

A list prepared of 12+ pieces to represent the large number of fakes of Old Pewter found in the A F de Navarro Collection.

The reason why this collector was susceptible to fakes was that he had very set ideas on what he expected to find. He believed that what was found in old silver should be found in old pewter. He also was certain as to the patina he preferred for his collection. Simply he preferred the very clean.

Thus by virtue of wealth, and misplaced certainty of design and patina, he left himself open to those who would supply him, indeed make especially for him, with what he wanted. There are some 16 pieces herein, it should be noted that it is very difficult to identify fakes - it has been said to this writer that it takes 40 years of experience handling and looking at pieces.

H L J L Masse (organiser of the earliest recorded old pewter exhibitions, author and collector) refers to these matters in 1911 and 1904

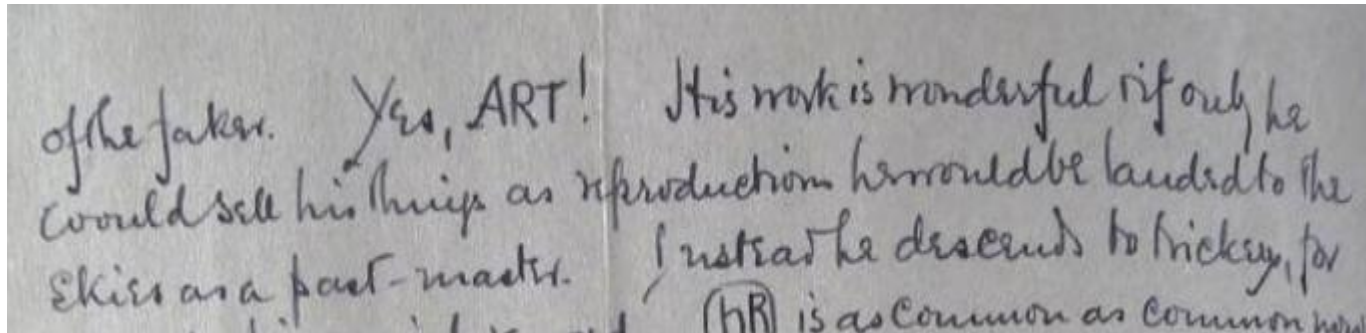
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▶ It is a curious thing that if a collector advertises for any unusual piece of pewter which he knows from description only, or from hearsay, the piece will be heard of in a remarkably short time.

There are shops where pewter of certain periods and nationality may be ordered—if not commissioned. The orders cannot be executed from stock or at once, because to make pewter takes a little time. Longer time, too, would be required for anything out of the common, but the article would certainly be forthcoming.

and very original...
to propound.—Why was the English pewter left practically unornamented? To this the answer may be given that the English workmen, working as they did under definite restrictions, and still more definite supervision, were obliged to draw the line at any downright imitation of goldsmiths' and silversmiths' work. There was ornamented English pewter of a kind, but it was very simple and unassuming.

H H Cotterell - the authority early pewter collector's turned to for opinion and knowledge wrote as follows regarding one faker in 1931



of the fakers. Yes, ART! It is work is wonderful if only he
Would sell his things as reproductions as a part-master. Instead he descends to tricksy, for
(HR) is as common as common here

In making this selection there have been several considerations. These were what experienced collectors felt certain were fakes and most especially those with the potential for interesting script to show some meaning for the Museum visitor.

NAV.197-1933

Pair of candlesticks, pewter, the faceted column on domed and stepped drip-pan structure, flaring to 12-sided base with central depression. Wriggle-work initials 'NM' on foot. English, WM Lewis, in style of *c.* 1700.

William Lewis worked from 1667 in London son of another William who was a clothworker and citizen(?). Free in 1667 set up shop in 1668 and restruck his touch after the fire in 1670. Unfortunately his mark is found faked on the Neate Touch plate, His references are OP2930a and OP5768 and PS5825. The fake mark has been found on salts.

