

EEA

Some Unusual Wood Carvings

fixion." The carvings are only four inches high, and it is amazing that so many full-length figures can be crowded into so small a space. In the "Descent from the Cross" there are ten figures, and in the "Crucifixion" there are twelve, each carved in minute detail and with characteristic expression.

To collect fine examples of wood carving is a

hobby of absorbing interest. They are not indeed easy to find, but on the other hand there are not so many people anxious to acquire them as there are collectors of porcelain and pottery, while the diversities of wood, of styles and of subjects convert every antique dealer's shop into a potential hunting ground for the enthusiast.

(Photos to this article by Stanley Worrell, Bournemouth.)

THE PEWTERERS OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

Light on the History of a Once Prosperous Industry

By the late HOWARD HERSCHEL COTTERELL, F.R.Hist.Soc.

¶ This is one of a number of articles left by the late Mr. Cotterell, the well-known authority on pewter, who died just over a year ago. It is typical of his constant efforts to shed new light on the subject he had made his own.

A PART from the scattered notes which appeared in my *Old Pewter: Its Makers and Marks*, I know of no attempt to throw light upon the Pewter industry in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and this is the more surprising because it must have been quite an important one turning out very good work, many examples of which are still in existence.

An appeal to the City Librarian in the autumn of 1927, kindly passed on by him to the Hon. Secretary of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, brought a most courteous acknowledgment, but—I regret to have to add—nothing further.

However, one could not let it rest at that, so—like the butterfly—one had to flit about here and there, gleaning what morsels of information one could, first from one source and then from another, and the resultant aggregate is far from being as ample as one might desire. Nevertheless, it is the acorn from which some local antiquary—with facilities for research on the spot—may eventually rear a full-grown oak.

As in so many of my researches, I found one of my most helpful quarries in the person of my friend Thomas Warburton of Manchester, to whom I am indebted for much of the little historical material I am now able to set down, as also for help with the illustrations.



Fig. 1.—The arms of the Pewterers, Plumbers and Glaziers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The late Sir Charles Jackson in his *English Goldsmiths and their Marks*, gives the following:

"The earliest known reference to Newcastle Goldsmiths is in an ordinance of Henry III (1248). There is a further reference in 1423, after which there is no further reference until 1536, when the Goldsmiths were incorporated, together with the Freemen of other trades, as a Company of 'Goldsmiths, Plumbers, Glaziers,



Fig. 2.—The Hoastmen's seal of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Pewterers and Painters.' This Charter still exists among the Plumbers' Archives. The Company was governed by 4 Wardens, viz., a Goldsmith, a Plumber, a Glazier, and a Pewterer or a Painter.

By Act of Parliament, 1702, the Goldsmiths of Newcastle were constituted an independent Corporation but—with the exception of an interval from 1707-1711—they continued in association with the Plumbers, Glaziers, Pewterers and Painters until 1716, when they finally separated themselves."

In Walker and Richardson's useful work "The Armorial Bearings of the several Incorporated Companies of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with a brief historical account of each Company, together with notices of the Corpus Christi, or Miracle Plays, anciently performed by the Trading Societies of Newcastle-upon-Tyne" (Newcastle, 1824), there is given—besides much other information—an illustration (Fig. 1) of the arms of the Pewterers, Plumbers and Glaziers of Newcastle. In this the arms of the Pewterers are identical with those of the parent London Company, except in the shape of the dish in the crest, for the broad-rimmed Stuart dish of the latter is replaced by an upright oval one with wavy edges of mid-18th century type.

From the same volume is reproduced the impression of the Hoastmen's Seal shown in Fig. 2, in reference to which, John Brand in his *History of Newcastle-upon-Tyne* (1776), observes that :

"With the exception of the Seals of the Societies of Merchants, Masters and Mariners, and Hoastmen, no special Grant of Arms has ever been made to the Incorporated Companies

of Newcastle-upon-Tyne,"

and, in alluding to the copperplate prints of the arms of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle, he further remarks that "These are copies—but not exact ones—of those of the Societies of London in Stowe's *Survey of London*."

About the year 1817, representations of the arms of the City Companies of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with the City Arms and the Hoastmen's Seal—probably engraved by Thomas Bewick—were published separately, both on paper and silk. The size of these sheets, including the border, was 17½ in. by 12 in., one of them being reproduced in Fig. 3, showing the Pewterers' Arms at the end of the fourth long row. Again, these same arms were separated and printed on six leaves, with heraldic descriptions, in the *Newcastle Remembrancer* (1817), a Freeman's Pocket Companion, containing a copious view of all the charters granted to the town and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with an account of the customs and privileges peculiar to its Free Burgesses.

