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tors to the Bulletin



The President's Letter

Colonial Williamsburg was the site of our spring meeting held April 23-24. Flowering dogwood, azaleas, tulips and daffodils were in bloom. It was a delightful time of the year to visit Virginia.

Friday evening, we met for cocktails and dinner. Members were present from Maine to Florida and as far away as Texas and California. Three members, including our speaker, were from the United Kingdom. Peter Hornsby gave us a fine presentation on English pewter of the 18th century using examples brought by members and the collection at Williamsburg to illustrate his points. He noted the teapots, creamers and sugar bowls that he had seen much more frequently here than in his homeland suggesting that these items were export items made for the American market. They were made at a time when pewter usage was decreasing in the British Isles and provided an outlet for an ailing industry.

Saturday morning we visited the restorations. Following a buffet lunch, we held our annual meeting. It was noted that our fall meeting, to be held at the Henry Ford Museum, has been changed to October 15-16. Honorary membership guidelines, our 50th Anniversary meeting in the spring of 1984 and our non-profit status were discussed. Robert Asher was elected Governor-at-large.

Mr. John D. Davis, Curator of Metals and Assistant to the Chief Curator of Colonial Williamsburg treated us to an exhibit of recent acquisitions of British pewter. His real love for the metal was evident in his talk. Standing in the center of the display was the massive 34½" "great dish" illustrated in the *Bulletin* v. 7, p 203. It was impressive!

Saturday evening, Eric de Jonge entertained us with a talk as delightful as his title "My 40 years PCCA in retrospect, A Farrago of Facts-Fribbles-Foibles and Foofalaws". It was fun to hear his anecdotes from the past. We left with a good deal of insight into the early years of our club.

Knowledgeable speakers, good discussions and pleasant facilities resulted in a most informative meeting.

Our special thanks to Jack Kolaian for arranging a truly great meeting.

Donald M. Herr, D.V.M.
President

Regional Group News New England Spring

The spring meeting was held at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts June 5, 1982 with 46 members and guests present. Members gathered at 10:00 a.m. for coffee and danish in the Seminar Room of the New Wing. Members of the museum staff conducted us on a tour of the museum pewter and other special items in the New England 17th Century special exhibit, which is outstanding and was well worth the trip to Boston.

Luncheon was served in the Seminar Room and was excellent. Program Chairman, Charlie Adams and President Paul Glazier brought the meeting to order and a few items of business were discussed including proposed changes to the Standing Rules which were endorsed by the members present. The confusion on dues, which the writer must take credit for, was cleared up. 1982 dues will remain at one dollar individual and two dollars a couple. 1983 dues will increase to two dollars, individual and three dollars a couple. Treasurer Wayne Hilt reported our financial condition was sufficient to cover our obligations. Charlie Adams asked if there would be any interest in a future meeting in Augusta, Maine, no strong opposition was voiced.

Once again John Carl Thomas was tapped to lead the discussion on Boston Area pieces brought in by the members, a good representation including Bonyng, Austin, Dolbeare, Richardson, Trask, etc. generated some interesting observations by Oliver Deming, Wayne Hilt and Bill Blaney. Of particular interest was the formation of the handle terminal mark on the Austin mugs, was it cast or accomplished with a hot die? The nagging question of the Semper Eadem touch also came up, both these items deserve continued study.

Abe Brooks properly brought the meeting to conclusion with a well worded message of thanks to Charlie and Barbara Adams for organizing another excellent program.

Members and guests were then free to visit the museum on their own. Our thanks to the museum and staff for their hospitality.

Ron Chambers, Sec.



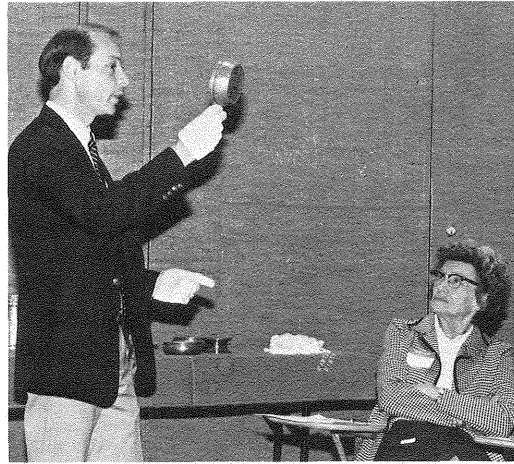
Mid-Atlantic (Spring)

The Mid Atlantic Regional Group of the P.C.C.A. met on June 12, 1982 in the Rotunda of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware. Approximately fifty members from all parts of the region (and beyond) heard Donald L. Fennimore, Associate Curator of Metals at Winterthur, discuss the "questionable" pewter maintained by the Museum as part of its collection. Using the actual pieces and detailed slides to emphasize his points, Don divided the subject into: "Reproductions" (objects not meant specifically to deceive), "Adaptions" ("improvements" on the originals), "Bits and Pieces" (marriages-a lid here, a body there...), and outright "Fakes and Forgeries". After the formal presentation, Don opened the study collection for examination by the members, suggesting that we pay particular attention to a three-pint tankard by Frederick Bassett (which he had not previously discussed), with an eye to determining his reason for including this particular object among the "questionable" pewter. To our chagrin, few if any of us caught the obvious evidence (obvious after Don pointed it out) that the tankard had at one time sported a spout!

Following the formal presentation, Dr. Mallory projected some slides of fakes that he has encountered over the years, and led an informal discussion.

The effectiveness of a presentation can best be judged by the comments heard afterward, and the most frequently heard comment after this presentation was, "I must hurry home to look at.....". We all came away from the meeting at Winterthur vowing, from that time forward, to look at objects more closely-to look with the purpose of seeing what is actually there, not what we would like to see there.

Albert T. Gamon, Pres.



Mr. Fennimore lectures - Mrs. Beede listens

Erata

TINY, TINY TEAPOT?

No, not really. The height of the B.G.S. & Co. teapot pictured on Page 176 of the last Bulletin was incorrectly shown as 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " -- it should have been 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

Necrology

DR. JOHN R. W. HUNTER JR.

Dr. John R. W. Hunter Jr., 84, died July 18, 1982 at Lewistown, Pennsylvania

Dr. Hunter and his wife Martha, hosted the 1981 fall meeting of the Mid Atlantic Regional group and regularly attended national meetings.

A fourth generation physician in the Hunter family, he practiced general medicine and obstetrics in Mifflin County for 45 years. During his career, he served as chief of staff at Lewistown Hospital.

