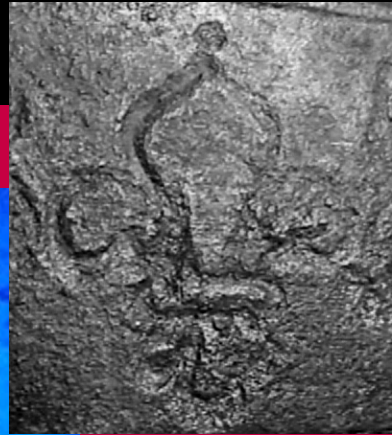


# KINGSTOWN HARBOR SHIPWRECK

## Artifact Catalog

An Institute of Maritime History Online Publication



## Important Note to Reader

We highly recommend that before viewing this catalog the reader review *The Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck: An Interim Report*. Although the interim report does not provide a detailed analysis or interpretation of the shipwreck site, it does provide important background and methodological information that may be essential for interpreting the finds presented in this artifact catalog. An abstract and brief description of the site are included in the section below.

The catalog does not include all the artifacts recovered from the Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck excavation, but offers scaled drawings of artifacts that are most likely to be used in research or as a comparative collection. An in-depth analysis and complete listing of artifacts is forthcoming. All of the artifacts presented in this catalog are associated with the wreck site.

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## **Abstract**

From December 10, 1997, to January 10, 1998, the Institute of Maritime History (IMH) conducted a detailed survey of a historic shipwreck in Kingstown Harbor with the assistance of the Academic Diving Program at Florida State University (FSU). The Organization of American States (OAS) and the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines supported the expedition to explore and document the archaeological site. Although the Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck has not yet been positively identified, it is likely that it was a large, copper-clad vessel of French origin that sank, possibly while at anchor, in the late eighteenth century. All of the diagnostic artifacts appear to predate the nineteenth century, particularly the ceramic types. The date range can be narrowed even further with the consideration of two additional factors: a dated cannon recovered from the site and the presence of copper hull sheathing and iron fasteners below the waterline. These features suggest a date range from 1776 to 1786.

## **Site Description**

The shipwreck (KH1) is situated near the southern boundary of the harbor of Kingstown, the capital of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Lesser Antilles). The site is situated near rocky cliffs in deep water at an apparent natural anchorage. According to local tradition, two modern steel ships, *Nomad* and *Seimstrand*, were at anchor in the same spot in 1986 when a storm caused them to collide and sink. The two massive hulks now lie mere meters from the historic wreckage, which now makes a spectacular diving site with vast recreational potential.

The historic shipwreck lies on a roughly east-west slope in a sandy matrix between several fingers of coral reefs. The remains appear to begin at about 65 FSW and extend to a depth of nearly 110 FSW. The exposed wreckage is now covered with a living reef, inhabited by a thriving assemblage of marine life. The major features of the site include three large anchors, at least 10 large cannons, four lead hawse pipes, plentiful copper cookware and both loose and articulated sheets of copper hull sheathing. These surface features suggest this wreck was a large, well-armed ship with either a sizeable crew or a human cargo. Both the overlap of the copper sheathing and the position of the anchors and hawse pipes indicate that the bow of the vessel lies up slope. The majority of the remains lie to the south, suggesting that the ship came to rest on its starboard side.

Approximately 75 artifacts or features were observed and recorded on site during the four weeks of diving. In addition to isolated finds of ceramic sherds, broken bottle pieces, and unidentified concretions scattered across the site, the major identifiable components of the site generally fell into three broad categories: ordnance, galley ware, and rigging accoutrements and hull remains.

