

LIBERTY OR NOT LIBERTY? – MARKS THAT CONFUSE

It is clear that something happened to the pre Great War Liberty “Tudric” designs and perhaps moulds in the 1920s or 1930s.

It is understood that Liberty divested themselves of the Tudric trade name and many of the mundane designs by way of sales to Hutton, James Dixon, and Connells. Previously surplus moulds had already been sold off.

Dealers think (or know) that these designs/moulds were sold to other makers who then began to produce some of these designs under their own names and brands, and sometimes using the TUDRIC name also punched to the base.

This article seeks in a simple way to show designs that this website has seen that are unlikely to be the collectors’ of **Liberty Tudric Pewter** - first choice.

That does not mean that these might not be very collectable in their own right for those so interested but perhaps as novices we ought to look for clues as to what is pre-war and originally made under Liberty instruction and what was made a good number of years later and made at best as reproductions of Liberty Tudric Pewter

Thus the ‘herald – Tudric’ mark was to be found on cheaper product that in comparison much of which was flimsy and light weight, to sell to a price conscious market. Although it may have carried the mark ‘TUDRIC’ the numbering (which is the key to recognising pieces made by Liberty pre 1914) is noticeably different as well.

Some of the very similar tankard s illustrated MIGHT BE similarly copies and they were not always marked with anything under the base.

The bifurcated handle is easily confused with an Oliver Baker design but is too sleek for that. (much as Italians cannot help themselves but make copied designs of such mugs as Abbots - just that much sleeker – this is simply an analogy – this website has found no Italian TUDRIC copies - and knows of none – yet...)

The name ‘GLOSSOID’ was also used on a Tudric Style mug produced with a Glass base.

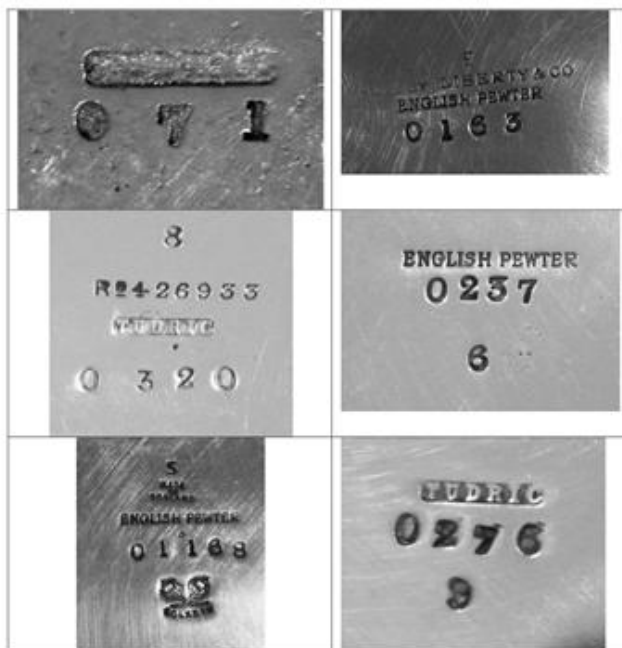
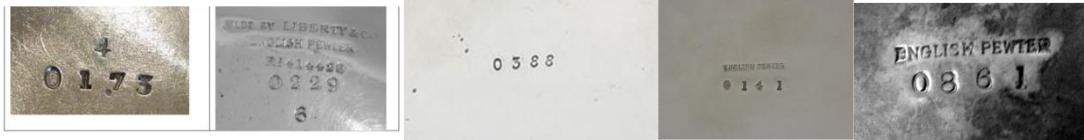
Thus none of the above are other than usually cheaper and later imitations.

Illustrations follow of what has been found so far and readers are advised to take note of the marks where shown. This website now only trusts the numbers under 1000 – and not always them as clearly some copies used lower numbers later!

Before that just so that we remember -

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The following serves as a reminder taken from another web page of the style of marks to look for from the period prior to 1914 – really the main consistent factor is the style of the numbers punched to the pewter and their starting with a 0 – and numbering not more than the middle 1500s. (as perhaps – though not yet seen here – 01500)



The best method of recognition of pre 1914 Liberty that this website has found is firstly the quality which feels good and secondly a visual recognition of the numerical punch script as shown above.

Novice collectors might like to consider - *the right direction as to the more collectable designs that is those with numbers less than 1000 with just a few exceptions*

But as you will see there are snares concerning the later reproduction of such numbers and a collector needs to learn likely styles of finish and Marks to discern which numbers under 1000 were really made before World War 1 (1914) and before Liberty disposed of designs and let others use the moulds.

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So here follow a few examples of what might be found and a few questions that website readers might like to answer.....to

help novice collectors discern exactly what they might want to buy.

Various of those recently seen follow –

Number One – Made by C F (who was that?)

THIS ARTS AND CRAFTS HAMMERED PEWTER TANKARD MEASURES 13CMS HIGH, 9CMS WIDE ACROSS THE TOP, 11CMS ACROSS THE BASE. ART NOUVEAU DESIGN HANDLE. ON THE BASE IS STAMPED INTERTWINED INITIALS CF 'PERIOD PEWTER 1935'. I HAVE ONLY SEEN ONE OTHER PEWTER ITEM WITH THIS CYPHER, THE NUMBER UNDERNEATH WAS 810, SO THE 1935 MAY BE THE PATTERN NUMBER RATHER THAN THE DATE.



Number Two - claimed to be – but mark not seen – is this claim likely?

