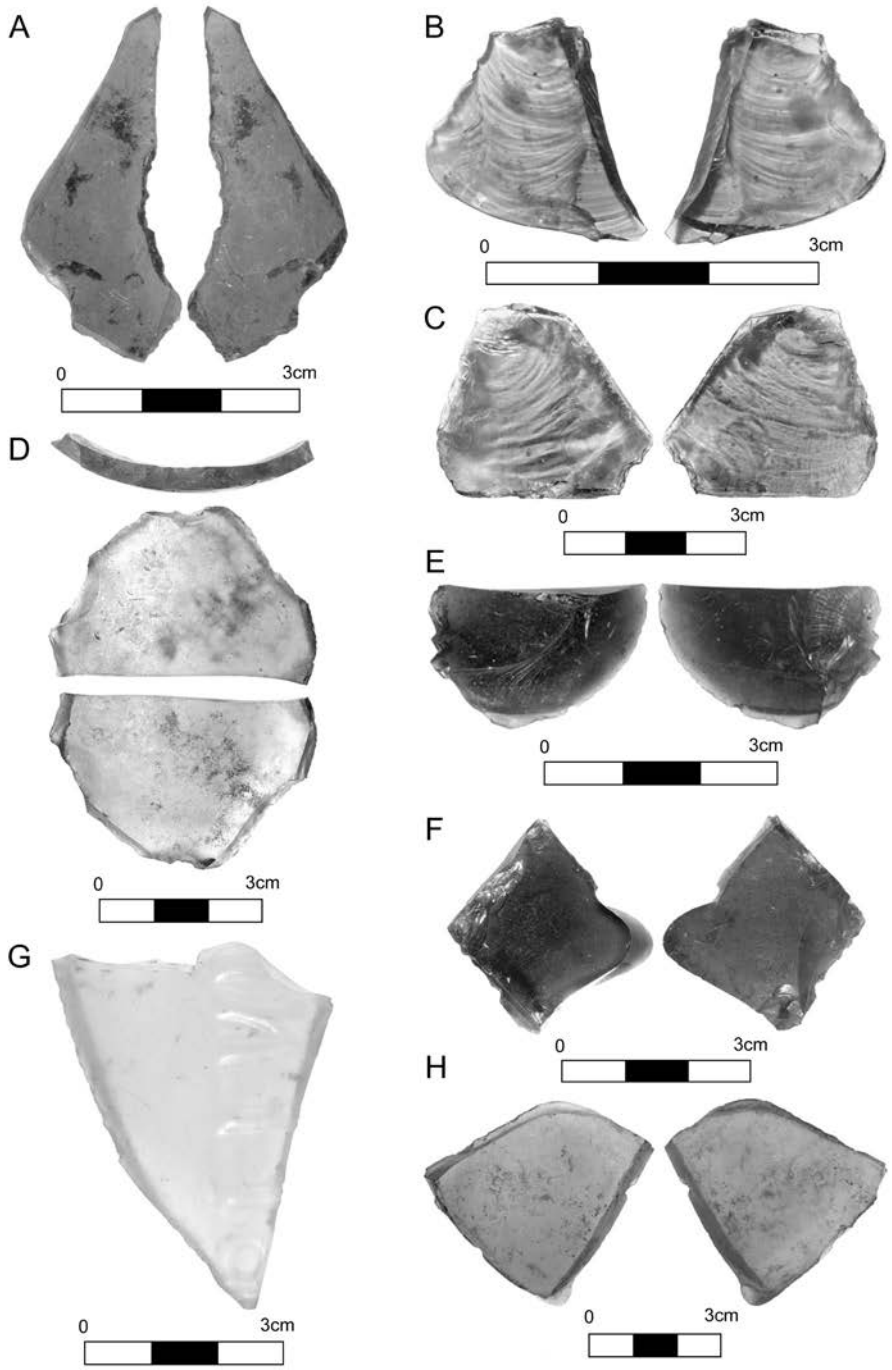

FIG. 3. Flaked bottle glass. A, Flaked fragment (retouched), BL#6/4, B3, 13; B, Flake, BL#1/4, D3, 13; C, Flake, BL#1/4, 24; D, Flaked fragment (retouched), BL#4/2, C3, 4; E, Flake, BL#7/2, C1, 69; F, Flaked fragment (Core), BL#7/2, C1, 65; G, Flaked fragment (usewear), 2004(2); H, Flaked fragment (retouched), BL#4/2, D4, 2.

