

English Pewter Candlesticks of the Seventeenth Century

By RICHARD NEATE.

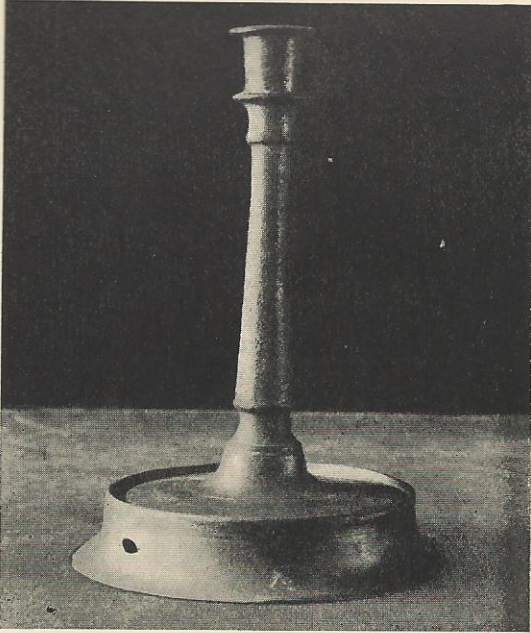
It has lately been the privilege of the writer to inspect what is probably the most remarkable and complete collection of 17th Century English Pewter Candlesticks ever brought together under one roof. It is thought that a short description would be appreciated by all pewter enthusiasts and also others interested in the beauty of early English Pewter. There are earlier pieces than that of the 17th Century, but very few examples have come down intact to our period. Strangely enough, English candlesticks of the period under review are so very rare, that to have more than two is an achievement. *That* makes the collection under notice all the more remarkable.

It must first be noted that this collection was made by the grandfather of the present owner, between 1830 and 1870, with the exception of three, which were acquired about 1897. In no instance has any piece been subjected to any process of cleaning, either with acid, potash or metal polish. Consequently the candlesticks retain the wonderful "patina" so dear to the true collector. To retain this "patina" it is only necessary to wash pewter with soap and hot water. This cleans pewter, but does not disturb the colour.

All the candlesticks were found in Britain. It does not follow that every piece of pewter found here is British. The writer, though, has no hesitation in affirming that the collection does not contain anything that is not British, if not entirely English. After twenty-five years of pewter collecting, it is not difficult to discriminate between British and Continental pewter; weight, texture, and form being the main deciding factors.

Candlesticks of the 17th Century have a decided charm, which is exclusive. Those produced in the reigns of the Georges do not possess the wonderful lines of architectural construction that their predecessors had. The 17th Century candlesticks blended correctly with the solid oak Stuart and Cromwellian furniture. The baluster-stemmed candlesticks of the Georgian period had ornate decoration suiting the dainty mahogany pieces of that time.

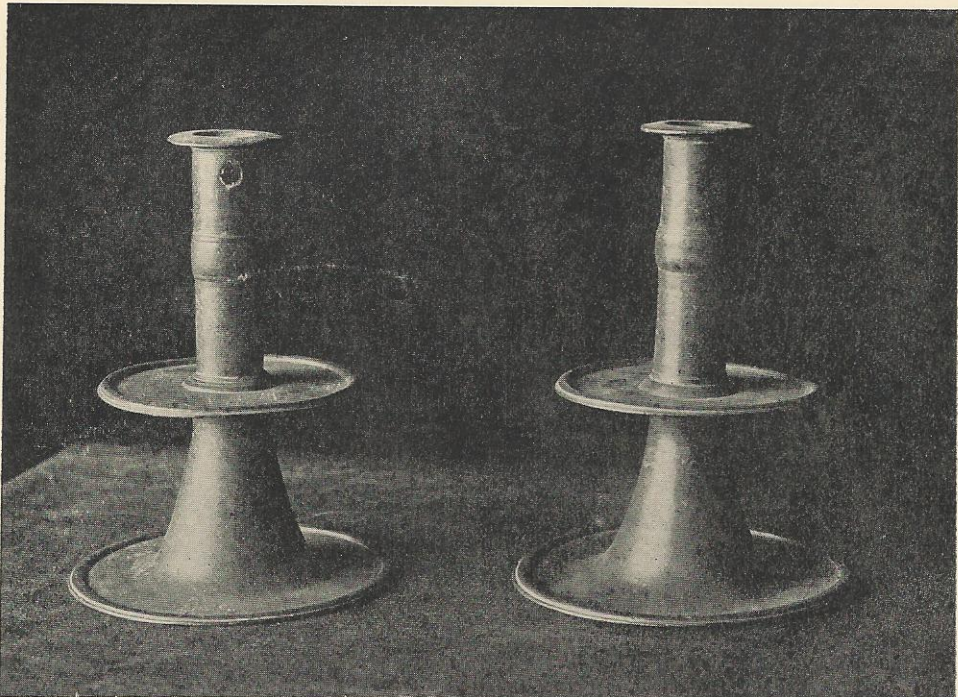
This collection consists of fifteen pewter candlesticks, ranging from the beginning to the end of the 17th Century. Unfortunately space available allows for twelve only to be illustrated. The remaining three will be described at the end of the article.



