

*The*  
**PEWTER COLLECTORS' CLUB**  
*of AMERICA*

OFFICERS, 1941

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154 Dedham Ave., Needham, Mass.

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MEETINGS, 1940

Jan. 31, 1940. Annual meeting, Hotel Vendome, Boston. Before the business meeting, Mrs. Lura Woodside Watkins delivered an interesting and detailed account of the numerous men who made pewter and britannia in Meriden and Wallingford, Conn., during the three decades before the founding of the Meriden Britannia Company in 1852. Among them were William, Samuel, Hiram, and Charles Yale, and Ashbill Griswold, who in 1808 formed the company of Griswold and Crouch, which firm disputed with the Yales priority in making britannia ware in America. A Wallingford apprentice at 15, I. C. Lewis formed various partnerships, but is represented now by only a few pieces. Noteworthy among these are miniature porringers, generally unmarked, and often confused with those of Richard Lee. A late partner was James Frary, who patented a lamp, specimens of which are still to be found. Lemuel J. Curtis, Samuel Simpson, and H. B., Lowden, and Smith Ward, who made up the firm of H. B. Ward and Co., were also discussed.

Mar. 27, 1940. Old State House, Boston.

This meeting was largely devoted to business. The President, Mrs. Eaton H. Perkins, spoke on "Basins and Porringers," enumerating the various sizes of American basins, their makers, and characteristics. Christening basins, or more properly, baptismal bowls, were, she pointed out, relatively rare, since they appear to have been made by few workers, and mostly during the britannia period. Specimens brought in by various members were discussed.

Apr. 27, 1940. Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis N. Wiggins at Wiggins Old Tavern, Hotel Northampton, Northampton, Mass. Mrs. Mary Moore opened the program with a talk on "People and Things Back of Pewter" in which she stressed the human element of pewter collectors as well as pewter makers. She offered suggestions for lines of research which might lead to the discovery of more Connecticut Valley pewters. Bringing the discussion around to Greenfield's Samuel Pierce, she introduced Miss Julia Snow, well known authority on that maker. Miss Snow showed some recently found pieces by Pierce, and gave an interesting talk about him.

Mr. Charles E. Ayers then brought up the main topic of discussion for the day, that of "Tavern Pewter," which naturally centered about drinking utensils. He read an excellent paper on tavern ware which was published in the Boston Transcript on May 4, 1940. Among other things, he made the interesting statement that porringers were used as drinking vessels. Pewter appears not to have been as satisfactory to the American as to the English tavern customer, for the New Englander was not satisfied with his "arf pint," but took his cider in large doses. Nor was pewter suitable for the making of flip, which called for the introduction into the vessel of a red hot loggerhead.

After the meeting, the members sat down to one of Mr. Wiggins' enormous New England suppers, a customary example of his well-known hospitality.

May 25, 1940. Guests of Mrs. Matt B. Jones at her home in Newton Centre, Mass. The subject of the day was "Small Articles in Pewter." There was no formal paper, but many members brought specimens which they described, and almost all those present entered into the discussion. It was the sort of meeting everyone enjoys. Snuff boxes made up a large percentage of the items, but there were many ink-wells, sanders, flasks, buttons, picture frames, medals, and some things which defied classification. Mrs. C. A. MacDonough brought some very curious Chinese boxes. Mrs. Edward S. Willis showed two pewter buttons made by Giles Richards, who was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, in 1754, and established a business for manufacturing buttons and wool carding combs in Dedham in 1788. He died in 1820.

June 26, 1940. Worcester Historical Society, Worcester, Mass. Special exhibition of the collection of Mr. Charles F. Hutchins at the Historical Society and at the Worcester Art Museum. Miss Louisa Dresser read an absorbing paper on Henry Will and the Bassetts of New York, and William Will of Philadelphia, illustrating it with splendid specimens from Mr. Hutchins' collection. This paper was published in three parts in the Boston Transcript on July 1, July 8, and July 22, 1940. Those who have it in their scrap books are fortunate. Still more fortunate is Mr. Hutchins, who has a plate, a platter, a hot water plate, and a tankard by Henry Will, 3 plates, a platter, a basin, a porringer, and a tankard by Frederick Bassett, and a tankard and one of the extremely rare "Federal" plates by William Will.

