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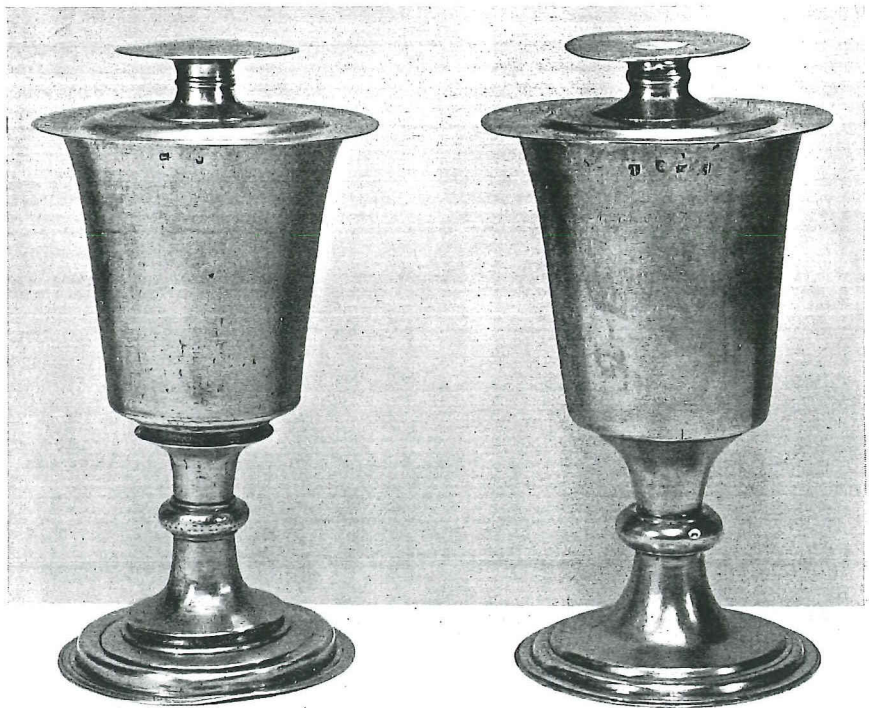
CITY OF LONDON CHURCH PLATE IN THE GUILDHALL MUSEUM

By E. ALFRED JONES

THE old churches of the City of London, it is superfluous to recall, were exceedingly rich in gold and silver plate before the Reformation, when countless 'superstitious' vessels had not the good fortune 'to escape the fiery trial of fanaticism.' A second disastrous time was during the Great Fire of London in 1666, when not only some of the architectural glories of the city, but also many silver vessels and other objects of art perished in the flames. But later losses have occurred without the excuse of fanaticism or fire to account for their disappearance. For example, the Sacramental vessels of St. Paul's Cathedral, provided for Wren's great building to replace those destroyed in the Great Fire, have since been lost. These were made, or more probably supplied, in 1697 and 1699, by the well-known goldsmiths, Thomas Seymour (Seamore) and Henry Hoare (see the Wren Society's volume 15, 1938).

The present article is not intended as a general survey of the City Church plate, but is confined to the splendid vessels, mostly dating from Charles I, on loan in the Guildhall Museum from churches whose congregations have so dwindled in numbers since the days when the merchants and tradesmen of the City lived in comfort on their business premises that they have no need for so many vessels. To begin with those of the united parishes of St. Vedast—a Wren church—

and St. Michael le Querne, there is a plain conventional chalice (more correctly called a Communion cup), with its paten-cover of the form which was adopted with slight differences throughout England and Wales in conformity with the injunctions of Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Grindal, Archbishop of York, that all 'massing chalices' must be abolished. In the face of the poor marks, the precise date cannot be determined, nor can any help be derived from any inscription, but it is undoubtedly Elizabethan (No. *ia*). A second plain chalice (No. *ib*) with its paten-cover of the same form but with different mouldings is faintly pricked with the inscription: *The Gift of William Hall Goldsmith to the Parish of St. ffosters London y^e 28th March 1657.*



No. I.—(a) AN ELIZABETHAN CHALICE AND PATEN-COVER : HT. 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ IN. : FROM ST. VEDAST'S
(b) ANOTHER CHALICE AND PATEN-COVER, OF 1656-7 : HT. 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ IN. : ALSO FROM ST. VEDAST'S



No. II.—CHALICE AND PATEN-COVER, 1630-1 : HT. 9½ IN. : FROM ST. VEDAST'S OR ST. MICHAEL LE QUERNE'S : ALSO A SILVER-GILT PATEN, 1664-5, HT. 2¼ IN., DIAM. 10½ IN. : FROM ST. VEDAST'S

St. Fosters, it may be added, is a colloquial name for St. Vedast's—a parish in which many goldsmiths had their workshops, conveniently near to Goldsmiths Hall in Foster Lane.

