

EDW

GREAT PEWTER COLLECTIONS

I.—TREASURES IN THE SCOTT-NICHOLSON COLLECTION

BY HOWARD HERSCHEL COTTERELL

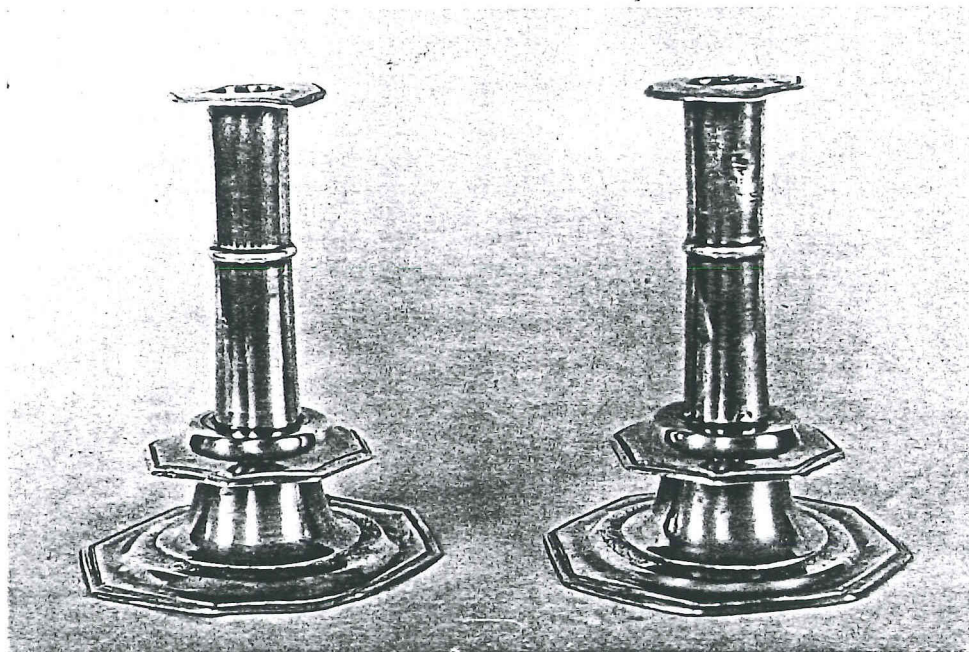


Fig. I. A PAIR OF LATE STUART CANDLESTICKS, circa 1680. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. high on $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. base

BY the death of Edwin Scott-Nicholson, A.R.I.B.A., J.P. for the City of Carlisle, the ranks of pewter collectors were robbed of a distinguished member, and the writer, of a much valued friend, whose correspondence alone was a delight and a tonic in this world of stunted conventionalisms.

Scott-Nicholson was a man of many and varied interests, and had a fine and critical judgment in matters artistic, to which the pewter collection which he formed bears ample testimony. He never sought to make it a large one, but rather constantly to improve it by judicious weeding. Thus, when a fine new piece was acquired, something less interesting had to go—as he said—“to make room for it and keep the balance”!

The result is a singularly pure and carefully-tended collection, of which the world has little knowledge, for, content in his own enjoyment of it, he aimed at no publicity for it. It is, therefore with the greater pleasure that one is now permitted to write of some of its treasures, many of which are here revealed to the world

for the first time from photographs specially taken for the purpose by the staff of the Carlisle Public Library and Museum.

Of outstanding importance is the pair of late Stuart candlesticks shown in Fig. I, which date from about the year 1680. Formerly in the Charbonnier Collection, and purchased by him in the West Country many years ago, they passed into the possession of the late William John Fieldhouse, C.B.E., F.S.A., and at his death they were acquired by Mr. Scott-Nicholson. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, they stand upon a $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. base, which—like the drip trays and nozzle flanges—is octagonal in outline, a fitting contrast to the plain, rounded columns. There is no maker's touch, but the ownership initials $\overset{T}{C}L$ are struck upon their lips, and a band of grape and vine-leaf decoration—in relief—adorns the flat horizontal collars of the bases. Apart from this their plain simplicity stands out in high relief.

Rich in fine flacons, the earliest—in spite of the date, 1671, engraved upon it—is obviously the one pictured in Fig. II.