English Pewter
Candlesticks.
17th Century.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



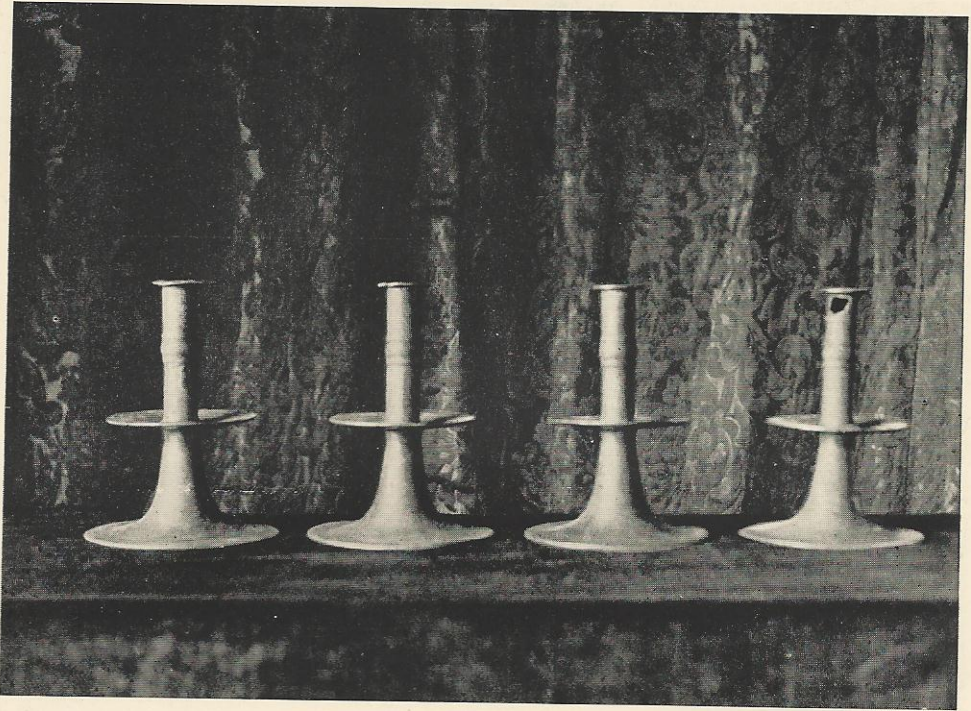


Fig. 3.

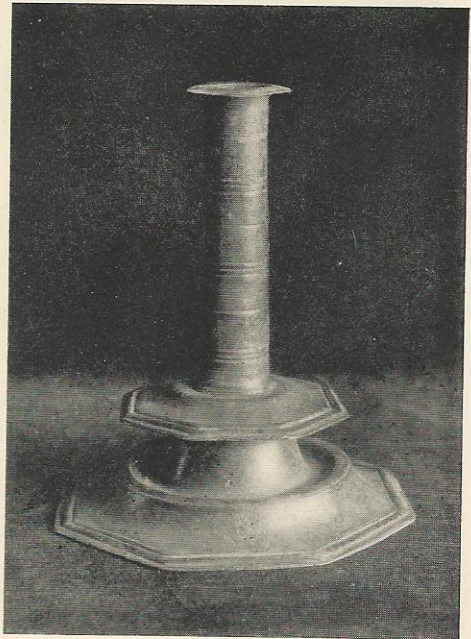


Fig. 4.

English Pewter
Candlesticks.

