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*MUNDEY'S
PEWTER
SNIPPETS*

600 years
of
Romance and Life
with the
Pewterers Company

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19th October 1996

Dear Henk,

Having just mailed you a note, this has surfaced in the preparatory work towards setting out the books. It was on the list of items for which you were looking. As I pre-warned you, it has suffered a little foxing for no apparent reason. It also has a 1985 dedication to Patricia and myself - but, as he gave us another dedicated copy, you are welcome to this one. I fear all copies of this curious recompilation must have vanished forever.

I am sending it to you as a present in the hope that you will encourage everyone in Holland to respond to the Harvard House Appeal.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

To Patricia and Alex Neish
With compliments
of
Richard Munday
August 1985.

PEWTER SNIPPETS

by Richard Munday

FOREWORD

The interest and pleasure to be derived from the Snippets is prefaced by a condensed account of the development of a group of 14th Century individual pewterers who joined forces determined to attain the status of an important London City Livery Company. Eventually they succeeded to become the Worshipful Company of Pewterers.

The Snippets are extracts from records of everyday life, happenings during the running of the Company when established and controlled by the Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants and the Livery. Though the Company, probably of necessity was despotic, individualism could never be eliminated. Human frailty was just as rife then, and all through the years, as it is today. The Pewterers Company ruled firmly with an unwavering purpose to create an important home and export industry. Their success was pronounced and had an enormously beneficial effect on the economy of the Country for several centuries.

INTRODUCTION

A little before 1900, Charles Welch started his research into the past history of the Pewterers' Company, delving into records, the earliest available dating 1348. In that year a group of individual London pewterers joined forces to form a Corporation in the style of a Guild and issued an edict, which is a statement of intent, to enforce a high standard of quality and craftsmanship.

During the century that followed, the group now known as the "Craft or Fellowship of Pewterers", prospered and became important and influential. However they urgently needed a Royal Charter. The Mayoralty and other high officials were importuned and gifts bestowed in the "right" places. Not until the late 14th Century in the reign of Edward the Fourth were they at last granted their first Royal Charter in 1474. That is the date the Craft or Fellowship of Pewterers (later the Worshipful Company of Pewterers or "WCOP") triumphantly joined the ranks of the leading London City Companies.

The Company commemorated their 500th anniversary, 1474 - 1974, with banquets, open-house exhibitions of their famous pewter collection, creating trusts for scholarships and also giving help to various worthy causes.

The Royal Charter enhanced the Company's position and gave them the legal right to control every facet of pewter production, manufacture, and working conditions for Master pewterers down to lowly apprentices. They also gained some control over the pewter industry outside London. The Company duly inherited responsibility to the Mayoralty and the

Dedicated to the Master, Wardens and Livery of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers who have followed faithfully in the footsteps of their predecessors for the past five centuries. Long may the Company flourish, doing good where good is to be done, helping where help is needed, and furthering the cause of pewterware ancient and modern. It is a privilege to be a member of such a caring Guild".

Crown to supply soldiers fully armed on demand and make loans to the Crown when requested.

The Company records, the Minutes of the Court of Assistants and numerous other books and important documents were carefully kept. With some predictable gaps caused by plague, the Great Fire, etc., the records were stored in chronological order. Many documents were deposited at London Guildhall Museum for safe keeping. The remainder were left in the Company archives neglected and untouched for years until brought to light at the turn of the 19th Century by Charles Welch.

Not all the documents were rescued, a number remained awaiting a later session. (This materialised with very interesting results in the early 1980's by Dr. Ron Homer, a Liveryman of the Company).

Welch researched enough to complete and publish in 1902 his remarkable two-volume "History of the Pewterers' Company". It can be compared to a diary mentioning the earliest Ordinance and Edict of 1348, but actually starting with circa 1450 and ending with 1760. There are almost day by day insights into the running of the London Company which consists of a Master, Wardens, officers of the Court of Assistants, Liverymen, Freemen and Yeomen. The Company had to contend with dissidents, delinquents, rogues, cheats, makers of false wares, and quarrelsome members. The Court presided over by the Master, Wardens and the Assistants, had supreme power. Miscreants brought for trial or examination by the Court for misdemeanours, were punished without fear or favour if found guilty. Penalties inflicted were fines, confiscation of "false" (badly wrought) wares, on rare occasions whipping, and even permanent or temporary banishment which deprived the miscreant with all civil rights. Differences or quarrels between members were frequently smoothed over with the judgement of a "Solomon". Bribery, corruption, humour, sadness, tragedy, rules, regulations, prohibitions, costs, price-fixing for the betterment and smooth running of the Craft are faithfully recorded by Welch.

His 1902 "History" was soon followed with books by H. J. L. Masse 1904; Malcolm Bell 1905; Ingleby Wood (Scottish pewter) 1907; Hilton Price (spoons) 1908; and A. deNavarro 1911. Each included welcome photographs and added a little more on the subject of pewter and the makers, at the time so little known, understood or appreciated.

On the rampage just around the corner was a "giant" ready to galvanise the pewter world. Howard H. Cotterell. He spent years of intense research delving into records in Town Halls, Registrars' Offices, Somerset House, even grave-yards country-wide tracking down births and deaths and all available details. Collectors and dealers supplied specimens to photograph and marks to record. The archives of the Pewterers' Company were open to him, Welch's "History" though not concerned with makers and marks, was a great boon and studied carefully by him. He collated and indexed an enormous accumulation of data. The pre-publication subscribers were all agog anticipating an exciting great day to arrive.

It came in 1929 when Howard H. Cotterell proudly presented to the pewter world his monumental "Old Pewter—Its Makers & Marks". It lists and records alphabetically about 5000 named pewterers with condensed histories, dates and origins. Also listed are a thousand or so initialled or obscure marks for future enthusiasts to follow up. The enormous amount of knowledge and facts so generously dispensed is amazing. Some quibble over an occasional error, probably a fraction of one per cent has crept in. Let it be said in no uncertain terms, no author could equal his monumental work nor write anything authoritative on pewter without quoting at some stage the "Old Master". From Welch's "History" and Cotterell's "Old Pewter—Its Makers & Marks" (now the "Bible" on pewter) have the Snippets been extracted and where necessary "translated" into modern English. The difficulty was what to choose and what to omit from such an abundance of "wealth". There remains scope for many more choice Snippets giving further insight into the early working of the Pewterers' Company and the way they created an important industry which exerted a profound influence on the economic and social history of the Country from the middle ages onwards.