Both bear the London date-letter for 1656-7, a time of great difficulty for the craft in

the parish of St. Vedast, that Francis Child, the future knight and goldsmith-banker, was apprenticed to him in 1656 and that he died in 1660. But there was another goldsmith of this name in St. Vedast's parish, not to be found in Sir Ambrose Heal's book, who is

described as 'deputy free of the Goldsmiths, died of the "Gripes," and was buried in the Chancel near the Communion Table, September 16, 1680, "out of Goldsmiths Hall."' An earlier and smaller chalice with a paten-cover, differing in the stem and foot, was made in 1630-1 by a gifted craftsman whose mark is defaced but would seem to be WC, with a mullet below in a shaped punch (No. ii). Accompanying it in the same illustration is a solid plain paten of silver-gilt with an unusually wide rim and a rope moulding



No. III.—A PAIR OF FLAGONS, 1639-40 : TOTAL HEIGHT 11½ IN. ; ORIGINAL WEIGHT 40 OZ. 9 DWT. AND 40 OZ. : THE DONATION OF JOHN BANCKS TO ST. VEDAST'S OR ST. MICHAEL LE QUERNE'S

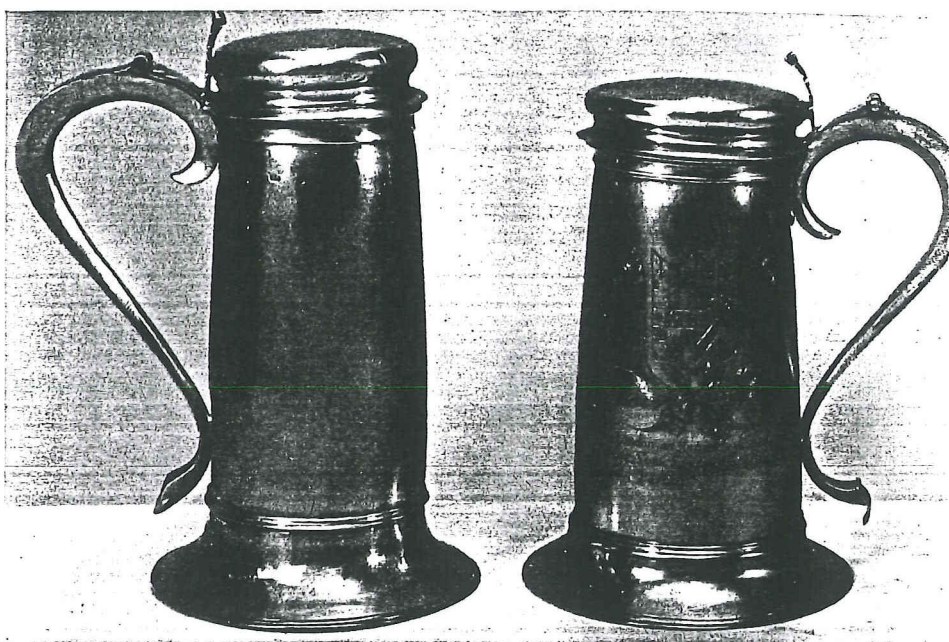
on the edge supported on a trumpet-shaped handle-foot, wrought in 1664-5. It is inscribed:

*Deo Sacrum in Vsum
Ecclesiae S^{ti} Vedasti Lond.
1665.*

In the City churches is an unrivalled wealth of massive flagons of the tall, plain and cylindrical form, popular in England, not only for sacred purposes but also for domestic use for wine and beer. An imposing pair may now be described. They have low slightly moulded covers and wide splayed bases. Not the least interesting features are the crowned figure of the Virgin Mary, a device of the Mercers Company, and the inscription, *Thinke and thanke God*, with the date 1630, charmingly engraved three times on the bodies. They have inscribed underneath:

