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the
Stanley E. Thomas
collection
of pewter
in the museum
of North Devon,
Barnstaple

*with an account of the
pewterers of Barnstaple*

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The Pewter Society 1993

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Thanks are due to the staff of the Museum of North Devon, in particular Peter Boyd and Alison Mills, without whose help this catalogue could not have been produced, and to Kenneth Bradshaw of the Pewter Society whose 1975 inventory of the collection provided the starting point for this compilation.

FOREWORD

The intention of this booklet is to place on record and make more widely known the collection of pewterware assembled by my late good friend Stanley E. Thomas of Branton, North Devon. The collection was bequeathed to the North Devon Athenaeum on Stanley's untimely death in 1974 and it is now in the safe-keeping of the Museum of North Devon.

The Stanley Thomas Collection provides a unique reference collection of Devon and West Country pewter with a strong representation of Barnstaple pewterers' work. It has unfortunately remained little known since his death and it is good to know that it is now worthily displayed for all to enjoy.

Stanley was a Devon man and proud of it and was known in his lifetime for the work he did among the old folk of Barnstaple. He was a modest, gentle man, in whose company it was impossible to be glum. I was privileged to be his friend.

H.W.L. Buckell

Worthing

West Sussex

INTRODUCTION

Pewter - the poor man's silver

Tin from the mines of Devon and Cornwall provided the essential raw material for the countless pewterers who plied their craft throughout Britain for some 500 years. Alloyed with a little copper, or later with antimony, it formed a hard pewter with a silvery lustre. This was used for high quality wares. For cheaper wares, and particularly for pots and measures destined for tavern use, the tin was alloyed with lead to give a softer, duller metal. The low-melting alloy was cast in massive bronze moulds and the rough castings were finished by turning on a lathe. The separate parts which made up the piece were assembled by soldering and the finished article was finally polished to resemble silver. The metal might additionally be hardened and compacted by hammering. This traditional method of making pewterware remained essentially unaltered over the centuries and is still practised today by a few specialised firms who make quality modern pewter.

The Romans made pewterware in the west country in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, but with their departure the art of pewtering was lost for many centuries, Pewter reappeared as a metal used for making chalices and other ecclesiastical vessels at the end of the Anglo-Saxon period. By the early 14th century pewtering had established itself as an organised craft which supplied a growing domestic market with a range of tableware and household utensils. The price of pewter was then about one hundredth of that of silver. Many of those who previously had perforce to manage with treen, horn and coarse earthenware, could for the first time afford the luxury of metalware at their tables.

By the seventeenth century every household save the very poorest possessed a range of pewter plates and dishes, together with spoons, drinking vessels, measures, candlesticks, flagons, chamber pots and a host of other everyday domestic items. Every taven and ale-house had its complement of pewter measures and beer mugs. It is estimated that towards the end of the 17th century the amount of pewter in general use throughout England averaged some 12 pounds weight for every man, woman and child in the country. In 1583 John Davy, a Barnstaple goldsmith, possessed at his death 4 platters, 3 poddingers (porringers), 4 potage dishes, 2 saucers, a quart cup, a cruet and a salt cellar of pewter valued together at 10s - 2d (51p).

Of this enormous output of pewterware only a tiny fraction survives today. The reasons for this are twofold. During the period in which it was in general use old pewter was traded-in for remelting in part exchange for new; and unlike silver it had no significant intrinsic worth. Once it passed finally from fashion it had no prestige value for the owner and was consigned to the melting pot as scrap metal, to be used for making solder or tinning iron.

For some three centuries pewterers were to be found working in every market town throughout the land. One of the country's most widespread minor industries flourished with little competition until cheap decorated pottery, better quality glassware, more plentiful brass and the increasing use of tinsplate sent it into decline during the 18th century.

The pewterers of Barnstaple and the West Country

In the west country the earliest pewterer of whom record survives was working in Lostwithiel in 1327. Barnstaple can boast the earliest so far discovered Devon pewterer; the town's records name Thomas Pewterer in 1343. Barnstaple was a market town in Saxon times and a flourishing sea port by the 12th century. Far from other urban centres, it had to develop its own industries to supply the townsfolk, and the rural population of a large hinterland, with the necessities of life. With ready access to coastal shipping for the

transport of both tin and finished pewterware, Barnstaple soon became an important centre of pewtering.

In the south of the county, at that time remote and difficult of access from the north, there were pewterers at work in Exeter by 1370. Very likely there were medieval pewterers in Totnes also, though the earliest mention of one in that ancient town dates from 1509. With the passage of time the increasing demand for pewter among a growing and more prosperous populace led to pewterers establishing themselves in most of the county's market towns. By the 17th century they were to be found additionally in Ashburton, Bideford, Honiton, Plymouth, Tavistock, Tiverton and Torrington. The Dolbeare family of pewterers of Ashburton supplied much pewter to the Edgcombe family at Cotehele House and Mount Edgcombe, where some of it remained until it was dispersed in the 1950s.

In Somerset, Taunton, Wells and Wookey had pewterers in the 15th century. Pewterers worked in Bristol from at least as early as 1345, and were numerous enough by 1456 to justify the formation of a pewterers' guild in the city in that year. To the west, in Cornwall, the craft had established itself before 1400 in Launceston, Restormel and Truro. In these counties also, as in Devon, and indeed throughout the country at large, pewterers would have been found in most market towns by the 17th century.

There were naturally far more pewterers at work in the populous cities of Exeter and Bristol than in Barnstaple. However, as far as can be judged, Barnstaple was next in importance to these cities in the size of its pewter industry. The prestige and local importance of the craft in the town, and the standing of its practitioners, was perhaps higher than anywhere else in the west country. As evidence of this, in the century between 1702 and 1801, no fewer than five of the town's mayors were drawn from the ranks of its pewterers. The most prominent pewtering family were the Webbers, five members of which carried on the craft from c.1630 - 1739. Three members of the Harris family also practised the craft from c.1560 until the middle of the 17th century.

During the 17th and 18th centuries the Barnstaple Port Books reveal sizeable exports of pewter to the North American colonies. As early as 1672 the 'Maryland Merchant' of Northam carried two cargoes of pewter to Maryland and in the same year two consignments left for Virginia in the 'Virginia Merchant'. In 1740 over two tons of pewter left Barnstaple for North America. There was export trade also to Ireland, with records of cargoes for Waterford, Cork and Dublin. Trade with Europe is evidenced by the export of 15 hundredweights to San Sebastian in 1672.

The evidence for a trade guild in Barnstaple is scanty. It appears that the town's silversmiths were organised in a guild and, by analogy with other comparable boroughs where records have survived, it is likely that the same guild also embraced the pewterers and other metalworkers in the town. Several Barnstaple pewterers also worked in brass and lead and described themselves indifferently as pewterers, braziers or plumbers.

The Worshipful Company of Pewterers of London, under their royal charter of 1473-4, were given a right to control the standards of metal and workmanship throughout England and Wales. For over 250 years the Company organised search parties throughout the land, visiting pewterers' workshops and seizing substandard ware. By good fortune the account survives of a search made in Devon in 1637. Four pewterers' shops were visited in Barnstaple and among the goods seized from John Williams, Jeffery Webber, Widow Howard and John Harris were chamber pots, spoons, wine measures, porringers, saucers, children's cups and a still-head. The luckless pewterers were fined a total of £3 - 18s (£3.90), equivalent to perhaps £500-1000 in present day money, and the faulty wares were broken and confiscated.

Marks

By an Act of Parliament of 1503 all pewterers were required to put their mark, or 'touch', upon their wares. Despite this, much pewterware was not marked, and where marks appear they may not be attributable to a known maker or place. In addition to the touch, subsidiary marks known as 'hallmarks', resembling those used on silver, were used by many makers from c.1630 until the early 19th century. These hallmarks were purely private marks and had no official standing; neither do they convey any information of the kind given by the hallmarks which appear on precious metals.

The touches of many London pewters from c.1640 onwards are struck on the 'touch plates' belonging to the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. No such records remain of the marks of English provincial pewterers. Thus the identification of unknown pewterers' marks may require detective work of a high order. It is most probably that there are more west country makers' marks remaining to be recognised.

Ownership initials appear frequently on pewterware. Often these are in the form of a 'triad'; three initials arranged in a triangle, one above and two below. The upper initial is that of the surname of a man and wife. The lower left-hand initial is that of the husband's first name and the lower right-hand initial that of the first name of the wife. Thus **JSM** could stand for John and Mary Smith.

Two pairs of initials may indicate that the item was a church piece, the initials being those of church-wardens. Alternatively they could indicate two different ownerships, or be the initials of a betrothed couple.

BARNSTAPLE'S PEWTERERS

This chronological list is a condensed version of that appearing in Stanley Thomas' 'The Barnstaple Pewterers' (*Trans. Devonshire Assn.*, 103, 85-102 (1971)) with some revisions and additions to take note of more recently discovered information. (Thomas 1973 refers to a little known note by him in the *Journal of the Pewter Society*, October 1973, pp.16-17. All noted births, baptisms, deaths and burials are at Barnstaple. Dates are dates of mention where a single year is cited and putative working years where a range is given.

