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The PEWTER COLLECTORS' CLUB of AMERICA

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At the Annual Meeting in January, the Publication Committee asked for an expression of opinion on the general policy which should be followed regarding the Bulletin. Last year we published forty pages, somewhat more than we can normally afford. If the members wish to continue to devote a large part of our income to publication, we can probably issue about thirty pages a year. We should like to know whether you would prefer one Bulletin of that size, or two of about fifteen pages. The former is the more impressive, the latter more timely. We should very much like to receive manuscripts from a greater number of authors.

Elsie P. Ingraham, Edward Ingraham, Percy E. Raymond, Publication Committee.

DISCUSSION OF "ANTIQUE PEWTER ARTICLES OF MEDICAL INTEREST"[1]

By MADELAINE R. BROWN, M.D.

In an article which was read before the American Association of the History of Medicine by Dr. T. G. H. Drake of the University of Toronto the author illustrates and describes his collection of articles, for the most part of English pewter, for medical use. Other physicians have collected medical pewter. In "Antiques" several years ago Dr. Karl Ruhmann of Vienna and Dr. Feutelais of Le Mans, France, were mentioned in this connection. To my knowledge no physician has collected American pewter of medical interest for the reason that practically none was made in this country. Dr. Drake mentions croup kettles or inhalers, bleeding vessels, barbers' basins, medicine spoons and syringes of all sizes and, since he is a pediatrician, he has in his collection pap boats, infant feeding flasks, covered utensils used for steeping the infant's sucking bag, and spouted feeding pots.

As these last-named articles are not strictly medical but were part of the equipment for feeding every normal child, I shall describe them first. Dr. Drake illustrates six 18th century pap boats of two and one-half to three fluid ounce capacity. Pap was a thick feeding made by cooking flour or bread in water occasionally with added milk. As early as 1565 its use for infant feeding had become very popular. Three of the pap boats have handles. These are rarer than the unhandled form. One bears the initial F. H. (Foundlings Hospital of London).

His second illustration contains five infant feeding flasks, three English, one French and one Chinese. The last is decorated with engravings of flowers and has a metal tube extending from the nipple to the bottom of the flask. All unscrew at the neck for cleaning and many are found with the metal nipple damaged or absent, due to their use in modern times as feeders for lambs. Originally the ends were tipped with sponge-filled nipples made from cloth or leather, the food being sucked through between loose stitches or perforations. There are two nursing bottles illustrated in Laughlin's Pewter in America, one by Timothy Boardman & Co. and one by Frederick Bassett.[2] Spouted feeding pots for older children and invalids are also encountered in 18th and 19th century pewter.

Other medical articles not listed by Dr. Drake are pewter commodes and bed pans. Several specimens of both sorts bearing the touch mark of American pewterers are in private collections. Dealers, with an elegant wave of the hand, usually allude to the former as flower pots or wine coolers and to the latter as dish warmers. There are in existence bed pans made by both the Boardmans and Samuel Kilbourn. There is one by Spencer Stafford bearing the rose and crown touch used also by Henry Will. Frederick Bassett made and marked commodes.[3] I wish I could complete the list of aids to intake and output in

1. Antique Pewter of Medical Interest, Drake, T. G. H., Bull. Hist. of Med. vol. X, no. 2, July, 1941. Read before the Seventeenth Annual meeting of the American Association of the History of Medicine, Atlantic City, New Jersey, May 4-6, 1941.

2. Laughlin, "Pewter in America," Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940, plate XXXIX, figs. 249, 252, 253.

3. Kerfoot, "American Pewter," Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924, figure 24.

the human animal by including Professor Raymond's spittoons. These, however, seem even less related to medicine than the nursing bottles and pap boats.