*The gift of John Bancks Cittizen and Mercer of
London 1630*

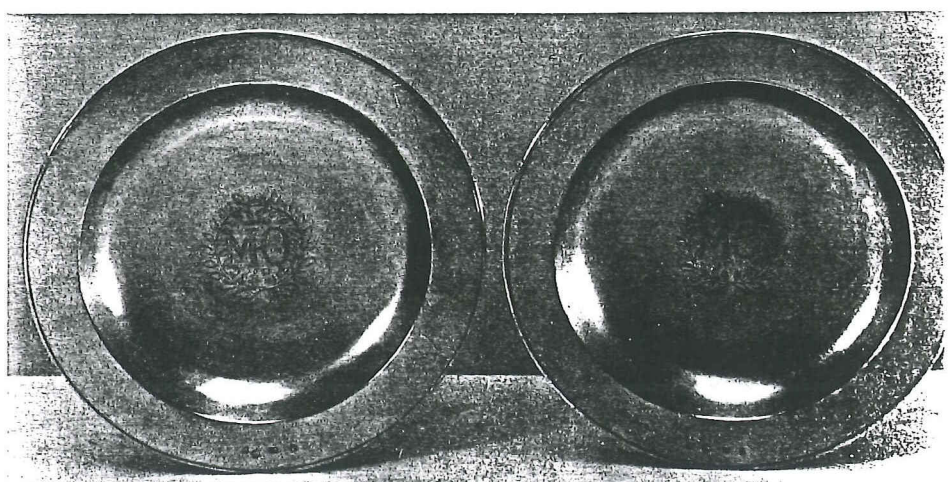
and inside the cover are the donor's arms . . . *a cross argent and purple between four fleurs-de-lis . . .*, with the inscription: *The arms of John Bancks (Banckes on one)*. Both were wrought in 1639-40 (the maker's mark is illegible), and therefore were bought with a legacy long after the donor's death in 1630 (No. iii). A brief account of the donor may not be unacceptable. He was a wealthy benefactor of the Mercers Company, of which he was Master in the year of his death. In 1625 he enriched the Company with thirteen



No. IV.—(a) FLAGON, 1641-2 : TOTAL HEIGHT 11½ IN. : PRESENTED BY EDWARD BRADBORNE TO ST. VED. CHURCH : (b) FLAGON, 1660-1 : HT. 10 IN. : GIVEN TO ST. VEDAST'S IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS MAN

silver-gilt badges for the adornment of the alms-men of Whittington College and in 1630 with three silver beakers (two of the date 1604-5 and one of 1605-6) and two silver flagons and a voyder. The beakers have, happily, survived, but the other pieces were sold in 1642 and 1643 (Sir John Watney's account of the plate, 2nd ed., 1906, pp. 218-19).

A third flagon of the same size as the Bancks pair differs but little, except that it is



No. V.—A PAIR OF ALMS BASINS, 1650 : DIAMETER 10½ IN. : PRESENTED BY REV. ANTHONY TUCKNEY AN EMINENT PASTOR OF THE PARISH, TO THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL LE QUERNE : ENGRAVED



No. VI.—A PATEN, 1626-7 : HEIGHT $4\frac{3}{8}$ IN. : DIAMETER $8\frac{5}{8}$ IN. : FROM THE CHURCH OF ST. KATHERINE CREE : THE FORM IS IN THE ELIZABETHAN TRADITION

of the date 1641-2, with another variety of thumbpiece, and that it bears the interesting inscription:

This Pott was freely giuen by Edward Bradborne silkman 1642 to the Parish Church of S^t Vedust^{als} Foster for the use of the holy Communion there.*

* Alias.

Under the foot are the donor's arms within foliated scrolls enclosed in a wreath of laurels: *Argent on a bend . . . three mullets gules. Crest, a tree* (No. *iva*).

A shorter and later flagon is chiefly conspicuous for the arms and the resounding inscription:

The Worshipfull Francis Manning Cittizen Goldsmith an^d Merchant of London and an Antient Inhabitant of this Parish of S^t Vedasts alias Fosters Samuell Manning Esquire his eldest Sonn borne in this Parish, dedicates this Memoriall for his deceased Parent.