Thomas Pewterer, c.1343

Gilbert Harrys (or Harris) senior, c.1560-99. Died 1599

Robert Heywood, c.1600-23. Died 1623. His business was being carried on by his widow in 1637.

William Harris, c.1608-25. Died 1625.

Arthur Slocumbe, c.1630. Served his apprenticeship in Bristol.

John Williams, c.1637 (*Pewterers' Company Search, unknown to Thomas*)

John Harris, c.1637-51. Lived in Well Street.

Gilbert Harris junior, c.1641. Son of Gilbert senior (*Barnstaple Borough Record 4112, Thomas 1973*)

George Goode, c.1650.

Joseph Coles, c.1679.

Jeffrey Webber, c.1630-77. Died 1677. Recorded in 1650 in High Street in a tenement 'next unto the church style.' He was the father of John and Richard Webber, *q.v.*

John Webber senior, c.1660-1700. Baptised 1629, buried 1703. Son of Jeffrey with whom he was in business in High Street in 1664. Issued a token in 1666.

Richard Webber, c.1677-1708. Baptised 1637, buried 1708. Son of Jeffery. He issued a token in 1667 and was in High Street in 1694.

John Webber junior, c.1694-1735. Baptised 1653, buried 1735. Son of John senior. Was in business with his father in 1694 and continued the business in High Street after his father's death. Mayor in 1702 and 1719. Father of Alexander *q.v.*

Alexander Webber, c.1710-39. Born 1685, buried 1739. In partnership with his father until 1735. Mayor in 1737. His portrait hangs in Barnstaple guildhall.

Samuel Leuett (Levett), c.1720. (Attribution to Barnstaple is not certain. A Samuel Levett was free as a pewterer in Exeter in 1708 as was a earlier namesake in 1669).

Samuel Lee, c.1720.

John Ley senior, c.1705-33. Buried 1733.

John Ley junior, c.1747. Son of John senior. (*Barnstaple Borough Record 2703, Thomas 1973*)

Marshall Swayne, c.1730-60. Born 1707, buried 1760. Mayor in 1746. His portrait hangs in Barnstaple guildhall.

John Swayne, c.1763. Son of Marshall Swayne (*Barnstaple Borough Record 2441, Thomas 1973*)

Nicholas Shephard, c.1760-92. Baptised 1730. Mayor in 1773.

Christopher Pawle, c.1765-86. Died 1786. Also a brazier and ironmonger. (Members of the Pawle (Powle, Paul etc.) family are found as pewterers in Exeter throughout the 17th century).

Thomas Copner, c.1792-1820. Succeeded to Nicholas Shephard's business in 1792. Mayor in 1801 and 1820. Also a plumber and ironmonger.

Further reading

General.

H.H. Cotterell *Old Pewter, its Makers and Marks* (1929 and reprints). The standard work on marks.

J. Hatcher and T.C. Barker *A History of British Pewter* (1974). A scholarly history of the craft from medieval times to the present day.

R.F. Homer and D.W. Hall, *Provincial Pewterers* (1985). A social and economic history of pewterers and pewtering in the West Midlands and Wales. Does not include the west country within its scope.

Peter G. Hornsby, Rosemary Weinstein and Ronald F. Homer, *Pewter, A Celebration of the Craft, 1200-1700* (Museum of London, 1989). A fully illustrated exhibition catalogue with introductory articles covering all aspects of pewter manufacture, distribution and use.

C.A. Peal *Pewter of Great Britain* (1983). A comprehensive book written for collectors.

West Country.

H.H. Cotterell, *Bristol and West Country Pewterers* (Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, 1918). Now somewhat dated; illustrates marks.

H.L. Douch, 'Cornish Pewterers', *J. Royal Institute of Cornwall*, 6(1), 65-80 (1969).

R.F. Homer, 'The Pewterers of Devon', *Devon Historian*, 38, 3-9 (1989).

S.E. Thomas, 'The Barnstaple Pewterers', *Trans. Devonshire Assn.*, 103, 85-102 (1971).

Marks of the Barnstaple pewterers



I. WEBBER
BARVM

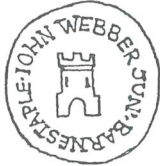
I. WEBBER
BARVM



1. John Webber snr.



2. Suggested mark of Richard Webber (Now thought to be the mark of Roger Willoughby of London. See C.A. Peal, More Pewter Marks, No.5200)



BARNSTAPLE

3. John Webber jnr.

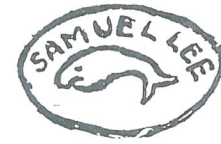


BARNSTAPLE

4. Alexander Webber



5. Samuel Levett



6. Samuel Lee



7. Marshall Swayne

N. SHEPHARD

BARNSTAPLE



8. Nicholas Shephard

Barnstaple's pewterer Mayors

John Webber jnr.	-----	1702, 1719
Alexander Webber	-----	1737
Marshall Swayne	-----	1746
Nicholas Shephard	-----	1773
Thomas Copner	-----	1801, 1813

The Stanley E. Thomas Collection of pewter was bequeathed by him to the North Devon Athenaeum on his death in 1974. Now housed in the Museum of North Devon, Barnstaple, it includes the most comprehensive collection of Barnstaple pewter in existence. It is also strong in pewter from other west country towns. It totals 107 pieces of which 38 were made in Devon. Eighteen are Barnstaple pieces, eight come from Tavistock, six from Exeter, four from Bideford and one from Ashburton. Also represented are wares from Cornwall (Launceston, Falmouth), Somerset (Bridgwater, Chard) and Bristol. Other pieces with west country stylistic features or likely provenance are either without makers' marks or bear unidentified marks and cannot at present be attributed to any particular town. In addition the collection includes a range of pewter from London and elsewhere in England and two pieces from Scotland.

Pride of place in the collection must be given to three magnificent Barnstaple flagons of the 'beefeater' style (so-called from the fanciful resemblance of the lid to a beefeater's hat). The type was made, with minor variations, throughout the second half of the 17th century. The three comprise a pair, which bear inside the base the otherwise unrecorded mark of a flagon flanked by the initials 'IW' and the date 1662 (Fig. 1), and an almost identical single flagon with a different mark known to be that of John Webber senior (Fig. 2, right). All three can be dated to about 1670 and have distinctive thumbpieces which may be characteristic of the Webbers' work. The otherwise unrecorded mark (Fig. 3) may well be that of Jeffrey Webber.

Thomas wrote of the pair of flagons:

'I have in my collection a flagon with John Webber's touchmark which is almost identical to this pair, the same dimensions, the same thumb-piece, with slight variations in the lid but obviously made from the same mould. Nevertheless I feel there is a distinct possibility that the pair of flagons may well have been made by his father Jeffery Webber . . . The touchmark in these flagons is similar to the token issued by John Webber in 1666 . . . [and] it is possible that John derived the design for this token from his father's touchmark.'

Flagons were used both by churches for holding the communion wine and in the households of the wealthier members of society where a flagon of wine on the table was something of a status symbol.

A fine multiple reeded dish by John Webber jnr, is illustrated in Fig. 2 (centre). The collection also includes a single-reeved dish of the early 18th century made by his son Alexander Webber. Other Barnstaple pieces include a dish by Marshall Swayne (Fig. 4) and plates by Nicholas Shephard and Samuel Levett, a fine bun-lidded flagon of c.1635 (Fig. 6) was considered by Stanley Thomas to be of Barnstaple origin, but the maker's initials 'CS' cannot be identified with any known Barnstaple maker. From the nearby town of Bideford come plates made by Anthony Williams c.1740.

Among the Exeter pewter the finest piece is the George II period dome-lidded tankard made by Humphrey Evans c.1735 (Fig. 7). There are also a wavy-edged salver and a plate by Evans (Fig. 7) and a late 18th or early 19th century plate standing on three feet by J.H. Mortimer (Fig. 5). The basin in Fig. 7 is by Ferris and Co. and dates from the late 18th century. The collection also includes a number of plates made in Ashburton and Tavistock. Among the latter is a narrow-rimmed plate made by John Pennington decorated in wriggled work with a design incorporating a bird amidst flowers and foliage (Fig. 8). Wriggled work was popular as a means of decorating pewter between about 1660 and 1720.

The design was executed by 'walking' a narrow-bladed chisel over the surface of the plate to produce a zig-zag line. Decorated plates such as this, and the fine pair engraved with conventional tulips and other flowers (Fig. 9), were perhaps an attempt by the pewterers to compete with the decorated slipware pottery of the period.

