

**Has anyone ever seen another one of these
- in old pewter?**

This writer came across a fairly insignificant looking piece of old pewter. Having showed it to a number of long experienced collectors and having looked through himself literally thousands of photographs and pages, he realised that neither he nor anyone else (he knew of) had seen the such like before.

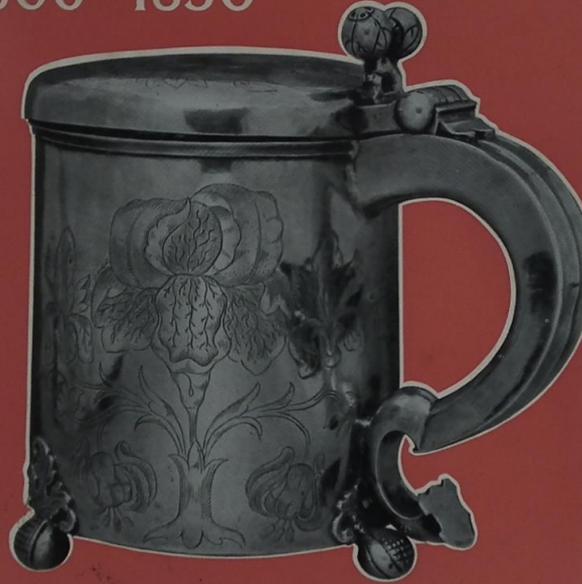
It could be that out there in the world of old pewter collectors lots of folk have these. That would be strange, but it would be interesting to know. So this website invites anyone with such a piece or who knows where one is, to send details, please!

Then early in 2013 and quite by chance when looking for totally unrelated information, and unusually reading a book on old silver, this writer came across an image of the piece that he has.

Firstly then before the piece itself, a brief look at the cover of the book, then an image of the pages referred to, and finally photos and some few details of this particular and fairly simple piece of old pewter.

The book -

HOW TO IDENTIFY
English Silver
Drinking Vessels
600–1830



DOUGLAS ASH

Published in 1964 by G Bell &
Sons Ltd London

The *How to Identify* Series
Printed in Great Britain by The
Camelot Press Ltd London and
Southampton.

There are 104 illustrations
within 159 pages.

Bartholomew Fair, and reined-in his horse, as was the custom, to take a draught with the Keeper of Newgate. He was handed a tankard of spiced wine, but when he accidentally released the thumb-piece, the clank of the lid caused his horse to rear. Shorter was thrown on to his head, and died from his injuries a few days after.

Two interesting points may be gathered from this incident. In the first place, it is clear that our ancestors felt no compunction in using a tankard for liquors other than beer, and in the second place, we are reminded that the term 'tankard' is incorrect, when loosely applied in modern times to a similar vessel without a lid.

Lidless vessels of the tankard variety with a single handle are called Mugs, though smaller versions seem to have been known as 'cans'. They probably first began to appear in silver in the reign of Charles II.

They followed closely the form of similar vessels in pottery, and had bulbous bodies with cylindrical necks, somewhat like the Rhenish stoneware pots so often mounted in silver in the time of Queen Elizabeth, but very much smaller.

The necks of these silver mugs were usually embellished with numerous encircling lines. The handle of such a mug, comprising a flat ribbon of silver bent into the customary S-form, and chased with longitudinal parallel lines on the outer side, was of mean appearance and uncomfortable to hold. An example may be seen in Fig. 63.



Fig. 63. Charles II silver mug

These mugs continued to appear sparsely in the early 18th century, no doubt because they were cheaper to produce than others involving the use of more silver.

One sometimes comes across a lidless silver pot with Charles II hall-marks, and having the tapering cylindrical body and hollow, wrought handle characteristic of tankards. These pots are always of suspiciously generous capacity, and all those examined by the author have quite obviously been tankards that have lost their lids. They naturally fall under the general ban that applies to objects which are not in their original condition.

Silver drinking vessels in Scotland and Ireland bore a general similarity to those made in England at the same time, but a type of mug appeared in Scotland, late in the reign of Charles II, which does not appear to have been known south of the border.

This was called a Thistle-cup, but as it had a single handle, it may be regarded legitimately as a member of the mug family.

