

EUA

John Christopher HEYNE

Master Pewterer of Lancaster, PA.

1715 – 1781

John Christopher Heyne of Saxon stock and training and with some years spent in Sweden as an accredited journeyman, received the best training an European pewterer of his time could possibly get. Edwin Hintze, who, in the 1920s, published the standard seven-volume work on Germanic pewterers, paid homage in his foreword to the supremacy of Saxony's pewter and pewterers and made Saxony the subject of his first volume.¹

Journeyman in Sweden

Heyne is mentioned twice by Albert Löfgren in his Stockholms Tenngjutaraskrå ("The Stockholm Guild of Pewterers" — Löfgren's research into Swedish pewter is hitherto unsurpassed by any other research into National Pewter).

The key entry regarding Heyne is to be found in Band 3, (Volume 3), Gesällbiografier (this volume covers the years 1720 – 1850).²

Löfgren has here produced a biography listing all the journeyman in Stockholm who never worked as Master pewterers in Sweden. Heyne is mentioned as follows on page 483:

Heine Johan Christoph v. Rosswein imm. fr. Stettin 1735 17/8, ges.s. 346 örtges. 36 11/11, 27/6. Possibly son of Tobias H. of Leisnig vol II, p. 226.³

Notes:

- v.⁴ **Rosswein** This translates as "served his apprenticeship in Rosswein, Saxony." This can be followed up in Hintze Vol. I [pp. 225–6]. Löfgren has no information about Heyne's place of birth.

¹Edwin Hintze, Band I: Sächsische Zinngiesser p. V, "Vorwort."

²Albert Löfgren, Band 3: Stockholms Kanngjutareaskrå 1720 – 1850.

³I have translated the second sentence.

⁴Löfgren, Band 3, p. 474, "terminologi."

- **imm. fr. Stettin** This means port of embarkation. Stettin in Western Pomerania was a major Baltic port.⁵ It was Swedish until 1720, when it was lost to Prussia. The trade with Sweden carried on, however, and Stettin was a common route of journeymen both Swedish leaving and non-Swedish arriving. Heyne was then 20 years old upon arrival in Sweden.
- **ges. gesäll** = journeyman.
- **örtges. örtgesäll** = ‘trustee’ journeyman, from German “Ertengesell.”

Heyne was born in 1715 (US information) and could therefore have started his training in *c.*1729–31. Pewterers in Rosswein (between Dresden and Leipzig) worked under the Dresden Guild.

The only pewterer in Rosswein potentially available then to provide Heyne’s training was Johann Wilhelm Pocarus.⁶ He was not “fully researched” by Hintze in the year of publishing, 1921, and only two facts (no objects or marks) were known about Pocarus: he paid his quarterly fee to his Dresden Guild until 1754, and he is mentioned for the first time (somewhere in Hintze’s unprinted sources?) in 1736.⁷ This fits nicely with the period of *c.* 1730 – 1735 for Heyne’s apprenticeship, as Pocarus must have been given Freedom to Rosswein well before 1736.

Hintze, of course, never surmised but stated dates and facts as he found them. He had no information about Pocarus’ place or date of birth, nor the date of his Freedom.

Rosswein was a small town with only enough business to sustain one pewterer at any one time. Between 1736 (Pocarus’ first mention) and 1850, four pewterers worked there in succession, all named Pocarus. The three earlier pewterers all had the second name of Wilhelm. If Pocarus Senior was father of George Wilhelm II Pocarus, the former must have been Master in Rosswein in 1720 or earlier.

Hintze, Vol. I, no.	Name	Master from	Fee paid to	Died
1157	Johann Wilhelm Pocarus	?	1754	?
1158	George Wilhelm Pocarus	1744	1785	1785
1159	Christian Wilhelm Pocarus	1785	1812*	1815
1160	Gabriel Friedrich Pocarus	1825	1847	1849

*Widow paid until 1824.

⁵Now in Poland and called Szczecin.

⁶Hintze, Band I, No. 1157.

⁷Hintze, Band I, p. 225.

Upon leaving his service with Pocarus as a journeyman, Heyne would have been provided with a “Geleit und Gruss” (safe conduct and greetings) either from Master Pocarus, or, more likely, from the Guild in Dresden. This would serve as his entry ticket and passport to gain employment with the Mystery not only in Germanic countries, but in Scandinavian and Baltic countries too.

Heyne would have arrived in Stockholm by ship from Stettin and there looked up the Pewterer’s Journeymen’s Quarters (or Hostelry), where he would have stayed until a suitable Master had been found. As an accredited journeyman, he was entitled to his “wine greeting,” which remarkably translates as “full bed and board.”

He would have been greeted by one of the two “örtgesälls,” senior “trustees” from the Brotherhood of Journeymen appointed from senior Masters’ journeymen on a four-week rota system, to welcome and, more importantly, to vet the new arrival. The questions were highly ritualistic — “Masonesque” — as were the answers. If the “Örtgesäll” was satisfied with Heyne’s credentials he would approach the Masters in order of seniority and return to the hopeful journeyman with the name of his new Master.