The Club was cordially welcomed by Capt. George I. Cross of the Historical Museum staff, and afforded every opportunity to study the pewter in the Museum.

Sept. 28, 1940. Guests of Dr. and Mrs. Edward A. Rushford at their home in Salem, Mass. Dr. Rushford spoke on American Pewter lamps, to which subject he has given considerable study. He illustrated his talk with specimens from his collection, to which he had recently added unique examples. He explained the principles of the various patented burners, showing specimens, including some of the original patent models. After the meeting the members enjoyed a "Wienie Roast" at the outdoor fireplace.

Oct. 21, 1940. Hotel Commodore, New York City. The Club tried the experiment of meeting in New York at the time of the Antiques Exhibition, but unfortunately picked an inconvenient date, and had a much smaller attendance than is usual for meetings in that city. Mr. Charles F. Montgomery spoke on the "Philosophy of Collecting," and led a discussion which was enjoyed by all present. It is hoped that the Club can meet in or near New York in June of this year.

Nov. 20, 1940. Old State House, Boston. Business had accumulated to such an extent that the program was practically crowded out of this last meeting of the year. It was voted to set aside from the accumulated income of the Club the sum of \$200.00, which was not to be drawn upon except by a special vote of the members. It was thought wise to have a reserve in case of some special future activity, such as another exhibition of pewter, or some other expensive undertaking.

The topic for the day, "Modern Pewter," remains as an excellent subject for some future meeting. How many of us are laying up a few "antiques of the future"?

(Much of the material above has been abridged from Mrs. Franklin's interesting reports of meetings in the Transcript and N. Y. Sun.)

## AMERICAN EXHIBITIONS THAT INCLUDED PEWTER

By EDNA T. FRANKLIN

No records have been found which indicate the inclusion of pewter as a special feature in any American Exhibition before that held in New York in 1909 in connection with the Hudson-Fulton celebration. The foreword in the catalogue published at that time was written by Edwin Atlee Barber, authority on antiques in general, and author of many important books on potters and pottery. Since this was a year before Mr. Kerfoot had even heard of American pewter, it is interesting to note that plates by B. Barns, Boardman, Boardman and Hall, Parks Boyd, Tho. Danforth (Philadelphia), and tankards by Boyd and William Will were then publicly exhibited. Dr. Barber, in his foreword, listed 11 other American pewterers of New York and Philadelphia, but even this does not represent an entirely fair estimate of what was then known of American workers, for N. Hudson Moore had listed 26 in 1905, and Edwards J. Gale mentioned 44 in 1909.

The second exhibition, in Boston in 1911, contained 47 items, listed but not described in the catalogue;—Chinese, Japanese, German, Swiss, and English articles were shown. The only piece specifically mentioned as American

was a snuff box marked "P. Revere," in the collection of Mr. Francis H. Bigelow. The Club would like information as to the present location of this box. Another interesting item was a pewter charger brought from England about 1635 by Wm. Collier of Plymouth Colony. His initials, with those of his wife, were stamped on it.

The exhibition at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford in 1923 was the first to evoke wide interest in Pewter, and was important in that it was accompanied by the first long list of American makers, compiled by the Curator, Mme. Henri Berger. This was followed by the striking exhibit of Mr. J. B. Kerfoot's collection in New York in 1924, and again at the exhibition of American pewter at the Twentieth Century Club in Boston in late January of 1925. This exhibition, and the almost coincident publication of Mr. Kerfoot's book, aroused widespread enthusiasm for the American product among collectors. The material displayed in Boston was largely from the collections of Mr. Kerfoot and Mr. Herbert Lawton. Nevertheless, many new shapes and touch marks turned up at this time.

The appended list does not include collections which are more or less permanently on display. Such a list would be interesting and useful, especially if it indicated the general nature of the exhibit. It is hoped that one can be compiled and published in a future number of the Bulletin.

