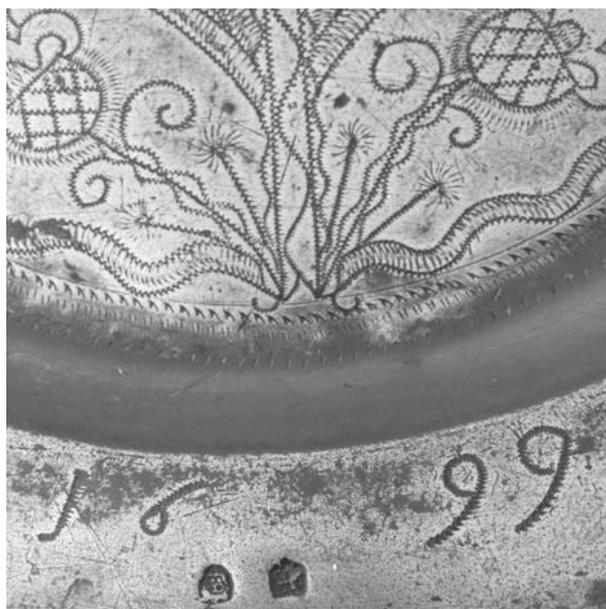


A WIDOW'S WRIGGLEWORK DISH –
PERHAPS THE ONLY ONE KNOWN
18 inches diameter made by pewterer Tim Fly
(son of Martha) working 1712 to 1745



It is possible to guess that the above 7 stem floral bouquet design was ordered from Tim Fly in a large size to reflect MW's mourning at losing a husband from a marriage lasting 1699-1716.



Whilst a lot of marriage plates are known – a widow’s plate is entirely unknown.

Below the marriage marks of W over TM so MW decided on such a plate. A bouquet could be appropriate, the size such as her grief, - this writer has been wrong before and might be again – if anyone knows better or has another example it would be a pleasure to be told. The bouquet is headed with a large tulip but has all thistles to the side – what do they say? Scottish male or a prickly marriage!



Widows Plate...before cleaning top after below - hard to say which looks best – more detail above, more like she had it below.



More thoughts

A friend looking at this dish writes – “with the triad so firmly struck the plate must have been bought by them before he popped his clogs. Her wriggled initials and presumably therefore all the wriggling elsewhere (it looks to be in the same hand, or “wrist action”!) must have been done after he shuffled off this mortal coil. Looking at other pieces from Tim Fly several are wriggled so did she take it back to him for the embellishment? It is a fascinating piece.”

Pre-ownership likely explains better the fine knife marks that can be seen - perhaps this was T W's own dish ?

An impossible Genealogy search?

Whoever owned this plate was not poor and might have lived within reach of the Fly workshop. Were they Scottish? Did “T W” die in 1716 and how many prosperous TWs died in that year in London?

If possible to find a TW who did - then did he marry in 1699?

Clearly it would be like looking for a needle in a haystack - but maybe, just maybe, the needle will be visible!