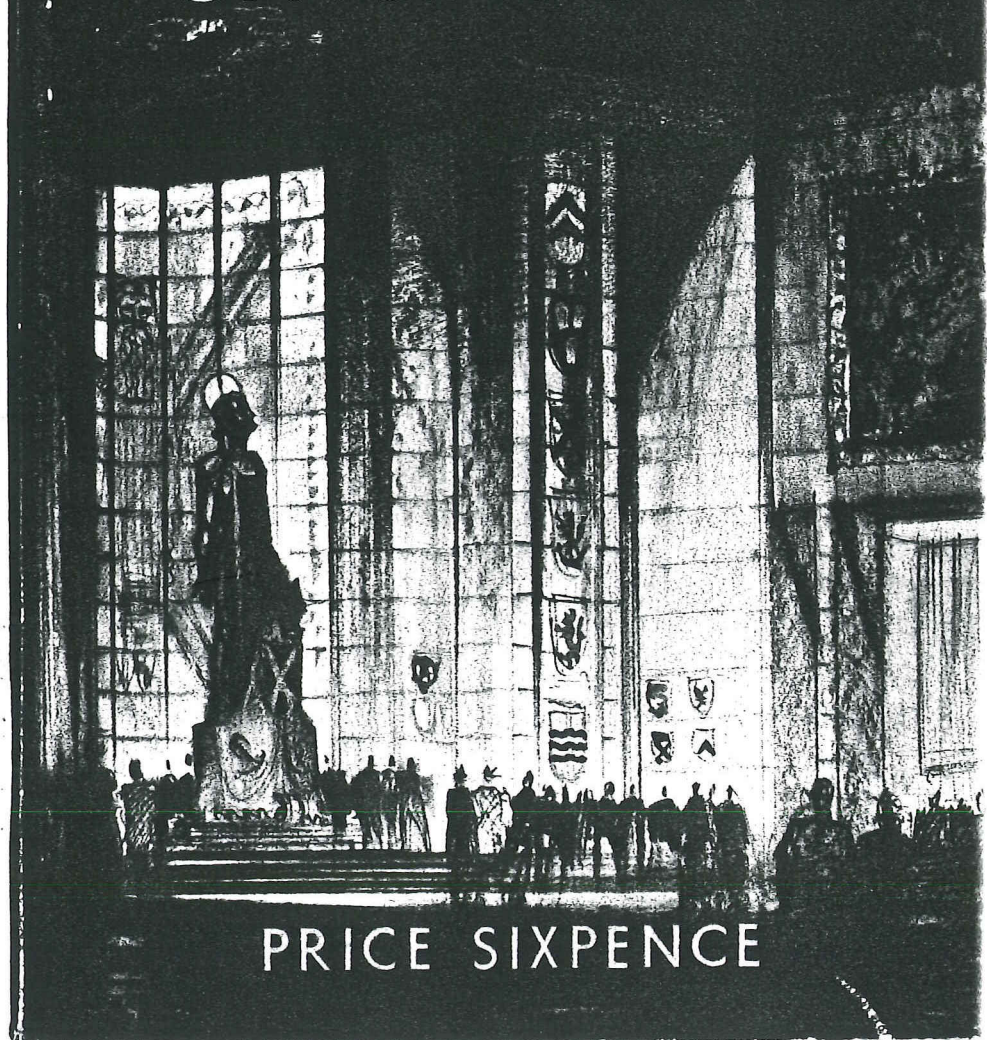
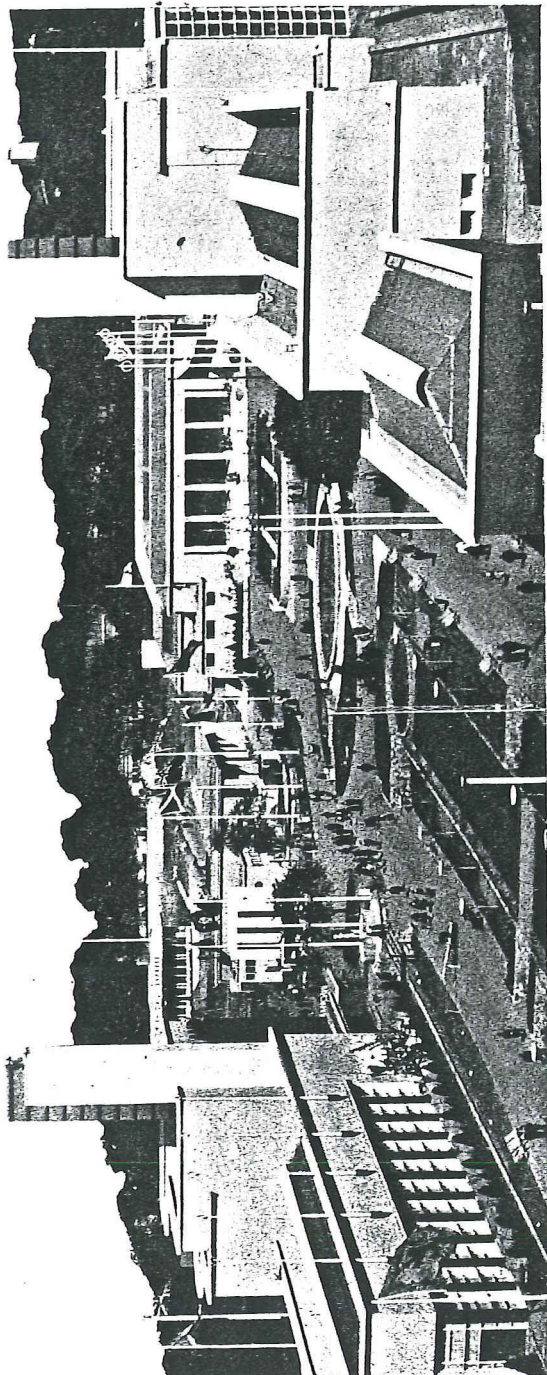


