Richard Davison Collection

SPC member 1918 - 1955

some duplicate photos (from writer not in glass plates)
RICHARD DAVISON

(Biographical detail researched by Mike Stephenson member of The UK Pewter Society.)

1867 – Birth at Blyth, Tynemouth. His father, Richard, was a wagon-wright in 1871 (colliery?), and in 1881 the family were living in Cowpen (Blyth) and his father was a joiner in a coal mine.

1881-1891 Aged 14 he was a pupil teacher in the school at Cowpen. 10 years later he was an Elementary School Master in Cowpen, living with his parents & siblings.

1891-1895- Marriage to Margaret, most likely in Scotland (Margaret was born at Fyvie, Aberdeenshire). Possibly teaching in the area during this period.

1895-1900 Living in Alnwick, where 2 sons were born. Teaching?

1900-Was appointed headmaster of the Elementary School, Belford, Northumberland. Living in West Street, Belford – until his death(?)

He was already known as “Dick Davison” and the children called him “Tarry”, maybe due to his dark hair. He was also into photography & a picture of his pupils taken by Davison at this time can be found in a recent book on the village. There is a picture of him with his pupils, the only image I have been able to detect;- [Search online at BBC-Tyne—History-Uncovering Belford. He is shown standing behind some of his pupils in 1912]

1900-1916 Started to collect old pewter He typed up a list of purchases during this period - “In the counties of Northumberland, Durham, the Borders and Aberdeenshire” [Pewter Soc Archives] perhaps his first venture into dealing. This seems to be a description of pieces for sale as he describes condition and as being genuine. Supplied Cotterell, Clapperton with pewter and they helped him to sell some of his purchases.

Probably through the influence of Cotterell etc he was asked to join the Society of Pewter Collectors.

1918- Joined the Society of Pewter Collectors as a founding member, aged 51. In the years 1918 to 1948 he did not attend a meeting of the Society, nor apologised for non-attendance. In 1920 he did visit 3 collections of other members and he was visited once by others (1931? See below).

1920s - His eldest son, Richard George, was curate in Belford and between 1928-1937 he was vicar at Penecuik, then until 1947 was vicar of Seahouses, nr Alnwick.
1931- In Clapperton’s photo album are images taken by him on a visit to Davison’s house. [Pewter Soc archives]. Includes 3 chalices, 2 salts, spire flagon, tappet hen, 2 Scottish pot-bellied measures, a footed paten, York Acorn Flagon, Charles II tankard with wriggle-work of tulips (sold to Dr Young), and Aberdeen measures.

1940- Death of his wife.

During WWII Mundey visited Davison and bought some Scottish thistle measures & sold them on to Clapperton.

February 1951 was elected a life member of the Society in view of his long association with it.

1955- Death at Belford.

November 2nd 1959. A sale of only 15 lots at Christies. [Pewter Soc Archives]

1) 5 X ½ pint buds, 3 pints, 1 gill £42
2) 4 Irish chalices £44.2s
3) German Guild flagon £15
4) Laver from Berwick, dated 1839 + 2 tankards £42

[His many glass negatives also include images of grandfather clocks and a Chinese bronze incense burner]
List of pieces of English, Scottish and Irish Pewter

Collected between

1900 and 1916

In the counties of Northumberland, Durham, the Borders and Aberdeenshire

By

Richard Davison

2 Clark Place,
Belford,
Northumberland.
The following document appears to list the collection of Richard Davison

Reader's should note however -

1) It has not been possible to tie these descriptions to these pieces. There are many pieces not found in these descriptions that are seen in these photographs.

2) H H Cotterell's book "Old Pewter. Its Makers and Marks A Guide" is quoted this book was not published until 1929.

3) This list quotes the pewter collected from 1900 - 1916.
Following is a list of pieces of English, Scottish and Irish Pewter collected between 1900 and 1916 in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, The Borders and Aberdeenshire, by Richard Davison, 2 Clark Place, Belford, Northumberland; Original Member of Society of Pewter Collectors.

Each piece is guaranteed genuine, repairs being indicated where this has been necessary.

