

The  
PEWTER COLLECTORS CLUB  
of AMERICA

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BULLETIN No. 60

AUGUST 1969

Vol. 6, No. 1

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OLD STATE HOUSE, BOSTON c.1748. THE PEWTER COLLECTORS CLUB OF AMERICA WAS ORGANIZED HERE IN 1934.

## President's Letter

The 35th Annual Meeting of The Pewter Collector's Club of America was held in New Haven, Connecticut on Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24, 1969.

Festivities opened with registration of members and guests, and a Dutch Treat cocktail party, at the New Haven Lawn Club. Approximately 95 individuals attended.

Following a most delicious roast beef dinner, Mr. Richard Hegel, Director of the New Haven Colony Historical Society welcomed members with a most interesting talk, which included the information—news to many of us—that there actually was a New Haven Colony in the pre-Revolutionary period, a colony of equal importance with other better known population centers of that time in New England.

We were later entertained by a most wonderful talk, accompanied by the showing of many colored slides, on "Connecticut Pewter" by Mr. Charles F. Montgomery, Senior Research Fellow of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum. Members who have never heard Mr. Montgomery talk cannot realize how interesting he can be. His knowledge, choice of words, and the emphasis he puts on them, are most impressive, and the way he puts his points across is outstanding.

Mr. Montgomery was more than kind to present his talk to us. To do so he had to interrupt a very tight schedule involving final preparations for a new book on pewter at Winterthur to meet a printer's deadline before he departed for summer work in Europe. The loud applause he received at the conclusion of his talk should have convinced him that his efforts to be with and speak to us were very, very much appreciated. It was a most memorable occasion.

On Saturday morning we gathered at the New Haven Colony Historical Society to view an excellent exhibition of Connecticut pewter, consisting of pieces owned by or loaned to the Society for the occasion. The exhibition, incidentally, encompassed more than just our meeting, as it was on view from the first part of May to the middle of June.

In addition to the above-mentioned Connecticut pewter, which was mostly enclosed within glass cases, there was considerably more pewter, not of Con-

necticut origin, displayed on open tables where members were free to handle and closely examine it.

The annual meeting and election of officers for the ensuing two years followed, of which more later.

We then moved to the Rotisserie Normande Restaurant of the Midtown Motor Inn where those so inclined refreshed themselves liquidly, after which all partook in a most delightful French luncheon of mouthwatering delicacies. This brought activities to a conclusion, although some members stayed on to view other art galleries and museums.

For all of this wonderful meeting we are particularly indebted to our member, Mr. F. Farny Eilers, Jr., who made just about all the arrangements from start to finish. Nothing was overlooked. Farny is to be congratulated for his fine efforts. I am sure everyone in attendance was most appreciative.

At the annual meeting and election, the Secretary's Report was waived because our faithful Secretary, Mr. Stanley P. Paddock, remained at home to attend his wife who had entered the hospital for surgery earlier in the week. I am happy to report she made a remarkable recovery and we wish her many pleasant years to come.

The report of Treasurer John P. Remensnyder was read and approved — a report which revealed our assets had increased slightly over a year ago. Mr. Remensnyder reported for the Membership Committee, in the absence of Chairman Eric de Jonge, and told us our membership now stands at a total of 442. Of this total, some 21 unpaid members may now be among the missing if their dues were not received by June 1st. 51 new members were taken in during the year, an indication that our Club is flourishing and interest in pewter collecting is growing, despite the scarcity of available pieces in the market places.

The President then read the names of 18 members (listed elsewhere in this BULLETIN) entitled to special badges for five consecutive years of membership. Three were on hand to receive their badges in person. The balance has been or will be conveyed to the missing members via mail.

It was announced that an exhibition of pewter will be displayed by The Pewter Society (of Great Britain) at the Reading Museum and Art Gallery in Reading, England from September 20 to



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JULY 1969

VOLUME 6

No. 1

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October 31, 1969 to celebrate the Society's 50th Anniversary. Pewter on display will cover the entire period from Romano-British times to the present day. The possibility was discussed of chartering a special plane to transport a group of P.C.C.A. members to England in time to attend the opening ceremonies, to attend the meeting of The Pewter Society that evening in a closed section of the Museum, to later visit Pewterers Hall in London to view the collection of pewterware in the possession of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers, and to perhaps combine this later visit with attendance at a meeting of the Court of The Worshipful Company on Thursday, September 25. The special trip might be stretched over a period of 10 days or two weeks to enable members to visit and view other interesting and notable places in the British Isles. Sentiment for such a trip seemed favorable, although the number present indicating a desire to make the trip was insufficient for plane chartering purposes. If the entire Club membership is canvassed, the probability such a trip can be arranged seems quite good. It is hoped that the new club officers will engage the services of an airline or travel bureau for this purpose.

The next order of business was to vote on a motion to amend Article IV and Article VIII of the P.C.C.A. Constitution to create a new Advisory Committee (consisting of all living past Presidents), said Committee to become a part of the Board of Governors, with power to vote and act on matters coming before the Board. The motion was moved, seconded and unanimously passed by all members voting in person or by proxy. Names of past Presidents making up the new Advisory Committee are listed under the "masthead" of this *Bulletin*. It is of interest to note that a total of 256 proxies were returned, and, with those voting in person at the meeting, that at least 75% or more of the entire Club membership participated in and approved of the constitutional amendment — proof that our members are most interested in the makeup and operation of the Club.

The Nominating Committee's Report was then read by Dr. S. Harris Johnson, III for the Committee Chairman, Mr. Charles V. Swain, who unfortunately was absent due to a Hong Kong Flu kick-back. Those nominated were duly and unanimously elected. Their names may be found at the top of the masthead of this

*Bulletin.*

The retiring President then turned over the two Club gavels to the new President, Mr. F. Farny Eilers, Jr., who consented to, and did, make a few comments and remarks on his hopes for the future of the Club. I am sure Mr. Eilers will continue to maintain the Club operations and festivities on the same high level as in the past ten years or so, and it would not surprise me if he raised that level somewhat.

Before and after the business meeting we had an opportunity to view some remarkable reproductions of plates by late 18th and early 19th century pewterers. They were so exceptionally well reproduced they would, under proper circumstances, fool the experts some of the time and average collectors most of the time. These reproductions that looked so much like the real thing gave chills to many of us. Considerable discussion on reproductions, copies of marks, and out-and-out fakes followed. It is such a serious matter today it is hoped current preliminary plans will be carried out so that pieces, markers and marks being reproduced or faked can be exposed through the pages of this (or some future) issue of the *Bulletin*. It is also hoped the *Bulletin* can further warn members by listing areas where such wrongful products are being made and sold.

During my term in office much thought has been given to the possibility of acquiring through purchase, lease or otherwise a permanent Club headquarters. With such the Club can become a charitable or non-profit organization, and gifts to it can be made on a tax deductible basis. If headquarters can be established, we would have a location where we could occasionally meet; where we could permanently display a pewter collection of our own (if we had one); where we could also display on occasion pewter of our members specially selected as to maker, location of manufacture, type of piece, or other grouping; where we could gather together in one place all our Club property for safe and permanent keeping; where we could have our Club library available for future research by members and others; and where we could store and sell all back issues of the *Bulletin*. Other possibilities undoubtedly exist. If any of you have any ideas on the subject, it is hoped you will promptly pass them along to the Board of Governors.

As my last official act as president

came during the New Haven meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of those officers and members who devoted time and effort to making my duties as president so pleasant and easy. I enjoyed every minute of it and only hope my endeavors were accepted in the spirit in which they were made, and that they proved worthy of the trust P.C.C.A. members placed in me in the election of 1967.

I am especially indebted to Jack Remensnyder and Stan Paddock, two veterans of the Club who continue to help maintain our operations on an even keel; to Tom and Connie Williams for their continued support and work on the Program Committee; to Bud Swain for maintaining and improving the caliber of the Club *Bulletin* and for his generosity and kindness (including a lot of hard work) in permitting us to meet at his home a year ago; to Farny Eilers for setting up such a wonderful meeting at New Haven (it was the only one of the four meetings during my tenure of office that I did not have a finger squarely in the middle of the pie); to the other members of the Board of Governors and Committee personnel who faithfully performed the duties and details assigned to them; and to all those other Club members who, behind the scenes or otherwise, performed small and large tasks which made our meetings run so smoothly. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with such wonderful people.