2 = B height to top 280mm, diameter of base at widest is 220 cms each side of 12 is 6cms weight is 1910 gms

1 = A height to top is 284 mm diameter of base at widest is 219cms each side is 5.8cms weight is 1912 gms

Comment -

This pair of large candlesticks was another purchase from Richard Neate. They have twelve sided bases, drip pans, columns and sconces. On the side of the columns of both there is small touch "1668 WL". On the whole Gadd thinks they are right, see pages 95 to 97. Others who have seen them are far more cautious. No other similar English candlesticks are known, it is an unusual position for a touch and they show little signs of their age. Finally the WL touch is that of a spoon maker and it is a mark known to have been faked. On balance it seems likely they are not right, whether they are complete forgeries or items that have been faked by the addition of the touches and the English attribution is another matter. They bear the wriggled ownership marks "NM" on the top side of the base.



197A

NAV.247-1933

Pair of candlesticks, pewter, square column with central fillet, on a drip-pan and stepped base. Marks 'EN' and an arrow in beaded circle. English, 17th century style. Though the note from the Navarro candlestick suggests it is N E.

A mark N E in a beaded circle is found at PS110645 with a date suggested of c1660 it is said to appear on a 17th century chalice - seen in *The Causeries* on page 153. - OP6136 refers.

Then again the mark photographed is similar to Edward Newbolt at PS6747 a London Pewterer born at Winchester and working 1668 - 1676 - but here again his mark was faked (see comment below). This Newbolt was succeeded by his wife only

height to top 340mm (13.5 inches) base 8.7 inches
inside base on a Navarro ticket N...E...RES 1670
247.1. is 31 cms tall, 9" square base and weighs 2120 grams

Comment -

Another pair of candlesticks similar to NAV.193 but without the vertical indentations. These are believed to have been bought from Richard Neate in April 1931, who said that they had been sold to him by a dealer from Ireland who reported they came from Limerick. This raises the first issue, such 17th century pewter is virtually unknown in Ireland. Secondly Gadd indicates (page 95) that they were made from cold rolled sheet, such cold rolling was not introduced until well into the 18th century. Thirdly they have on the stem, again in an unusual place, the touch "EN". This touch is not the version on the London touchplate (no 126) but the fake version illustrated on page 16 of the *Neate Touchplate* book. There is no doubt then that they are faked and every indication they are forgeries. This of course potentially connects Neate directly to the so-called Neate touchplate,



NAV.179-1933

Two-handled cup, pewter, straight-sided with everted rim, stepped base and two simple-scroll handles. Body engraved in wriggle-work with two tulips, two winged putti bearing crown and inscription on one side. On the other side, the Stuart Royal Arms, 'CR' and '1600'. English, in style of c. 1660.

184mm height to top. 160mm diameter of base, 1752 grams weight

SPECIALIST COLLECTOR COMMENTS - Not my field but I wouldn't spend money on it! Late 19th cen. made up.



Article - Richard Neate by David Hall refers and gives more detail

NAV.184-1933

Dish, pewter, broad-rimmed, with central depression and raised boss containing pewter medallion. Rim engraved in wriggle-work 'REJOYCE MONMOUTH YE TRAITOR IS FALLEN'. English. Possibly a fake.

18" diameter and weighs around 2670 grams. An 18 inch shallow broad rim bowl with hammered bouge decorated as a commemorative, with wriggled engraving around the rim including two busts, a Crowned Thistle, a Crowned Harp and a Crowned Rose and the inscription "REJOYCE MONMOUTH YE TRAITOR IS FALLEN". In the bowl a central boss with a cast pewter plaque of the Royal Arms and a further inscription "VIVAT REX JACOBUS SECUNDUS" and the date 1685. On the rim there are the remains of a set of hallmarks and to the back of the rim a touch of a Crown over the initials RC or RG in a beaded circle. This touch and the accompanying hallmarks would appear to be those or to imply they are those of Richard Gardiner of London who opened shop in October 1670 and died in 1688/9. There is information in the sources that Gardiner's touch has been faked, whether or not these marks are fake (one published faker's plate illustrates a Crown over RC/G hallmark) the question of the decoration and the pewter plaque need separate consideration.

Two other commemoratives apparently dating to this period are known, the so-called Capel/Lawrence charger and the Seven Bishops charger and both have been condemned as fakes.

There are features of the decoration on this charger which cause concern. For example the busts and the Crowned Thistle and a Crowned Rose are surrounded by a feathery mantle often found on contemporary Coats of Arms but these

Continued

commemorating the execution of two people for treason, in a few years the significance of these events inevitably would fade.

