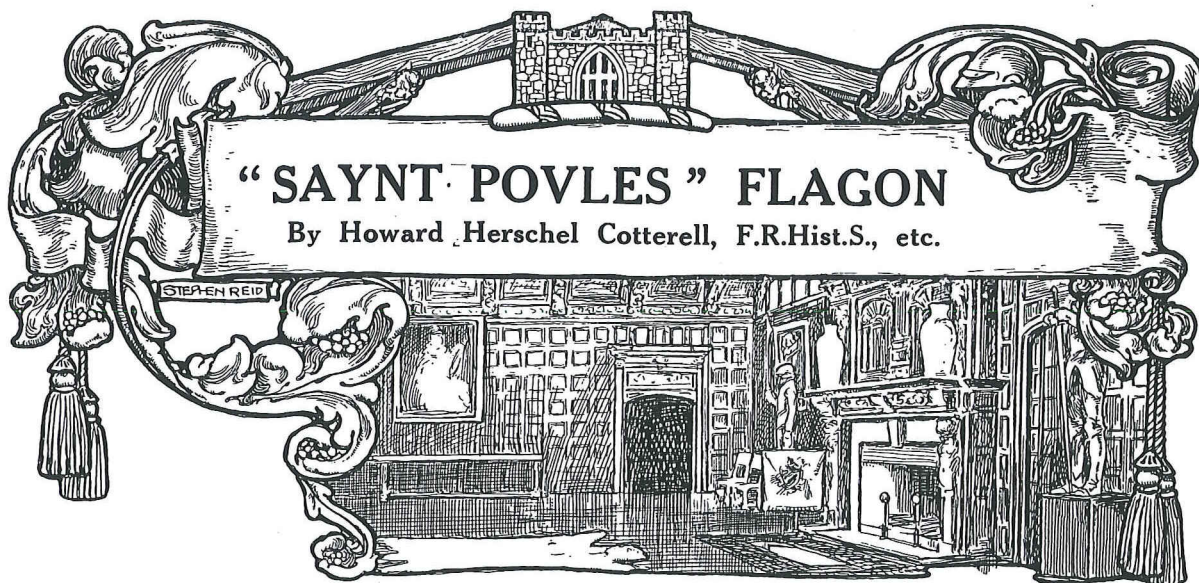


EIP



THE acquisition by Dr. A. J. Young, of Whitefield, Manchester, of the magnificent early seventeenth-century pewter flagon illustrated in No. i., the lid details and inscription of which are also shown in No. ii., has provided the inspiration for this article. Its addition to the already very complete series in this collection makes the whole worthy of special note, for, speaking, as I think I may be permitted to do, with specialised knowledge, I have little hesitation in saying that, as a series in one possession, they stand almost alone. They cover every recognised regular type from the close of the sixteenth to the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, and demonstrate admirably the quiet dignity of the earlier pewterers' work. One expects to find isolated examples of many of these types in every seriously formed collection, and in many of the latter there are to be found fine series. But I know of none quite so complete as that under discussion, upon which the seal was set by this latest addition, even though a smaller size of the same type, but undated, was there already (No. iii.).

This beautiful piece, which adds to and confirms our all too scanty knowledge of early types, gives to-day no evidence of a maker's touch, which, however, it is more than probable was struck upon the handle, and has gradually been worn away by more than three centuries of repeated cleaning.

The dimensions of the flagon are as follows:—height to the lip, $10\frac{7}{8}$ in.; extreme height to top of thumbpiece, $13\frac{5}{8}$ in.; the diameter at the base being $5\frac{3}{4}$ in., and at the lip, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.

On the lid, as will be seen from No. ii., are engraved in wriggled work the words "SAYNT POVLES," and above this appears the date 1616. On the front of the body of the flagon appears the Sacred Monogram, I. H. S., engraved in straight line and wriggled engraving, and Dr. Young would welcome any information which would enable him to trace the church to which this piece originally belonged.

This type represents the earliest which collectors have any reasonable hope of acquiring. Examples are extremely difficult to discover, and this particular one must be regarded as quite one of the earliest dated *English* pewter flagons to be found in private ownership; few earlier ones are known to exist anywhere.