The only other way to gain employment with a Master was by an earlier appointment by letter. The journeyman then had to produce his ritualistic gruss, or greeting, in a similar fashion but now in front of his new Master and with his (the Master’s) senior journeyman as question leader.⁸

It is probable that Heyne had a prior appointment if Löfgren’s theory regarding Heyne’s father is correct [see below].

Heyne’s arrival date from Stettin, August 17, 1735, coincides with the date he started as a journeyman with Master Jakob Sauer the Elder’s widow, Maria.⁹ Maria Sauer, née Thun, was a remarkable lady who inherited Sw. Daler 3, 854.– upon her husband’s death on June 4, 1723, and had turned this amount into Sw. Daler 33, 780.– at her own death on October 23, 1747!¹⁰

Maria’s son, Carl Sauer, was born in August 1710, learnt by his father and probably worked for his mother for another four years, and then travelled to Thorn in West Prussia from where he returned on

⁸Löfgren, Band 1, pp. 55–64.

⁹Löfgren, Band 3, p. 343.

¹⁰Löfgren, Band 3, p. 344 & Band 2, p. 168.

October 16, 1735. Heyne was registered as a journeyman with Widow Sauer between August 17, 1735 and October 18, 1736, and therefore worked for one year under the son Carl.

“Örtges. 36 11/11, 27/6”

Heyne himself served two four-week terms as “Örtgesäll,” or trustee journeyman, the last term being 27/6 1737 to 27/8 1737.

This is the last mention of Heyne in Swedish published sources. It is not known who was his Master(s) during his two terms as “Örtgesäll,” nor is it known when he left Sweden, nor his destination. No journeyman, however, could travel without the customary Journeyman’s pass issued by an Alderman. If the relevant notes could be found, much light could be shed on Heyne’s whereabouts before arriving in America.

Heyne, a German, worked for a German pewterer. Jakob Sauer emigrated from Silisia, in 1697. His second wife, Maria Thun, although born in Sweden had a German father.

Out of 1335 Masters of all kinds active in Stockholm in 1689, 377 (28%) were of foreign, mostly German extraction.

In Heyne’s year of 1737, there were 13 Master pewterers in Stockholm. Two of them had no production and two workshops were run by widows. First generation Germans owned four of the workshops, which confirms the earlier percentage.

Tobias HEYNE

Löfgren’s suggestion that Tobias was John Christopher’s father has some considerable merit.

Tobias Heyne is mentioned by Löfgren in Vol. 2 covering the Stockholm pewter industry up to 1720. The Biography of Journeyman here mentions Tobias Heyne as follows [my translation]:

Tobias Han (Hein, Heijne) received his pass on May 13, 1700 from Alderman Johansson. He had worked for some time in Stockholm and had the intention of travelling to Kolberg.¹¹ He was born in Rochlitz and became Master of Leisnig on November 22, 1709. His son, Gotthelf Heyne, was apprenticed to his father in 1740. (Hintze vol. I.)¹²

¹¹Another Baltic port, then in Eastern Pomerania, now in Poland, and called Kolobrzeb.

¹²Löfgren, Band 2, p. 226.

The logistics of connecting the two Heynes would read:

- The three towns in Saxony connected to Johann Christopher and Tobias Heyne were all within 20 – 25 miles of each other:

Rosswein	—	where John Christopher Heyne trained
Rochlitz	—	birthplace of Tobias Heyne
Leisnig	—	Tobias Heyne was Master there

A Johann Christian Heyne became Master of Rochlitz in 1733. He must have been born 12 – 15 years earlier than Johann Christopher and possibly related to any one or both of our Heynes.

No other pewterer of that name appears in Hintze's seven volumes. [A North German pewterer of that name is mentioned with a date of 1550.]

Another pewterer Heinrich Ludwig Friedrich Heine is mentioned by Ingeborg Wittichen in her Celler Zinngiesser.¹³ Celle pewterers worked under the Lüneburg Guild and were not researched by Hintze. This Heine became Master in Celle in 1852 and "Came from Hannover" which is, unfortunately, another Hintze white spot.

- Tobias made his way to Stockholm as a journeyman and so did Johann Christopher one generation later.

It should be possible to consult unpublished sources in archives and museums in Dresden and Leipzig to confirm or otherwise the Tobias connection suggested above.

Bibliography

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¹³Ingeborg Wittichen, Celler Zinngiesser, p. 86.

¹⁴Bruzelli here gives further information on Heyne's Swedish employers: Jakob Sauer the Elder and widow Maria, A53, p. 138; Carl Sauer, A31, p. 122.

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¹⁵Löfgren never produced a “Del II” (Part II), although most of the preparatory work had been completed (development of Swedish pewter styles and forms etc.).