

# PCCA newsletter

Issued semiannually by the Pewter Collectors' Club of America, Inc.

Vol. XXXIV, No. 2 (65)

Spring 2017

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## Greetings

Welcome to your spring newsletter. It has been a quiet period that is about to get busy with the spring national PCCA gathering is coming up on May 5th and 6th. Details on this follow.

There was an issue raised by one of our members a few months back about possibly fake pewter sundials showing up at auction. As we know, fakes show up but the concern was that putting these in the newsletter passed on bad information to our members in the auctions results section of the newsletter. I suggested several options to address faulty auction results from finding their way into this publication ranging from club members vetting auctions to eliminating results altogether. This did stimulate a bit of debate and a few emails from members. If we tally the response they were split evenly between “keep the results” and “don’t put them in the newsletter.” The small sampling probably doesn’t warrant a decision on my part to delete auction results that has been a feature long before I came on the scene.

I have asked for participation from our members on a number of topics to invigorate our membership. It seems that we are not inclined, in general, to use the newsletter as a forum for intra-club projects, at least not those I’ve thrown out so far. Perhaps the auction results issue is one that can spark debate on whether they should be in or out of the newsletter. I don’t have final say in such matters but the board would be interested in your thoughts I’m sure.

To facilitate the conversation on auction results I could add a section for “Letters (emails) to the Editor” if there is a sufficient response. If you would like to participate in this project I need your permission to publish your name along with your email. (For those who have already weighed in please let me if I can use your email in the next edition if there are enough to make it profitable to publish the results.) If you have an opinion on providing auction sales and prices your email can be as simple as “yes,” meaning you want them to remain a part of the newsletter or “no” you don’t think it a good feature. But if you would outline your reasoning, as some have already done, that would help all of us to understand the issue better.

Finally, I like the idea of adding a “letters to the Editor” section when informative or challenging topics lead members to communicate. Therefore, if you want to express an opinion on any club or pewter related topic for discussion please feel free to send me your thoughts with expressed permission to publish your name as well as your email.

Scott (scott@gabrielasrest.com)

# Sharing Our Collections

Thus far we have been privileged to share in the collections of two of our members. The response to these articles has been positive and personally I think it can be one of the best ways to get to know each other. However, my request for volunteers to open their homes and collections has garnered no more candidates. Silence may be the answer to whether you are interested in this feature. But I'll give it one more try by sharing my collections with you. If you enjoy knowing about others in the PCCA in this way and are willing to let us get to know you, please contact me right away with your offer to be interviewed for the next newsletter. If I don't hear from anyone then the answer is that we don't want this to be part of who we are as a club.

Interviewing oneself is an interesting exercise. I decided to ask and answer the same questions I posed in our first article to Dawn and Ted Wylie. (Although Debra is interested in antiques and pewter this interview is with Scott.)

## *How did you get interested in pewter?*

My wife, Debra and I had been married only a short time in about 1972 when we moved to a small town where she had been hired to teach high school while I completed my undergraduate program. (She's much older than me, 7 months to be exact.) It was a rural area and the house closest to us was situated on an acreage with a nice garden and chickens, etc. We decided to introduce ourselves and found a retired couple who had recently moved from New England and had opened an antiques shop. We had purchased a few vintage pieces that in Oklahoma are called antiques but when we saw 18th and early 19th century furniture we became interested in "real" antiques.

Anyway, Ted and Dawn (Debra's sister) Wylie were living in the D.C. area at that time and we went to visit them. They had been collecting antiques (see the spring 2016 interview with the Wylie's) and in particular pewter. They taught us a bit about the metal but we stuck with furniture.

When the Wylie's were commissioned as missionaries to the Philippines they called and asked if we would be interested in buying their collection since they couldn't take it with them. We bought a few pieces of furniture and decided to acquire all of their pewter as well. The purchase was predicated on them being able to repurchase the items if they returned to the US.

We added a few pieces to the pewter collection and got more involved in learning about it. The Wylie's did return and as promised we sold everything back to them including their pewter and the pieces we purchased as well. That was in the 80s at a time we were building our dream house and money for new acquisitions was scarce for anything non-house related. And then when we started buying it was to fill our house with American furniture and decorative items and didn't include any pewter. So for over 20 years we had no pewter. But it was always a gap we knew was missing from our collection.

By 2005 we had everything we "needed" in furniture. We were at the point where if we found a piece we liked it had to be an "upgrade" for something we already had. We sold or moved to the guest rooms upstairs (as they did in the past) anything we no longer wanted in our main house. Then when we visited the Wylies in Nashville I enjoyed looking at and discussing their pewter. So I asked Ted for a recommendation on a dealer and he suggested Frank Powell, the Wolfs and Wayne Hilt. I connected with Frank first and began to build a collection.