Fig. II. FLAGON. James I, circa 1610. 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to lip, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. base
 Fig. III. FLAGON. Circa 1650. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to lip, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. base

Though this piece bears upon its front the inscription :

“ EX DONO IOHANNIS PEELE, DECIMO SEXTO APRILIS, ANNO DOMINI 1671 ”

one has little compunction in saying that that date does not represent the year in which the piece was wrought, for in its massive construction and every feature it points unerringly to the time of James I, circa 1610, and one can but assume, as was frequently the custom at that time, that this was a gift from the private domestic plate of John Peel, to fill a want of his local parish church.

The flagon has no discernible maker's touch. It is 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in extreme height and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the lip ; it stands upon a 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. base, with a lip diameter of 4 in.

Following this—some forty years later, circa 1650—is the beautiful example in Fig. III, which is of quite unusual type both with regard to its cover and thumbpiece, and even the details of its handle. This piece, of which the extreme height is some 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ in., and 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to the

lip, with a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. base and 4 in. lip, is inscribed upon the front of the body :

“ EX DONO SAMVEL SYMONDS, GENT. ”

There is no distinguishable maker's touch, but a very beautiful broad-rimmed paten with the same inscription is in the collection of Mr. E. Billing Lewis, and upon which appear the imitation silver-marks : 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's face. 3. Buckle. 4. (?). There is no maker's touch and his initials are missing—detrited—from the fourth silver-mark.

Dating from circa 1665 is the flagon with “ Beefeater ” cover shown in Fig. IV, which is of the normal type for this period, and upon the cover of which appears the mark No. 5721A in my “ Old Pewter : Its Makers and Marks. ”

It is of a nice squat form, and the thumbpiece is of the “ Twin-cusped ” type. The extreme height is about 11 in., and to the lip 8 in. ; while the diameters of the base and lip respectively are 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Differing entirely from the foregoing in its thumbpiece and handle but of about the same period, is the vessel shown in Fig. V. It bears a very distinct though hitherto unrecorded

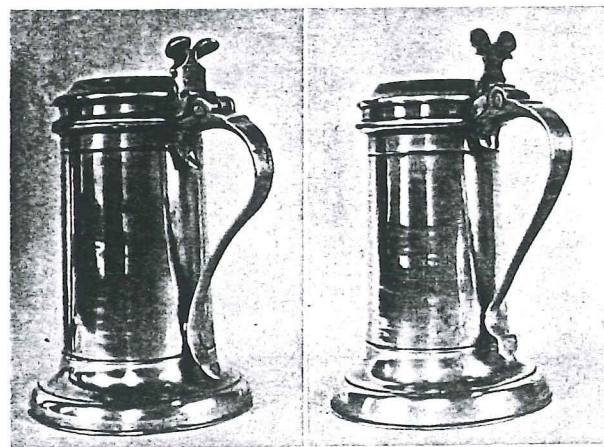


Fig. IV. FLAGON with Beefeater Cover. Circa 1665. 11 in. high, base 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

Fig. V. FLAGON. Circa 1665. Differs from Fig. IV in thumbpiece and handle

touch, which I illustrate in Fig. VI and which, it will be noted, bears the date 1670. The actual touch appears upon the back of the handle, and the imitation silver marks upon its cover. The extreme height is about 11 in., and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to lip, with a 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. base. The shield terminal to the handle is a very pleasing feature.

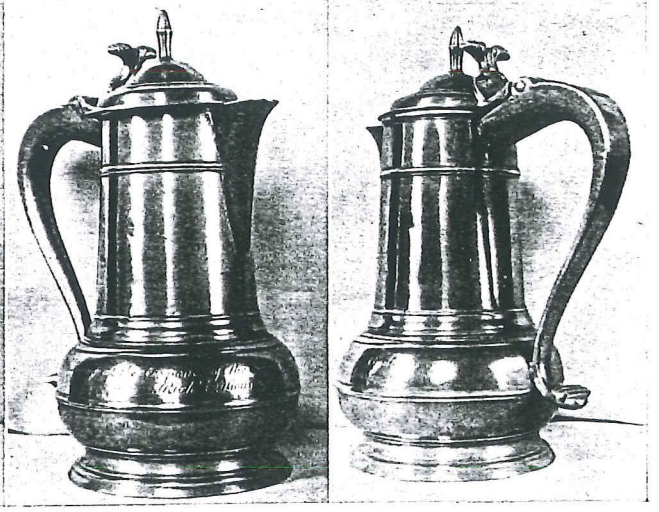
A beautiful example of the rare straight-sided “ York ” flagon is given in Figs. VII and VIII, which was made by Leonard Terry of



