

P5433 Hadley-Page Hampden Wreck Dive

By: Tim Butt

Located in the Saanich Inlet, this plane wreck was only discovered in Oct 2023 during an unrelated Octopus Den filming dive in the vicinity by Lyle Berzins. Lyle reported the find to UASBC Explorations Director Jacques Marc. There have since been a few subsequent dives by the UASBC to survey the wreck in further detail. Jacques believes it to be the wreckage of P5433; a Hadley Page Hampden bomber used to train pilots and crew in BC to support the allied WW2 war effort.

Roll forward to November 11, 2023, we were scheduled to dive the wreck and lay a wreath as an act of remembrance for the loss of life of all 4 crew (2 Canadian, 2 Australian) on board at the time of the crash. Unfortunately, severe

storm warnings on our coast resulted in that planned dive being aborted the day before.

Jacques promised us another boat charter opportunity to dive the wreck and that occurred on Feb 18th, 2024, aboard 'Indie' the Frank Whites Dive Shop boat skippered by Tyler Preston.

10 Members of the UASBC and guests gathered at Brentwood Bay Marina for an historical dive brief by Jacques before departing for the wreck site. Participants included: Jacques Marc, Paul Spencer, Jiri Kotler, George Silvestrini, Jessica Schafer, Chris Willott, Jay Schier, Dafydd Foster, Becky Butt and me, Tim Butt.



Dive Group in Front of the "Indie".

Continued on page 2

P5433 Hadley-Page Hampden Wreck Dive *(continued)*

The wreckage lies in 100'/30m of water just off a rocky ledge in Saanich Inlet. Conditions were perfect with low wind and only a small surface current. We were asked to keep the dives non-deco to allow for a decent 2nd dive on the same site.

Jacques and 'wreck hunter' Paul descended 1st on the UASBC trademark measuring tape shot line. The rest of us were asked to wait 5-10 mins while they re-located the shot amidst the wreckage.

As planned the rest of us descended down the shot line to find it resting on the silt next to an engine block. Visibility on the bottom was good around 15-20' Jacques and Paul had kindly laid out a second measuring tape which guided divers past an undamaged propellor to the intact Landing gear and wheel. Jacques informed us after that due to the fact that none of the prop blades are bent leads him to think it was not spinning at the point of impact. There are lots of smaller bits of wreckage scattered around the dive site. The main fuselage is missing, but Jacques believes this was likely recovered at the time of the crash by dragging the site.

A 100' / 30m No-Deco dive doesn't allow for much 'bottom' time with majority of us were back aboard after around 25 mins. We had a fairly lengthy surface interval before we conducted a 2nd 'survey' dive to look for and report any further wreckage around the site. There was no further wreckage found.

Thanks, Jacques, for organizing yet another fascinating dive charter. This dive reminded me how lucky I am to be able to dive with the UASBC on historical dives like this. If you are not already a member of UASBC I thoroughly recommend you join and attend the 2-day training course.



Paul Spencer with Hampden Landing Gear

Photo by J. Marc

Please refer to
WWW.UASBC.COM for latest Updates!

Shipwrecks 2024

Evolution of Diving & Diving Technology in BC



Courtesy Bryan Cuthill

Presented by:
The Underwater Archaeological Society of BC
April 20, 2024

Day Session

Royal Colwood Golf Club, 629
Goldstream Ave. Victoria, BC
Registration 08:30

Price \$45.00

Dinner & Woodward Lecture



*Think Globally, Act Locally:
UASBC and the Evolution of
Maritime Archaeology Over the
Past Five Decades*
Dr. James P. Delgado
Sr. VP Search Inc.
Royal Colwood Golf Club
No Host Bar 6:00 PM

Price \$70.00

For more information and to purchase
tickets using PayPal visit
WWW.UASBC.Com

Day Session Lectures

Deep Dark & Dangerous
Vickie Jensen, Author & Historian

Pioneer Diving in Victoria
Frank White Jr., Businessman

Early SCUBA Diving in Vancouver
Simon Morris, Diver & Sculptor

Contributions of Fred Rogers
Jacques Marc, UASBC Explorations Dir.

