

ANP

Old Dutch Pewter.

Visitors to the Dutch museums will have a lively recollection of the splendid specimens of Old Dutch pewter work they have seen there, dating mostly from



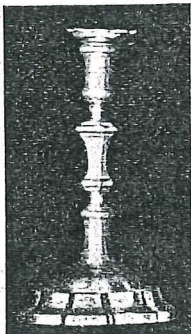
the 15th and 16th centuries when the art of making them was at its best, until in the 18th century cheap earthenware and glass ousted pewter from general use. The particularly pure quality of the pewter, (in commercial "tin" there is scarcely 0.1 % of impurities) and the marvellous brilliance of the finished article have contributed to restore to honour the pewter objects of old days as ornaments, especially when the furnishing of a house in the old Dutch style offered such an excellent background to them. The Dutch keep up the old practice

of scouring their pewter, which brings out the soft silvery tint, without making it "shiny".

Thus an artistic industry has been established and its welfare is favoured by two factors: the raw material is obtained in our own Colonies, (the island of Banka, belonging to the East Indies, supplies 17 % of the world's needs in tin ore) and, secondly, in this country we have a rich collection of old moulds, such as the old Dutch pewterworkers used in past ages. The report, that it is intended to limit the production of the tin mines in Banka is of merely temporary significance in connection with the low prices of the moment.

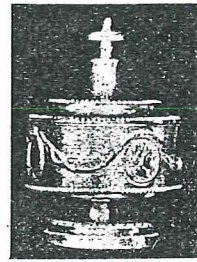


A remarkable combination of circumstances has caused the establishment of the first big undertaking in the pewter industry in the little village of Buiksloot, just north of Amsterdam "above the Y", where the foreigner usually begins his wanderings through picturesque North Holland in order to see the curious costumes still worn by the people there, as they have been for many a long year, one generation after another, at Volendam, Edam and so on. In a corner of Buiksloot the factory of Mr. Tollenaar was started in 1918. Twenty years earlier he had begun the reproduction of specimens of old Dutch pewter, such as were made in the 15th and 16th centuries, and his sons have now established the business in modern fashion and find a ready market for their ware.



The historic fame and the undeniably beautiful shapes of this pewter-ware have drawn the attention of foreigners and are securing for it a market abroad, especially as it is well known, that Mr. Tollenaar takes the greatest trouble to seek out designs, which are exact reproductions of the best old work. The illustrations we give here speak for themselves.

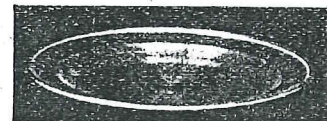
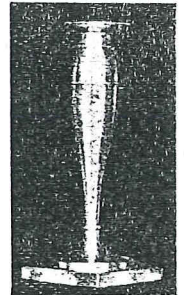
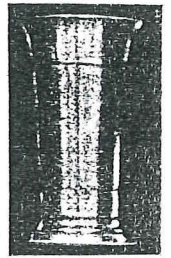
There is not much to be said on the subject of the technical part of pewter-casting. It has to be done by capable and experienced hands, then the object is turned in a lathe, chiselled and filed; the grease is removed and the component parts soldered together. The pewter objects are heated in an oven for about 15 minutes, whereby they attain that peculiar silvery tint we have already



alluded to above, then a final polishing process takes place. The pots being bur-nished on a disc of sheep's leather revolving at 2200 revolutions a minute. As we have mentioned before, the Dutch keep their pewter clean, as their forefathers did, by scouring it with the palm of the hand in water mixed with the finest of

silver sand, rubbing it dry with a soft cloth. Fly marks, etc. can be removed by washing in hot water with a little soda in it.

The many shapes turned out in articles of use and ornament are unlimited. We will conclude by mentioning a few of those made at Buiksloot: mugs, dishes and vases (often copies of specimens in the Rijksmuseum), cans, candlesticks, trays, ash trays, spoons, inkstands, plates, tobacco jars, hot water bottles etc. In short everything one can think of to which the material lends itself in the production of pewter ware exquisite in shape and inimitable in the charm of its soft silvery tints.



Demonstrations in the Industrial Laboratory at Delft.

The attention of manufacturers and importers is invited for the above institution at Delft. The State Industrial Laboratory (Nieuwe Laan 76a, Delft) — thus occupying an absolutely impartial position — offers opportunities, for advertisement in a very easy form, by means of demonstrations with new tools or apparatus recently introduced into trade. The demonstrations are usually attended by large numbers of persons interested.

The initiative for such a demonstration has hitherto been taken by one of the Industrial Advisers or by the Manager of the Industrial Laboratory, but since July when metal cutting machines were demonstrated, some two or three Technical Bureaux have applied for permission to hold demonstrations with some of their new machinery.

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