Fig. VI. A HITHERTO UNRECORDED TOUCH, bearing the date 1670. On Fig. V



Figs. VII and VIII. RARE STRAIGHT-SIDED "YORK" FLAGON, made by Leonard Terry of York. Circa 1705. 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, base 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.



Figs. IX and X. THE ACORN TYPE OF "YORK" FLAGON. Dated 1750. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, base 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

York, circa 1705 (No. 4697, *op. cit.*). It is a perfect example in every way. The lip of the cover has the serrated frontal projection of the late Stuart—Queen Anne period, the imposing thumbpiece is definitely local and peculiar to this and the type which I shall next illustrate, and upon both of them the strange upward "kick" of the handle—where it leaves the lip of the body—will be noted. This flagon is certainly the finest of its type which has come under my notice, and of which—as of the next type—I do not know of twenty examples in existence. It is 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in extreme height, and 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. to lip, with a base diameter of 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

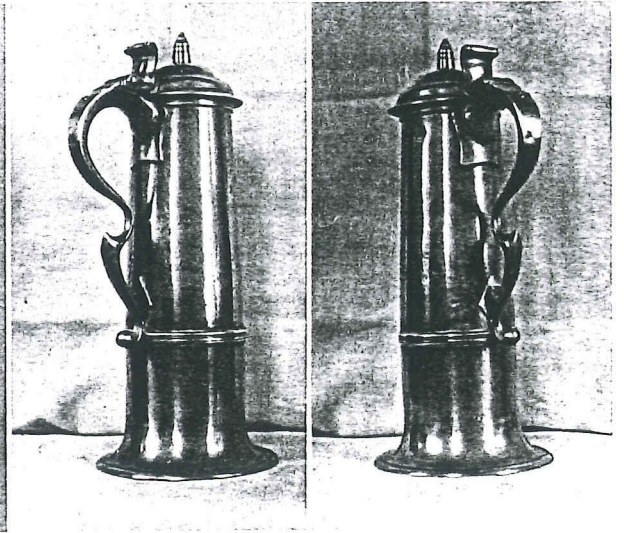
Of equal rarity—probably even more so—is the acorn type of "York" flagon pictured in Figs. IX and X, though forty-five years later and made by John Harrison of York (No. 2162, *op. cit.*). Around the belly of its body runs the inscription :

"BOUGHT AT THE EXPENCE [*sic*] OF THE PARISH OF ST. SAVIOURS AND ST. ANDREWS. RICH'D CUSSONS AND ROB'T CUNDELL CHURCH WARDENS, 1750."

The extreme height of this fine piece is 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and it is 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. to the lip, the diameter of the base being 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. It is a well-proportioned



Figs. XI and XII. IRISH FLAGON. Circa 1750. 12 in. high, 7 in. base.



Figs XIII and XIV. FLAGON. Circa 1765. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. base, height to lip 12 in.

