

Dressed to Serve (the seller!)

This piece was previously described as –

“A pretty wonderful large serving platter, size 27" X 21". The marks are clearly those of Yates, Birch and Spooner, but not a hallmark known to H H Cotterell. Condition - perfect, uncleaned for perhaps 40 years, medium-grey with no oxidation.”





Fair comment might be –

This is an impressive and interesting size of server. They don't bring a lot at auction perhaps because of the none too early dating - YB&S (c1830) - and the size is just too big for many people.

The marks to the rim are worrying. Who would badly stamp the rim with the horses hock and let it stay? (unless they were decorating it later). Referring to the impression on the right in the second illustration.

The London label looks right with sharp edges and remains of stipling to the background but then there are still today such punches about? Another seen recently for 'cast pewter' - nice label but added a lot later than the piece was made. The crowned X looks right - but this lot together and poorly done on a large server front rim should make you worry. You don't see much other than

early makers' hall marks to the front certainly by the mid 1700s most such marks seen are to the reverse (the back of the plate)

What also is cause for worry are the hall marks. – (two sets would certainly point to later decoration). This set was not known to Cotterell - actually as H H Cotterell was preparing his book of marks (Richard Neate was likely using this very set of hallmarks to adorn pewter and they are to be found on his touch plate - see PS data base and booklet about Neate Touchplate. So who got these from Neate? – it certainly appears that Richard Munday continued the practice of adorning pewter ware with extra punch marks to enable export to and sale within the USA. Certainly there is at least one witness to such works in or about 1970.

This could be a server here dressed or made fit for the USA Department Store business!

A valuation of some £4000 was given by a reputable dealer in the 1970s. Given what is known now and wasn't known then and also a deep lack of interest by collectors in this size and style, then a server such as this might or might not return the seller today any more than £100.

A booklet produced by the Pewter Society and titled – The Richard Neate Touch Plate and two others of unknown origin is available from the Pewter Society at a price of £3 plus £3 for first class post and packing within the UK (£6) – it might be good value!

To buy this contact - publications@pewtersociety.org