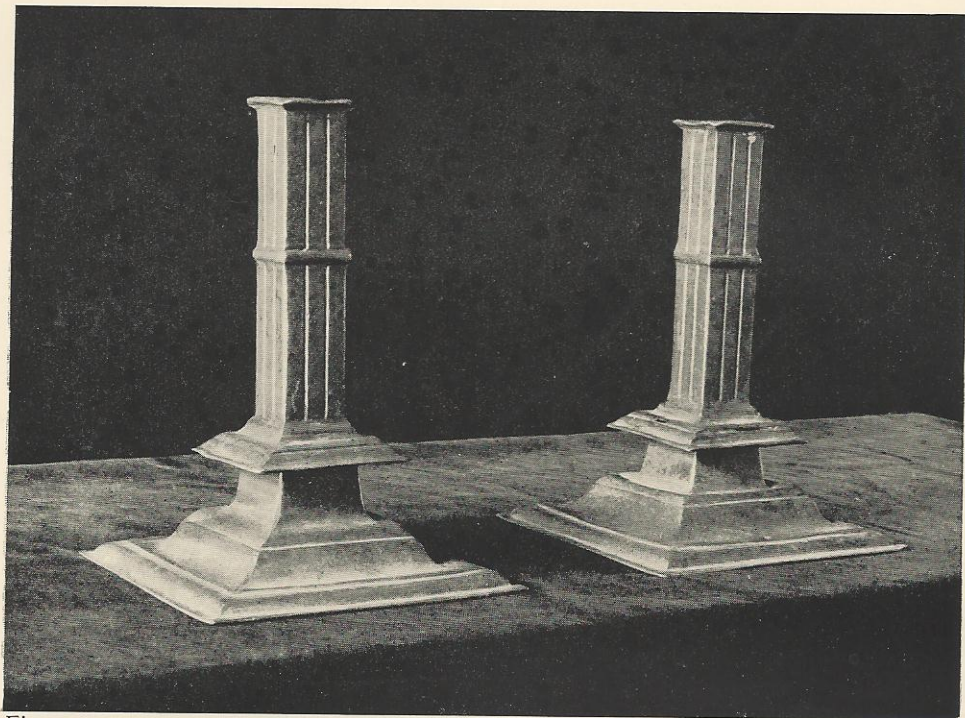


Fig. 5.

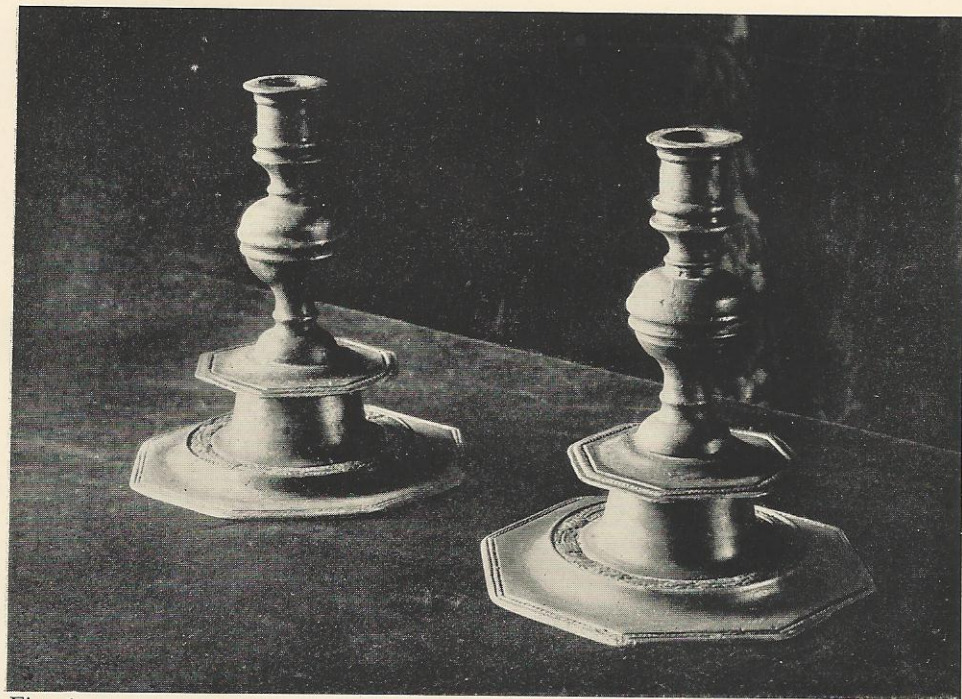


Fig. 6.