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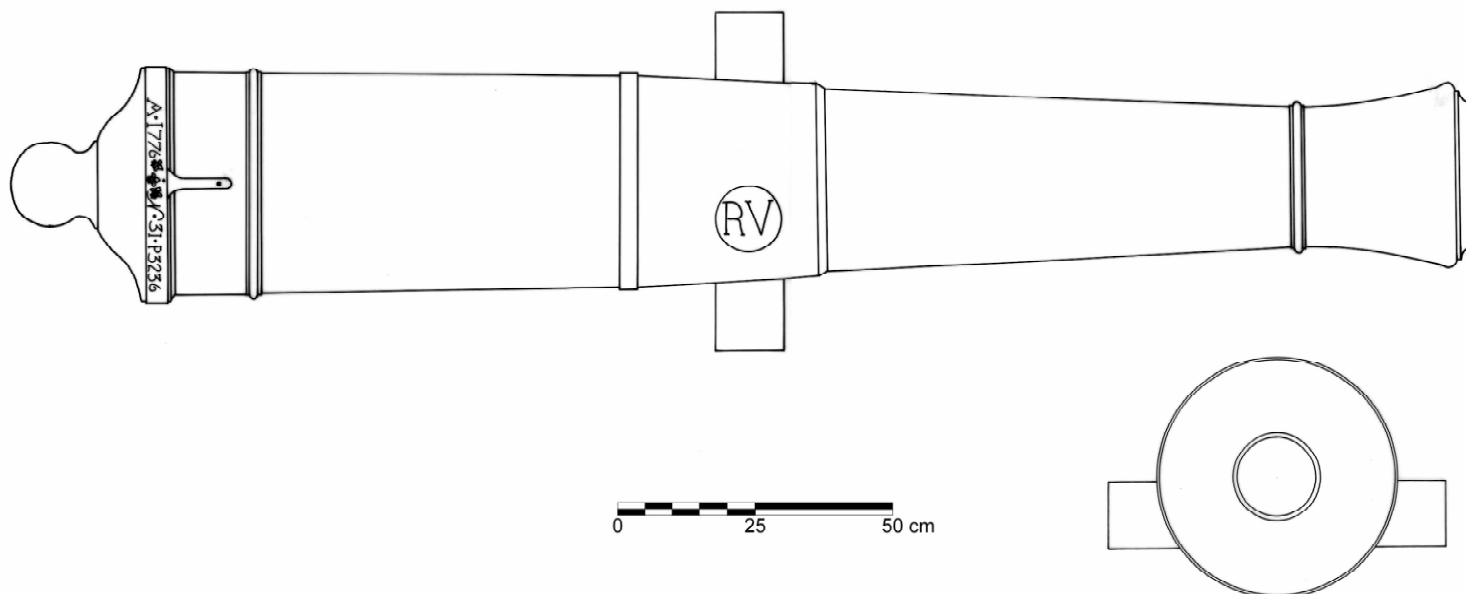
# Online Artifact Catalog

Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck Project

Ship: Unknown, probable French naval vessel

Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



## MEASUREMENTS AND ATTRIBUTES

Type of gun: 12-pounder, smooth bore

Material: cast iron

Date: 1776

Gunfounder: Ruelle Foundry

Nationality: French

Monogram: none

Heraldic Devices: 3 fleur-de-lis

Inscriptions: 1776 (fleur-de-lis) No. 31 P3236

Weight: French lbs. (3236), modern (3764 lbs.)

Lifting dolphins: no

Overall length: 2.654 m

Base ring to end of first reinforce: 89.6 cm

First reinforce to second: 32.7 cm

Chase length: 90.7 cm

Muzzle length: 30.8 cm

Length of muzzle neck: 27.5 cm

Cascabel button to trunion center: 135.4 cm

Trunion center to end of muzzle: 132.3 cm

Diameter of base ring: 43.5 cm

Diameter at chase girdle: 35.5 cm

Diameter at muzzle neck: 25.8 cm

Diameter at muzzle swell: 35.5 cm

Diameter at muzzle face: 27.0 cm

Width across trunions face to face: 62.2 cm

Trunion position: low

Length of trunion: 13.0 cm

Diameter of cascabel: 15.0 cm

Diameter of trunion: 12.2 cm

Bore diameter: 12.1 cm

Reinforce to touchhole: 13.5 cm

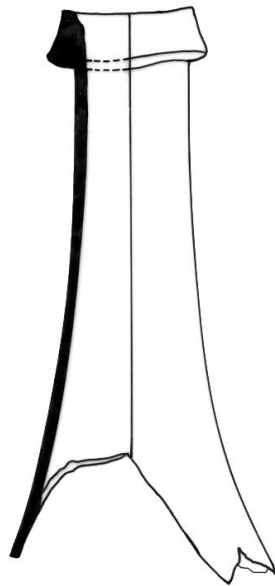
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Ship: Unknown, probable French naval vessel

Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Type: bottle

Material: green glass

Manufacturing Technique: free-blown or mold-blown

Date: 18th century

Neck shape: tapered

String rim: down-tooled

Body: cylindrical(?)

