

EDD

Dear Clapperton.  
 Don't return  
 these rough proofs  
 but I thought  
 you'd like to  
 see them. I'll  
 send you the  
 mag. when  
 it's finished  
 W.H.

## THE ANTIQUE COLLECTOR

# TAVERN PEWTER

It is by no means so easy to acquire pewter tavern pots, even late examples, as it was a few years ago. Many have been melted down for solder, or sent abroad, and this process still continues. Close association of pewter wares with ancient inns and hostleries will ensure their value in years to come, and we may expect a steadily growing interest in the subject among collectors.

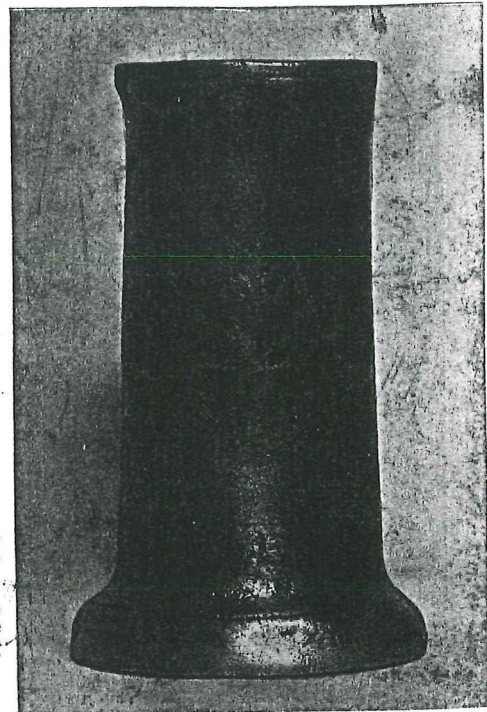
By **HOWARD HERSCHEL COTTERELL**

*A Founder and Past-President of the Society of Pewter Collectors*

**P**EWTER! The Tavern! The Stage-coach!  
 The Footpad! What pictures the very words  
 conjure up before the mind!

How intimate was the connection between pewter and the tavern is testified to by the frequent use of pewter vessels for their inn-signs by the taverners themselves, e.g., "Ye Pewter Pot," formerly in Leadenhall Street; "Ye Pewter Flatter," which at one time stood in Gracechurch Street, and so on. To our forefathers, the taverns on the main turnpike roads were—as are the stations on our railways of to-day, and as the aerodromes will be in the future—the stopping places on their journeyings, the landmarks by which they indicated direction, a locality, and, to many, their social clubs.

Fig. 1—Seventeenth century inscribed pewter Tavern pot, 8 ins. high, the handle missing



Here the stage-coaches were timed to arrive at stated intervals to water their horses, to deliver parcels and mails, to change their teams, or to provide an opportunity for the refreshment of their passengers. What unwritten histories are stored within their walls, what heart-throbs of pleasure or of pain! To the father hurrying to the sick-bed of a dying child such halts were agonisingly long; to the lover torn away from his sweetheart, the hours and the miles flew all too quickly by; to the pain-racked invalid, the jolting along the way was only relieved by such interludes.

And so one might continue, but let us carry our minds to the end of a tiring journey. The coach has just clattered over the cobbled pavement of the gateway, into the galleried inn-yard, from all angles of which the staff and guests appear, led by mine Host, whose cheery smile and ready hand are proffered to each in turn to assist the passengers in the descent from their lofty seats. Such services rendered, and all the guests safely assembled within the tavern parlour, he would call for warming drinks to the barman who, from their hooks behind him, took down his shining pewter pots and filled them all with the goodly cheer of which all were so much in need.

One of such pots is shown in Fig. 1. It is inscribed "Miles Roe at ye Coach and Horses in ye New Palace, Westminster," and by its type we judge it to be of the seventeenth century. Bereft of its handle and sadly battered though it is, it now forms one of the treasures in the collection of Mr. Lewis Clapperton, C.A., of Glasgow, eloquent in its silence of its usefulness in bygone years.