He was past president of the Mifflin County Historical Society and an elder in the Lewistown United Presbyterian Church. He was also past president of the Mifflin-Juniata Medical Society, vice-chairman of the board of directors of Russell National Bank and past president of Camp Hunter. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the American Medical Association, the Lewistown Country Club, Rotary Club, Elks and Masons.

In addition to his wife Martha, also surviving are two daughters Mrs. John Sweigart and Mrs. Wendell Pass and four grandchildren.

We shall miss him-his ready smile, his love for pewter and his willingness to share his knowledge with others.

Don Herr



The Book Shelf

Phaidon Guide to Pewter by Vanessa Brett (Phaidon Press Ltd., Oxford, England, 1981) 256 Pages, £9.95. Available in USA from Garland Pass, 87 Paper Chase Trail, Avon, CT. 06001, \$22.50 including postage.

Vanessa Brett's *Phaidon Guide to Pewter* is a superbly illustrated, lucidly written, unusually compact but comprehensive survey of pewter and pewtering from about 1600 to the day before yesterday (1980). It is designed as a handbook and guide, not as a work of deep research. It covers the British Isles, Europe and North America. It includes 250 photographs (120 in color), 80 line drawings, and seven maps showing the principal centers of pewter production in the regions that the author discusses; also the obligatory bibliography, glossary, data on pewter marks, and acknowledgments.

An excellent introduction tells the reader what pewter is, how it is made, and what the guilds did and did not do. In addition, it summarizes succinctly the salient features of the principal national and regional types of pewter. Succeeding chapters (unnumbered) examine in more detail pre-19th century pewter in the British Isles, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, the Low Countries, Scandinavia, and several other areas. The chapter on the United States includes 19th century American production, whereas the succeeding chapter, entitled "The Nineteenth Century," is an across-the-board survey of pewter production in that century in the British Isles and Continental Europe. The concluding chapter describes sensitively and sensibly the revival of the pewterer's craft during the late 19th century and carries the story to the present day.

The special virtues of Brett's book seem to me to include the following:

(1) The material on national types of pewter is placed in its proper social, cultural and historical perspective and includes appropriate references to what was being produced at the same time by pewterers in other countries and/or by goldsmiths and workers in other materials;

(2) By virtue of its informed, sympathetic treatment of well-designed, well-made contemporary pewter, the book should help break down the psychological barriers that cause pewter collectors to drool in Pavlovian fashion at the sight of "antique pewter" but look disdainfully--or not at all--at pewter less than 100 years old;

(3) It is unpretentious, filled with common sense, and portable without a caddy.

The inevitable corollary of this kind of all-inclusive survey is some unevenness of treatment, some regrettable exclusions and dubious inclusions, and some debatable "facts." The chapter on U.S. pewter seems to me weaker than those on British, German, and Swiss pewter and the map showing centers of U.S. production exhibits some whimsical features. Reviewers enjoy taking issue with the authors they review, an ego-building satisfaction which I cheerfully forgo, given the exceedingly useful service that Vanessa Brett has rendered to pewter-lovers and would-be lovers wherever they may be.

On the book's dust jacket, Brett is described as having "worked for a number of years in the silver and pewter department of Sotheby's London." Her book is designed as a companion volume to the previously published Phaidon Guides to Silver and Furniture and the forthcoming guides to Glass and to Brass, Copper and Bronze. (Indicative of the times in which we live, however, it costs about twice as much as its predecessors.)

Robert E. Asher

Museum And Cataloging Report

by Melvyn D. Wolf, M.D.

At the last Board of Governors meeting when I was called upon to give a report of the Museum and Cataloging Committee, I made my usual "No report" statement at which time the president, the eminent Dr. Donald Herr stated, "What is the function of your committee? You apparently do nothing." At this point I gave a brief explanation of the functions of the committee, and it was suggested by the Board of Governors that this description be disseminated to the general membership so as to make its services more usable for the members.



In essence, the thought initially was that many Pewter collections seen are not photographed at the time the pieces are all assembled. The photographic work should be done on a professional basis with excellent quality and photographs that are suitable for article writing. It was because of this that the committee was formed and a general fund established. If the material is deemed worthy of photographing, then funds would be available to help defray the cost of it was necessary to use a professional photographer. This has actually only been done on 1 or 2 occasions. We have been fortunate in having some members who have been willing to take our photographs of the quality we desire. Many of these photographs have been forwarded to me and are currently residing in a file that I have made in my house.

This brings us to the second function of the committee, which is to supply to the membership photographs that we already possess suitable for incorporation in articles to be written. The member need only request photographs from me. If we have them we will then mail them to him, the only stipulation being that they be returned to me following the publication of the article. This will allow comparison of photographs when pieces are not readily available. It will allow a much greater standardization of our photographs and it will allow that they can be of better quality and for educational purposes this should be a great improvement.

In summary then, the functions of our committee are basically two: (1) To supply funds for photographing assembled collections of pewter if necessary; (2) To form a repository for a collection of 5 X 7 black and white glossy photographs which can be utilized by the general membership for incorporation into articles for the bulletin. At this point the only requisite is that the photographs be sent back to, in this case, myself for storing.

PCCA Guidelines For Honorary Membership 1982

At the April 23rd meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pewter Collector's Club of America, Inc. the following Guidelines for Honorary Membership in the Club were unanimously adopted:

Honorary Membership might be conferred on someone who:

- (1) makes an outstanding contribution to the knowledge and/or information in the field of pewter whether by way of scholarly endeavor, research or other development and/or
- (2) has performed an inordinate service to the club itself - *other* than the usual activities and obligations assumed in holding national office or by virtue of longevity of membership.

Honorary Members will not be required to pay dues.

Musings On The Mysteries Of Some Mid-Ohio Valley Metal Men/Women

by David H. McConnell

The genesis of this little paper stems from a basic curiosity. I was intrigued a few years ago by the mention of Katherin Ebert in her book *Collecting American Pewter* of a couple of Cincinnati makers of pewter or britannia without reported examples. They were William C. Pomeroy and John F. Wendelyn. Who were these people? Where did they come from? What happened to them? And since I doubted that her list was complete, were there others? Well, my digging in the archives of the Cincinnati Historical Society and elsewhere did yield some answers. However, the paradox of this initial research has been the unearthing of perhaps more questions than solutions. Well, let's travel back into the mists of time and see what we can find.