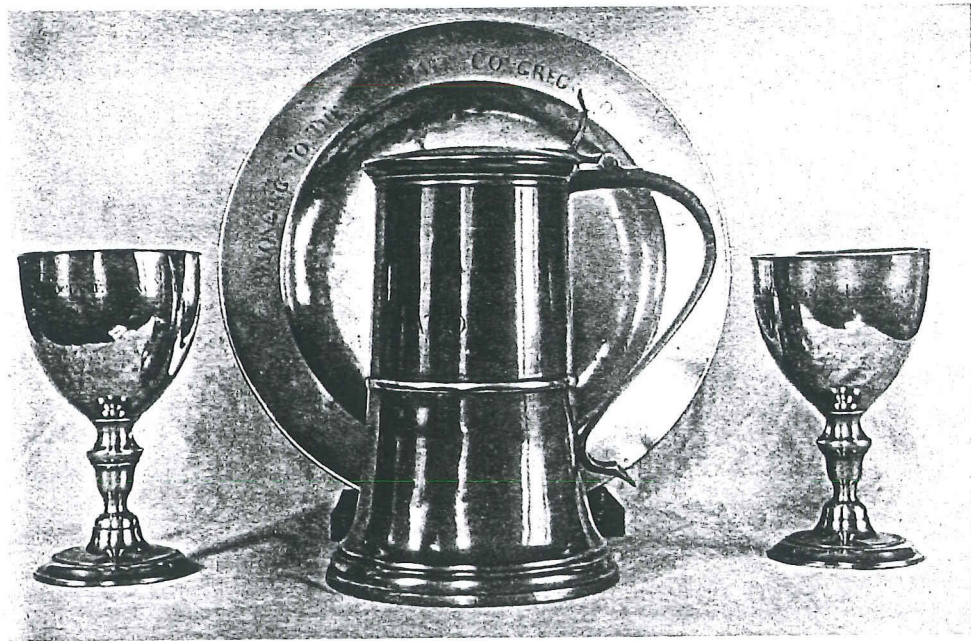


Fig. XV. A SCOTTISH COMMUNION SERVICE, of which the cups are some fifty years later than the flagon and the alms dish

and balanced example, and in wonderful state of preservation.

Of about the same period, but bearing no maker's touch, is the Irish flagon illustrated in Figs. XI and XII.

Bearing strong similarity to the bodies of those seen in Figs. V and VI, the more emphasized mouldings and the domed lid are indicative of its later period. It is 12 in. in extreme

height, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the lip, with a 7 in. base diameter. The spout and the exaggerated sweep outwards from the body of the upper terminal of the handle are typical features of many Irish flagons.

Grace in pewter is the keynote of the beautiful example shown in Figs. XIII and XIV.

Illustrated in my "Old Pewter: Its Makers and Marks" at Plate XLII, *d*, this piece—



Fig. XVI. A BEAUTIFUL LATE STUART TANKARD.
Height $6\frac{3}{4}$ in., base $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.



Fig. XVII. A DEVELOPMENT OF THE TANKARD
Fig. XVI, but possibly as late as Queen Anne

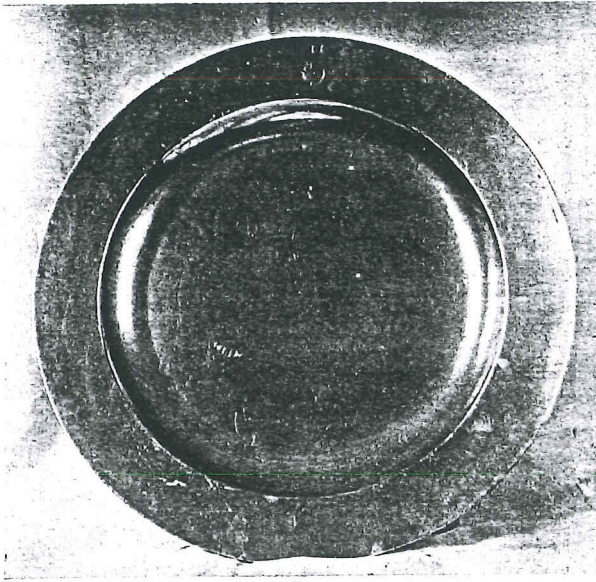


Fig. XVIII. AN INTERESTING 20½ in. DISH, bearing touch of Mark Cripps of London

formerly in the Charbonnier and the Fieldhouse Collections—was wrongly described there through faulty information which was sent to me at the time, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of correcting it. Its date is *circa* 1765, and it *does* bear a touch, to wit, No. 5387, *op. cit.* It stands upon a finely skirted 6½ in. base, and towers up to an extreme height of 14½ in., the height to the lip being 12 in. The body displays an entasis which I have never seen excelled.

Fig. XV displays a Scottish communion service, of which the cups are some fifty years later than the flagon and the alms dish.