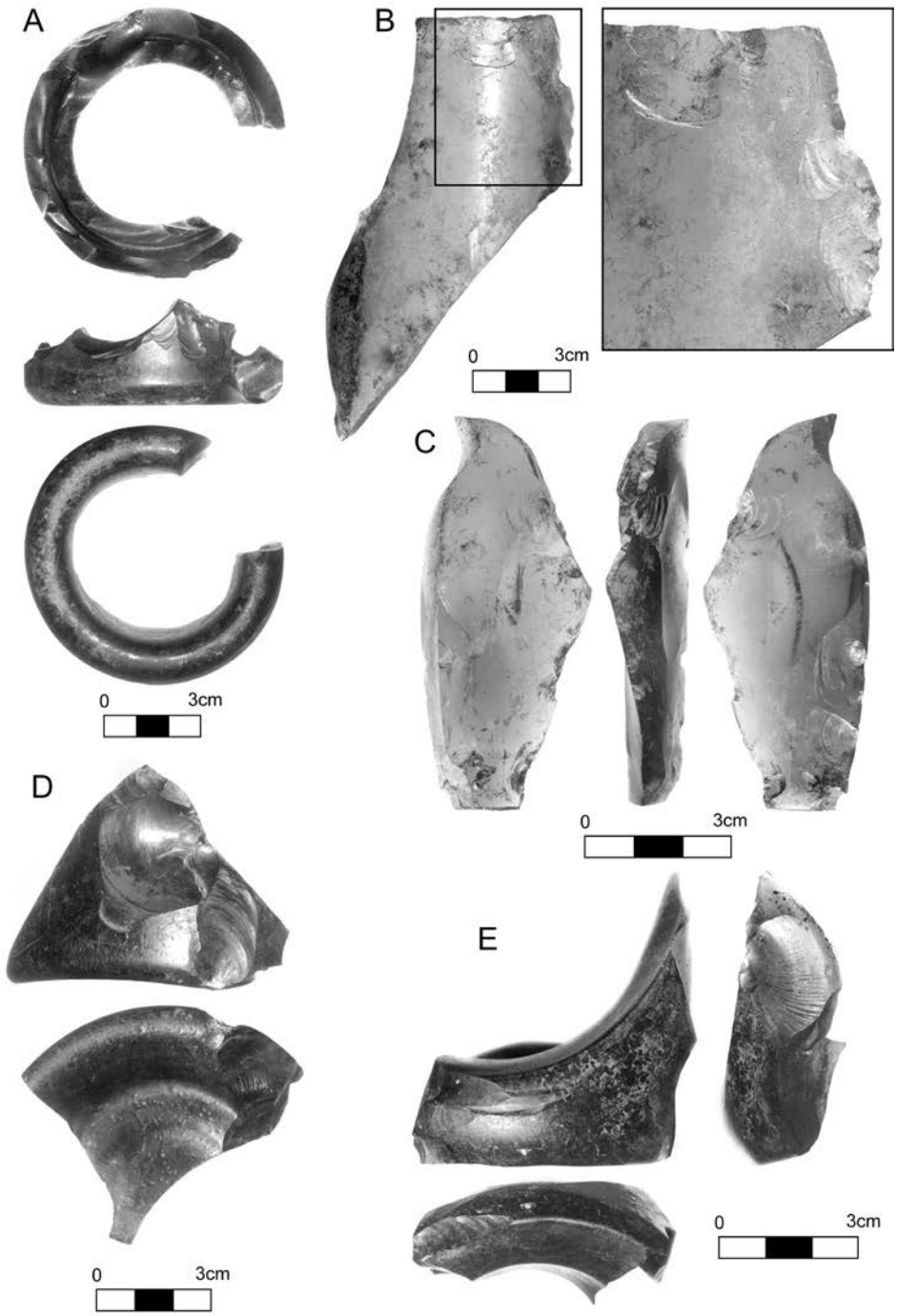

FIG. 3 (continued). Flaked bottle glass (continued). A, Flaked fragment (Core), BL#6/8, A1, 74; B, Flaked fragment (Core), BL#6/8, A3, 20; C, Flaked fragment (Core), BL#6/8, A3, 17; D, Flaked fragment (Core), BL#1/4, 23; E, Flaked fragment (Core), BL#6/8, A4, 1.