History of Esquimalt Fleet Diving Unit
Rob DeProy, Fleet Dive Unit Pacific

**A look back at the history of Dive Clubs
in British Columbia**
Doug Pemberton, Pescaderos Dive Club

Alternatively Contact: John (250) 743-4495
or Jacques (250) 474-5797
email: josa82@hotmail.com



Event and Silent Auction Sponsors

2024 Spring Explorations Schedule

Saturday + Sunday April 6 & 7 Barkley Sound Wreck Trek.

Weather permitting, we hope to visit several sites around Barkley Sound namely, the Vanlene (1972) Theipval (1930), Tuscan Prince (1923) and Orpheus (1885)

We will stay at a house on Grappler Inlet and dive with Ocean Emerald Charters.

We will travel to Bamfield on Friday afternoon April 5th.

Charter and accommodation estimate is \$500, air and meals will be on top of that.

Maximum 10 divers. Some surge conditions can be expected on these dives so bring gravel.

Contact Jacques (250) 474-5797 or email: jmarc@shaw.ca

[There is still space available](#)

Saturday May 5th Nanette Survey Dive

On this trip we will visit the Nanette site on Race Rocks. The Nanette was a wooden sailing barque that was wrecked on Race Rocks December 27, 1860. It eventually drifted off leaving much of its cargo on the bottom. We will continue the radial survey on the site that we started in 2023. This dive is suitable for all open water divers. We will depart from Pedder Bay.

Charter \$100 per person. Limit 8 divers.

Contact Jacques (250) 474-5797 or email: jmarc@shaw.ca

[There is still space available](#)

News of Note

By: Tom Beasley

On March 13, the SFU Archaeology Students Association put on their first Career Day at SFU.

An 8-person panel of archaeologists, historians and archivists discussed their diverse careers following a degree in archaeology. Ermen Delliarpini, the VMMs' new Curator, was a panel member.

Following the Panel Discussion, students and pros circulated amongst a half dozen display tables of archaeology businesses and organizations.

The VMM and the UASBC had tables with Tom Beasley staffing the UASBC table. Great contacts were made. A fun and worthwhile event.

The first Indigenous Maritime Archaeology Conference (IMAC) was held in April 2024 on the Squamish First Nation in North Vancouver. It was the first conference in North America focused on indigenous maritime archaeology.

Twelve speakers and a keynote evening speaker presented on a wide range of indigenous maritime topics. A publication of the papers is underway.

Building on that success, Erika Lanella, Rob Rondeau, Warren Bush and Tom Beasley are planning the 2nd IMAC for the fall of 2024.

Contact Tom at tbeasley@telus.net if you are interested in assisting in that planning.

Divers Weekend Report

By: Tom Beasley



Tom sitting at UASBC display Divers Weekend

The 23rd *Divers Weekend at the Aquarium* was held on March 2 and 3, 2024 at the Vancouver Aquarium. Jeremy Heywood of the Aquarium and Tom Beasley of the Underwater Council of BC created the event in 2019 to bring together the diving community and industry and engage the public about recreational diving. It was the first Divers Weekend since COVID.

Divers Weekend is the only event in BC which brings together the diving community and industry. The event was a resounding success, showing that there is a strong demand for information and interaction on recreational diving.

Four presentations were given on each day, with Saturday's presentations about photographing and interactions with marine mammals. Sunday's 5 presentations were focused on marinelife in Howe Sound. The speaker's bios are at <https://www.vanaqua.org/explore/special-events/divers-weekend/speaker-bios/>

Tom Beasley staffed the UASBC table. contacts were made and renewed with many in the diving community and industry.

On Saturday evening, about 90 divers attended a stimulating panel discussion on Women in Diving in the Aquarium's theatre, followed by a Divers Social sponsored by Ocean Equipment and Shearwater.

The event was a grand success and demonstrated a strong demand for info about recreational diving in BC.

Contact Tom Beasley at tbeasley@telus.net or Samantha Symonds at sam.symonds@vanaqua.org

if you want to help with Divers Weekend 2025.

Please refer to
WWW.UASBC.COM for latest Updates!

A 2024 Exploration of Asian Ceramics Submerged in British Columbian Waters

By: Warren Bush

An oddity sometimes encountered by explorers of British Columbia's submerged history is that of Asian ceramics found off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Some have speculated that these artifacts might be associated with an "Asian pot wreck" – that is, they might be the cargo of an undiscovered wreck that is their origin. However, although a few ceramics are known to have come from the waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island, the absence of a coherent narrative behind exactly where they came from or the context in which they were found muddies the waters. This article is intended as a very short and popular exploration of the oddities sometimes referred to as the cargo of an "Asian pot wreck." It will not include all known examples of Asian ceramics found in British Columbian waters.