End of introduction

PEWTER SNIPPETS by Richard Munday

Part 1, 1462 - 1635

Selected snippets in chronological order of actual events during the early life of the Pewterers Company from the 15th to the 20th Century.

- 1462/63** Robbery May 1462/63, Richard Moy was proven a thief, robbing Robert Chamberlain, pewterer. He was dismissed for evermore, thus depriving him of all civil rights.
- 1463** Wages Paid to John Ffrost wages for the whole year 24 shillings.
- 1483** Old Thomas Parr, born 1483, died 1635, aged 152.
- 1516/17** Evil May Day **EVIL MAY DAY 1516/17.** On this day the jealousy which had long been felt by the London pewterers and their apprentices against foreign workmen broke out into scenes of terrible violence. Prior to May Day 1517, a broker John Lincoln induced Dr. Bell, a Canon of the Spital to make inflammatory comments and preach against the foreigners at the customary Easter Sermon on April 14th. On May Day following, the trouble started when apprentices, journeymen and others who had gone "A Maying" attacked the foreigners and sacked their houses near Fenchurch Street and elsewhere. The riot assumed serious proportions but was quelled by the Mayor. Three hundred rioters were made prisoners. John Lincoln and twelve others were hanged in Cheapside and other parts of the City. The rest appeared on trial each with a halter round the neck before the King on 22nd of May. On intercession of Queen Catherine and her sister, they were pardoned by the King, Henry the Eighth.
- 1520** Pestilence and famine 1520 was the year of terrible pestilence and famine. The Companies subscribed £1000 towards the purchase of wheat to be stored at Bridge House for the benefit of the starving poor.
- 1520 & 1532** Surly fellow In 1520 Henry Clarke was fined for disobedience and reviling a fellow member. In 1532 he was again fined for not attending a function.
- 1549** Gay? In 1549 Thomas Clarke was fined for a misdemeanor with John Mathews at Fairs.
- 1538/1559** Sir Thomas Curtis, Company's first Lord Mayor Sir Thomas Curtis, Master four times, 1538; 1539; 1545; and 1546. He served as Sheriff in 1546, and he and his family had long connections with the Company. In 1557 he was elected Lord Mayor of London and continued as pewterer into the Elizabethan period. Died 1559.

- 1551/52** Company Court to Settle dispute At a Court held 21st June, 1551 Thomas Hassill complained that Harry Martyn had called him "knave" in open street. Harry Martyn counter complained that Thomas Hassill owed him for a pound of tin and also called him "a jack-a-napes and a prating Jack".
- 1552** Banished and defranchised for many crimes. Later received again on conditions June 1552 Robert Somers was banished and defranchised for acting as a Hawker; taking away other mens trade; luring away customers; buying old metal and selling it without melting it down; procuring away a shop from a Mr. Brown; taking away a lease over the head of a Company member; and offering more per pound for old metal than allowed by the Company. December 1552, the Court agreed to take Robert Somers in again on condition he never act as before, becomes a new man with no conceit, and to pay heavy fines and recompense those he had hurt. If he is at fault again to be banished the Company for ever.
- 1552** Confiscation In 1552 Lawrence Norfock had some salts confiscated because of bad metal.
- 1553** Paid fine by instalments Richard Harrison in 1553 served in a band of soldiers raised by the Company. Later when fined for a fault, he paid at the rate of two dozen spoons each week until the fine money be paid in full.
- 1553** Leaving London Symond Bradshaw in 1553 against the Company rules left London. On his return to London he was employed by Richard Williamson who was fined for employing him.
- 1552 & 1559** A rebel? Sent to Coventry? **Stephen Calye.** In 1552 it was ordered that no one of the Company deal with him. (No reason available). In 1559 and again in 1562 he obtained redress against fellow member Richard Harrison.
- 1553** Company's soldiers defending London Bridge In 1553 the Company along with other City Guilds raised a number of soldiers, members of the Company, to help defend London Bridge against assault by Sir Thomas Wyatt and his invading army. The transgressors were defeated, Sir Thomas Wyatt was captured and met his final fate in the Tower.
- 1554** Alms Thomas Mason in 1554 was a poor member. He was granted alms by the Company. He died in 1573 still poor.
- 1555** Broke contract Richard Mannyng in 1555 was fined for not keeping a contract to deliver goods.
- 1555** Dismissed for ever Ellis Kelsey in 1555 was dismissed the Company **for ever.** Other members were also dismissed for ever at that time. Reason not available.

1556
A loser
Harry Ractlyf in 1555 was allowed to leave London for Yorkshire providing he never worked there as a pewterer. In 1558 he had goods that were faulty seized at Stourbridge Fair. A failure, in 1563 he received charity from the Company as a poor brother.

1556
Banished for ever
John Burnham. In 1551 and again in 1556, his servant served as Warden of the Yeomanry for him. In 1556 he was banished from the Company, **for ever**.

1558
Swearing
John Brown in 1558 was fined for using bad language to a brother member.

1562
Banished for false wares.
Later received back on conditions
Nicholas Rodes, 20th June 1562 was banished from the Company and no member to have anything to do with him under penalty. He had mixed lead in public with best tin creating false wares.
10th August, 1562, Nicholas Rodes to be received again into the Company upon his agreeing to special conditions, a covenant to pay a heavy fine for his crimes plus an amount each Quarter Day when his crime was read out, until with good behaviour the reading will cease.

1562
Generous?
Edward Catcher, Citizen and Pewterer in his will dated 1562 left 20 shillings to be distributed annually between five poor Freemen, and 10 shillings to the Company towards their Quarter Day dinner.

1562/63
Pay for wine, six pence
In 1562/63 the Company's finances were low and there were outstanding debts. The Court decreed a charge be made towards their functions. The Yeomanry must each pay six pence towards the wine.

1564
Masters also fined
JOHN CATCHER in 1564 was Steward at Shroving dinner. In 1585 appointed Master. In 1588 was City Alderman. In 1598 was fined for false wares. He left legacies to the Company.