In addition to these three decorated ones, the collection contains many narrow-rimmed plates. Fig. 10 (top) is an example, made by E. Hutchins of Tavistock. Indeed all eight pieces from Tavistock, by four different makers, are plates of this type. At the time Stanley Thomas was collecting, it was generally believed that narrow rimmed plates were unique to the west country. This is now known not to be the case, though west country examples are by far the most commonly found. It is therefore likely that the pair of decorated plates in Fig. 9 (which bear no identifiable maker's mark) were made in the west country. The other plates shown in Fig. 10 are (left) by Nicholas Shephard and (right) by John Dolbeare of Ashburton.

Robert Clothyer, a prolific Chard pewterer, made the impressive pair of large chargers, 570mm, in diameter, which date from c.1680 (Fig. 11) and the collection also contains several other examples of his work, Cornish pewterers are represented by the work of Henry Hoskyn of Launceston and John Williams of Falmouth. From Bristol, together with a number of other pieces, come the fine pair of mid 18th century flagons by William Stiff (Fig. 13), a Scottish style flagon by Richard Going of c.1723 (Fig. 14) and the mid 17th century dish shown in Fig. 12. The fine set of five cider measures, which bear no maker's mark (Fig. 15) range from the gallon size down to the pint. In shape they copy the much commoner copper measures and appear to have been made in pewter only in the West Country.

It will be noticed from the Catalogue that a number of the plates in the collection have diameters in the range 8-8¼ inches (203-210mm) (eg Fig. 10 top), distinctly smaller than the normal English plate size of 8½-9½ inches. The smaller 8-inch plate was, however, a common size made and used in the North American colonies where lack of an indigenous source of tin necessitated economy in the use of metal. These English 8-inch plates were made in the West Country with the export trade in mind and most of them were in fact shipped across the Atlantic. They are quite commonly found in the USA today, but only a few remained in this country where they are scarce.

Wares from other parts of the country include a fine and rare Charles II period candlestick (Fig. 17), a late 17th century footed plate with gadrooned decoration (Fig. 16) and a range of baluster wine measures of the late 17th and early 18th centuries (Figs. 18-22). Rugged, almost indestructible baluster-shaped measures such as these were used universally in taverns and ale-houses for dispensing wine from the 15th century until the introduction of Imperial measure (which abolished the smaller wine measure to which they conform) in 1826. A set of post-Imperial 19th century beer measures is illustrated in Fig. 23 and one of 19th century beer mugs in Fig. 24. Miscellaneous small items of pewter are shown in Figs. 25 and 26.

From Scotland comes a late 18th century flagon by Graham and Wardrop of Glasgow (Fig. 27) and a pint pot of c.1800 by William Scott of Edinburgh. Pewter by Birmingham and Bewdley makers is also represented.



Fig. 1. A fine pair of 17th century befeater flagons attributed to Jeffrey Webber of Barnstaple (Cat. No. 17/18)

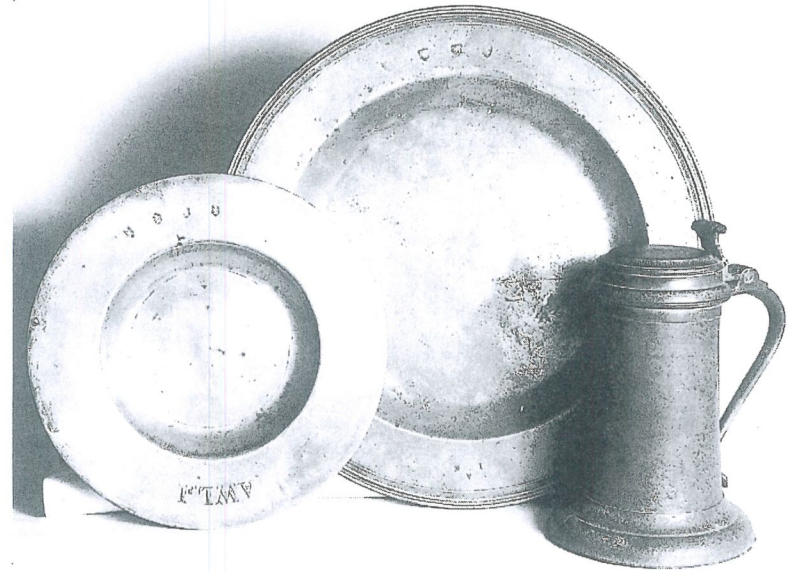


Fig. 2. (Right) A 17th century befeater flagon made by John Webber snr. of Barnstaple (Cat. No. 16); (centre) a dish by John Webber jr. (Cat. No. 4); (left) a broad rimmed dish originally attributed to Richard Webber but now believed to be by Roger Willoughby of London (Cat. No. 6)



Fig. 3. Touch mark in the base of the flagons shown in figure 1.



Fig. 4. A dish dated 1751 by Marshall Swayne of Barnstaple (Cat. No. 3)

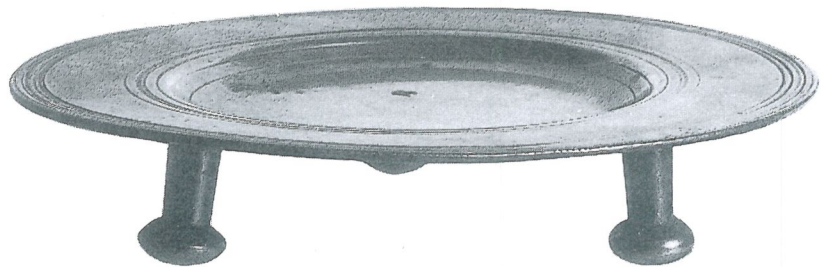


Fig. 5. A late 18th century plate standing on three feet made by J. H. Mortimer of Exeter (Cat. No. 43)



Fig. 6. A bun-lid flagon of c.1635-50 by the maker 'CS' (Cat. No. 19)

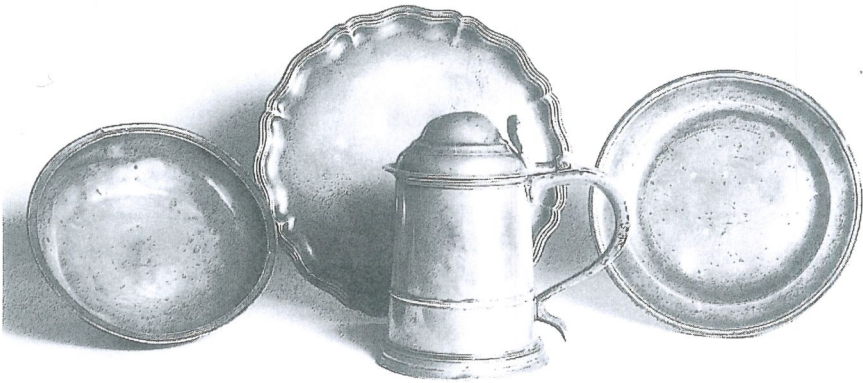


Fig. 7. Four Exeter pieces. (Left) A basin by Ferris & Co.; (centre rear) a wavy-edged salver; (centre front) a fine dome-lidded tankard and (right) a single reeded plate all by Humphrey Evans c.1730-50. (Cat. Nos. 38, 39, 40, 42)

Fig. 8. A narrow rimmed plate by John Pennington of Tavistock wriggle-worked with a naive design of a bird with a flower and foliage. c.1700 (Cat. No. 53)



Fig. 9. A fine pair of wriggle-worked plates of c.1680. Maker unknown (Cat. No. 97/98)

Fig. 10. Three various plates. (Top) c.1690-1700 by E. Hutchins of Tavistock; (bottom left) c.1775 by Nicholas Shephard of Barstaple; (bottom right) c.1730 by John Dolbeare of Ashburton. (Cat. Nos. 48, 7, 1)



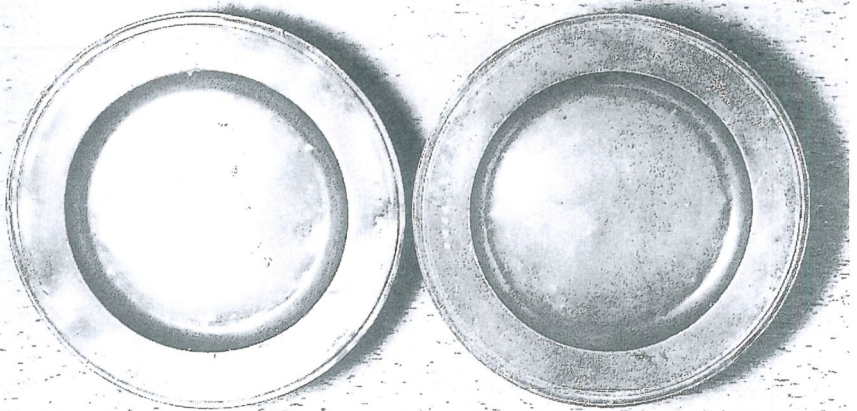


Fig. 11. A pair of large late 17th century chargers by Robert Clothier of Chard (Cat. No. 33/34)

Fig. 12. A deep dish by John Cave of Bristol, mid 17th century (Cat. No. 26)