The alms dish is 16¾ in. in diameter, and inscribed :

“BELONGING TO THE ASSOCIATE [*sic*]
CONGREGATION EDR., A.D. 1742.”

It bears the touch and imitation silver-marks of Richard Grunwin of London (No. 2040, *op. cit.*).

The flagon is 14 in. in extreme height, and 11½ in. to lip. It stands upon a base nearly 8 in. in width, and has a lip diameter of 5½ in. It bears the same date and inscription as the alms dish, and was made by William Eddon of London (No. 1503, *op. cit.*).

The cups, as has been said, are some fifty years later, and are inscribed :

“ASSOCIATE CONGN. EDIN, 1794.”

They are 8¾ in. in height, with a diameter at base of 4¾ in., and at lip 4¼ in. As is usual upon such cups, there is no maker's mark.

A beautiful late Stuart tankard forms the subject of Fig. XVI. The shallowness of its lid-dome, the breadth of the handle, and its *tout ensemble*, bespeak it twenty years or so earlier than the one illustrated in Fig. XVII.

It is decorated upon both body and cover with flowers and leaves in wriggled engraving, and is a pleasing and well-balanced example of this much sought-after type. With an extreme height of 6¾ in., and 4¾ in. to the lip, it has a base of 4½ in., of which the restrained moulding is a pleasing feature.

It has no maker's touch, but several ownership initials appear upon the flat brim of the cover.

Fig. XVII shows the later development of this type, and may well be as late as Queen Anne, though in the absence of a maker's touch, one cannot say with absolute certainty. A bird with tulip have furnished the engraver with his motif for the wriggled work, and the ownership initials “M.R.” are struck inside the cover. It stands upon a more decorated 4½ in. base ; the extreme height is about 6¾ in., and to the lip 4¼ in.

A most interesting 20½ in. dish with plain rim is seen in Fig. XVIII. It bears the touch

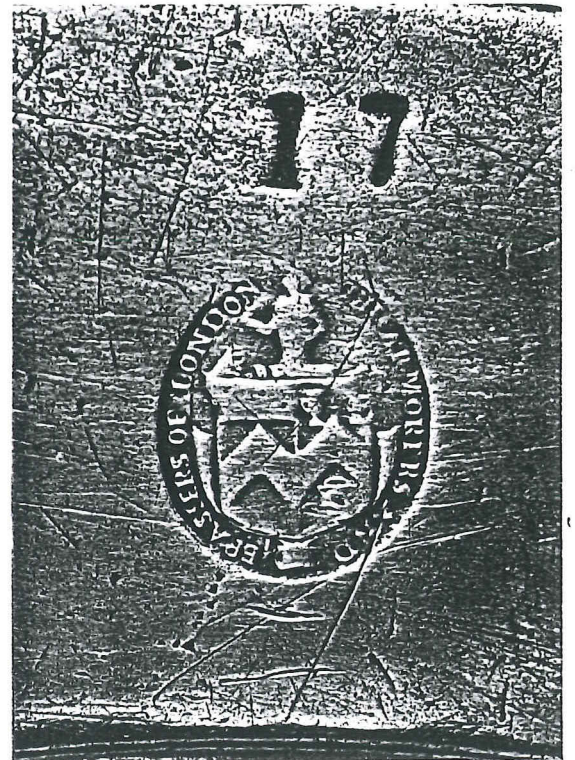


Fig. XIX. THE ARMS OF THE ARMOURERS' AND BRAZIERS' COMPANY of London on the rim of dish, Fig. XVIII