This report would not be complete without extending my best wishes for success to those who will or may follow in my footsteps. As past officials have graciously assisted me when help was so dearly needed, I hereby offer my services to future presidents and officials in any way I am possibly able.

And last but not least, a word of thanks to a faithful wife who has withstood all my trials and tribulations in arranging or running Club meetings, and who would go, and has gone through hell or high water to help me search for or purchase a piece of pewter. These things could not have been accomplished without her.

William O. Blaney





## Who Was H. I.?

By Agnes Hayes Post

According to Mr. Laughlin, Vol. 11 plate LXX, 594, "This is probably the commonest of the unidentified makers—An able maker who may or may not have been American".

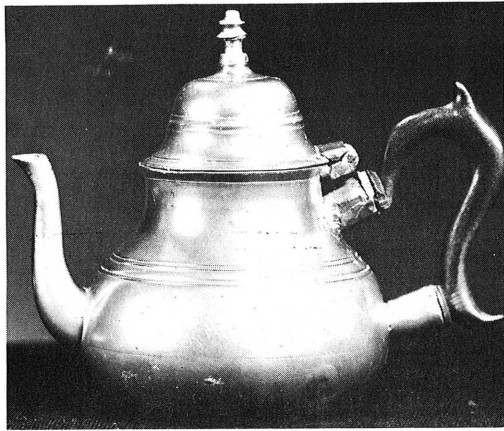


FIG. 1. Pewter teapot by H. I. Collection of Agnes Hayes Post.

An English teapot which I have acquired had this mark in the center of the English mark of Burford & Green, London, 1746-1750. Cotterell 698 which might perhaps indicate that it is an English mark. However might it have been the mark of an American merchant who stamped the articles he imported for sale with this mark?

I would be interested in knowing if any of the Bulletin readers have found a similar mark on English pieces.

*Editors note: I have a teapot by Richard King, London c.1754, with HI superimposed upon the King touch. The teapot is illustrated in Bulletin #53, page 82.*

## English Books Available

There are four copies of *A Short History of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers of London and a Catalogue of Pewterware in Its Possession* available and they will be sold on a first come first served basis on orders received with a \$6.00 check payable to "P.C.C.A." Send your check to Mr. William O. Blaney, 15 Rockridge Road, Wellesley Hills, Mass. 02181.

This book was reviewed in Bulletin No. 59 and is an excellent addition to any collectors library.

## Recollections of the First P.C.C.A. Meeting

By Elisabeth M. Perkins

*"All collectors who may be interested in the organizing of a pewter collector's club are invited to attend a very brief and informal meeting which will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, at the Old State House, head of State Street, Boston."*

So began a boxed notice in the Boston Evening Transcript issue of March 17, 1934. The following issue, March 24, 1934, carrying the "Antiques" page reported approximately thirty persons appeared "in one of the chambers on the second floor." Mr. William Germain Dooley offered his knowledge of the experience of other collector's clubs. Following his suggestions, a governing committee was chosen and the meeting of April 4, also in the Old State House, would be considered the first formal meeting of the club.

From yellowed clippings reporting the infant clubs being born in the spring of 1934, the Rushlight Club, Glass Club, Wedgewood Club, and Clock Club had all been launched before the Pewter Club. However, the first member-speaker at the Pewter Club concerned himself with lighting devices. Possibly symbolic of future illuminations?

At this point I submit a personal recollection of that March (21) afternoon. I had just come from the shop of Merton Wheelock with a pewter plate—by the English maker, Samuel Ellis—and a naive pleasure in my acquisition. Toward the back of the small room sat an elderly gentleman. I found an empty chair beside him and proudly displayed my plate. I still remember Mr. W. H. Chubbuck's kind interest and I have often thought that one of the constant traits of the real scholars and collectors was their sympathy toward neophytes.

At the front of the room, clustered around Mr. Dooley, and obviously knowledgeable, were Dr. Madelaine Browne, Dr. and Mrs. Edward A. Rushford, Dr. Percy E. Raymond (holding a chalice), and the Paul J. Franklins. The meeting was informal and brief. The later tendency to spirited argument on attributions and TO CLEAN OR NOT TO CLEAN did not emerge that day.

In June (1934) the formality of the first Constitution was adopted and Mrs. C. W. MacDonough, another of the at-

tendants at the March beginning, talked on Chinese pewter. In two months the club horizons had widened across continents!

We had learned (in May) that Professor Ledlie I. Laughlin would be our Chairman of Listings, meaning information on names, touch marks, hall marks, and description of pieces owned by members. And the same clipping from the Transcript (5/26/34) told us that "Roswell Gleason was an early Dorchester pewterer and Britannia metal worker who also made excellent silverware."

None of the "approximately thirty pewter collectors" who gathered on March 21, 1934 in the Old State House, could have anticipated that thirty-five years later we would see Roswell Gleason items on Television. Many meetings, exhibitions, books, auctions, and Club Bulletins retired a novice's enthusiasm for Samuel Ellis, and led to a rewarding acquaintance with many makers of the good gray metal.

At its first Annual Meeting, January 30, 1935 the Club learned that there were 39 paid members and \$46.52 in the treasury. At that meeting our "most distant member," Mr. John H. Bolton of Seattle, sent a cordial telegram. Part of it read "Any organization allying itself with a subject so characteristic of the sturdy beginnings of our country is certain to grow in usefulness." Prophetic words!

(Editor's Note: Mrs. Perkins is now an Honorary Member of the P.C.C.A. in recognition of her many years of service to the Club, having held the elective offices of President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Clerk over the period from 1937 through 1956. In a letter accompanying the above article, Mrs. Perkins made the following comments which should be seriously pondered by all Club members:

"I wish I could be at the 35th anniversary meeting. But as you know, I shall be away. However, I can't help hoping that some young person, a beginning collector, will receive the attention of a serious student, as I did, at the first meeting, and the kindled spark will mature into a steady light.

Over the years so much gratitude was owed to the early collectors for their enthusiasm and generosity that I hope a new generation of experts is among us. And that the Club records

and papers of bygone days will have safe haven and possible use for future students of the humble metal.")

## William Ellsworth, Francis Bassett II — Kindred Spirits?

By John J. D. Feyko

Louis G. Myers, in his book, *Some Notes on American Pewterers*, reports on page 40 that William Ellsworth, during 1790, in addition to being Assistant Alderman of West Ward in New York City, was superintendent of Fire Engines and Treasurer of the General Committee of Mechanics. Mr. Myers also reports that he could not find Ellsworth listed in the New York directories for 1786.

Recently, in delving into the activities of Ellsworth as Superintendent of Fire Engines, I discovered that he was a Foreman of the West Ward fire engine in 1775 and . . .

When the New York Fire Department was reorganized in 1786, the membership was increased to 300 men and placed under the command of five engineers: WILLIAM ELLSWORTH, Isaac Mead, John Stagg, FRANCIS BASSETT and John Quackenboss.

A little research into the history of the New York Volunteer fire companies will cause you to realize that the above named "engineers" could be nothing less than well-known to each other, and, perhaps when the firemanic jealousies among them were at a low ebb, even boon companions.

When we consider the time consuming responsibilities of "foreman", "engineer" and then "superintendent" of fire engines in the early days of the New York fire department, plus, the duties of his political and trades committee offices, it is little wonder that Ellsworth's very fine pewter is met with so infrequently and there is no record of him marrying and leaving heirs.

Perhaps, too, FRANCIS BASSETT II was equally concerned with his firemanic chores, so concerned, that he had little time to fashion touch marks of his own and those of Francis I. Surely an examination of the pewter of either Bassett would lead the examiner to come to the conclusion that both men used the same touches.

## New York Regional Group 1968 Fall Meeting

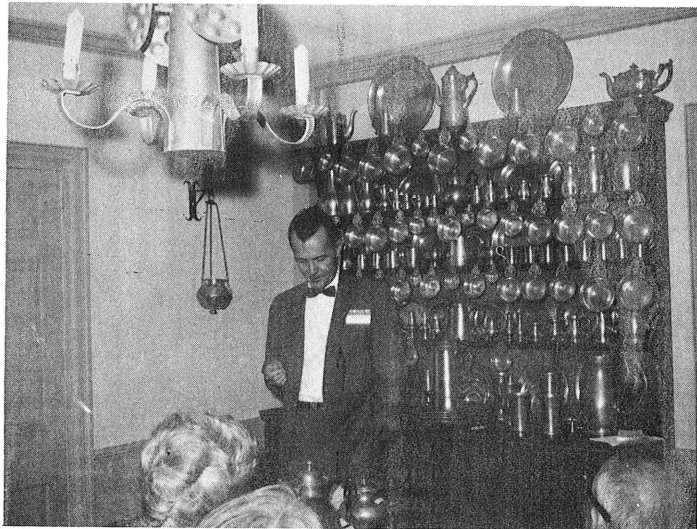


FIG. 1. Mr. Wendell Hilt and the pewter collection of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Atwood.



