

## Various Mugs and Measures, and a common Inkwell

*Included herein is a piece from the Geoff Lock collection in Australia with his copy written about it*

Also included here are Pewter pieces that are not extremely old, nor very expensive. They are however scarce or rare, and other examples of these, just as shown here, have mainly not been seen or read about by this writer.

**Scarce Transitional Imperial quart low-bellied measure.  
By Geoff Lock of Adelaide Australia**



With the introduction of Imperial Standard measure in 1826, it is obvious that at least one manufacturer improvised with old moulds and additional sections to meet demands until new moulds were available.

The quart illustrated has been made from the mould of an OEWS quart, {pre 1824} of 33.4 fl oz capacity with an added section of 6.6 fl. oz in the middle. This practice of adding a section to the middle to conform with the new Imperial Standard is also known to have occurred with OEWS bellied pint measures and appears to have been short-lived. The added section is of hoop-like appearance, of 6.6 fl oz in capacity, being circular with a straight 'side'. In this way, the profile of the "Converted" piece has a flat appearance in the area of the added section rather than the continuous curved profile of the later "Improved" version that followed soon after. This profile is the same with "Converted" pints. Whilst the maker is unknown, there is an 1826 City of Westminster portcullis mark on the rim to the right of the handle. It is likely that the same maker made both this piece and a similarly converted pint in the Lock collection as that piece also has an 1826 City of Westminster portcullis mark. {This "Converted" pint also has a W IV over N for Norwich which suggests that the piece had to have been verified in 1826 before being sent to Norfolk or Norwich where it was further verified during the 1830's}

Two other examples of this "Converted" quart capacity "Low-bellied" measure are known to exist in collections in Britain.

It is suggested that as the new two-piece variety became available, the stop-gap items were melted down for scrap, making the known surviving examples extremely rare for this period. As well, the new moulds made manufacturing quicker, cheaper and easier because the maker was using two moulds instead of three and having one join instead of two.

Several examples of Imperial Standard low-bellied 1/2 pint measures are in existence but as yet, no example of a "Converted 1/2 pint" is known. I have an example of an OEWS low-bellied 1/2 pint but with no markings

at all and two examples of OEWS bellied pints.

It should be said that these measures are not lidless balusters and are not made from Double Volute moulds.

An "Improved "Low-belly measure model, of Pint Imperial capacity shows that new moulds were available either late in 1826 or soon after. An example, made in two sections, with 1826 portcullis mark is also in my collection.

This piece is stamped I PINT in separate letters and also has several Norfolk verification stamps but , as usual, no maker's mark.

At the time of writing, this peculiarity of converting by adding a section seems localised to one, or perhaps two, unknown London makers.

{Randall Moring does come to mind but I can't prove it.}

Other methods of altering the capacities of OEWS DV measures are known, such as removing the lid and adding to the rim or adding a small section to the middle to increase to Imperial Standard. These are also very scarce for today's collectors.

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The following are from another collection -

**Abbot Side Spouted Quart** in good condition. Abbot  
Crown mark to inside centre base. Verifications for Cumberland and  
Westmorland. Included in this article because although made in the middle  
1800s this writer has come across no other such example.



**William Hogg (1780-1815) of Newcastle pre-imperial 30 fl oz size Mug.** Hoggs initials in a shield to centre base, and symbol mark to left of handle. Included here because any Hogg Quart is rare and this one does not have an accidently flattened foot - but one made in this unusual way. Crowned, G W likely owner's initials to the front, (distinctive crown above the initials).