If one was going to commemorate something would not the victory of Sedgemoor have been more obvious. Richard Neate sold this and the next item to Novarro in December 1929 for about £200! This commemorative belongs to the category that if I was given the opportunity to buy, would I?



are not Coats of Arms, likewise the six in the date is too upright for this period and the cast Royal Arms plaque of pewter has no known contemporary parallels outside the Navarro Collection.

The face of the piece is very clean and I can see no signs of hard oxide in the wriggle work. I am not clear why one would want to possess two chargers



NAV.28-1933

Tankard, pewter, flat lid with scrolled thumbpiece. marked on base with 'Sister Wills, Hole in the Wall, Fleet Street'. English, Pitt & Dadley, dated 1789.

Height to rim 167 mm height to top 210 mm diameter of base 165 mm and weight 1804 gms.

Comment

Presuming the identification of the maker of this piece with its interesting inscriptions of Pitt and Dadley is correct then the lid and thumb piece must be suspect, despite the denticulations. This partnership is dated circa 1781-1797. At this date you would have expected a dome lid with a chair or even more likely an open chair thumb piece. City of Westminster verification mark.

Another Experienced Collector comments -

Agree with the above that the style of lid does not match the style of the body. I think a replacement lid has been attached to the body.

Also note -

PS7367 Pitt & Dadley - a company or partnership working 1781-1797

The partnership was between Richard Pitt and his former apprentice, Edward Dadley.
They made large measures using purpose-made moulds, pear-shaped teapots for export to the Colonies, and pewter plates.



Photograph c 1928

included to show likelihood of pieces being doctored, repaired and changed to meet a customer's requirements

NAV.226-1933

Tankard, pewter, flat lid, the thumbpiece with crest above a coronet. Inside bottom, pewter medallion of Charles I. English, in style of mid-17th century.

Height to rim 123 mm height to top 180 mm diameter of base 126mm weight 1124 mm

Comment -

What a piece!

We have the strangest of thumb pieces obviously soldered on rather than integral with the hinge, the question could be asked when was it attached? The denticulations are also unusual and there is a medallion of Charles I in the base. It is a surprising piece and to my eyes unbelievable. Both the base and the inside of the lid appear to have been coloured with acid, it produces regular little pits as here. A thumb piece takes a lot of use and this example would not stand up to such use. Similar handle to some of the above.





NAV.227-1933

Tankard, pewter, flat lid with upright twin-lobed thumbpiece, closely fitted hinge and straight-sided body broadening to flat bottom. Body engraved with arms of baker in foliate wreath. English, in style of mid-17th century.

Height to rim 106mm height to top 136mm diameter of base 126mm weight 680mm

Comment -

Another oddity. The body of this tankard appears to be made from the lower part of a small flagon. The thumb piece is very familiar by now and appears to be soldered on to the hinge which appears to be soldered on to the handle. The arms are, to the best of my knowledge, appropriate for a mid. 17th century date, the body of the piece would seem to be of a later date.