FIG. 2. New York pewter group at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Atwood.

The Fall meeting of the New York Regional Group was held at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Lester Atwood, Roxbury, Conn. on October 5, 1968. This was without a doubt, one of the most successful meetings the N.Y. Group has held, with over 70 members and guests in attendance.

The Atwood's early colonial home, exquisitely and authentically furnished,

made a perfect setting for our Pewter meeting and all attendees were enthralled. On behalf of the members and friends, we extended a most sincere "Thank you" to the Atwoods for so graciously opening their home to us.

The Atwood's extensive collection of Pewter was much admired and keenly examined by the members.

Cocktails were served in the garden

followed by a delicious home-prepared buffet lunch.

The Group was then called to order by the chairman, Rev. Clare Ingham and a short business meeting was held with the reports of the secretary and treasurer being recorded and accepted.

Rev. Ingham introduced Mr. Wendell Hilt who gave a very interesting and enlightening lecture on "Britannia Metal".

Wendell and other members had brought examples of Britannia from their collections and these were discussed. Wendell pointed out that the line of demarcation between Pewter & Britannia metal is very thin; good grades of Pewter, block tin and Britannia are all practically the same—the name is NEW but the metal is not. Other points that Wendell exposed as being fallacious were: that Britannia is too late to collect, too numerous to collect, too ugly, it indicated machine work, it was mass produced, 95% of all Britannia metal was in fact produced in small industries, however, spoons could be said to have been mass produced, but not so any other utensils.

Wendell then went on to a brief history of Britannia relating such points as its establishment in England in the year 1797, however, in 1794 George Caldwell produced "British Metal" spoons and these were advertised in a Hartford Paper that same year.

Most Britannia was spun although many pieces were in fact, stamped a rather expensive process requiring an extensive amount of dies. Britannia was finally replaced with the introduction of plating.

Members would surely re-examine their Britannia pieces with renewed interest after Wendell's lecture. It was with regret that the Rev. Ingham closed the meeting and our members can look forward to future meetings with enthusiasm if we keep our meeting to this high standard.

Robert J. Curtis

## Notice

All pewter club Bulletins are sent by third class mail. The Post Office will not forward them. To be sure of receiving your copy please notify Mr. John P. Remensnyder, P.O. Box 239, Saugerties, New York of any change of address.

## Notes from England

By Lola S. Reed

The summer meeting of The Pewter Society was held on Saturday, June 15, 1968 at the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, Suffolk approximately 50 miles from London. On arrival, one's first impression was that a visit to the oculist was needed as our astigmatism had taken a sudden turn for the worse. However, since our companion was simultaneously struck by the same ailment, further investigation revealed that Lavenham is an "Exquisite Tudor town", in the process of restoration, whose ancient houses lean in all directions. The Swan proved to have thoroughly modern conveniences tucked into both its original section and a period addition, truly a delightful Country Inn off the tourist route.

The Society members and wives gathered for tea and the visiting Americans were cordially received. At 5 P.M. a meeting on Base Metals was held, producing some "spirited discussions", i.e. lively arguments, and a look at a very interesting Paktong candlestick. Most of the Society members present seemed as interested in Base Metals as in pewter. Following dinner the Pewter meeting was held with 13 members plus guests seated around a long table. Mr. R. O. Boocock spoke on the subject of Lidless Baluster Measures. Twenty specimens were on hand for our examination. Mr. R. Michaelis then presented a number of pieces of "fake" pewter. In his opinion, there are very few fakes left in England, most having gone abroad with unwary collectors from foreign countries. However, one member did have with him a flagon purchased in London which all agreed was not authentic. Also 2 patens, 2 plates and a large and small salt were exhibited.

Much admired was the patina on several of the authentic pieces presented and much deplored was the American habit of cleaning pewter. In fact, they were kind enough to suggest ways we might get it dirty again.

As "cleaning" in England seems most often to mean buffing, one can sympathize with their concern.

Plans for a Jubilee Exhibition of Pewter went forward with the decision to hold the exhibition at the Reading Museum in September 1969. This should be one of the major pewter events of the century and a most cordial welcome to



attend was extended to all P.C.C.A. members. At midnight, the meeting adjourned, as it began, after another round of tea.

The Exhibition should be a wonderful opportunity for a joint meeting. Could we possibly interest enough P.C.C.A. members to charter a plane? No doubt a visit to the worshipful Company in Oat's Lane could be combined. Further details on the Exhibition should be available by the time of our spring meeting.

## More on Vickers White Metal

By Bernard Esner

In the article "VICKERS WHITE METAL" by Charles V. Swain in Bulletin #57, page 177, he says that he would welcome any additional information and pictures of marked examples of this ware.

The "rara avis" of utensils associated with tea drinking, a tea caddy, has recently been added to our collection, and although unmarked, there is no question in my mind that it was made at the Vickers factory since it appears to be identical in form and engraving (without the spout and handle of course, and as near as one can tell from a photograph) to the teapot shown on the left in the AUGUST 1928 ANTIQUES articles on page 123, to which Mr. Swain refers. However, one minor exception is that the finial on the caddy is of a stylized pineapple shape instead of the acorn shaped one on the tea pot. In fact our tea caddy would seem more compatible with the tea set described

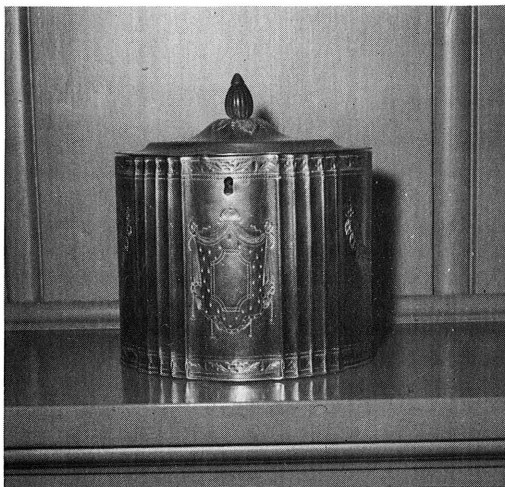


FIG. 1. Tea caddy attributed to Vickers. Collection of Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Esner.

in the ANTIQUES article than the one shown in the illustration accompanying that article.

Here is yet another example of how a high degree of perfection was attained by Vickers in copying the prevailing style of objects made in the more precious metal during the last decades of the 18th century, a skill which would not have been possible without the discovery of an alloy which was amenable to the method necessary to the creation of these forms.

## New York Regional Group 1969 Spring Meeting

The annual spring meeting of the New York Regional Group of the Pewter Collectors' Club of America was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hillman II, Harrison, New York on April 19, 1969. The Chairman, Rev. Clare Ingham welcomed the members and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hillman for their hospitality in opening their home to the club. A brief business meeting was held and topics discussed were:

1. Should the scope of the club be widened to include copper and brass?
2. Should a Mart/Sales Table be set up as part of the meeting's function?

No vote was taken on either topic, but notes of caution were voiced on both proposals by members and the motions were shelved for future discussion. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted before Mr. George Heussner gave a very interesting lecture on Pewter Shakers illustrated with samples from his collection. (See details elsewhere in bulletin)

Afterwards the members, fortified with a delicious punch and buffet supplied by our host, were made welcome to browse through the "Hillman" pewter collection of over 200 pieces, hand-somely set off by 18th Century furniture, Polychrome Delft, Pennsylvania Fraktur paintings, and Sliegel type glass among other antiques.

A very successful meeting thus came to an end.

Robert J. Curtis

## Silver Lining

Some fellows worry when they find  
Their hair is turning pewter;  
I surely would be so inclined —  
Except I have too few ter.