Fig. 3—Pewter Tavern pot inscribed "Edward Hill at ye Red Lion in ye Poultry 1670," discovered under the floor of the inn. Height 7 ins.

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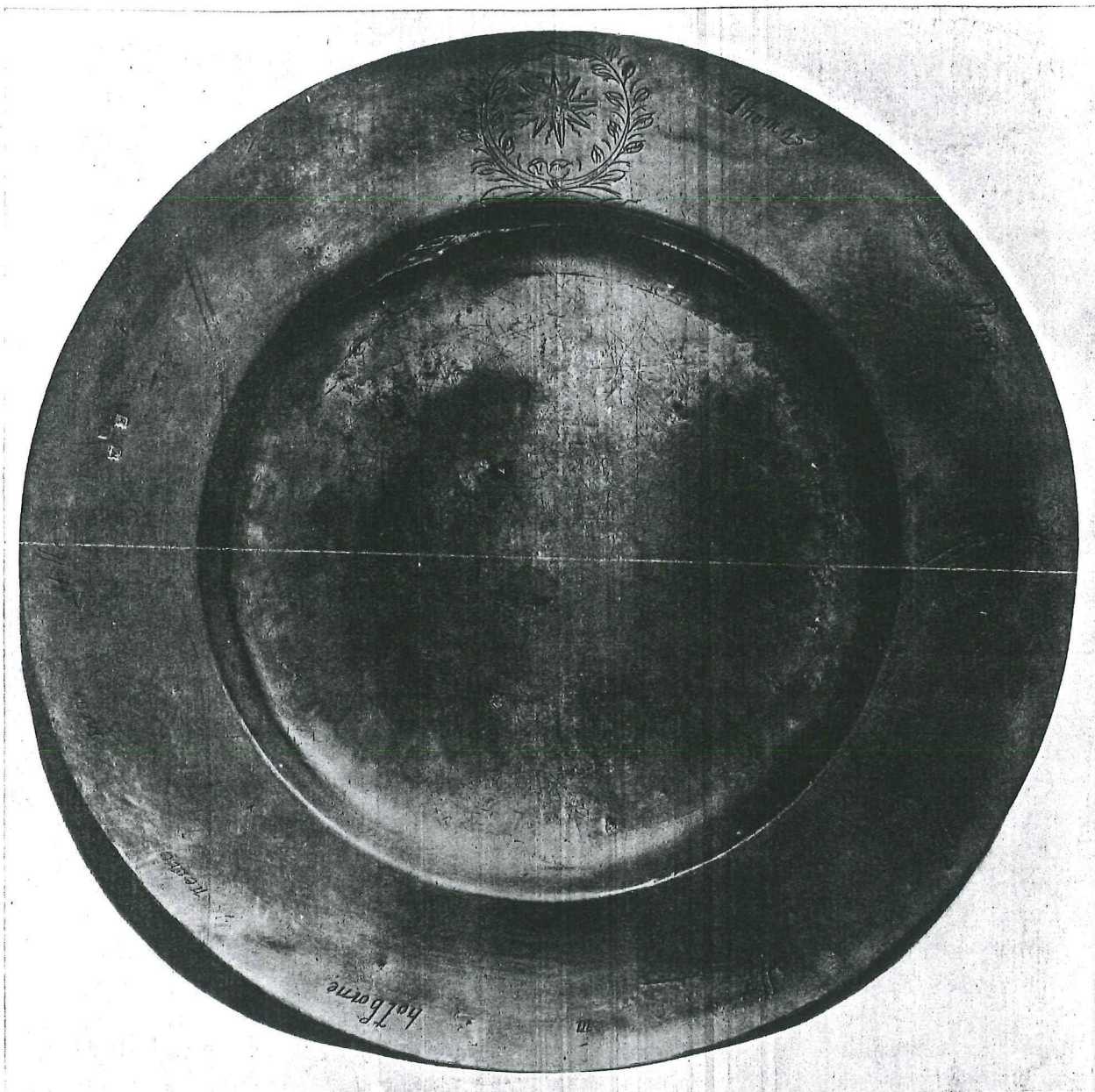


Fig. 2—A fine pewter charger, 20 ins. in diameter, and bearing an inscription round the rim relating it to "The Star" in Holborn, 1671. The maker's mark is probably that of Robert Jones, London

Another piece, from the same collection and probably of the same period, is the fine old charger shown in Fig. 2. This interesting piece is inscribed around its rim, "\* Thomas Price att The Star in holborne neare turne Stille 1671 " (sic). It is 20in. in diameter with a 3½in. rim, and the maker's mark is No. 5732A in my "Old Pewter": Its makers and marks probably that of Robert Jones, London, 1667.L.