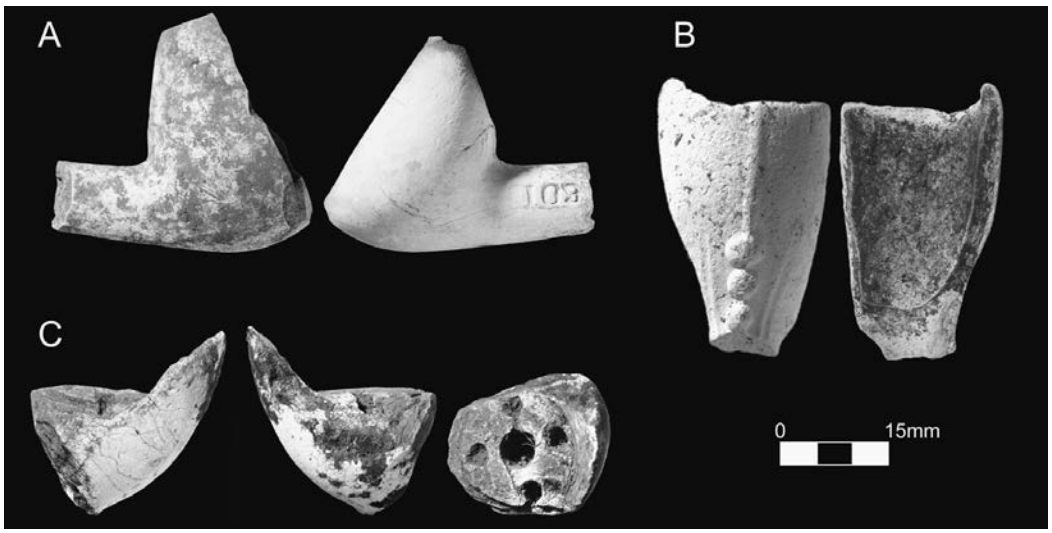

FIG. 4. Clay tobacco pipes. A, Pipe bowl and shank, 2004 (13); B, Pipe bowl, 2004 (53); C, Pipe bowl, 2004 (6).

may also exhibit use-wear micro-flaking along edges.

CERAMICS

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES. (Fig. 4) Three late 19th century clay tobacco pipe fragments were found, two consisting of bowl or bowl fragments, and the third a bowl and shank fragment (Table 5). Clay pipe (artefact ID # 2004 [6]) – an extremely rare example in an Australian context – possesses an unusual five-hole grate that may potentially be a Turkish-influenced design related to hashish smoking (Wood, 1998: 329). Alternately, it may more probably be related to the method of moulding. A five-prong stopper used during manufacture was designed to stop the clay from moving around during moulding. Usually the middle hole connects to the stem hole (Kris Courtney, pers. comm. 2007).

TABLEWARE. (Fig. 5) While the Torres Strait Mission artefacts may superficially indicate integration into broader international trade, there are signs of potentially significant differences between Torres Strait materials and mainland Australian assemblages of similar vintage (Table 6). It has previously been observed that transfer-printed ceramics become increasingly common on British and British Imperial sites (including Australia) as the 19th century progresses (Brooks, 2000: 192-194; 2005: 62), and Wilson has further observed that transfer prints are so ubiquitous on later 19th century Australian sites, irrespective of the social class of site inhabitants, that no status conclusions can be drawn from the presence of transfer prints on Australian sites (Wilson, 1999). Australia and Britain are quite different in this regard from the United States, where considerable work has been done on the status of transfer-printed ceramics (e.g. Adams & Boling, 1989; Miller, 1991; Spencer-Wood, 1987). In this light, it is perhaps significant that so little (less than half) of the decorated whiteware from Totalai are transfer-printed and that so much (though still less than half) appears to be simple banded blue decoration. Again, detailed interpretation of a surface collection is always problematic, but this

TABLE 5. Clay pipe fragments from Totalai. ML=maximum length; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Sub-material	Form	Decoration & Finish	Notes	Dimensions
2004 (6)	Ball clay	Pipe bowl		Unusual bowl base arrangement – five-holed grate	ML: 3.1cm; Wt: 6.7g
2004 (13)	Ball clay	Pipe bowl and shank	Inscription	Half to three quarter bent shank '109_'	ML: 4.0cm; Wt: 14.5g
2004 (53)	Ball clay	Pipe bowl	Moulded and slightly abraded	Moulded bowl.	ML: 2.6cm; Wt: 1.5g