—Dick Emmons

## Fakes — New and Improved

By Donald M. Herr

While comparing two Thomas Danforth III 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ " plates, an interesting similarity in the location of the eagle and name marks was noted. A closer look revealed identical scratches and imperfections in exactly the same locations. The obverse sides had the same rim irregularities with scratches in exactly the same positions. Further study of the backgrounds of the marks showed a similar and somewhat granular surface.

Scurrying through my collection, a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " B. Barns and a 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " N. Austin plate had similar indistinct mark backgrounds. My suspicions were confirmed when the plates were examined by P.C.C.A. members who have had more experience than I — the plates were fakes.

The plates were probably reproduced from plaster or dental molds of an old and legitimate plate, hence the identical mark and the identical pewter irregularities. The fakes were so good, it was difficult to detect them by examining only one plate. Comparing the two plates, it became obvious.

In Figure 1, notice the similarity of the marks. The right side of both eagle

marks and the left side of the name touches are identical. Their positioning is also identical. Scratches of the original plate can be seen in both reproductions. The reproduced plate on the left has probably been buffed more harshly for many superficial scratches have been eliminated. The rim detail is unsharp and blurred.

Figure 2 shows the granular background of the mark of a reproduced plate. There is a lack of sharpness to the mark. Unfortunately, the lettering on the photographs is "turned inside out". Compare this plate with a legitimate plate (Figure 3). The background of the old mark is flat and the mark is distinct in appearance.

A suspicious N. Austin deep plate is shown in Figure 4. Unfortunately, again the lettering on the photograph is reversed. It has an uneven mark background, especially around the N. A. The fine lined background normally found on N. Austin plates is replaced by an uneven and indistinct background. However, this 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep plate has much more rim detail than the Barns and Danforth plates. These plates were examined by P.C.C.A. members at the New Haven, Connecticut meeting. Because of its similarity to the other plates — the same indistinct mark ground, and a similar plate (an unusual form by N. Austin) seen by another member, most P.C.C.A. members thought it was a fake.



FIG. 1. Two Thomas Danforth III fake plates.



FIG. 2. A fake B. Barnes plate.

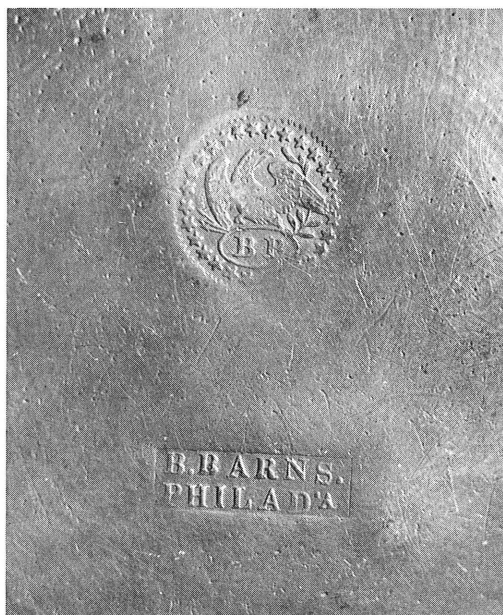


FIG. 3. A legitimate B. Barnes plate.

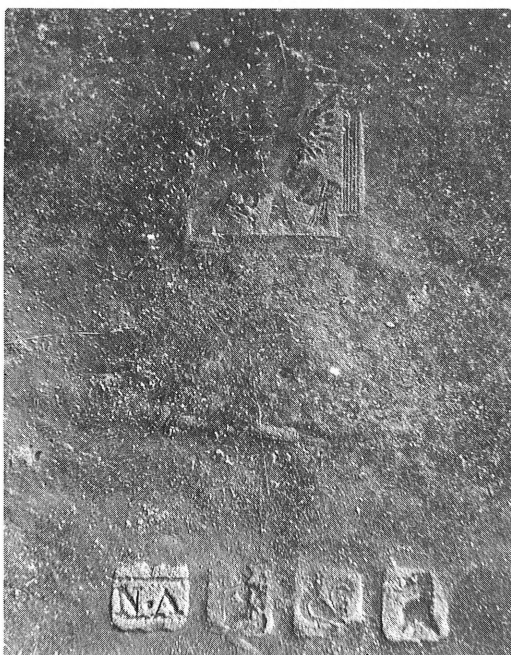


FIG. 4. A plate by N. Austin which is thought to be a fake.

All plates were purchased from dealers in the Lancaster, Pa. area. It is interesting to note that fake Samuel Danforth plates (*Caveat Emptor*, anonymous, *P.C.C.A. Bulletin* 53:12/65:76) were also reported to be obtained from this area.

*The author greatly appreciates the assistance of and photographs by Mr. Charles F. Montgomery, Senior Re-*

*search Fellow, The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Del., and Mr. Eric de Jonge, Chief Curator, The William Penn Memorial Museum, Harrisburg, Pa.*

*Figure 1 Photo by Pa. Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

*Figures 2, 3, and 4 by Mr. Charles F. Montgomery.*

## More About Fakes

By Eric de Jonge

After the continental pewter with "American" touches of some fifty years ago, it was bound to happen that "real" fakes made their entry into the world of the pewter collector. One is only surprised that this did not happen earlier.

When I was asked to examine the first Danforth plate, my immediate reaction was that the feel, the finish, and the unsharp meeting of rim and booge were highly suspicious. Comparison of the two identical plates confirmed that we were confronted with fakery of high order.

Examination of the Austin and Barnes plates brought on the same reaction. Proving these to be "wrong-uns", but lacking comparison plates, made an approach necessarily different from, but in addition to Dr. Herr's coverage of their touches. The convincing proof that both plates are also present-day, but not very skillful reproductions, rests on the fact that they seem to have numerous



straightened-out dents in their wells. While this is common to most pewter plates, it is utterly impossible that traces of such a dent or fold are still discernible on the obverse of a plate and not on the reverse, or vice versa. On both plates entirely differing "bumps" are opposing each other, if there are any at all.

This, of course would not be evident if the faker had turned down the plates on a lathe. Obviously, in this instance, this could only be done on the obverse as any tool would leave its mark on the cast-in touches or would completely eradicate them.

In any event, we are today confronted with the handiwork of an accomplished metalsmith who, while using modern materials for his moulds, reverted to plaster of Paris or similar material for the Austin and Barnes plates. Pewter prices as they are, he will continue and eventually finish his objects on a lathe. In that event, I can not but admire his ingenuity which lets him retain the sharpness of the cast-in touches.

## Buyer Beware

By William O. Blaney

The above heading seems better than "Caveat Emptor" because it might better draw the attention of some whose more recent education never included the study of Latin.

A most serious problem for pewter collectors is upon us — and may have existed for some time. Late 18th and 19th century pewter pieces are being so expertly reproduced that they might well fool longtime connoisseurs. The pewter is of excellent quality. The feel is fine. And the touch marks are perfect. Technology seems to have caught up with us.

On a trip last April into the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area, including the suburb of Lititz, I was offered a pair of 7¾ inch Thomas Danforth, III plates. The price was most reasonable and the condition very good. Both bore the circular eagle (facing left) touch with "TD" initials (L.373 and J.118). Both also had the "T. DANFORTH" over "PHILADA" mark (L.372 and the lower half of J.120). I was sorely tempted, but my horoscope for that day said "Your money sprouts wings if you open your wallet," so I took another look. The marks were in the same identical places on the bottoms of both plates, and were identical partial strikes. Scratches and dents were duplicated on both plates. In fact the knife marks on each corresponded so

exactly that they only could have been made by identical twins whose every moves were the same. It was most evident that the two plates came from a modern mold so expertly made from an authentic plate that touch marks, scratches, dents, age marks, knife marks, etc. appear very clearly on all castings. And apparently the molds are so perfect that no skimmings or polishings of the castings are necessary.

After turning these down, I was referred (by another dealer who just "happened" to be on the premises) to a man in Lancaster who reputedly had some good pewter for sale. On arrival at his home, I was offered a smooth-rimmed deep plate, about 9½ inches in diameter, with the hall marks of Nathaniel Austin on the bottom — and perhaps a very indistinct impression of his lion or eagle mark above. As Mr. Austin was supposed to have made only very shallow plates (no deep plates or dishes), and as the condition of the plate indicated it had been treated with acid or a blow torch to give it age, I again declined. He then produced a small 6 or 7 inch plate by Blakslee Barnes — reproductions of which are known to have existed for some time — and about a 10 inch plate with the Boardman Lion touch (L.435 and J.42) on the bottom. The latter had also been "treated" to simulate age. Naturally I "passed" on these, too.

