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*Re Snuff Spoons*

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F.E.R. (Guildford). I have come across snuff spoons on rare occasions, made in various materials but more frequently in bone and ivory.

It was once customary, particularly in Scotland, to have a small collection of snufftakers' accessories attached to the snuff "mulls" by thin silver chains; these accessories included a small hammer to tap the sides of the box or horn mulls, to loosen any particles of snuff which might have adhered to the sides; a bodkin to pierce and separate it should it stick together by damp; a little shovel or spoon to convey it to the nose; a rake to collect the snuff into the shovel and, lastly, a hare's foot to brush loose particles from the nose, lips or waistcoat!

It is said that Robert Baddeley, the actor contemporary with David Garrick, in his stage characterisation of "Gibby" in *The Wonder*, used such a Scottish mull to which a spoon and a hare's foot were appended by chains.

In Chinese snuff bottles a little spoon or shovel is attached to the stopper and appears to have been somewhat similar to those adopted by ourselves, at one time, in cayenne-pepper bottles.

You do not say whether your own spoon bears a hole drilled at the end of the handle through which it has been attached to a snuffmull, but, doubtless, many spoons must have been made for use unattached to the parent mull.

I cannot account for the four perforations in the bowl of your specimen and can only hazard a guess that these were for *sifting* a small quantity of snuff on to the back of the hand.

A writer in *APOLLO* in October, 1943, mentioned a small spoon which had a narrow, pierced bowl and a thin round stem, spiked at the end, and the late Mr. Robert Drane, a collector of fine old silver, suggested it was probably used in the making of punch, the bowl to extract the lemon pips and the spiked end to withdraw the peel before serving. Is it possible that your specimen could have been for this purpose?

R.F.M.