Perhaps the most specialized pewter article used in the care of the sick was the croup kettle or inhaler. These appear to be covered tankards until one notices the two openings in the cover and perforations in the upper part of the handle. One opening has a rimmed edge to which a flexible tube ending in a bone mouth piece is attached. The other, closed by a movable brass window, was used for the introduction of the balsam. The handle is hollow, perforated at the upper end and opening into the inhaler near the base for the inlet of air beneath the surface of the hot water. In the mouth piece illustrated there is a ball valve arrangement by which, if desired, air drawn through the medicated hot water may be replaced by ordinary air. Dr. Drake describes three specimens, one of which bears in the interior the English touch of Henry Joseph, 1743. Only one of his inhalers has the flexible tube attached. These distinguishing parts have usually been lost and, as pewterers used the moulds they had on hand, the resemblance to covered tankards results. These inhalers were also made by American pewterers for there is one intact specimen by Palethorpe of Philadelphia in the Garvan collection at Yale.[2] In Miss Engelfield's booklet on pewter[4] is pictured a Muges inhaler of the type we have been discussing. She states that these are still in use in English hospitals. The modern doctor usually tells the patient to keep a steam kettle going by the bed or to put benzoin in a saucepan of hot water, a towel over the head and to inhale the fumes. The first method is not as effective as the old pewter inhaler, and the latter results in a ruined saucepan and a loss of the marcel wave. Today when inhalations are used so much for laryngitis and bronchitis it would be advantageous to have more articles of this type made of pyrex glass or metal which could be used on an electric stove.

Pewter handled-bowls made in the late 18th and 19th century bear circular gradations on the inside of the bowl and were doubtless used as bleeding vessels. Dr. Drake feels there is no evidence that porringers were used for anything but gruel or porridge. One illustration shows four of these handled bowls, three English and one French. The first was presented to the author by a Birmingham pediatrician and had been in use as a urine collector in the laboratory of his hospital for an unknown number of years. The French specimen is stamped on the handle "H. St. A." which might signify Hospital Saint A—.

The next illustration is that of an 18th century German barber-surgeon's basin, having a cut out space which could be placed beneath the chin for shaving or against the arm for bleeding. In Dr. Drake's collection of English Delft pottery is a similarly shaped specimen decorated not only with razor, brush and scissors but also with a bleeding lancet and crossed bones.

Another illustration shows four spoons three of which are horse-hoofed knopped spoons used for medicine. The first is a rare 17th century pewter spoon knopped with the hoof of a horse showing a well-developed shoe. The next two are latten (brass) horse-hoof knopped spoons circa 1500. The last is a modern fake obtained at the Caledonian Market. He states that old base metal are rarer than silver English spoons, in fact are almost unobtainable, and great care must be taken in their selection. The three 19th century covered

4. Engelfield, E., "A Treatise on Pewter," The Priory Press, 48 St. John's Square, London. January, 1935.

spoons for castor oil or other medicine illustrated are of one to six dram capacity. They were filled through a trap door in the bowl which was then closed. The tip was placed in the patient's mouth, the flow being controlled by the finger placed over the hollow handle. If the contents were not taken as rapidly as desired, one could blow down the handle. It seems too bad that these spoons have gone out of fashion in the treatment of children, animals, or refractory adults.

Next to the inhaler the syringe was the most specialized medical article made in pewter. These were made in many sizes, the large ones of thirty-two ounce capacity for giving enemata and douches, the small ones for throat, nose or ear irrigations. One is shown of one-half ounce capacity, 17th century, excavated in the City of London.

As far as my information goes, very few of these medical articles have been made by American pewterers. The one inhaler, the two nursing bottles, commodes and bed pans are the only ones bearing American touch marks. If any member of the Club knows of a bleeding bowl or syringe with an American touch mark, would he kindly communicate the fact to me?

PEWTER COLLECTING IN 1903

By EDNA T. FRANKLIN

"Pewter and Its Marks," by Virginia Robie, in House Beautiful for September, 1903, presents pewter collecting on an entirely different plane from what it has been during the life of The Pewter Club. Its author, whose "The Quest of The Quaint" was published in 1916, was early in the field of pewter study and collection. It is evident from what she says that in 1903 practically nothing was known about American pewter and very little about English. Her authority for English metal was Ingleby Wood. He had written articles for The Connoisseur about English, Scotch and Continental touches, but other than his efforts, not much attention had been paid to pewter. Massé's first book did not come out until 1904, Gale's "Pewter and The American Collector" appeared in 1909. However, Welch's "History of the Worshipful Company" had been published in 1902, and from that source she had gleaned knowledge of the early beginnings of the Company. Touches were something mysterious to Miss Robie; she is clear only when quoting from Ingleby Wood. "Many lovers of pewter care little about marks," she writes. "Others wish to bring the same microscopic study to their old pewter that collectors of silver do to their Queen Anne teapots and George III punch bowls . . . The usual pewter pieces picked up in New England (she lived in Maine) are not marked. Presumably they are of American origin. In this country there were no guilds to impose a rigid system of marking. Colonial pewterers stamped their wares as they pleased, if they stamped them at all. Occasionally old plates and basins are found having an imprint of an eagle; others bear a crude flag. These were, perhaps, made for special occasions or had some significance which cannot now be detected."