## AMERICAN EXHIBITIONS THAT INCLUDED PEWTER

### A Resumé of Interest in Pewter in America

1909

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Hudson-Fulton Exhibition. Catalogue published.

1911

Copley Hall, Boston. The Copley Society Retrospective Exhibition of the Decorative Arts. Catalogue published.

1916

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. A Loan Exhibition of Pewter, English, American, French, German, Dutch, Spanish and Swiss. November 8, 1916 to January 15, 1917. Museum Bulletin. Vol. XIV. No. 86.

1923

Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, Conn. Loan Exposition of Pewter. February 22 to April first. See Wadsworth Athenaeum Bulletin, March, 1923.

1924

Ehrich Galleries, New York. The J. B. Kerfoot Collection of Marked American Pewter. May, 1925. Catalogue published.

1925

Special exhibition, American Pewter, Twentieth Century Club, Boston. See Antiques, April, 1925.

Park Square Building, Boston. Loan Exhibition of Early American Furniture and Decorative Arts. December 8 to 29. For the Benefit of the Free Hospital for Women. Catalogue published.

1934

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N. J. December 23, 1934 to January 31, 1935.

1935

Public Library of the City of Boston. September 23 to October 20. Loan exhibition, Rushlight Club. One case was devoted to pewter lamps and candlesticks, and many other items were scattered through the collection. Illustrated brochure published.

Public Library of the City of Boston. November 18 to December 14. Loan Exhibition. The Pewter Collectors' Club of America. The first comprehensive exhibition of pewter ever held in this country. American, English, French, German, Chinese. Illustrated brochure published.

1936

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Tercentenary Celebration. Furniture and Decorative Arts of Period, 1636 to 1836. The pewter was selected and catalogued by Prof. Percy E. Raymond, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, then president of The Pewter Collectors' Club of America. Illustrated catalogue published.

1938

American Art Association—Anderson Galleries, New York. Collection of American Pewter of the late Albert C. Bowman of Springfield, Vermont. On exhibition from February 5th to date of sale, February 11th. On morning of the sale a meeting of club members and others was held in the exhibition room, when tributes were paid Mr. Bowman, and his collection was discussed by Prof. Raymond, Dr. Madelaine R. Brown and Mr. Ledlie I. Laughlin. Catalogue published.

Studio of Mr. Douglas Curry, New York, February 13 to 28. Loan exhibition by members of The Pewter Collectors' Club of America, arranged by Mr. J. Ritchie Kimball, Mr. Ledlie I. Laughlin, Mr. Frederick J. H. Sutton and Mr. Curry. This was incident to the first New York meeting of the club, held at Mr. Curry's studio, February 13th.

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y. Collection of Mr. John W. Poole. April 9th to May 31st.

The Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass. Loan Exhibition of American Pewter. October 26 to December 31st. Old Dartmouth Historical Society and The Pewter Collectors' Club of America.

1939

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Loan Exhibition of marked American pewter, the finest and most comprehensive yet held. March 11th to April 16th. See Antiques, September, 1939; Bull. Metropolitan Museum

of Art, March, 1939; and "American Pewterers and their Marks," by Joseph Downs, 1940.

George Walter Vincent Smith Art Gallery, Springfield, Mass. Art in Everyday Use in Early New England. July 7th to September 2nd. Catalogue published.

U. S. Department of the Interior, Morristown National Historical Park, Y. M. C. A., Morristown, New Jersey. September 27 to September 30.

1940

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Loan Exhibition of American Pewter including many rare items. A large part of this exhibition is owned by one of our club members. To continue indefinitely.

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y. Collection of Mr. John W. Poole. To continue indefinitely.

### QUESTIONNAIRE

The results of the questionnaire on the subject of the Bulletin were rather disappointing. Only 24 reply cards came back, out of 105, indicating that 77 per cent of the members are either satisfied with the present make up, or that they are not interested. Seven preferred to have the Bulletin planographed, eight preferred it printed, and eight showed no preference. Fourteen expressed themselves as liking the present type of contents, only one preferred to have reports of meetings, but five wanted both. A few gave no indication of their desires. Under the circumstances, the Publication Committee will accept the results as a vote of confidence, for only one criticism, badly misspelled, and unsigned, was received. A pleasant feature was the promise of papers, received from three members.