Dated flagons of this type are, or were until recently, in existence at Werrington Church, Northants, inscribed *Ex dono Edmundi Pennyne et Franciscæ vxoris eius ad usum Capellæ de Werrington*, 1609 (14 in. high, with a base diameter of $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.); and at Trellech Church, Co. Monmouth. Reference is made to the latter in the *Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club* (Vol. XIX. (2) p. 90) as follows: ". . . The other, a pewter flagon, with lid, thumbpiece and handle, 14 in. high and weighing over five pounds, bears the date 1620 on the lid. It is peculiar for the rows of numerals engraved on the handle, the meaning of which has baffled all enquiry."

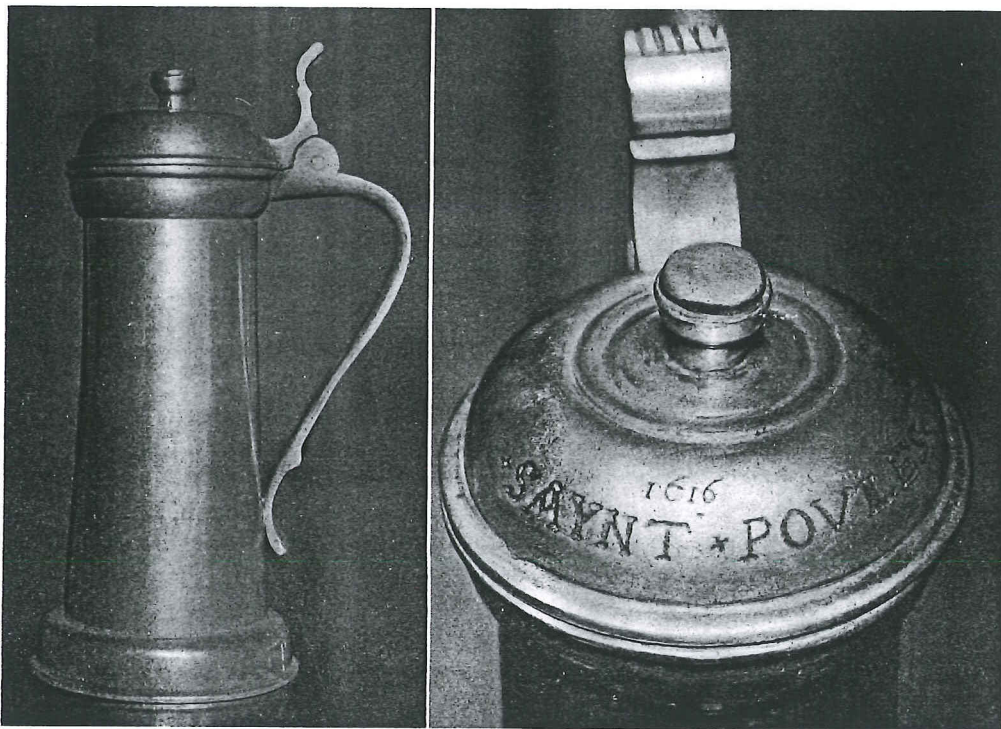
Identical, but undated, examples are at Combmartin Church, Devon, and at Evenley Church, Northants, whilst, in private possession, one calls to mind those in the Carvick Webster, the W. D.

"Saynt Povles" Flagon

Thomson and the Lloyd F. Ward collections. So far as my memory serves, I know of no example without the knob in the centre of the lid.

From the evidence before us, therefore, we are limited to the three dates, 1609, 1616 and 1620, but it is more than probable the type was in existence from *circa* 1590 until *circa* 1625, for we know that so early as the middle of the first quarter of the seventeenth century its successor, illustrated in Nos. iv. and v. (10½ in. and 13 in.

Ekins, who were Churchwardens there in 1612. Another fine pair from Canterbury, but now in the collection of Mr. E. W. Turner, of Herne Bay, bear the following inscription: "1634, St. Marye Northgate, Thomas Gilbert and William Wootton Church Wardens. Decemb 13th." Some notes of mine in *THE CONNOISSEUR*, October, 1923, pp. 98/9, give details of the latter pair. The piece illustrated in No. iv. is stamped on the handle "East Tuddenham," but has no date.



NOS. I. AND II.—PEWTER FLAGON
EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

INSCRIBED "1616 SAYNT * POVLES"
BELONGING TO DR. A. J. YOUNG

ENGLISH

extreme height respectively), had put in its appearance. This second type preserves a somewhat similar base, but the lid is modified so as to give the appearance of having taken on a "waist"; the cupped lip has become shallower, and the thumbpiece, instead of being the tall erect affair which appears on the earlier type, has become quite upright with a bar-shaped upper portion, and is usually pierced with a heart. It is found in both the knobbed and plain lidded styles, the former appearing on the earlier known examples.

