



A.E. Williams

Manufacturers of some of the finest Pewterware in the World

<u>Thomas Williams</u> Bristol/Welsh Boarder		1780-1835
<u>Richard Williams</u> Bristol		1835-1865
<u>Ernest Williams</u> Bristol/Birmingham	 	1865-1900
<u>Albert Williams</u> (Williams & Day) Birmingham		1900-1945
<u>Thomas Williams</u> (A E Williams)		1945-1994

In 1967 Thomas Williams purchased the complete stock of the Company H Day.

In 1977 all stock of Pierce & Page were purchased.

In September 1987 Thomas Williams took-up semi-retirement and the running of the Company passed to David Williams & Barry Johnson.

In 1994 Mr Thomas Williams peacefully passed away ending an era. He was regarded by many to be one of the most talented Pewtersmiths in the History of Pewter.

David Williams & Barry Johnson **1987-to date**
Son & son in law
(A E Williams)

In 1998 Mr Stephen Johnson became a partner of A E Williams.

David Williams, Barry Johnson & Stephen Johnson **1987-to date**
(A E Williams)

In 1990 A E Williams purchased the entire stock of moulds which Was part of the James Yates Collection. This also included the Entire stock of moulds of John Duncombe. The Duncombe Family Who manufactured Pewterware were situated in the Square Bull Street Digbeth Birmingham from 1736-1753, they lived and worked less than 200 yards from the present site of A E Williams.

As reference this can be found in a book Titled:
Provincial Pewterers, By R F Homer & D W Hall page 67
ISDN: 0 850 335 72 8

MAKING CAST PEWTER PIECES

All this reading about antique pewter is very interesting but it was always hard to conjure a picture of exactly what happens – how are things made? We have all seen the pictures of the 17th century workshops with folks in funny dress scurrying about.

Today this website is fortunate in that a firm working today has directed us to *youtube* videos – their tutorials even – in the art of pewter making and has given us permission to use their copyright and promotional literature on this website and has written brief summaries for this website. You can see -

VIDEOS OF PEWTER MAKING

This firm trades today as **A & E Williams** and was established in 1799 details for contact as follows -

A E Williams, 6 Well Lane ♦ Digbeth ♦ Birmingham B5 5TE
T: +44(0)121 643 4756 ♦ F: +44(0)121 643 2977 ♦ E:
sales@pewtergiftware.com

Importantly they took over moulds and marks of firms from the time of and before the first James Yates and John Duncombe going back to the early 1700s. They today use some moulds from the 1700s to make repro pieces of exceptionally high quality.

Sam Williams, a family member of the firm, is our contact in charge of their website and he directs us to a number of useful websites, files, and thoughts.

Some of these sites/files show products that the firm makes and prices. The quality speaks for itself from what you see - but this website has no part in any sales of pewter - and if you wish to purchase new pewter this is a matter between the reader and the firm only.

Wasting no time these contacts will lead you to the **youtube** videos showing Pewter Making –

To see pewter being made click on this link below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVVUGJaK8Bg>

OR

Learn exactly what goes in to Pewtersmithing

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVQmjnKLwc4>

Sam Williams also provided the following photos showing various pewter making processes and pewter that have made in recent times –



CASTING1



CASTING.....2



SOLDERING



TURNING



BURNISHING



MOLD - 1762



SHELVES OF PEWTERERS MOLDS



MOLD - 1729



TOP TABLE SETTING

Robert Hoare, who is a food historian Historic Royal Palaces is accredited with this photograph



**WINE JUGS AS FOR
HAMPTON COURT**

Robert Hoare, who is a food historian Historic Royal Palaces is accredited with this photograph



JUG AND HATCH



A & E Williams & The James Yates Connection— (a brief summary of some of the moulds held)

We acquired the James Yates Moulds in 1990 James Yates, previously John Duncan who traded in B'ham in 1720 he then moved to Bewdley, moved back into B'ham around 1820. It became Yates, Birch and Spooner then later James Yates. It was acquired by Gaskell and Chambers before the war, whom were a large Pewter manufacturer, manufacturing mainly pub measures and optics. It was then purchased by James Smellies who were also Brass stampers. It was then purchased by Buckingham Pewter, I think they were in Twickenham. It was then later sold in the early 80s to the Britannia collection in Poole in Dorset. We acquired the full working stock in 1990, including Moulds, punches tools etc. Three of which had to be removed from a case in the British Museum (see attached photos). Most

of which are back in action, and some of the products from them are on show at Hampton Court Palace (see attached photos – wine jugs and top table)

Further Information –

We recently produced over 800 items for display at Hampton Court Palace, ranging from plates, chargers, jugs and bowls, and after a recent visit down to the palace I came across this scripture, I find it very interesting. We have had good coverage on this so far, ranging from newspapers, magazines and even a proposed radio talk. If this has interest to you, as it is the most current project then I will be glad to provide all the photos and information necessary, along with some of the photos for the Mary Rose Museum, which I noticed was mentioned in your site.

