A Tale Of Two Flagons in the mid 1930s. (Neate and Mundey).

The collector Edward R Paton (collecting c1920-c1950) kept together a good number of his purchase and collection details.

Amongst them are the following correspondence. There is no comment linking the two writers in this matter.

The dating is interesting as 1935-36 is when much went wrong for Richard Neate. The Richard Mundey letter also perhaps establishes the address he was using for trading from in 1936 (as for 1931) and by his own writing it looks like he was on the Caledonian Market for most of the 1930s before opening his shop in 1939.

The Paton correspondence seen has only one other transaction shown with Neate and that was in 1927 and no transactions shown with Mundey.

Perhaps readers should keep an open mind. It does seem however that Paton a collector of some years experience and a member of the Society of Pewter Collectors (1934 to 1949) had certain views regarding these flagons referred to.

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Sept 30 th. 1935

E. Richmond Paton Esq,
Hareshawmuir,
By Kilmarnock. Ayrshire.

A 17th. Century Flagon with Bun type Lid.....£20-0-0.
c. 1632.

Received with thanks
Richard Neate

In exchange for Octagonal Salt a wide rim Plate .

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Sept 30th. 1935

E. Richmond Paton Esq,

Hareshawmuir,

By Kilmarnock.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your cheque for the Flagon, and also for sending the wide rim Plate which I like very much. Receipt for same enclosed.

I have just purchased two very nice Flagons which may interest you. One is a very large Flagon with Beefeater Lid similar to the one in Cotterell's book page 105 Fig. a. It is 10⅞" to Lip, a fine imposing piece in good condition. Price £19/-/-. The other is a James the first Flagon with erect Thumb piece, 9¼" to Lip, similar to the one in all respects on page 103 Fig. a. The price I am asking for this little gem is £24/-/-. I would willingly send them on approval on hearing from you.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

Ans'd

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Octr. 3rd. 193

E. Richmond Paton Esq,
Hareshawmuir,
By Kilmarnock.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter. I have today sent you two parcels each containing a Flagon and trust you will receive them safely.

I will be quite willing to consider taking two George the second Tankards in part exchange if you can let me have them at a reasonable price bearing in mind that I shall have to find a customer for them.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

9/10/35

Worth Casum.

Tankard - 27½ ea

Flagon. 25 —

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Octr. 8th. 1935

E. Richmond Paton Esq,
Hareshawmuir,
By Kilmarnock.

Ans rec'd 2

Dear Sir,

I answer to your letter re the two Flagons. I am pleased to note that you received these safely. With regard to the history I can inform you that the small Flagon comes from a private family in Worcestershire. The wide skirted Flagon was purchased by a dealer at a sale and sold to me. As you may be aware, it is not customary for one dealer to enlighten another as to where he finds his pieces.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Octr 11th. 1935

E. Richmond Paton Esq,

Hareshawmuir,

By Kilmarnock.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter and am astounded at the contents. I have had 25 years practical experience as a Pewter Dealer and in my opinion the Flagons are absolutely genuine, and I am prepared to give a written guarantee to that effect.

With reference to your comment on the lack of circular tool marks I agree with you that in many cases these do exist, but their absence does not necessarily condemn a piece. Out of the very many specimens I have handled it has been a "fifty-fifty" chance as to whether these tool marks are visable or not. As to the rough surface you mention that depends on the treatment a piece has received during its lifetime. Many a fine piece has a rough exterior entirely due to neglect. I am writing to Dudley, Worcester, where the former owner resides for further particulars of the early little Flagon. On receipt of his reply I will forward it to you.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Octr 14th. 1935

E. Richmond Paton Esq,
Hareshawmuir,
By Kilmarnock.

Ans. NR wanted. Spend £20 on back £47

Dear Sir,

I have just received the reply from the man who sold me the early Flagon and I herewith enclose same for your perusal. I think you must agree that what he says about it having belonged to his father, (and ~~in~~ taking into consideration the price he asked for it) definitely proves the authenticity of the Flagon. In view of this, I am holding the Flagon for you, as per your remarks in your letter. Your reply by return will oblige.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

Octr 23rd. 1935

E. Richmond Paton Esq,
Hareshawmuir,
By Kilmarnock.

Dear Sir,

It may interest you to know that I have submitted the small 1610 Flagon to the experts of the British Museum. In their opinion it is undoubtedly an authentic specimen of the first half of the 17th. Century. You can verify this if you should so desire. If this should make you reconsider your desire to purchase this piece, I will take the small Flagon I sold you and £5/-/-. for it.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

Please send the Tankard up again as I would like to see it once more.