### PROGRAMS

The Chairman of the program committee is anxious that everyone should contribute to the meetings. There is always opportunity for short papers if you do not feel that you can occupy a whole meeting. Members who live at a distance can send in written communications, which will be gladly received and read to the Club. We should like very much to get pewter news from Baltimore, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Seattle, and way stations.

### MR. W. H. CHUBBOCK

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of Mr. Chubcock, one of our original members. Until the infirmities of age forbade it, he attended our meetings regularly. He seldom took active part, but the kindly twinkle in his eye often betrayed his amusement at the fresh enthusiasms of those of us who began collecting long after he had become a sophisticate. His statement of the pleasure pewter had given him, expressed at the occasion of a visit last spring, is a pleasant memory.

### MASTER MEMBERS' BADGES

Two years ago the Club inaugurated the custom of giving a pewter badge to each member who was in good standing and had paid dues for five consecu-

tive years. These Master Members' badges are awarded at the Birthday dinner, or if the recipient is not present, are sent as soon as possible thereafter. The members who, according to the Treasurer's records, are now entitled to badges are indicated in the accompanying list by asterisks. If anyone so designated has failed to receive a badge 30 days after the receipt of this Bulletin, the Corresponding Secretary should be notified.

### MEMBERS, AS OF JANUARY 1, 1940

Those marked with an asterisk are entitled to wear the Master Member's badges at the Birthday Dinner, 1941, and thereafter.

Mrs. Helen H. Adams	Kingston, Mass.
Mrs. John Alles	Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. Charles E. Ayers	Worcester, Mass.
Mrs. Theo. L. Bailey	Harriman, N. Y.
*Mr. Carl G. Beede	Boston, Mass.
*Mr. John H. Bolton	Seattle, Wash.
Mrs. Henry W. Borntraeger	Canal Zone
Mrs. Charles I. Boynton	Melrose, Mass.
*Dr. Madelaine R. Brown	Boston, Mass.
Mr. Samuel G. Colt	Pittsfield, Mass.
Mrs. Charles D. Cook	Providence, R. I.
*Mr. Morris Cooper, Jr.	New York City, N. Y.
*Mr. Douglas Curry	Ridgefield, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. K. Davis	Fairfield, Conn.
Mrs. Clinton L. Dorr	Marblehead, Mass.
Miss Louise Doyle	Leominster, Mass.
Mr. Laurits E. Eichner	Bloomfield, N. J.
Mrs. J. B. Elmendorf	New York City, N. Y.
*Mr. S. P. Fay	Framingham Centre, Mass.
Mrs. Stephen S. FitzGerald	Weston, Mass.
Mr. Walter H. Foster	Boston, Mass.
*Mr. Joseph France	Baltimore, Md.
*Mr. and *Mrs. Paul J. Franklin	Needham, Mass.
Rev. and Mrs. John P. Garfield	Taunton, Mass.
Mrs. M. M. Goldsmith	Larchmont, N. Y.
Mrs. Charles C. Goss	Dover, N. H.
Mrs. F. H. Greaney	Woburn, Mass.
*Mrs. Margaret E. Hall	North Pembroke, Mass.
Mrs. Waverly W. Halleck	Brooklyn, N. Y.
*Miss Elisabeth L. Hamilton	Milton, Mass.
*Miss Virginia Lee Hanmore	Farmington, N. H.
Dr. and *Mrs. Charles A. Holbrook	Haverhill, Mass.
*Mrs. John P. Holmes	Walpole, Mass.
*Mrs. Frederick W. Howe	Weston, Vt.
Mrs. Philip Huntington	Sea Cliff, L. I., N. Y.
*Mr. Charles F. Hutchins	Worcester, Mass.
Mr. and *Mrs. Edward Ingraham	Cambridge, Mass.
*Miss B. R. Jacobs	Boston, Mass.
*Mrs. John B. Jameson	Concord, N. H.
Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Jaques	Marblehead, Mass.
Mr. and Mrs. Hosmer A. Johnson	Marblehead, Mass.
Mrs. W. W. Johnston	Ephrata, Wash.
*Mrs. Matt B. Jones	Newton Centre, Mass.
Miss Marga Kent	Newton Centre, Mass.
Mrs. Norton A. Kent	Newton Centre, Mass.
*Mr. J. Ritchie Kimball	New York City, N. Y.
Mr. W. G. C. Kimball	Woburn, Mass.