My earliest resource was a slender, beautifully bound volume entitled *The Cincinnati Directory of 1819-20*. At that time Cincinnati



had about 10,000 inhabitants and was a "major city in the U.S., exceeded in the Ohio-Mississippi Valley only by New Orleans, which had about 27,000 people.

Alas, although there were six manufacturers of tinware and nine silversmiths, apparently britannia or pewter were not made locally. A natural question arises. Were there, in fact, some pewterers among the coppersmiths and tanners, tin plate workers, or whitesmiths? Main Street was their preferred location, and most of these men had their origins in New York or Pennsylvania. Some of the names will be familiar to those of you from Cincinnati: Bird, Horne, Shield, Chase, Resor, and one Orrin Frisby (a progenitor of the person who invented the sailing disc?)

Again in 1825 in *The Cincinnati Directory* we find the same names plus three additional tin plate workers, Messrs. Judd, Robinson, and Smith, working on Sycamore and Elm Streets. But still no britannia men.

The next publication researched, *Cincinnati in 1826*, by B. Drake and E. D. Mansfield, who were early attorneys, makes no mention of the existence of britannia or pewter people. The manufacturing activities of Josiah Warren have obviously ceased, and at this point apparently no hard or white metal men are at work in the bustling Ohio Valley city of Cincinnati.

The 1829 Directory reveals nothing further, but we note the city is now over 24,000 and is obviously experiencing sun-belt type growth. A noteworthy advertisement in this issue promotes the sale of a superior washing machine, patented in 1828 by one Simon Willard. Finally, with appropriate hallelujahs, I noted the presence of William and Osman Sellew, boarding at Cyrus Coffin's on Main between Third and Fourth, and working on Fifth between Walnut and Vine, in the 1834 City Directory. They had no ad for a factory in this issue. By the 1836-37 Directory, Sellew and Co. has an ad as Britannia Ware Manufacturers and Enos has joined his brothers William and Osman. In the 1842-43 Cist Directory the Sellew ad far exceeds in size the ad of another young, struggling company, Procter & Gamble.

By 1843 Asa F. Flagg has arrived in Cincinnati (from England?) and is working as a britannia ware maker on Seventh between Main and Sycamore. (An interesting side light is the allusion in an early book on Cincinnati industry to Flagg's having been an English "potter" initially.) Henry Homan is not listed in this Cincinnati Directory. (An interesting fact, since Flagg and Homan are listed in Laughlin as working from 1824-1854. A contradictory note is Laughlin's working dates for Henry being from 1847-1864.) William Sellew is boarding with S. B. Munson (of Munson and Doolittle?*) at No. 3, Commercial Row. Enos is boarding at J. E. Shelby, and Osman boards between Seventh and Eighth. They have a sizable ad in the 1843 Directory.

In 1844 the only britannia ware manufacturer listed is Sellew, and they ran the same ad they did in 1843.

Were Flagg and Homan not listed because they didn't advertise? I think not, since the facts seem to indicate that Flagg and Homan as such did not exist yet.

In 1846 we find the first mention of Henry Homan, who is shown simply as a laborer in the Directory listing. When we combine this fact with the allusion to Asa F. Flagg as "Pewter" Flagg by Knittle in her book** and his earlier listing in the Cincinnati Directory as a britannia maker, we now have to believe that Henry was initially simply an apprentice in Flagg and Homan. However, he obviously was learning quickly and well so that by 1851 upon the death of Asa Flagg, Homan ably took over the business and began the Homan dynasty.

I did learn of an additional Cincinnati pewterer at this point, since Knittle, in her pamphlet, mentions that Mr. M. Miller took the place of Asa Flagg in 1851 as a co-partner with H. Homan until the death of Homan in 1865.

* Noted early Cincinnati engravers and lithographers.

** Knittle, Rhea Mansfield - *Early Ohio Silversmiths And Pewterers*



We probably have a different perspective about Henry Homan now in that he was a "learning partner," and have perhaps established that the working dates of Flag and Homan were other than previously advertised, that is, 1847-1851 versus 1842-1854. Maybe M. Mill should be added to the roll of Cincinnati pewterers? However, two large looming questions in your mind must be John F. Wendelyn and William C. Pomeroy? Since I said I started this whole paper because of them, well, what are the facts about these gentlemen?

First, let's talk briefly about William C. Pomeroy. He is listed by Laughlin as being a partner of J. H. Stalkamp and working from 1853-1856. He was located with Stalkamp at 69 East Fifth. Interestingly, according to Rhea Knittle, Stalkamp and Pomeroy came to Cincinnati from Ohio City and Newburgh (Greater Cleveland) in Cuyahoga County, with the idea of increasing sales and expanding production. (This is not surprising, since Cleveland was only about 17,000 in 1850 versus Cincinnati's population of over 115,000.)

Three short notes from ads, etc., about J. H. Stalkamp from Knittle when he was in Ohio City in the early 1840's:

"Maker of tin, pewter and copper utensils."

"His wares were peddled about the countryside."

"Peddlers are wanted who can furnish a horse and cart to sell wares about the countryside."

The story of John F. Wendelyn is fascinating, but I suspect a bit more apocryphal. He, too, was a partner of J. H. Stalkamp, working at 69 East Fifth Street from 1853-1855. At any rate, John could be the first Cincinnati-born pewterer, since Knittle says that he was the "son of the first John Wendelyn of Cincinnati who, I believe, may have been the pewterer stationed at Fort Washington." Well, these words were a bombshell to me and certainly call for additional research, although I know not where to start. If true, the first John Wendelyn would clearly be the initial pewterer in Cincinnati. Knittle mentions that he worked in 1807, in addition, she listed six previously

unknown (to me, at any rate) Cincinnati pewterers. They are:

Andrew Dunseth (1812-1814)

Jacob Resor, Sr. (1816) "Pewter for the town and surrounding country"

Jacob Schwing (1817)

W. Corbin (1818-1831) "Retailer and wholesaler of pewter, block tin, and other metal wares. Said to have made this ware on the premises."

J. Gould (1828)

Jacob Resor, Jr. (1841) "Advertised in this year."

Obviously, more research is needed.

