

Cleaning Old Pewter

Brief clues from clued up collectors, with really good looking old (mainly Scottish) pewter.

Some photos follow to show the results of such efforts.

Collector 1 - writes -

My collection is mostly purchased in nice condition!!

Otherwise a good scrub with a mild scouring powder followed by a metal polish. Although I have in extreme cases resorted to emery cloth/paper of progressively finer grades followed by the powder and polish.

Collector 2 - writes -

I hate the over-polisher finish loved by some nearly as much as a black heavily oxidized colour which as you know we can often do little to improve. If I wish to lighten & polish a grubby over-dark piece I use Autoglym metal polish from your local Halfords or car accessory shop. T-Cut isn't as good. Of course we must take care not to overdo it. For really bad pieces I sometimes even use an old worn piece of VERY knackered wet & dry sandpaper - Halfords again but TAKE CARE!

(and regarding photography)

As regards photographing I recommend you DO NOT photo on a white background because the pewter item which is usually mid-grey in colour, is under-exposed. Try to use a grey or light brown background, that way exposure is much better. Do a test on both white then grey/brown & you will see what I mean.



Specialist Collection of Francis Howard (UK PS Member)



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Flat Lid Imperial Pint by Dd Gourlay Edinburg,
Half Pint by Alexander Bain Edinburgh along with Gill & 1/2 Gill examples.
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Ball & bar Half Pint (English?) with two Gill examples
& a pretty little 1/2 Gill
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Aberdeen Lidless balusters with blind lug.
Imperial 1/2 Pint, Gill & 1/2 Gill
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Glasgow tavern pot of half ale mutchkin capacity with straight sides, rib around the drum and a skirted foot. The handle with heart/spade shaped termination. Marked 4/5 I.S. stamped upon body. Mark of Henry Wardrop in the base. C1826-30.
Collection of Francis Howard



Made in the latter half of the C19th all four variants are 1/4 gill in capacity. Three are lidless, one of which has no handle & no decorative incised lines to the plain body but features a brass band around the base, note the lug to the upper handle of one of the other two. The fourth also has a handle and lid with pretty little thumb-piece. I understand they were only made in Glasgow & only in this capacity which suggests they were made for a specific purpose, perhaps the measuring of liqueurs in public houses.
Collection of Francis Howard



From before USA independence a Scottish flagon by Stephen Maxwell with flat lid & lobed thumb piece. Note the "blip" to the base of the spout, an early feature with Scottish flagons. Inside the base the clearly struck touch-mark depicts a sailing ship surrounded by the wording "Success to y British Colonies" C 1750-1776 Overall height 10"



A matching set of three pre-imperial Glasgow Flat-Lid Measures with "GLASS" marl on the lid. Respective capacities 230, 110 & 54ml. The 2 glass is marked by the maker (DS) David Scouler C1819-45 to the upper handle. The number of 1,2,or 4 is not shown, and the 2 spells GLAS with one S.
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Capacities; Scottish pint, Chopin, Mutchkin, 1/2 Mutchkin (my favourite)
& 1/4 Mutchkin

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From Collector 1 -



Stirling Standard Corn Gallon 1710



Flat Lidded Measures Quart to Half a Gill



Pot belly measure and set of crested tappit hens