Shoulder: sloped down

Base: n/a

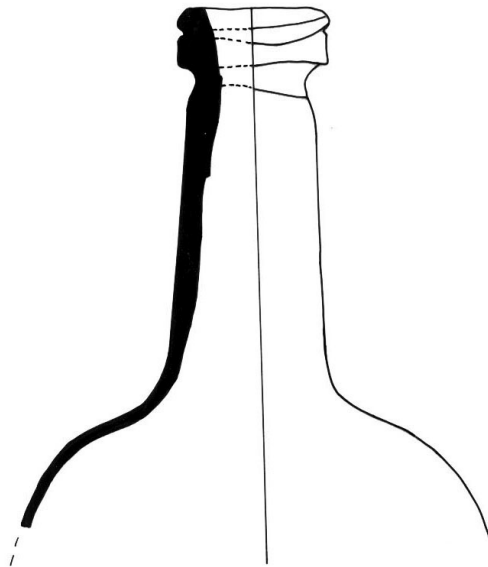
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Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Type: bottle

Material: green glass

Manufacturing Technique: free-blown or mold-blown

Date: 18th century

Neck shape: roughly cylindrical

String rim: up-tooled, flattened side

Shoulder: rounded

Base: n/a

Body: cylindrical

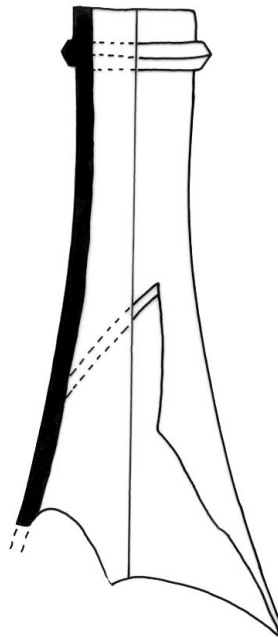
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Type: bottle

Material: green glass

Manufacturing Technique: free-blown or mold-blown

Date: 18th century

Neck shape: tapered

String rim: V-tooled

Body: cylindrical(?)

Shoulder: sloped down

Base: n/a



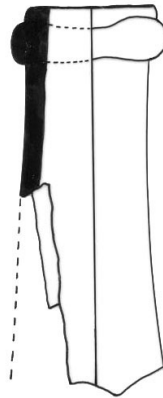
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Type: bottle

Material: green glass

Manufacturing Technique: free-blown or mold-blown

Date: 18th century

Neck shape: tapered

String rim: rounded

Body: cylindrical(?)

