

SOME BRITISH PEWTER

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FIG. 1—CHARGER, 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, with the wide rim indicative of its seventeenth-century period. The royal arms decorate the well, while the rim is ornamented with a conventional design of roses and thistles between four roundels, those at the sides depicting King Charles II and Queen Catherine and the others the phoenix arising from flames—emblem of the Restoration—and the stork and bambino, expressing, it may be, hopes for the future! Round the boogie runs the inscription *Vivat Rex Carolus Secundus. Beati Pacifici, 1662*. There is little doubt that the decoration is commemorative of the marriage of the king, which took place in May 1662. The words *Beati Pacifici* are from the Latin version of the Sermon on the Mount in St. Matthew's Gospel, "Blessed are the peacemakers," an allusion to the probable effect upon Europe of the marriage of the British monarch to a Portuguese princess. There are some eight or ten of these chargers in existence (not counting certain fairly obvious "fakes"), and they appear to have been made only in pewter. The maker of this fine example was probably William Pettiver, who became a master pewterer in 1655, a date which appears in the touch (another touch used, it is believed, by the same pewterer was dated [16]79); he rose to be upper warden of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers; and died in 1680.

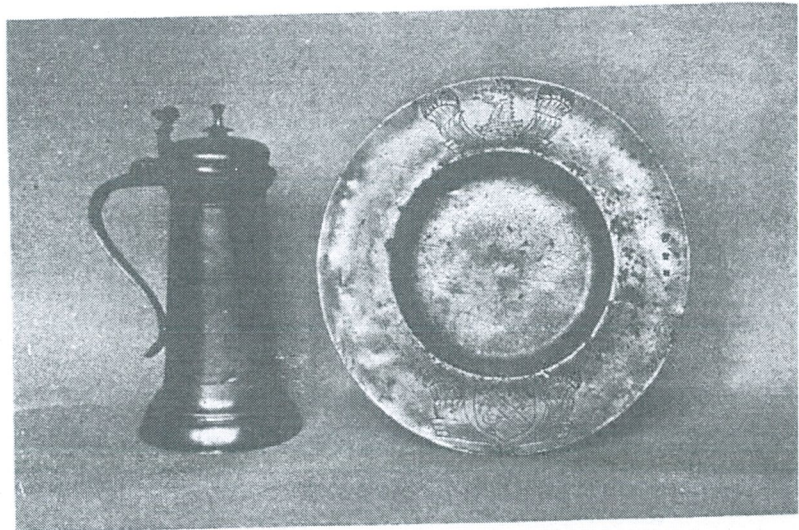


FIG. 2—COMMUNION FLAGON made for the Church of Dininton. It stands 10 inches high, and is inscribed *Dininton Parrish* in Roman capitals, with the first two letters reversed. Its date is about 1650, and it was made by R. B., probably a provincial pewterer. Beside it is a 12-inch PLATE of singularly fine proportion, made by E. J., probably about 1670; the shield of arms and the crest, with Stuart mantling, are those of Jenison.

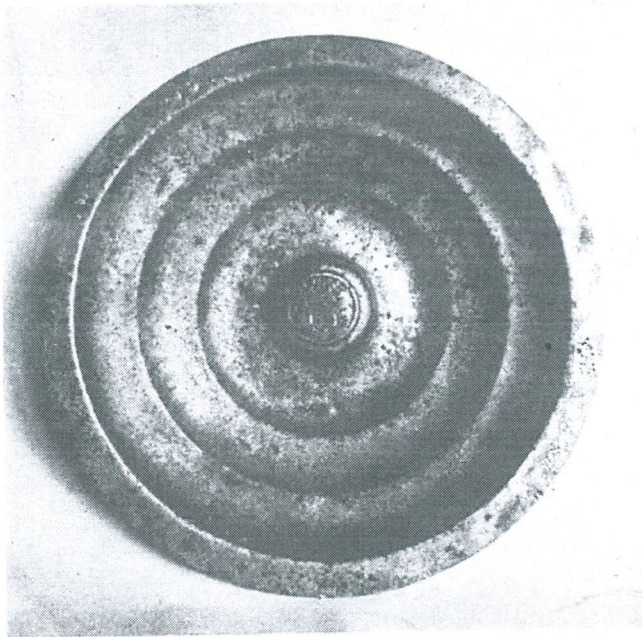


FIG. 3—ROSEWATER BOWL of Scottish make, one of the outstanding pieces of my collection. It is a "three-decker," 17 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, made by Richard Weir, a freeman of the Edinburgh Hammermen's Incorporation in 1597. The central boss carries the arms, in copper and enamel, of James VI of Scotland, I of England. As will be seen, the surface is somewhat pitted, but otherwise the piece is well preserved, and a fine relic of an ancient custom which is, incidentally, still preserved among the guilds of the City of London.



the Hammermen's Incorporation of Edinburgh in 1732. The wide-bow CUPS, though unmarked, are doubtless also his work. All three pieces inscribed *Belonging to the Associate Congregation of Norham. Mr. Morison Minister 1762*.