We are currently starting to catalogue our entire collection of moulds for Pewterers Hall, including touch marks etc, and exactly what the moulds are for, so anyone can look into the archive and if they have seen a touch mark they can trace it to the current owner.

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For their catalogue of Craftsman Made Today's Pewter – **see the PDF FILE - PEWTER LIVE CATALOGUE** also included in this section. Please remember that this website does not sell any pewter, does not act as agent, does not take any commission whatsoever on whatever you might purchase. A purchase by you a website reader is a private matter between you and A E Williams and not the concern of this website. However if we did not admire the work done this information would not be offered here. We can make no comment nor offer any advice (due to lack of experience) as to the prices of newly cast pieces. This link is here because we are grateful for their cooperation, appreciative of their allowing use of the copyright in their photographs and information, and enthusiastic at seeing the process, quality and product and in appreciating the history represented therein. The following is the introduction to the **PDF file - Pewter Live Catalogue A E Williams.**

A E WILLIAMS

Celebrates 500 years of Henry VIII's Accession to the Crown

Hampton Court Palace

A E Williams received the honour of producing all the Pewter service ware for the Great Tudor

kitchens and King Henry VIII top table at Hampton Court Palace. Being known throughout the world for being those of King Henry VIII. In fact they continued to be used as Royal Court kitchens for two hundred years until 1737, feeding the tables of Tudor, Stuart and Georgian monarchs and their many courtiers.... and

for the last five years they have been home to a fascinating research project.

The kitchens proving the Ideal home to all the serving dishes, bowls, spoons and drinking jugs that a great hall serving 600 needs. The kitchens complex was a huge production line with raw food entering through the West Front of the palace and coming out at the servery ready for delivery to the Great Hall for consumption, via a huge and skilled production team distributed throughout the fifty-five rooms of the kitchens, covering around 36,000 square feet (3,350 square metres).

***T**hese special pieces of Pewter can be seen displayed on the Top Table of Hampton Court Palace, polished brightly as to reflect its atmospheric ambience of them just being born. The Holbein Wine Jug gets its origins from an original sketch, by 16th Century artist Hans Holbein, of Thomas More's family. The jug can be seen*

on the right hand side of the picture, near the window, as shown on the top of the next page. From this single illustration A E Williams have recreated the Wine Jug from Antique Bronze Moulds. This is an extremely unique item and only a few will be reproduced worldwide.



Celebrates 500 years of Henry VIII's Accession to the Crown Hampton Court Palace

A E Williams received the honour of producing all the Pewter service ware for the Great Tudor kitchens and King Henry VIII top table at Hampton Court Palace. Being known throughout the world for being those of King Henry VIII. In fact they continued to be used as Royal Court kitchens for two hundred years until 1737, feeding the tables of Tudor, Stuart and Georgian monarchs and their many courtiers.... and for the last five years they have been home to a fascinating research project.

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Holbien Wine Jug



Original image of Sir Thomas More's family by 16th century artist Hans Holbien.

Compliments of Hampton Court Palace

After being approached this year by Marc Meltomville of the Historic kitchens to reproduce a large range of pewter to decorate the Kings table at Hampton Court, In celebration of the 500th Anniversary of King Henry VIII Accension to the throne. Marc presented the company with a picture taken from an original sketch of Thomas More's family, by 16th Century artist Hans Holbien. In this drawing a Jug was pictured near the window, from this we have created replicas now being used at Hampton Court. The Idea of this project was to put the Pewter back into practical use, whereby visitors of Hampton Court can come see and touch the Pewter, to get a feel of how the great hall would have looked exactly 500years previously.

Code 109
Holbein Wine Jug



Charger



Code 112
19" Charger



Code 106
Tudor 1 pint Goblet



Code 110
Water Ewer
See It being made
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVVUGJaK8Bg>