The arms, engraved between two conventional scrolled feathers, are:

Quarterly, 1, . . . a cross flory between four trefoils slipped . . ., for Manning; 2, *Argent a bend cotised azure*; 3, . . . a cross between twelve crosses potent . . .; 4, . . . a fess vair between three martlets (?). . . . On the cover is the Manning crest: *Out of a ducal coronet . . . an eagle's head . . . between two ostrich feathers. . .* Another shield on the body quarters the arms of the

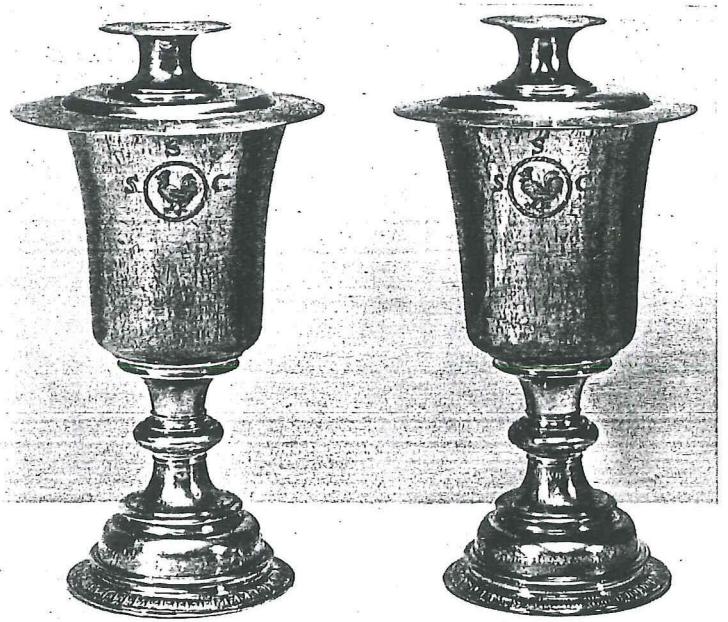


No. VII.—(a) CHALICE AND PATEN-COVER, 1626-7 : HEIGHT $11\frac{1}{8}$ IN. : (b) FLAGON, 1630-1 : HEIGHT $11\frac{1}{2}$ IN. : GIFT OF SIR HENRY MARTIN TO ST. KATHERINE CREE CHURCH : (c) CHALICE AND PATEN-COVER, 1630-1 : HT. $11\frac{1}{2}$ IN. : GIFT OF JANE ATKINSON

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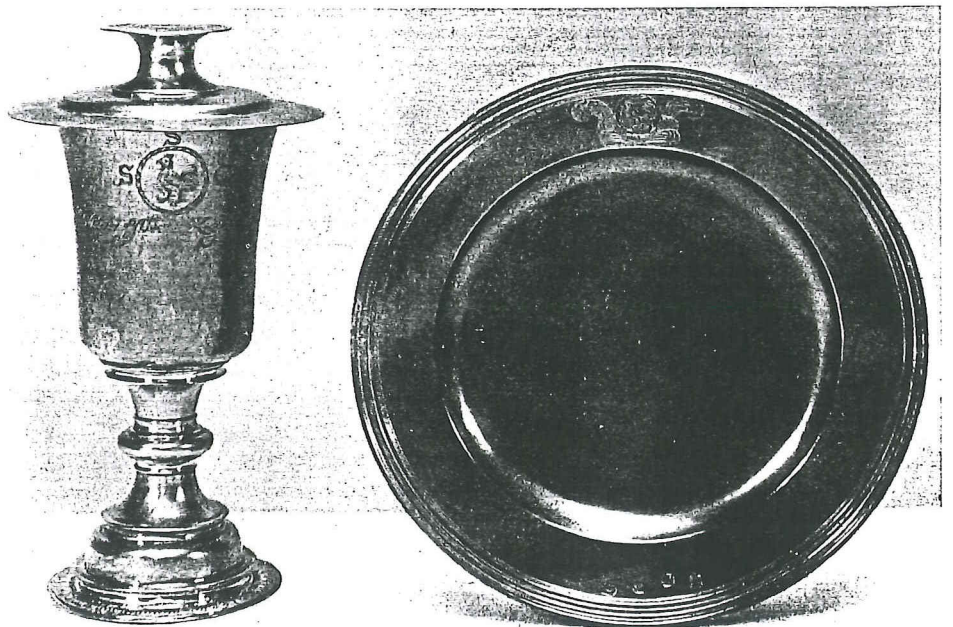
City of London; the Goldsmiths Company; the East India Company; and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was made in 1660-1 by a goldsmith whose mark is *GD*, with a mullet below in a heart (Jackson). The good man commemorated was a warden of St. Vedast's in 1622-8, and the donor was christened in 1616 (see illustration No. ivb).