Fakes abounded even in those early pewter collecting times, as per this: "For a long time pewter lovers were happy in the delusion that their favorite metal could not be reproduced in the old forms . . . It is painful to chronicle, but unfortunately true, that there is a great deal of sham pewter for sale. And new

pewter is much more difficult to detect than new copper or brass . . . But new pewter is made like the old, and is so clever a representation that it has justly aroused the wrath of collectors . . . There is one consolation to the enthusiast, that is, that old pewter has never been sufficiently popular to make the new pewter industry very lucrative. As a well known collector once said, 'Pewter is caviar to the general'." General public probably having been meant. Miss Robie says all collectors must learn by mistakes. Porringers are particularly mentioned as something to be examined carefully before a purchase. Probably there were as many faked ones around Boston in 1903 as in 1923. Many collectors of twenty years' experience have them.

My first collection of old pewter must have been known to me about the time of this article. It belonged to friends of ours and when visiting there I always gazed with joy and envy at the shelves of pewter lining the breakfast-room walls. I can never forget its general appearance, but no objects stand out except a communion service and the rows of suspended porringers. Once my mother and I purchased a porringer in a shabby shop and presented it as an addition to the collection. Did we buy a fake? It was in Pennsylvania, not Boston, but who knows?

The illustrations accompanying this pewter article show as clearly as the text the dearth of information. "An English Collection of Pewter" (not collection of English pewter) presents items from 1750 to 1825, although she states that "Charles I drank a toast from one of the cups." "Church Pewter—Stonehaven, Scotland" has two tall beakers flanking a skirted flagon. These two tall beakers, like every other tall beaker make me think enviously of Dr. Brown's Edward Danforth beaker. "An American Collection of Pewter" is correctly labelled, except that it seems to me there are one or two items, including a square handled mug and two fancy edged dishes or trays that do not appear to be American. Professor Raymond should comment on the picture "Three Tappit Hens" and he already has had this to say of her conclusion: "Her tail-piece 'Farm-House Types' includes a double bullseye lamp and a Richardson sugar bowl! The farmer must have been a bit of a cosmopolitan, for there is a German foot-warmer, and a French pump lamp, as well as a curious bulbous object with a long cylindrical neck, a sort of vessel I have never seen elsewhere." The item that seems best to me in this illustration is a bulbous domed lidded teapot, the kind ascribed to William Will. If Miss Robie were to re-write this article we would all enjoy the comparison of 1903 with 1944.

It might be mentioned that in this same number of the House Beautiful there is an illustrated article by Ralph Burnham on the Whipple House in Ipswich, where we once visited.

A PRINCELY GIFT

The October, 1944, number of the Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art announces a splendid gift from our fellow-member, Mr. Joseph France, of Baltimore. Mr. Marshall B. Davidson, Associate Curator of the American Wing, describes part of the collection in a beautifully illustrated article. Mr. France, with most remarkable generosity, allowed the Museum to choose what it wanted, and they showed great restraint in taking only forty-five pieces.

But what pieces! If I had a fifteen-inch all-over hammered, double-

reeded Simon Edgell charger, do you think anyone could get it from me while I was able to wield a candlestick? Who wants to donate mates to his Johann Christoper Heyne and Timothy Brigden chalices? Where will he get another Parks Boyd barrel mug?

In theory, we all agree that such specimens should be placed where they can be seen and studied by the many, rather than by the few. But we collectors, most of us, have an overdeveloped bump of pride of possession. We have hunted, and waited, and schemed, and robbed the baby's bank to get our rare pieces. It takes courage to let a Curator come in and take his pick.

Mr. France has set a noble example. He deserves the thanks not only of the Metropolitan, and of our Club, but of pewter lovers everywhere.