Others have been offered similar pieces and some have "bitten." It is to be hoped that these reproductions and fakes can be traced to their makers and further manufacture eliminated. It is also hoped that pictures and more exact descriptions of them (and any other "falsies" that come along) can be included in future issues of the *Bulletin*. When in doubt, take measurements and specifications, including a rubbing of each mark, for comparison with known bona fide pieces and with marks pictured in pewter books, magazines or the *Bulletin*. And notify the Club if you think anything is wrong.

All members should join in uncovering non-genuine pieces they come across, and our more expert members should describe in writing (through the pages of the *Bulletin*) what less knowledgeable members should beware of when buying pewter from all but the most reputable dealers. It is for our own protection.





## White Metal

By Agnes Hayes Post

The article by Charles V. Swain appearing in the Bulletin Volume 5, page 177 on I Vickers white metal struck a responsive chord. For some time I have felt that it deserves more consideration, although Cottrell says to avoid anything bearing the name of Dixon, Wolstenholme, I Vickers, Broadhead and Atkin, Ashberry and anything bearing the name of Sheffield. One finds pieces attractive in form, well made and pleasing in color which so closely resemble pewter and therefore at home in a pewter collection. The accompanying photograph is of a small creamer by I Vickers. It is  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " high and the base diameter is  $2\frac{7}{16}$ ". It is a charming little creamer with a strap handle marked on the base with the letter S and the incised name I Vickers.

The photograph of the Federal style teapot has an oval mark on the base containing the name of maker, place and numerals 846. Some of the letters are worn, the ones remaining are ---ndal &



FIG. 1. Pewter creamer by I. Vickers, *Collection of Agnes H. Post.*

Dent, --eapside, which I presume is Cheapside. It is beautifully made and decorated. I have seen a similar one with the Sheffield mark. Now that early pewter is becoming so hard to obtain, I feel that nice forms in the white metal are well worth acquiring by new collectors.



FIG. 2. Late Federal teapot by I. Vickers. *Post collection.*

## Pewter at Auction

By Donald L. Fennimore

While browsing through my uncle Charles V. Swain's library recently, I came across a marked catalogue from the now defunct Anderson Galleries in New York on the sale of the Louis Guerineau Myers' estate. In it there was a large section reserved for his pewter collection so, having a cat's curiosity, I decided to investigate the prices pewter was bringing at auction in 1932, the year in which this sale took place. However, before I pass on to you what these were, I would like to explore the prices I found in relation to today's and perhaps ascertain the reasons for their difference.

It is common knowledge and an accepted fact that the cost of acquiring a 1932 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, a Benjamin Randolph case piece and a Gilbert Stuart portrait has gone up, as has pewter. Not just any pewter but, like the works in the previous sentence, carefully rendered expressions of an esthetic sense peculiar to the creative talents of a gifted artisan as recognized by the educated collector. Now, every one of the items previously mentioned was made for a utilitarian purpose whether it be for transportation, storage or a person's desire to have his face recorded for posterity. Such things continue to be made today, often in improved form. Why, then, have these particular works passed from being handsome utilitarian pieces to cherished and expensive heirlooms and antiques? Simply because there is a difference between these and their inferior contemporaries and descendants which have passed into namelessness and extinction. To their creators a stubby hood was not enough, a straight leg was too starkly functional and a mere photographic reproduction would have said nothing. Here lies what sets them apart; the men responsible for them were creators, not makers. So it was with Johann Christopher Heyne, William Will and Joseph Leddell. Their products were functional but they also contained an all important portion of their makers in their conception, resulting in these creations being admired and sought out long after their creators had died. They have become timeless, containing qualities and beauties respected by men, even two hundred years and more after making.

Just who is it that seeks these works out? The curious! For the curious, every day is an education and the result of each days teaching is to change us in one way or another, either subtly or profoundly. With this change comes the maturation process the evolution of our senses and sensibilities to a peak from which we are able to seek out what lies behind face value. For the collector, this is not just important, it is essential. I am not speaking of those who collect Coke bottle caps or baseball cards but of those who use their time and resources in the proper formula. It begins with interest; interest to read, study, observe, concentrate and perhaps sacrifice. From this comes education or the general background necessary for the third step in the formula; recognition, the ability to differentiate between good and bad, real and fake. The fourth final and most important step is appreciation, which entices us to search beneath face value. All combined result in the ability of the collector to appreciate those works especially endowed with qualities of beauty in concept and form.

The secondary and economic manifestation of this "educated collecting" is increase in cost of acquisition or appreciation in value. With a constant or diminishing supply and ever increasing demand, competition for these pieces increases.

With these thoughts in mind, let us take a look at Mr. Myers' pewter collection, termed in the Foreward of the catalogue as "the finest group of American pewter objects that it has been our privilege to offer" and their accompanying sale prices at the prestigious Anderson Galleries on the afternoon of April the eighth 1932. His collection was sold in forty-three grouped lots and twenty-five single lots for a total of two thousand one hundred fifty dollars. For thirty dollars, some lucky purchaser bought "Two pewter porringers, T.D. and S. Boardman, Hartford, Conn. Plain bowl with depressed center; elaborate pierced acanthus and coronet handle. One unmarked". A rather good purchase, I would say. Another lot consisted of "Three pewter deep dishes. Two by Thomas Danforth with the rare Middletown mark of his early period; another by B. Barns of Philadelphia. Very rare, Diameter, 11 inches". The lot sold for a total of thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents. Money well spent. A third lot was a "Pewter

pint mug, Gershom Jones, Providence, R.I. Handle of mug cast with anthemion motive; maker's touch inside shows a rampant lion. Very rare. Height, 6 inches". What would you pay for it right now? It sold for fifty-five dollars. There was a "Pewter dome top tankard, circa 1800, baluster shaped with domed lid, strainer spout and loop handle. No mark. Height, 7½ inches" which sold for seven dollars and fifty cents. Hard to believe, isn't it, that pewter could have been so reasonable at one time? If an unmarked tankard went for seventy-five, do you wonder what a marked example might have brought? It so happens that there were several marked examples sold at the auction. "Pewter dome top tankard, circa 1780, cylindrical with molded and domed lid, plain billet, loop handle and molded base. Maker's touch inside, W.C. with sprig of thistle and leaves. Height, 6¾ inches." It sold for a ridiculous fifteen dollars! But if your breath catches at that, what do you think of a "Pewter dome top tankard, William Ellsworth, New York, circa 1770. Partly obliterated touch inside the initials W.E. Imperfect but very rare. Height, 7½ inches". When the gavel fell for the last time, the tankard was exchanged for fifty-five dollars! Timothy Brigden was also represented in two lots; the first being "Pair pewter communion cups, Timothy Brigden, Albany, N.Y., circa 1816, Goblet shaped with graceful baluster socle and domed foot. Maker's

touch inside bowl and under foot: T.B. in a serrated circle. Very fine quality. Height, 9 inches". This wonderful pair sold for seventy dollars; thirty-five apiece! And how much would they bring today? A companion piece, "A pewter communion flagon, Timothy Brigden, Albany, N. Y., circa 1816, plain tapered body, flaring spout, hinged flat cover, shaped scroll handle, maker's touch inside: T.B. in a serrated circle. Fine and rare, height, 10½ inches, diameter, 6¼ inches". It is a superlative and unique form in American church pewter and it brought all of Thirty-five dollars. Bear in mind, now, that these buyers are knowledgeable concerning pewter and are being offered the best at premium prices. Can you picture yourself going into Parke-Bernet next Friday and buying a marked Brigden communion flagon for thirty-five dollars? I am sure you would more probably pay thirty-five hundred dollars. The last item I will use for illustration is one which I am sure you all know; a very few from immediate contact and astute ownership but most only through reputation, photographs and intervisitation during our meetings. It is a "Pewter vase shaped coffee pot, William Will, Philadelphia, 1790, vase baluster shape with beaded borders, dome cover with finial, tapered and curved spout with flaring mouth, black pearwood handle, engraved with the script monogram; MC. Height, 16 inches". Imagine, if you can,



FIG. 1. Timothy Brigden's communion flagon and companion chalices, all with the mark T B in a serrated circle; the chalices being marked both in the bowl and under foot. The flagon, obviously, is of a unique design. *Anderson Galleries sale of the Louis Guerineau Myers' Collection.*





FIG. 2. Federal coffee pot by William Will. Although unmarked, it is identical to the marked example illustrated in *antiques*, November 1930. *Anderson Galleries sale of the Louis Guerineau Meyers' Collection.*

walking into the American Galleries on that lovely spring day with one hundred fifty dollars in your pocket and leaving several hours later poorer by that amount but owning the William Will coffee pot! Isn't it maddening to have missed that? How much would it cost you to buy the same today *if* one were to come on the market? I for one, would have to save a lifetime for it and to think, only a short thirty-six years ago it sold at auction for one hundred fifty dollars. Those days are, I am afraid, gone forever and who is to say what prices these same items will be commanding another thirty years from now. More important, what items will be commanding today's Ellsworth, Will and Brigden prices thirty years hence? That is the excitement and adventure of collecting; making the right decision.