1566
No foreign
In 1566 Thomas Glenton had stone pots confiscated for using foreign pewter lids.

1569
Whipped for robbery
In 1569 John Collier was robbed by his apprentice Francis Bawdwin who was whipped in open Court when the theft was discovered.

1573/74
Refused to pay a fine
Nicholas Jurdeine in 1573/74 packed 6 barrels each holding three hundredweight of pewter without prior examination by the Master William Curtis, and the Wardens. He was fined £18 which he stubbornly refused to pay. After a fierce argument with the Master he swept away in high dudgeon. He later paid a fine in lieu of Stewardship, and another fine in lieu of the Mastership of the Yeomanry.

1572
Dispute & judgement of Solomon
In 1572 a dispute between Thomas Wandsworth and John Boulting was decided by the Court as follows. At his expense John Boulting shall next Xmas make a dinner or supper inviting Thomas Wandsworth. After an interval Thomas Wandsworth do the same, also inviting each their mother-in-law and continue as friends in bonds of good will.

1574
Poaching
In 1574 Richard Perkyns fined for occupying the booth of Henry Barret's widow at an Essex Fair. He died 1598 and left the Company a legacy.

1583
Price fixing
In 1583 Robert Nyxon was one of a committee to fix selling prices.

1583
Prison
Thomas Cowes was on the same committee for fixing prices. Later in 1596 he was fined and imprisoned for false wares.

1585
Legacy of £50
Lewis Randall in 1585 paid another pewterer to serve as a soldier in his place. He was Master in 1609 and 1613. Left a legacy in 1616 of £50 in consols for poor members.

1587/88
A Master dismissed
Thomas Elliott in 1565 was a Renter Warden. In 1587/88 a Steward, Master in 1604, and in the same year dismissed from the Clothing and the Mastership. (Reason unknown).

1588 & 1590
Closed shop
Andrew Bowyer in 1588 and again in 1590 fined for employing a strange woman to engrave pewter instead of a fellow member.

1589
Fine for going to law
John Ashton in 1589 fined for going to law against Raffé Cowley instead of submitting his case to the Court.

1592/93
New TOUCH PLATE
All pewterers in the Company called on to set their Touches on a new Touch Plate, and that they pay two pennies a piece, and one penny to the Clarke and one penny to the Beadle.

1596
"For ever" soon over
John Reade in 1596 was committed for various offences. He was dismissed from the Company "FOR EVER". At the next Court he was forgiven and re-admitted.

1596
Sympathy for desertion
William Stevens in 1596 deserted his wife and two children. The Company gave her ten shillings and three pence in sympathy.

1599
Lost a tooth in a quarrel
In 1599 a quarrel between William Webb and Roger Glover came to blows with William Webb losing a tooth. The Court ordered Roger Glover to pay 20 shillings and return hammers he had borrowed from William Webb.

Disputes? Dine together!
Disputants were often ordered by the Court to dine together on alternate occasions accompanied by their wives and the mothers-in-law.

1590 Richard Staples in 1590 was fined for boasting his wares excelled and were cheaper than any other pewterer. Thirty--three years later he was elected as Master.

Finued for boasting

Plague. In 1563 London was struck by a disastrous plague. Forty years later in 1603 a terrible plague resulted in excess of 30,000 deaths. The strength of City Guilds was seriously undermined by the severity of the pestilence.

Another worse in 1603.

Again in 1625 and again in 1635 there was a recurrence of severe plagues.

1625 & 1635

The Great Plague of London, 1665. The worst visitation struck again thirty years later. The month October; 1665 the year of the deadly Great Plague of London. High and low, no one was immune. The death-roll was countless.

Two Masters died

Mr. John Seeling, Company Master at the time, died of the plague on October 16th. Mr. Ralph Marsh urgently elected as Master in his place October 19th died and was buried next day.

End of part 1



Footed pewter wine cup, c. 1616 "C.P." for Carolus Princeps with Fleur des lis, in a roundel. Used at time Prince Charles was created Prince of Wales. (Collection Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Virginia, USA).



On left: Tall Charles the First "Bun-lid" flagon, c. 1630.
On right: Tall James the First wine flagon with knopped lid, c. 1610.
(Author's collection).



16th Century pewter Baluster Wine measure with Hammerhead thumbpiece.
Henry the 8th to Elizabeth the 1st. English, c. 1550 - 60.
One of a series in author's collection.



Five Charles the 2nd tankards. Flat lids, frontal denticulations. All with different thumbpieces. English, c. 1670 - 1675.



Early 18th Century two-handled Possett Cup, lower half heavily gadrooned. Made by William Hux, c. 1700 (Author's collection).

PEWTER SNIPPETS by Richard Munday

Part 2, 1600 - 1691

- 1600** No warnings allowed Richard Deuxell in 1600 fined for warning a pewterer of an impending search for false wares. In 1629 he was dismissed from the Company. Reason unknown.
- 1606** First knowledge of trade partnership Mr. Dawes in 1606 was ordered to alter his Touch and add the date to it, a punishment for making false wares. He had as partners Mr. Dudley and Mr. Keersey, mentioned by Welch as the earliest instance of a trade partnership between pewterers. The actual Touch was on a Touch plate destroyed in the Great Fire.
- 1609** A poacher Frances Kimberley in 1609 fined for taking away a fellow pewterer's customer. In 1628 he was again fined for a similar offence.
- 1611** A hoarder Robert Glover in 1611 was sent to prison for the offence of hoarding and secretly packing away tin.
- 1612** Fined for undercutting In 1612 and again in 1614 John Goodwain a searcher for the Company was fined for selling porringers at less than the trade price set by the Company.
- 1614** Export limitations Thomas Hobson Sen. of Bristol in 1614 was appointed by the Pewterers' Company of London to export pewterware but NOT tin.
- 1619/20** Sample of ability An edict in 1619/20 declared that no one could set up as a workman before submitting a "proof piece" he himself had made to be examined by the Court.
- 1616** Broke rules Thomas Johnson pewterer in 1616 was fined for taking an apprentice without leave from the Court.
- 1614 "Fine"** Richard Cowes on entering the Livery in 1614 paid a "fine" is a fee for entering the Livery of Ten Pounds and also gave a silver bowl weighing 14 ozs. 3dwt. engraved with the Company Arms.
- 1620** New pewter only In 1620 it was decreed that the sale of old pewter was vetoed except in exchange or for melting.
- 1626** Adulterated pewter Robert Mullins in 1626 was brought before the Court and charged with "the heynous fault", pouring tin upon a piece of lead and offering the result for casting in a mould. Convicted and fined.
- 1632** Beer in pewter pots only In 1632 it was moved that a petition be preferred to his Majesties Council that no victuallers or others might sell any beere or ale but in Pewter Potts.

