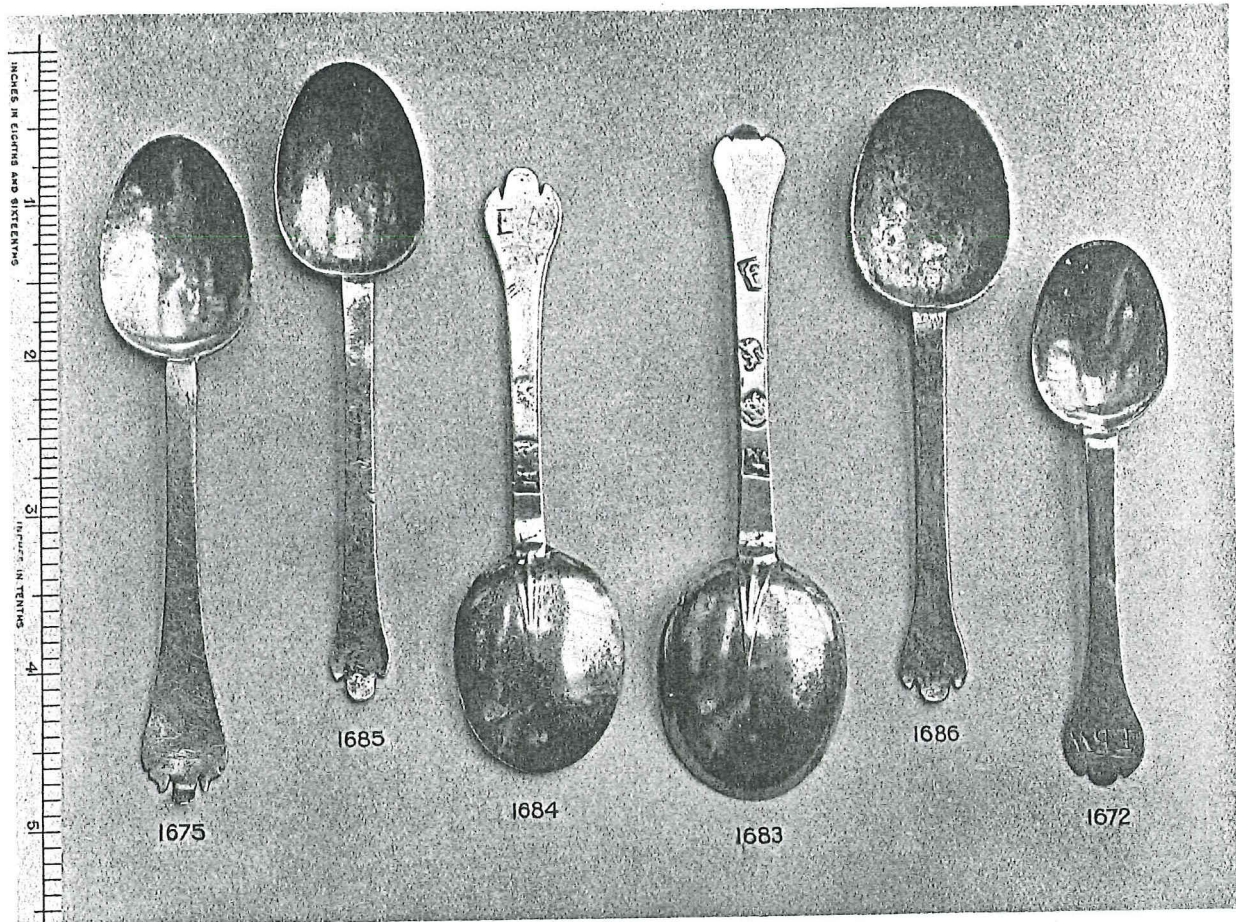


EEU

XVIITH CENTURY TEA SPOONS



TEA, which was introduced into this country some time before 1660, was advertised in the London papers about this period, and by 1689 there were two public Tea Houses in Tunbridge Wells. Teaspoons are constantly mentioned in the seventeenth-century newspapers, often figuring in lists of stolen property. They are described as "Wrought" in 1685, "Small Gilt" in 1686, "with Twisted Handles" in 1685, etc. Most teaspoons were miniatures of the large spoons of the time, though there are variations from this, for example, those with twisted handles, an early eighteenth-century specimen of which is in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Coffee, Chocolate and Snuff Spoons are not mentioned in the newspapers, and I consider it possible that the very small spoons commonly looked on as snuff spoons or toys were actually teaspoons, tea then usually being drunk from

very small silver or porcelain cups, without handles.

The spoons illustrated are all of the Trefoil or Trefid top type, and with one exception are fully marked with the London Hall-Mark. The exception is a spoon *circa* 1680, by Anthony Nelme, with his mark in two places. They are similar in type to the spoons generally in use at that date. Specimens of this type of teaspoon, especially when fully marked, are exceptionally rare.

J. P. How
Lieut. Comdr R.N.

Messrs. HOW OF EDINBURGH Ltd.,
 Antique Silver
 13, Berkeley Square, London, and 7, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.