Shoulder: n/a

Base: n/a

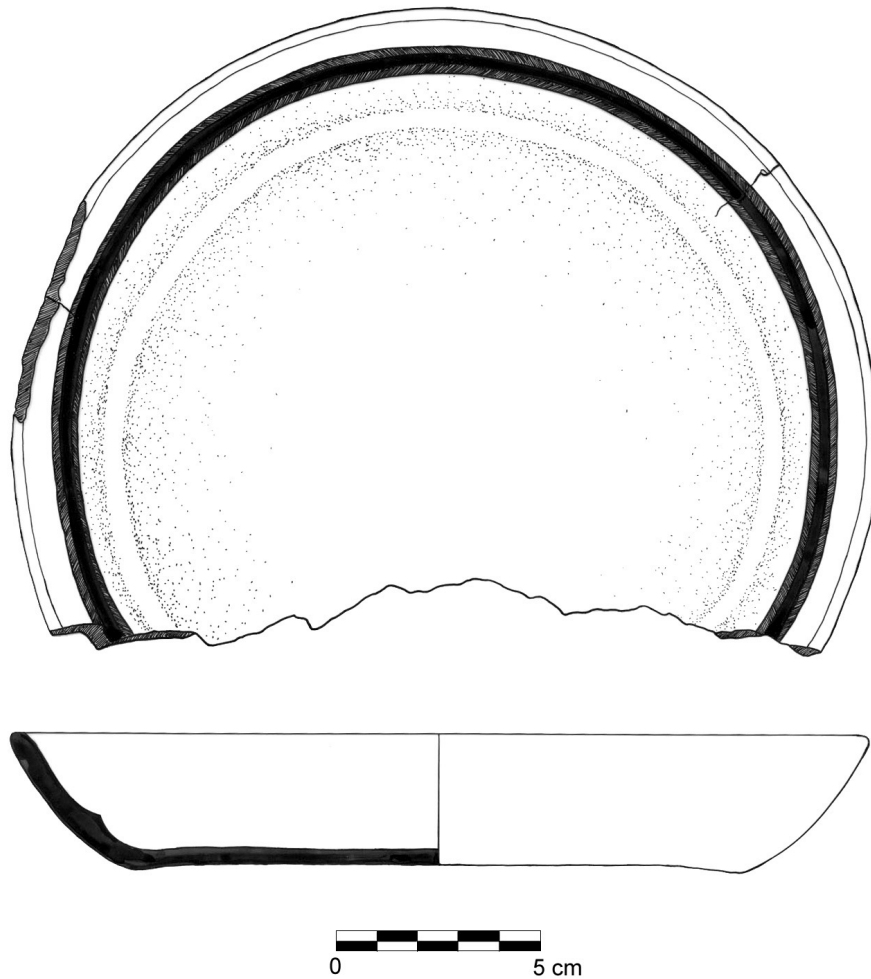
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Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck Project

Ship: Unknown, probable French naval vessel

Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: ceramic

Type: tin-glazed earthenware

Specific type: Faïence, Brittany blue-on-white

Decoration: single blue band on interior of vessel rim

Paste: buff

Vessel form: flat-bottomed plate

Date: 1750-1765

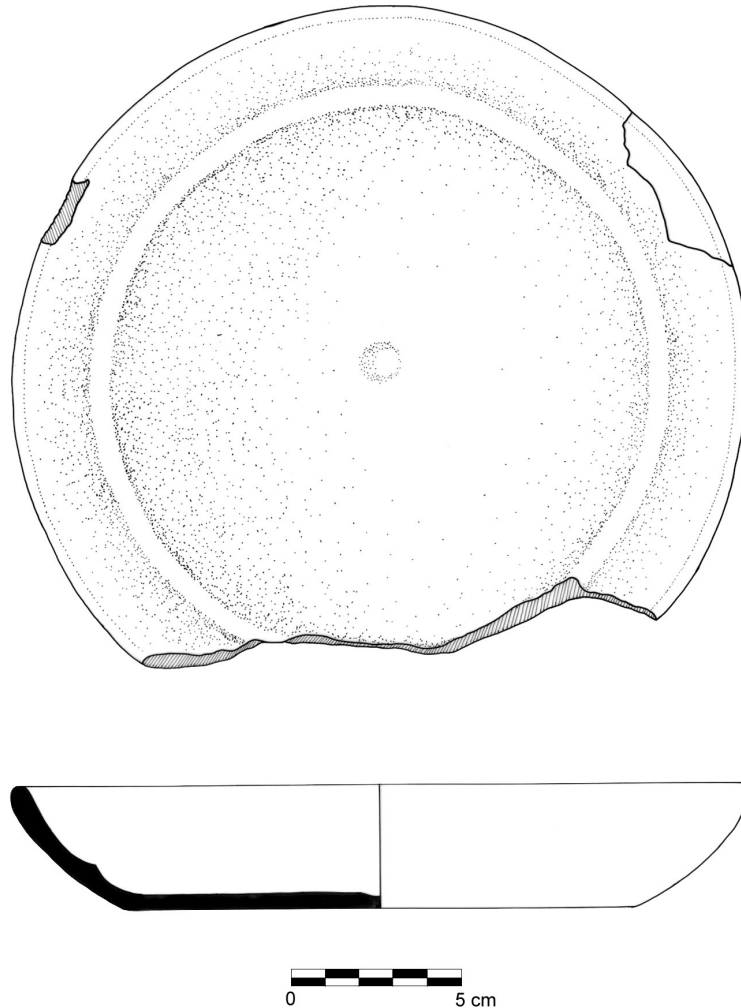
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: ceramic

