Annotated Bibliography

As a result of my internship research on William Littler and his ceramics at West Pans Pottery, I have compiled a comprehensive annotated bibliography of the secondary materials available on these subjects, in the hopes that it will aid the future research of other scholars. The following sources include information on both William Littler and West Pans Pottery, as well as general background information on Scottish ceramics.

Journal and Magazine Articles:

Forbes, Shelia, and George Haggarty. "The Ceramic History of West Pans Part I."

*Journal of the Northern Ceramic Society* 21 (2005): 29-47.

Forbes, Shelia, and George Haggarty. "The Ceramic History of West Pans Part II."


This two-part journal article is the result of the meticulous research and excavations by Forbes and Haggarty on West Pans. Part I covers the history of the site from 1644 through 1777, when Littler’s West Pans Pottery went bankrupt. Part II goes back to the mid-eighteenth century, and includes an expert attempt at making sense of the complex financial records surrounding the site, concluding with the West Pans history through 1932. Combining both primary source documents as well as findings from archaeological excavations, it is probably the most comprehensive history of the West Pans Pottery site. This source is available at the National Library of Scotland and must be requested in person. (Shelf mark HP2.81.1108 PER)

Forbes, Shelia, and George Haggarty. "Scotland: Lind and A-Marked Porcelain."


This journal article attempts to draw connections between a set of ‘A’–marked porcelain and Alexander Lind, thereby giving the set a previously undiscovered Scottish origin. This theory was first developed in Dr. Joe Rock’s ‘The ‘A’ Marked Porcelain: Further Evidence for the Scottish Option’ and therefore this source is best read in conjunction with Rock’s 1996 article (see citation). While the theory presented is speculative, it also gives interesting insight into the potential reason there was a working porcelain kiln at West Pans, and in turn, why Littler may have been drawn to that location. This journal is available at the National Library of Scotland and must be requested in person. (Shelf mark HP2.81.1108 PER)

While this article gives a general overview of Littler and West Pans as well as the historical background of pottery in the East Lothian region, much of the same information can be found in the more extensive 2005-2006 publications ‘The Ceramic History of West Pans’ Part I and II by Shelia Forbes and George Haggarty (see citation). This item is available at the National Museum of Scotland Library (Call Number: PER 2 EAS). The Museum Library is open to the public during museum hours.


This article revisits the author’s previous findings and speculations on a ‘problematic’ set of ‘A’-marked porcelain studied twenty-three years prior. Since that time, Mallet has found four more pieces he believes belong to the same collection, as well as further evidence of their origin, and goes into extensive detail on the painted scenes on each piece and the skill that would have been necessary to paint them. Although Mallet believes that the pieces could have been produced by Alexander Lind in Edinburgh, he is not convinced enough to make a firm conclusion. While unrelated to William Litter, the article does offer interesting insight into the origins of porcelain production in Scotland and reminds readers that many connections are often conjectural and can change as new information comes to light. The Transactions journal of the English Ceramic Circle can be requested at the National Library of Scotland (Shelf mark: HJ8.2919). The Edinburgh College of Art Library also has copies, stored offsite, of issues published between 1928 and 1996. Additionally this volume may be purchased online (http://www.englishceramiccircle.org.uk).


Despite being an older source, this article provides sufficient information on Littler and the background of pottery in industrial Scotland. Although the focus is meant to be on Littler and his time at West Pans, nearly half the article discusses what happened at West Pans after Littler went bankrupt. This source is very helpful, however, in explaining the timeline that lead to the scholarly discovery of Littler coming to Scotland. It would be a useful source for those looking at a historiography of the scholarship on Littler. This item is available at the National Museum of Scotland Library (Call Number: 738.09411 MCV). The Museum Library is open to the public during museum hours.

Written as a response to JVG Mallet’s article (see citation), Rock makes a compelling argument for the Scottish origin of the ‘A’-marked collection in question, by showing the connection between Lind and his brother-in-law, Richard Cooper. Cooper was a successful Edinburgh engraver, and also built the Cannongate Concert Hall, which preformed *Flora* in both 1750 and 1757. The scenes on the porcelain resemble those from *Flora*, and the connection to Cooper would explain the necessary artistic skills needed to paint such detailed scenes. This again proves to be a useful source for background on the foundations of Scottish ceramic production, and provides an interesting theory of why there may have been a working porcelain kiln in Edinburgh when William Littler arrived in Scotland. This article is best read in conjunction with JVG Mallet’s article. The Transactions journal of the English Ceramic Circle can be requested at the National Library of Scotland (Shelf mark: HJ8.2919). The Edinburgh College of Art Library also has copies, stored offsite, of issues published between 1928 and 1996. Additionally this volume may be purchased online ([http://www.englishceramiccircle.org.uk](http://www.englishceramiccircle.org.uk)).