The vessel was mounted on a foot-ring, and the rounded base of the body was enclosed within a calix of vertical lobes. Above these was a moulded girdle with prominent central rib, and from this point, the sides flared strongly outward to the lip, giving the whole cup some resemblance to a thistle. The handle was of the usual scrolled form, cast in solid silver, sometimes with two projecting spurs, one on the outer side near the top, and the other on the inner side near the lower point of attachment to the body.

A thistle-cup is illustrated in Fig. 64. These attractive little mugs were made in various sizes, none of which was very large. Their capacity ranged from about half a pint to little more than that of a thimble, and as beer was never a very popular beverage in Scotland, and in any event, tankards were available for those who wanted it, it seems likely that the larger thistle-cups were used for claret, which was the Scottish national drink, and the smaller ones for spirits.

The earliest of these mugs so far noted was made in 1682, but the type had a very long life, and the author has seen a late 19th-century example, with a very slick, factory-made appearance, which was obviously intended as a christening mug.

No changes occurred in the styles of tankards or other drinking

So now for the one found in Old pewter and a few photos of that







Notice the letters A I to the base likely ownership initials there are no marks anywhere else inside. This also shows clearly the type of handle.



The letters A I might give us a clue as to the date made.

Earlier in the 1600s about perhaps 1630 here below are the initials of an earlier maker on another piece. This piece has no relationship whatever known to this and is shown here solely to show the difference in the appearance of the letters A I. This might be relevant or it might be irrelevant. An expert in the letters used at different times might be able to clarify that - this writer cannot.

The letters A I as used 'likely' in about 1630 -



Notice the almost candlestick appearance of the I

The book says this in silver appears in the time of Charles II and likely went on to appear in the early 1700s (sparsely).

Thus we ask ourselves at what stage did the pewterers try to copy the Silversmiths with this type of drinking vessel.

Safety suggests then that we date this piece to around c1700, but it could have been anytime from 1661.

So why have no others been seen?

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Some small details -

This holds 15.2 fl ozs. - or the 3 gills capacity of the English Ale Gallon.

The height table to rim is 8.45cm (3.3")

The rim diameter is 7.77cm (3")

The base diameter is 5.8cm (2 1/4")

It weighs 260gms (9 1/4 ozs)

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Finally a continuing page from the same book on the subject of the types of cup in use, following -

It is interesting to see the changes that took place - in silver.

A reason for the scarcity of this style especially in pewter is suggested by the difficulty in draining this shape - thus the popularity of the following styles and redundancy of this type. Old pewter was often melted down for new.

The style might not have lasted more than late Charles II until approaching 1700. A very short period for a style to be used and changed.

Fig. 69. Late 17th-century mug



Fig. 70. Late 17th-century mug

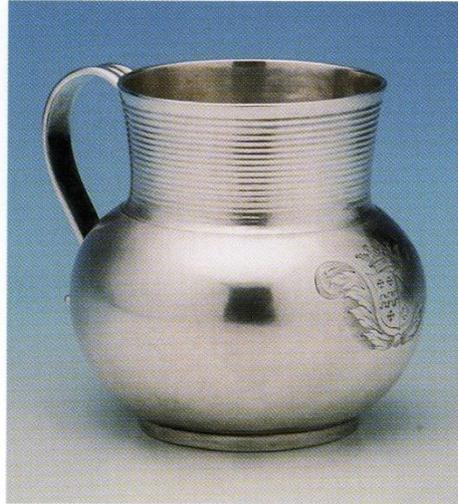
Fig. 71. Cylindrical mug, late 17th century



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A rare and heavy Charles II plain *Mug* made in London 1683-84 by Samuel Hood. Of baluster shape, the neck decorated with lines of reeding and an S-shaped reeded handle attached.
 Wt: 11.23ozs Ht: 3 7/8 ins £11,000.00



A rare James II baluster *Mug* made in London 1685-86 by E.G. a mullet below. It is engraved on the front with a coat of arms, the neck decorated with lines of reeding and an S-shaped reeded handle attached. It is engraved on the base with initials 'PF. 1687'.
 Wt: 3.73ozs Ht: 3 1/2 ins £6,750.00



A rare Charles II plain *Mug* made in London 1684-85 by Samuel Hood. Of baluster shape engraved on the front with a contemporary coat of arms, the neck decorated with lines of reeding and an S-shaped reeded handle attached.
Provenance: The arms could be Ashurst originally of Ashurst, Lancs. William Ashurst, Lord Mayor of London 1694. Burton, Banke of London and of Yorkshire, Banks, Baronets of Lincolnshire 1781-1820, Banks of Yorkshire, Crozier of Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey, Egleston of Lancashire, Fenton of Yorkshire and of Kent.
 Wt: 6.12ozs Ht: 4 ins £7,500.00



