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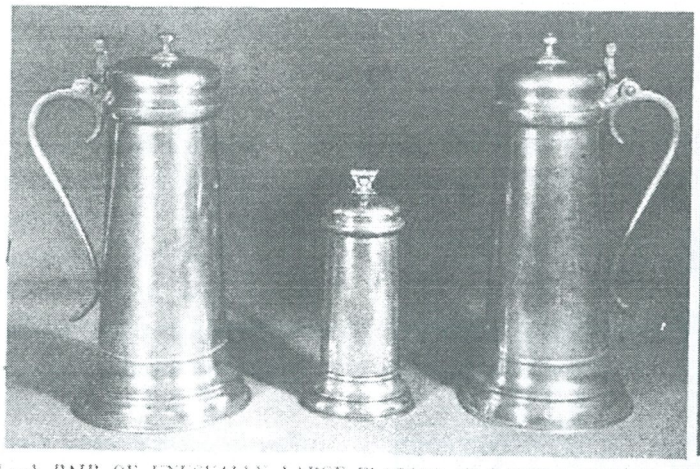
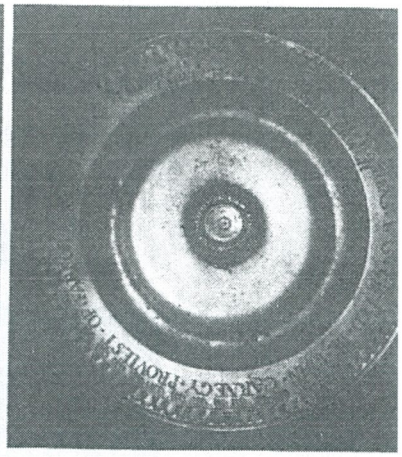
CHURCH VESSELS IN PEWTER

SOME FURTHER EXAMPLES. By A. V. SUTHERLAND-GRAEME





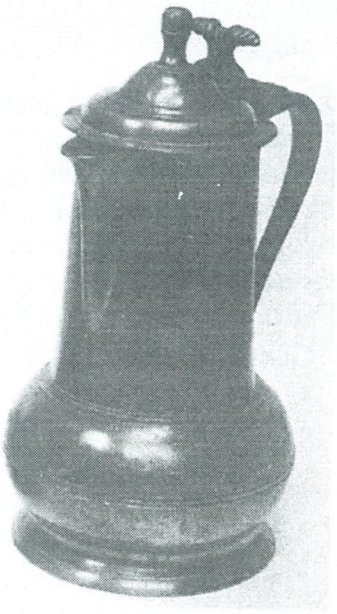
1.—A PAIR OF UNUSUALLY LARGE FLAGONS AT RAUNDS CHURCH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, PHOTOGRAPHED WI FLAGON OF NORMAL SIZE. They are all by the same maker and date from about 1630-40. (*Right*) 2.—ONE OF A SET FOUR EMBOSSED DISHES AT FORFAR CHURCH, PROBABLY MADE BY EDINBURGH PEWTERERS

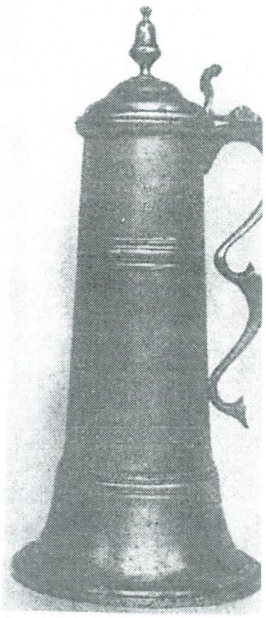
MY article published in the issue of December 26, 1952 appears to have created considerable interest in the work of the 17th-century pewterers for the ecclesiastical authorities. It has been thought, therefore, worth while to bring together a few more examples for illustration.

Most of the ensuing correspondence had reference to the size of the flagons which were provided to contain the wine for the service of Holy Communion as administered after the Reformation, and to the changes in administration which have since occurred and which have, *inter alia*, rendered unnecessary the provision of large quantities of wine. One instance cited was taken from the records of Hartland Church, Devon, where, in 1636/7, we are told 20 gallons were purchased for Easter alone, and a further 7 or 8 gallons for Whitsunday, All Saints and Christmas.