It is difficult to historicize the confirmed extant ceramics – where they belong and what they mean in the historical or archaeological record is unclear. For the purposes of this article the story begins in 1979, when a commercial fisherman named Si Corlazolli recovered a ceramic urn in about two hundred meters of water ten nautical miles southwest of Barkley Sound (Ceramic A) while fishing on the trawler the Beaufort Sea. The exact location is not known, just that it came from somewhere on Big Bank. Allegedly, the jar surfaced along with wood fragments, suggesting that it might have been associated with a wrecked ship on the seabed. Ceramic A's discovery led to considerable interest in its origin and speculation over the role that early Asian mariners could have played in British Columbia's history. Over the early 1980s the British Museum, the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto all weighed in on Ceramic A's origin, and their general consensus dated it from anywhere between 150 to 700



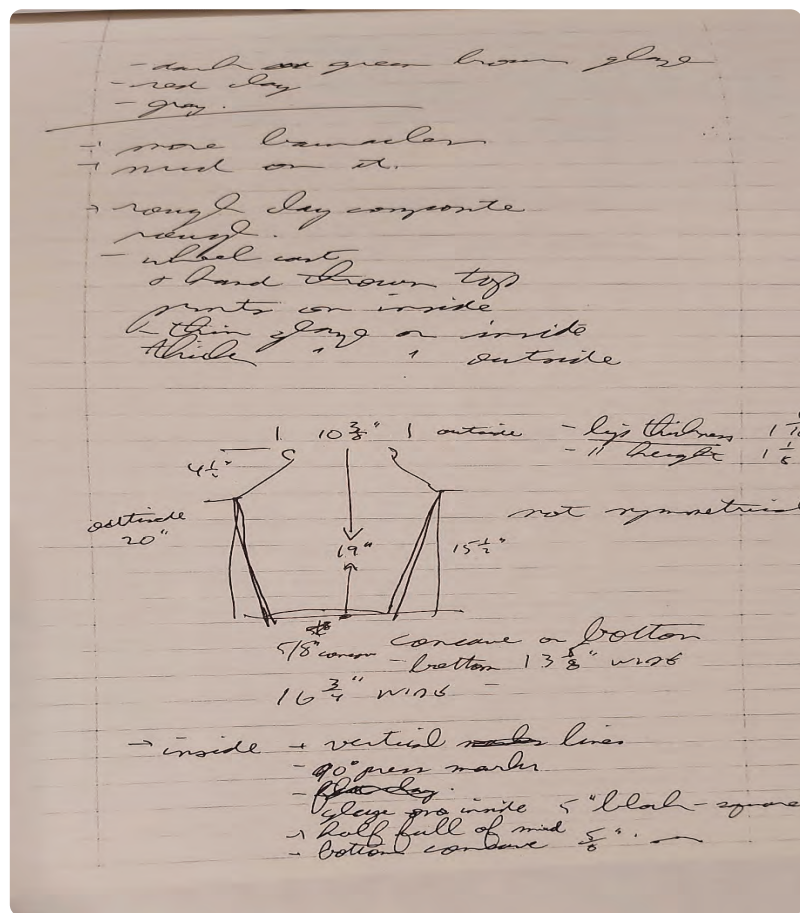
Si Corlazolli with Ceramic A

Photo by The Vancouver Sun, 26 May 1988

years old. Part of the challenge with identifying Ceramic A is that Asian pottery styles do not evolve rapidly, making it difficult to date. Ceramic A ended up at the Ucluelet home of Mike Tyne, who was the Beaufort Sea's skipper when Corlazolli unintentionally recovered Ceramic A.

Next, on 26 August 1983 an individual boarded the tug M.R. Cliff, which the UASBC was using as a diving platform off Tofino in support of an expedition to locate the Tonquin wreck. The individual had a "small, brown ceramic pot of apparent Oriental origin that had evidently been submerged for some considerable period due to the amount of encrusting marine growth both on and in the pot" (Ceramic B). Interestingly, both James Seeley White and Amos Wood were on the dive trip, and they "immediately identified the object as being of Oriental origin, possibly a Korean food container similar to ones previously found on the Washington, Oregon and California coasts." Apparently, the individual refused to reveal details about how they found Ceramic B, "but did state that they had located a shipwreck from which the object originated and at which site more ceramic and 'other' material was present." Next, UASBC members photographed the object and also tape recorded a conversation with the discoverer – presumably this happened shortly after the initial encounter, and they must have brought a Dictaphone to Tofino hoping to collect oral history associated with Tonquin.