Type: tin-glazed earthenware

Specific type: Faïence, Brittany blue-on-white

Decoration: none

Paste: buff

Vessel form: flat-bottomed plate

Date: 1750-1765

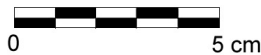
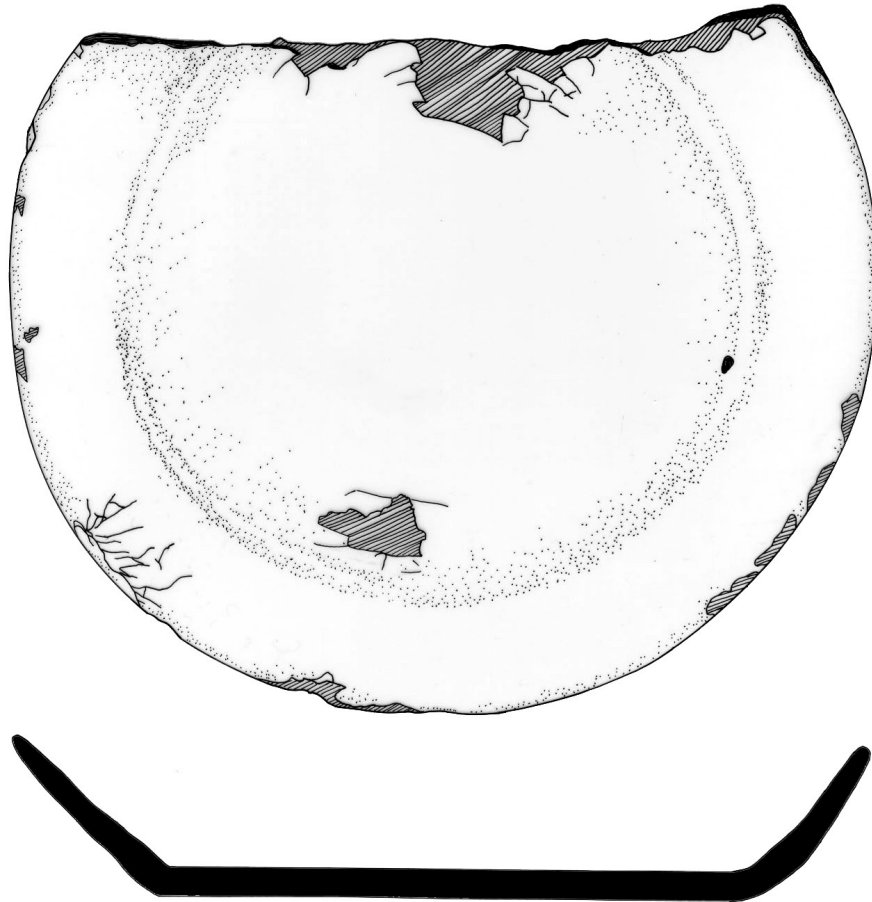
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Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### ATTRIBUTES