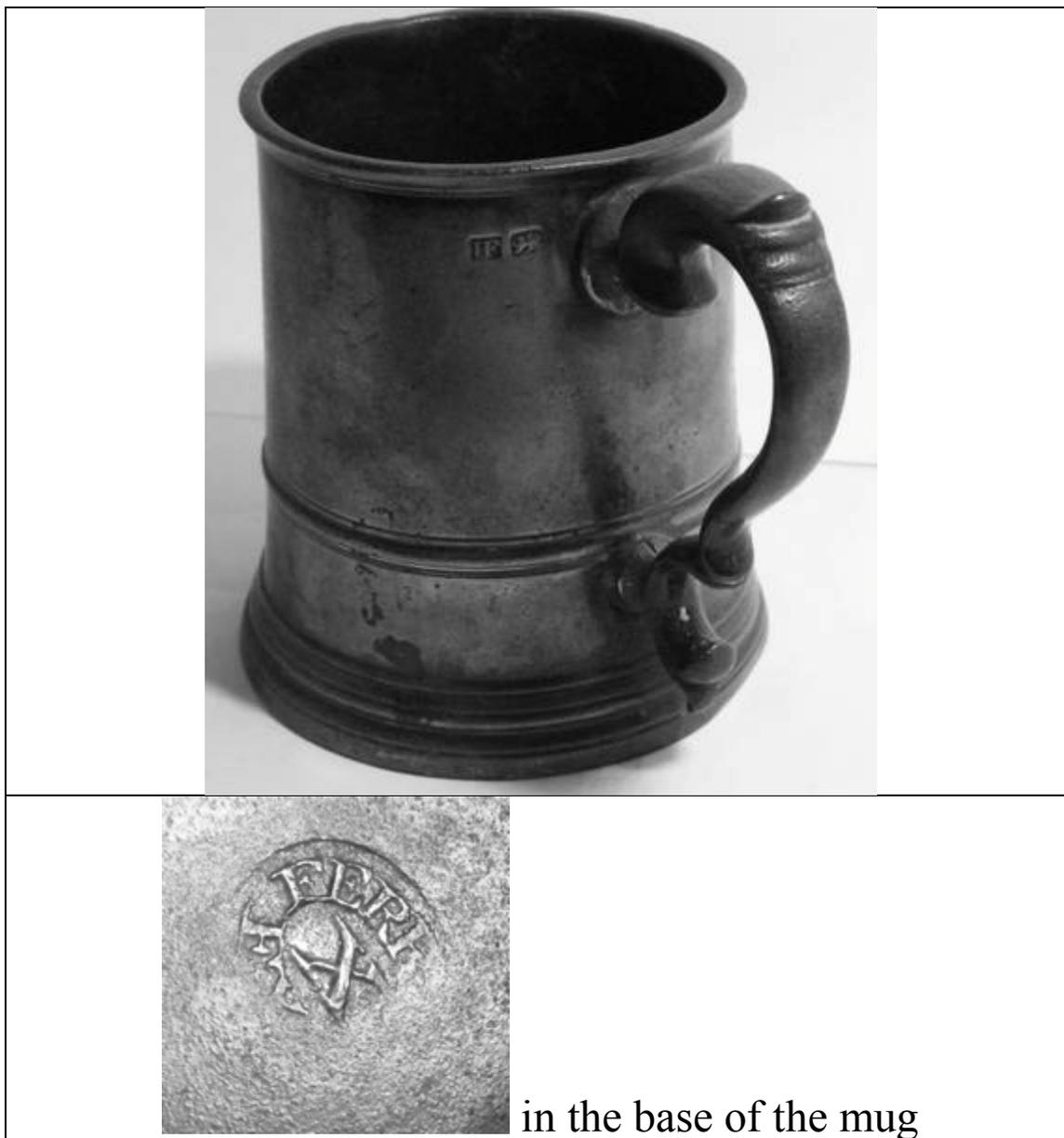
**Unusual Dome Lidded Susannah Cocks of London 1820-1847** – most unusual lid shape, three hall marks, very little use, a nice half pint.