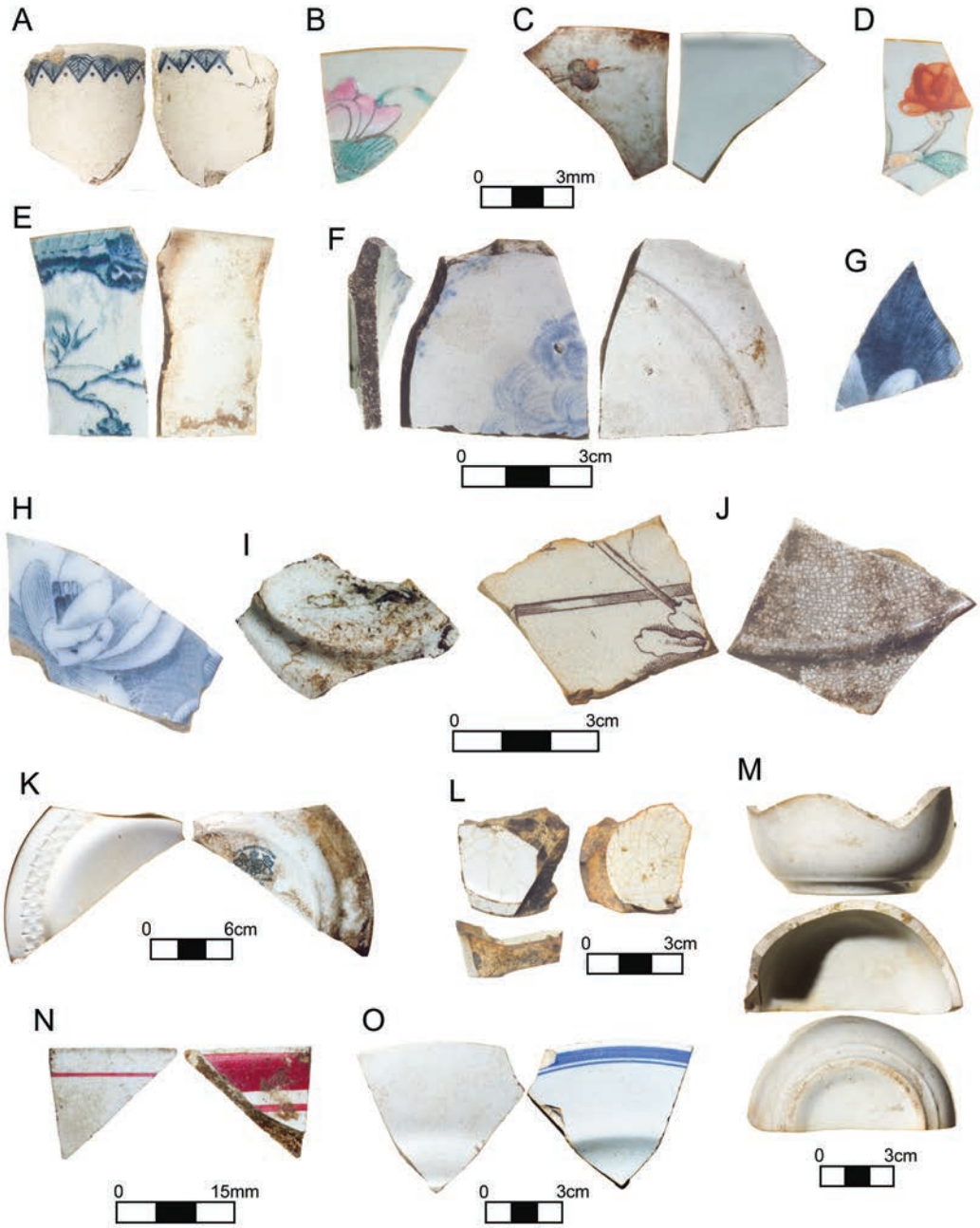

FIG. 5. Tableware. A, Cup with Underglaze Transfer Print, BL#7/1, B1, 41; B, Asian porcelain bowl, 2004 (48); C, Unidentified hollow, BL#5/2, A4, 5; D, Asian porcelain bowl, 2004 (1); E, Cup with Underglaze Transfer Print, 2004 (18); F, Plate with Underglaze Transfer Print, 2004 (40); G, Unidentified hollow with Underglaze Transfer Print, 2004 (12); H, Unidentified hollow with Underglaze Transfer Print, 2004 (23); I, Undecorated plate (saucer), BL#7/2, D1, 74; J, Plate with Underglaze Transfer Print, 2004 (15); K, Plate with moulded basket weave rim, 2006 (5); L, Undecorated jar, BL#4/5, B3, 16; M, Possible white granite cup, 2006 (1); N, Banded red bowl, BL#6/4, A1, 34; O, Banded blue plate, BL#6/5, A2, 5.