NAV.140-1933

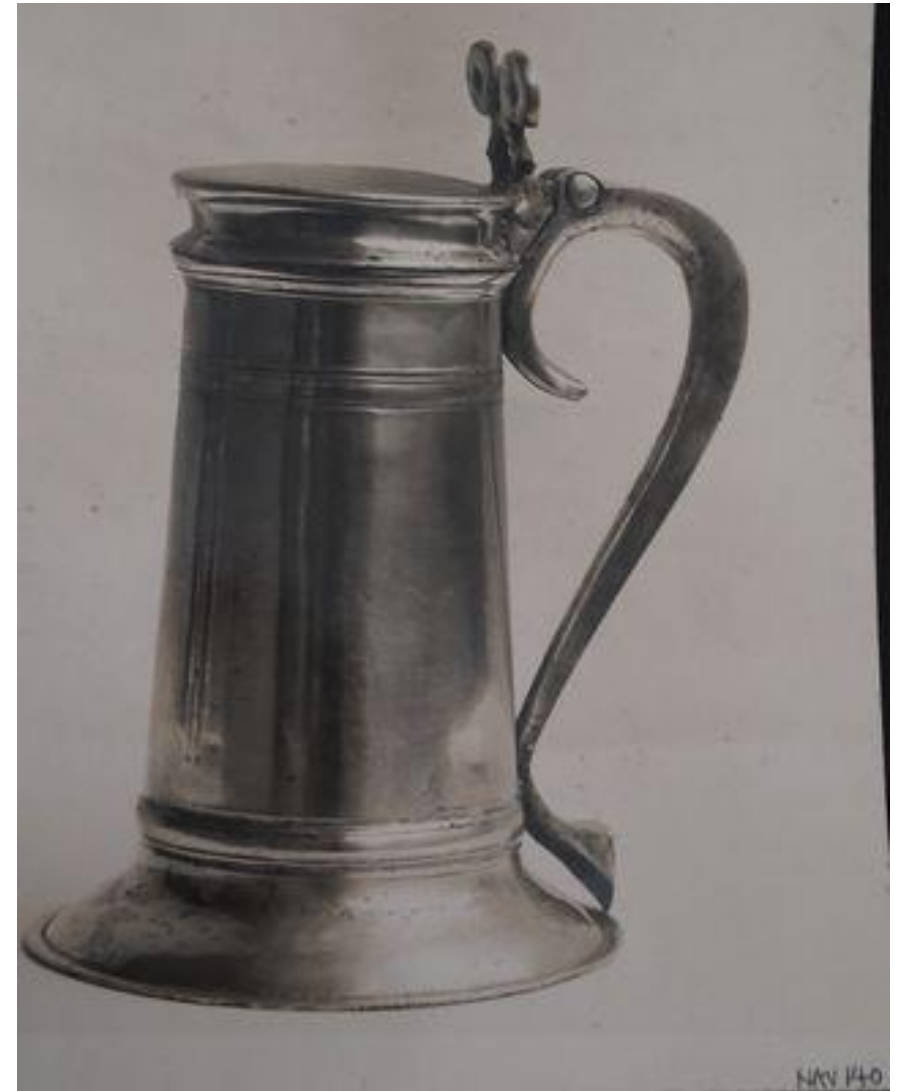
Flagon, pewter, straight-sided body decorated with reeded bands flaring sharply to broad foot; lid with concave sides and pierced thumbpiece hinged to thick single-scrolled handle. Underneath marked 'RL' crowned in beaded circle. English. Possibly a fake.

This mark is however found on a cold still shown on the Pewter Society data base found at Mosley Old Hall Staffordshire. The references used are PS 6060 and OP5764a, Cotterell does not say on what he recorded the touch M2703 but gives an estimated date of c1750. The cold still cannot be close-dated as they were made over a long period, but mid 18th century is certainly plausible.

216mm to rim, 290 mm to top, 188 mm diameter of base, 1906 grams weight.

COLLECTOR'S COMMENTS -

Beefeater flagons touches are usually on the handle or in the bottom of the body not under the base. They also invariably have flat bottoms and do not have cupped ends to the body. Very suspicious.



Photograph c1928

NAV.244-1933

Acorn dish, pewter, with central medallion of Arion and the Dolphin, and legend 'ARION PRESERVATUR DOLPHINO'. English, c. 1600

17.5 inches diameter and weighs around 1930 grams

A 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stepped or rose water bowl with a central boss bearing on this occasion a pewter plaque and boss inscribed with apparently Arion and the Dolphin and it is said the legend "ARION PRESERVATUR DOLPHINO". I cannot recollect a similar piece with a cast pewter boss except others in this collection. The plaque appears to be heavily corroded more so than the rest of the bowl, highly polished though it is. This level of corrosion damage to the plaque suggests acid damage. It is difficult to see this piece other than an elaborate forgery, testing the alloy of the bowl might help to confirm this. There is a detrited touch somewhere on the back of the piece which I have so far not been able to identify.



NAV.246-1933

Rosewater dish, pewter, inverted double-dome, with central ship medallion. Stamped with initials 'R' and 'S' in an oval. Mark of a horseman with initials, boss and medallion added later. English, 17th century.

Name of Pewterer S D unknown date reference PS No. 3043

The mark appears on "fake" pieces as a "housemark" and on lids of many hammerhead and Wedge Balusters and as a touchmark on Posset Cup and Beaker type Measure.