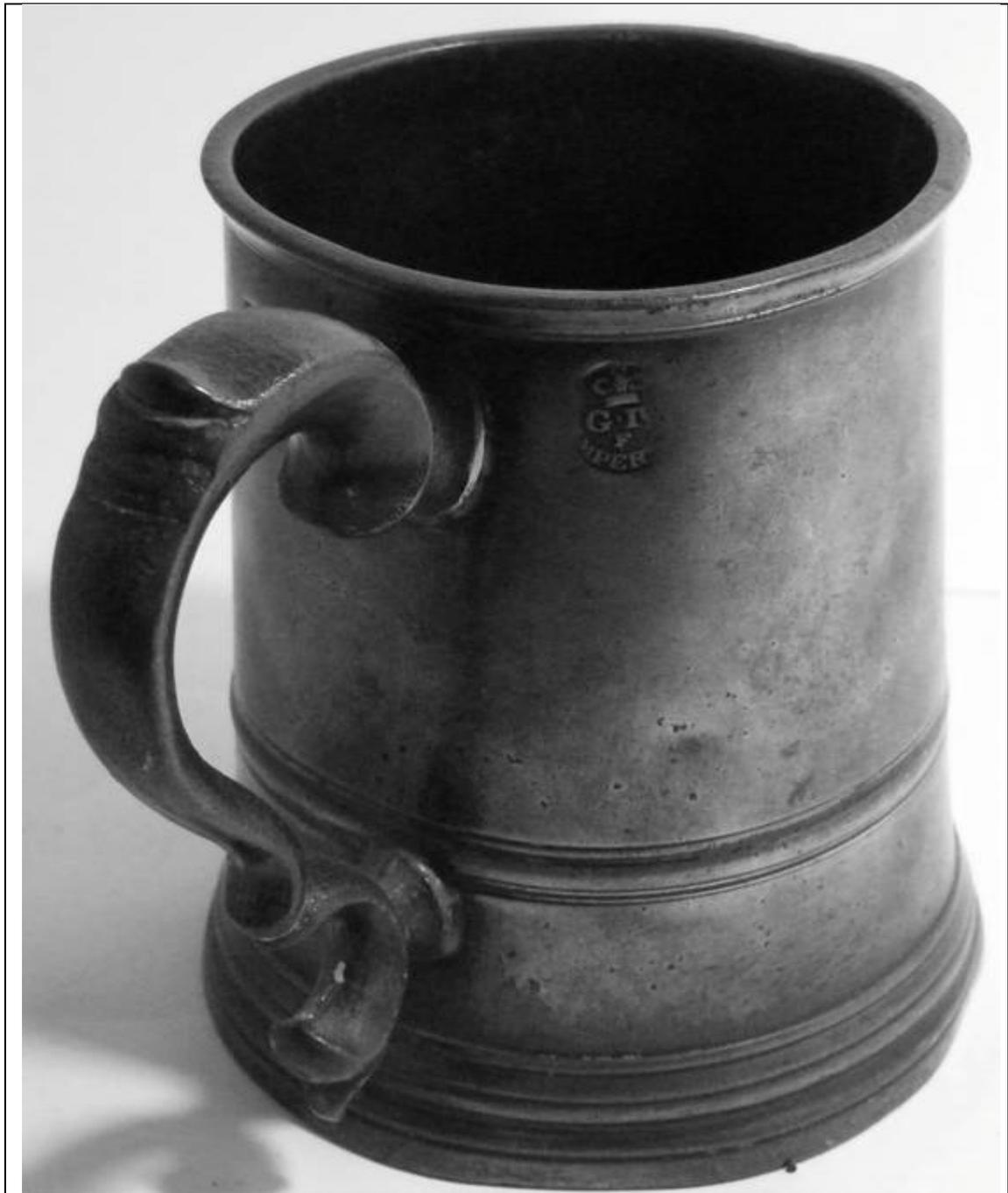


## A Ferris of Exeter Pint Mug (about 1830) – made more interesting because of the three Ferris marks on it.

These marks were all likely used by John T Ferris II who worked 1819-1837. Marks shown in the first two illustrations were used by a John Ferris working 1777-1815. Succeeded by his son also John (II) and then the son's wife.