## *Do you have a particular focus in your collection?*

Yes. It was a decision going into pewter for a second time to have a collection that was coherent and focused. Our furniture collection is unfocused, built around our interests that have changed over a 45 year time span. While it has slowly evolved into a concentration of American sophisticated, non-urban "brown" pieces (finished hard wood) clustered around 1760-1825 there are still remnants of painted and earlier/later pieces. We like all of what we have but stylistically it's all over the place.

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Therefore, we wanted our pewter to have a theme and stick to it. The theme is marked, (where marked examples are the norm) American pieces of 18th century craftsmen. That is to say makers who were active before 1800 even if an item is likely early 19th century. We also set a goal of 100 items. This may seem rather rigid but everything else we collect (paintings, quilts and sculpture) had been gathered over time with changing tastes and amounts we could dedicate to collecting and we wanted this one area to be consistent. It is also a time in our lives when we can be patient with no need to "get that one" now because there is a hole that needed filling. Even with patience as our guide we are most of the way to achieving our objective with only a few pieces outside our defined area of interest.

*How do you buy pewter?*

As we said, it started with one dealer we trusted and then adding pieces, here and there, from other dealers, all members of the PCCA at the time we were working with them. There were specific forms and makers that weren't available when we were ready to acquire them so we started buying at auctions to get these when they became available. (I wrote about my first auction experience in an issue of the PCCA Newsletter. The pieces that don't fit our criteria came mostly from auctions because I liked the form and the price and couldn't help myself it seems.)

I have not bought on line from EBay, etc. but probably will. When I do it will be for less expensive items so if I fail miserably on price or authenticity it won't hurt too much.

*What was your most exciting purchase?*

In some ways I'd say my first tankard because it was the first big acquisition. It's a Bassett low dome, crenated lid and fishtail handle. My heart was beating pretty fast when I opened the box.

But for sheer excitement it was an auction win that made it hard to keep my emotions in check. I had decided that the tea pot I most admired was a William Will's drum pot. The form for some reason just speaks to me of sophisticated elegance of late 18th century Philadelphia. I had tried to buy one at auction before and was outbid. This made it seem like I'd never be able to have the pot because they don't come up that often. Then the George Wolf collection came to auction and I went as far as I was willing and won the bid.

*So, how many pieces do you have in your collection?*

We have 85 of the 100 goal. Then there are 6 that don't fit our focus but we like.

*Do you use your pewter as it was intended to be used?*

I'm sorry to say we don't. I feel the tug sometimes to have a beer from one of our tankards but always chicken out. It's not the use but the cleanup that concerns me. It may sound trite but I feel a sense of stewardship for all of our antiques and would hate to damage something. (Every water ring or nick I know our family has added to a piece of furniture disturbs me every time I see it. Leaving something behind on pewter that harms it isn't something I'm comfortable risking.)

*Do you have a favorite piece(s) in your collection and why is it special?*

The two items mentioned above as exciting buys would be near the top of my list. But what I enjoy looking at the most for sheer beauty are a pair of Peter Young chalices. They aren't a "dead pair" but have very minor differences, yet in the cupboard they look like they were born together. The first one I bought brought joy in the beauty of form and the cleanest mark possible. The second I bought a few years later at half the price so it's special in its own way.

Interestingly, another favorite doesn't fit our criteria of being by an 18th century maker, but I think it's the most beautiful of 19th century forms. It's a Boardman flagon that I love to see, however an 18th century flagon is one of the missing pieces in our focused collection and I hope to fill this gap someday.

*continued on page 4*



William Will Teapot



Peter Young Chalices



Please join us at the

# National Museum of American History in Washington D.C.

The Spring 2017 PCCA National Meeting  
May 5th and 6th

Tysons Corner Marriott – Vienna, Virginia

Featuring an exclusive, hands-on inspection of select pewter from the National Museum of American History, a review of 19th Century Sparking Lamps, Collector's Choice, Show & Tell, Sales Tables and more. Plus, an optional visit to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Museum.



Items from the NMAH collection.

The PCCA is making a significant contribution toward the cost of this meeting as an incentive to encourage member participation in this event.