Fine pairs of these flagons are known with the knobbed lids and dated. The earliest of which I have note is the pair at Raunds Church, Northants, which were the gift of Robert and Richard

Other examples, bearing known marks, enable us to allocate to this type the dates *circa* 1610 to 1660, and to pass on to the one shown in No. vi. (11 in. extreme height), which flourished from *circa* 1650 to *circa* 1690, in which the lid has taken on a flat top with sloping concave sides. The cup-shaped lip has vanished, and the base has been swelled out to such proportions as to give to it a very handsome and most secure appearance, for it would be a difficult matter to tilt or upset a flagon of this type when weighted with its full contents. A further change in the thumbpiece is evident, for it has now taken on the "quasi-double volute" outline.

There now remain for consideration the two

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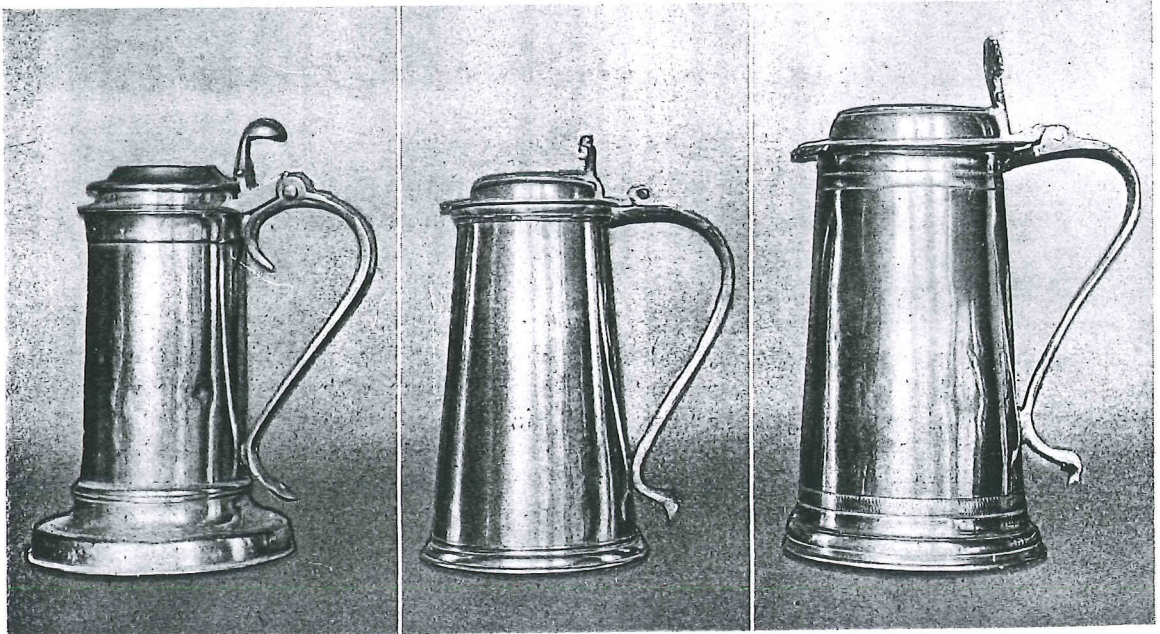


No. III.—LEFT: SIMILAR TO NO. I., BUT SMALLER AND UNDATED TYPE, CIRCA 1590-1625
 No. IV.—CENTRE: STAMPED "EAST TUDDENHAM" TYPE, CIRCA 1610-1660
 No. V.—RIGHT: TYPE, CIRCA 1610-1660 BELONGING TO DR. A. J. YOUNG

examples shown in Nos. vii. and viii., which, apart from their extreme height (10½ in. and 12¼ in. extreme, respectively), carry out all the familiar details of the tankards of the period, and which were in use from the latter half of the seventeenth century until the time of Queen Anne,

though in this *flagon size*—as opposed to the tankard—it is doubtful if they existed before *circa* 1670.

Thus we have the whole century covered by four distinct types, and surely no other series maintained such dignity for so extended a period.



No. VI.—LEFT: TYPE, CIRCA 1650-1690
 Nos. VII. AND VIII.—TYPE, NOT EARLIER THAN 1670 BELONGING TO DR. A. J. YOUNG