

6780

York Acorn Flagons - Two recently seen in a Yorkshire Church



The only marks apparent were the same to the inside base of each -



This mark is from the data base of an IH working 1700-1730 (PS5053) The Crown might be the same - the Xs in the two flagons are badly detruded but do not look the same.

Photo by Trish Hayward

Nearest other photo by a member of the public -



Quite a likeness other than the centre column of the crown which is different. This is John Harrison III 1693 - 1727. The X and the crown are perhaps separate

		stamps. PS4372
--	--	----------------

In a private collection can be found the following York Acorn Flagon with the mark shown under the base





Thumbpiece - as on two York Acorn Church Flagons - front and back



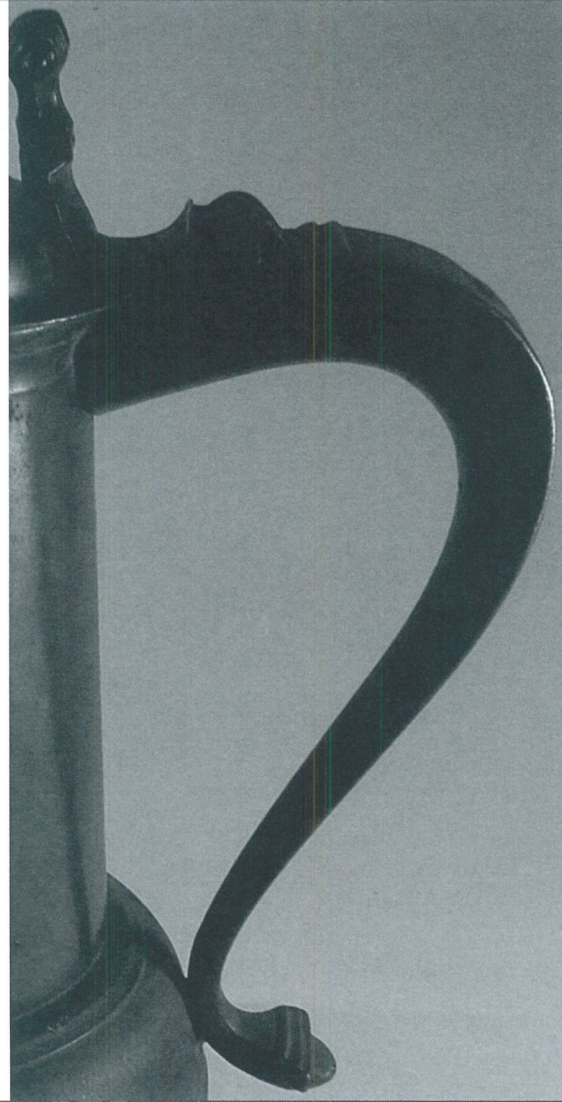
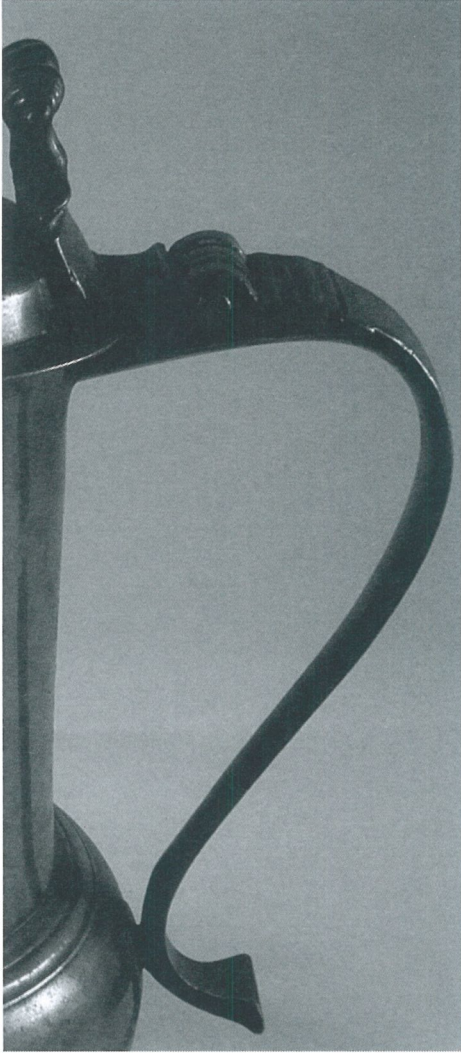
Backview of thumbpiece in private collection looks similar



