

# WEST COUNTRY PEWTERERS

by Howard H Cotterell in 1917

This website has been unable to persuade some of those with knowledge to share it with us in providing simple detail of Regional Pewterers and their marks.

One of the advantages of the internet and computers is that scans of - out of copyright - documents can be added to websites.

Thus here is added a publication found, which details HH Cotterell's thoughts on West Country Pewterers in 1917.

This is a full 12 years before he published the reference work on old pewter marks for which he is best known.

Thus readers should always check the information here given - as since 1917 much more information has come to light. (after all that is 94 years ago!). And certain faked marks were not then known of.

[The very best way to check is the UK Pewter Society Data Base - for which some form of membership is needed.](#)

However in as much as this website bought this booklet at auction; the website reader can print a copy out for themselves - **free of charge**.

The printed pages are easily held together with a Euro Bar or plastic Spine Bar (Binding Bar) as sold on Amazon.

Since 1917 there has been much new information and not all these marks are correct, for example elsewhere on this website the L A marks shown below are identified as being those of a Wigan Pewterer. So readers would be as well to check the Pewter Society database before using this information.

Walter Cash Esq.  
with the author's compliments

WEST-COUNTRY  
PEWTERERS.

(Reprinted from "DEVON & CORNWALL NOTES & QUERIES.")

HOWARD H. COTTERELL, F.R.Hist.S.  
1917.

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The Society of  
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NOTES ON  
WEST-COUNTRY PEWTERERS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF  
THEIR MARKS WHERE KNOWN.

By

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EXETER:  
JAMES G. COMMINS  
1917.

## WEST-COUNTRY PEWTERERS.

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In my researches in connection with my work on "Pewterers and Pewter-marks," which it is hoped to publish when the war is over, I have come across the names of several West-country pewterers and some of their marks which it may be of some interest to readers of this journal to have recorded in its pages.

Somewhere about the year 1913 there appeared in *D. & C. N. & Q.* a request for information concerning the pewterers of Devon, Somerset and Cornwall, a request which, unfortunately, was not productive of great results, but one of the few replies received, together with subsequent dates gleaned from an entirely different quarter, may serve to show *how* much may be gained by united effort in a given sphere.

On 18th July, 1913, Mr. J. S. Amery wrote Mr. H. Tapley-Soper—names needing no introduction to readers of this journal—as follows:—

"Have you Dolbeare as a pewterer in Ashburton?

I believe Parham, London, was also an Ashburton pewterer, a successor of Dolbeare, as the Parhams had the same house in Ashburton."

This information, kindly forwarded to me by Mr. Tapley-Soper, was duly recorded in my notes. Time has passed and still the name Dolbeare remained "awaiting further information" until a few days ago, when Mr. Walter Churcher, of London, the well-known collector and authority on old pewter, sent on to me a rubbing of a mark found on some pewter plates, with the query "Do you know Dolbeare as a pewterer?" On looking up my notes I find the name recorded, but with no further particulars than those given above. Now, however, one is able to record this maker with full details of his mark (q.v. Plate 1).

Thus one more small point is cleared up, one more infinitesimal ray of light cast upon the past!

In days such as the present one may ask—Of what moment are such trifles? The reply must be that at the moment they are of *little* consequence, but the present conditions are not, we pray, destined to last indefinitely, and a second opportunity of recording this “ray of light” may not present itself.

That there must have been at one time an important colony of pewterers in Bristol seems beyond doubt, for in Mr. Welch's *History of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers of London*, one finds in 1728-9 the following:—

“*Many* complaints were *again* received at this time of the bad quality of pewter made at Bristol, especially guinea basons, but the Company hesitated to exercise their authority by sending a deputation to hold a search so far from London.” (The italics are mine).

That some of these Bristol and West-country pewterers used the word “London” and “made in London” on their wares is proved by reference to Plate 1, where the word “London” is included in the touch of Burgum and Catcott, who we know to have been a Bristol firm. This again is referred to in the same work as follows:—

“1740-1. A committee reported on 24th September that nothing could be done to prevent country pewterers from striking ‘London’ and ‘made in London’ on their wares, without application to Parliament.”