More precious on personal grounds are the pair of alms basins engraved with the initials *M Q*, for St. Michael le Querne, and the date 1650. They were wrought in the year inscribed in the workshop of a goldsmith, *AM*, suggested as Andrew Moore. Both are inscribed in fine bold lettering on the backs: *The gift of Anthony Tuckney D.D. Late Pastor of this Parish.* With the help of Dr. Venn's great and indispensable work, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, the career of this distinguished puritan divine may be traced. From a pensioner of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he rose to the high office of Master (1645-53), and as becoming a member of a College intimately associated with the American Colonies and the *alma mater* of John Harvard and others, he was 'very zealous for the conversion of the Indians and propagating the Gospel in America, and promoted that design very vigorously.' Meanwhile, from 1629 to 1633, he ministered in the historic Church of Boston in Lincolnshire, where he succeeded as Vicar his distinguished cousin, the Rev. John Cotton, soon to find a new spiritual home in Boston, Massachu-



No. VIII.—A PAIR OF CHALICES AND PATEN-COVERS, 1624-5 : HEIGHT 8½ IN. FROM ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, COLEMAN STREET : ONE THE GIFT OF I : G :

setts. In 1653-61 Dr. Tuckney was Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, and in 1656-61 Regius Professor of Divinity in his University. During the Commonwealth he was Rector of St. Michael le Querne, but as a



No. IX.—CHALICE AND PATEN-COVER, 1630-1 : HEIGHT 8½ IN. : GIVEN BY SIR MORRIS ABBOTT TO ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, COLEMAN STREET : ALSO AN ALMS DISH, 1690-1 : DIAM. 10 IN. : ST. STEPHEN'S



No. X.—PAIR OF FLAGONS, 1630-1 : HEIGHT 12 IN. : FROM ST. STEPHEN'S, COLEMAN STREET

tall cylindrical body (No. vii*b*). It is inscribed in fine flowing script in good English style:

The gift of S^r Henry Martin to S^t Katherin Creechurch 1631.

The donor was Vicar-General of the Archbishop of Canterbury and was knighted in 1616. The fellow flagon, similarly inscribed, remains in the Church, with the companion paten to the above, which, however, is not inscribed and not marked with a date-letter, but only with the same maker's mark, *RS*, a heart below.

Lastly, there is some plate from St. Stephen's in Coleman Street, beginning with a pair of the usual plain chalices with

paten-covers, the chalices having an ovolo moulding on the edge of the foot. A device adopted by this Church—a cock within a circle—is engraved on all the vessels, with the initials of the Church. One is inscribed: *1:G: her guift 1624*. Both were wrought in 1624 by a goldsmith whose stamp is *RC* with a pheon below in a heart (No. viii). Next is a similar chalice and paten-cover, inscribed:

The guift of S^r Morris Abbott Knight & Alderman of London An^o. Dom 1630.

The merchant-donor was knighted in 1625.

The maker in 1630 used as his mark his initials *FT* conjoined, attributed to Fred Terry, the maker of many notable works (No. ix). In the same illustration is a plain alms dish with a moulded edge, also engraved with the cock device within the conventional scrolled feathers of Charles II, evidently replacing some other engraved work. Stamped upon it is the date-letter for 1690-1 and the maker's mark, *EV*, conjoined, with a crown above.

Yet another pair of plain flagons must find a place here. A feature of interest is that the

supporter of the Parliament was deprived at the Restoration of this living and his appointments at Cambridge. He died in 1670, and was buried at St. Andrew Undershaft (No. v).

From the Church of St. Katherine Cree comes a most unusual paten, inspired in its form by one of the tazza-shaped cups of Elizabethan times. Plain and simple, it is inscribed: *S^t Katherin Creechurch 1626*, and bears the date-letter 1626-7 (No. vi). With it are two plain chalices with paten-covers, one of the same date as this paten (No. vii*a*). The other, wrought in 1630-1 (No. vii*c*), is faintly pricked with the inscription:

The Gift of Jane Atkinson the wife of Stephen Atkinson Anno 1630.

All three vessels were made by the same goldsmith, whose mark is *RB*, with a pellet below, and were provided for the consecration of the Church by Archbishop Laud on January 16th, 1630-1. A flagon, also made in 1630-1, from this Church, differs in the base from all the others previously described, and in the addition of a ball finial, while retaining the

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weights were marked upon them in 1630 and 1704, showing a loss of three penny-weights, from 45 oz. 18 dwts. and 45 oz. 17 dwts., within those 74 years. They bear the mark for 1630-1 and that of the maker, IA, with a star below in a plain shield, as in Jackson (No. x).