TABLE 6. Ceramics from Totalai, ML=maximum length; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Sub-material	Form	Decoration & finish	Place of origin	Date range	Makers' marks	Notes	Dimensions
2004 (1)	Asian porcelain	Bowl	Enamelled	Asia			Fairly crude enamelled decoration. Matches 2004 (48).	ML: 4.8cm; Wt: 6.5g
2004 (48)	Asian porcelain	Bowl	Enamelled	Asia			Fairly crude enamelled decoration. Matches 2004 (1).	ML: 5.9cm; Wt: 8.0g
BL#6/4, B2, 29	Refined red earthenware	Unidentified hollow	Undecorated, unglazed	?				ML: 2.7cm; Wt: 1.2g
2004 (45)	Stoneware buff	Whisky bottle	Bristol glaze, Underglaze Transfer Print brand name	UK	1835+	Greybeard of the Islay Blend	Registered tm illustration of greyhound	ML: 14.1cm; Wt: 281.7g
2004 (27)	Stoneware buff	Unidentified storage	Bristol glaze interior	UK	1835+			ML: 14.0cm; Wt: 280.4g
2004 (14)	Stoneware buff	Jar	Unidentified glaze	Asia?				ML: 6.6cm; Wt: 32.5g
2006(1)	White granite?	Cup	None present	UK	1842-1930		Possible white granite	ML: 8.2cm; Wt: 53.9g
BL#7/2, D1, 74	Whiteware	Plate	Undecorated	UK				ML: 4.5cm; Wt: 4.5g
BL#6/4, A1, 34	Whiteware	Bowl	Banded red	UK	c.1860			ML: 2.0cm; Wt: 0.7g
BL#7/1, B1, 41	Whiteware	Cup	Underglaze Transfer Print - unidentified blue	UK	1825+		Print in imitation of cut-sponged	ML: 5.3cm; Wt: 14.4g
BL#5/4, D1, 100	Whiteware	Cup?	Underglaze Transfer Print - unidentified blue	UK				ML: 2. 6cm; Wt: 2.0g
BL#4/5, B3, 16	Whiteware	Jar	Undecorated	UK	1805+		Small ointment jar?	ML: 3.9cm; Wt: 10.2g
2004 (40)	Whiteware	Plate	Underglaze Transfer Print - Albion blue	UK			Williams and Weber (1986:126)	ML: 5.5cm; Wt: 13.5g
2004 (8)	Whiteware	Plate	Underglaze Transfer Print - unidentified black	UK			Floral pattern. Match with artefact 2004, (15)?	ML: 5.7cm; Wt: 12.4g
2004 (15)	Whiteware	Plate	Underglaze Transfer Print - unidentified black	UK			Floral pattern. Match with artefact 2004 (8)?	ML: 5.2cm; Wt: 11.4g
BL#6/5, A2, 5	Whiteware	Plate	Banded blue	UK	c.1860+			ML: 6.2cm; Wt: 22.7g
2006 (5)	Whiteware	Plate	Moulded basket weave rim	UK	c.1897	Royal Ironstone China [Alfred] Meakin [England]	Mark 2584. Godden, 1991:425	ML: 15.1cm; Wt: 74.3g
2004 (23)	Whiteware	Unidentified hollow	Underglaze Transfer Print - unidentified blue	UK			Lightly flown floral. Highly vitrified. Matches 2004 (12).	ML: 5.3cm; Wt: 9.4g
2004 (12)	Whiteware	Unidentified hollow	Underglaze Transfer Print - unidentified blue	UK			Lightly flown floral. Highly vitrified. Matches 2004 (23).	ML: 3.9cm; Wt: 3.9g
BL#5/2, A4, 5	Whiteware	Unidentified hollow	Handpainted?					ML: 5.7cm; Wt: 8.3g
2004 (18)	Whiteware	Cup	Underglaze Transfer Print – unidentified blue					ML: 5.2cm; Wt: 6.7g

may suggest that, at this one Australian site, the wealthy Australian mainland's preference for relatively expensive transfer prints was not in operation. Further excavation work would be needed to fully explore this possibility.

Also of interest in the ceramics are several small fragments of what might well be white granite – though this is hard to definitively identify without the presence of fragments featuring the characteristic moulded decoration of this type of ware. White granite is a British-made ceramic produced almost exclusively for the American market (Ewins, 1997: 46-55). Its occurrence in Australia from c.1861, however, appears to be strongly linked to the disruption to American markets caused by the American Civil War, and attempts by Staffordshire potters to find new markets for (or simply dump) their American-market goods (Brooks, 2005: 56-60). If the relevant materials are indeed white granite, they might well serve as a powerful sign of how, by the late 19th century, international markets were already interdependent to the extent that a fratricidal conflict in the United States could have an impact on the material culture of the other side of the world.

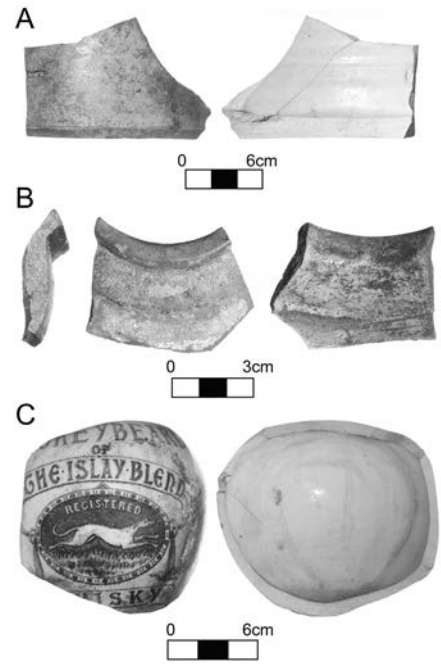

FIG. 6. Stoneware buff. A, Unidentified storage container with Bristol glaze interior, 2004 (27); B, Jar with unidentified glaze with possible Asian origin, 2004 (14); C, Whisky bottle with Bristol glaze and Underglaze Transfer Print brand name, 2004 (45).