Since I have been dealing with some possible new or unknown britannia and pewter maker in Cincinnati, I do have another name that should definitely be placed in nomination on that list. That individual is Margaret Homan, who I believe may rank as perhaps the only woman britannia or pewter maker in the U.S. She barely squeaks in before the flood of silver plate engulfs the metalware industry, including The Homan Company. But she did take over the company at her husband Henry's death in 1865, and ran Homan until her retirement in December, 1887. (I realize that she functioned more as a manager than an artisan, but based on her personal history I have no doubt that she was knowledgeable enough to fashion her own britannia products on occasion.)

As I said initially, the paradox of attempting to answer questions is the development of more questions than answers. Some questions for the future are: Why were there no pewterers or britannia makers in Pittsburgh or Louisville? Who made the pewter or britannia hollow ware used for plating? Was it always manufactured in house? An example today is a cup that is attributed to N. L. Hazen, a Cincinnati silversmith, who according to his early advertisements also sold britannia. Are there some overlooked hard metal people in this area?



I'll close with a marvelous paragraph from Mrs. Rhea Mansfield Knittle's book which describes the demise of britannia in the Ohio Valley area:

"Britannia is tougher than it looks. It lends itself to machine rolling and power pressing. Whatever its virtues or its faults, britannia ruled the waves of the Ohio River until it sank in a maelstrom brought about by the electroplating process."

Thus came the end of the era of this lustrous alloy in the Ohio River Valley.

Ed. note: The foregoing article by Mr. McConnell was a "mini-paper" presented at the fall meeting of the Midwest Group.

A Coffee Urn Update

by Robert Dalluge

Since publication of an article in the last Bulletin regarding existing American britannia coffee urns, six additional urns have been reported. Pictured here are five of these urns. The sixth one is by Leonard Reed & Barton and is in the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Seevers, but no photograph is available.

It has also been learned that the urn listed as No. 6 in the previous article was made by James Dixon & Sons (which eliminates it from this grouping) and that No. 7 was made by Leonard Reed & Barton.

This then brings the total of known coffee urns to 16 and they are broken down by maker as follows:

- 6 by Roswell Gleason
- 1 by Taunton Britannia Mfg. Co.
- 9 by Leonard Reed & Barton

By examining the pictures of 15 coffee urns (one picture not available), some comparisons can be drawn. The one urn by Taunton Britannia Mfg. Co. seems to be in a class by itself. The body of this urn is circular, half smooth and half fluted--giving it a very squatty appearance--thus making it entirely different from those made by Roswell Gleason and Leonard Reed & Barton. It would be difficult to distinguish a Gleason urn from an L. R. & B. one as there are similarities in both. Finials vary, but both also used the wooden rosette (four on Gleason urns and four on L. R. & B. urns). The body of all the urns by these two



Fig. 1 By Roswell Gleason. Offered in a recent Bourne auction.

makers is pear-shaped, either cylindrical (four Gleason and four L. R. & B.) or octagonal (2 Gleason and four L. R. & B.). In addition, two Gleason urns and one L. R. & B. urn have an indentation on the body at the level of the handles, as shown in Fig. 2. The handles on all Gleason urns are the same, but L. R. & B. incorporated two styles. The stem on all urns is round, some having an extended ring at the center point. The bases are all similar, being either round or octagonal, depending on the shape of the body. The spigots on these 15



Fig. 2 By Roswell Gleason on the left and by Leonard Reed & Barton on the right, both in the collection of Bryce Kinsey.



Keep On Looking

by Melvyn D. and Bette A. Wolf

Often pewter collectors sit around and talk about the "good old days" of pewter collecting when fine pieces of pewter were readily available. Statements are always made to the effect that "there are no sleepers to be found today". It is said that all the fine and rare pieces have been bought and are residing either in collections or museums, and that the collectors and dealers are smart enough today that no "sleepers" are found.

We must admit that it is harder and harder to find underpriced pieces today. Recent publications of numerous books as well as the Bulletins of the Pewter Collectors' Club of America have divulged so much information about pewter that a great body of knowledge exists. The collectors and dealers are better educated and the "sleepers are getting harder to find.

This is not to say, however, that armed with knowledge about pewter, rare finds cannot be discovered. Chance favors the mind that is well prepared and if the collector is at the right place at the right time, he may still find some unknown wonderful piece of pewter, be it at an antique show (e.g. Ben Esners' Eighteenth Century Philadelphia coffee pot) or at a small auction (e.g. Don Herr's Simon Edgell beaker) or at a larger auction house where we recently found a pair of "sleepers".



Fig. 3 By Leonard Reed & Barton. In the Old Sturbridge Village collections. Old Sturbridge Village photo by Henry E. Peach.



Fig. 4 By Leonard Reed & Barton. In the collection of Ellis Whitaker.

urns appear to have been made by the same maker. They are all made of brass, have a small finial over the spout and have an ivory or bone ring on the handle. The overall height of all urns varies from 14" to 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ ".

Thanks to those persons who volunteered this latest data. If any additional information on coffee urns is known, it is still most welcome.

It has been interesting doing this research on coffee urns. While a coffee urn may not be the most sought after, prized, expensive or rarest form of britannia, nevertheless it is a handsome piece and a credit to those who made them and now to those who have one in their collection.

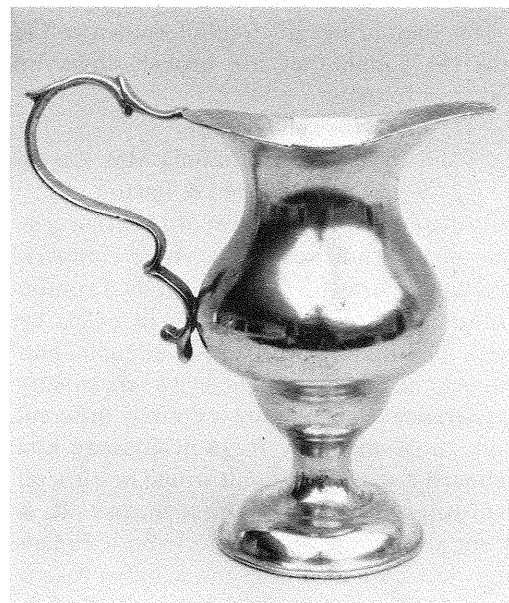


Fig. 1 Number 1 discovery



Most recently at a major Midwest auction gallery, we inadvertently stumbled across the two pieces of pewter pictured below. Fig. 1 shows a 4¾" high unmarked pedestal-based 18th century creamer, undoubtedly by William Will. Fig. 2 shows that creamer on the right and another Will example on the left.