In a letter of my own (March 27), I drew attention to a pair of enormous flagons at Raunds Church, Northamptonshire. The present series of illustrations may well begin with these giants (Fig. 1), which are shown in company with a more normal sized flagon such as was illustrated in my previous article. Their height overall is 17¼ ins., their weight over 13 lb. empty, and their capacity 1 gallon and 1 pint each. All three flagons are by the same maker, one E.G., whose full name has not yet been discovered. A great deal of his work still exists, particularly in the churches of Norfolk. The period is *circa* 1630-40.

In Fig. 2 can be seen one of a set o embossed dishes, the property of the church of Forfar, and perhaps the most re able pieces of ecclesiastical plate in Sco It is 16½ ins. in diameter, and around its a band of decoration formed of leaves in g of three, outside which is a band of arc resting on alternate buckles and roses pu in the metal. Below these is an inscri obviously engraved without proper cons tion for scale, since the words have overla "JULY ✦ 1682 ✦ THESE ✦ FOWR ✦ BA ✦ WAS ✦ GIFTED ✦ BE ✦ JOHN ✦ CAR ✦ PROVIEST ✦ OF ✦ FARFOR ✦ FOR ✦ T EWS ✦ OF ✦ THE CHWRCH ✦ OF ✦ T SAID ✦ BRWGH." The four dishes are ide except for some differences in spelling





3.—FLAGON BY WILLIAM EDDON AND ALMS DISH BY RICHARD GRUNWIN. Both pieces have inscriptions dated 1742, but are probably of earlier date. (*Middle*) 4.—EARLY 18th-CENTURY FLAGON OF THE TYPE KNOWN AS ACORNS AND M USUALLY BY YORK PEWTERERS. (*Right*) 5.—TALL FLAGON AT PURITON CHURCH, SOMERSET, INSCRI "JOHN SQUIRE 1731," AND MADE BY JOHN DOLBEARE, OF ASHBURTON, DEVON

ıple "USE" replacing "EWS," and it is easy e that in places the spelling has followed ialect, as in "BE" and "FARFOR."

It would hardly be thought that these s, called "basiens" (in one case "beasiens"), intended for patens, but so it was, at least e sense that they were used to carry the at Communion, and that they were so rom the date of gift until about forty years uring which time ecclesiastical governance otland changed from Episcopal to Presby-. The method of their use was as follows. af used was long and square and is known tland to-day as "Pan loaf bread"; the top de crusts were first removed and the end ottom crusts left to form a natural rack crumb portion, which was then separated he bottom crust and cut in slices, the whole placed on one of the dishes and delivered communicants by the church officers.

hese "fowr basiens" were almost certainly by two Edinburgh pewterers, Ferguson ne, probably father and son, since both lexanders. One became a Freeman of the ermen's Guild in 1660, and the other in 1678; and it is reasonable to think that the alteration in spelling of the word "EWS" was the work of Alexander the second.

Before leaving Scotland we may glance at a type of flagon which was common to nearly all forms of Scottish worship during the 18th century. One of these is illustrated in Fig. 3. It was made probably before the date in the inscription, which reads: "BELONGING TO THE ASOCIATE CONGREGATION EDr. A.D. 1742." These congregations no longer exist, with the result that much of their plate is now in museums and private collections. These examples are in the collection of Mr. Ernest Hunter.

The flagon, severely functional, is a fine, upstanding piece 11⅞ ins. high. Behind it is the alms dish, 16¾ ins. in diameter, which was usually placed near the entrance to the church. It is a strange fact that, although Edinburgh had quite a number of very competent craftsmen at this time, both these pieces were made by London pewterers, the flagon by William Eddon, who joined the Pewterers' Company in 1689 and was its Master in 1737, and the dish by Richard Grunwin, who was also a member of the Company and was working between 1713 and 1729, which date, as also that of Eddon, makes it probable that both pieces were made well before being acquired by the Edinburgh Congregation.

In the first half of the 18th century a type of flagon was evolved which did not, apparently, spread much beyond the borders of Yorkshire, since all the known examples are in, or came from, churches in the county and their touches, where attributable, are those of York pewterers. These flagons are known as "acorns" for obvious reasons, and one of them is shown in Fig. 4. Its height is approximately 12 ins. to the top of the thumbpiece, which is of embryo ram's horn type: the touch is indecipherable, but the maker has, in this example, recognised the difficulty of pouring from a wide lip and has applied a spout which is of good proportion, unlike many which have been added to flagons since their manufacture.

Last in the series of illustrations is a tall flagon at Purton church, in Somerset (Fig. 5). It is inscribed "IOHN SQUIRE 1731" in rather poor lettering. Its maker was John Bodbeare, of Ashburton.