METAL

FREE REED. (Fig. 7E) Artefact ID 2004 (39). Free metal reeds were inset into bellows which drew air through the vibrating metal reeds via valves (Smith, 1997: 435) and were used in a variety of instruments: the harmonica, reed organ and accordion family. Harmonica reeds tend to be fixed to a plate housing multiple pairs of metal reeds, dissimilar to the pair identified in artefact ID # 2004 (39), and the latter has been tentatively identified as a pair of reeds from the bass section of a small button accordion (Table 7). The diatonic accordion, or windjammer, first began mass-production in Europe from the 1840s (as compared to the piano accordion

TABLE 7. Metal artefacts from Totalai. ML=maximum length; MW-maximum width; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Material	Sub-material	Form	Decoration & finish	Notes	Dimensions
2004 (25)	Metal	Copper alloy	Button 4-hole	Moulded	'IMPROVED FOUR HOLES'	ML: 1.6cm; MW of eyelets: 0.3mm; Wt: 0.6g
BL#4/4, D4, 4	Metal	Copper alloy	Button 4-hole	Moulded		ML: 1.7cm; MW of eyelets: 0.2 mm; Wt: 1.1g
2004 (43)	Metal	Copper alloy	Medallion	Moulded and punctured	Commemorative federation medallion from QLD	ML: 3.1cm; Wt: 11.0g
2004 (39)	Metal	Composite	Accordion Reed		Two metal reeds fastened to both sides of the frame	ML: 4.3cm; Wt: 9.9g
2004 (30)	Metal	Composite	Case lock		Copper alloy and iron	ML: 7.4cm; Wt: 29.4g
2004 (44)	Metal	Copper alloy	Needle case cap	Inscription	'best English steels needles ? Eyed 50 sharps'	ML: 1.9cm; Wt: 0.8g
BL#5/1, D4, 10	Metal		Nail		Square nail. See Middleton (2005)	ML: 11.6cm; Wt: 27.4g
BL#7/2, C1, 71	Metal		Nail		Wire cut. See Middleton (2005)	ML: 6.2cm; Wt: 9.8g
BL#4/5, A3, 14	Metal				Unidentified	ML: 2.1cm; Wt: 0.8g