Code 113
Well Spoon



Code 105
15" Bowl 19" rim on foot



Code 103
14" Footed Bowl on foot

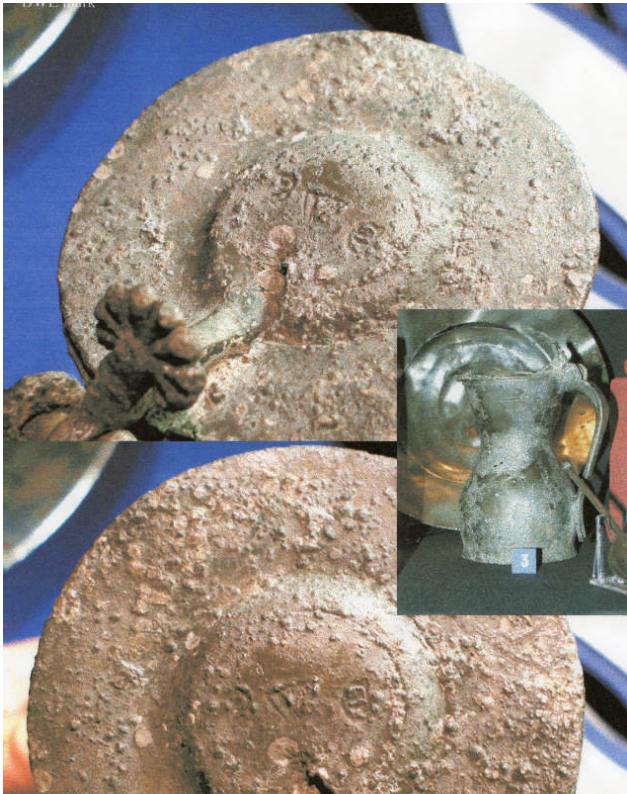
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MARY ROSE TANKARD

Since 1779 A E Williams have been producing high quality traditional pewterware for a variety of different customers. One of our proudest products to date is our famous Mary Rose Tankard.

The Mary Rose was an English Tudor carrack warship and one of the first to be able to fire a full broadside of cannons. The Mary Rose was well equipped with 78 guns and was the pride of the English fleet. Built in Portsmouth, England (1509–1510) she was thought to be named after King Henry VIII's sister Mary and the rose, the Tudor emblem. She was one of the earliest purpose-built warships to serve in the Royal Navy; it is thought that she never served as a merchant ship. She displaced 500 tons (700 tons after 1536), was 38.5 m long and 11.7 m beam and her crew consisted of 200 sailors, 185 soldiers, and 30 gunners. After serving for over thirty years, she sank in the Solent during an engagement with the French fleet on 19 July 1545. The surviving section of the ship was raised in 1982 and is now on display in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard along with an extensive collection of well preserved artefacts.

Amongst these artefacts was a tankard, touch marked with the initials BWE. From the pictures below taken of the original tankard A E Williams have recreated this artefact to its original state. This is supplied to the Mary Rose Museum Portsmouth and can be purchased directly from them <http://www.maryrose.org/shopping/mreplica.htm>



Being established since 1779 Williams have inherited through generations the largest collection of Antique Moulds in the world and the skills to recreate the past for the modern day. Within the collection many moulds pre-date 1729 but sadly due to their age they have now passed into retirement securing their place in Pewter history.



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Being established since 1779 Williams have inherited through generations the largest collection of Antique Moulds in the world and the skills to recreate the past for the modern day. One of the large plate (*charger*) moulds used dates back to 1729. Within the collection many moulds even pre-date Henry VIII, but sadly due to their age they have now been placed into retirement securing their place in Pewter history.

By purchasing this Hand Crafted Pewter Item you have now become part of a Historical Legacy of our Finest British Pewter. This Guarantees the Authenticity for this Item, which has been manufactured from a mould, dated 1729.

By virtue of the methods laid down in the making of our cast Pewter and in respect of our moulds being Antiques it is possible some impurities may occur and are unavoidable.

www.pewtergiftware.com





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TREE OF ANTECEDENTS OF GASKELL & CHAMBERS

PEWTERERS OF BIRMINGHAM

1. George Lowes Newcastle (c. 1730-1765) retired in the latter year and his stock sold to: -
2. Thomas Hunt Newcastle (c. 1765-?) It was probably this man who entered into partnership with – (Henry) INGRAM of Bewdley, c 1780
3. Ingram & Hunt Bewdley (c. 1780-1800) On the 17th November 1783 Advertised in Aris's Birmingham Gazette for two men for their Spoon Branch in Bewdley. Their "I & H" marks (Cottereli No 5708) have Been found in conjunction with those of:
4. John Carruther Crane Bewdley (c. 1800-1838) Crane retired in the latter year, and his moulds, etc wee sold to: -
5. James Yates Birmingham (c. 1780-1840). James Yates had formerly been in partnership with John Birch, Birmingham; the partnership known, variously as:-
 - (a) Yates & Birch
 - (b) Yates, Birch & Co
 - (c) Yates, Birch & SpoonerAll of Birmingham c.1786-1800
John Birch had, up to 1786, been partner in Birch & Villers (which see)
6. John Yates (c. 1835-1870) continue the business
7. Yates & Greenway Birmingham about 1870. In 1902 this partnership was Absorbed by: -
8. Gaskell & Chambers Ltd Incorporated 1897. This firm still operates a Pewtering department.

The above compiled from various sources, by R F Michelis,(Hon. Librarian of the society of Pewter Collectors).

Mr David Thomas Williams

Mr Barry Charles Johnson

Mr Stephen Barry Johnson

The Master craftsmen above are Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers and also have the Freedom of the City of London.