

EWT

# A GREAT COLLECTION DISPERSED

Pewter assembled by R F Michaelis  
by Christopher Peal



Left: A rare Charles I flagon with a knopped 'muffin' cover—more flattened than its counterpart on the right—a heart-indented thumbpiece of shaped outline, the top of the handle stamped with later initials IW and WAR with the date 1681. 10 inches overall, circa 1630.

Right: A rare James I or Charles I flagon of tall tapering form with stepped and moulded foot, the knopped cover of bold muffin type with shaped solid thumbpiece. Makers' mark of GI struck twice on the sinister side of the cover edge. 11½ inches high overall, circa 1620-30.

THE logical sequitur to the death of Ronald F Michaelis last year took place at Sotheby's on November 12—the sale (aptly coded 'Mick') of a large part of his superb collection of pewter. 'Mick' was truly the successor to Cotterell and Sutherland Graeme. He brought qualities of great concentration and

perception to the study of old metalwork—in particular pewter—and his meticulous thoroughness and remarkable memory for details of both pieces and marks considerably furthered knowledge.

He was fortunate to have started collecting before World War II. As a member and, in



due course, President and Hon Librarian of The Pewter Society, he had numerous keen and inquisitive colleagues who helped to sharpen and develop his interest in research—this during the period of rapidly growing general appreciation of the subject. It naturally led to the publication of articles in various antiques magazines and books—some revisions of old authors, some originals—all of them comprehensible and factual. If pressed to cite his major achievement, it could be his series of superb articles on Porringers. His books are: 'Antique Pewter of the British Isles' and 'British Pewter'; revisions of 'Chats on Old Pewter' and 'The Pewter Collector' (Masse was the original author). He produced the excellent 'Catalogue of the Collection of the Pewterers Company' and 'The Catalogue of the Exhibition of Pewter at Reading, 1969'.

In the 1950-60's his name was, and for probably much longer will be, synonymous with 'Mr Pewter'. His work on base metal candlesticks will be published posthumously, and will undoubtedly become the standard work. He was a true publishing historian.

At the sale, it was noticeable that some of the earlier and rarer pieces did not command the intense competition that was ac-

Top left: A late Stuart flat-lidded tankard engraved all over in 'wriggled-work' with a crowned lion between a bird with an acorn and a tulip. The handle has engraved initials KW. Maker's mark WF in a diamond lozenge. 6½ inches high, C 1690.

Top centre: A William and Mary dome-lidded tankard. Maker's mark IB. 5½ inches high, C 1690-95.

Top right: Another late Stuart flat-lidded tankard in 'wriggled-work' with a design of tulips and thistles centred by a conventional tudor rose on the drum. Maker's Mark IL. 6¼ inches high, C 1680-90.

Below left: A Cromwellian or Charles II flagon with a hinged 'Beefeater's hat' cover. A twin-cusped thumbpiece bearing relief-cast initials WP (probably the maker William Pettiver). 10½ inches, 1660.

Below centre: A broad-rimmed plate or paten by Lawrence Dyer. The plain rim engraved with a coat of arms with crossed plumage. 9¾ inches diameter, C 1660.

Below: A broad-rimmed plate or paten probably. Engraved with a coat of arms of crossed swords with fleur-de-lis within crossed plumes. 10½ inches diameter, C 1660.





Below: A very rare 16th century plate with plain narrow rim. A boss in the centre, the rim punched with Gothic initials WM. 10½ inches diameter.

Below far right: A James I flagon with plain slightly tapering drum raised on ovolo-moulded foot and surmounted with a 'bun' cover with central knob and 'erect' thumbpiece . . . 11 inches high, C 1610.



corded to excellent well-known types of c 1660- c 1750. Indeed, the former pieces did not reach the average increase in prices. Certainly judged by modern standards there were some bargains. Perhaps all the purchasers would have gone further if pushed.

The Sale—probably the most important for 20 years or more—produced some particularly noteworthy results: A Quart bud baluster (lot 14) £380; ½ Gallon tappit hen (28) £360; Wriggled plates (35a to 39) average £220; Narrow rim dish and plate (47) £110—a bargain; Broad rim plate, 9½ in. (58) £400; Strawberry dish, 5 in. (64) £70—again, a bargain; Queen Anne portrait spoon mould (70) £350; Spire flagons, various heights (73 to 77) average £550; Plain dome lid tankard c 1690 (85) £550; Wriggled flat lid tankard c 1690 (87, 88) average £830; Knopped muffin flagons (97, 98) average £835; Bumpybottom dish, 20 inches d (113) £1,000; Pair of lobe decorated dishes 13½ in d (144) £400—a real bargain; Fine Elizabeth I engraved dish 14½ in d (115) £1,700.

It is sad that the personality of a collection dies with the owner. The collection and 'Mick' merited each other. Let us hope that at least some of the new owners will merit their period of guardianship. ●



A row of George II tankards: Maker Thomas Carpenter 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches high 1730; 9 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches high 1730; engraved Frances Gilbert Tiffeild 1743 12 $\frac{5}{8}$  inches high; 10 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches high 1730; Maker also Thomas Carpenter 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches 1730.

Below: One of a pair of alms or 'rosewater' dishes, made by Samuel Smith of London with raised and sunken petal motifs 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, Circa 1730.