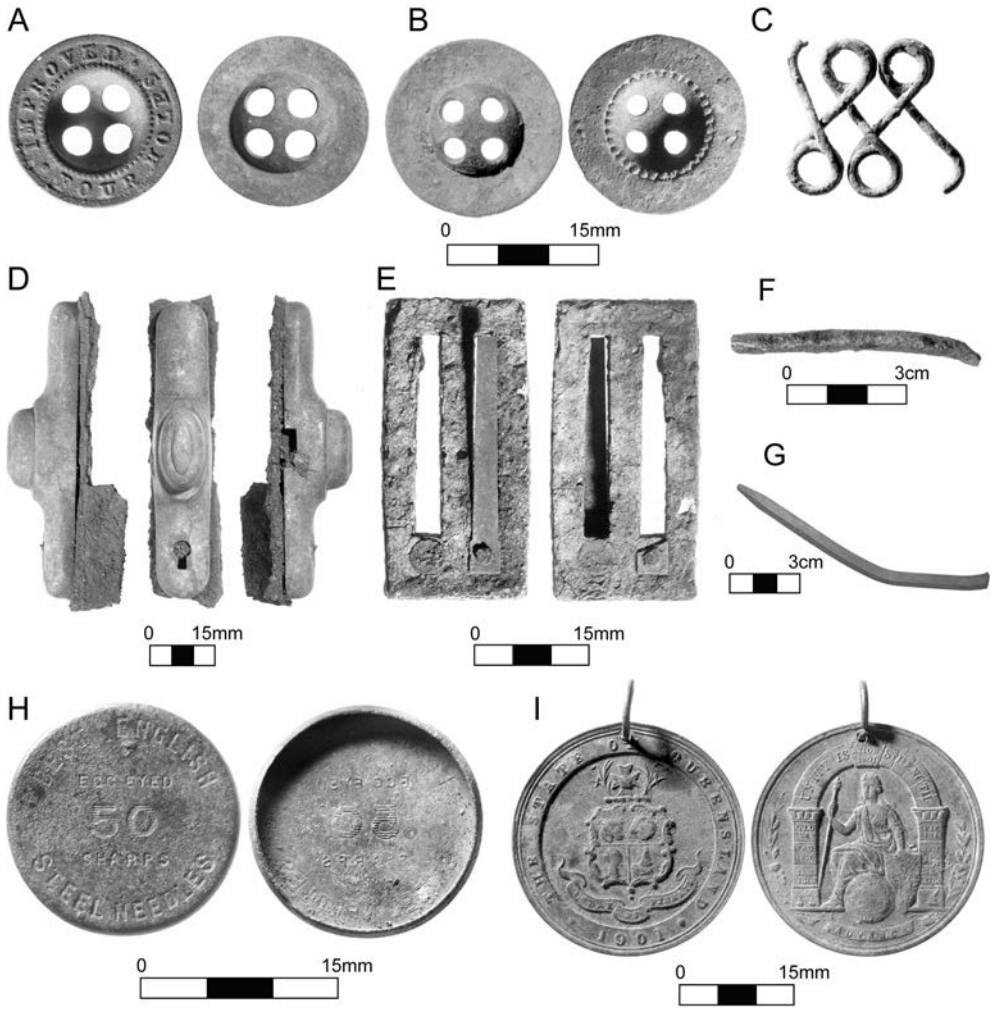

FIG. 7. Metal. A, Copper alloy 4-hole button with inscription, 2004 (25); B, Copper alloy 4-hole button, BL#4/4, D4, 4; C, Unidentified metal object, BL#4/5, A3, 14; D, Composite metals case lock, 2004 (30); E, Composite metals Accordion reed, 2004 (39); F, Wire cut nail, BL#7/2, C1, 71; G, Square nail, BL#5/1, D4, 10; H, Copper alloy needle case cap, 2004 (44); I, Copper alloy Commemorative Federation Medallion, 2004 (43).

TABLE 8. Shell artefacts collected from Totalai, surface collection. ML=maximum length; MW-maximum width; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Material	Form	Decoration & finish	Dimensions
2004 (31)	Melo sp.	Pubic shield	Undecorated triangular fragment of Melo sp. Two 'eyelets' or perforations bored through the upper section. Some fragmentation around the edge.	ML: 13.9cm; MW of eyelets: 0.5cm; Wt: 58.6g
BL#1, C3, 33	Melo sp.	Baler shell container	Undecorated near-complete fragment of Melo sp. with the columella removed (flaked off).	ML: c.33cm; Wt: 748.5g

which only began to be produced in 1920s. See Snyder, 1994: 150). It was a popular instrument of African American people living on plantations in the southern states of the U.S.A. from c.1880 to c.1910 (Snyder, 1994: 150). Musical instruments, such as the pan pipe, flute and 'jew's harps' were introduced to Torres Strait by Pacific Islander missionaries c.1870s (Myers, 1912: 239); we have not found any textual reference to the history of accordion playing in Torres Strait, but accordion playing during the first half of the 20th century is well known by today's community Elders.

SHELL

BALER SHELL PUBIC SHIELD (PUBIC COVER, GROIN SHIELD). (Fig. 8) Artefact ID 2004 (31) (Table 8). Pubic shields have been recorded from the southwest coast and the Fly estuary regions of Papua New Guinea (Landtman, 1933:33), and Torres Strait (Haddon, 1912a: 202; 1935: 297). Some were decorated with incised lines and dots (see Moore 1984: 97, plate 76, item 628) while others were plain (Lawrence, 1994: 353). Groin shields were only occasionally worn in dance ceremonies, warfare (Lawrence, 1994: 353), or as funerary costume of the dead (Flower, 1879: 390). Following the introduction of European dress and Christianity, pubic shields ceased to be worn 'except when dance dress was acceptable, in which case the shell was worn on men's hips rather than as a pubic cover' (Lawrence, 1994: 353). Generally pubic covers were made of *Melo* sp., however two examples in the Australian Museum collection from Eastern Torres Strait were manufactured from *Tridacna* sp. and *Melaleuca* bark (Florek, 2005: 83).

BALER SHELL CONTAINER (SHELL SAUCEPAN). (Fig. 9) Artefact ID BL#1, C3, 33 (Table 8). The anthropologist, A.C. Haddon, collected a similar example of a baler shell container 29cm in length (Haddon, 1912b: 123, fig. 152). Baler shell containers were often used as saucepans for cooking, or used as portable receptacles for water, food, and ochre amongst others in a range of both sacred and profane settings (see Haddon, 1912b: 122, 1904a: 104, 1904b: 261; Haddon et al., 1904: 321, 373). These items were also used in the canoe trade with the southern coast of Papua New Guinea (Haddon, 1904c: 297).