Let us hope that before pewter is all gone, and while this example is still fresh in our minds, that the Boston Museum of Fine Arts will wake up to an interest in the artistic value of our humble metal.

P. E. R.

THE DATING OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN TANKARDS

By Percy E. Raymond

De Navarro, Cotterell, and others, have pointed out the orderly sequence of styles in the evolution of the English pewter tankard. An English specimen can be dated within a period of about twenty-five years, whether or not it bears a touch. Kerfoot, Meyers, and Laughlin have shown that, in general, English styles appeared in America some twenty-five to fifty years later than in the home country, and that some old styles lasted much longer here than in England. There is, however, no orderly sequence, for some American tankards show combinations of characteristics fashionable at various periods in England. Some of the early American workers brought or imported their moulds from the parent land, and continued to use them after they were really out of style. Others seemed to have bought or inherited old moulds. Probably most of these were incomplete, so it happened that drums, handles, thumbpieces, and lids of various sets came to be combined. A striking example is the German handle on the Henry Will flagon in the Garvan collection.

The American pewterer showed little or no originality in the making of tankards. Whether this was due to inertia, or to the difficulty of getting new moulds made, one cannot say. Only two features, the finial on the lid, and the barrel-shaped finial on the handle, seem to be American. These occur on few tankards, and there is some doubt if either is strictly endemic.

I am a paleontologist by profession, so a large part of my job for the past forty-five years has been the identification of various fossils, and the description of such as were previously unknown. To "run down" these species, I have prepared innumerable tables, in which I have listed the characteristics of the specimens before me, and of the various related forms.

It therefore happened, that when I had occasion to talk on tankards to the Pewter Club, I made one of my usual tables. Some of those present at this meeting were good enough to say that such a table might be useful to others in the identification of their specimens, so I am venturing to print it. It is based almost entirely on the published works of H. H. Cotterell and Ledlie I. Laugh-

lin. It should be remembered that I have very few tankards myself, and that I am not a special student of this group. The table is subject to revision, and no one will be more pleased than I, for corrections and additions.

Perhaps one or two notations as to the terminology employed are necessary. The English mention the Stuart tankards as "flat-topped." This is not literally true. The lid is better compared with a low-crowned straw hat. I have therefore called them "flat crowned," as distinguished from the lids of the contemporary measures, which are really flat. There is a definite transition, from 1640 to the beginning of the eighteenth century, from a straight-sided crown, to a curved-sided crown, which culminated in the low double-dome, which appeared, rarely, as early as 1690. Overlaps in styles are inevitable, for pewterers did not discard their expensive gun-metal moulds until changing fashion made it obligatory. Then they sold them, if possible, to colonial pewterers.