Much information should be available amongst the old Guild records of Bristol, if any such are in existence, and I commend this suggestion to some keen local antiquary who may have the necessary time at his disposal. Possibly also in Cornwall one might look for records of pewterers in the Stannaries districts, as also at Barnstaple and Exeter, for further information concerning Devonshire pewterers.

The following further names of West-country pewterers (with Bristol) and the illustrations of their marks where known, may act as a stimulus to others in possession of pieces bearing unrecorded local marks (or *touches* as they were technically called), to furnish me with rubbings of the same for inclusion in my larger work referred to above, and on which I have been engaged for many years. Good sketches or rubbings, both for preference, are of great service, but poor sketches are not of so much use as poor

rubbings. The marks of Sampson Hodge, Kerslake, Samuel Lee and John Webber, junr., on the plates which follow are made from poor sketches which, had they been accompanied by the poorest of rubbings, would at least have enabled me to vouch for their being as correct as an unskilful penman has endeavoured to make the remainder.

In only one instance in the following list have I any doubt as to its correct place in this list—Edgar and Son (or Co.)—but the circumstantial evidence that they were Bristol pewterers is so great I have ventured to include it.

(A † preceding a name signifies that an illustration of the maker's mark is given.)

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| †Ash and Hutton.               | Bristol, c. 1760.   |
| †Burgum and Catcot.            | Bristol, c. 1770. Boswell, in his <i>Life of Dr. Johnson</i> , records their meeting "George Catcot the pewterer" at Bristol on 29th April, 1776. |
| Butcher, James.                | Pewterer, of Bridgewater, Somerset. Will proved 15 Sep., 1698, at Taunton.  |
| †Butcher, James.               | Pewterer, of Bridgewater, Somerset. Will proved 24 Oct., 1720, at Taunton.  |
| †Cockey, W.                    | Totnes, c. 1740.  |
| Daw, Richard.                  | Exeter, c. 1780.  |
| †Dolbeare, J.                  | Ashburton, ? c. 1750.   |
| †Edgar and Co.                 | ? Bristol.  |
| †Edgar and Son.                | ? Bristol.  |
| †Evans, Hum.                   | Exeter, c. 1740.  |
| †Fothergills.                  | Bristol.  |
| †Gauls.                        | Exeter.   |
| Harris, William.               | Buried at Barnstaple 3 Dec., 1625. Worked 1608-25.  |
| Heywood, Robert.               | Buried at Barnstaple 14 Jan., 1623. Worked 1605-22.   |
| †Hodge, Sampson<br>(? Samuel). | Tiverton, c. 1707.  |
| †Hoskyn, John.                 | Truro, later than 1735.   |
| †Hoskyn, Henry.                | c. 1730.  |
| Johns, John.                   | Pewterer, of Bristol, mentioned in 1698 in the will of James Butcher, of Bridgewater.   |
| †Kerslake.                     | Crediton, c. 1720.  |

- Knowles, John. Bristol, c. 1650.
- †Lee, Samuel. Buried at Barnstaple. Worked c. 1720.
- Ley, John. Buried at Barnstaple 30th June, 1733.  
Worked c. 1705-33.
- Mitchell, James. Penzance. In 1681 he had served a seven years' apprenticeship to a pewterer in Penzance. Was refused the freedom of the Company of Pewterers of London at a Court held 5th Oct., 168 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- †Mortimer. Exeter, ?c. 1750. His mark (No. 1) appears on a piece engraved 1740; No. 2 on a tankard bearing a Wm. IV. Excise stamp.
- Rogers, Henry. Skewis, Cornwall. In the Collection of Mr. Chas. G. J. Port, F.S.A., of Worthing, is a wood engraving which records the hanging in 1735 of this man for the murder of two Sheriff's officers and three others.
- ? Sanders, Simon. Tradition records that he was a maker of pewter spoons, who formerly lived at Langtree, near Bideford. (See *Guide to the Charbonnier Collection* in Taunton Castle Museum.)
- †Webber, John. Barnstaple, c. 1650-1700.
- †Webber, John, junr. Barnstaple, c. 1680-1735.
- †Williams. Falmouth, c. 1720.
- Williams, A. ? ———.
- Willoughby, Roger, Bristol, c. 1670.  
the elder.
- †Wilshire, T. Bristol, c. 1790.
- †Wilshire, T. and W. Bristol, c. 1800.