Bowls of identical dimensions and decoration have been analysed and the results are inconsistent with the supposed age such metal content only being found in dishes/plates of much later production. There is a view then that these are likely to be fakes.

Another stepped or rose water bowl with a central boss bearing again a pewter plaque, diameter of piece not given. The plaque has as decoration a two decked warship with very high fore and stern castles and a large sail decorated with a Coat of Arms. This presumably has been copied from some probably printed source or alternatively it is a partly an imaginary creation. Whichever, it does not portray either an Elizabethan warship or English or Dutch warship of the time of Charles I, the closest parallel I know of is the Swedish warship the Vasa, which capsized shortly after leaving port on its maiden voyage.

Beneath the rim there is touch which is probably OP5554b, which remains unidentified and was identified by Cotterell in 1931 as recently seen and doubtful.

Also an apparent ownership mark "RS" on the back of the rim. The back of the piece seems to show the heavy oxide of age, the plaque is, however, not convincing. It seems very likely that the piece has been faked, perhaps by the addition of the plaque, perhaps in other ways.



NAV.2-1933

Salt, pewter, of pulley form, with three lugs. Marked with animal's head beneath two inverted crescents, in a shield. English, in style of c. 1700. Possibly a fake. Height to rim 96 mm, height to top of arm 134mm diameter of base 147mm weight 772 grams

An Experienced Collector writes -

Although this style is known in silver it is very rare - and unknown in pewter. I remember handling this item and it *is* a fake.



NAV.53-1933

Salt, pewter, incised initials 'I.W.', capstan shape. English. Possibly a fake.
Height to top 72mm diameter of base 77mm

An Experienced Collector writes -

Fake. Salts of this style are not known in pewter or silver of the 17th or 18th century.



NAV.58-1933

Salt and cover, pewter, of hourglass form, dome cover with baluster finial. English, 20th century in 17th century style. Fake.

An Experienced Collector writes -

Definitely FAKE . NOT a known style!



NAV.71-1933

Salt, pewter, inverted trumpet bell, stepped reeded foot. Engraved with three owls and a chevron. English, Birmingham, mid-18th century. Possibly a fake. Height to top 30mm, diameter of base 125 mm, weight about 204gms.

An Experienced Collector writes -

Again another fake possibly made from the base of a flagon



NAV.220-1933

Salt, pewter, with flat-domed base and rouletted decoration. 'B' struck four times on rim. English. Fake.

Height to top 43mm, diameter of base 85mm weight about 114 grams.

An Experienced Collector writes -

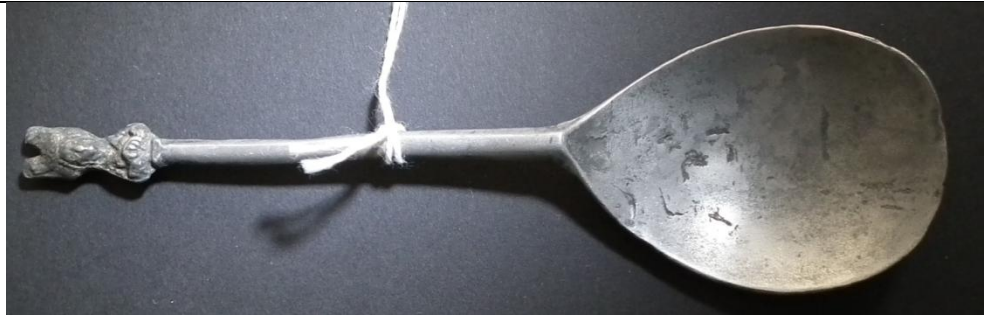
Definitely a fake. The style and decoration shout as being wrong.



NAVS S 5 - 1933 - 170

COLLECTOR'S COMMENT

Spoon with 'horned headdress knop, round section (?) stem and fig-shape bowl. This style of spoon has been extensively faked and the evidence of poor casting in the bowl and the lack of any mark strongly suggests this example may be such a fake.



NAVS S 6 - 1933 - 178mm

COLLECTOR'S COMMENT

Spoon with strawberry knob, flattened stem and oval bowl. Owner's initials I S / C stamped to bowl. The strawberry knob is rare in pewter and indicates a C16 date. However, the form of the bowl and the style of the owner's initials appear later. There is also a casting fault at the top of the bowl. This may be a fake.