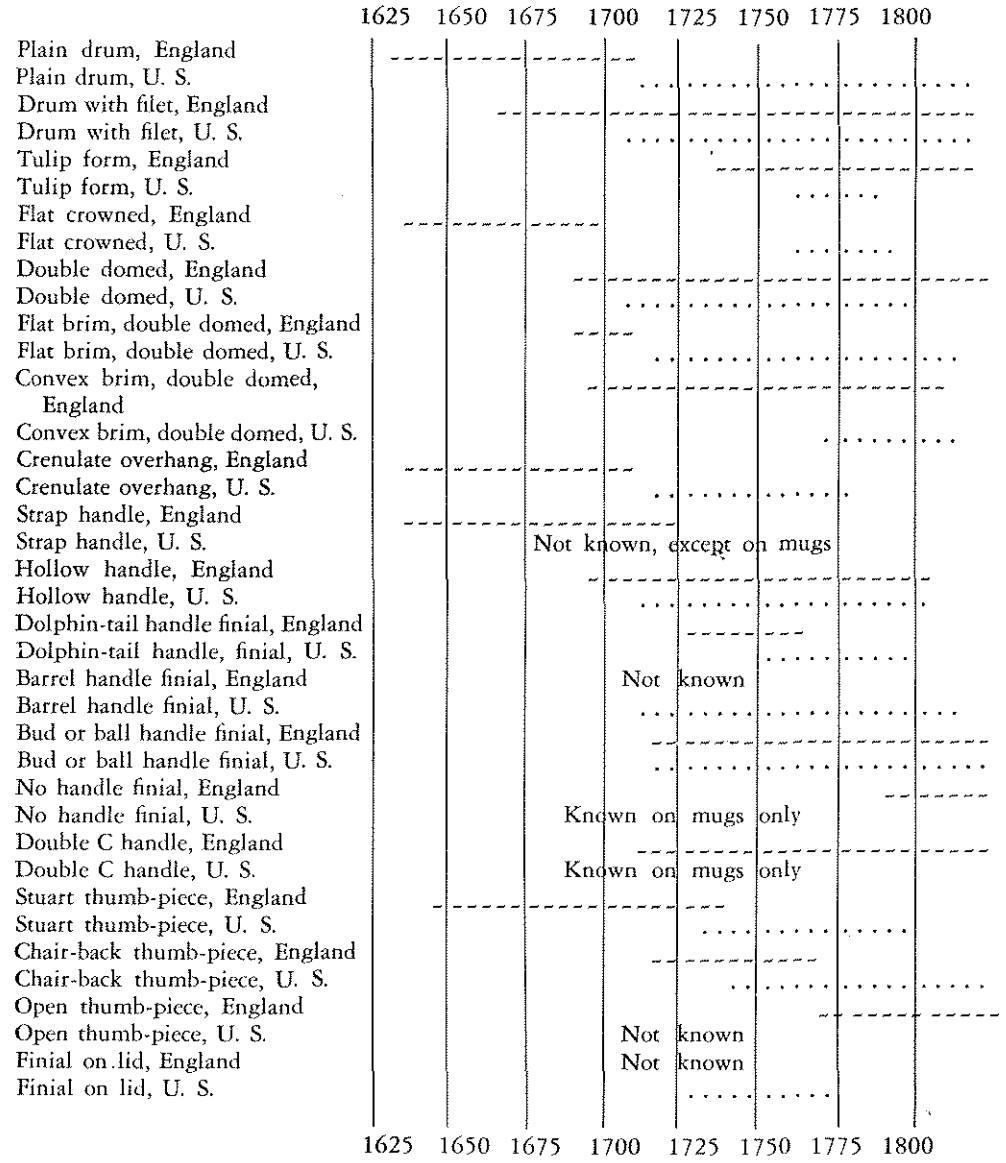
The "over-hang" or "serrated over-hang," on the front of the lids of 17th century tankards has mystified many writers on silver and pewter. I think the artistic de Navarro summed up the current opinion when he said that it served to balance the handle behind. It does, and may have been retained and elaborated for that purpose. But in many cases the crenulated overhang is an awkward mess, produced by someone who knew it should be there, but knew not why. In the earliest pewter tankards, before 1650, the overhang was a single projection. In later ones, 1660 to 1710, it became more elaborate, but in all cases with lateral notches on either side of a median projection. I worried about this overhang for years. My paleontological studies had shown me that such characteristics were originally functional, not merely decorative or "artistic."

I got the solution one day when Curator Malcolm Watkins showed me the wood-ware in the Wells Museum at Southbridge. Early wooden flagons and tankards have no thumb-pieces, but do have a single projection in the front of the lid, whereby it may be raised. All is simple. As is well known, the metal tankard is the derivative of the diminutive wooden tankard which succeeded the large wooden tankards in which water was carried from the storage tanks or the rivers to the citizens of medieval cities. The overhang is, therefore, what zoologists call a vestigial structure. Like various organs of the human being, it persisted long after it had lost its original use. Fortunately it disappeared before surgeons had to resort to appendectomy.

The term finial really has one meaning. It is the end-piece of any structural part. In the case of tankards the name is used either for an upright projection from the lid, or for the ornament at the lower end of the handle. The saddest blow that happened to tankards and mugs was the disappearance of the finial. When the lower end of the handle was spread out and soldered flat against the drum, these pieces passed out of the realm of the collectible.

Mr. Ledlie I. Laughlin, who was good enough to read the manuscript of this article, suggests that I clarify my use of the term "open thumb-piece." I refer to the rather fragile late type shown by Cotterell on plate 73 of his great book. William Will and Parks Boyd made thumb-pieces with large openings, but they are structurally quite unlike the English examples—I should prefer to call them "pierced thumb-pieces."

