



# AUCTION REPORT



Highlights from the collection of pewter sold by **Bruton Knowles** in Southam on February 3.

1. Late 17th century charger with multi-reeded border and contemporary initials *WPR* with five broad arrow incised marks, bearing the marks of Richard Fletcher and a touchmark on the reverse of the rim, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (51cm) diameter – £700 (estimate £800-1200).

2. Late 17th century trencher, the edge incised with triple reeding, initialled *MG* and with a lion passant struck four times on the border, the reverse of the rim bearing a touchmark *SB* on the Arms of The Pewters' Company, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ in (37.5cm) diameter – £620 (estimate £400-450).

3. Late 17th century broad rimmed charger with thread border initialled *NDE* and with hallmarks to the rim, the reverse bearing a worn touchmark, probably William Wetter, 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (46cm) diameter – £500 (estimate £500-600).

4. Late 17th century baluster wine measure with flat hinged cover and hammer-head thumbpiece, the collar bearing a

marker's mark in a circle, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (21cm) high – £3000 (estimate £1800-2000).

5. Late 18th century ogee-shaped lidded tankard with pierced chairback thumbpiece to the dome lid, the base marked with a crowned X above *TW*, probably Thomas Wiltshire, Bristol, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (19cm) high – £440 (estimate £250-300).

6. Late 18th century befeater flagon with bud thumbpiece, the C-scroll handle bearing the circular mark of Robert Marten and further touchmarks on the lid – £6600 (estimate £1500-2000).

7. Late 18th century haystack half pint measure with flanged top and C-scroll handle by M. Fothergill and Sons, the reverse of the lip initialled *CB*, believed to represent the City of Bath 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in (12cm) high – £850 (estimate £200-250).

8. Late 17th century baluster wine measure with flat, hinged cover and bud thumbpiece, the cover and handle initialled *THA*, the collar bearing the maker's mark of William Waters, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in (17cm) high – £1500 (estimate £800-1000).

## Pewter: quality not quantity counts

COTSWOLDS auctioneers **Bruton Knowles (15% buyer's premium)** have an established track record when it comes to selling pewter.

Indeed, their dispersal of the collection of Cheltenham dealer and Pewter Society chairman Bertie Isher in 1976 remains something of a landmark sale containing items which are seldom seen under the hammer today.

And memories of that great sale were revived in Southam on February 3 when BK – as they like to be known these days – offered a more modest, but equally well chosen, collection of 17th and 18th century material consigned by the daughter of an old client from the Stroud area who had recently died.

He had bought mainly in the 1960s and 70s, and primarily from Bertie Isher.

Twenty seven lots might not sound a lot but it was quality not quantity that made this among the best dispersals of its type for a year or two and a sale to ignite some serious competition.

One of several exceptional pieces in the sale was a late 18th century befeater flagon with a finely formed bud thumbpiece and a C-scroll handle bearing the circular mark of Robert Marten. There were further touchmarks to the lid. Auctioneer Simon Chorley remembered a similar vessel from the Bertie Isher collection selling for £650. This example left its £1800-2000 estimate way behind, selling in the room at £6600.

Also illustrated here is a late 17th century baluster wine measure with flat hinged cover and hammerhead thumbpiece, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (21cm) high, sold at £3000, but

a genuine surprise at £4400 (estimate £300-400) was a straight sided flage 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (29cm) high, with a hinged cover with turned finial and shaped thumbpiece on a skirt base. A similar flagon is illustrated in Cotterell but Mr Chorley had pitched this flagon very low having not taken acid cleaning to the interior for repair.

Also given the seal of approval was a trefoil spoon with an engraved bust portrait of Queen Anne within a surround scrolls, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (19cm) long, sold at £70 (estimate £100-150) while sums of £70 and £580 were paid for two late 17th Century plates, each 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (23cm) diameter with multi-reeded edges, one marked for John Barlow with the initials *JH, II* and the other initialled *BSI* with four identical hallmarks.