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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2023

Earthenware Sherds Most Recent Find at Michilimackinac Excavation

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — The 65th archaeological field season is in full swing at Colonial Michilimackinac, in Mackinaw City. The most interesting find recently has been several plain white tin-glazed earthenware sherds in the southeast cellar.

“They were able to be matched up with sherds excavated from the cellar in previous years to form what we believe is an ointment pot,” Dr. Lynn Evans, Curator of Archaeology, said. “It could have been used to hold medicinal salves.”

The base diameter of the pot is 2.5” and at the top it is 3.625”. This is actually the second ointment pot that archaeologists have been able to restore from this same cellar.

Archaeologists are on site daily at Colonial Michilimackinac, weather depending, and will be on site through August 19.

The current excavation site is House E of the Southeast Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac. Numerous exciting finds have been made at the site in recent years, including a Compagnie des Indes lead seal dating between 1717 and 1769, a brass sleeve button with an intaglio bust on it, a potential structural post dating to the original 1715 fort, and engraved “Jesuit” trade ring, a brass serpentine sideplate for a British trade gun; complete remnants from a creamware plate; a bone or ivory gaming die; and many other items. The archaeological dig at Michilimackinac began in 1959, making it one of the longest-

running archaeology programs in North America. House E was first occupied by Charles Henri Desjardins de Rupallay de Gonneville, and later by an as-yet-unidentified English trader.

Colonial Michilimackinac is a reconstructed fort and fur trading village located just west of the Mackinac Bridge. Costumed interpreters provide demonstrations and tours throughout the day, and active archaeology takes place during the summer months. More information on the site can be found by clicking here.

Higher resolution versions of the pots are attached to the email. A downloadable version of this release can be found here.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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