Many English flagons have finials on the lids, so it will not be surprising to find English tankards with them.


1625
1650
1675
1700
1725
1750
1775
1800
Plain drum, England
Plain drum, U. S.
Drum with filet, England
Drum with filet, U. S.
Tulip form, England
Tulip form, U. S.
Flat crowned, England
Flat crowned, U. S.
Double domed, England
Double domed, U. S.
Flat brim, double domed, England
Flat brim, double domed, U. S.
Convex brim, double domed, England
Convex brim, double domed, U. S.
Crenulate overhang, England
Crenulate overhang, U. S.
Strap handle, England
Strap handle, U. S.
Not known, except on mugs
Hollow handle, England
Hollow handle, U. S.
Dolphin-tail handle finial, England
Dolphin-tail handle, finial, U. S.
Barrel handle finial, England
Not known
Barrel handle finial, U. S.
Bud or ball handle finial, England
Bud or ball handle finial, U. S.
No handle finial, England
No handle finial, U. S.
Known on mugs only
Double C handle, England
Double C handle, U. S.
Known on mugs only
Stuart thumb-piece, England
Stuart thumb-piece, U. S.
Chair-back thumb-piece, England
Chair-back thumb-piece, U. S.
Open thumb-piece, England
Open thumb-piece, U. S.
Not known
Finial on lid, England
Not known
Finial on lid, U. S.
1625
1650
1675
1700
1725
1750
1775
1800

ANOTHER PEWTERLESS PEWTERER

By Lura Woodside Watkins

In connection with my searches for early potters and potteries, I have run across the following mention of pewterers. They occur in Muster Rolls of New York Provincial Troops, 1755-1764, in volume XXIV of the New York Historical Society Publications.

Edward Bennett, ae. 26, born Ireland, pewterer—Enlisted June 8, 1760, in company raised by Province of N. Y., Capt. Francis Thodey.

James Bland, ae. 29, born old England, pewterer, height 5′ 8″. Enlisted April 4, 1761, in Westchester Co. Company, Capt. William Gilchrist.

James Blaun, born Ireland, pewterer. Enlisted March 16, 1759, in Westchester Co. Company, Capt. Joshua Bloomer. From Capt. Theall's militia company.

Andrew Henry, ae. 25, born old England, pewterer, height 5′ 6″. Enlisted May 1, 1761, in Orange Co. company, Capt. Lent.

Robert Merryfield, ae. 44, born England, pewterer, height 5′ 8″, fair. Enlisted April 30, 1760. In New York company, Capt. Nathaniel Hubbell.

Mr. Ledlie I. Laughlin mentions all of these men in his "Pewter in America," (vol. II, p. 19) except Edward Bennett. He opines that Bland and Blaun were one and the same, but the above record does not suggest this. He obtained his material from the same source, and was unable to learn anything more about them. It seems probable that no one of them was in business for himself. It may be a comment on the wages paid to journeymen pewterers in those days that they were willing to take the "King's shilling"

The Bennetts were a pewtering family in England. Cotterell lists sixteen of them, from 1542 to 1807. One Edward Bennett died at Bandon, England, in 1773, possibly our young man, returned from the wars. The same authority lists four Blands, from 1703 to 1732, but no James. There was a Robert Meriefield of London who became a yeoman June 21, 1705.

By Percy E. Raymond

THE RICHARDS-THAYER DECORATED PORRINGER

Annie R. (Mrs. Arthur W.) Thayer has written a letter to me in which she gives some information which is decidedly interesting. I quote it with her permission. She is quoting from a paper in her possession.

"Pewter Porringer imported from England by Samuel Richards previous to 1800. Probably 1785. His store was No. 7 Ann Street, Boston, and he lived at 56 Marlboro Street.

"Mr. Richards retired from business, and removed to Dedham, March 29, 1803.

"On the top of the porringer it says—'God Save P. George and Queen Anne'; on the bottom (inside) it says, 'To Europe Peace I give, Let Nations Happy Live.'

"This inscription was verified by Mr. George Sheldon, the Antiquary of Deerfield, and he remarked that the porringer must have been made in 1702 when P. George and Queen Anne came to the throne, as it was an especially warlike reign.