Fig. 2 Comparison of two Will creamers—the new discovery on the right

Note that both lower body and base of each of these is from the Will salt mould. The two cream pitchers have exactly the same body. The handle application is slightly lower on the body in the new find which gives a slightly different appearance to the cream pitcher and there is also some small ornamental notching placed by the pewterer along the margins of the spout in the newly found example. Fig. 3 pictures the other creamer found at the same time and while not necessarily made by William Will, is of 18th century manufacture. It



Fig. 3 Number 2 discovery

measures 4¼" high and has been photographed in Laughlin's *Pewter in America*, Volume I, Fig. 206. Laughlin's piece stands on a footed base as opposed to ours which stands on a pedestal base. Except for this difference the two cream pitchers are identical. Laughlin describes his piece as being 18th century Philadelphia manufacture. However, if one refers to Jacobs' book, *A Guide to American Pewter*, Fig. 35, upper left, the same exact cream pitcher as ours is shown. Mr. Jacobs, however, felt that while 18th century, it was probably of New York manufacture and possibly by John Will.

The fact that we found both of these cream pitchers together at the same auction tied together by a small piece of wire makes us think that they probably had always lived together. The state of repair as well as the grey color was very similar in both pieces suggesting that they had certainly been together for a long time if not from original conception.

Both of these creamers were slightly dented and in need of cleaning. Neither was photographed in the catalog and both were described as "battered". These two circumstances, e.g. the lack of photograph and the inadequate description allowed us to purchase these pieces quite reasonably.

This brief article has been presented primarily to demonstrate the fact that if one looks hard enough, and armed with knowledge, the opportunity of finding something wonderful is still available. It should be noted, however, most pewter collecting, and particularly in our own case, is not done by buying rare finds at small expenditure. Our primary collecting is done through the usual channels of buying from major dealers at the normal correct pricing structure. If one were to attempt to assemble a collection only by finding pieces at "bargains", he would have an extremely small collection and would be spending the bulk of his collecting days attempting to attain the unattainable.

Hope springs eternal in all of us. You should never give up the thought of finding or turning up something previously unknown. It adds to the excitement of collecting and certainly creates interesting stories to tell our antiques friends sitting around the fire on some cold night.



Sealers Marks On Boardman Measures

by Donald L. Fennimore &
Charles V. Swain

Pages 364 and 365 of the March 1979 issue of the *Bulletin* outline Dr. Melvyn Wolf's discussion of American baluster measures made by the Boardman family. Interestingly, Dr. Wolf outlines useful structural and stylistic criteria for the identification of these American examples, important in distinguishing them from their much more common British counterpart. He also discussed the enigmatic initials and date which almost always appear on the lip of Boardman baluster measures flanking the handle.

These initials and dates ultimately derive from the establishment of a standard system of mensuration in England during the reign of the monarch Edgar between 959 and 975.¹ This was an initial attempt to unify the multi-form conflicting measuring systems which had evolved in medieval England (and throughout Europe) after the collapse of the Roman empire. About one hundred years after Edgar's reign, William I ordained that all weights and measures in England had to bear the King's seal as proof of authenticity.² Continuing concern over confusion and abuse of the system of weights and measures is evident in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). At that time it was confirmed again that "the standards of bushels, gallons and ells (an archaic English unit of length equal to 45 inches) shall be sealed with an iron seal of Our Lord the King and no measure shall be in any town unless it do agree with the King's measure".³ Again, in 1491, Henry VII decreed that standard weights and measures be constructed and distributed nationally, and among continuing legislation on the subject, in 1795 George III established specific procedures which examiners were to follow for the inspection of weights and measures.⁴

This need for a uniform, predictable and enforceable system for weights and measures also faced the nascent United States. Among the many pressing affairs of state to which the newly organized Congress had to direct its

attention was this very subject. Article I, section 8, clause 5 of the Constitution addresses this in stipulating that "the Congress shall have the power...to...fix the standards of weights and measures".⁵

This resolution clearly established their prerogative. Beyond that Congress seems to have shown little interest in the mechanics of monitoring and enforcing standards. Instead, that lot seems to have become the Responsibility of city governments. Fortunately, the pewter liquid measures made by Timothy Boardman, Thomas D. Boardman and Lucius Hart for use in New York City provide a tentative, albeit useful insight into the system established there for the control of such vessels.



Fig. 1 Assembled set of five measures ranging in size from half gallon, through quart, pint, half pint. Half gallon and quart sizes are marked by Timothy Boardman and Company, pint size is marked by Boardman and Hart, the half pint and quarter pint are unmarked. *Collection of Charles V. Swain.*

For his article, Dr. Wolf sought out and recorded thirty-six measures which he was then able to organize chronologically. In doing so, he established a sequential grouping of initials which, when analyzed in light of the city office of weights and measures can be seen to belong to the individuals charged with certifying the correct capacity of these vessels. Dr. Wolf was able to uncover measures ranging in date from 1813 to 1873. During this sixty year period, a number of individuals served as either inspector of weights and measures or sealer of weights and measures for New York City.

In these capacities, they either struck or caused to have struck their initials and date of inspection on the measures which they exam-



ined and found to be of accurate capacity. A chart listing initials, dates of tenure in office, name and title follows:

| Initials | Dates | Name | Title |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| O.A.B. | 1807-1816 | Anthony Bartow | City Weigher |
| W.W. | 1817-1818 | William Welling | Assistant State Sealer |
| I.P.S. | 1819-1828 | Joseph P. Simpson | City Sealer |
| A.L. | 1829 | Abraham Lawrence | City Weigher |
| A.B. | 1830-1834 | Andrew Bache | City Weigher |
| J.D. | 1835-1842 | John Demarest | City Weigher |
| A.D.F. | 1843 | David Francher | City Weigher |
| E.B.O. | 1844-1848 | Elias B. Oakley | City Sealer |
| P.L. | 1849-1851 | Peter Lawrence | City Sealer |
| D.W.C. | 1852-1854 | Daniel W. Clark | Sealer of Weights and Measures |
| J.H.E. | 1855-1859 | John H. Embree | Inspector of Weights and Measures |
| W.H.T. | 1866-1872 | William H. Thomas | Weigher |

Dr. Wolf was unable to locate marked measures for several of the years in his table. The list above enables a reasonable prediction of impressed initials for all those years for which examples have not yet been found, except a six year hiatus between 1859 and 1866. The following individuals are recorded in the Manual of the City of New York for those years:

1860 - Jonas N. Phillips, Oliver S. Hibbard, John A. Fisher, Inspectors of Weights and Measures

1861 - Oliver S. Hibbard, James P. Fisher, Henry B. Crippen, George Caulfield, Inspectors of Weights and Measures

1862 - Joseph N. Somonson, Charles A. Denyke, George Caulfield, Henry B. Crippen, Inspectors of Weights and Measures

1863 - 1865 George S. Drew, George Wilson, Sealers of Weights and Measures

It is apparent from the last four entries that more than one inspector or sealer could serve at any given date. In 1852, for instance, Gershon Cohen and Michael Tuomey were inspectors of weights and measures, while Daniel W. Clark and Pierce Delahunt were sealers. Yet only Daniel W. Clark's initials have been found on measures dated that year. The reason for this is not presently known.