1633 Rare case of a female made Free of the Company
 At the meeting of the Court, January 21st, 1633, Katherine Wetwood, daughter of Humphrey Wetwood, was sworn and made Free by the testimony of the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company and of two Silk Weavers, that she was a Virgin and twenty one years of age. She paid the patrimony fine(fee) of 9 shillings and 2 pence. (A rare instance of a female to membership of the Company).

1633 Investment
 The Court ordered £200 be put into the East India Company for the benefit of this (the Pewterers') Company.

1634 A fat buck part payment for a lease
 On the 16th April 1634/35 Ashley Cheyney, Vintner, the Company's tentant at the Mitre Inn, in Fenchurch Street was granted a new lease for 21 years on paying a "fine" of £100 and giving a fat buck for the election dinner in August.

1643/44 Silver Plate sold to pay a Parliament levy
 16th May a further demand from Parliament for a weekly assessment of £8, part of a £10,000 levy on the City per week; also immediate payment of £64 the contribution for 8 weeks obliged the Company on 18th May to sell their plate, which realised £251.1.1d, made up as follows:—
 Gilt Plate 410 $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces @ 5s 3d per ounce £107.16s.4d.
 White Plate 522 ounces @ 4s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per ounce ... £127. 4s.9d.
 Gilt Spoons 64 ounces @ 5s per ounce £16. 0s.0d.

Total £251. 1s.1d.

1652 First knowledge of Silvorum
 At the Court, 25th November, 1652, the Master made known that a stranger Major Purling maketh dishes, plates, trenchers and sundry sorts of wares from an alloy called Silvorum alluding to silver. Being as is conceived very prejudicial to this Company, for redress whereof this meeting was called.

1653
 3rd February, 1653 Thomas Allen is forbidden to work any more with Major Purling the Silvorum Maker.

1653 Silvorum threatened
 2nd June, 1653. To prosecute Major Purling, maker of Silvorum a new metal in imitation of silver, spent on all occasions from 25th November to this day the sum of £14.4.9d.

1654 Final end of Silvorum
 16th February, 1654. Lawrence Dyer for untouched ware and making false plate called Silvorum, the which ware is seized and detained by the Company. (This was the end of Silvorum. No specimens exist).

THE TAUDIN STORY,
 17th March, 1656 paid for search of the wares of the Frenchman James Taudin, and given to the Beadle, Soldiers, Carmen, Porters and other offices in taking away the Frenchmans' wares, and spent afterwards with several of the

with siezing his pewterware
 Company and those that were aiding to us the sum of £4.7.8d, for wine, ale and food for all concerned in the search and seizing of the Taudin pewterware.

1656 Warned off
 18th March, 1656. Spent going to Whitehall about the Petition and giving the Frenchman James Taudin warning to stop working at pewter, the cost 3s 8d.

A multitude of other entries appear in the records of the Pewterers' Company in the years' accounts concerning determined prosecutions of James Taudin before the Court of Aldermen and in the Exchequer. It involved the Company in great expense and trouble. Taudin appealed to Cromwell and his support along with the Company's failure to fault Taudin's craftmanship caused the reluctant return of his seized wares, and grudging admission as a Freeman and a Liveryman.

Welch Vol. 11, page 124

1657/58

Taudin admitted Freeman & Liveryman at last
 21st January, 1658, James Taudin a naturalised Frenchman was admitted Freeman and Liveryman on payment of £50 plus a bond for a further £10. Allowed to keep his foreign workmen and only employ Freemen of the Company as journeymen.

Taudin saga continued, into the Charles 2nd period
 Taudin story continued. Probably due to jealousy or annoyance at having been compelled to admit him into the Company, Taudin during the next few years was still constantly harrassed with petty prosecutions. Thanks in part to very generous gifts and a letter in his support from Charles the Second, he was finally accepted and his worth to the Company recognised and appreciated.

1658/59

Perks for Master and Wardens
 A committee was held on 1st February, 1658 to melt down "the metle in the house formerly seized and condemned in the Exchequer". Various goods in weight amounting to nine cwt. and 16 lbs. taken from 17 makers were melted down both "fine" and "lay". To this was added 1 cwt. 2qrs. 13 lbs "peak" to make it "lay". ("fine", "peak" and "lay" refer to different alloys.)

The whole was then sold to the Master and Wardens, as their special privilege, at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound.

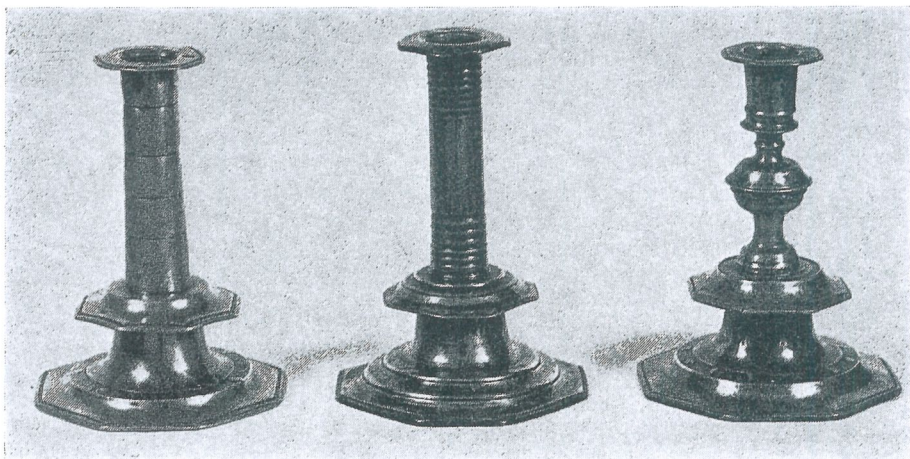
1666
 The Great Fire of London. Pewterers Hall destroyed

In 1666 disaster. The Great Fire of London razed to the ground almost the entire City. Pewterers Hall was destroyed along with historical records and the original early Touch Plates on which pewterers had since the 16th Century struck their Touch-marks. Now without their Hall meetings were in Taverns. The first meeting was on 16th September, 1666 at "ye Miter Taverne within Algate".