Fig. 13. A pair of late 18th century flacons by William Stiff of Bristol (Cat. No. 30/31)



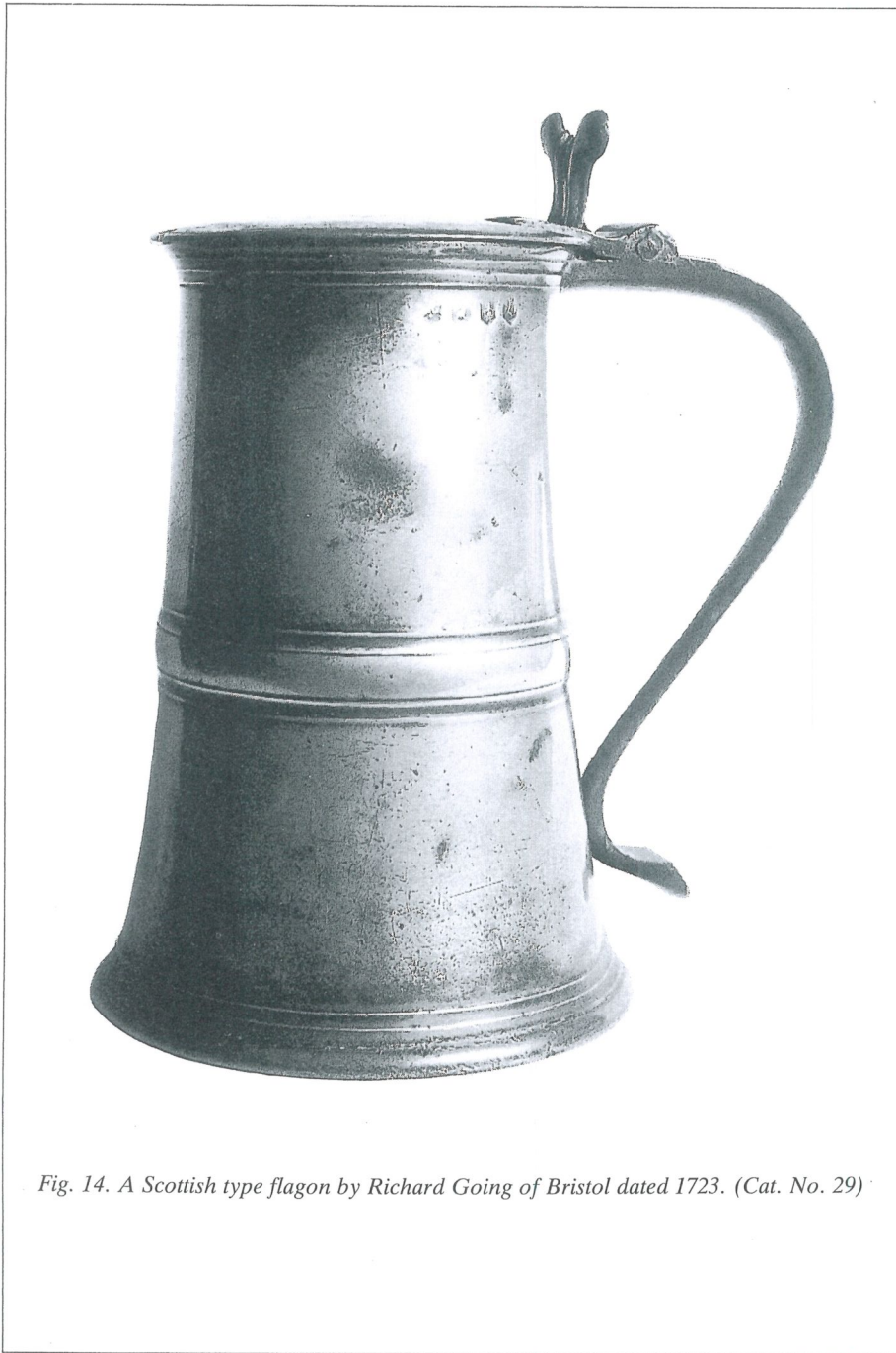


Fig. 14. A Scottish type flagon by Richard Going of Bristol dated 1723. (Cat. No. 29)

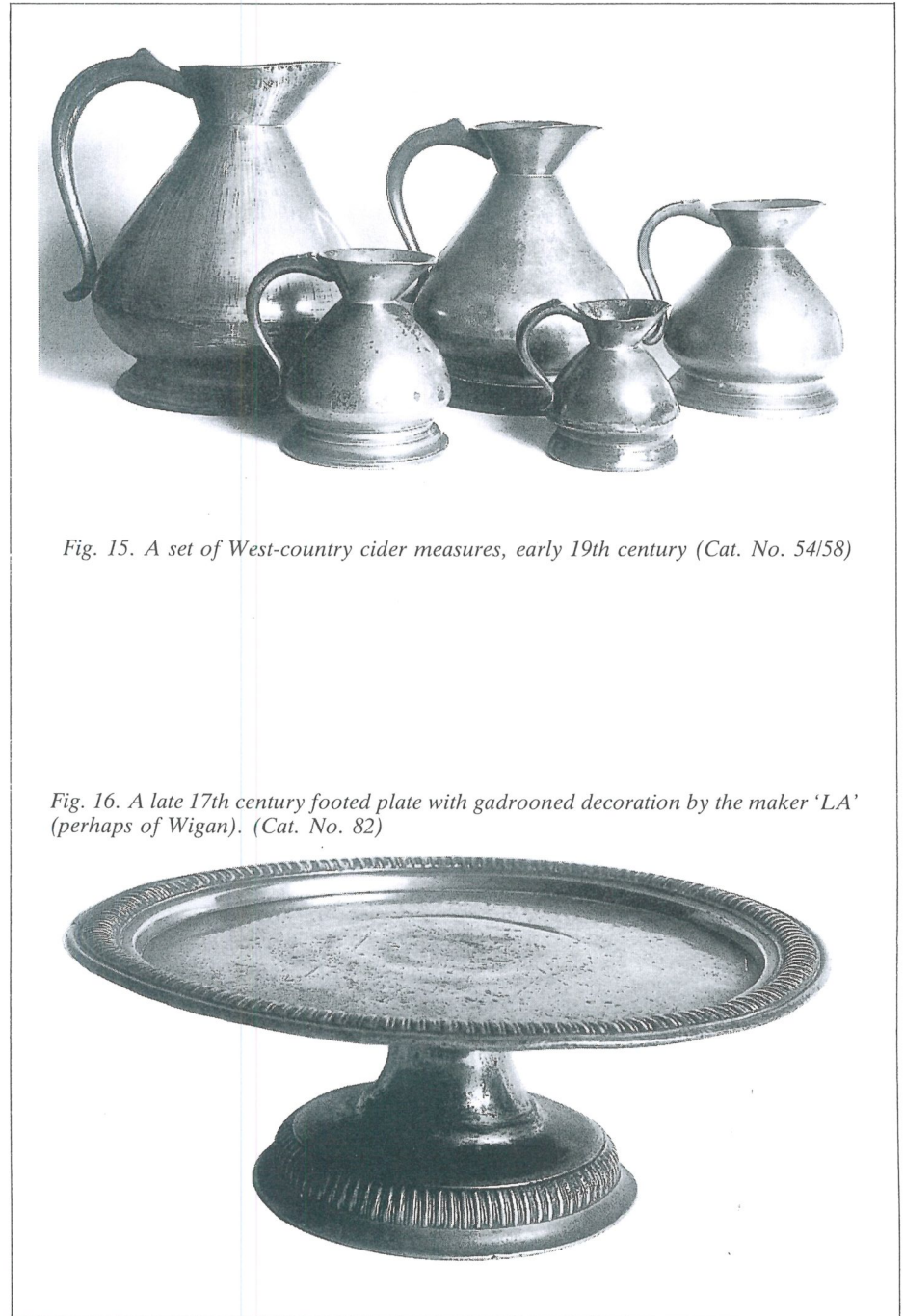


Fig. 15. A set of West-country cider measures, early 19th century (Cat. No. 54/58)

Fig. 16. A late 17th century footed plate with gadrooned decoration by the maker 'LA' (perhaps of Wigan). (Cat. No. 82)





Fig. 17. A fine and rare Stuart candlestick c.1680. (Cat. No. 88)

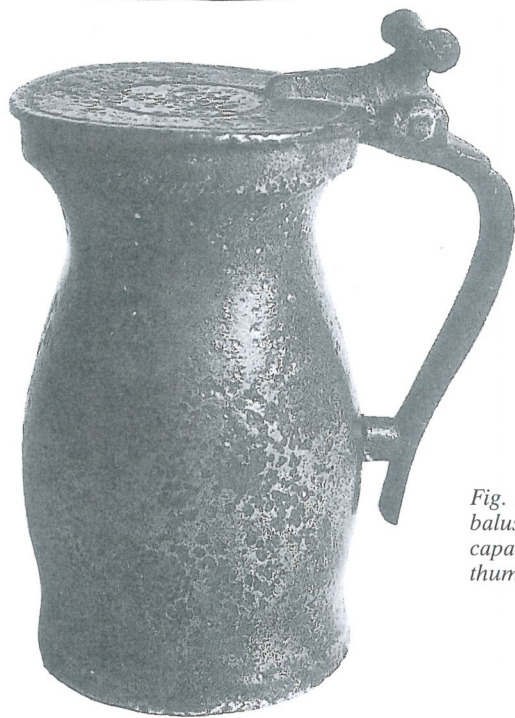


Fig. 18. A mid 17th century baluster wine measure of half-pint capacity with a hammerhead thumbpiece (Cat. No. 60)



