

6910

that article to be virtually non-existent. It would, therefore, be interesting should the event prove that, while American ingenuity is to be credited with the originating of pressed glass, French fertility of imagination is mainly responsible for the somewhat bizarre development of its patterns.

### Pap Boat and Biberon

THE ATTIC'S recent brief discussion of English pap boats,\* with a somewhat tentative consideration of American analogues, has called forth two photographs from Eugene De Forest of New Haven. Both photographs are interesting; one is highly illuminating, for it bears witness to the fact that the American feeding cup previously shown is by no means an isolated phenomenon.

Mr. De Forest's example, while unmarked, is of silver, and is sufficiently different from English types and sufficiently similar to the single American specimen published to justify attribution to an American maker, unknown. It bears the inscription, "George Carlisle Stedman—Oct. 14th, 1855." Having secured his acquisition through a

\*See ANTIQUES for December, 1924 (Vol. VI, pp. 300, 301).



BIBERON (18th century)

Of pewter. A Swiss drinking vessel for children or invalids. The spout is carried into the vessel as a tube which extends almost to the bottom and permits the contents to be sucked forth. The piece appears to be a prototype of the tin nursing can illustrated in ANTIQUES for December, 1924.

Height, exclusive of handle, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches; greatest diameter, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

dealer, Mr. De Forest is unaware of the identity of the person thus named; but he surmises—no doubt correctly—that the cup was a birth gift, and hence an infant's food conveyor instead of a device for invalids. By inference, a similar conclusion regarding the previously published specimens seems reasonable.

Considering the date, 1855, George Carlisle Stedman's pap boat is of unusually refined design. Obviously hand wrought, it is, perhaps, to be looked upon as a late revival of a half-forgotten form, rather than as a normal type of the period of its actual production. In any event, it is important as serving to establish the pap boat as an American institution.

### As for Nursing Bottles

ACCOMPANYING its previous portrayal of pap boats, the Attic published a reproduction of a Pennsylvania German tin nursing can. Of this homely and unsanitary device Mr. De Forest shrewdly traces the ancestry to the European *biberon*, or invalid's water bottle, whereof he sends a picture from his own collection.

This particular example, secured some years since, in Switzerland, is of high-grade pewter, satisfyingly designed and carefully made. The handle is so contrived that the vessel may be hung on any convenient knob or hook. The spout passes into the body of the vessel and is continued as a tube reaching almost to the bottom. This is precisely the arrangement of the Pennsylvania can.

A *biberon* is illustrated by Malcolm Bell in his *Old Pewter* and by H. H. Cotterell in *National Types of Old Pewter*. Mr. Cotterell speaks of this vessel as for children's drinking, and says nothing about it as an invalid's convenience. Doubtless it served in various capacities. Whether or not the Germans of the Palatinate, whence came the bulk of Teuton settlers in Pennsylvania, were acquainted with the *biberon* and its uses, the Attic is unable to say. They probably were. If they were not, the Pennsylvania can should owe its invention to the Swiss settlers of the colony rather than to their neighbors from the Rhine.



PAP BOAT (1855)

Of silver. Though unmarked, quite evidently made in America for the child whose name is inscribed upon it.

Length, exclusive of handle, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches; greatest diameter, 3 inches.