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SCOTTISH PAVILIONS OFFICIAL GUIDE



PRICE SIXPENCE



The Two Scottish Pavilions, with the Historical Pavilion on the Right, and the Planned Services Pavilion on the Left.

The Scottish Pavilions

EMPIRE EXHIBITION, SCOTLAND—1938

Official Guide

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Pewter

PEWTER was made from very early times and a set of Roman pewter vessels, probably part of a Christian church service, is preserved in the British Museum. The metal at that time has, by analysis, been discovered to have been composed of tin and lead in the proportion of about 72 parts of the former to 28 of the latter. In later times other metals such as copper, brass, antimony, zinc, and bismuth were used instead of, or in addition to, lead.

From the Roman period onwards the art of pewter making was kept alive, and in the later middle ages most of the domestic and some part, at least, of the church plate were made of this metal. As early as 1175 the Roman Catholic Church, while permitting the use of pewter flagons for the wine before consecration, instructed that after it had been consecrated it must be contained in vessels made of precious metal. Incidentally this accounts for the scarcity of early pewter chalices as compared with flagons.

The churches throughout Europe replaced pewter with silver plate as their revenues permitted, Scotland from its poverty being, perhaps, the last country in which the pewter chalice, paten, flagon and alms dish, and the baptismal basin and ewer held their ground. Indeed they may still be found in use in a few districts.

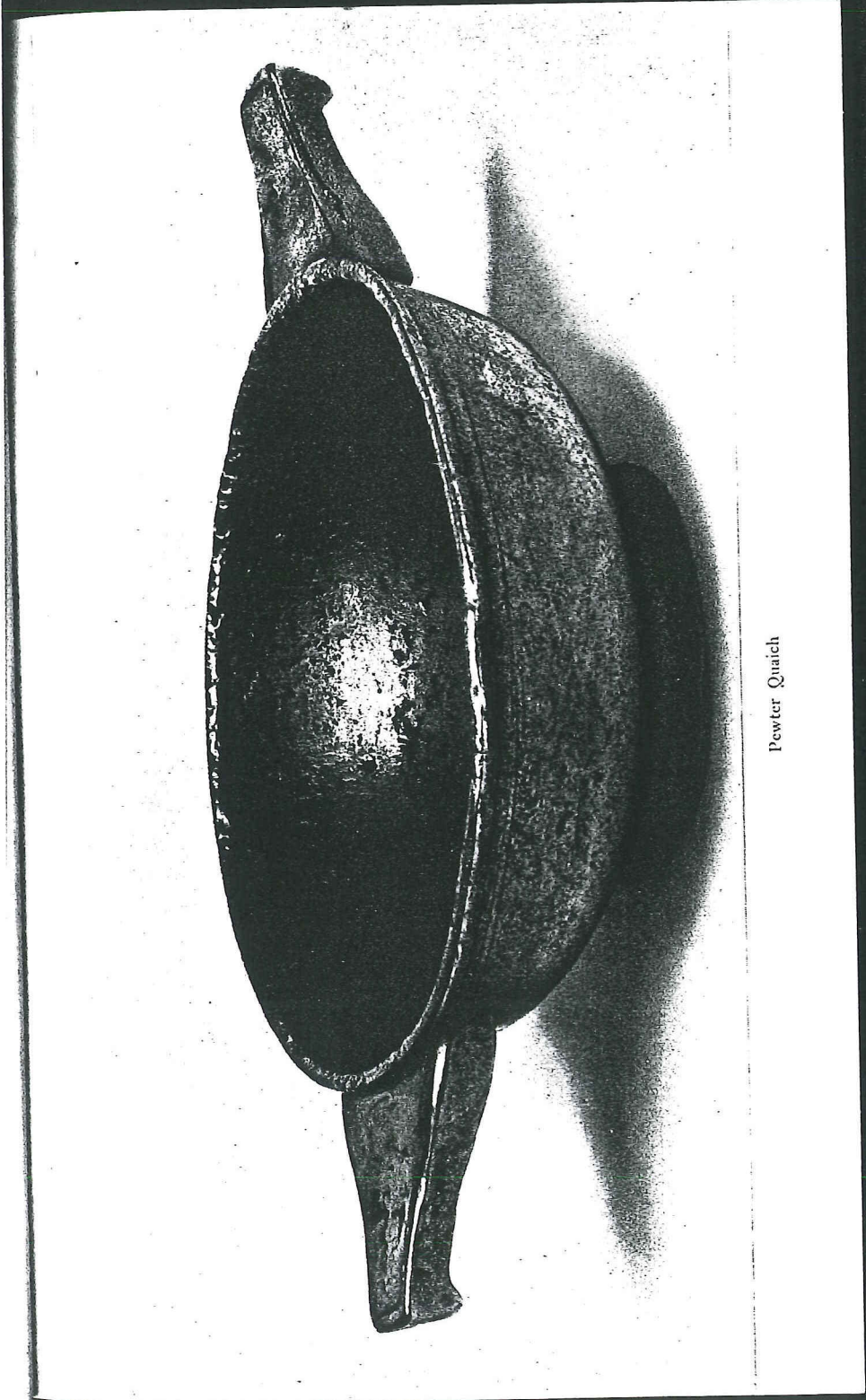
The Pewterers' Company of London and the Incorporations of Hammermen of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and other Scottish towns endeavoured, for