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

25th Oct 1935

E Richmond Paton Esq

Dear Sir.

Herewith the flagon as requested. I have given it another clean up. The first time I did it in a hurry and I am afraid I rather scratched it.

Yours faithfully

Richard Neate

RICHARD NEATE,
Specialist in Old Pewter Ware.

PHONE: MUSEUM 3883

92 ALBANY STREET,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W.1

14th Nov 1935

E. Richmond. Paton Esq.
Haweshawmuir.
By Kilmarnock.

Dear Sir,

I received the second Flagon safely. I will be pleased to do as you suggest and exchange the Flagon you bought from me. I will advise you just as soon as I get something which I think will be of interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Neate

40, Sterndale Road.
London, W. 14.
16th Jan. 1936.

Dear Sir.

A couple of days ago I acquired from a well known collector in part exchange, two early English Church Flagons. This collection from which my two flagons emanate, is one of the largest in the country, and the only reason I was able to procure them, was that they were duplicates; the collector already having about 20 flagons of varying types. I might mention, that these flagons are clean now; but I saw them some time ago when they were really crusted. ? Rouslin

Yesterday, I was discussing flagons with a well known London dealer; and he informed me that he had offered two flagons precisely similar, and that they were "turned down" though in his opinion they were quite authentic. This was such a coincidence that I showed this dealer my two flagons. He suggested I send them on to you; and I am doing so; for there cannot possibly by anybody with knowledge, be cast the slightest doubt as to the authenticity

of these flagons. I do not know if I am at liberty to disclose the name of the former owner (a member of the Society), but if necessary I think I will be allowed to.

The flagons are for disposal, and the price is as follows:-

The circa 1615 flagon £27=

" " 1634 " £23=

The mark on the handle of the 1634 type appears on many similar pieces and is quite well known. I would be pleased to receive your acknowledgement of parcel; and I do not mind to whom the flagons are submitted. In the light of what I have been told, it is possible for genuine pieces to be turned down to satisfy a preconcieved prejudice.

Yours faithfully.

Richard Munday.

E. R. Polon Esq.

by Kilmarnock.

It looks as though the collector probably discussed or wrote about his experiences with Richard Neate with A T ISher of Cheltenham who were one of his most regular sources.

Note the dates -

A·H·ISHER & SON
METALWORK
CHELTENHAM

ORKS: ROSE & CROWN PASSAGE
TEL. 4822

ANTIQUES—VALUATIONS

19 BENNINGTON STREET

Jan 31/36

. Richmond Paton Esq;
Kareshawmuir,
by Kilmarnock.

Dear Sir

Many thanks for your letter of 30th inst:
I am very sorry to hear of your experience
with flagons, for as you say it does
not tend to make one very enthusiastic
& it certainly spoils a very interesting
hobby.
We have never been able to find out
actually where the fakes are coming
from, but it makes one pretty fed
up.

Neate and Mundey were not the only suppliers he had difficulties with Flagons here is a reference to another Flagon he appeared sure was wrong.

It should be noted clearly that Casimir acknowledged his customer's concerns and credited him without problem.

A collector might ask where are these flagons today.....

Trade Supplied.

Telephone: WELBECK 1262.

Genuine
Antiques
only.

The Old Pewter Shop

(CHARLES CASIMIR.)

COLLECTIONS PURCHASED.

49, GEORGE STREET,
BAKER STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

E. R. Palán Esq.

Sept. 15th 35

Rare Venice flagon	£25	Fake not @ £15
2 Handle Cup	5	
Rare Salt	8	
	£38	
Contra Ye Tankard	5	
Balance	£33	
1709 Flagon on approv.	— 12	X
	£21	
	— 7½ Cent	
	£20/15/0	

With Compliments

You owe me	£12	X
Yours Flagon	25	
	£13	Cheque enclosed

Trade Supplied.

Telephone: WELBECK 1262.

Genuine
Antiques
only.

The Old Pewter Shop

(CHARLES CASIMIR.)

COLLECTIONS PURCHASED.

49, GEORGE STREET,
BAKER STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

Dear Mr Salai

Nov 1st 35

I have received the flagon safely & am surprised that you doubt it. However, I shall be pleased under the circumstances, to credit you with the amount of £15. I hope that when you are here in Nov I shall have something to show you.

Yours faithfully

C Casimir.

Credit £15

He seems to be struggling to find a good flagon in 1935-36.