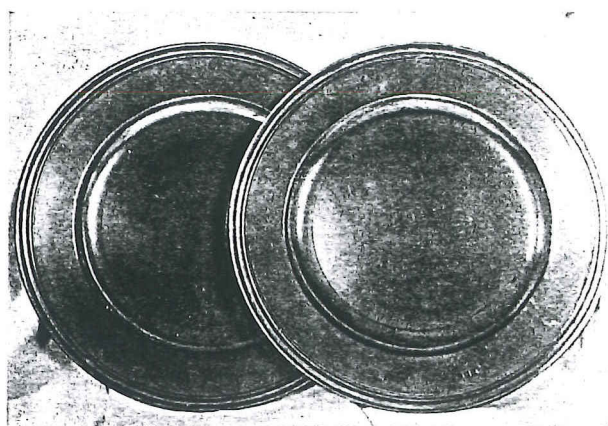


Fig. XXI. A FINE PAIR OF TRIPLE-REEDED DISHES
Circa 1690-5

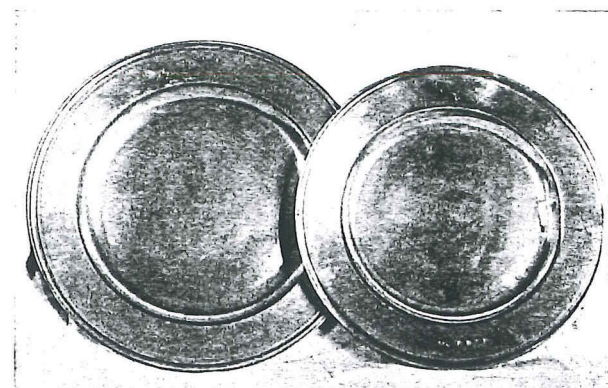


Fig. XXII. A PAIR OF DISHES about same date. One on left made by Joseph King of London; smaller one with mark No. 5436

of Mark Cripps of London (No. 1217, *op. cit.*), who was Free in 1727 and died in 1776. Upon the rim of this piece, beneath the number "17," is struck—with a die—the Arms of the Armourers' and Braziers' Company of London, of which a "close-up" is given in Fig. XIX. It is the only instance within my knowledge of a piece of City Company pewter-plate in a private collection, and before I secured this treasure for Mr. Scott-Nicholson it was offered to the Company.

A very beautifully proportioned Charles II broad-rimmed dish—dated 1675 in the restrained and simple engraving upon its rim—is pictured in Fig. XX. It is 18½ in. in diameter and the width of its lightly moulded rim 3⅓ in. It bears mark No. 5767, *op. cit.* It is a fine example of this very desirable type.

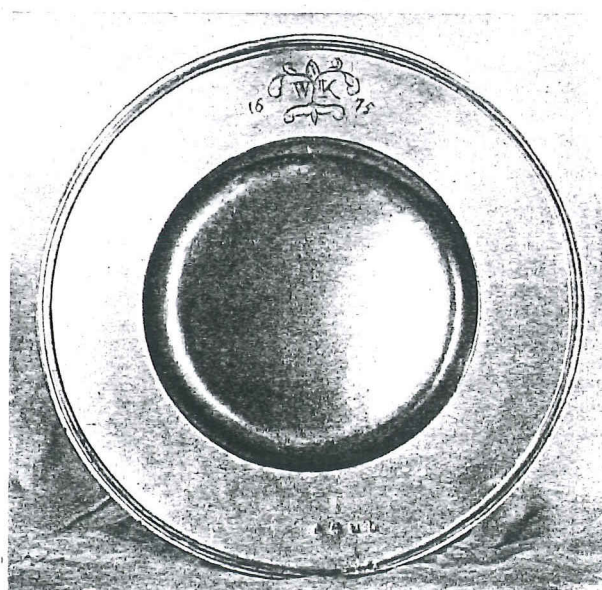
A fine pair of the succeeding dish form—the triple-reeded—is seen in Fig. XXI. They bear mark No. 5619, *op. cit.*, are 22 in. in diameter, and unusually well proportioned for this type.

They date from about 1690-5, as also do the two dishes shown in Fig. XXII. Here the one on the left is 20½ in. and was made by Joseph King of London (No. 2746), the smaller example being 18¼ in. and bearing mark No. 5436 (or 5593A) *op. cit.*

It was only during the few years preceding his death that Mr. Scott-Nicholson had given his mind seriously to pewter, and one cannot but regret that so discriminating a collector, who had accomplished so much in so short a time, has been taken from us, for had he lived he would beyond doubt have achieved a high place amongst lovers of this fascinating metal.

Fig. XX. A BEAUTIFUL CHARLES II BROAD-RIMMED DISH.

Dated 1675



Size 18½ in. diameter, width of rim 3⅓ in. Bears mark No. 5767