Where the name "Cotterell" is used, this refers to the work:-

"OLD PEWTER, ITS MAKERS AND MARKS A GUIDE"

Other useful books are:-
"Pewter Down the Ages" by Cotterell, published at One Guinea.
"Scottish Pewter Ware and Pewterers" by L. Ingleby Wood, (out of print), and
"Gauderies of English Pewter" by Antonia de Navarro, published by "Country Life" at 25/-.
CATALOGUE OF OLD PEWTER


4. Scots' Tappit-hen shaped Measure Capacity 1 choupin. Height 8½" Date early 18th Century, Cotterell p. 116 Lid restored. Scratched on lid R.D.B.


6. Old English Ale Flagon Capacity ½ gallon. Height 8½" Date about Inscribed in front Daniel Wild Oldham

This is a typical English Ale Flagon of the period with perforated grating at the base of the spout to keep back the hops from pouring into the tankard.
7. Scots' Flat-lidded Baluster Measure
Capacity 1/2 Imp. Pint, Height 4 5/6"
Marked inside bottom in raised cast letters: "Robert Whyte, Edinburgh".

Robt. Whyte was a freeman of the Edinburgh Guild of Pewterers in 1805.

Embryo Shell thumb piece. Scratched on lid T.B. above J.G.

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8. Scots' Flat-lidded Baluster Measure.
Capacity 1 Imp. Pint. Marked outside lip with Revenue Stamps of County Edinburgh Embryo Shell thumb piece.
Flat lid restored.

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9. Holy-water Stoup and Crucifix
Marked (F) below Crucifix. Probably Flemish—about 1700.

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Date about 1800.

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11. Teapot of Britannia Metal.
Capacity 1 cup. About 1790.

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12. Glasgow Pear Shaped measure marked CROWN & IMPERIAL GILL in raised cast letters on lid.
Single domed lid. Date about 1840. Very fine condition.

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13. Scots' Baluster Measure.
Flat-lidded. Capacity 1/2 Imp. Pint.
Height 4 5/6". D. M. engraved on lid.
Marked on bottom inside in raised cast letters: "ROBT. WHYTE, EDINBURGH".

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14. Scots' Baluster Measure Flat-lidded. Capacity $\frac{1}{2}$ Mutchkin (Scots). ($\frac{1}{2}$ Mutchkin = 2 gills = 4 glass.) Height 3$\frac{3}{4}$". Scratched on lid M.S. Embryo Shell Thumbpiece.


16. Irish Measure of the lidless and handleless Type of Baluster Form. Capacity $\frac{1}{2}$ pint. Height 4$\frac{1}{2}$". Marked X on bottom. Early 19th Cent.

17. Same as above. Date is earlier.

18. Irish Nagggin–Marked T R and "NAGGIN" on front. Crowned X on bottom, Height 3$\frac{3}{4}$".

19. Irish Measure. Capacity $\frac{1}{2}$ Noggin Marked Crowned X on bottom. Height 2$\frac{3}{4}$". Stamp of Belfast City.

20. Baluster stemmed Candlesticks. A pair. Date about 1770 to 1820. Height 8$\frac{1}{2}$".

21. Pepper-pot with Crest and Motto "Virtute", Base repaired. Date about 1790.
22. Sprinkler, Georgian. 5\(\frac{3}{4}\)" high.

23. Pepper-pot - Square base, about 1780.

24. Public house Tankard with the Stamp of Berwick-on-Tweed (a bear). Maker - Abbot, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Height 5\(\frac{1}{2}\)". About 1850. Capacity 1 Imp. Pint.

25. Small two handle Ale Mug. Height 4".

26. Ale mug, handled, Inscribed on front: "C. Darlington, Mount Pleasant, Surrey."

27. Ale Mug, handled, height 4\(\frac{1}{4}\)". Date about 1850.


30. Small French Candlesticks. A pair. 4" high. Makers initials on bottom of base ring. Date about 1770.

31. French Candlestick. Date 1772, scratched on base. Height 5".

32. French candlestick. Date 1775, scratched on base. Height 5\(\frac{1}{4}\)".
33. Salt. Engraved on front
   2
   B. 2
   R. A
Height 2½"—Dia. 3½".
A Royal Artillery Mess Salt.
Date about 1810.

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34. Salt. Height 1½". Dia. 3".
Mark Crown X inside. Date
about 1840.

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35. Very small measure: 1 oz. capacity.
Marked crowned X inside.

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36. Small Measure 1 Gill.

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37. Plain Tumbler. Date about 1870.