Material: ceramic

Type: tin-glazed earthenware

Specific type: Faïence, Brittany blue-on-white

Decoration: none

Paste: buff

Vessel form: flat-bottomed plate

Date: 1750-1765

## Online Artifact Catalog

Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck Project

Ship: Unknown, probable French naval vessel

Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### ATTRIBUTES

Material: ceramic

Type: tin-glazed earthenware

Specific type: Faience, Rouen blue-on-white

Decoration: blue floral with banding

Paste: buff

Vessel form: burette/juglet

Date: 1740-1790

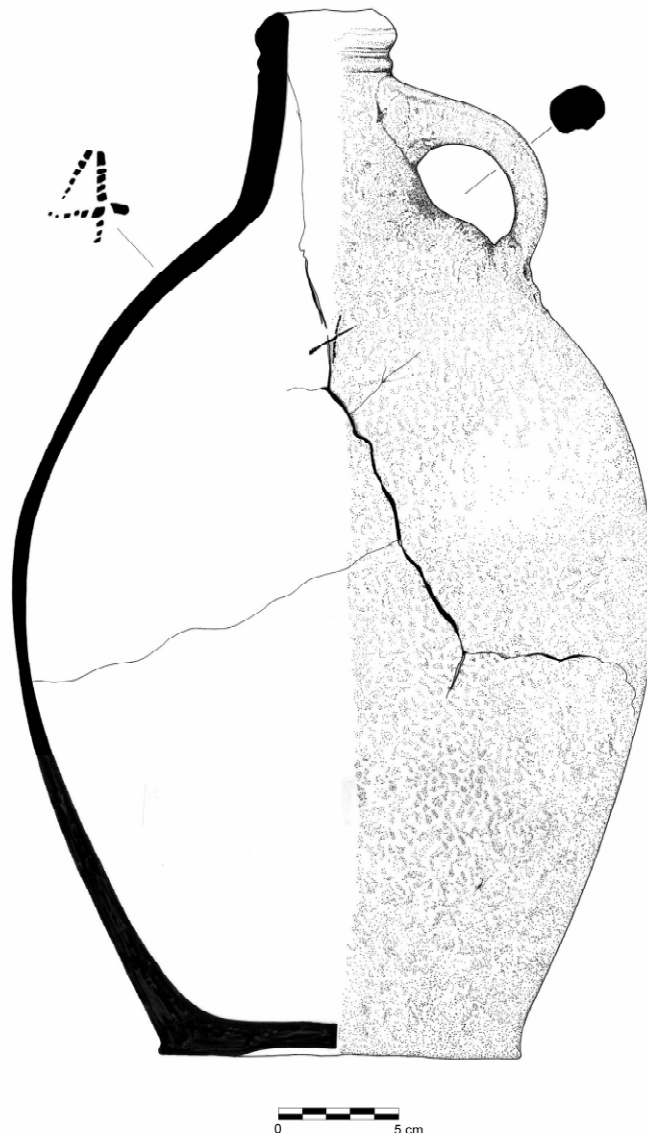
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Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck Project

Ship: Unknown, probable French naval vessel

Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### ATTRIBUTES

Material: ceramic

Type: stoneware

Specific type: Rhenish stoneware

Decoration: pressed decoration, '4' and 'x'

Vessel form: jug

Date: 1700-1780

## Online Artifact Catalog

Kingstown Harbor Shipwreck Project

Ship: Unknown, probable French naval vessel

Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: ceramic

Type: earthenware

Specific type: redware, hearth/galley tile or brick

Decoration: none

Shape: rectangular

Date: 1776-1786

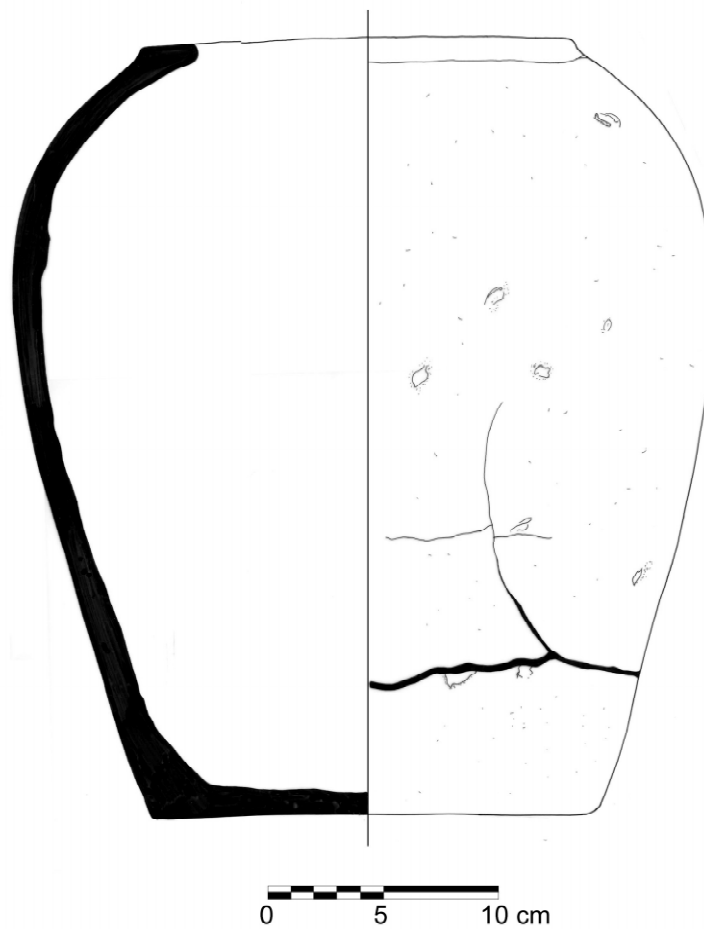
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### ATTRIBUTES