The last illustration is that of two excessively rare pewter dishes with ribbed edges, adorned in the middle with enamelled devices, belonging to St. Katherine Cree Church. On one is the cipher of Charles II, with a crown in red, blue and white enamel, a sword and sceptre crossed, and the device of England, Scotland and Ireland, gilt on a black enamelled ground. On the other dish are the royal arms and cipher of Charles II in enamel (No. xi). In the Church are two more of these dishes, one of them embellished with a large Tudor rose in enamel and the other with the Prince of Wales's feathers with the cipher CP and motto, ICH DEIN [*sic*]. The dish with the Tudor rose has been unfortunately silver-plated. A regrettable omission by the worthy pewterer is that he was too modest to add his identification mark for the benefit of future generations of students of the fascinating subject of English pewter and its makers.

Two Charles I flagons of 1636-7 in another city church are of the utmost interest, not

from any unusual shape but solely from the inscription bearing on the theology of the Caroline divines:

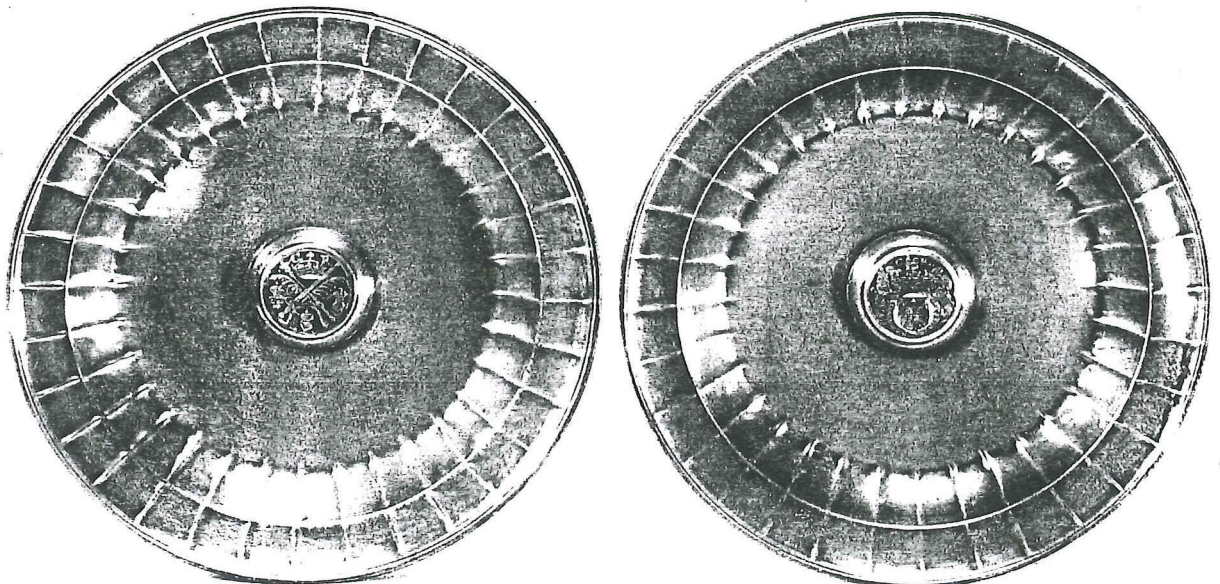
*This pott for holy wine: This wine's pure blood
This blood true life. This life contains all good.
Not potts but soules are fitt to hould such wine
Such blood, such life, such good. O Christ take
mine.*

They are engraved with the name of the donor, *Mary Clarkson*, and the date, 1636.

A similar inscription may be seen on a later flagon (1655-6) in the Church of St. James, Friern Barnet, given by Francis Draxe.

The fact is well-known that Archbishop Laud exercised great influence on the vessels and ornaments of churches. In chalices alone he encouraged the revival of a mediæval form, with crucifixes chased on the feet.

The above is the first of a series of articles by Mr. E. Alfred Jones, which we hope to publish at intervals, dealing with the great wealth of historic plate in the City of London. The possessions of the great City Companies as well as the Churches will come under review and the most representative pieces will be illustrated. The second of these articles will describe the magnificent collection of antique plate in possession of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.—EDITOR.



No. XI.—TWO EXTREMELY RARE PEWTER DISHES WITH CIPHERS OF CHARLES II : DIAM. 1½ IN. : FROM ST. KATHERINE CREE CHURCH