An International Collection

This website was invited to view a collection somewhat different to those we usually see which are mostly collections of old British pewter.

This collector whilst living in the UK has eclectic tastes of international scope into areas of design that please him and he knows what he can do with pieces that might look "past their best" (so to speak) and he is very conscious of where he sees value.

In simple words then he enjoys renovating his own pieces and buys designs he likes regardless of origin but not regardless of cost. Thus he is restoring (only) for his own pleasure forgotten pewter from another age regardless of country of origin.

The international pieces are embedded in a largely British collection consisting of the sorts of pieces readers will have seen elsewhere. Except that here the pieces might have been given a little more care and attention.

Viewing this collection was a day of discovery and it might have opened this writer's eyes somewhat.

For this article then a few pieces were chosen which it is hoped website readers will find interesting. There is very little information about most of them.
A Large Chinese Tea Caddy
This Caddy is 21cms wide and when closed 17cm tall. It is perhaps 19th Century. The mark inside, centre to the base, is unknown The overhang of top to bottom is large, likely to further preserve the tea.

A Japanese Saki Set
All separate containers hold the same volume. There is a top missing from the one in the centre. The overall size of the closed set is 13.2cm wide and 11.2cm tall. It is of unknown age.

An American Snuff Box

The owner writes -

A Snuff Box 10 cm wide.

The American Great Seal of 1776 on reverse had the eye of provenance with text (latin) translates as - "HE approves of our works, new order of the ages". It is an adaptation of the eye of Horus from ancient Egypt with a similar meaning.
The Admiralty and the U.S. navy use the fouled anchor (the rope is wrapped around badly so it does not work, a challenge that is an opportunity to excel to overcome).

The French assisted the U.S. to defeat the British in 1781 assuring the U.S. independence. In 1812 the conflict arose again.

1812-1817 The British and Americans were hauling the big 32-pounder cannons overland and building boats around them in the Great Lakes and lake Ticonderoga in New York.

Captain Perry was in command of this operation on the U.S. side and his victory in Lake Erie 10 September 1813 sealed the U.S. Canada border forever.

This snuff box was made sometime, but perhaps not long, after that.
Two Swiss Food Containers

These can be found in Peter Hornsby's Pewter of the Western World. Look at page 253. He describes them as c1800 and as Swiss Flasks.
The above is 25cms tall and 15.7cms at the widest base measurement. The owner considers these might have been a Canton Agricultural Show Prize.
A Dutch Coffee Maker
This coffee maker might be late 19th or even early 20th century. The finial is wood and the handle is copper. The overall height is 19cms.
A Polygon 'kann' - or flask - Hornsby shows one he says is Hungarian on page 254. There is a maker's name to the top of this which has not yet been traced but ought to show the country of origin which might be Germany.
A Scottish Ice cream or Ice maker.
A Sorbetiere
This is a very tall and rarely found piece which must have been made for one of the larger houses. It is 29cms tall with a diameter of nearly 14cms. Add cream sugar and fruit puree and put in large bucket of ice to make the ice cream.

The maker KINIBURGH is recorded as being a mis-spelling of the name Kinniburgh - this is a tradesman who can make fine stuff but some assume that he cannot spell his name, when his mark, his name, is his shop front, his pride, his advertising - to this writer the idea that he will have allowed his name to go forward incorrectly is ludicrous and simply means there is no information known about this maker - or there is information missing.

Nevertheless the dates he is recorded as likely working 1813-1826/31 are likely about right, and he is thought to have worked in Glasgow, and to have been part of the Kinniburgh family.

The piece is rare - very few are known of, and no such piece is recorded Hornsby.

Three Swiss Kanns
Although graduated in sizes and very similar this is not an original set with the middle piece likely made in the 20th century. Hornsby says this style was made in the 18thC.

They would perhaps contain wine or water. Sizes in terms of overall height are - 29.5cms, 22.6cms, and 18.6cms.
The spouted measure feels much lighter than the baluster. The mark in the bottom reads "ATE" which of course might be a detrited YATES. Then as Yates repros are made well into the 20th century we might wonder as to dating.

The baluster has verifications from Victorian times but is unmarked. The verification is for Norwich and the uncut hinge shows no sign of ever being drilled so it is likely to have been always unlidded.

Nevertheless two good looking pieces of size and well restored to the owner's preference.
Four Paprika Jars from Italy or the Italian area of Switzerland.

The two with long necks have a metal ball or piece of some sort inside likely to keep the paprika from becoming lumpy. There are marks on these two indicating made by a father and his family successor.

The skittle shape is 31 cms tall and the long necked cylinder about 30cms.
Both around 24cms in height, the one to the left is heavier and just a bit taller. Hornsby writes that this shape is c1800 and found from all over Europe.
A pair of Two Handled Pint Loving Cups

A pair of mid 19thc pewter "U shaped 2 band" pint LOVING CUPS 4 ¾" tall x 7 ½" width (across the handles) with double scroll handles and incised banded ring decoration.

"Hallmarks" (PS 15710) to rim, and maker's mark (scalloo shell -M1026) inside the base - for James Stanton I (PS 8886, LTP 1089, Cott 4480).

Pre 1879 VR - verification marks near the rim 1837-1879.

The maker's mark in the base is definitely (M1026) Stanton Little Britain though worn and double-struck.

James Stanton I worked on his own account from 1815 - 1835. from 1815 - 1826 he worked at Shoe Lane and that is shown under his scallop shell mark (with name above) for wares made there.
In 1826 - 1835 he worked at Little Britain and that then replaced Shoe lane in his mark. It might be reasonable to assume then that these were made when he was working in Little Britain - though it is unknown what his sons Richard Stanton III and James Stanton II used after his death.

The VR verification mark suggests that it may have been used by a successor after James Stanton I's death in 1835 as was the case for his hallmarks. Though were "loving cups" used in public bars? The implication of the verification marks is that they were.

This style is not shown in Hornsby's pewter of The Western World.

Finally -

Two quart GLASS-BOTTOMED-TRUNCATED CONE ale measures by Townsend & Compton - Cotterell 4800 1801-1810, with multiple reeding around the low fillet, and on the heavy base, with broken arch handle, and no lip ring described in Peal pg 127-128

The T&C marks were used by T&C and successors throughout the 19thc. Hence dating these as 1850.

Notice the one on the left seems considerably newer than the one on the right which resembles the very earliest glass bottomed mugs. The left one is 8 oz (33.5) heavier than the latter (25.5ozs), is less corroded, and has flat glass vs the latter wavy, and a more modern foot moulding.