

MORE BRITISH PEWTER

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IN ANTIQUES for June 1946, Captain Sutherland-Graeme illustrated a choice group of pieces from his collection of early English pewter. Here he presents another group and discusses them in the following captions. — EDITOR

CONTINUING MY PREVIOUS ARTICLE. I commence with three pieces which will, I believe, be of special interest to American collectors: these are the FLAGON and pair of TWO-HANDLED CUPS illustrated in FIGURE 1. These were all made by William Eden, or Eddon, some of whose tankards have, I understand, been found in the United States. All three pieces bear his touch familiar to British collectors, of the hour glass with his initials. Eden was a remarkable craftsman. He was born in Warwickshire and apprenticed to Peter Duffield in 1682. Seven years later he became a Freeman, and "opened shop" in 1690. He filled every office in the Pewterers' Company and was twice its Master, the last time in 1738. He worked in seven reigns from Charles II to George II, and all his work which has come down to us — a considerable amount — is sound, with a leaning toward the severe. The flagon, 8½ inches high, is of typical Scottish design, a circumstance which gives rise to conjectures, especially as some of his products are in Scottish churches despite the fact that very capable craftsmen were working in Scotland at this period. The cups stand 6¾ inches high and are 4¼ inches in diameter at the lip. The fine broad-rim Dish, 15¼ inches in diameter, is by Robert Mollins who was working in the second half of the 1600's and was also twice Master of the Company (1676 and 1689).

UNLIKE THE OTHER PIECES illustrated, which are all in almost mint state, the remarkable little COMMUNION PATEN seen in FIGURE 2 is much corroded and has evidently been buried in damp soil for many years. It is nevertheless something of a gem, with its ultra-wide rim 2 1/3 inches across in a total diameter of just over 9 inches. These wide rims are, in British pewter, indicative of the mid-seventeenth century, and this piece, by reason of this and other early features, including the type of touch, cannot be much later than 1640. The photograph was taken in a bad light, but close inspection will reveal a finely engraved coat of arms, with widespread mantling. I regard this as one of the outstanding pieces in the collection.

FIGURE 3 shows a very attractive little "baluster" MEASURE, 4½ inches to the lid, made by Thomas Stone, who was admitted to the livery in 1667, and while serving the office of Upper Warden in 1687, deposed by order of the King (James II). In 1690, however, after that monarch's departure, he was reinstated, and became Master in 1692. These essentially British measures were intended for service in taverns and inns, and were used, as their name implies, for gauging the correct amount of liquids required, and not for drinking purposes. They were in common use for at least three hundred years, from the time of Henry VIII onwards, and were produced in as many as seven capacities, from gallon to ½ gill. Their general shape did not vary much and the four types in which they were made are distinguished by the thumbpiece and lid attachment. The earliest is the "wedge" where these two features are combined; the next is the "hammerhead and bar"; the third the "bud and wedge"; and the fourth the "volute and fleur-de-lis." Certain variants of these types were made in Scotland, and a very few

hybrid types in England. The piece shown belongs to the "bud and wedge" type, and is especially interesting in having belonged to the Customs and Excise department. Around the drum runs the inscription *His Majesty's ware house at Woodbridge*, the word *ware* house divided by the G.R. cipher of George I beneath an elaborate crown. On the lid is engraved the government sign of the broad row. Woodbridge is a charming old town on the river Deben, Suffolk, but all traces of "His Majesty's ware house" have long since disappeared, as, apparently, have the other members of the complete set of measures which must once have existed. It is probable that they were brought into official use some years after their manufacture, as George I's reign did not commence till twenty-two years after Stone was Master.

IN FIGURE 4 appears a CANDLESTICK with octagonal foot, shield and nozzle, and fluted pillar (c. 1675). Its height is 7 inches; base dimensions, 5¼ inches across the main sides, 5 7/8 inches across the corners. The touch can just be discerned on the top: a fleur-de-lis between two initials, the second of which is B.

