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## WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIG CHARGERS GONE? (A CONSOLIDATION)

By Ian D. Robinson

This is a consolidation (and update) of four articles (see References 1 - 4), which I wrote for the Journal of the Pewter Society, beginning in 1977. Since that time, I have kept records of all large British pewter chargers, i.e. with a diameter of 23 inches or more, known to me. (A charger is a dish 18 inches or more in British usage. American common usage may include smaller dishes upwards from about 13 1/2 inches in diameter). Almost 70 such British circular chargers appear on the list below. I have also added dishes 22 inches and larger but this part of the list is certainly incomplete. I doubt there are more than about 100 surviving examples 23 inches or more today. By comparison, they are considerably more rare than English flat-lidded tankards, which were made at the same time as most of these chargers. Peter Hornsby (Reference 5), states that 4% of British dishes (defined as 12 inches or more) are over 21 inches. However, if we limit ourselves to 23 inches, the share is well under one-percent, in my opinion. They are truly rare. Size and price are not proportional but rather there is an exponential relationship. A recently sold 28 13/16 inches diameter charger (#6 listed in table) now holds the world record auction price (32,000 pounds sterling, exclusive of premiums) for British pewter.

The writer requests members to provide any additional listings or whereabouts of these important pieces.

The following table summarizes the <sup>information</sup> ~~list~~.

NUMBER THIS LIST	NUMBER PREVIOUS LIST	DIAMETER (INCHES)	RIM WIDTH (INCHES) TYPE	MAKER OR MARKS (WORKING DATES)*	REFERENCES	RECENT WHEREABOUTS
1	1	36	Broad	John Redshaw (OP3878) 1681-1699	Michealis, Christian Names List, 1964 Also 3 June 1965 Sothebys Sale (Lot 70)	Ashmolean Museum Oxford
2	2	34 1/2	7 1/4 Incised	Samuel Jackson (OP5741) 1691-d.1715	Isher Sale (Lot 188) 1976, <i>CC A Bull. Vol. 7 page 203 (9/77)</i>	Colonial Williamsburg
3	3	30 (Circular?)	3 Plain	Samuel Cocks/ Cox (OP1004) 1819	<del>-----</del>	USA <u>Rinard Munday</u>
4	54	28 1/2	4 3/4 Incised	Stepher Lawrence (OP2864) 1667-1691	J. Pewter Society Autumn 1983	Ian Robinson
5	36	28 1/2	---	(Romano/ British)	J. Pewter Society Autumn 1977	Museum of Archeology & Ethnology, Cambridge
6	60	28 3/16	4 7/8 (Decorated)	W. B. (OP5485)	J. Pewter Society Spring, 1985. Phillips 18 Dec., 1984	D. Little
7	4	28 1/4	4 1/2	---	Masse/Michaelis 1949 (page 90)	?
8	5	28	5 Triple reed	Jacques Taudin (OP4651) 1680-c.1705	Worshipful Co. #1 Reading 95	Pewterers Hall

\* See Michaelis English Pewter Touchmarks for London makers.



NUMBER THIS LIST	NUMBER PREVIOUS LIST	DIAMETER (INCHES)	RIM WIDTH (INCHES) TYPE	MAKER OR MARKS (WORKING DATES)	REFERENCES	RECENT WHEREABOUTS
	37	27	4 1/2 Plain	I. S.	Sothebys 3 June 1965 (#70)	Richard Munday
1	38	26 13/16	3 3/4 Plain	Richard King (OP2749) 1722-d.1757	Jacobs list (1956)	William Kayhoe (late)
	6	26 3/4	2 5/8 Triple reed	Thomas Howard (OP2214) 1664-d.1674	J. Pewter Society Spring 1977 (cover)	Stanley Shammell
2	7	26 5/8	4 1/8 Plain?	(None Visible)	Worshipful Co. #2 Sutherland-Graeme Sale	Pewters Hall
3	8	26 1/2	4 Plain Decorated	Nicholas Hunton (OP2474) 1662-1686	Antique Collector, July 25, 1931. "Pewter Down the Ages"	Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge
4	9	26	4 1/4 Incised Triple reed	Stephen Lawrence (OP2854) 1662-1691	Richard Munday	Richard Munday
5	10	25 3/4	3 1/4 Triple reed	Sir John Fryers (OP1791) 1692-1715	PCCA Bulletin 6, 170 (1971)	R. Hall (late)
6	--	25 3/4	---	Thomas Wigley (OP5141) 1705	Gorder Deming	Dr. Joseph Kler