Mrs. Rhea M. Knittle	Ashland, Ohio
*Mrs. James H. Krom	Jersey Shore, Penna.
Mr. Carl Lang	Melrose, Mass.
Mrs. Leroy R. Lang	Melrose, Mass.
*Mr. Ledlie I. Laughlin	Princeton, N. J.
Mrs. Louis Lorillard	Pomfret, Conn.
Miss Katherine L. Loring	Prides Crossing, Mass.
*Mrs. C. W. MacDonough	Boston, Mass.
*Mrs. John R. Mason	Melrose, Mass.
*Mr. Charles F. Montgomery	Wallingford, Conn.
Mr. and *Mrs. Melville T. Nichols	Medford, Mass.
*Mrs. G. W. Nickerson	Stoneham, Mass.
Miss Blanche M. Nolan	New York City, N. Y.
Mrs. A. J. Oldham	Wellesley Hills, Mass.
Miss Esther Oldham	Wellesley Hills, Mass.
*Mrs. John E. Oldham	Wellesley Hills, Mass.
Mr. Stanley P. Paddock	East Greenbush, N. Y.
*Mrs. Eaton H. Perkins	Melrose, Mass.
Miss Lily Pons	New York City, N. Y.
Mr. and *Mrs. Chester M. Pratt	Dedham, Mass.
*Dr. Percy E. Raymond	Lexington, Mass.
Miss Ruth Elspeth Raymond	Lexington, Mass.
Mr. Henry B. Reardon	Farmington, Conn.
Mr. John P. Remensnyder	Metuchen, N. J.
*Mrs. Theresa H. Rice	West Newton, Mass.
Mrs. W. J. Riddle	New York City, N. Y.
*Mrs. F. G. Ripley	Malden, Mass.
*Mrs. Jos. W. Ross	Ipswich, Mass.
*Dr. and *Mrs. E. A. Rushford	Salem, Mass.
Mrs. Willits H. Sawyer	New York City, N. Y.
Mrs. Kent M. Semon	Mamaroneck, N. Y.
Mrs. Florence H. Smith	York Harbor, Me.
Miss Ethel Spear	Greenwich, Conn.
*Mr. Edwin V. Spooner	North Bridgton, Me.
Mrs. Geo. S. Stevens	Ipswich, Mass.
*Mr. Frederick J. H. Sutton	Amenia, N. Y.
Mrs. Mabel M. Swan	Dedham, Mass.
*Mrs. Elmer F. Thayer	Farmington, N. H.
*Mrs. James E. Thayer	Farmington, N. H.
*Mrs. Thomas E. Troland	New London, Conn.
Miss Margaret P. Varney	Dover, N. H.
Mrs. Wm. V. Wallburg	Melrose, Mass.
Mr. John Webber	Boston, Mass.
*Mrs. Austin H. Welch	Winchester, Mass.
*Mr. and *Mrs. Merton H. Wheelock	Boston, Mass.
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis N. Wiggins	Northampton, Mass.
*Mrs. T. Ferdinand Wilcox	New Canaan, Conn.
Mrs. Edward S. Willis	Concord, N. H.
*Mrs. Walter P. Wright	Brookline, Mass.
*Mr. Wm. H. Young	Brookline, Mass.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

*Mrs. Charles Calder	Providence, R. I.
*Mr. William Germain Dooley	Boston, Mass.
*Mr. Henry Justus Eck	Bedford Park, London, England
*Mr. Roland J. H. Shelley	Formby, England
*Mr. Charles Messer Stow	New York City, N. Y.
*Capt. A. V. Sutherland-Graeme	Bedford Park, London, England