Figs. 19 & 20. An unusual 'pint' capacity baluster measure of apparently mid 18th century date. Capacity 19 fluid ounces. (Cat. No. 64)



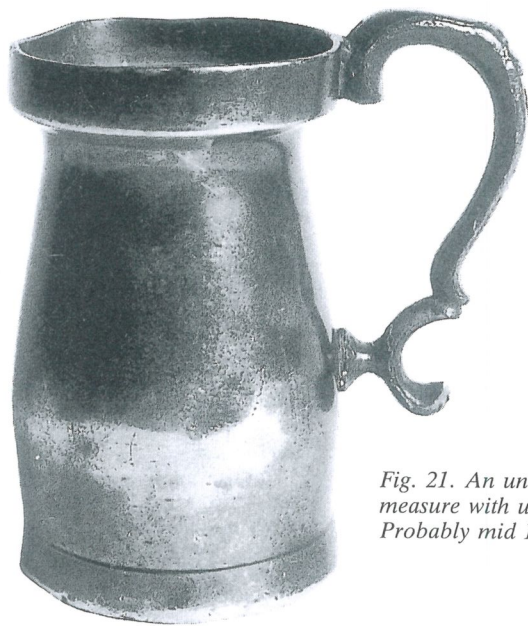


Fig. 21. An unlined half-pint baluster measure with unusual 'broken' handle. Probably mid 18th century (Cat. No. 67)

Fig. 22. A group of five typical late 17th and 18th century baluster measures. The three at the back with bud thumbpieces and capacities of half-pint, pint and quart; those in front with double volute thumbpieces and of quarter-pint and half-pint capacities (Cat. Nos. 61-63 and 65-66)



Fig. 23. Six 19th century Imperial standard measures (Cat. Nos. 68-73)

Fig. 24. Five typical 19th century beer mugs (Cat. Nos. 59, 74, 76, 79, 80)



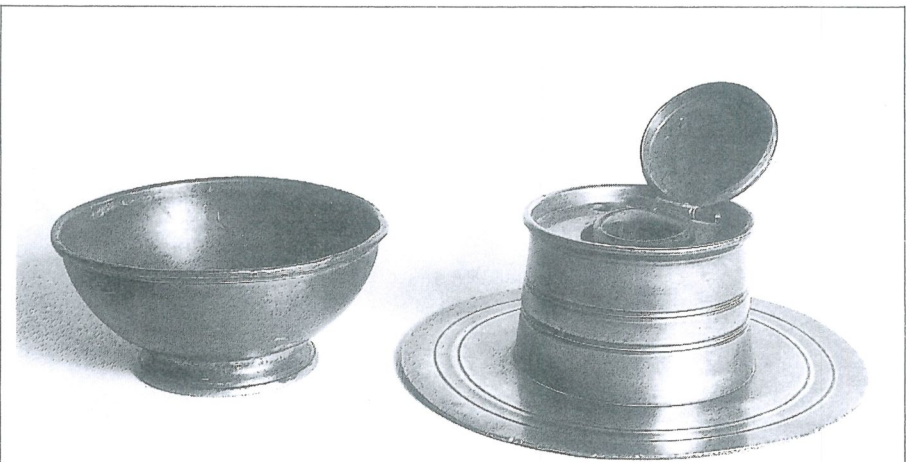


Fig. 25. A bowl of c.1800 and an inkwell (Cat. Nos. 103, 104)

Fig. 26. A selection of small items. (Cat. Nos 99-102 and 105-108)

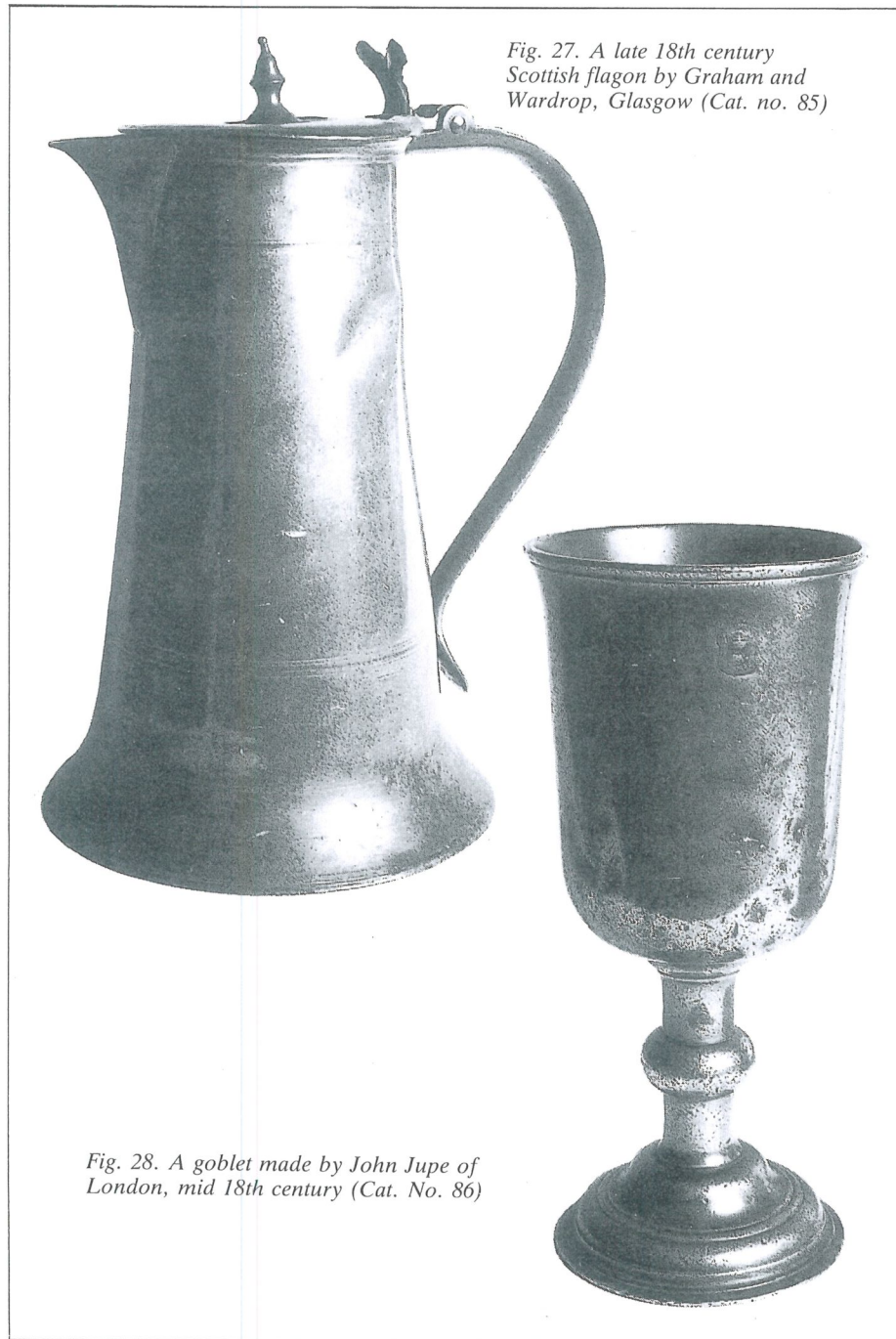


Fig. 27. A late 18th century Scottish flagon by Graham and Wardrop, Glasgow (Cat. no. 85)

Fig. 28. A goblet made by John Jupe of London, mid 18th century (Cat. No. 86)



Fig. 29. A fine beefeater flagon of c.1675 made by 'AF' (Cat No. 83)



Fig. 30. A Stuart flat-lidded flagon c.1680, no marks (Cat. No. 84)