FIGURE 5 shows another group, in which are TWO COMMUNION FLAGONS, a broad-rim DISH, and a CANDLESTICK displayed upon a fine old mid-sixteenth-century chest to which age and care have imparted a rich patina. The candlestick is similar in type to that of FIGURE 4, but differs in minor details, the most noticeable of which is the increased breadth of the lower portion. The touch is beneath the foot and has, for that reason, been so worn as to be largely indecipherable. The broad-rim dish behind it is by W. G., a maker at present unknown (c. 1675). The diameter is 18¼ inches. Of interest is the crude shield and equally crude Stuart mantling, evidently carried out by an ignorant amateur, since no armorial appears in the shield but only the owner's initials R/IH, the husband's Christian initial to the left, the wife's to the right, and that of the surname above, as always in these triangular sets. The flagon to the left is a sturdy example of the skirt-based type of about 1660, and is 9¾ inches high and 6¾ inches across the base. It is by William Pettiver, free in 1655, died in 1680 while Upper Warden of the Company. The other flagon is of Queen Anne period (c. 1711) by John Newham (1699-1731); in the latter year he, too, was Upper Warden. Extreme height, 12¼ inches.

FIGURE 6 shows a COMMUNION FLAGON (c. 1635) made by Edward who is almost certainly Edward Gilbert, first mentioned in 1635 having refused the office of Steward of the Company. That would indicate that he was in business several years earlier, though apparently, no records remain of this part of his career. He became Master in 1662. The flagon, 10¼ inches high to the top of the fin, is of a type of which many examples have been preserved in ancient churches up and down the land, and which always seem to me to reach the high-water mark of the English craft as regards both sign and construction.

THE BEAUTIFUL BOWL shown in FIGURE 7 was made about 1667 by C. T., probably the first Charles Tough (1667-1680). There is little doubt that this piece (which has a twin in another collection) was copied from a Continental example, of which several exist; the handles, griffin-headed, with female torsos, are very rarely seen in England, though the wriggle-work engraving is typically English. The bowl is 4 inches high to the lip, 5¾ inches in diameter at that point



FIGURE 1

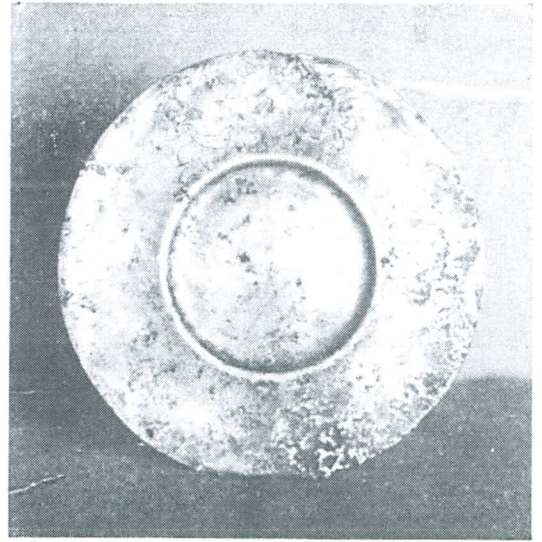


FIGURE 2

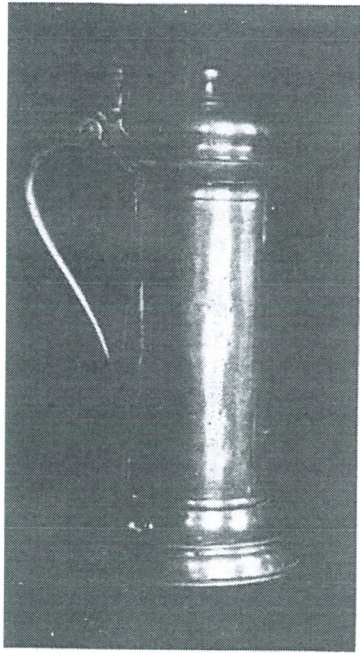


FIGURE 6



FIGURE 5

FIGURE 3

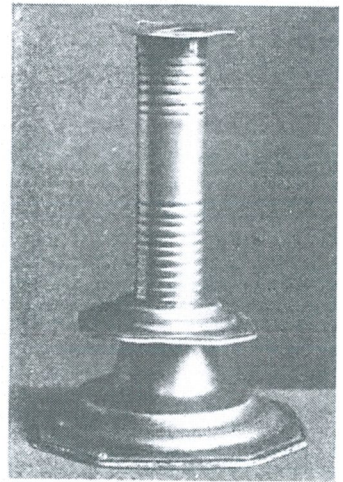


FIGURE 4

FIGURE 7