Material: ceramic

Type: earthenware

Specific type: redware

Decoration/Glaze: none

Vessel form: storage pot

Date: 1700-1786



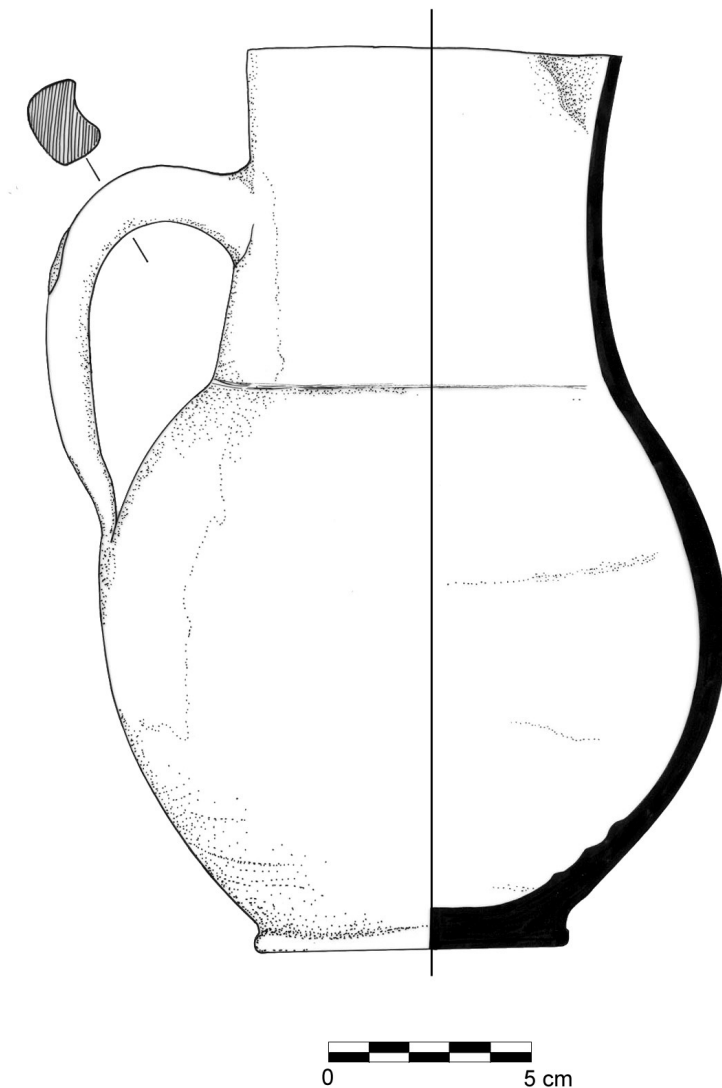
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: ceramic