The UASBC members present for the conversation were John Headley and Amos Wood, and their main effort focused on learning more about Ceramic B, a task made difficult as discoverer's "attitude towards specific questioning and requests for further information was at best evasive and sometimes hostile." The story that emerged was that the discoverer had found Ceramic B during the winter of 1981 in thirty feet of water somewhere near Tofino. The discoverer went on to describe "the visible remains at the site as consisting of intact pottery and pottery shards of varying sizes as well as timbers (approximately ten inches thick) protruding from the sand. The object that was raised was found buried up to the rim in the sand however the observations of the UASBC showed that the upper portions of it were covered with small barnacles, single polyp coral and coral-line algae which suggests prior, long exposure to nutrient rich waters. The object had also been full of purple-hinged rock scallop shells which reinforce this theory of lengthy exposure to clean, current swept waters." Despite much interest in Ceramic B and also some hardball squabbling in an attempt to force the discoverer's hand in revealing where they found it, Ceramic B faded into the



A Sketch of the Corlazolli Urn, or Ceramic A

Credit: UASBC Archives

same obscurity of other contextless Asian ceramics found in British Columbia's waters.

After a breezy thirty-nine-year hiatus the UASBC again followed up with the discoverer of Ceramic B, who claimed in April of 2022 that they had found it with well-known diver Rod Palm, who became a staunch supporter of preserving underwater cultural heritage (more or less). If the discoverer is telling the truth about having found Ceramic B with Rod, there probably isn't an associated wreck because Rod would have raised the alarm. An example of Rod's dedication to preserving heritage can be seen through his keeping of the Orpheus wreck in Barkley Sound a secret for an extended period of time, afraid that untrained divers might pilfer the site like so many others in the early days of sport diving. It seems unlikely that Rod would keep an important site a secret from the archaeological community, which he frequently communicated with. The story about the wreck that the discoverer told Headley and Wood in 1983 is highly suspect and probably not true – the discoverer might have simply hauled Ceramic B up from any number of places

where Asian ceramics are known to have been discarded during the historic period and tried to hawk it. The current location of Ceramic B is unknown. The whole saga is disappointing and weird.

Establishing the storyline behind each ceramic after its discovery is difficult, especially where Ceramic B has only been seen by a handful of people, and not in the past thirty years (despite many people trying). Insofar as the author can tell, the UASBC was aware of Ceramic A at the time of its discovery, and brought it to the attention of Dr. Jeremy Green, the director of the Western Australia Maritime Museum, when he was in British Columbia in 1983. The presentation of Ceramic B in 1983 and the attempt to learn more about it over 1984 renewed interest in “pot wrecks” – where were these goddamn ceramics coming from? – and by the 1988 the UASBC was actively researching the ceramics and trying to learn more about them, with very limited success. The main effort focused on having the ceramics identified or dated and also communicating with people who might have useful information about them.