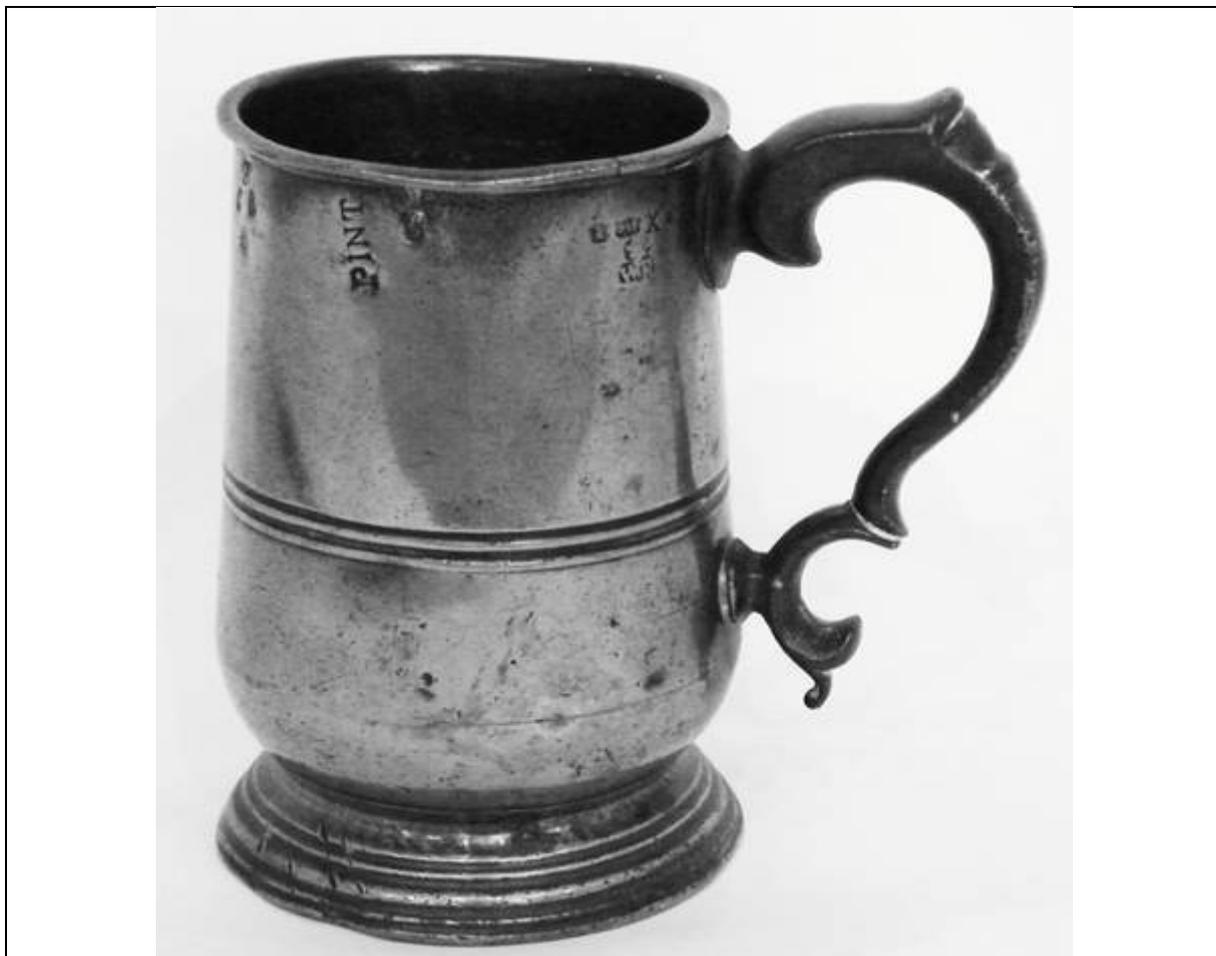
The third mark was used by Elizabeth Ferris wife to John Ferris II and mother to John T Ferris II. He worked at 102 Fore Street, Exeter, Devon.





## **Mysterious Pint Mug by Birch & Villiers or by Villiers & Wilkes? (or both?)**

Birch & Villiers worked in Birmingham 1770-1785. William Villiers working for himself took over in the 1780s. The Villiers and Wilkes partnership worked from 1805-1835. This Pint Mug has the B&V to the left of the handle and remains of a V&W in the base. So when was it made? Perhaps after 1830 as it carries verifications for the City of Bristol and Birmingham. Note the distinctive crowned WR verification mark. Unusual that this mug should carry the marks of two makers separated by at least 20 years. Maybe old stock was sold much later by the succeeding firm?





This crowned WR mark has previously been attributed to another Birmingham maker working in 1794. So in conjunction with the B&V maybe this gives us a clue that the mug was made prior to 1800?

Something of a mystery then, (other examples of similar mugs with similar markings have been found.)

## A Britannia Metal Inkwell

The inkwell is just over 3 ¼” in diameter and just under 2” tall. There are no marks and no clues as to dating. It might be 1860 or it could be 1920. No other to the writers knowledge has been seen (just as this one) but it appears very basic and ought to have been made in quantity. Perhaps they were happily melted down for the war effort. If anyone knows anything about these, then perhaps they would share their knowledge with us.



## Coronation 1937 - Small Commemorative Mugs

These stand about 2 ¾" tall (the concave being slightly taller than the convex).  
Made of Britannia metal – Spelman was perhaps a wholesaler?