Type: earthenware

Specific type: redware

Decoration/Glaze: none

Vessel form: pitcher, pinched spout

Date: 1700-1786

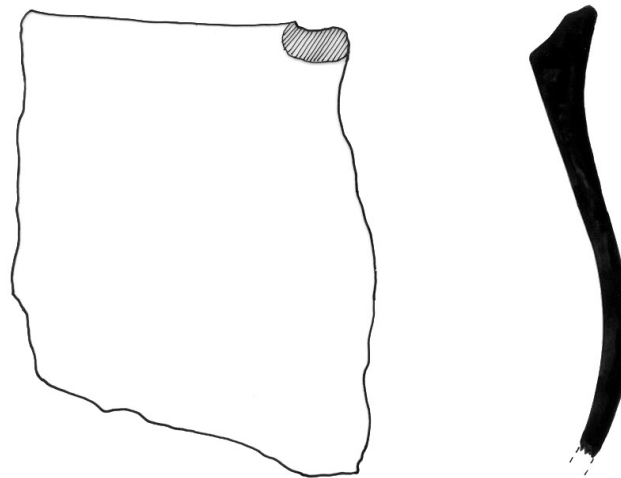
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Origin: France(?), *terminus post quem* (1776)

Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: ceramic

Type: earthenware

Specific type: redware

Decoration/Glaze: none

Vessel form: container

Date: 1700-1786

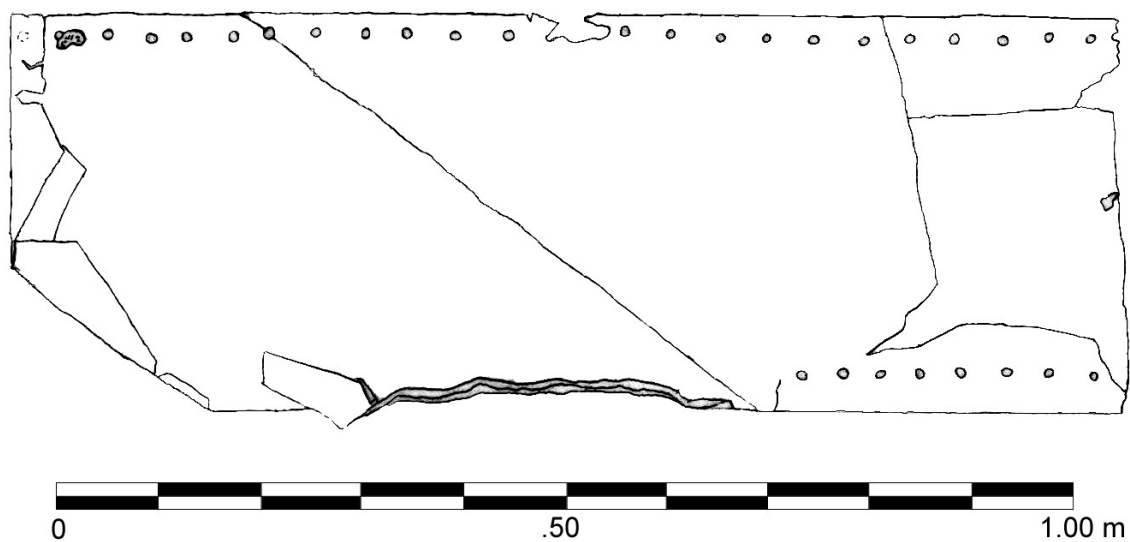
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: copper alloy

Type: sheathing

Inscriptions/Markings: none

Date: 1776-1786

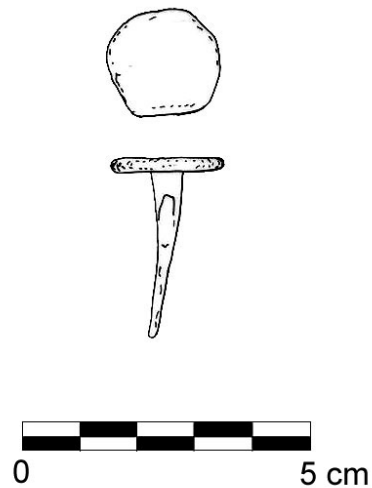
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Wreck: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *terminus ante quem* (1786)



### **ATTRIBUTES**

Material: copper alloy

Type: fastener

Specific type: sheathing tack

Inscriptions/Markings: none

Date: 1776-1786