The Urn Recovered by Ian Taylor

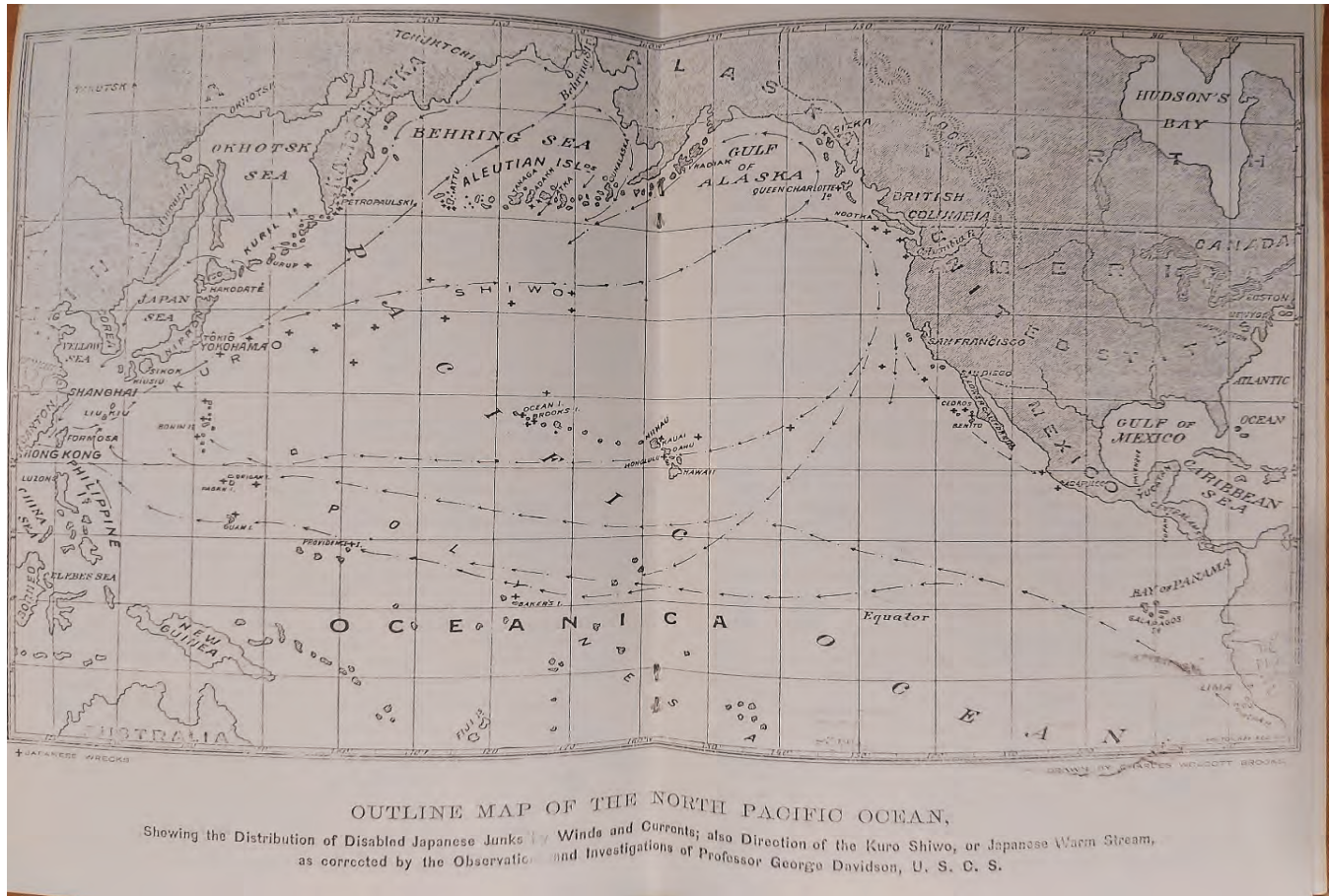
Credit: Sooke Museum & Archives

Over the years other curious ceramics have turned up in British Columbian waters, too. One is currently in the Sooke Museum and is speculated to be a burial urn, which is 25.5 inches high and has a circumference of 70 inches and is “dark translucent glaze with a corrugated surface.” A fisherman named Ian Taylor appears to have snagged this urn in his nets, and it is described as a pointed-bottom-earthenware vessel that likely dates from the twentieth century, and which can be seen throughout rural China well into modern times. After the urn’s discovery the University of British Columbia’s Richard Pearson provided their opinion that the mouths of such urns could sometimes be plugged with concrete which would allow it to be used as a float (possibly explaining how Taylor found it and tying in with the photo from the Sooke Museum). Another Asian ceramic came from 42 miles off the west coast of Vancouver Island – this one was found by the son-in-law of someone named Marvin Stryker and is a small round pot with brown glaze and is 17.75 inches high, 10.75 inches in diameter, and 14.5 inches to the shoulder. Next, Nanoose-based fisherman Ken Brown brought up an 8.5 inch high and 7-inch-wide coarse brown reddish clay ceramic with a grayish finish from seventy fathoms off the coast of Tofino. The trouble is that they are all just contextless ceramics that can’t tell a story: they are probably items discarded during a long-forgotten transit on which a passenger carried the items.