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17	11	25 5/8	3 1/2	--- (Dated 1725)	Masse/Michaelis 1949, page 90. Cliffords Inn Exhibition	Abingdon, Berks.
18	12	25	3 7/8	I. P. (OP5835)	Phillips October 1976 #181	Richard Munday
19	13	25	3 3/8 Triple reed	I. I. (OP5724)	Ian Robinson/ Richard Munday (1976)	---
20	39	25	---	probably John Dole (OP1411) c.1700-1730	Daily Telegraph Exhibition page 293 (1928)	Carvick Webster (Australia)
21	40	24 3/4	4 3/8 Plain	TV over a star	Sothebys 15 March 1979 (#79)	?
22	---	24 3/4	4 1/2	no mark	per Tom Campbell 1988	?
23	14	24 1/2	4 1/4 Plain	?	Reading #96	?
24	15	24 1/2	4 Triple Reed	William Adams (OP 19) 1646-1681	Currier #103	Currier Gallery, Manchester, NH (Gift of Winthrop Carter)
25	16	24 1/4	3 3/4, -	John Snoxell (OP 4424) 1675-1685	Letter from Jack Kolaian	ex Jack Kolaian

25a

24 1/4

Peuliers 1725

Peuliers 1725

NUMBER THIS LIST	NUMBER PREVIOUS LIST	DIAMETER (INCHES)	RIM WIDTH (INCHES) TYPE	MARKER OR MARKS (WORKING DATES)	REFERENCES	RECENT WHEREABOUTS
26	41	24	-, Broad	George Smith (OP 4347) 1691-d.1695	---	Peter Hornsby
27	17	24	- , -	↪ John Watts (OP4991)? 1725-d.1765	E.W. Low "Connoisseur, June 1903	?
28	27	24	- , -	Watts, London	"	?
29	19	24	- , Triple Reed	George Lester (OP 2919B) c. 1690-1700	Writer saw 1974	Langner, Portabello Rd., London
30	20	24	- , -	Peter Mourton (OP 3313) C.1675	---	Beauport, Gloucester MA, (SPENA Museum)
31	21	24	- , -	Pitt and Dadley (OP 3594) 1781-1797	W. Carter	Peter Hempson (1976)
32	59	24	- , Triple Reed	Thomas Powell (OP 3750) 1681-d.1723	Writer saw August, 1984	John Carl Thomas
33	63	24	About 3, Plain	Stynt Duncumb (OP 1466) b.1712-d.1767	"Provincial Pewterers", Figure 23	Stanley Shemmel
34	--	24	About 3 1/2 Triple Reed (Engraved)	Thomas Powell (OP3594) 1681-d.1723	PCCA Bulletin May 1988, Page 138	Barbara Horan
35	22	23 7/8	- , Triple Reed	Thomas Paddon (OP 3475) 1699	C. Minchin	C. Minchin (late)
36	42	23 7/8	3 7/8 Triple Reed	L. Dyer (OP1480) 1649-1698	---	Jack Kolaian