It is also of interest to note that these individuals served as inspectors and sealers for relatively short and varying lengths of time.

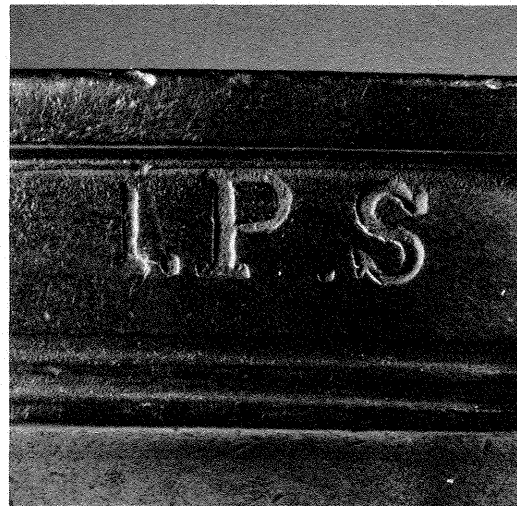


Fig. 2 Initials of Joseph P. Simpson, City Sealer for New York from 1819 to 1828, on the half gallon measure in figure 1, dated 1827.



Fig. 3 Initials of David Francher, City Weigher for New York in 1843, on the pint measure in figure 1, dated 1843.



Fig. 4 Initials of John Demarest, City Weigher for New York from 1835 to 1842, on the quarter pint measure in figure 1, dated 1838.



This is evidenced by John H. Embree, who was a city inspector of weights and measures from 1855 to 1859. Before that, he worked as a clerk and following that time he was listed as a butcher.⁶ These individuals were apparently appointed annually. Some served only one year, as with Abraham Lawrence in 1829 or David Francher in 1843, while others remained in office longer, like John P. Simpson who held his post for nine years.

This article has been concerned principally with the identification of the men whose initials appear on the lip of Boardman measures. Beyond this, there are numerous related questions which impinge on the subject and which are worthy of research. Among them are the specific laws governing the marking of such vessels. Are pewter measures the only ones so marked; are these measures marked by the inspector when first made or when retailed and put into actual use; why was capacity certification required only once and not annually; were these measures used in a commercial capacity or domestic-or both, and importantly, why, with the exception of the rarely encountered CP and CM measures, are these New York examples the only ones presently known?⁷



Fig. 5 Touchmark of Timothy Boardman and Company on the half gallon measure in figure 1.

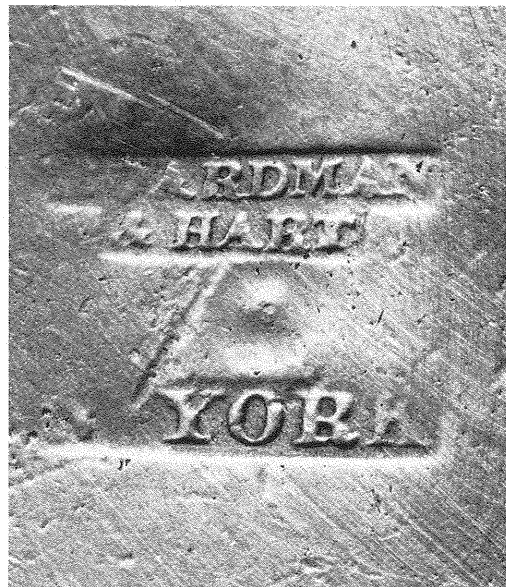


Fig. 6 Touchmark of Boardman and Hart on pint measure in figure 1.

Footnotes

1. Ronald E. Zupko, *A Dictionary of English Weights and Measures*, Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1968, p. 189.
2. Ibid.
3. Harold W. Speight, "Verification marks on old pewter measures", *The Antique Collector*, August 1962, p. 170.
4. Zupko, p. 194.
5. Arthur H. Frazier, *United States Standards of Weights and Measures*, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1978 p. 1.
6. This information and that on all the individuals who served as inspectors and sealers in New York City was obtained from the New York City Directory, published annually, and from the Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York, also published annually.
7. There are additionally two lidded measures, one attributed to Lawrence Langworthy and the other to John Fryers, pictured and briefly discussed on page 76 of Bulletin 44.



United-What?-Addenda

An article in *Bulletin 82* entitled "UNITED---? United What?" appealed for information on a partially struck touch or label in a British pre-Imperial pot, with only the top part of the mark identifiable.

A follow-up article in *Bulletin 84* entitled "UNITED- What?-An Answer," gave information received from the president of the (British) Pewter Society, Dr. E. R. Roberts, that he owned a pot bearing a mark, the top part of which was not identifiable, but with the bottom of which was. Putting the two together, it was agreed that curved over the top was "UNITED" and under the bottom was VICTALLERS, with clasped hands being in the center.

More recently, Mr. Arthur Muir, a Corresponding Member of the Pewter Society, sent me a copy of an article he has submitted to the editor of the Pewter Society's *Journal* to supplement articles similar to those mentioned above which had appeared in the *Journals* of Autumn 1981 and Spring of 1982. Mr. Muir's article, entitled "UNITED VICTUALLERS-A POSSIBLE ANSWER" is quoted below.

"With regard to the queries in the Autumn '81 and Spring '82 issues of the *Journal*, concerning the mark UNITED VICTUALLERS, it occurred to me that this could well have some connection with the still flourishing Licensed Victuallers Association, formed around the turn of the 18th. and 19th. centuries.

"Further enquiries have brought to light the information that many early local branches of the LVA did, in fact, have this wording in their titles-e.g. Manchester and Salford United Victuallers; Newcastle and Gateshead United Victuallers; etc., etc.

"The clasped hands symbol is a well known device among Friendly Societies and similar bodies, and it could be that a specific branch of the LVA would order a batch of mugs from the local pewterer for use in the pubs in their particular area.