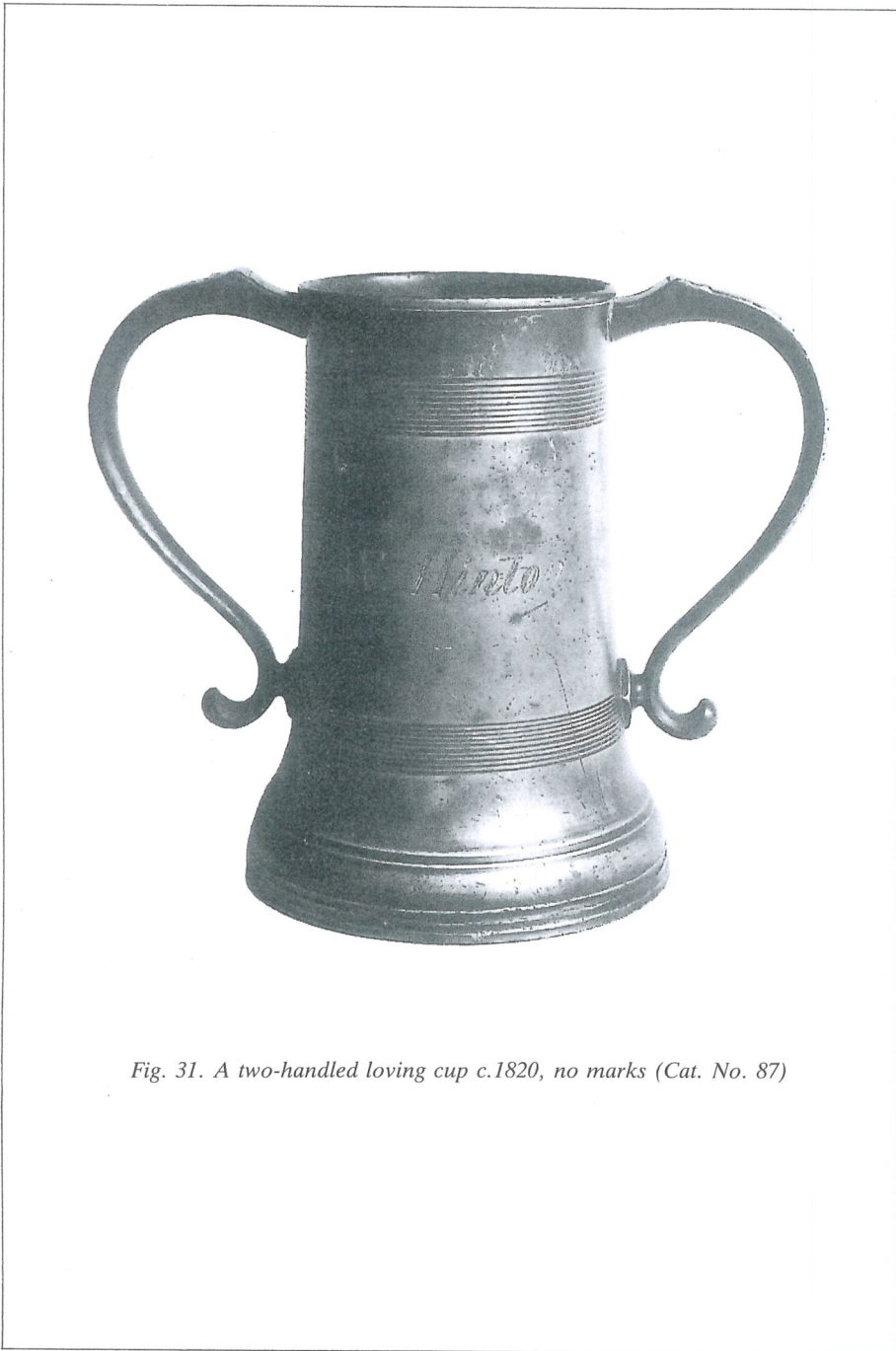
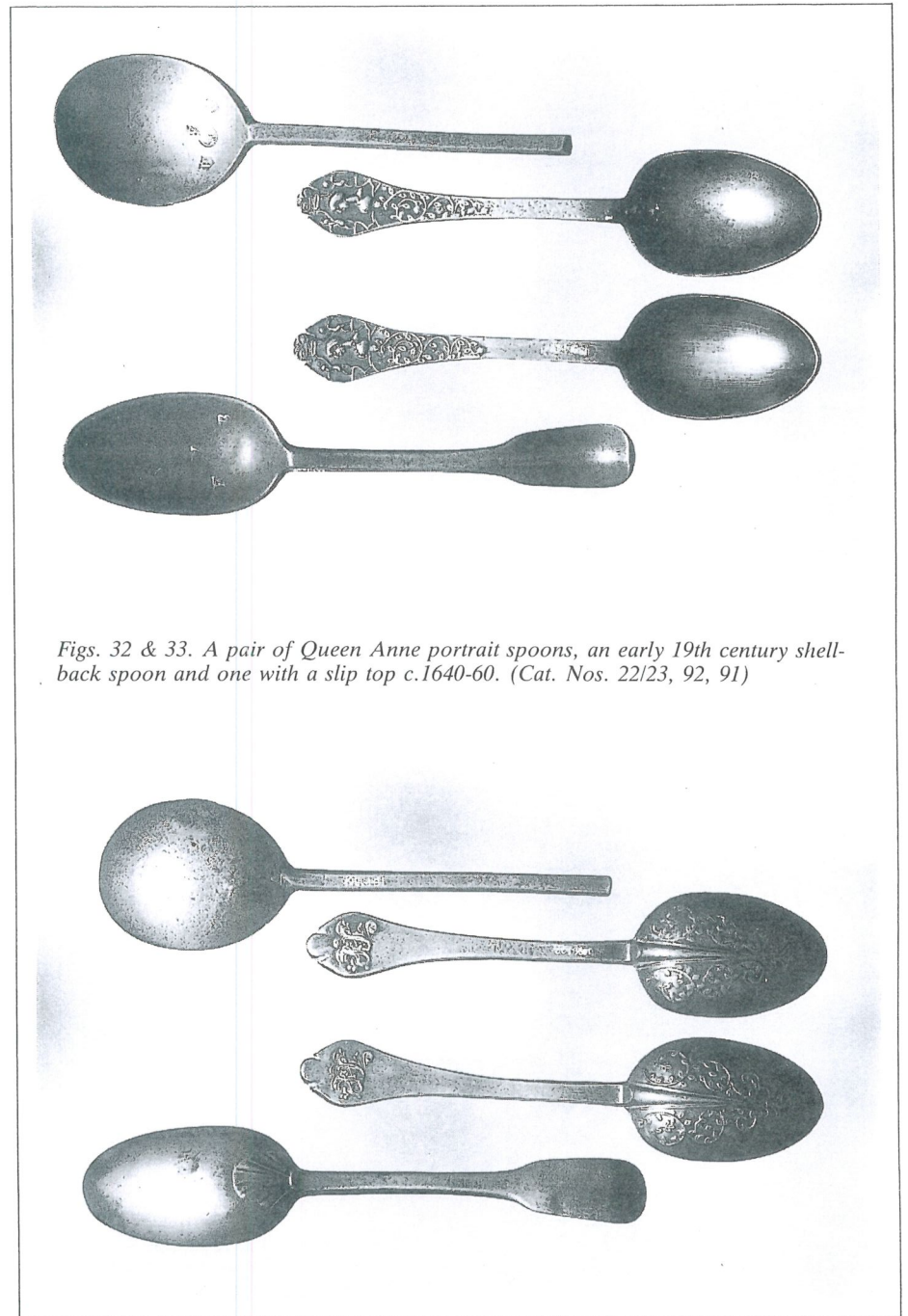


Fig. 31. A two-handled loving cup c.1820, no marks (Cat. No. 87)



Figs. 32 & 33. A pair of Queen Anne portrait spoons, an early 19th century shell-back spoon and one with a slip top c.1640-60. (Cat. Nos. 22/23, 92, 91)

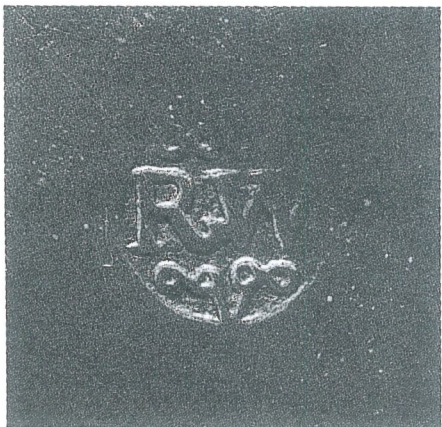


Fig. 34. The mark once attributed to Richard Webber, but now believed to be that of Roger Willoughby (Cat. No. 6)

Fig. 35 The mark of John Pennington of Tiverton



Fig. 36. The unattributed hallmarks appearing on a 19th century beer mug (Cat. No. 76)

CATALOGUE

Note. References to Cotterell, e.g. Cott.857, are to H.H. Cotterell's 'Old Pewter its Makers and Marks'.

West Country pewter.

Ashburton

1. Plate with plain rim bearing the touch and hallmarks of John Dolbeare and the ownership initials 'AH' on the underside. c.1730, diam. 235mm., cf. Cott, 1407 and 1408. Fig. 10 (right) (1991.1.1).

Barnstaple

2. Dish with single reeded rim having the touch of Alexander Webber on the underside. c.1725-39, diam. 378mm., Cott.5015. (1991.1.2).