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37	23	23 3/4	- , -	?	Sothebys 3 June, 1965	?
38	24	23 3/4	3 7/8 Triple Reed	Rose/Crown	---	Stanley Shemmell
39	25	23 3/4	2 3/4 Triple Reed	Richard Smith (OP4374) dated 1707 1677-1709	Sothebys 17 July 1975 (#167A)	Richard Munday
40	43	23 3/4	3 1/4 Triple Reed	John Donne (OP1416) 1685-1727	Sothebys 11 May 1978 (# 81)	Richard Munday
41	55	23 3/4	3 3/8 Triple Reed	Gabriel Grunwin (OP2039) 1684-1693	Writer saw 1981	Ruth Troiani
42	56	23 3/4	3 3/4 Triple Reed	Thomas Cave (OP859 or 860) c. 1684-1734	Writer saw June 1987	Jack Kolaian
43	57	23 3/4	3 3/4 Incised	?	J. Pewter Society Autumn 1981	Fellory Priory
44	62	23 3/4	- , Broad	Sword Touch and unrecorded CR 'hallmarks'	Sothebys 7 April 1987	ex Michaelis
45	26	23 5/8	? , Triple Reed (incised)	Philemon Angel (OP94) 1682-1701	PCCA Bull <sup>e</sup> tan 1976	E. F. Perry
46	27	23 1/2	? , Broad	R. D. (OP5554A1)	---	Michaelis

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47	44	23 1/2	- , Incised	W I (Unrecorded)	Sothebys 25 July 1980 (# 30)	?
48	45	23 1/2	- , -	?	Writer saw	Keith Hockin
49	46	23 1/2	4 1/2, Plain	?	---	Shelburne, VT Museum
50	47	23 1/2	4 1/2, Plain	?	---	Shelburne, VT Museum
51	58	23 1/2	3, Plain	Stynt Duncombe b. 1712-d.1767	---	Stanley Shemell
52	61	23 1/2	4, -	G. Smith (OP4347) 1681-d.1695	Sothebys 21 November 1984	?
53	--	23 1/2	-, Triple Reed	Alexander Cleeve (OP960) 1639-1729	Maine Antique Digest February 1988	Jeffrey Davis & Co., San Francisco
54	--	23 1/2	- , Plain	Jonas Durand (OP1476) 1732-1775	Sothebys 28 March 1980 # 153	?
55	48	23 1/4	4, Plain	T. G. (MPM5634a)	J. Pewter Society Spring, 1978	Warwick Castle
56	49	23 1/4	4, Plain	"	"	"
57	50	23 1/4	4, Plain	"	"	"
58	51	23 1/4	4, Plain	"	"	"



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(WORKING DATES)						
59	28	23	4, Triple Reed	Stephen Lawrence (OP2864) 1662-1691	---	Richard Munday
60	29	23	4, Triple Reed	"	---	Richard Munday
61	30	23	4, Plain Rim	Ralph Marsh (OP3079/3080) 1650-d.1665/1665-c.1685	Currier Exhibit 1974 #102	Scotty Carter
62	31	23	4, Plain Rim	"	"	"
63	32	23	4 1/2, Plain Rim	Thomas Hicks (OP2304) 1670-1699	Sothebys 12 November 1973 #112	Richard Munday
64	33	23	4 1/2, "	"	Currier Exhibit 1974 #101	Ian Robinson
65	34	23	4 1/2, "	Thomas Smith? (OP4386A)	Sothebys 1 May 1975 #98	?
66	35	23	- , Plain Rim	George Smith (OP4347) 1681-d.1695	Writer saw 1975	Richard Munday

ADDITIONS (INCOMPLETE), 22 TO 22 7/8 INCHES

NUMBER THIS LIST	NUMBER PREVIOUS LIST	DIAMETER (INCHES)	RIM WIDTH (INCHES) TYPE	MAKER OR MARKS (WORKING DATES)	REFERENCES	RECENT WHEREABOUTS
67	--	22 3/4	4 1/4, Plain Rim	Nicholas Dolbeare (MPM5551a) (MPMA1408b)	Sothebys 13 June 1977 Reading #68 Usher #209	Mrs. Appleby
68	--	22 3/4 long	- , Plain Rim (Rectangular)	Samuel Cocks/Cox (OP1004) 1819	Sothebys 15 November 1979	---
69	--	22 1/2	- , Triple Reed	Robert Clothyer (OP989) c.1670-1710	S. E. Thomas #5 Collection Catalogue	---
70	--	22 1/4	4 1/2	---	Sothebys 1 May 1975	---
71	--	22 1/4	2 3/8 Single Reed	John Shorey (OP4263) 1708-1732	---	Ian Robinson
72	--	22 1/4	4 1/2	W. - (OP6058) Dated 1641 in touchmark	Sothebys 1 May 1975	---
73	--	22 1/4	- , Triple Reed	Joseph King (OP2746) 1682-c.1709	Sothebys 16 March 1977	?
74	--	22 1/8	- , Triple Reed	touch dated 1672	Sothebys 25 July 1973	?
75	--	22	2 7/8, Single Reed	Sir John Fryers (OP1791) 1692-1715	---	Ian Robinson
76	--	22	- , Plain	Thomas Compton (OP1063) 1801-d.1817	Writer saw 1988	Jack Kolaian