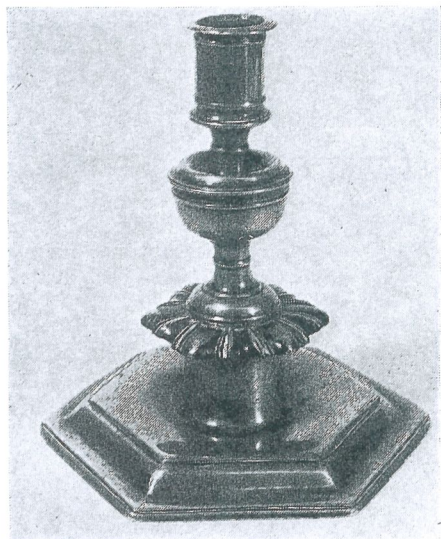
- 1668 1674** November 1668 after the Great Fire, paid 8s. for a new New Touch Touch Plate.
Plates Another new Touch Plate was purchased 1674/75.
- 1672/73** Richard Hoare being convened of making Standishes 3½gr. Earliest worse than flyne, aleadged that in the part of the Standish Standish? which was tryed was much "pale" (solder). The excuse was apparently accepted.
- 1672/73** Richard Heath was summoned on 19th June for allowing Unskilled the "Turn-wheeler to work on the Mistery" by employing labourers him to pour Sadware and open a mould. A Turn-wheeler forbidden and journeymen were allowed to work at the Trade, a strict to work on the Mistery Company rule always rigidly enforced.
- 1672/73** Paid to Mr. Jeffries the Common Sergeant his fee against Notorious Woodnoth before the Court of Aldermen the sum of 10 Judge shillings.
Jeffries This was the cruel notorious hanging Judge Jeffries.
- 1674** The Court met 26th October to consider the action to be Lead ingots taken with regard to a large quantity of **ingots of lead cased covered with tin** in tin which had been seized and brought to the Hall.
- 1677** On 20th June one hundred gross of Dutch buttons were Lost his seized from John Dove, pewterer, who pleaded ignorance of buttons any law against buying foreign pewter, and said the buttons cost him £20.
- 1686/87** The Son and partner of Nicholas Kelk, James Kelk who was James the Master at the time, was displaced by direct order of King Second uses James the Second. James Kelk was re-instated as Master powers to displace in 1688, and in that year he died, probably from aggravation. His father Nicholas Kelk died in 1687 the year his son was to his opposition displaced by James the Second who caused many opposed to his politics to be removed from office, though all were later re-instated.
- 1688** Admission to the London Pewter Company and permission Welch vol. to follow the trade as pewterer in London was extremely 11, page 162 difficult.
Daniel In 1688 Daniel Taudin pewterer, brother to James Taudin a Taudin, member of the Company, was forced to flee France with a refugee the loss of all he owned after enduring much suffering. At from France his application to the Company on 7th May he was allowed to work privately "in his own chamber" until the following Michaelmas. No Freedom.

- 1688/89** 1688/89, John Sanders, Citizen and Merchant Taylor petitioned for permission to trade as a pewterer "he having Refused attained competent skill in the Trade managing his (late) Brothers business during his long sickness". The Court decided he should not have his Freedom upon any terms whatsoever.
- same year** At the same court a Mr. Geffers a "Free pewterer of Cork Refused but who had fled thence from danger to his life through given a persecution, prayed for leave to work or to be relieved". small relief The Court awarded him 20 shillings in relief.
- 1690/91** Complaint was made to the Court against Samuel Hancock Unusual for striking upon Trencher Plates his name in full length markings on with his own Touch at each end. (Cotterell's "O.P." No. 2115 records only the Touch and not the full length name. Trenchers Later the Court allowed that type of marking on Trenchers).

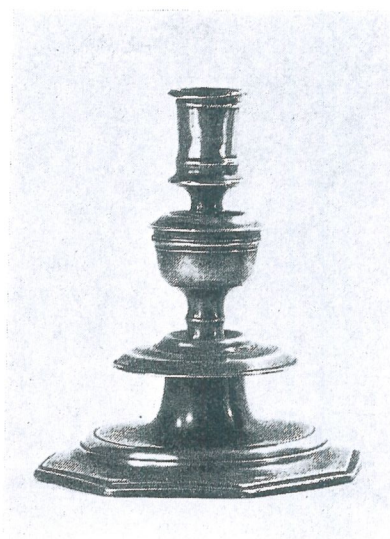
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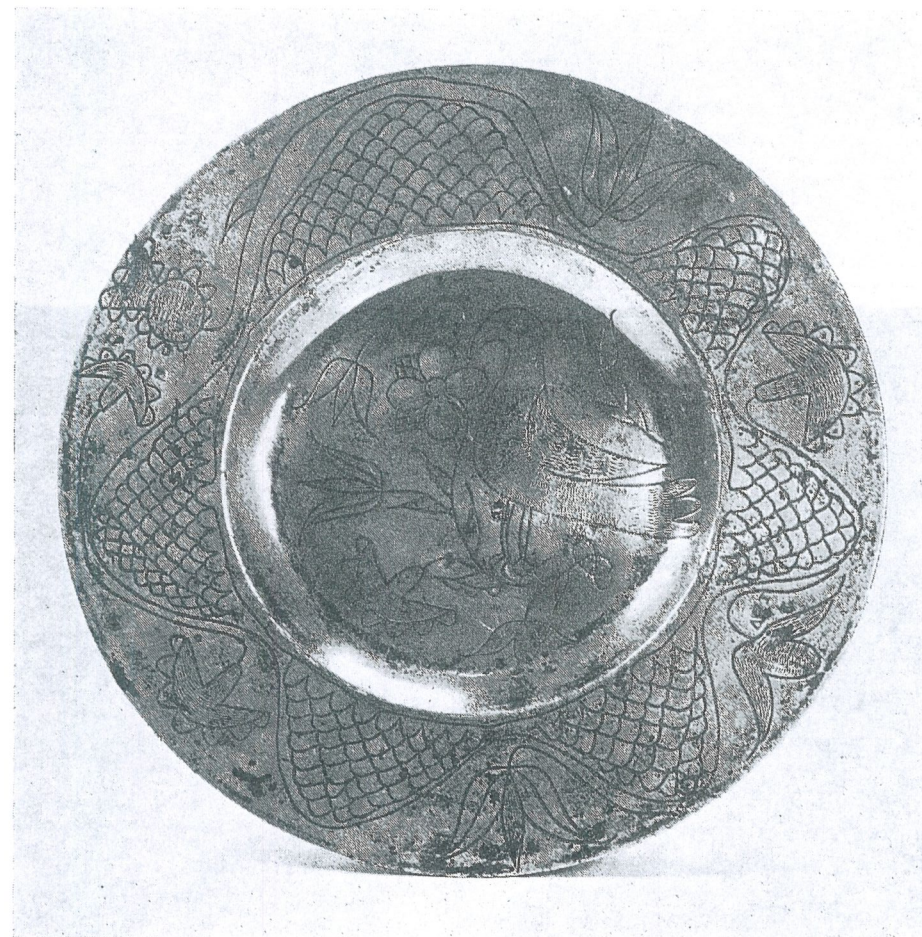
Three Charles the Second pewter candlesticks, octagonal drippers and bases. On left and right the base of each has cast decoration. English, c. 1675. Collection: Mr. Ken Bradshaw.