FIG. 4 (right) — PART OF THE COMMUNION PLATE of the Associate Congregation of Norham. These congregations no longer exist; they were of Scottish origin, although Norham is actually over the English border. The large FLAGON, to which a latter-day spout has been clumsily added, stands 11 inches high and was made by Archibald Inglis, who obtained his freedom in

IN WRITING of early British pewter—the word “early” usually signifying the seventeenth century—the difficulty is not what to say, but what to omit. There is, in most cases, so much of history, both civil and ecclesiastical, and of usage, bound up with these pieces, that a complete article could be written

around most of them—as has, in fact, been done in the case of Figure 1. So in this brief article my subject is not British pewter in general, but a few treasures from my collection in particular, and I shall describe as fully as space permits some pieces of more than usual interest which are illustrated here.

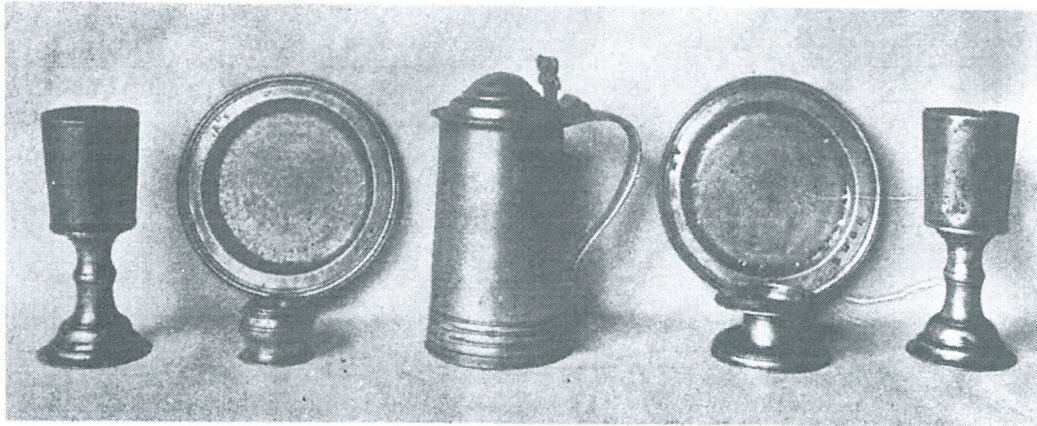


FIG. 6—A MIXED GROUP. On the flanks are two COMMUNION CUPS from the north of Ireland; they are 8½ inches high and unmarked; period, c. 1720. The PLATES are good examples of the late seventeenth-century triple-reeded type; that to the left, 8½ inches in diameter, was made by Thomas Smith, “free” in 1675 and still working in 1703. A rare feature is the complete “hammering” of the surface, an operation intended to strengthen the metal. The other plate is by W. B. In both examples, owners’ initials, struck triangle-wise, and the so-called “hall marks,” can be seen. In the center of the group is a fine north-country COMMUNION FLAGON, 9½ inches in height, made by Edmund Harvey who was master of the Pewterers’ Guild at Wigan in Lancashire in 1676. In front are two SALTS, that to the left being of about 1660, the other of about 1690. Neither is marked.



FIG. 5 (above) — AT THE RIGHT is an especially fine TANKARD of the Stuart period with its characteristic flat lid, made by Jonathan Ingles (c. 1675). The body and lid are decorated with a wriggle-work motif of flowering shrub in which a bird is perched, and with tulips, to which the photograph scarcely does justice. The height to lid is 5½ inches. The well-proportioned handle is surmounted by a thumbpiece composed of love birds beneath an Ionic plute. Ingles was a member of the Pewterers’ Company and was fined for false wares (of which this certainly is not one!) in 1673. He subsequently refused the offices of Steward (1678), Renter Warden (1693), and Upper Warden (1702). To the left is a CANDLESTICK of about the same date. The late in the rear is one of a set whose maker was Jacques Taudin, descendant of a Huguenot family, as were so many English craftsmen of this period. He became a Liveryman of the Company in 1680 and rose to be its Renter Warden in 1700. In front is a TRENCHER SALT of about 1660.

FIG. 7 (below) — AT THE RIGHT is another fine Stuart TANKARD, rather smaller than that of Figure 5. Unfortunately, a large patch of corrosion (the only one) has rendered the touch completely indecipherable. Its height to lid is 4¾ inches. Beside it is a narrow-rimmed plate bearing a conventional design in wriggle-work, depicting the dove of peace on a tree. These decorated plates are usually known as “marriage plates.” It was the custom for young couples, intending to marry and set up house, to lay in a “garnish” of pewter dishes and plates, of which one or more was engraved as a personal gift from one to the other. The maker of this specimen, which is 7½ inches in diameter, was Richard Boyden, probably of Cambridge, whose touch is dated 1699.



FIG. 8 (left) — SOME EARLY PEWTER SPOONS. Left to right: 1. a stump-end, c. 1600; 2. an acorn-knop, c. 1500; 3. a seal-top, c. 1600; 4. a small acorn-knop, c. 1550; 5. a maidenhead, c. 1500; 6. a ball-knop, c. 1500; 7. the only example at present known of Chanticleer, the cock, c. 1550; 8. a baluster-knop, c. 1500. Average length, 6 inches. Nearly all these spoons bear recorded marks, but no records exist of the makers of such early pieces. Most of these spoons were dug up in London.