ADDITIONS (INCOMPLETE), 22 TO 22 7/8 INCHES

NUMBER THIS LIST	NUMBER PREVIOUS LIST	DIAMETER (INCHES)	RIM WIDTH (INCHES) TYPE	MAKER OR MARKS (WORKING DATES)	REFERENCES	RECENT WHEREABOUTS
77	--	22	?	Yates, Birch and Spooner <del>1979-1829-1829</del>	1979	Albert Bartram
78	--	22	- , Triple Reed	John Stiles (OP4542) 1689 (dated 1703)	Sothebys 31 July 1981	?
79	--	22	2 7/8, Triple Reed	Lawrence Dyer (OP1480) 1649-1698	--	Ian D. Robinson
80	--	22	- , Plain	(None)	Sothebys 19 February 1981	?
81	--	22	- , Plain	"	"	?
82	--	22	- , Plain	Samuel Cocks/ Cox (OP1004) 1819	Sothebys 31 July 1981	?
83	--	22	- , Triple Reed	Francis Larkin (OP2847/5758) 1578	Sothebys 17 December 1981	?
84	--	22	- , Plain (Broad)	Christopher Raper (OP3839) 1669-1692	Reading #97	Worshipful Co.
85	--	22	- , Triple Reed	Probably Roger Willoughby (OP5200) 1680-d.1687	Sothebys 17 Dec 1981	?
86	--	22	3 1/8, -	(OP6118)	--	Worshipful Co. #9

ADDITIONS (INCOMPLETE), 22 TO 22 7/8 INCHES

NUMBER THIS LIST	NUMBER PREVIOUS LIST	DIAMETER (INCHES)	RIM WIDTH (INCHES) TYPE	MAKER OR MARKS (WORKING DATES)	REFERENCES	RECENT WHEREABOUTS
87	--	22	- , -	(Indistinct)	Sothebys 17 December 1981	?
88	--	22	- , Triple Reed	I.G. (OP5626)	Sothebys 4 February 1983	?
89	--	22	- , Triple Reed	W.R.	Sothebys 16 March 1977	?
90	--	22	4" , -	T.H. (OP5683) Thomas Hall?	Sothebys 16 June 1977	Mrs. Appleby
91	--	22	- , -	Joseph Bowden (OP524) 1697-1721	Writer saw	Lillian Cogan



#### REFERENCES

1. Ian Robinson, *Pewter Society Journal*, Spring 1977.
2. *Ibid*, Autumn 1980.
3. *Ibid*, Autumn 1983
4. *Ibid*, Spring 1988.
5. Peter R.G. Hornsby, *Pewter of the Western World, 1600-1850*, Schiffer Publishing Ltd, 1983.
6. Charles F. Montgomery, *A History of American Pewter*, Praeger, N.Y., 1973. An oval English platter, 48 inches long, is mentioned on page 133. Circular dishes from 10 3/4 inches to 28 inches are reported on page 135 by weight, from *The Compleat Appraiser* published in London in 1770.
7. In the Spring 1980 *Journal* page 28 of the Pewter Society, Stanley Shemmel reported on a Pewterers Company list (1691) of dishes by weight ranging up to 29 1/4th inches. A number of these exact sizes are in my table. The list is as follows:

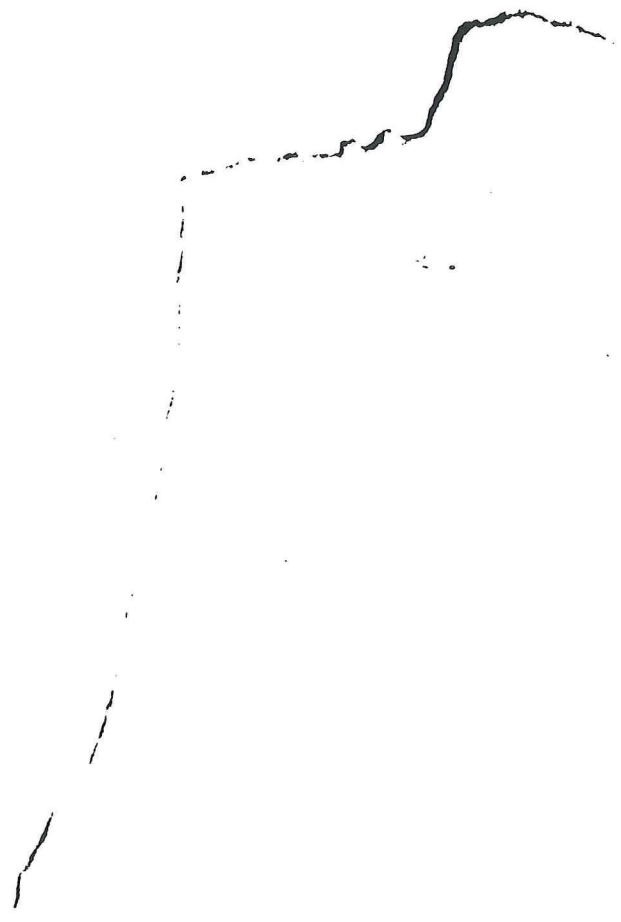
<u>SIZE (inches)</u>	<u>WEIGHT (pounds)</u>
29 1/4	20
28 1/4	19
26 1/2	17
25 3/4	15
24	12
22	10
20 1/2	7
19	6
18 1/2	5
16 3/4	4
15 1/4	3
13 1/4	2 1/2
12 1/4	2
10 1/2	1 1/2

omit?

8. Prices at auction, where known, for some of these dishes are as follows:

NUMBER	POUNDS STERLING	DATE
2	8,500	1976
6	32,000 + 10% = 35,200	1984
9	-	1965
12	-	
18	3500	1976
21	1,050 + 10% = 1,155	1979
39	680	1975
40	1,100 + 10% = 1,210	1978
	<del>1978</del>	
44	(500 to 800 estimate)	1987
47	700 + 10% = 770	1980
52	495 + 10% = 544.5	1984
54	460 + 10% = 506	1980
	<del>1980</del>	
63	680	1973
<del>1973</del>		
65	680	1975

Thus, a little more than 20% have sold at auction in England since 1965.



## SURVIVAL LIST

The following list is a "survival list". It may not be truly representative of what was made and when. Nevertheless some observations from this list are as follows:

1. With several exceptions, the date range is at least 1665-1732, based on the earliest terminal date and the latest starting dates of known makers. The principal exceptions are Samuel Cox and the Romano-British dish. The earliest known working date is 1646 and the latest is 1819. I would guess that nearly all were c. 1650 -1730 with most c. 1670-1725.
2. About 90% of the known makers are from London. The Bristol Pewters and Stynt Duncomb account for the balance. Probably a high proportion of the unidentified pewters are from outside of London.
3. Of the dishes 23 inches or more, nearly all are broad rims (5.5 to 6.5/1<sup>st</sup> less, the ratio of total diameter to the rim width) or triple reeds. The largest single reed is 22 1/4th inches. There are no octagonal, gadrooned or narrow rimmed dishes.
4. 25% are located in the U.S.A. This is probably a measure of the proportion of 17th and early 18th century British pewter bought by American collectors and museums in the past 50 years.
5. 25% are located in museums. A higher proportion of the largest dishes; say 25 inches or more, are in museum collections.
6. There are three dishes, among those 23 inches or more, on the list, which are decorated with engraving.
7. There are seven dishes (~~check writer's~~ list numbers 2, 8, 22, 29, 50, 64 and 65) with extremely broad rims, i.e. with a diameter to rim ratio of 5.25 or less. This includes number 2 with a 4.75 ratio.