"There is no positive proof at this stage, but there does appear to be a definite connection.

"For this information my thanks are due to Mr. Ted Elkins, a well-known Licensed Trade

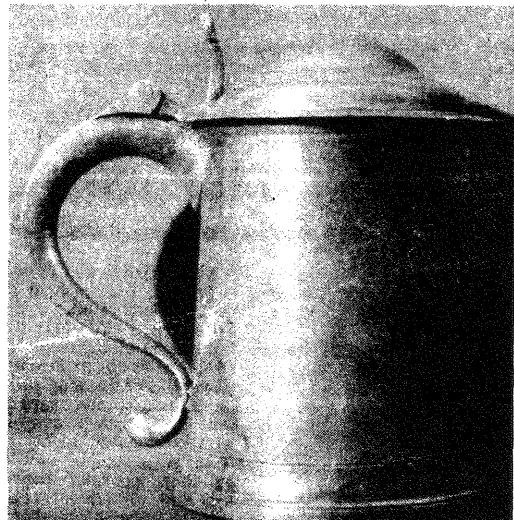
Journalist.

"Arthur Muir
27-10-82"

Our thanks to Mr. Muir. While the entire subject is far from world-shattering, it at least shows that once in a while some partial or whole answers can be obtained by posing questions in a society or club publication. Some of these questions can be of major importance. Would that PCCA members responded as well as those of the Pewter Society.

William O. Blaney

Ed. Note Amen to that last sentence!



Stolen

FORT JOHNSON, N.Y. — The pewter tankard pictured was stolen from the Montgomery County Historical Society the weekend of September 4-6. The tankard is seven inches tall and was probably made by John Will of New York City, circa 1760. There is a faint hallmark on the bottom along with the museum's accession number 1735. Any person with information on this vessel should call Director Maryq Antoine de Julio, at the Montgomery County Historical Society (518) 843-0300 or (518) 864-5772.



Where Is (Who Has) This Pewter Mug

The undersigned is doing research work on early American and British pewter mugs. The accompanying picture does not clearly show the mug's various features due to the fact it is not an original photograph, but only a photocopy from a not too good photograph. The mug's present location is unknown to me.

The mug appears to be quite squat compared to the more common, and perhaps later, mugs. Its tapered drum body is decorated with two broad (or hooped) bands which seem to divide the body into thirds. The wide-sweeping handle is of the solid, strap-like type, the terminal (or lower end) of which appears to have been damaged or deformed from its original shape.

There is little if any base moulding which looks as though a portion of the front edge (right side as seen in the picture) has sustained some damage (which may have been repaired since the picture of the mug was taken). The style of the base moulding indicates the mug's bottom may rest flush with the table.

I will be most appreciative if someone who knows its present whereabouts or its current owner will so advise me (see address below). And if that someone happens to be the mugs owner, I will be more than appreciative if he or she will mail or telephone me the following information:

1. Height (from bottom of base moulding to brim).
2. The top or brim diameter.
3. The base or bottom diameter.
4. The liquid capacity to the brim (in U.S. fluid ounces). (Use of a kitchen measuring cup will be adequate.)
5. Any marks stamped or engraved on the (a) handle, (b) body, (c) inside bottom, or (d) outside bottom.

If any of the above information is given me, I may want to obtain a few more details, but will do this by mailing a further request, plus a postage paid return envelope, plus a postage stamp equal to that used to submit the above information to me, or the cost of the telephone call.

Your cooperation is beseeched.

William O. Blaney
15 Rockridge R.
Wellesley Hills, MA 02181
Tel (617) 235-1073

Again Where Is (Who Has) This Pint Mug

In an article published August 1937 in "The Magazine Antiques" by Lura Woodside Watkins entitled "George Richardson Pewterer" a pint mug marked "G. Richardson-Boston" is pictured (Fig. 1) as being in the collection of Dr. Madelaine R. Brown.



Fig. 1.

In a subsequent article also entitled "George Richardson-Pewterer" and also published in "Antiques" there appears another picture of a pint mug by "G. Richardson-Boston" from the collection of Dr. Madelaine Brown (Fig. 2). Very probably the same mug is referred to in the two articles. (See American and British Pewter-An Historical Survey, Edited by John Carl Thomas, Antiques Magazine Library-Main Street/Universe Books-New York.)



Fig. 2.



Dr. Brown was a Charter Member of PCCA and an extremely active collector for many years. On her death her pewter was left to the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Newport (R.I.) Historical Society and forms the basis of their collections. Neither of these organizations was bequeathed this Richardson-Boston Mug and it is questionable as to whether it was in her collection when she died.

Having acquired a quart Richardson-Boston mug with a handle of the design of the one on the Brown mug pictured herewith I am most anxious to either see this mug or get a better picture of it.

It would be most appreciated if anyone knowing of the whereabouts of this mug would write the undersigned or, better yet, telephone (collect).

Webster Goodwin
730 Commonwealth Ave.
Warwick, R.I. 02886
Tel. 401-737-2637

Future Meetings

New England (Spring)
May 7, 1983
Home of Gordon and Genevieve Deming
Duxbury, Mass.

New York (Spring)
May 14, 1983
Home of Ben and Elsie Esner
Peekskill, N.Y.

National Meeting
June 10-12, 1983
Shelburne Museum
Shelburne, Vermont

Editor's Note Mother Hubbard's Cupboard-Bare

Many are probably wondering about the delay in printing this issue of the Bulletin - the reason: lack of articles to print - it's still thin! We are in worse condition for the Spring issue we have *nothing* as of January 15th in our files.

Your Bulletin is an important part of the Pewter Club activities. It mainly consists of

articles submitted by members. PLEASE get busy and send in material to your Editor or he will have more problems getting your Bulletin to you on time!

Webster Goodwin-Editor

A "Mary Rose" 437th Anniversary Visit

by Richard Munday

On July 19th, 1982 a party of us, all Livermen of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, including the Master; Wardens; Charles Hull, Curator; and Major Halford, the Company Clerk, went to Portsmouth to see some of the objects salvaged from the Tudor Ship "MARY ROSE". By a coincidence it was a 437th Anniversary, for the Mary Rose founded on July 19, 1545.

She was a front line warship roughly 90 feet long, rebuilt in 1536 and uprated from 600 to 700 tons. She had increased decks and additional bronze and iron guns. The normal crew of over 400 was implemented by about 300 soldiers and extra gun crews. The Captain was Roger Grenville, the Vice Admiral Sir George Carew.