many years with complete success, to organise and protect the craft. In the sixteenth century Acts of Parliament were obtained requiring the marking of pewter with the maker's "touch" or private mark and restricting its sale to the maker's own premises and to open markets, and various Bye-laws were passed from time to time as to the examination of applicants for admission to the craft and for preventing self-advertisement, and in other ways sustaining the dignity and honour of the trade.

In the early years of the eighteenth century the Company and the Incorporations began to lose control, and that and the nineteenth centuries saw the steady decline of the pewterer's craft and the creeping in of many abuses.

The increasing cheapness of glass, china and earthenware and the introduction of block tin, nickel, Britannia metal and German silver drove pewter from the inns and from the kitchens of the people, and the pewterers were too lazy or too much overweighted to fight against extinction. James Moyes had a shop in Edinburgh till about 1875, but since then the trade has become almost extinct in Scotland, only a few hard-ware firms still making pewter, mostly measures for public houses. The church vessels, the domestic plates, spoons, candlesticks, pepper pots and the hundred and one other articles of daily use are now made of other material, and pewter has become the quarry of the collector and an object for exhibition in Museums.

LEWIS CLAPPERTON.

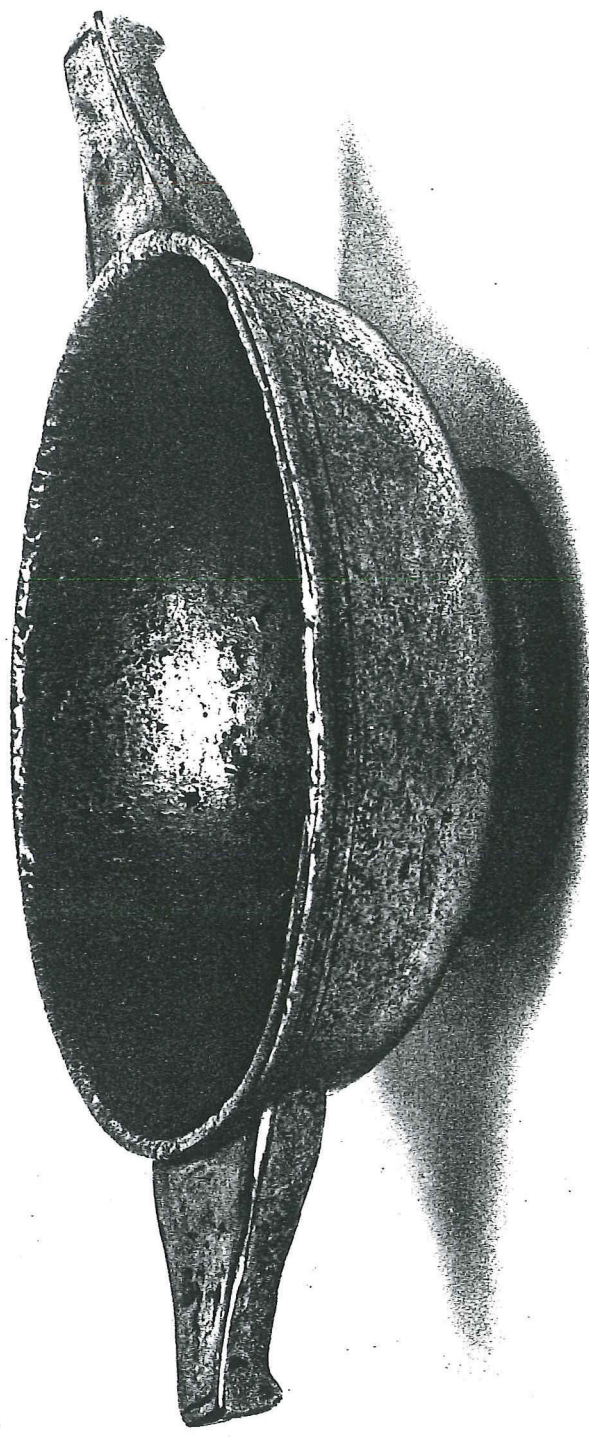


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