## Moving Pitcher

A decade ago I gave the Gibbons  
 A pewter pitcher bedecked with ribbons  
 They gave it in time to the  
 Wannamakers,  
 Who presently slipped it to the Bakers  
 The Bakers, in one of their Yuletide  
 dithers  
 Wrapped it and gave it to the Smithers.  
 One pewter pitcher—and let's admit  
 It's certainly been around a bit.  
 When the Smithers slipped it to me  
 at last,  
 They gave me a present with a past  
 —George Starbuck Galbraith

## Yesteryear versus Today

By Richard Munday

Pewter for many years was the Cinderella of antique collecting. Unknown, neglected, ignored by many. "What is pewter?"; "What is it made of?"; "How much silver is in pewter?"; "What is the difference between shiny and dull pewter"? Questions and more questions. When answered intelligently a desire to learn more was created.

Forty years ago old pewter was about in abundance for all to see and acquire for a very modest outlay. Dust gathered on the lids of Charles the 2nd tankards; on Charles the 1st. and other early 17th Century lidded flagons; Jacobean candlesticks; porringers; capstan salts; platters innumerable; mugs by the thousand. All were available. Not many were ready to rescue them from the shopshelves.

During the last half-century a mild interest was born in the breasts of those with eyes to recognize the craftsmanship of the pewterer. Curiosity stirred. "Who was the man whose name is stamped on this noble 24" broad-rim charger?" "When was it made?"; "Where was his works". "Who made this magnificent lidded flagon; this beautiful octagonal-based candlestick?"; "When and where?"; More and more questions and answers needed. Desire for knowledge and to possess creates the collectors. Collectors of pewter were few. Their combined knowledge limited. Where could they find what they wished to learn? The Worshipful Company of Pewterers had long since ceased their original function and had no jurisdiction over manufacturers of pew-



terware. The Englefields, father and son, the last pewterers to strike a Touch-mark on the London Touch Plate, were also the last members of the Company with a working knowledge. Would be collectors groped for information. There were however several who became dedicated and delved deep into the history and mystery of the ancient craft and were determined to pass on their enthusiasm. Fortunately the original five London Touch Plates and numerous records going back several centuries were still in existence in Pewterers' Hall available to any budding historian to pore over.

In 1929 appeared the first comprehensive book on pewter by Howard H. Cotterell "Old Pewter—Its Makers & Marks". A monumental work involving an enormous amount of research. Illustrations and cross-indexed Touch-marks stimulated interest and undoubtedly encouraged collecting. Other books followed with added information. Today there is on record, but unpublished, a great amount of additional data unknown to Cotterell in 1929. Enough to double the size of the famous Cotterell "bible". An English Society of Pewter Collectors was founded, equivalent to the Pewter Collectors Club of America, except it limits its membership to those who do not obviously sell pewter for a living.

The development of pewter collecting is seen by the mouth-watering comparisons in prices existing about forty years ago and those prevailing today. May 1929 the famous Fieldhouse collection and part of the famous Charbonnier collection, were both auctioned in London. A few items are selected and quoted in dollars, prices then and approximate value today in England.

Numerous other instances can be quoted. In forty years prices have multiplied tenfold, in some cases considerably more. When collectors were few prices were low. Rises were gradual until about fifteen years ago. The steepest and most explosive rises are recent. About 1955 I paid at Auction the then record price of \$472.00 for a single octagonal based Charles the Second candlestick. Three years ago I paid \$960.00 for one somewhat similar. December 1968 I purchased for the Worshipful Company of Pewterers an octagonal based Charles the 2nd candlestick similar for \$1560.00. The price for the next specimen is problematical. The rarest pieces have shown an increase not so much percentage wise in the last few years as in the considerably higher overall cost. The pieces to appreciate most are Stuart lidded tankards with interesting wriggled work engraving; portraits of the reigning monarchs etc. Early candlesticks with central drip-catcher. Early covered flagons. 17th Century capstan and trencher salts. Spoons with unusual top terminals, the Maidenhead etc.

There are now in England and in America many serious collectors all chasing few available rare specimens. For the more modest collector there are still many 18th and early 19th Century pieces which are collectable and procurable. Despite today's prices, pewter is still the "poor" relation of the collecting world, and many pieces are still under priced. Lots of interest can be acquired for a comparatively small outlay.

A last word. What in ten years time will today's prices look like? Bargains we were silly enough to miss? Good hunting!

	1929	1969
PAIR OVAL TUREEN & COVERS, engraved Coronets, c.1770	:\$20.00 pair	:\$600.00 pr.
2 CHARLES 2nd SPOOL SALTS, c.1675	:\$60.00 (2)	:\$500.00 (2)
2 CHARLES 1st LIDDED FLAGONS, c.1630	:\$144.00 (2)	:\$1000.00 (2)
Various lidded FLAGONS, 1610 to 1690 (average price)	:\$50.00 ea	:\$500.00 ea
CHARLES 2nd LIDDED TANKARD, engraved wriggled-work	:\$75.00	:\$1450.00
WILLIAM & MARY LIDDED TANKARD, engraved PORTRAITS	:\$75.00	:\$1450.00
LIDDED TANKARDS, c.1710 to c.1770 (average price)	:\$20.00 ea	:\$200.00 ea
SET OF 7 HAYSTACK MEASURES, Gallon to 1/2 Noggin	:\$70.00 set	:\$1000.00 set
PAIR CHARLES 2nd CANDLESTICKS, c.1675	:\$156.00 pr	:\$3000.00 pr.
CHARGERS, 16 1/2", mid 18th Century (average price)	:\$5.00 each	:\$75.00 ea.
PLATES, 9 1/3" 18th to early 19th Century (average price)	:\$1.20 each	:\$30.00 ea.

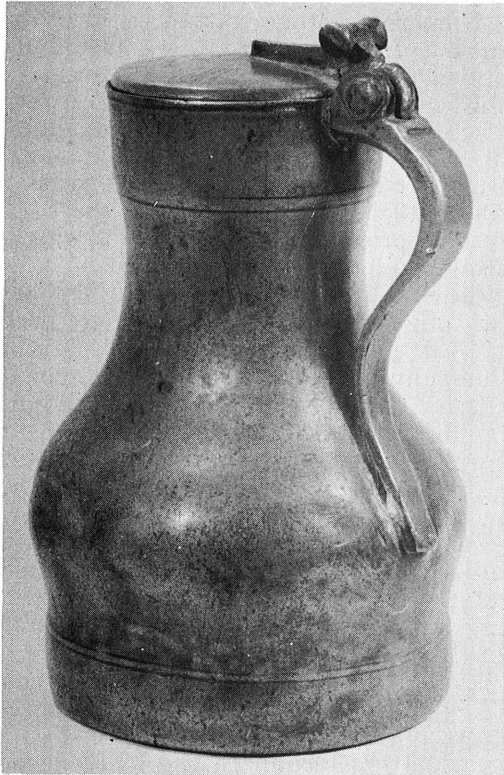


FIG. 1. 16th Century flagon made in two halves and "burnt" together. Slightly convex heavy cover with wedge and hammerhead thumb-piece. Cast medallion set in inside bottom. c.1500-1550. Collection of Richard Munday.