One needn’t ponder the ceramics for long to wonder how they traveled to North America, if we allow that they do indeed have Asian origins as seems to be the case. The curious researcher will quickly discover that flotsam and jetsam crossing the Pacific Ocean from Japan is a frequent occurrence, and sometimes includes wrecked Japanese ships, although those tend to end up in Alaska or Washington State, not in British Columbia. Well documented currents flow from west-to-east and have long carried items from wood to the famous Japanese glass fishing floats from the waters around Japan to British Columbia. Notably, flotsam around the East China Sea is not subject to the same current, which is only present in the waters of the North Pacific and around Japan, explaining the tendency of Japanese wrecks to end up around North America but not a single Chinese one.

Over the years the subject of mysterious Asian ceramics and ghostly Japanese ships making their way to North America under mysterious circumstances has naturally stimulated interest in prehistoric contact between Asia and British Columbia, a topic studied extensively by archaeologist Grant Keddie. Keddie notes that proponents of early Asian visitation to North America have been “strongly influenced by two factors: (1) the early publications on the subject of shipwrecks by Charles Brooks (1876) and Horace Davis (1872a; 1872b) and (2) the fact that iron goods were

commonly observed by the first European explorers to this area.” How iron goods ended up in North America pre-European contact remains unclear, but the subject of early Asian shipwrecks seems relevant to submerged ceramics around British Columbia.



A chart “showing the distribution of disabled Japanese junks by winds and currents”

Credit: Brooks, Charles Wolcott, Japanese Wrecks Stranded and Picked up Adrift in the North Pacific Ocean

Keddie’s research cleanly sets the record straight on documented Japanese shipwrecks in the Pacific Northwest during the nineteenth century, which might inform speculation about the frequency of such wrecks in earlier centuries. Keddie notes “numerous articles have been written by both historians and popular writers pertaining to the wrecking of 19th century Japanese vessels on the shores on British Columbia. None of these stories are true. They are all based on misinformation surrounding events of two shipwrecks off the coast of the states of Washington and California and others that occurred off the coast of Japan.” Keddie is less clear on whether Japanese vessels wrecked around British Columbia before the nineteenth

century but concedes that they probably did. The significance of Keddie’s conclusions about Japanese shipwrecks in British Columbia is that they occur far less frequently than the subject’s historiography would suggest. That said, we can’t rule out such a shipwreck as being a possibility for how Asian ceramics would have ended up in British Columbian waters...just that it seems kind of unlikely considering the tempo of documented nineteenth century wrecks in North America that originated in Asia.

One wonders if new dating technology or modern research could reveal new information about the Asian ceramics known to exist – could it be confirmed that the Stryker ceramic is an early 1900s Chinese bean pot



UASBC Presidents' March 2024 message

by: Keith Bossons

Hi Everyone,

As I write this message it is starting to feel like spring is in the air.

The society has a busy schedule planned for the spring with several major events coming up.

There will be another offering of the Underwater Archaeology for Divers course running on March 23 and 24. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held via Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 26. You should have received an email with the details for the AGM and login details for Zoom.

The annual Shipwrecks Conference will be held on Saturday, April 20 in Victoria. The theme for this year's conference is "The Evolution of Diving & Diving Technology in British Columbia". We have some great speakers lined up for this event. Check out our website for the details and to buy your tickets.

The society participated in the recent divers weekend at the Vancouver Aquarium and took this opportunity to share our message with members of the public and the local diving community.

Finally, there are a number of dive trips planned over the next few months. Check out the website for details if you are interested in participating in any of these trips.

I hope to see you all at the Shipwrecks Conference.

*All the best
Keith Bossons
UASBC President*

2024 Exploration of Asian Ceramics Submerged in British Columbian Waters(*continued*)

while the Brown ceramic is a burial urn from the same period, for example? The UASBC did all their research into these artifacts and their communication about them pre-internet...could an authority at some university not be found inside of forty seconds online? The whole business seems an enigmatic loose end to leave, doesn't it? What bothers the author, however, is that all of the ceramics belonged to someone. Maybe that person thought their ceramic was worthy of a float test, because it contained food too moldy to eat. But maybe a different person threw yet another ceramic overboard because it contained the ashes of their friend or loved

one – maybe they waited until the sun was setting before casting it overboard en route back to Asia, their adventure in North America bittersweet. The tragedy of these ceramics is that we'll likely never know what they are, only that the mystery they represent typifies the unknowingness irresistible to explorers and historians. They are unremarkable physical artifacts that might just tell a fantastic tale which we'll never know. Don't succumb to the perceived pointlessness or challenge of trying to learn that tale, though – this history thing won't make itself.

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