This short paper chronicles and analyzes letters from Nicholas Crisp, written between 1761 and 1764, who was heavily involved in the export of cobalt from the Alloa region of Scotland. As most European porcelain’s cobalt came from Eastern Europe, this source provides interesting background information on the source of cobalt used by artisans in Scotland, including Littler at West Pans. The Transactions journal of the English Ceramic Circle can be requested at the National Library of Scotland (Shelf mark: HJ8.2919). The Edinburgh College of Art Library also has copies, stored offsite, of issues published between 1928 and 1996. Additionally this volume may be purchased online ([http://www.englishceramiccircle.org.uk](http://www.englishceramiccircle.org.uk)).

Books:


Barker and Cole’s chapter gives an adequate background into Litter’s time at Longton Hall, supported with both documentary and archaeological evidence. This source is useful for a
concise overview of the history, archaeology, and ceramic style developed during Littler’s time at Longton Hall. The complete book is available and stored onsite at the National Library of Scotland. (Shelf mark: HP3.99.591)


In their second chapter within Digging for Early Porcelain, Barker and Cole investigate the connection between Longton Hall and West Pans Pottery made by William Litter, by examining the archaeological evidence that shows similarities between the production methods and products of each site. This source is useful in studying the transition of Littler from Longton Hall to West Pans, and shows that he might have even taken some of the kiln wares with him from one location to the next. The complete book is available and stored onsite at the National Library of Scotland. (Shelfmark: HP3.99.591)


In this chapter, the author presents his theory regarding a collection of ceramics initially thought to be from the Liverpool area, and how he believes they might be pieces made by Littler after he left Scotland. Although a self-admittedly controversial theory is presented, the author intends to submit his alternative opinion and reminds readers that theories are speculative, and should not be taken as fact. This source is useful in presenting an idea of what Littler might have done once West Pans went bankrupt in 1777. This source is available, but stored offsite, at the National Library of Scotland (Shelf mark: H9.85.39).


After the excavations of the West Pans site, once it had been widely accepted by the ceramic community that porcelain was manufactured in Scotland during the eighteenth century, Holdaway uses this chapter to discuss Littler at West Pans and the characteristics of his ceramic pieces from that time. Written before Forbes and Haggarty published their full ceramic history of West Pans (see citation), the author urges further study of the archaeological findings. Although slightly outdated, this source is still useful for further
understanding the characteristics and nuances of Littler’s West Pans pieces. The complete book is available and stored onsite at the National Library of Scotland. (Shelf mark: HP3.99.591)


Although published before the 1960 discovery of Littler at West Pans, this book provides a detailed background on Longton Hall and Littler’s time there, as well as how he developed the styles we then see in West Pans pieces. The many photographs of ceramic pieces, despite being in black and white, add the ability to see other examples of his earlier work and help identify his signature styles. This source is available and stored onsite at the National Library of Scotland. (Shelf mark: NF.1480.e.24) It is also available for students and staff at the University of Edinburgh Library (Shelf mark: .7382(4246) Wat.)

Exhibition Catalogues and Pamphlets:


An informational pamphlet commissioned by the Scottish Mining Museum, this source contains general information on several pottery sites in the area, including West Pans. Without going into much depth, it could be useful for gaining a quick understanding of the different types of pottery and their assembly process. This source is available onsite at the National Library of Scotland (Shelf mark: HP3.90.978).

Haggarty, George. Out of the Blue: 18th Century Scottish Porcelain. Edinburgh:


This is an exhibition catalogue from a 2008 exhibition, held at the Museum of Edinburgh, of West Pans porcelain on loan from multiple Scottish collections, including Newhailes. It does not only provide a helpful overview of Littler and West Pans, but also includes images of most of the West Pans pieces in contemporary Scottish collections, as well as descriptions of each piece written by a leading scholar in the field. This would be a particularly useful reference if one was not able to view the pieces in person. This source is available, but stored offsite, at the National Library of Scotland. (Shelf mark: PB7.211.30/1)
Websites:

"Digging for early porcelain." Stoke Museums.


A concise overview of William Littler and his time at Longton Hall and West Pans, this source does not go into much depth, but would be a suitable starting point for background information on the subject. This source is available on the open web.


On this website, Dr. Rock has transcribed the Dalrymple of Newhailes papers at the National Library of Scotland. This is a useful source for finding the documentation of exchanges, including purchases of ceramics, between William Littler and the Dalrymple family. This source is available on the open web.

Other:

Haggarty, George. West Pans potteries ceramic resource disk [electronic resource].


A resource disk of all material collected and archived from the archaeological excavations of the West Pans site, this source contains images and descriptions of the shards and pieces found throughout the dig. This source would be useful in adding additional context to Shelia Forbes and George Haggarty’s ‘The Ceramic History of West Pans’ Part I and II (see citation). This item is available at the National Museum of Scotland Library (Call Number: XX 182138.1). The Museum Library is open to the public during museum hours.


This collection of seminar proceedings includes eight papers covering Littler’s years at Longton Hall and West Pans, and an overview of the archaeological evidence supporting these theories. This is an overall very comprehensive source that would be a helpful starting point of secondary literature on multiple aspects of Littler’s career. Availability is limited, but local holdings can be found on WorldCat (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/47764409).