A WARMER SWIMMING-POOL

By LANCELOT USSHER

VE always had a lot of fun inventing gs, or doing something in a quite rthodox manner instead of being satis- the usual way was the only proper and one and, therefore, the best. Now in frica, especially in and around Johann- no self-respecting garden is considered unless it contains a swimming-pool. these pools are deeper far than they and so cost more than is necessary, not construction and excavation, but also which generally has to be bought at a h price. It used to cost a neighbour of out £16 every time he changed the ew of these pools are as beautiful as ht to be, and many of them look like into the ground for cattle dipping.

aturally follows that the deeper the colder it is and the higher the cost of ion and upkeep. The least desirable a swimming-pool is its tendency to be ider than it need be. The would- "stands shivering on the brink" and fortunate person pictured in the famous ars to launch away," so I wondered d be done about it and conceived a od and design.

desirable, if practicable, to select the rt of the site, so that the water when way may be able to inspire the rest len with a more zestful growth.

the deep end of the pool need never an 6 ft. the floor should slope back to s at the other end. This, of course, drainage and may often obviate pump the water out. The surface of always looks best when it is flush

THE AUTHOR'S SWIMMING-POOL NEAR CAPE TOWN

with the grass of the lawn. Sometimes the ground may be dug out to a depth of only 3 ft. or so, then the sides of the pool can be built up above the surface of the land and be surrounded by a lawn built up out of the soil excavated from the bottom of the pool.

The surface of the pool may be designed so as to display any pretty or interesting shape that one's own personal taste or wish calls for —a graceful oval, a conventional flower, even a map of Australia or the outline of a lake recalling happy memories.

The first thing is to decide on the length of the swimming part of the pool—I will explain the distinction in a moment—from say 16 ft. to 36 ft. or more, and the width should not be less than 9 or 10 ft. This part is floored with concrete and surrounded by little 4½-in. brick walls from 3 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins. high at the sides and with the ends of concrete or brick, say, 5 ft. 6 ins. high at one end and 6 ft. at the other. These ends may be constructed easily with simple shuttering to form flattened Vs, each receding 4 or 5 ins. in the middle so that no other steps need be made for getting out of the pool.

These ledges will be about 18 ins. high, and then a couple of bricks on each will provide more steps, if wanted by less active bathers.

Now I come to the essential feature of the pool. On each side of the swimming area proper there should be shallower strips several feet wide and 2 ft. deep or less. As I have already stated, it is the depth of a pool that governs its temperature. If the surface water is spread out, and the pool is shallow, the temperature will be higher than if the pool is deep and narrow. The two shallow strips in my own pool, although somewhat shady, serve to warm the whole mass of water, so that when I take my dip before breakfast I find the water temperature already higher than that of the air. In South Africa, of course, we have much more sunshine and higher mean temperatures than are usual in England, but the same principle applies whatever the climate.

The pool is about 36 ft. long and its greatest width is 26 ft. The swimming part is 10 ft. wide and 5 ft. 6 ins. to 6 ft. deep, and the shallow wings are 2 ft. deep. Under normal conditions a swimming-pool so constructed will average from six to ten degrees above that of one built in customary fashion and, of course, the more shallow the wings the warmer the whole contents of the pool. If it is not desired that the wings should be used as a play pool for children a depth of only a foot or even 6 ins. would be quite practicable, but would increase not only the temperature, but also the cost of construction.

This principle has been applied to a pair of very large filtered sea-water pools: the water in the children's shallow pool is made to mingle with that of the deep one for the grown ups. Owing to cold currents the adjoining sea may often fall to the fifties even under hot sunshine, but both pools maintain an all-summer average of about 70 degrees, and now and then may reach 22.5 degrees above that of the sea there.

OCTOBER SUNRISE

now an apple tree so old
That, though it's split and bent
h years—two hundred, so 'tis told,
one huge arm was rent
eind and weight of winter snows,
firm the old tree bides, and grows
apples of delight that those
eat of them rejoice, forsooth
ing again their happy youth.

from my window at sunrise
the apples blaze
torches waving to the skies,
flags, and panoplies
cked to greet the risen light:
s a sudden, glorious sight.

i man as this old tree but grow,
fruit both sound and wise,
day, two centuries or so,
see the morning rise:
rooted in this pleasant place
earn, perhaps, a little grace.

EILUNED LEWIS.