Another fine old Tavern pot of the same period is that illustrated in Fig. 3, now in the collection of Mr. Alfred B. Peates, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., of

London. The handle-sweep of this piece is very convincing, and the inscription, "Edward Hill at ye Red Lyon in ye Poultry (sic) 1670," makes it a very desirable possession. Some 7in. in height, this interesting piece was discovered under the floor of its old home when the place was pulled down to make room for a Bank near the Mansion House.

A somewhat similar piece, formerly in the Charbonnier and the Fieldhouse collections and now in that of Dr. A. J. Young of Manchester, is shown in Fig. 4, but whether it was actually a tavern pot or not it is impossible to say with certainty, though

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in all probability it was. Within a garland of leaves it is inscribed on the front "Richard Coleman, in Breed, 1687." It is 6½ in. in height and has no maker's mark.

Of the second quarter of the eighteenth century is the massive gallon flagon pictured in Fig. 5., formerly in the collection of the late Mr. Charles G. J. Port of Worthing. It is 13½ in. in height, and is engraved "Mary Edwards, Deptford Back Lane." An almost identical piece is in the possession of Mr. Hampton of Cunliffe and Co., Hanway Street, London. This latter is engraved on the side with the device of a globe on a high pedestal and on the front, in a pointed shield below the central moulding is "J. Cash, Globe, Globe Street, Wapping." Cannot one imagine the thrill of warm good cheer which would fill the minds of the half-frozen passengers on a stage-coach on a winter's night, at the very sight of such a flagon—filled with mulled ale—and passed around among them?

Other pieces which come to mind are, a late 17th century reeded-edged plate, around the back of the well of which was cut "Robert Smith att ye White Doe in Houndsditch" (sic) and which bore the maker's mark of Edward Matthews of London; and a plain rimmed plate by Edward Tomp of London, c1770, upon the upper side of the rim of which was the engraving "A. Cooper, Fleece and Sun, Threadneedle Street."

Also from the Yeates collection is the punch bowl, with its accompanying ladle, illustrated in Fig. 6. The bowl is inscribed, within an octangular frame, "The London Punch House," and the ladle bears the initials "J.A." Mr. Yeates has ascertained that from c.1731 to c.1755, this house, which was on the north side of Ludgate Hill, next to the Church, was under the proprietorship of James



Fig. 4—A pewter pot, 5½ ins. in height, and inscribed "Richard Coleman, in Breed, 1687"



Fig. 5—A massive gallon flagon, 13½ ins. in height, engraved "Mary Edwards, Deptford Back Lane"

Astley during this period, so the initials may well be his.

My concluding picture, Fig. 7, shows a group of late 18th and early 19th century tavern pots which, with interesting inscriptions and devices, it was no difficult matter to pick up for a shilling or two apiece until within the last few years. But that if all changing and to acquire them now with no inscription at all is by no means the easy matter it was; nor can this be wondered at when one realises that literally thousands of them have, within the last decade, crossed the Atlantic, and many more thousands have been—and even now still are being—melted down for solder.

It is well to pause and think on such a point, and I do not hesitate to prophecy that any beginner who cares to make a collection now of such examples, will, within the next twenty-five years, find that he has made a very sound investment. They are bound to appreciate very considerably, not only in value, but, where they bear noteworthy inscriptions, in interest too.

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Fig. 6—A punch bowl inscribed "The London House," together with its ladle, inscribed "J.A."

Fig. 7—A group of late 18th and early 19th century tavern pots