3. Dish with single reeded rim stamped with the ownership initials 'RH' and 'WC' and the date 1751. The initials are perhaps those of churchwardens. The maker's touch on the underside appears to be that of Marshall Swayne. c.1751, diam. 422mm. Cott.4593A. Fig. 4 (1991.1.3).

4. Dish with multiple reeded rim bearing the hallmarks of John Webber jnr. on the face of the rim. c.1690-1710, diam. 420mm. Cott.5017. Fig. 2 (centre) (1991.1.4).

5. Charger with single reeded rim bearing the ownership initials **S⁷E** on the rim. On the underside is the touch of John Webber snr. c.1690-1700, diam. 464mm. Cott.5016 (1991.1.5).

6. Plate with broad plain rim and deep well bearing the ownership initials **A.W.L.J.** on the rim. A touch with the initials 'RW' is struck under the rim. This mark was attributed by Stanley Thomas to Richard Webber, but this has since been queried and the touch is now attributed to Roger Willoughby of London. (See C.A. Peal, *More Pewter Marks*, No.5200). c.1685-90, diam. 285mm. Fig. 2, left (1991.1.6).

7. Plate with single reeded rim bearing owner's initials 'AS' and 'EP' on the face and the touch of Nicholas Shephard on the underside. c.1775, diam. 216mm. Cott.4233 (1991.1.7).

8. Plate with single reeded rim bearing ownership initials **F^LM** and 'WW' on the face of the rim. The touch of Nicholas Shephard on the underside, c.1775, diam. 226mm. Cott.4233 (1991.1.8).

9. Plate with single reeded rim with the touch of Samuel Levett on the underside. c.1730, diam. 207mm. Cott.2926 (1991.1.9).

10. Plate with single reeded rim bearing the ownership initials 'PH' on the rim and the touch of Samuel Levett on the underside. c.1730, diam. 207mm. Cott.2926 (1991.1.10).

11. Plate with narrow reeded rim. On the face the ownership initials 'RM' and on the underside the touch of Samuel Levett, c.1700, diam. 230mm. Cott.2926 (1991.1.11).

12. Plate with plain rather broad rim with the hallmarks of John Webber jnr, on the face of the rim and his touch on the reverse. c.1690, diam. 230mm. Cott.5017 (1991.1.12).

13. Plate with single reeded rim with the touch of John Webber jnr, on the underside, c.1720, diam. 233mm. Cott.5017 (1991.1.13).

14. Plate with single reeded rim with ownership initials 'WB' on the face and the touch of John Webber jnr, on the underside, c.1720, diam. 203mm. Cott.5017 (1991.1.14).

15. Plate with single reeded rim bearing the touch of John Webber jnr. on the underside, c.1720, diam. 226mm. Cott.5017 (1991.1.15).

16. Flagon of 'beefeater' type with a broad ovolo foot, sweeping single-curved handle and an unusual ornate spray-and-ramshorn thumbpiece. In the base is the touch of John Webber snr, c.1670-75. Overall ht. 250mm. Cott.5016. Fig. 2, right (1991.1.16).

17/18. A pair of flagons of beefeater type, virtually identical to No.16 above, with an otherwise unrecorded touch in the base dated 1662 and attributed to Jeffrey Webber or John Webber snr, c.1670-75. Overall ht. 245mm. Fig. 1 (1991.1.17 and 1991.1.18).

19. Flagon with bun-shaped lid and pierced heart thumbpiece. Unidentified hallmarks on the lid including the maker's initials 'CS'. Considered by Stanley Thomas to be of Barnstaple origin. c.1635-50. Overall ht. 246mm. Formerly in the K.W. Bradshaw collection. Fig 6 (1991.1.19).

Bideford

20. Plate with single reeded rim and ownership initials 'HS' on the face. The touch of Anthony Williams on the underside. c.1730, diam. 210mm. Cott.5165 (1991.1.20).

21. Plate with single reeded rim with ownership initials 'HS(?)' on the face and the touch of Anthony Williams on the underside. c.1730, diam. 218mm. Cott.5156 (1991.1.21).

22/23. A pair of cast-decorated spoons made to commemorate the coronation of Queen Anne in 1702. They bear her bust in profile together with cast floral decoration on the stems and on the back of the rat-tail bowls. The script initials 'SS' are cast on the back of the stem and have been attributed to the pewterer Simon Sanders of Langtree nr. Bideford. Other similar spoons have different cast initials on the stem and these are now thought to be owner's initials. Length 179mm. cf. Cott.4099. Formerly in the K.W. Bradshaw collection. Figs. 32, 33 (1991.1.22 and 1991.1.23).

Bridgewater

24. Plate with single reeded rim bearing the ownership initials **i^CA**. Possibly by James Butcher. c.1710 diam. 280mm (1991.1.24).

25. A plate similar to the previous item with the same initials, touch detruded (1991.1.25).

Bristol

26. Dish with multiple reeded rim, deep well and bossed centre. Ownership initials **w^EH** on the rim which also bears the hallmarks of John Cave. Mid 17th century, diam. 373mm. Cott.857. Fig 12 (1991.1.26).

27. Plate with single reeded rim bearing two sets of ownership initials **G^BE** and **i^TC**. The touch of Allen Bright on the underside. c.1750, dia. 225mm. Cott.574. (1991.1.27).

28. Plate with single reeded rim bearing the ownership initials 'FE' and the touch of Richard Going on the underside. c.1730, diam. 222mm. Cott.1909 (1991.1.28).

29. Flagon of Scottish type dated 1723 on the lid and with the hallmarks of Richard Going on the lip of the drum and his touch inside the base. Overall height 250mm. Cott.1909. Fig. 14 (1991.1.29).

30/31. Pair of flagons of tall slender form with knopped lids, 'broken' handles and pierced heart thumbpieces. They bear the hallmarks of William Stiff on the lip of the drum. c.1780, overall height 330mm. Cott.4539. Fig 13 (1991.1.30 and 1991.1.31).

32. Bedpan of typical 19th century form bearing the mark of Edgar and Co., c.1850, diam. 438mm. Cott.1511 (1991.1.32).

Chard

33/34. A pair of large chargers with multiple reeded rims each with the ownership initials **H^BE** and bearing the touch and hallmarks of Robert Clothyer. c. 1680-1700, diam. 571 mm. Cott.989. Fig. 11 (1991.1.33 and 1991.1.34).

35. Charger with single reeded rim with the same ownership initials and maker's marks as the previous pair. c.1700, diam. 518mm. Cott.989 (1991.1.35).

36. Charger with single reeded rim again with the same ownership initials and by the same maker, c.1700, diam. 484mm. Cott.989 (1991.1.36).

37. Dish with single reeded rim bearing the ownership initials 'IH' and the same maker's marks as the previous items. c.1700, diam. 423mm. Cott.989 (1991.1.37).

Exeter

38. Plate with single reeded rim bearing the ownership initials 'SCB' and the touch of Humphrey Evans on the underside, c.1735, diam. 216mm. Cott.1586. Fig 7, right. (1991.1.38).

39. Wavy-edged salver with reeded rim. Touchmark of Humphrey Evans on the underside, c.1750, diam. 261mm. Cott.1586. Fig 7, centre. (1991.1.39).

40. Basin with narrow rim bearing the touchmark of Humphrey Evans. Mid 18th century, diam. 196mm, depth 50mm. Cott.1586. (1991.1.40).

41. Basin with narrow rim bearing the touch of Ferris and Co. Late 18th century, diam. 258mm. Cott.1586, Fig 7, left. (1991.1.41).

42. Tankard with domed lid and ram's-horn thumbpiece, the drum encircled by an ornamental fillet. The touch of Humphrey Evans inside the base, c.1730, height to lip 140mm. Cott.1586. Formerly in the Veasey collection. Fig 7. (1991.1.42).

43. Plate with reeded edge bearing standing on three feet and bearing the touch 'Mortimer, Exon'. This maker is now identified as Joseph Hart Mortimer, d.1836, not the earlier Mortimer noted by Cotterell, c.1780, diam. 255mm. Cott.3302, Fig 5. (1991.1.43).

Falmouth

44. Plate with single reeded rim. Touch of John Williams on the underside, c.1730, diam. 227mm. Cott.5164. (1991.1.44).

Launceston

45. Dish with single reeded rim bearing the touch of Henry Hoskyn, c.1710, diam. 305mm. Cott.2416. (1991.1.45).

Tavistock

46. Plate with narrow rim bearing the ownership initials **w^CM** in the well. An otherwise unrecorded maker's touch on the underside of 'WR' (attributed to Tavistock by Stanley Thomas), c.1690-1700, diam. 212mm. (1991.1.46).

47. Plate with narrow rim bearing the touch of John Hancock, c.1690-1700, diam. 215mm. (1991.1.47).

48. Plate with narrow rim bearing the ownership initials 'MB' and the touch of E. Hutchins, a previously unrecorded Tavistock maker, c.1690-1700, diam. 206mm. Fig. 10, top. (1991.1.48).