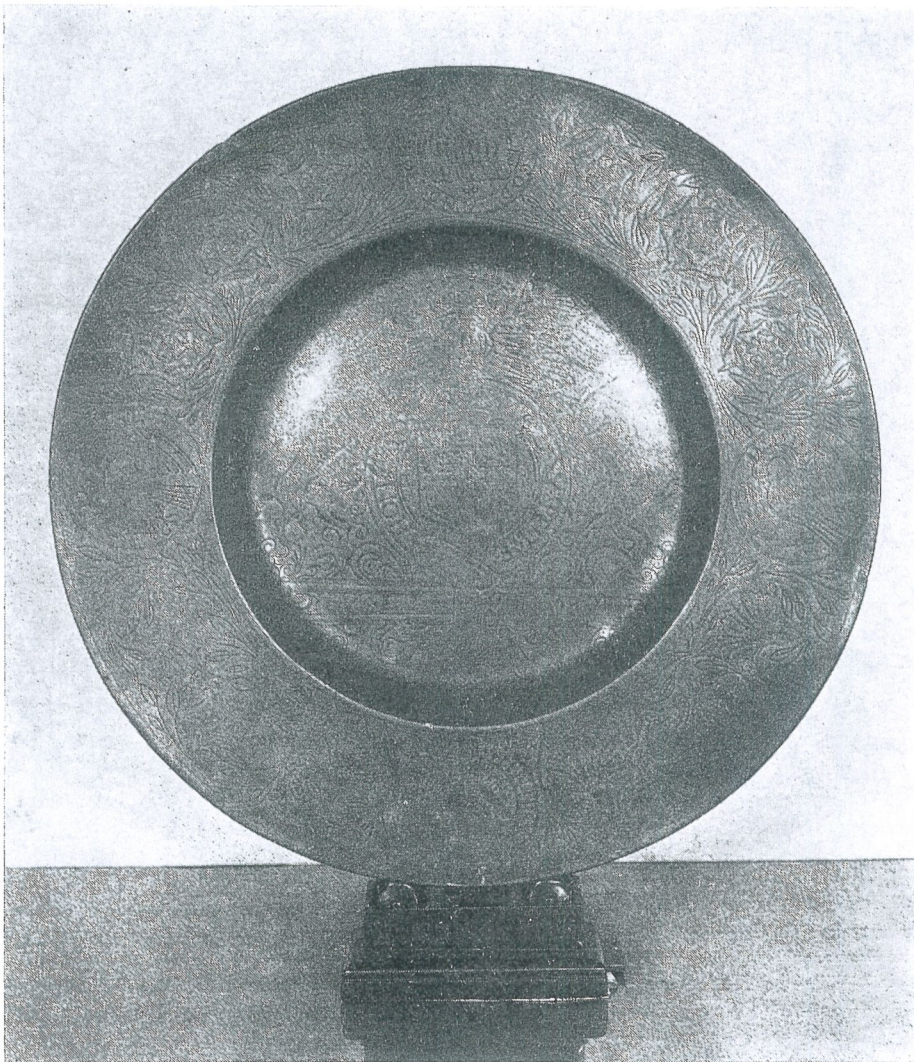
Charles 2nd Hexagonal based pewter candlestick, c. 1675. Collection: Pewterers' Company



One of a pair Octagonal based candlesticks, c. 1675 (Pewterers' Company)