The MARY ROSE in 1545 was in action opposing the French fleet to prevent the landing of a French invading force on the South Coast when suddenly she heeled over and rapidly sank.

There are two versions of the incident. The French insisted she was sunk by their cannon; the English declared she foundered without a shot being fired as a result of mishandling, negligence, and indiscipline.

Only a handful of the crew survived, among those lost was the Captain Roger Glenville and the Vice Admiral Sir George Carew. No explanation was forthcoming for the sinking without a shot being fired and a mystery it remains to this day.

Through the years periodical attempts at salvage proved futile and in due course the Mary Rose was forgotten. In 1836 however the position of the sunken Mary Rose was re-discovered by the intrepid divers, the brothers John and Charles Deane, who actually salvaged guns and other objects some of which



are now in Southsea Castle, near Portsmouth. There must have been insuperable difficulties preventing further salvaging by the Deanes, for they ceased operating.

The Mary Rose lay undisturbed for more than a century but apparently not forgotten. In 1965 a search for the sunken ship was instigated by Mr. Alexander McKee encouraged by Mrs. Margaret Rule the well known Archaeologist. In 1966 the position of the Mary Rose was loosely pin-pointed based on an old chart with a red cross marking the spot where the Deanes found the ship in 1836. With the chart as a guide the location was discovered. Then the real problems started.

Here is a quote from the Mary Rose Trust Booklet, page 9. "After some discussion the Mary Rose (1967) Committee was formed with the commitment "to find, excavate, raise, and preserve for all time such remains of the ship "Mary Rose" as may be of historical and archaeological interest".

I cannot enter here on the agonizingly slow progress as problems piled up. The ship was buried beneath about four metres of clay and silt and not until 1971 was the necessary equipment and "know-how" ready for the assault proper preparatory to salvaging the objects which were on the ship when she sank in 1545. Very soon it was obvious a success story was in the offing. All those engaged in the project shared a dedication and enthusiasm which knew no bounds. Once the structure was free from silt and clay, items were being brought to the surface rapidly.

In 1979 THE MARY ROSE TRUST was formed H.R.H. The Prince of Wales who had personally dived down to inspect the Henry the VIIIth Flagship agreed to become the President, and the "guiding light" Mrs. Margaret Rule the Archaeological Director.

What you have read so far is a prelude to describing what awaited us when we arrived at the THE OLD BOND STORE where all salvaged items were taken for treatment to counteract the effect of several centuries immersed in sea water.

Had we expected to see shelves or cubicles with neat arrangements of bric-a-brac we were soon disillusioned. On entering we immediately were transported into another world, the world of the 16th Century.

On what appeared to be acres of space, lying loose were huge coils of cable some five inches thick; a lead bowl about three feet wide; another bowl smaller; wooden gun carriages and other ship's items in various states of preservation. Spread around were numerous glass tanks containing one or more objects which we could not see clearly, immersed in fresh water or in some cases ammonia. In cubicles tied up in bundles wrapped in protective covering were thousands of arrows; there were huge long-bows requiring strong men to operate them; heavy cannon balls large and small; the Ship's Bell made to the order of Henry the VIIIth. Remnants in leather; in wood; in metal; and domestic items some in fragments, all waiting to be treated and restored by experts. The intention is to reconstruct the interior of the Mary Rose as nearly as possible to its original state.

Then we were led to the hoard of salvaged pewter approximately four hundred and fifty years or more, old, and most part of the time on the sea bed. The pewter must have belonged to either the Captain or the Vice Admiral or other high ranking officers or Noblemen who were on board. Pewter of such high quality was costly even in the 16th Century.

The first piece examined was a lidded baluster-shaped flagon in quite good condition. It is almost identical to the flagon described in the P.C.C.A. March 1982 Bulletin No. 84 Pages 190/191. The only difference is in the thumbpiece. Whereas the flagon pictured in the Bulletin has the PLUMETTE & WEDGE THUMBPIECE, the Mary Rose Flagon has a TWIN-BALL & WEDGE THUMBPIECE. It is now known that the two flagons just mentioned are both German, c.1500 or earlier.

Then we were shown what appears to be an English flat-lidded Baluster Measure with A PLUMETTE & WEDGE THUMBPIECE never before seen on this type measure. The date must be c.1500. We were only able to make a superficial examination. If later it can be confirmed as English it will become the rarest, oldest and most unusual English wine measure known.

A tall slender lidded flagon on an inverted funnel-shaped foot was not on view. It is pictured on page 5 of the Mary Rose booklet, covered in barnacles. An extremely rare flagon,



definitely Dutch, c.1500 or earlier.

There were several smallish items of great rarity and interest, including a small travelling Christmatory. The time element prevented concentrated individual examination of them all.

Finally we were shown the wonderful collection of broad-rimmed plates and dishes, 15th to early 16th Century. Most of them in remarkably good condition, though some had been battered into wierd shapes which made me long to re-shape them with a tap here or there from my little rubber mallet. Stamped on the rims of many plates were the ownership initials "G.C." which possibly stand for George Carew, the Vice Admiral who may have brought his personal pewter on board. That of course cannot be confirmed.

In the circumstances we could not make a thorough examination, as many plates had protective nett covering, and there was a time element. We looked for makers' marks as evidence of nationality. On some plates we saw a Tudor Rose and Crown which can apply to English, German or Dutch plates of that period. On some future occasion my friend Dr. Homer and I, with permission hope to be

allowed an uninterrupted session to establish dates and nationality. One fact is indisputable, we were privileged to see a unique collection of pewter and other objects.

We had a fascinating, educational, enjoyable afternoon. Regretfully we missed seeing Mrs. Margaret Rule. The young lady who was deputised as guide was obviously dedicated to the "MARY ROSE" venture. She showed us around authoritively describing the various objects. We all were grateful to her, and to Mrs. Margaret Rule for the invitation.

I feel certain that in due course members of the P.C.C.A. will wish to make a pilgrimage to see the Tudor Ship "MARY ROSE" restored to its original glory. It will be very rewarding.

P.S. Since the article was written, the Mary Rose has been raised from the sea-bed, with amazing skill, successfully, and is now in the process of being restored to its original grandeur. It will probably take at least two years for the enormous amount of labour involved to be completed. It is hoped that the world will see Mary Rose exactly as she looked in the 15th Century.