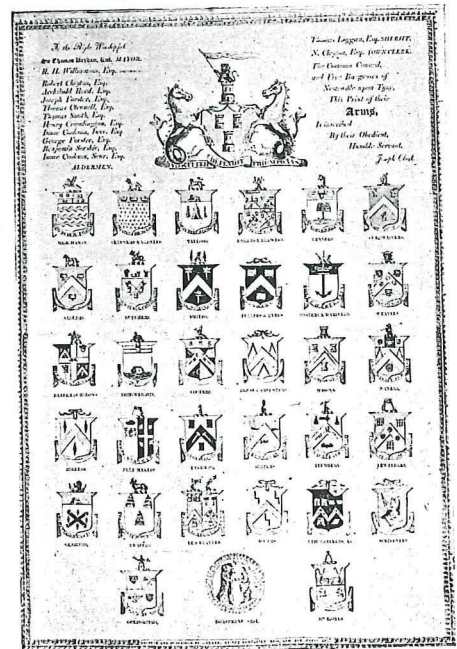


Fig. 3.—One of a series of sheets representing the arms of the City Companies of Newcastle, published in 1817.

The Pewterers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

In John Collier's *Essay on Charters* (Newcastle, 1777), those of Newcastle, together with remarks on the town's constitution, customs and franchises, are particularly considered.

Walker and Richardson (1824, *op. cit.*), describe 29 of the arms shown upon the sheet (Fig. 3) but omit all mention of the Drapers, Scriveners and Spurriers, although their arms are illustrated upon the sheet. Is it possible that, in the intervening seven years, these three companies had become defunct?

Of the Pewterers, Plumbers and Glaziers, Whitehead & Jameson, in their "Explanation of the Arms of the several Incorporated Companies in the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne . . ." (Newcastle, 1776), record that these three companies are incorporated in one and have an elegant hall on the walls leading from the West Gate to St. Andrew's Church.

Because some of the companies had supporters to their arms and others had none, all were omitted for the sake of making them look more uniform upon the plate of illustrations.

Walker and Richardson (*op. cit.*) record that this latter society, which also formerly comprised the Goldsmiths and Painters, in its ordinances, dated September 1, 1536, is enjoined:—

"To go together, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, and maintain their play of *The Three Kings of Coleyn*; to have 4 Wardens, i.e., 1 Goldsmith, 1 Plumber, 1 Glazier and 1 Pewterer or Painter; to be sworn, on admission not to interfere with each others' occupations; that no Scotsman born should be taken apprentice nor suffered to work in Newcastle on pain of forfeiting 3s. 4d., one half of which was to go to the upholding of the Tyne Bridge and the other to the Society."

Amongst other orders in the old books of the Society, occurs the following:—

"7 Sept. 1730. No brother to lend his diamond, except to a Free brother of this Company, on pain of forfeiting 6s. 8d."

The Company's Hall—anciently called "Morden Tower"—which, though dilapidated, still exists—was granted to them during the mayor-

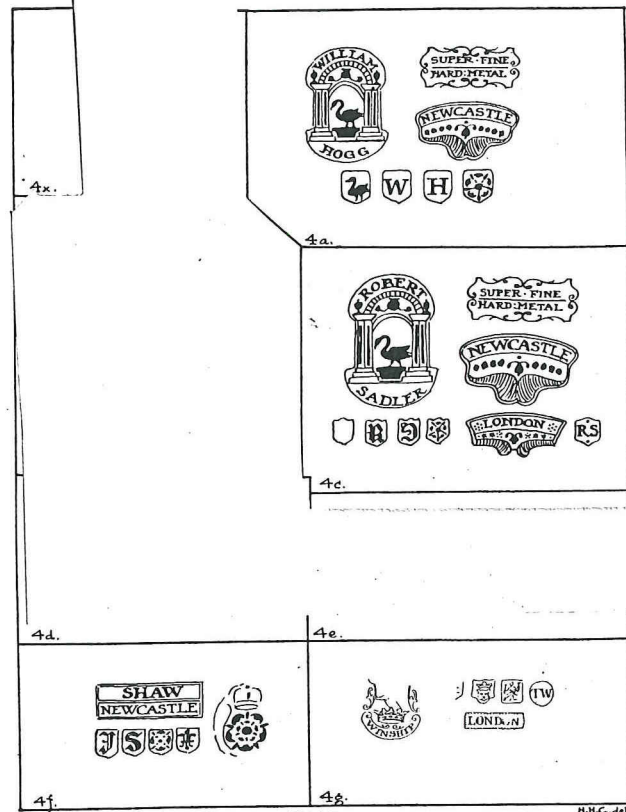


Fig. 4.—Marks found on old Newcastle pewter, of the following makers:—John Anson, William Hogg, George Lowes, Robert Sadler, Henry Salkeld, A. Shaw, J. Shaw and T. Winship. The latter was one of the Stewards of the Company in 1824.

alty of Sir Peter Riddell, in 1619. From the centre of the meeting room hangs a gilded ball which had probably been shot from the cannon of the Scottish army during the great siege of the town in 1644, and, having lodged in the walls, was discovered on the alteration of the Tower.

In 1824 the company consisted of 41 members, of whom, George Newton, Thomas Winship and Isaac Mills Beeny were Stewards.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

THE ANTIQUE COLLECTOR'S December issue (published mid-November) as last year will be a

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS NUMBER

and will also contain a

Special Forecast of the CHINESE ART EXHIBITION