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38. Pewter Spoon 8" long.
Marked E.M., both crowned on front.
On back Crowned X and Swan in Shield.

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39. Old Pewter spoon. Marked with Sheaf of
Corn, and Free-Trade. On back a harp.
Made at time of passing of Corn Laws
Bill C. 1832.

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40. Old Pewter spoon, tril-fid top.
Late 17th Century. Length 7½".

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41. Irish double-flapped inkstand or standish 6½" x 2". Lid hinged in centre with sand sprinkler space, wafer space and ink-well under one flap and a full length compartment for pens under the other flap. Similar one in National Museum, Dublin. C.1770. (Sand sprinkler missing).

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42. Soup Tureen, about 1820. Probably made by Compton. See page 143 of Cotterell.

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43. Soup ladle length 14" about 1820.

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46. Platter, 15" dia. by Samuel Duncombe. 1740-45. See Note page 199 of Cotterell. Same as Nos. 54 and 57 but larger.

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47. Platter. Robert Sadler, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 1730 to 1780. No. 4088 Cotterell page 298. Robt. Sadler's name appears in Newcastle Directory for 1778, and was succeeded by Wm. Hogg. Dia. 15", Rim 2" Plain. Marked M.M.

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48, 49, 50. Same as above, No. 47

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51. Same as above but only 13" diameter.

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52. Platter, O. Gervas, 1720.  
   No. 1202.  Cotterell page 191.  
   Dia. 18" Rim 23" plain.

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53. Platter, 14½" dia. Marked M.C. on front rim. Good marks on back also Silver marks.

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55. Deep handled dish or plate warmer.  
   10" dia. 2" deep. Engraved:  
   17 A.M.C. 94 on front of rim. Marks on base, probably Flemish.

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56. Deep dish 13¼" dia. Depth 1½".  

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57. Platter 12" dia. Same marks as No. 54.

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59. Deep dish.

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61. Platter, 10\(\frac{1}{4}\)" Dia. 1\(\frac{3}{4}\)" Rim. Coat of Arms engraved on front rim. Marks undecipherable. Collected in Berwickshire.

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63. Three platters, 9\(\frac{1}{2}\)" Dia. Owners:

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64. Initials W on front of No. 63 and

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65. On back G.M. of Nos. 64 and 65.

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66. Three platters 9\(\frac{1}{4}\)" Dia. Rim 1\(\frac{1}{4}\)" plain

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67. By John Lister, Darlington.

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69. Platter, Dia 9\(\frac{3}{4}\)", Rim 1\(\frac{1}{4}\)" by Wm. Hogg, who succeeded Robt. Sadler. See Cotterell page 234, No. 2367. Date 1760.

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70. Platter Dia. 9\(\frac{3}{8}\)". No marks decipherable except Crowned X. Probably by W. Hogg.

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71. Three 9" Platters. These are marked on the back with marks made up from the

72. Armorial bearings of the Duncomens Earls of Faversham and the backs are also stamped with the initials of three former owners.
Three 8½" platters - Bad condition.

75. Probably Irish as they have all been cleaned on the back.

77. Platter 9½". Marks undecipherable but about 1750.

78. Two small Platters. 7½" dia. Marked London, with a touch similar to that of Nos. 71, 72 and 73. Should be studied with Nos. 54, 71, 72 and 73 to try and find an explanation of this touch. Bought from Young - Aberdeen.

80. Platter 9" Dia. Mark undecipherable. Stamped London and owners initial A.A.

81. Platter 9½" Rim has been repaired. Owners initials on front GS ET

Marks not yet discovered.


84. Domestic Bowl 9" Dia. and 2½” deep. Marked M.D. and E.M. on rim. This type is invariably sold as a Scottish Christening Bowl. Probably because it would often be used at baptisms taking place in the home. But there is no doubt it was an ordinary domestic utensil. See page 80 of Cotterell.

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86. Beer Tankard by McGlaschan, Glasgow. 4" high. ½ pint capacity.

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87. English Baluster, lid missing. Engraved "George Willoughby Malton". Height 3½". Capacity 1 Mutchkin. Scotch Standard Measure. (1 Mutchkin = 7½ fl. or Imperial.)

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89. Same as above but 1 Noggin Capacity. Compare No. 18 where the word is spelt Nagginn.

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