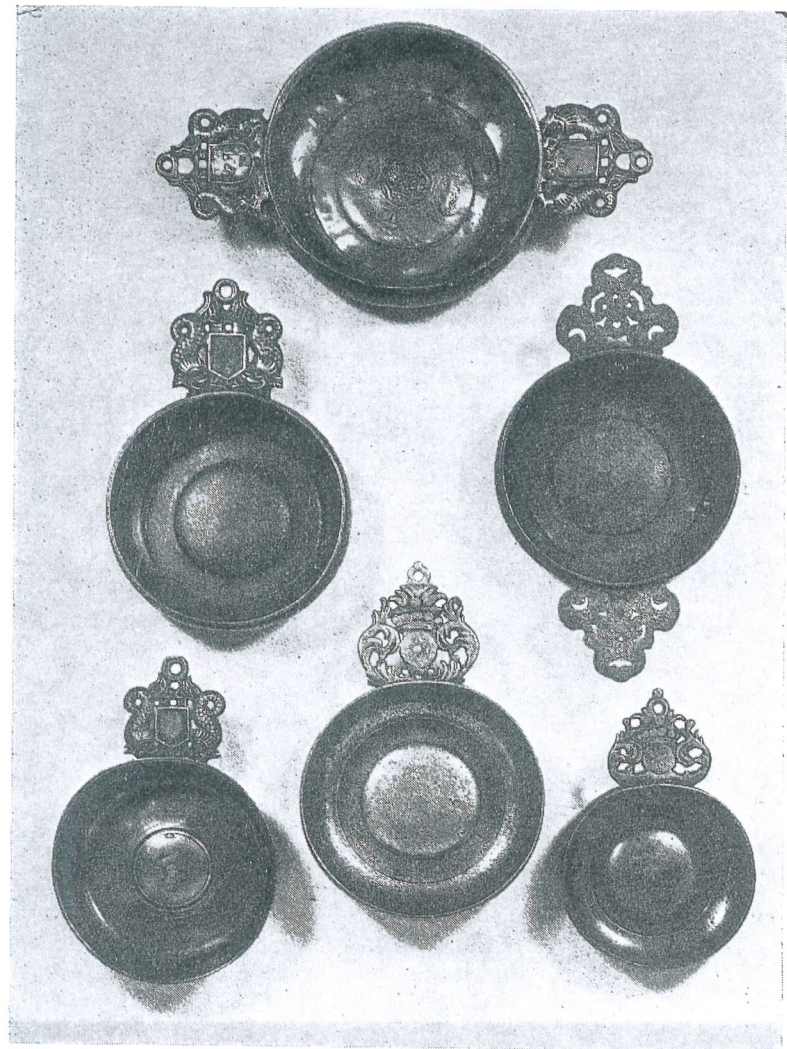


Charles the Second broad-rimmed Charger, diameter 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " ; rim 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide. The well engraved with "wriggled-work", a bird and tulips, etc. The rim also with lavish wriggled work engraving. English, c. 1660. (Collection: Worshipful Company of Pewterers).



17th Century broad-rimmed Royal Commemoration Charger, diameter 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " rim is engraved with four roundels and foliage. The well is engraved with the Royal Arms of Charles the Second, and is dated 1662.

(Collection of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers).



Group of 17th Century pewter Porringers. On top is a William and Mary Commemoration Porringer, with busts in relief. Several have ears with Dolphin Supporters. c. 1690 - 1695. (Collection W.C.O.P.).

PEWTER SNIPPETS by Richard Munday

Part 3, 1695 - 1973

- 1695/96** No Bank Notes The Court (August 18th) would not accept Bank Notes in payment of Livery fines "considering the Bank Bills are worse than money by 12 to 14 per cent".
- 1695/96** A plea for capacity seals to be compulsory on pewter Tony Humphreys agreed to "solicit and defray all charges (except Counsel's fees) for a Bill to be preferred to this present Parliament to compel all retailers, not to utter or sell wine, beer or ale in any other vessell but pewter measures stamped with a capacity Seal by the proper Officer".
- 1696/97** Resolution, to retail liquor only in capacity-sealed pewter measures The Master acquainted the Court (23rd March) of the Resolutions of the Committee of the House of Commons upon the petition of the Tanners of Cornwall to encourage the consumption of tin (viz): "That to increase the consumption of tin and for advancing the price thereof, no wine, beer, ale, brandy, rum or any other spirits be sold by retail in a Tavern or Public House but in a capacity-sealed measure of Pewter". (The Chairman of the Committee desired the Company to draw up and bring him the Bill).
- 1697/98** Reversals of previously prohibited markings On 11th August it was ordered none should strike any other mark upon pewterware than "his own proper Touch & the Rose and Crown". Any member may strike his name at length **between** his Touch & the Rose and Crown, also the word "LONDON". None may strike the letter "X" except on Extraordinary ware called "HARD METAL" ware. (Most of the markings mentioned above were previously prohibited).
- 1706** John Duncombe, Master Pewterer, was refused the Freedom of the London Company John Duncombe, Master Pewterer of Birmingham and the founder of a considerable Pewter Empire in the Midlands, was 20th March, 1706 refused the Freedom of the London Company by Redemption. On much of his pewter he stamped a Touch which included "Freeman of London". This was untrue. John Duncombe and his kin between them produced considerably more pewter of excellent quality and craftsmanship than probably any other known pewterer or pewtering family.
- 1709** Mint reports English pewter the best Mint officials report that the average yearly Export from London of pewter for the last nine years was two hundred tons. They also report that results of experiments proved that the best of foreign pewter was considerably inferior to the English. The Court welcomed the report.

- 1711** Recorded in "O.P." no. 1775 20th March Major Hulls made complaint against John French of London that he struck his own Touch and LONDON on new pewter made by several country pewterers. He was summoned to appear before the Court to explain to the Master and Wardens.
- 1711** Three daughters made Free At a Court, 18th December, Mary and Elizabeth, the daughters of Samuel Witter, pewterer, were admitted to the Freedom by patrimony on the usual payment of 9s. 2d. The following year a third daughter, Elinor, was made Free on payment of 9s. 2d.
- 1713** Girl apprenticed to lady On 13th April a girl named Lucy Sellers was bound at the Hall in the ordinary course as an apprentice for seven years to Elizabeth Read, widow of Samuel Read, a Yeoman in 1688.
- 1722** Superfine Hard Metal only on special ware Six ordinary plates by Francis Whittle on which he had impressed "SUPERFINE HARD METAL" were ordered to be defaced and broken. In 1697 it was decreed that only "extraordinary ware could be called Hard Metal". That had never been rescinded.
- 1723** Sad investment in South Sea Stock A charity was left to the Company by Mr. Thomas Powell of £20 yearly for a fixed period to their own poor, plus £15 yearly to the Town of Cirencester. It was lost by the unfortunate investment in SOUTH SEA STOCK. The executors offering to repair their bad mistake the Court agreed to a proposal on the 16th June, 1723/24 for the purchase of annuities in the Exchequer to the required amount. It was afterwards agreed (5th November 1724) that the Company should receive £800 and all arrears in full settlement.
- 1740** Country pewterers misleading markings In 1740 a Committee reported to the Court that nothing could be done to prevent country pewterers from marking their wares with "LONDON" or "MADE IN LONDON" without application to Parliament a course that could not succeed.
- 1748** Freedom granted only to those who had been apprenticed On 15th December a Memorial was presented to the Court protesting against admitting to the Freedom and Livery Theodore Sydenham on the grounds that he was a foreigner and not having served an apprenticeship to the Trade. Sydenham appears to have been in partnership with a pewterer named Nicholson lately deceased. The Court was inclined to admit Mr. Sydenham "in the interests of the Company", but in compliance with the wishes of the Livery they not only refused him the Freedom but proceeded against him for carrying on the trade as a pewterer, which involved the Company in a tedious and costly law suit.