49. Plate with narrow reeded rim made by E. Hutchins, as previous item, c.1690-1700, diam. 206mm. (1991.1.49).

50. Plate with narrow rim bearing the touch of W. Hutchins, c.1690-1700, diam. 206mm. Cott.2488. (1991.1.50).

51. Plate with narrow rim with the ownership initials **G^{BH}** on the underside and the touch of John Pennington, c.1690-1700, diam. 225mm. Cott.3607. This plate has Cotterell's 'seal of authenticity' affixed to the back. Formerly in the R.W. Cooper collection. (1991.1.51).

52. Plate with narrow rim struck with the touch of John Hancock, c.1690-1700, diam. 216mm. (1991.1.52).

53. Plate with narrow rim decorated all over in wriggle-work including a bird amidst flowers and foliage. With the touch of John Pennington, c.1690-1700, diam. 216mm. Cott.3607. Formerly in the K.W. Bradshaw collection. Fig. 8. (1991.1.53).

Unattributed West Country items

54-58. Set of five West Country cider measures in capacities from the gallon down to the half pint. No maker's marks. Early 19th century. Fig. 15. (1991.1.54-1991.1.58).

59. Pint beer mug with the partly effaced name and address of a public house and the town name 'Barnstaple' engraved on the drum. No maker's mark. Early 19th century. (1991.1.59).

Other British pewter

60. Wine measure of baluster form with hammerhead thumbpiece. Half-pint capacity. The owner's name 'Rabart [Robert] Inclon' engraved on the body. No maker's mark. Mid 17th century. Fig. 18. (1991.1.60).

61. Wine measure of baluster form with 'bud' thumbpiece. Half-pint capacity. No maker's mark. Early 18th century. Fig. 22, left. (1991.1.61).

62. Wine measure of baluster form with 'bud' thumbpiece. Pint capacity. Initialled **A^{HM}** on the lid and with the touch of J. Coursey, London. Late 17th century. Cott.1156. Fig. 22, centre. (1991.1.62).

63. Wine measure of baluster form with 'bud' thumbpiece, the lid stamped with the initials 'RK'. Quart capacity. An unattributed maker's touch with the initials 'AW' and the date 1698 appears on the lip as does an 'HR' verification stamp indicating that the measure

conformed to the wine standard introduced by Henry VII. This standard remained in use until after 1700, c.1700. Fig. 22, right. (1991.1.63).

64. Wine measure of baluster form with an unusual scroll thumbpiece and scroll terminal to the handle. Pint capacity. With the unattributed maker's touch 'EM' on the rim. Cott.5771, mid 18th century. Some doubt has been expressed about the authenticity of certain features this piece. Figs. 19 and 20. (1991.1.64).

65. Wine measures of baluster form with 'double volute' thumbpiece. Gill (quarter-pint) capacity. No maker's mark. Latter half of the 18th century. Fig. 22, left front. (1991.1.65).

66. Wine measure of baluster form with 'double volute' thumbpiece. Half-pint capacity. No maker's mark. Latter half of the 18th century. Fig. 22, right front. (1991.1.66).

67. Unlidded wine measure of baluster form with an unusual double curved handle. Half-pint capacity. No maker's mark, mid 18th century. Fig. 21. (1991.1.67).

68-73. A series of bellied liquor measures by various makers from the quart down to the quarter-gill in capacity. All c. mid 19th century. Fig. 23. (1991.1.68-1991.1.73).

74. Beer mug of half-pint capacity, Imperial measure. No maker's mark. c. mid 19th century. (1991.1.74).

75. Beer mug of half-pint capacity, Imperial measure with William IV and later verification stamps. No maker's mark, c.1830 (1991.1.75).

76. Beer mug of pint capacity, Imperial measure with George IV and later verification stamps. The rim bears unrecorded hallmarks. c.1826. (1991.1.76).

77. Beer mug of pint capacity, pre-Imperial standard, the drum engraved 'G. Allen, Prince Regt., Sheerness'. No maker's mark, c.1820. (1991.1.77).

78. Beer mug of pint capacity, Imperial standard measure. Mark of Yates and Birch of Birmingham who were in business between 1857 and 1860. (1990.1.78).

79. Beer mug of pint capacity with the mark of William Scott of Edinburgh, early 19th century. Cott.4161. (1991.1.79).

80. Beer mug of quart capacity, Imperial measure. Mark of Morgan and Gaskell of Birmingham who were in business between 1860 and 1870. (1991.1.80).

81. Inhaler body. The body only of a medical inhaler which, when complete, had a close-fitting lid fitted with a tube through which the patient sucked. The air so breathed bubbled through the contents of the inhaler, entering via a hole in the body at the base of the hollow handle. The handle has three holes in the top to admit the air. Maker, Henry Joseph of London, c.1760. Cott.2686. (1991.1.81).

82. Footed plate with gadrooned rim and foot. Maker's touch of 'LA' in a heart-shaped cartouche on the underside of the top. It was originally believed that 'LA' was a west country maker, but recent opinions place him in Wigan, c.1690-1700, diam. 208mm. Cott.5386. Formerly in the R.W. Cooper collection. Fig. 16. (1991.1.82).

83. Flagon of 'beefeater' type with twin cusp thumbpiece. Unattributed touchmark of 'AI' with a lion rampant in a beaded circle on the handle, c.1675, height overall 245mm. Cott.5700. Fig. 29. (1991.1.83).

84. Flagon with flat-topped lid furnished with frontal denticulations and a ram's horn thumbpiece. The initials 'TA' and 'TC' appear on the handle and are probably those of churchwardens. No marks, c.1680. Overall height 255mm. Fig. 30. (1991.1.84).

85. Flagon of typical Scottish form furnished with a spout. Touchmark of Graham and Wardrop of Glasgow inside the base. Late 18th century, height overall 330mm. Cott.4960. Fig. 27. (1991.1.85).

86. Goblet or footed cup with a knopped stem and moulded foot. Bears the touch of John Jupe of London who was master of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers in 1761. He had a shop at 'The Pewter Dish' in Queen Street, Cheapside. Mid-18th century, height 216mm.

Cott.2693. Fig. 28. (1991.1.86).

87. Loving cup with two handles inscribed with an owner's name 'W. Hinton' on the body. No maker's mark, c.1820, height 266mm. Fig. 31. (1991.1.87).

88. Candlestick with an octagonal base and central octagonal drip-tray, the cylindrical stem encircled with reeding. No visible maker's mark, c.1680, height 140mm. Formerly in the K.W. Bradshaw collection. Fig. 17. (1991.1.88).

89. Candlestick with a knopped stem and 'pusher'. No maker's mark. Early 19th century, height 211mm. (1991.1.89).

90. Candlestick with a knopped stem. No maker's mark, c.1780-1800, height 181mm. (1991.1.90).

91. Spoon of slipped-in-the-stalk type with an unattributed maker's mark in the bowl of 'WA' and a spoon. The bowl with owner's initials **W.C.** First half of the 17th century, length 175mm. Formerly in the K.W. Bradshaw collection. Figs. 32 and 33. (1991.1.91).

92. Spoon of 'shell-back' type with the ownership initials **F.V.B.** in the bowl. No maker's mark. Early 19th century, length 192mm. Figs. 32 and 33. (1991.1.92).

93. Spoon of 19th century form, length 200mm. (1991.1.93).

94. Charger with single reeded rim bearing the date 1721 with 'AW' above and 'C' below. No maker's mark, c.1721, diam. 464mm. (1991.1.94).

95. Plate with single reeded rim bearing ownership initials 'MD' on the face. Maker's touch illegible. First half of the 18th century, diam. 207mm. (1991.1.95).

96. Plate with single reeded rim similar to the above item and bearing the same ownership initials. First half of the 18th century, diam. 206mm. (1991.1.96).

97/98. Pair of narrow rimmed plates finely engraved in wriggle-work with designs of stylised tulips and other flowers. Illegible maker's mark on one, ownership initials 'GB' on the other, c.1680, diam. 210mm. (1991.1.97 and 1991.1.98).

99-101. Three salts each with a shallow bowl standing on a stemmed foot, all with the touch of John Jupe of London (cf, item 86). Mid 18th century, diam. 98mm. Fig. 26 (1991.1.99-1991.1.101).

102. Cup-salt, late 18th century, diam. 63mm. No maker's mark. (1991.1.102).

103. Bowl, c.1800, diam. 140mm. No maker's mark. (1991.1.103).

104. Ink-well of the type widely used in the 19th and early 20th century in banks and post offices. No maker's mark. The flat base 199mm in diameter. (1991.1.104).

105. Flask of circular shape with screw top, no maker's mark, height 116mm, 19th century (1991.1.105).

106. Egg cup, no maker's mark, 19th century (1991.1.106).

107. Pepper pot, no maker's mark, height 117mm, early 19th century (1991.1.107).

108. Sugar sifter, no maker's mark, height 130mm, late 18th/early 19th century (1991.1.108).

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