## New Master Members

Seventeen more P.C.C.A. members have this year joined the ranks of the Masters. Having been members of the club for a period of five years, the following persons have become eligible to wear the Masters Badge, which was awarded to them at the annual meeting on May 24, 1969 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Mr. Merrell G. Beede  
 Mrs. William O. Blaney  
 Mrs. Frederick C. Dumaine, Jr.  
 Mr. William M. Fletcher  
 Mrs. L. W. Fowles  
 Mr. Stanley Goldsmith  
 Mrs. Nancy Goynes Evans  
 Mrs. Jack H. Kolaian  
 Mr. Richard Munday  
 Mr. John Quin  
 Mr. Albert F. Sampley  
 Mrs. H. H. Sandidge, Jr.  
 Dr. C. W. Spangler  
 Mr. B. Stasiowski  
 Mrs. Natalie Warner  
 Mr. Paul M. Warner, Jr.  
 Mr. Robert M. Whittmore

## American Baptismal Bowls

By Charles V. Swain

Baptismal bowls are rare. Considering that each town had only one or two churches, there could not have been a large demand for ecclesiastical pewter as opposed to hundreds of household pieces such as tankards, plates, porringers, basins and mugs required by the populace. Hence it seems worthwhile to show a group of such pieces for comparative purposes, even though in so doing no fresh contribution is made to our knowledge of the pewterers who made them. Comparing the work of different makers is in itself of interest and in the process we may be able to identify or attribute unmarked examples in our own collections. Judging by the illustrations in Cotterell's *Old Pewter, Its Makers and Marks* the English appear to have produced very few baptismal bowls and certainly no great variety in form. They appear to be little more than utilitarian basins, which were of course used as a substitute for baptismal bowls in many churches in this country.

The collector who has been so fortunate as to acquire a baptismal bowl has in his possession a most desirable piece as they are much sought after for use as table centerpieces and add interest to the pewter cupboard. After much searching and many inquiries we have been able to locate twenty four examples which are herewith illustrated. If other examples are known to exist, please send pictures to your editor so that the record can be completed in the next issue.

In Fig. 1 is a view of possibly the earliest and finest of American baptismal bowls. It is by either Joseph Leddell, New York, 1712-1753 or by his son Joseph Leddell, Jr., New York, 1740-1754. Diameter 13 inches, width of rim one inch, depth  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Although it appears to be similar to an ordinary basin, its sides have more slope and a plate rim has been added.

The unmarked bowl in Fig 2 is identical in form but of smaller dimensions. It's diameter is  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches, width of rim  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches, depth  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. It is hammered all over. Perhaps it could be attributed to one of the Leddells. It is from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brickersville, Pennsylvania and was

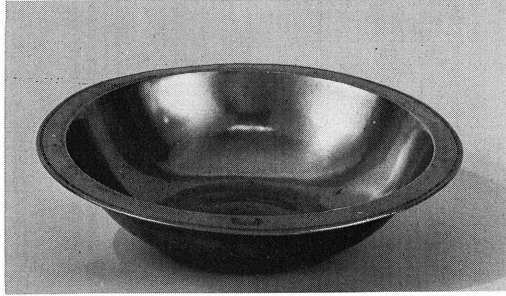


FIG. 1. Baptismal bowl. Joseph Leddell, New York, 1712-1753, or Joseph Leddell, Jr., New York, 1740-1754. *The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. Blair, 1940, in memory of her husband, J. Insley Blair.*



FIG. 2. Baptismal bowl. Attributed to the Leddells. *Collection of Charles V. Swain.*

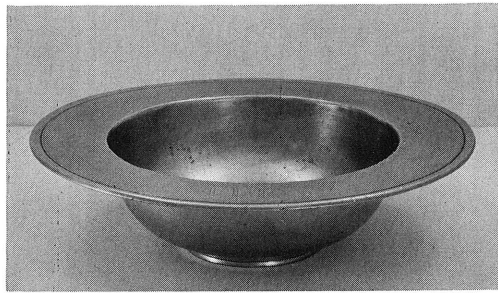


FIG. 3. Baptismal bowl. Henry Will, New York and Albany, 1761-1793. *Courtesy, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.*



FIG. 4. Baptismal bowl. Attributed to Henry Will. *Swain collection.*



FIG. 5. Baptismal bowl. William Will, Philadelphia, 1764-1798. *Courtesy, Hershey Museum.*

acquired by Mr. John F. Ruckman in 1951. Other pieces from the same church, shown in *Antiques*, January 1935, were a pair of Heyne flagons dated 1760. The bowl, however, would appear to be of an earlier date.

Fig. 3. A very handsome bowl by Henry Will, New York and Albany, 1761-1793. It's mark consists of a serrated circle enclosing the initials HW with a floral device above and below. The diameter is  $11\frac{3}{8}$  inches, bowl open-

ing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, depth  $3\frac{1}{16}$  inches.

In Fig. 4 the bowl illustrated is unmarked but is identical in every respect to the preceding one by Henry Will with the exception of the brim. It's diameter is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It was acquired by Mr. John F. Ruckman from the estate of Miss Fredonia M. Desmond, Point Pleasant, Pennsylvania in 1946. She was descended from Stephen Cox, chairmaker, Allentown, New Jersey and it had belonged to his son Thomas Cox, c.1770.

Fig. 5. A baptismal bowl by William Will, 1764-1798, is made of excellent heavy pewter and is stamped on the inside bottom with a clear impression of Colonel Will's early lamb and dove touch. Laughlin 534, Jacobs 283. Top diameter  $8\frac{5}{8}$  inches, bottom diameter  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Fig. 6. A beautiful bowl of heavy cast pewter, probably the forerunner of all the later footed bowls. Although unmarked it has typical Philadelphia beading around it's base, was found in Pennsylvania and is the type of fine piece that William Will or Parks Boyd might have made. Top diameter  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bottom diameter  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches, height  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches.





FIG. 6. Baptismal bowl. Philadelphia, c.1795-1815. *Collection of Mr. and Mrs. David W. Gordon.*



FIG. 7. Baptismal bowl. Samuel Danforth, Hartford, Connecticut, 1795-1816. *Courtesy of The Brooklyn Museum.*



FIG. 8. Baptismal bowl. Samuel Danforth, Hartford, Connecticut, 1795-1816. *The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. J. Insley Blair, 1948.*

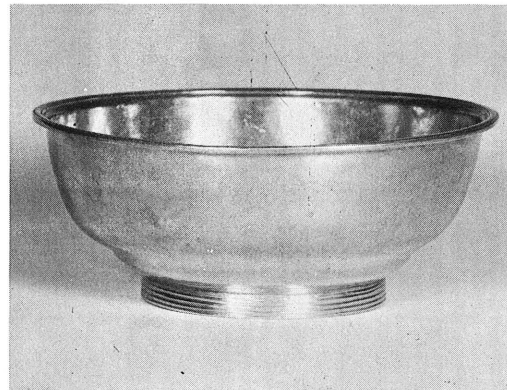


FIG. 9. Baptismal bowl. Attributed to Samuel Danforth. *Swain collection.*

Fig. 7. Samuel Danforth, 1795-1816, used the full scope of his imagination in the making of this bowl. Two eight inch basins were used, one having been cut down and used for the base and both joined together by a wide band. Height  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Fig. 8. Another marked bowl by Samuel Danforth has a wide molded band around the body and a molded band forming the foot. Diameter  $7\frac{5}{8}$  inches, height  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Fig. 9. An unmarked bowl, hammered all over, possibly by Samuel Danforth. It was cast in the mold for a  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inch basin with a step down in the bottom formed by hammering. The overhanging rim is narrowed to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch with a molding applied on top. The bottom is raised on a  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch reeded ring foot. Top diameter  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches, bottom diameter 4 inches, height  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Fig. 10. A rare pewter baptismal bowl

by Samuel Pierce, 1792-1830, which has the initial touch with an X in a serrated circle. Laughlin 407, Jacobs 229. Top diameter  $7\frac{5}{8}$  inches, height  $2\frac{7}{16}$  inches.

Fig. 11. An unusual example in that the bowl is constricted at the center by a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch flat molding. The rim is reeded. The pewter is of fine quality and the upper part of the bowl may have been cast in a basin mold. American, unmarked, c. 1800-1820. Top diameter  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bottom diameter  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Fig. 12. One of the most beautiful of all baptismal bowls is this one of very heavy cast pewter by Oliver Trask. It was made by placing the rim and booge of a  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inch deep dish on a round footed bowl. It was formerly in the collection of Philip Young, Boston, Mass. Top diameter  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches, bottom diameter





FIG. 10. Baptismal bowl. Samuel Pierce, Greenfield, Massachusetts, 1792-1830. *Courtesy of Yale University Art Gallery.*



FIG. 11. Baptismal bowl. American, unmarked, c.1800-1820. *Swain collection.*



FIG. 12. Baptismal bowl. Oliver Trask, Beverly, Massachusetts, 1820-1835. *Swain collection.*



FIG. 13. Baptismal bowl. Oliver Trask, Beverly, Massachusetts, 1820-1835. *Collection of Mrs. Amos Kingsbury.*

4 $\frac{13}{16}$  inches, height 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is stamped with the O. Trask mark in the inside bottom of the bowl. Israel Trask made identical bowls.