Church flagon - earlier "shorter" spout



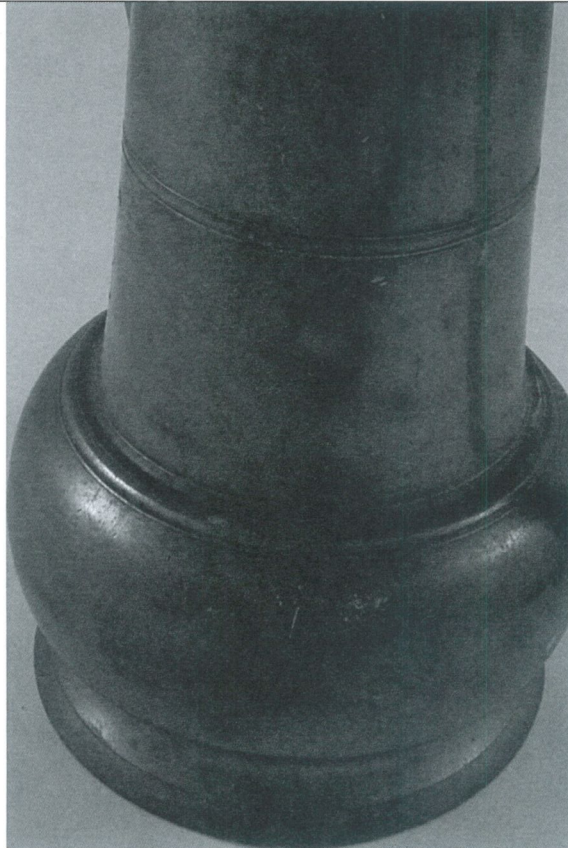
Private collection - "long" spout



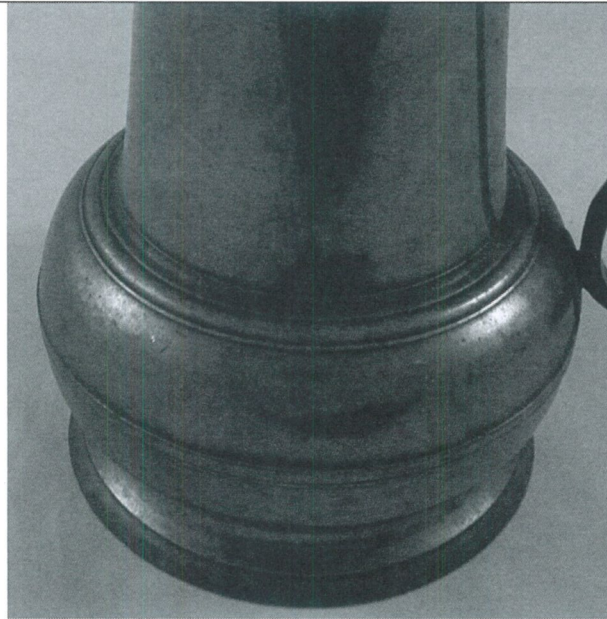


Church piece with "strap" handle

Private collection - "enormous" handle



Church flagon with fillet to cone upper body but plain bulbous section  
Without fillets are said to be earliest pieces of this type



Church flagon with fillet or band on bulbous section only



Private Collection Flagon with less pronounced banding than Church second flagon. (Church flagon is cleaner)  
Can we assume less banding to the bulbous base indicates earlier style?

The Private Collection IH acorn flagon has similarities to the Yorkshire Church ones in many ways. The hinge mechanism and thumbpiece seem close enough to be the same mould

The hollow-cast handle with its nice handle terminal is not; and this was likely a later development as the strap handles tended to fail as was the case for one of the Church flagons.

There is general agreement that the hollow cast are later ca 1750 and the straps perhaps generally dated around 1725.

The private collection piece has the same diameter of footrim but is 3.5cms taller table to rim. The Church pieces weight (average of the two) is 2037.5 gms and of the Private piece 3550 gms. Thus it can be seen then that these must have been made in at least three sizes (see details quoted from previously published articles below)

The Capacity of the Church pieces was 71.87 fl ozs (the nearest equivalent known is the Pottle half gallon .4 pint... at 72.1fl ozs which was based on a HenryVII wine standard of a gallon being c250 cubic inches). The private collection piece was around 2550 ml or 89.75fl ozs (a volume without meaning as applied to known standards).