FIG. 8: Baler pubic shield, 2004 (31).

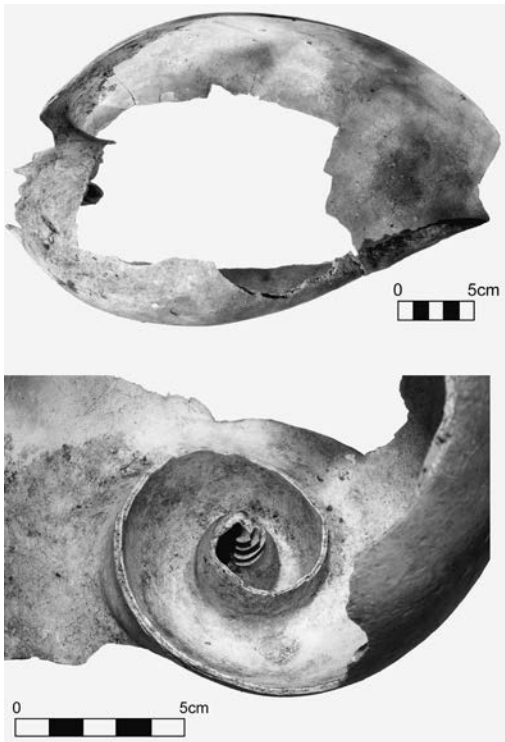

FIG. 9. Baler shell container, BL#1, C3, 33.

STONE

STONE FLAKES. (Figs 2d, h) Artefact ID # BL#5/2, B3, 50 and BL#3/5, D1, 4. Two stone flakes were collected from Totalai, although many more are present across the landscape at this site. The first (BL#3/5, D1, 4) is a large unretouched flake produced by direct free hand percussion from rhyolitic ignimbrite. The second, a crystal quartz retouched probable bipolar flake (BL#5/2, B3, 50). Flake scars on the dorsal surface are bidirectional (suggestive of bipolar flaking), but there is no obvious crushing at the distal end because the distal end has been removed by unifacial retouch. Retouching along the right margin is, however, bidirectional and bipolar creating a virtual 90° edge indicating that the flake was backed. This is the first evidence for backed artefacts recorded in Torres Strait. Given the presence of sophisticated anvilling and bipolar technology in Western Torres Strait (McNiven, 2006), a common association between backing and hafting (e.g. McNiven, 2000: 51), and evidence for the hafting of small points (generally shark teeth) in Torres Strait (Haddon, 1935: 61, 79; cf. Haddon, 1912b: 128) the Totalai backed artefact may have been hafted (however, there is no 'direct' evidence for this). A microscopic analysis of hafting use-wear may be able to test this possibility (Rots, 2003).

TABLE 8. Shell artefacts collected from Totalai, surface collection. ML=maximum length; MW-maximum width; Wt=weight.

Artefact ID	Material	Form	Decoration & finish	Dimensions
2004 (31)	Melo sp.	Pubic shield	Undecorated triangular fragment of Melo sp. Two 'eyelets' or perforations bored through the upper section. Some fragmentation around the edge.	ML: 13.9cm; MW of eyelets: 0.5cm; Wt: 58.6g
BL#1, C3, 33	Melo sp.	Baler shell container	Undecorated near-complete fragment of Melo sp. with the columella removed (flaked off).	ML: c.33cm; Wt: 748.5g

TABLE 9. Stone artefacts from Totalai. ML=maximum length; W=weight.

Artefact ID	Material	Form	Decoration and Finish	Notes	Dimensions
BL#3/5, D1, 4	Rhyolitic ignimbrite	Flake		Multiple negative flake scars on dorsal surface. Direct free hand percussion.	ML: 8.67cm; Wt: 117.0g
BL#5/2, B3, 50	Crystal quartz	Flake		Bipolar flaking	ML: 1.98cm; Wt: 2.4g
2004 (33)	Slate	Writing slate	Incised lines with perforations along one margin.	Perforations possibly related to hanging or attaching slate (see Davies, 2005)	ML: 13.02cm; Wt: 37.3g

CONCLUSION

The Totalai objects reported here signal the range of mainly European-manufactured objects found in a late 19th century missionary village on an island of Torres Strait, located outside but close to a major international shipping lane and some 35km from a major Australian colonial port (Thursday Island). While it is too early to make generalisations about social aspects of Mualgal life based on this collection – this will await more detailed qualitative and quantitative analyses of all the artefacts recorded at this site – the present listing represents a first systematic presentation of objects imported into an Indigenous community in Torres Strait during the late 19th century. It aims to contribute to the growing catalogue of such items being recovered through archaeological research in the Strait.

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