One might here perhaps direct attention to the similarity of the devices in many of the marks illustrated, which may point to some succession in business. It might be possible that Burgum and Catcott succeeded to the business of Ash and Hutton and retained their Rose and Crown and Hard Metal marks, being themselves succeeded by Fothergills, who used the clasped hands' device of the former. This, of course, is mere conjecture which a little searching of local

records might tend to prove or disprove. Again one finds an affinity of design in the marks of Hum. Evans of Exeter, J. Ferris and Co., and John Webber of Barnstaple; whilst those of J. Dolbeare and Gauls of Exeter, are the only ones suggesting similarity with the designs of the London pewterers' marks. It is an amazing fact that of all the hundreds of country pewterers whose marks are known, there are few, if any, which one could mistake for London marks, diverse though the latter are, a more flamboyant style being as a rule adopted with a greater tendency to advertising. The mark of Dolbeare being one of the most restrained in style of all the country marks I have seen, is at the same time most pleasing and seems eminently suited for pewter ware.

Without *direct* proof that the marks on Plates iv., v. and vi. should occupy a place in a list of West-country pewterers, the evidence to hand and the frequency with which their pieces have been met with in the district, are sufficient to justify the belief that further information will eventually establish their right to inclusion therein. It is desired that anyone having such information will not wait for the next number of this paper, but will communicate direct with the author at ~~Eoden~~ Road, Walsall, Staffs.

Buchanan

Ash & Hutton



**ASH & HUTTON**



Burgum & Catcott (Some of this firm's various marks suggest a close connexion with the above)

**LONDON**



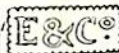
W. Cockey.



J. Dolbeare.



Edgar & Son.



EDGAR  
& SON

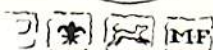


H.H.C. del.

Ham Evans.



Fothergills.



(The device in this mark suggests a connection with Bourgeois + Catcott, &c.)

Gaults.



Sampson Hodge.



John Hoskyn.



Henry Hoskyn.



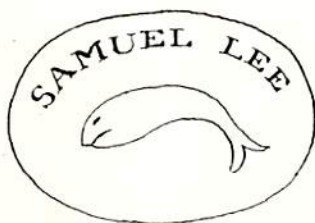
HENRY · HOS

(From a very indistinct mark.)

Kerslake.

KERSLAKE  
CREDITON

Samuel Lee.



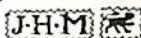
(From a very poor sketch.)

Mortimer.

(Nº1)



(Nº2)



H.C. del.

John Webber, senr.



I. WEBBER  
BARVM

BARNESTAPLE

John Webber, junr.



(From several rough sketches.)

Williams.



T. Willshire.



SUPERFINE  
HARD METAL.

T. & Willshire.



B...CHER.



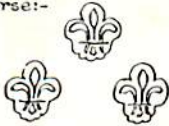
H. H. C. del.

L.....A.....

Obverse:-



Reverse:-



On a dish from West-Country, c. 1680.

L.....A.....



L.....A.....

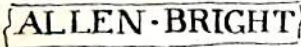


On a patent from Wells.



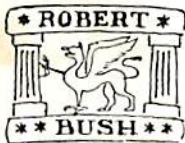
With date 1814.

Allen Bright - various marks.



c. 1750.

Robert Bush, Bush & Co., &c.



c. 1780.

H.C.C., del.

Bush & Perkins (this mark is found on same piece with that of Matthew Mease q.v.)



LONDON



c. 1790.

Stephen Cox.



c. 1740

Richard Cumings



Joseph Dafforn.



J. Ferris & Co.



c. 1780.

Richard Going.



c. 1730

Edward Gregory.



c. 1730



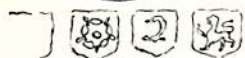
John Griffiths.



c. 1760

H.W.C., dd.

Hale & Sons.



J. COMINS (The owner's name)

William Lansdowne.



Or a piece from Wells.

James Mathews.



JAMES MATHIEWS  
LONDON

Mathew Mease.



C. 1730 (See Bush & Perkins)

Thomas Page.



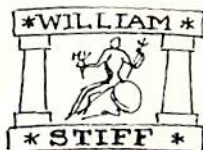
(? Same as Robert Bush).

LONDON  
TP



C. 1747

William Stiff.



LONDON

H. H. C. & Co.