"The touch-mark on the under side of the handle is A. W. under a crown.

"The Richards porringer was exhibited as an Antique at the Centennial at Philadelphia 1893 (1876?)."

Mrs. Thayer adds:—

"My Great Grandfather was a Hardware Merchant, but all I have left of his business is nice glass and Sheffield.

"Now for a pewter story. When a child we had eight of those pewter basins. I well remember (as we then had cows) their being filled with heavy cream—a fine sight. In moving I only kept one. Sam'l Richards told my grandmother (his daughter-in-law) that in old times (before his time) that a Man and Wife were expected to eat out of the same dish. If they did not, 'It made a Monstrous Talk'."

This reminds me of the mediaeval French verse:

"Trestot delez li, coste a coste,

Lo fet seoir la damoisele

Et mengier à une escuelle."

Evidently the habit of a man and woman eating from the same porringer was established as early as the 14th century.

Just think of having eight such basins! Or even the golden cream!

It has occurred to me that if Samuel Richards imported these commemorative porringers, it may have been he who brought in the Herrick example. It is, however, extraordinary that he should have gotten them so long after they were made.

Riff published three photographs of the Richards-Thayer porringer. Mr. Cotterell was unable to identify the touch, A.W., but considered it to have been made about 1703 or 1704.

CHESTER M. PRATT

Our friend and fellow-member, Chester Mayo Pratt, passed away October 8, 1944. Our meeting at the Pratt's home, the second oldest house in Dedham, during the Dedham Tercentenary in 1936, is very pleasantly remembered. Mr. Pratt's passing is regretted as the loss of a good friend, a real American. He was genial and congenial, liked good food and enjoyed friendly associations as only those gifted with keen sense of humor and keen perceptions can enjoy company. That he was an American of the true tradition is shown by his membership: The New England Genealogical and Historical Society, The Dedham Historical Society, and The Society in Dedham for the Apprehension of Horse Thieves, a unique organization in the country. He was of the Pratts of Middleboro, a Mayflower descendent in the Hopkins line, and also of the Rev. John Mayo, one of the first colonial ministers. He served his day and generation in the many ways that a true American does, and often referred to his span of life as the "Golden Age" of confidence and trust; often said that he

was glad to have lived in the era that was his. He was one of the foremost trial lawyers in Boston, and a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar in Washington.

Mrs. Pratt and her family can be assured of the sympathy of all members of the Pewter Club. We deeply regret our loss.

EDNA T. FRANKLIN.

GEORGE CHRISTIAN GEBELEIN

Although his shop remains open, many of us of the older generation feel that a good old Boston institution has gone with the passing of George Gebelein. A famous silversmith of the old school, well trained in the old days when training was long, hard, rigorous, he knew silver, and he knew other metals. Many collectors of pewter went to him with their hopes, fears, and troubles, and got sound advice. He was always friendly, always willing to help. Only a few weeks ago, the writer went to him with a question, and he spent a half hour in running down the records of a piece which he had sold years ago, and which I wanted to trace. He was most helpful at the time of the Harvard Tercentenary Exhibition, although it was his son, G. Herbert, Harvard '26, whose name was on the Committee. Although never a member of the Pewter Club, he was interested in it. Many of the members knew him, and regret his untimely death on December 26, 1944, at the age of 66.

P. E. R.

COVERS AND BACK NUMBERS

The Club at last has a new supply of paper covers for the Bulletin. Anyone who has never had one is entitled to one free. Those who desire extras might send a dime, to partly cover expenses.

The Governing Board has voted to sell back numbers of the Bulletin at twenty-five cents a copy. No. 1 is entirely out of print. There remain a few copies of Nos. 2, 3, and 5. The supply of No. 4, on spoons, is somewhat larger. All issues in the new format, Nos. 6 to 14, are available. Each member will receive a free copy of No. 15, the Bibliography, but extra copies, by vote of the Club, will be $1.00 each. It will appear within a few weeks.

For covers or copies of the Bulletin, address the Corresponding Secretary. Three and one cent stamps accepted for sums less than $1.00.

NURSERY TALE

(With apologies to the author of the original rhyme)

Mary had a pewter lamp,
She filled it with camphine.
She tried to light her pewter lamp,
And hasn't since benzine.