ISER Research Project Abstract

Title: “English Border Ware Ceramics in Seventeenth-Century British North America”

English Border ware ceramics were produced along the Surrey-Hampshire border in southern England between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. This type of ceramic provided a wide range of everyday and domestic vessel forms and were one of the most common wares found within households in England. Since this ceramic was so popular in England during the time they were being produced, it is no surprise that they were also shipped to English colonies in British North America. The goal of this research project is to provide a comparative analysis of the English Border ware ceramics excavated on seventeenth-century archaeological sites in Newfoundland to those found on sites in Virginia, Maryland and Massachusetts. The study of English Border ware ceramics in British North America during the seventeenth century will provide information on the social, economic, and political systems established in Newfoundland and other areas of northeastern North America during the early years of colonization, and obtain a better understanding of the interaction and development of trade between England and her first colonies. The analysis and interpretation of this type of ceramic found on seventeenth-century archaeological sites in British North America can also be used as a comparative tool to use on archaeological sites in the future.