# Auction Report



*The PCCA Board of Governors encourages you to take note of the caveats that accompany auction reports. Members need to frequently remind themselves that there are a variety of pitfalls associated with the following auction data. Hammer prices should be viewed with caution as numerous factors influence the final price. While maker, form, and degree of rarity are relatively easy concepts to convey, other factors such as condition, repair and authenticity are much more difficult. Additionally, how well the auction was advertised, attended, and how aggressive the bidding, all bear on the final price as well.*

## Pewter; Boardman (Thomas Danforth Sherman), Mug, 4 inch.



A Hartford, Connecticut pewter mug, ca. 1840, bearing the touch of Thomas and Sherman Boardman, 4 1/4" high.

CONDITION: Typical dents.

Item F7978639

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares      **Origin:** Connecticut  
**Type:** drinking vessels      **Year:** 1820 - 1860

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 03-08	\$200 - \$400	1260	\$488

A pewter mug with the touch of Thomas and Sherman Boardman; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Pewter; Badger (Thomas), Plate, 8 inch.



A Boston, Massachusetts pewter plate, ca. 1800, bearing the touch of Thomas Badger, 8 3/8" dia.

CONDITION: No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7978663

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares      **Origin:** Massachusetts  
**Type:** chargers & plates      **Year:** 1790 - 1810

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 03-08	\$80 - \$120	1254	\$163

A Boston pewter plate with the touch of Thomas Badger; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

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## Candlestick (2); Flagg & Homan, Pewter, Trumpet Shaft, 9 inch.



A pair of Cincinnati, Ohio pewter candlesticks, 19th c., bearing the touch of Flagg & Homan, 9" high.

CONDITION: One with loss to rim of candlecup.

Item F7979692

Category: lighting                      Origin: Ohio  
Type: candlesticks                      Year: 1840 - 1870

### Sales History - January 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-16	\$100 - \$200	3550	\$125

A pair of Cincinnati pewter candlesticks by Flagg & Homan; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.



## Pewter; Danforth (Samuel), Plate (2), 8 inch.



A pair of Hartford, Connecticut pewter plates, ca. 1805, bearing the touch of Samuel Danforth, 7 7/8" dia.

CONDITION: Good. No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7979853

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares                      Origin: Connecticut  
Type: chargers & plates                      Year: 1795 - 1815

### Sales History - January 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-16	\$200 - \$400	3449	\$175

A pair of pewter plates by Samuel Danforth; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

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## Pewter; Barnes (Blakeslee), Basin, 8 inch.



A Philadelphia pewter basin, ca. 1815, bearing the touch of Blakeslee Barnes (Blakslee Barns), 2" h., 7 7/8" dia.

CONDITION: Good. No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7979857

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares    Origin: Pennsylvania  
Type: bowls, basins & baskets    Year: 1805 - 1825

### Sales History - January 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-16	\$100 - \$200	3450	\$163

A Philadelphia pewter basin bearing the touch of Blakeslee Barnes; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Pewter; Griswold (Ashbil), Plate, 8 inch.



A Meriden, Connecticut pewter plate, ca. 1825, bearing the touch of Ashbil Griswold 7 3/4" dia.

CONDITION: Knife marks. Mark worn.

Item F7979913

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares    Origin: Connecticut  
Type: chargers & Plates    Year: 1815 - 1835

### Sales History - January 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-16	\$80 - \$120	3344	\$63

A Meriden, Connecticut pewter plate by Ashbil Griswold; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Sundial; Pewter, Circular Base, Roman Numeral Scale, Dotted Border, Triangular Gnomon, 2 inch.



A pewter sundial, late 18th century, round plate, dotted exterior border with roman numeral scale and simple triangular gnomon, pierced with three mounting holes. 5/8" high, 1 3/4" dia.

CONDITION:

Item F7988449

Category: clocks & watches

Origin:

Type: sundials

Year: 1770 - 1800

Sales History - August 2016

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2016	\$200 - \$250	61	\$431
08-14			

A small pewter sundial; image courtesy of Skinner Inc.

## Pewter; Jones (Gershom), Plate 8 inch.



Pewter plate, Gershom Jones, Providence, Rhode Island, 1774-1809, beaded rim, the back marked with two oval cartouches composed of stars above a shield with a fouled anchor and "G. JONES PROVIDENCE," along with four small cartouches, one with "GJ". Dia. 8 1/4 in.

CONDITION: Scratches and a deformation on the rim.

Item F7988455

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares

Origin: Rhode Island

Type: chargers & plates

Year: 1774 - 1809

Sales History - August 2016

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2016	\$200 - \$250	66	\$215
08-14			

A pewter plate by Gershom Jones of Providence, Rhode Island; image courtesy of Skinner Inc.

## Pewter; Harbeson (Benjamin & Joseph), Plate, 9 inch



A pewter plate by Benjamin and Joseph Harbeson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1765-1800 beaded rim, the base marked with a round cartouche reading "HARBESON PHILADA". Dia. 8 3/4 in.