Fig. 13. Another bowl by Oliver Trask identical to the one illustrated in Fig. 12 except for the foot. He also used this foot on some of his flagons, one of which can be seen in Kerfoot's *American Pewter*, Fig. 240.

Fig. 14. Mrs. Paul M. Young was recently looking through a catalogue owned by Mr. Ledlie Laughlin and came upon the following entry: "The Anderson Galleries catalogue sale no. 2246—A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN PEWTER & EARLY PA. FURNITURE personally collected by P. G. Platt, Long Lane, Wallingford, Pa., . . . . sold by auction. . . . 3/15/1928." "EARLY AMERICAN PEWTER BAPTISMAL BOWL BY PALETHORP, PHILADELPHIA, circa 1820." Page 16—Item 99. "A charming,

small footed bowl, bearing the 'Palethorp's, Philadelphia' touch. This is the touch attributed to J. H. and Robert Palethorp, Jr., while associated together as pewterers. Very rare and fine. Diameter 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches." The bowl brought \$160.00, highest price for any pewter item in that sale. Although this bowl is not usually thought of today as having been used for baptismal ceremonies, perhaps it was made for just that purpose. There was certainly a great deal of extra work in the making of it, for the inside is hollow down through the foot. Had it been used as a common utilitarian bowl for food it would have been difficult to clean. Although the example illustrated herewith is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch less in diameter, it appears to be identical in form to the one illustrated in the Anderson catalogue. Top diameter 5 inches, bottom diameter 2 $\frac{3}{16}$  inches, height 2 $\frac{11}{16}$  inches.



FIG. 14. Bowl. Palethorp's, Philadelphia, c.1820. *Swain collection.*



FIG. 15. Baptismal bowl. Thomas Danforth and Sherman Boardman, Hartford, Connecticut, 1805-1850. *Collection of Gordon E. Perrin.*



FIG. 16. Baptismal bowl. Attributed to TD & SB, Hartford, Connecticut, 1805-1850. *Swain collection.*



FIG. 17. Baptismal bowl. Thomas Danforth and Sherman Boardman, Hartford, Connecticut, 1805-1850. *Collection of Albert H. Good.*

Fig. 15. A magnificent baptismal bowl by Thomas D. Boardman and Sherman Boardman. The TD and SB touch can be clearly seen on the bowl's side in this illustration. Height  $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches, top diameter  $8\frac{5}{8}$  inches, bottom diameter  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Fig. 16. An unmarked bowl attributed to TD and SB. Constructed in the same manner as the one made by their uncle, Samuel Danforth, in Fig. 7 but with an added brim as in Fig. 15. This bowl is part of a set which also consists of a flagon marked TD and SB, a plate by I. Curtis and two 5 inch beakers marked TD and SB. They were used in the Congregational Church in Garland, Maine which was established in 1810. Top diameter  $8\frac{7}{8}$  inches, bottom diameter 7 inches, height  $4\frac{7}{16}$  inches. There is a bowl in the historical society in Deerfield, Massachusetts stamped with the Boardman hallmark BX that is identical in all respects.

Fig. 17. A marked bowl by TD and SB, the forerunner of many footed bowls of the Britannia period. Top diameter  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches, bottom diameter  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches, height  $4\frac{9}{16}$  inches.

Fig. 18. An extremely rare bowl by William Calder, 1817-1856. It bears his eagle mark on the inside bottom. Laughlin 350, Jacobs 67. Top diameter  $10\frac{1}{16}$  inches, bottom diameter  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, height  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Fig. 19. Britannia baptismal bowl by Roswell Gleason. Top diameter  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches, height  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Fig. 20. A baptismal bowl by Lorenzo L. Williams, Philadelphia, 1838-1842. Height  $4\frac{13}{16}$  inches, top diameter  $6\frac{5}{8}$  inches, bottom diameter  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Williams made two types, both of which are



FIG. 18. Baptismal bowl. William Calder, Providence, Rhode Island, 1817-1856. *Collection of Amory Standish Skerry.*



FIG. 19. Baptismal bowl. Roswell Gleason, Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1822-1871. *Collection of Ledlie I. Laughlin.*



FIG. 20. Baptismal bowl. Lorenzo L. Williams, Philadelphia, 1838-1842. *Swain collection.*



FIG. 21. Baptismal bowl. Woodbury and Colton, Philadelphia, c.1835. *Swain collection.*

discussed at full length in an interesting article by Dr. Robert Mallory III in Bulletin #45, page 92.

Fig. 21. A baptismal bowl bearing the touch of Woodbury and Colton, Philadelphia. Height 4 inches, top diameter  $5\frac{9}{16}$  inches, bottom diameter  $3\frac{11}{16}$  inches. It was purchased at the Samuel D. Riddle sale in 1951.

Fig. 22. A footed bowl by the Taunton Britannia Manufacturing Company, 1830-1835. It is fluted in the manner of some of Paul Revere's eighteenth century silver, as illustrated in *The Book Of Old Silver* by Seymour B. Wyler, page 138. Top diameter  $6\frac{7}{8}$  inches, bottom diameter  $4\frac{5}{16}$  inches, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The foot is of cast pewter.



FIG. 22. Baptismal bowl. Taunton Britannia Manufacturing Company, Taunton, Massachusetts, 1830-1836. *Swain collection.*





FIG. 23. Baptismal bowl. Leonard, Reed and Barton, Taunton, Massachusetts, 1837-1840. Courtesy, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.



FIG. 24. Baptismal bowl. Reed and Barton, Taunton, Massachusetts, 1840-1850. Collection of Ray McCloskey.

Fig. 23. A footed baptismal bowl by Leonard, Reed and Barton, 1837-1840. It is stamped on the bottom in incised letters. Height  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches, top diameter  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches, bottom diameter  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Fig. 24. Baptismal bowl attributed to Reed and Barton, c.1840-1850. Though never marked, these bowls have often been found with marked Reed and Barton flacons and church plates. Top diameter  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches, bottom diameter  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches, height  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

## Pap Boat

By Abraham Brooks

In the New York Times Magazine of February 9th, appears the article on Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher, President of Planned Parenthood — World Population, in which this incidental item appears:

“He keeps paper clips in an English pewter pap cup (once used for giving milk to babies)

Invalids' feeding cups, or pap boats, being somewhat of a rarity, I found the reference to the pewter pap cup somewhat whimsically amusing. (For pap boat's illustration, see Cotterell page 102, illustration “F”.)

## Unidentified Porringer

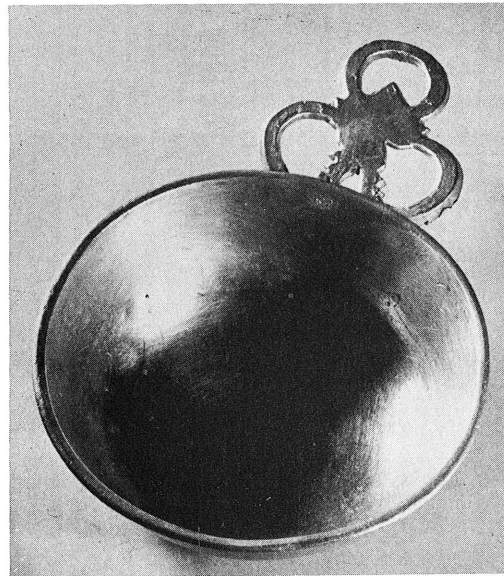


FIG. 1. An unmarked porringer. Collection of Stuart G. Waite.

The photograph of the porringer illustrated in Fig. 1 is being published with the hope that someone might help identify its maker. It is an unusual one, its handle is not too symmetrical and it looks almost “custom made”. The diameter of the bowl is exactly four inches; the depth is about  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches. The handle measures two inches in width and extends  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches beyond the bowl. If anyone has information concerning this porringer, please let us hear of it.

C.V.S.