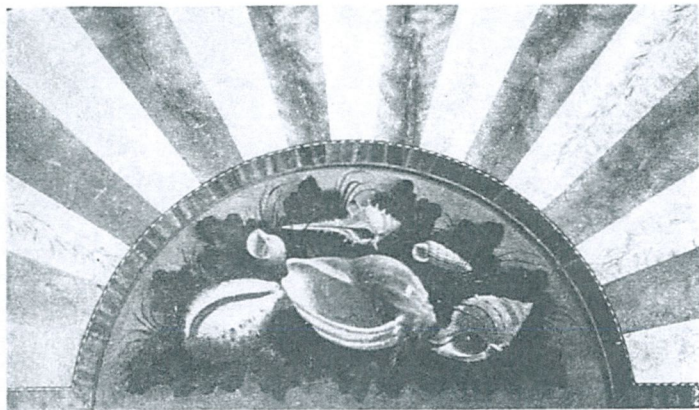


6927

A continental flagon



DETAIL OF PAINTED SEA SHELLS from top of Seymour chest.

(1823), there is a view of the Osgood Farm at Andover "from a very neat and accurate drawing taken by Mr. Penniman on the spot." It is signed *J. R. Penniman, Del.*

The painter and the cabinetmaker lived or worked near each other. Thomas Seymour appears in the 1809 *Directory* as a cabinetmaker on Common Street which was then the east side of our present Tremont Street parallel with The Mall along Boston Common, and the house of John R. Penniman on Warren Street was but a few minutes' walk from its southern end.

The results of investigations concerning the Seymours appeared in *ANTIQUES* in October 1937 and again in September 1941, contributions by Mrs. Mabel M. Swan and Mrs. Russel

Hastings, admirable searchers in the field of documentary evidence. It is shown that the father, John Seymour of England, came first to Portland, Maine, and then to Boston in 1791, and that here a fine lot of his furniture was sold at auction in 1798. In 1801 the son, Thomas Seymour, had set up "extensive premises at the bottom of the Mall" where he offered "for sale a handsome assortment of Cabinet Furniture, Chairs, Looking Glasses." Thomas Seymour is recorded as a cabinetmaker, one who engaged apprentices "to the cabinet business," but he was also the owner of the "Furniture Warehouse in Common Street" with "daily additions to his Stocks," according to his advertisement of December 6, 1804. Mrs. Swan found, too, that in 1813 Thomas Seymour owed the estate of the late Stephen Badlam, cabinetmaker, a debt of \$1,300. The item in our bill on Thomas Whitman adds to our information on Seymour's collaborators.

The owner of the "Ware Room of the Boston Cabinet Manufactory" in 1812 advertised as early as 1804 that he had "daily additions to his stocks." Therefore, he apparently sold the works of others as well as his own. Someone was the master craftsman of a workshop rather than the man of business with a salesroom, although one man could have been both. But John Seymour must have set the standard of excellence and this commode is of his kind of thinking and working. He was probably a man of seventy-odd years in 1809, for his wife was then seventy-one, and in his later years he, too, lived on Common Street. He still may have been the maker of the Derby commode sold in his son's establishment. This, however, is mere conjecture and it is more than satisfying to welcome the documentary information found for us by Mrs. Karolik.

PEWTER FOR NON-COLLECTORS

THE PEWTER VESSEL illustrated here is interesting because it represents several aspects of colonial life in America. The name, flagon, immediately identifies it with the religious life of the early settlers. One of their first acts was to organize and build schools and churches, and it soon became necessary for them to secure some ecclesiastical vessels. Since silver was often beyond their financial resources, those were likely to be of pewter. A communion service usually consisted of one or two flagons, a baptismal bowl, several beakers or chalices, and a number of plates.

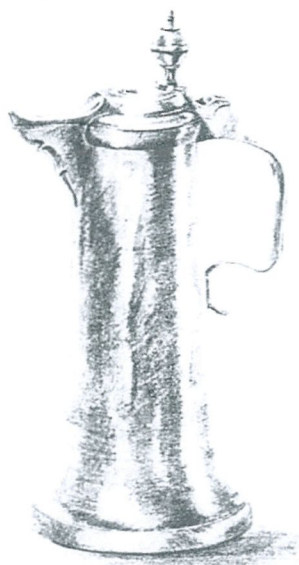
The flagon held the wine. The chalice was a common drinking vessel for the entire congregation, and the small plates served as patens. Rarely is there found a complete set that is the product of one craftsman, since the first pieces were frequently augmented or replaced as the group prospered, or additional ones were received as gifts from individual members.

Most of the ecclesiastical vessels of early churches were of European origin. Conditions at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, offer an example. Its first flagon, presented by a member of the congregation early in the eighteenth century, closely resembles in size, in age, in touch marks, and in shape the one illustrated. On the inside of the bottoms of both flagons is a beautiful rose touch mark, and on the handles is a pair of towers with an obscure date and the

initials of the makers. That the congregation prospered and that a local craftsman was available later to supply the needed pieces is indicated by the fact that the original Lancaster flagon was later supplemented by the two now-famous Heyne flagons.

Pewter of Continental European origin is widely distributed throughout the eastern United States. (The piece illustrated was bought in Boston.) It is not exorbitantly expensive, for some of the forms are not considered desirable, and the demand for them among collectors is not so great as for English and American pewter. From a decorative and historical point of view the drinking vessels, fountains, and handled bowls are very attractive.

— HENRY J. KAUFFMAN



Drawings by Zoe Elizabeth Kauffman.