CONDITION:

Item F7988436

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares    **Origin:** Pennsylvania  
**Type:** chargers & plates                    **Year:** 1765 - 1800

Sales History - August 2016

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2016 08-14	\$200 - \$250	72	<b>\$338</b>

A pewter plate by Benjamin and Joseph Harbeson; *image courtesy of Skinner Inc.*

## Pewter; Durand, Plates (12), Palm Tree Armorial Crest, 10 inch.



Twelve Pewter Dishes, England, 18th century, each with armorial crest of palm tree on trim, with rose touchmark on reverse marked for "Durand". Dia. 9 3/4 in.

Provenance: Proceeds from the sale of the collections will be used by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia, exclusively for the acquisition of art and antiques to be exhibited in its art museums and historic buildings.

Item F7995626

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares    **Origin:** England  
**Type:** chargers & plates                    **Year:** 1701 - 1800

Sales History - July 2016

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2016 07-15	\$300 - \$500	518	<b>\$246</b>

A lot of twelve English pewter dishes with rose touchmark for Durand; *image courtesy of Skinner Inc.*

## Fluid Lamp; Pewter, Chamber, Dual Burner, Finger Loop, Saucer Base, 6 inch



A New England pewter oil lamp, 19th c. 6 1/4" high.

CONDITION: Good. No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7999901

Category: lighting Origin: New England

Type: fluid & whale oil lamps Year: 1801 - 1900

### Sales History - June 2016

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2016 06-15	\$40 - \$80	210	\$98

A New England pewter fluid lamp; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Pewter; Will (William)?, Salts (2), 2 inch.



Two Philadelphia pewter salts, late 18th c., with beaded edges, possibly from the shop of William Will 2 3/8" high.

CONDITION: A few small holes in bowls.

Item F7980204

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares Origin: Pennsylvania

Type: salts Year: 1770 - 1800

### Sales History - January 2016

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-13	\$400 - \$800	190	\$438

A pair of Philadelphia pewter salts possibly by William Will; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

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## Pewter; Boardman (Thomas Danforth & Sherman), Porringer, Crown Handle, 5 inch.



A Hartford, Connecticut pewter crown handled porringer, ca. 1840, bearing the touch of Thomas and Sherman Boardman, 5" dia.

CONDITION: Good. Some old pit marks to handle.

Item F7978666

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares    **Origin:** Connecticut  
**Type:**    porringers                      **Year:** 1825 - 1855

Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 03-08	\$200 - \$300	1256	\$275

A pewter crown handled porringer by Thomas and Sherman Boardman; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.



## Candlestick (2); Graves (Joshua B & Henry H)?, Pewter, Trumpet Form, 10 inch.



A pair of pewter candlesticks, 19th c., attributed to J.B. & H.H. Graves, Middletown, Connecticut, 9 5/8" high.

CONDITION: Good. No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7979553

Category: lighting                      Origin: Connecticut  
Type: candlesticks                      Year: 1845 - 1855

Sales History - January 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-16	\$100 - \$200	3640	\$63

A pair of trumpet form pewter candlesticks attributed to J.B. & H.H. Graves; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Pewter; Homan & Co., Cream Pitcher, 6 inch.



A Cincinnati pewter cream pitcher, 19th c., bearing the touch of Homan & Co., with engraved floral decoration, 5 3/4" high.

CONDITION: Good. No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7979755

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares      Origin: Ohio  
Type: pitchers                                  Year: 1835 - 1875

Sales History - January 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 01-16	\$60 - \$90	3546	\$50

A Cincinnati pewter cream pitcher by Homan & Co.; image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

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# Concluding Remarks

This edition is short and sweet. It has been quiet on the news front so there isn't much to report.

I want to encourage all members to attend the spring national meeting in VA. If you haven't been to one of these then you aren't getting all that your membership offers. The Bulletin and club meetings are the two essential benefits of paying your dues. The formal presentations and visits to wonderful collections offered with hands on access give us more to know and love about this metal that we treasure. But getting to know others in an informal setting may be even more important. Rubbing elbows with experts and people who have pieces unavailable to the rest of us isn't intimidating but exciting and encouraging. I've found everyone to be open and engaging when we gather for PCCA activities.

In wrapping up this short newsletter let me reiterate: if you like the interviews please let me know if you are willing to open your collection to the rest of us so that we can get to know you. If you think a member's forum in the form of "Letters to the Editor" would add value to this publication then send your ideas, concerns or the initiatives you want us to tackle in an email sharing your thoughts.

Scott