A William and Mary *Mug* made in London 1689-90 by E.G. between mullets. Of straight-sided form, with reeded decoration and engraved with contemporary arms enclosed by scroll mantling. (See Jackson 3rd Edition, p.138.)
 Wt: 5.70ozs Ht: 3 3/8 ins £7,500.00

A very rare William & Mary Mug by IG Crowned (1689 London)



This William & Mary rarity was made in London in 1689 and is stamped with the maker's mark of IG Crowned with a star below, all in a shaped punch. This mark is illustrated on page 141 of Jackson's Silver & Gold Marks.

This rare piece has a plain bulbous body with cylindrical neck decorated with numerous encircling lines. The handle comprises of a flat ribbon of silver bent into the customary S form and is chased with longitudinal lines on the outer side. The base is very well marked and the main body displays the original hammer marks from when it was originally made. The size of this piece is also unusual and we can conclude that it must have been made for a Lady or a child. These types of Mugs first appeared during the reign of Charles II, the smaller examples being referred to as cans and followed closely the form of similar vessels in pottery, somewhat like the Rhenish stoneware pots so often mounted in silver during the reign of Elizabeth I. With regard to the maker of this mug, one of the examples of his work cited in Jackson is a half pint mug, so he may well have specialised in the production of drinking vessels. This piece also represents an early example from the reign of William & Mary together. The King and Queen only reigned from 1689-1695, as Mary died and the King went on to reign alone as William III.

Height: 2.5 inches

Diameter, at the widest point: 2.75 inches

Weight: 4.5oz

GBP 5350.00 (Pound Sterling) .

Mary Cooke Antiques Ltd

12 The Old Power Station

121 Mortlake High Street

London

SW14 8SN

England

More of the same in SILVER but no more yet found in PEWTER

3 more, but interesting none-the-less!

Chinoiserie engraved and even lidded versions!

<http://www.ifranks.com/charles-ii-silver-tankards>

Charles II Chinoiserie engraving 11.5cm tall £10,975 hallmarked for 1683

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<http://www.koopmanrareart.com/Chinoiserie-silver-Covered-Mug-circa-1685-DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=6&tabindex=5&objectid=390600&categoryid=1691&mediaid=540494>

A Chinoiserie silver covered mug circa 1685 10.5cm tall to top of finial.

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http://www.berrycom.com/?&categories=&category_id=4&sub_category_id=24&page=6&items_p_page=10&product_id=3531

It began to look like all versions found to date are dated around 1685+/-, so would date a pewter one to the same period. However found one dated 80+ years later!

But is this one a 'revival' piece? or has had its base replaced? (it's also 'cheap' by comparison – and in the US - where antique silver is not generally inexpensive)

Listed as - London hallmarks for 1762 Thomas Whipham and Charles Wright selling for - \$1495 (similar to previous page) but 3 1/8" tall rim diameter 2 1/2" - stated as no repairs or alterations.

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Many thanks for the research in large part for this article by - Jamie Ferguson (Newsletter Editor for UK Pewter Society)

As seen on page 20 of Pewter - A handbook of Selected Tudor & Stuart Pieces

This looks like it might be the same style with a different handle.



With a solid handle and cast
decoration.

Mid 17th century

Height: 50mm

8176, from Moorfields

The same piece was illustrated in The Museum of London publication - Pewter A Celebration of the Craft - the handle here is much different t the silver ones offered for sale. But this does mean that at least two of this mug/cup style survive in old pewter.

This piece illustrated above is said to be 5cms tall so is a smaller size than the other at 8.85cms, perhaps this size held a half pint.

An experienced Collector emails to add -

It looks like it was cast in two or more pieces joined at the equator. It would not need the base ring on the silver ones for stability because it is so much heavier, and the handle is so light.

The photos show it is vestigally baluster as it spreads slightly just before the base.

I like the fact that on the base you can still see the rings from its being burnished on a lathe.

It is likely that with the appearance of the beautiful later straight sided and baluster forms that this form was obsolete early and not produced by 1700, even with the considerable investment in bronze moulds by pewter makers.

I vote for c 1680-1700. It seems to me that this is a very rare and perhaps unique example of the earliest form of pot belly measure.