#### Notes on Condition of the Church Flagons -

The finials have broken off which is a regularly found failing with this style of flagon as the finials are taller than the thumbpiece and will take any top knocks first. One finial is missing and the other is loose. It would be beneficial for these to be repaired.

Values do vary considerably. Collectors appear to like the heavier versions even if a few years younger and an original dated engraving, appears to add desirability. Whereas good condition unrepaired is most sought after, well repaired is better than damaged. The Church flagons are in mostly good condition other than the lids and finials.

General Notes on this style of Flagon -

**Apollo Magazine of May 1950 an article by Christopher A Peal ...Notes on Pewter Flagons.**

a) There was another size at only 8 1/2" tall - it is shown in this article - (*volume is unknown*) The other size illustrated in the style of the Church and Private examples is quoted as 12 1/2" in extreme height - (assume table to top of finial)

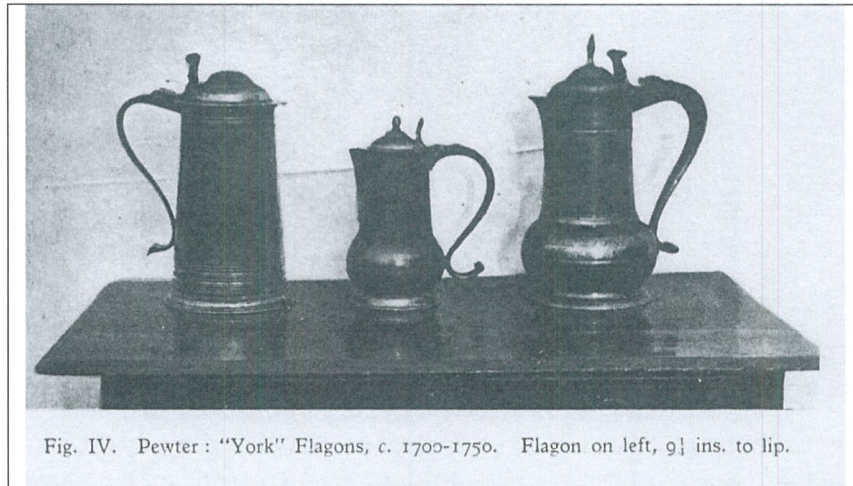


Fig. IV. Pewter: "York" Flagons, c. 1700-1750. Flagon on left, 9½ ins. to lip.

This is the illustration from the article, and is likely the same as that referred to below in the 1961 Antique Collector article.

(*The Yorkshire Church examples are ca 11 3/4 inches and the Private Collection piece is ca 13 3/4"*)

b) an "enormous" handle and "long" spout are in keeping with a date of 1750

c) fillets (bands around the body) indicate an example would not be one of the earliest of this type - (*but what parts of the body or does this mean the whole body?*)

### **Antique Collector Magazine of October 1961 an article by Ronald F Michaelis...Pear Shaped Pewter Flagons**

This article shows again the two that were earlier illustrated above albeit from a different angle. The illustration interesting shows the smaller piece with a chair back thumb piece which is thought to be more likely ca 1780, with a long spout, and a longer swept back (almost S shaped handle - the lower section being smaller)

a) the earliest known is said to be one from Wiggington, Yorkshire with an inscribed date of 1697 and the latest being from Tetney in Lincolnshire which is dated 1788.

b) this article (as the first above suggests) these might also have been made in Wigan.

### **Antique Collecting magazine of May 1983 an article by Ronald F Homer...English Pewter Flagons**

a) open chair back thumbpieces date from the 1780s

b) several such flagons can be found in York Museum

### **Carl Ricketts in an Article - Two York Acorn Flagons**

Shows an example which will be a taller type as follows -

Note - strap handle, shorter finial, no banding (fillets) to any part of the body.



## Edmund Harvey flagon

Dated 1725 plus names of 4 churchwardens.

ex Carvick-Webster.

*This is, in my opinion, one of the very finest pieces of English pewter now in existence. The boldly sweeping handle, the massive acorn-shaped body – a feature reproduced in miniature as a lid-knob – the serrated lip cover, and the well formed thumbpiece, must be seen and handled to be properly understood and appreciated. (HHC 1932)*

Fig 118 Pewter Down the Ages  
Cover and Fig 5 Old British Pewter, Connoisseur booklet  
Plate XL(e) Old Pewter

---