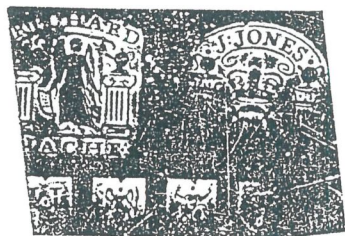
1757 Company's finances, income against expenditure Economics suggested
 A report from a Committee on the finances of the Company, with schedules of average income and expenditure, was presented on 22nd March, 1757. The Company's normal income was £595, the expenditure was £575.9.10d. The Committee recommended a saving of £50 annually to provide a wider margin of excess of income. Suggested economies include reduced payments to Stewards of the Lord Mayor's Day feast, lower fees for attendance on searches, and a voluntary surrender of £10 of his annual salary by the Clerk until the Company's obligations were reduced. A standing Committee was appointed to check excessive expenditure in future.

1763 A success story. Apprentice marries his bosses' daughter
 Thomas Compton in 1763 was apprenticed to John Townsend. Eventually Thomas Compton married his Master's daughter. In 1780 his father-in-law made him a partner. The partnership lasted until 1801 when John Townsend died. Thomas took over the business with the aid of his two sons, Henry and Townsend, and continued successfully until he died in 1817.

1770 Home made ale & pewter
 William Wright, pewterer, in 1770 owned a Publick House in the Minories, London. He served beer and strong ale in home-made pots of pewter only.

1780 Donated Consols for poor members
 John Jones Junior, Yeoman in 1707, went through the various offices of Steward, Warden, etc., until elected Master twice, 1758 and 1766. In 1780 he gave £600 in Consols in trust for poor Company members and their widows. He died in 1783.

1790 Marks of two makers on the same item of pewter
 John Jones, Yeoman 1720, Liveryman 1750, was probably the son of, and used the same mark as, John Jones above. In 1790 he was succeeded by Richard Bache, who obviously took over pewter made and marked by John Jones. He stamped his own mark alongside marks already stamped by his predecessor. Many specimens are known bearing the Touch of both John Jones and Richard Bache.



Hallmarks, John Jones

1810 Almost the last of the traditional pewterers
 Watts and Harton, partners from c.1810 until the partnership was dissolved in 1860. Succeeded then by Harton and Sons, the firm functioning until 1890 when the manager and most of their connexions were taken over by Brown and Englefield.

1815 Sold his moulds as scrap
 Richard Joseph in 1787 partner with Henry Joseph. Elected Master in 1806. His moulds were all sold in New Street, Shoe Lane, as scrap brass for breaking up in 1815.

1867 William J. Englefield from 1867 to the 1930's
 In 1867 William J. Englefield was apprenticed for eight years. Yeoman and Liveryman in 1875. Eventually elected Master in 1909. In 1913, the first after a gap of 92 years, he struck his Touch on the London Touch Plate. (T. J. T. Ashley had previously been the last to strike a Touch on the L.T.P. in 1821). Proprietor in 1885 of Brown & Englefield, in 1890 when Harton & Son folded he took over their manager and other members of the firm. The same year he purchased by weight several tons of moulds originally used

Englefield story continued.

"L.T.P." stands for "London Touch Plate"
 "Y" (Yeoman)
 "L" stands for Liveryman
 by well known pewterers from c.1700 onwards. His daughter Elsie who with her brother Ralph continued the business as "Englefields" after their father's death in the 1930's, often stated her father could not afford all the moulds available therefore a large number were sold as scrap. Ralph Englefield, Y. & L. in 1921, struck his Touch on the L.T.P. in 1935. "Englefields" has changed hands but the name remains. The firm still functions, probably the only one today, using traditional production methods, casting their wares in metal moulds using the techniques of past pewterers.

1973 Last Touch struck?
 The late Kendal Graves, pewterer and past-Master struck his Touch on the 5th and last L.T.P. in 1973 using a device of "2 Tombstones flanked by "K" and "G"."

PEWTER ALLOYS in use from the 14th Century onwards

"Fine" alloy: 26 lbs. copper to a cwt. (100 pounds) tin.

"Lay" an inferior alloy: 36 lbs. lead; 26 lbs. copper and a cwt. (100 lbs) tin.

"Peake" an alloy of tin and lead, varying proportions of both.

"Trifle": an alloy of 18 lbs. antimony to 82 lbs. tin.

"Tin-glass": Bismuth and antimony used to harden tin. First bismuth then the antimony is added to the molten tin, creating a hard alloy.

Modern alloys are lead-free. A usual alloy is made up from approximately 90% tin and 10% antimony; or 90% tin, 8% antimony plus 2% copper; or slight variations, giving a hard pewter alloy which can be fashioned into faithful copies of silver if needed.

Verification marks, or seals, impressed on mugs and measures indicate that the capacity conforms with the prevailing Old English Wine Standards, valid from c. 1485 to 1824 when Imperial Standard Measure was introduced.



(A); (B); & (C) Henry 7th Wine Standard c.1485-1688



D.

William 3rd
c. 1690



E.

Queen Anne
c. 1702-14



(F) George 3rd
1760-1820



G.

G. IV
c. 1820-30



H.

(H) William 4th
c. 1830-1837



J.

(J) and (K)
Victorian
c. 1837 onwards



K.

Victorian
c. 1875
c. 1875 onwards

End of part 3



RICHARD MUNDEY pewter collector for well over a half-century and a dealer specialising in old pewter for a similar period. Privileged to choose and purchase for the Worshipful Company of Pewterers a large percentage of their superb pewter collection. A Liveryman of the Pewterers Company; Master Member of the Pewter Collectors Club of America; full member of the British Collectors' Society.