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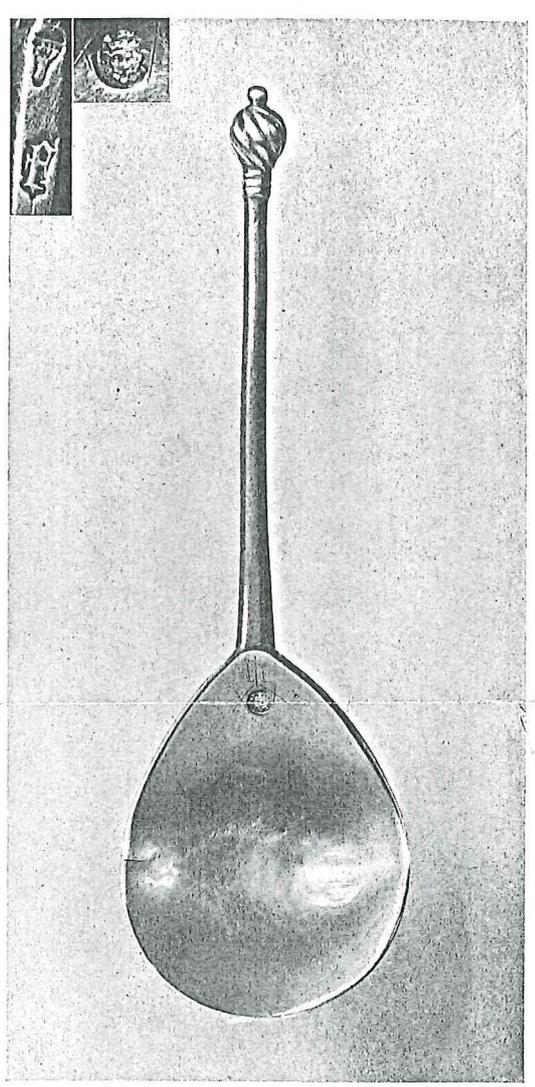
HENRY VII WRYTHEN KNOP

During the second half of the Fifteenth Century spoons with Diamond Point finials, which by then had to all intents and purposes replaced the earlier Acorn Knops, were in turn supplanted by the introduction of more complicated finials, such as the Wodewose, the Wrythen Knop, and early forms of Apostles and Lion Sejants.

Fifteenth-century Acorn and Diamond Point finials were fashioned in one piece with the remainder of the spoon, but with the introduction of the more complicated finials the practice of making the finial separate and joining it on to the end of the stem became general. In London the method of joining the finial to the spoon was almost invariably that of slipping it in by a V-shaped cut at the end of the stem, where it was secured by hard solder.

Apostles and Lion Sejants became more prevalent during the Sixteenth Century, but the Wodewose and Wrythen Knop seem to have died out altogether soon after 1500, and although both these types of spoons are recorded in wills and inventories of the period, only a few examples are known to be in existence to-day. A fine Henry VII example of a Wrythen Knop with the London Hall-marks for 1488 was in the famous Stanyforth Collection in 1898, about which date it passed into the possession of the late Lord Breadalbane, changing hands again as recently as 1926.

The Henry VII example here illustrated, almost identical to the Stanyforth spoon, but with an even finer finial, bears the full London Hall-marks for the year 1503. The V-shaped cut by which the finial is slipped in can be distinguished in the illustration. Apart from its being a superb example of this extremely rare type of spoon, the author does not know of any other fully hall-marked London Wrythen Knop with the exception of the Stanyforth spoon mentioned above. It was recently acquired by Messrs. How of Edinburgh in a London auction room, and can be seen at 15, Stratton Street, London, W.1, where Messrs. How have also in stock a fine fifteenth-century 'Acorn Knope,' several fifteenth-century 'Dyamond Poynts,' and a large selection of



early London and English provincial spoons ranging in date from Henry VIII to William and Mary, and including Apostles, Seal Tops, Lion Sejants, Slip Tops, Puritans and Trefids.

J.H. How

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