LIBERTY'S ARCHIBALD KNOX TUDRIC PEWTER TANKARD c1900



Number Three – Cornish Pewter – James Dixon & Sons of Sheffield

Art Nouveau pewter one pint Tankard.

Heavily inspired by the TUDRIC PEWTER TANKARD designed by ARCHIBALD KNOX .

It stands approximately 4.25 inches (11 cm) high.

The base bears the impressed marks w1851, CORNISH PEWTER, James Dixon & Sons, and also has a stamp of a trumpet with flag attached.



Number Four – The bannered trumpet player – whose mark was this?

The advertiser thought this was -

NICE TUDRIC FOR LIBERTY PEWTER TANKARD No. 5032, WITH HAMMERED FINISH, CENTRAL BODY SECTION AND LOVELY HEART SHAPED HANDLE TERMINAL. CONDITION

But this was not Tudric as made prior to 1914 by Liberty and the number 5032 was not a number found used by Liberty. (though the word Tudric is shown on the banner) – nor is HAND Made in England – the found 'Liberty Tudric' wording.

A trumpet with a banner was always known to be a trademark of James Dixon & Son of Sheffield. But the known use of that mark has no figure holding the instrument and a smaller banner.

So whose mark is this?



Number five – the REAL THING? – Liberty “Tudric” Pewter



The marks to the base clearly say so, we can recognise the numbers as being OK and it was clearly made by Solkets – Wm Haseler of Birmingham who made for Liberty.

This website would ask though – when was this made? The ‘Tudric’ shown in inverted commas is shown in the books dealing with Liberty as being correct.

This hammered style – are there other numbered pieces around 066 that show this hammered all over style?

But it is known that the Haseler partnership with Liberty was dissolved in 1926 and the business was still exhibiting Pewterware certainly in 1929.

It is said that Liberty started disposing of some of his designs to James Connell in 1909. It seems very likely that Wm Hutton & Sons of Sheffield (taken over by James Dixon & Son in 1930-1931) produced ‘Tudric’ designs for Connell.

Was the “TUDRIC” produced by Wm Haseler produced after 1926? Who was better placed to produce TUDRIC pewter any more than Wm Haseler?

What marks did Wm Haseler use to show any difference between work with Liberty and work after 1926 for themselves?

Haseler’s continued in business until at least 1946.

Is this hammered style of design right for the pre-war manufacture? – is it likely right for 1903?

Are there many other examples of this style being tried in 1903?

How much more postwar does this hammered design look? Perhaps a reader can tell us?

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Note well – this was a Punch Mark most likely used long after the 1914s – it could have been used in the 1980s – read below -



In the 1980s Liberty decided to remake some previous designs and some in like styles.

The following two are good examples of what might be found –

Number 6) -A small Box – base lined with some Liberty fabric.

Not a Liberty fake as such but looks to be from their re-issued range of the 1980's. The stone looks like Chrysoprase which would not be used in fakes, (fakes would have glass) so when sold this would have been costly -but never the less a poor imitation of the real thing, size 3.5"x3" - note the incised marks underneath. (no zero before the 1...)



No 7) -A large Inkwell

Produced for and sold by Liberty's and is not an identical copy - it is not a fake - but a later product and was never made with the intention of being passed off as an original hence the difference in design. Likely produced in the 1980s.
The marks underneath best reveal this.



The LIBERTY punch mark above looks very similar to that found at A E Williams in 2009.

No 8) -

IN THE MANNER OF LIBERTY – Roundhead – (who was that?)

ARTS AND CRAFTS PEWTER AND ENAMEL PLAQUE, DISH OR PLATE OR VISITING CARD TRAY. DESIGNED WITH A HAMMERED OR PUNCHED PATTERN WITH FOUR SQUARE ENAMELS IN BLUES, GREENS AND TURQUOISES. MARKED TO THE BASE: ROUNDHEAD LEADLESS PEWTER MADE IN ENGLAND. PRODUCED AROUND 1910-1920s APPROXIMATELY. IN THE MANNER OF LIBERTY AND CO TUDRIC AND WILLIAM HUTTON ETC. OVERALL A VERY GOOD ITEM OF THE PERIOD TO ADD TO A COLLECTION INCLUDING: KAYSERZINN, ORIVIT, OSIRIS, URANIA, WMF ETC.



No 9) -Another likely confused advertiser –

ARTS AND CRAFTS NOUVEAU PEWTER CADDY RUSKIN POTTERY. CONNELL TUDRIC c1900

Tudric is not shown in the mark. Tudric was not made until about 1903. Connells bought some designs from Liberty starting about 1909. Ruskin is not known to have made the enamels for Liberty. Liberty did not cause this piece to be made, Connell's clearly did.

Connells was a department store in Cheapside with more competitively priced merchandise than Liberty. Note the arrows (these arrows are a mark for Wm Hutton & Sons of Sheffield so this tells us that Huttons (taken over by James Dixon & Son in 1930-1931) made this piece for Connell), note the word PEWTER in the punched squares and note the similar to Liberty numbering – which might imply it was made in 1920 or so??????? So were Huttons then also copying the LIBERTY TUDRIC numbering style? – or are these digits different enough? The style is surely intended to replicate original TUDRIC Numbering

Difficult to feel safe or sure, isn't it?



No 10) - A nice piece of Liberty “Tudric” Pewter



Said to be 7.5” tall and made about 1908-1909 –
Maybe those inverted commas “ ” are alright and have no meaning, as might also be said about the side stamped 0 to the top.

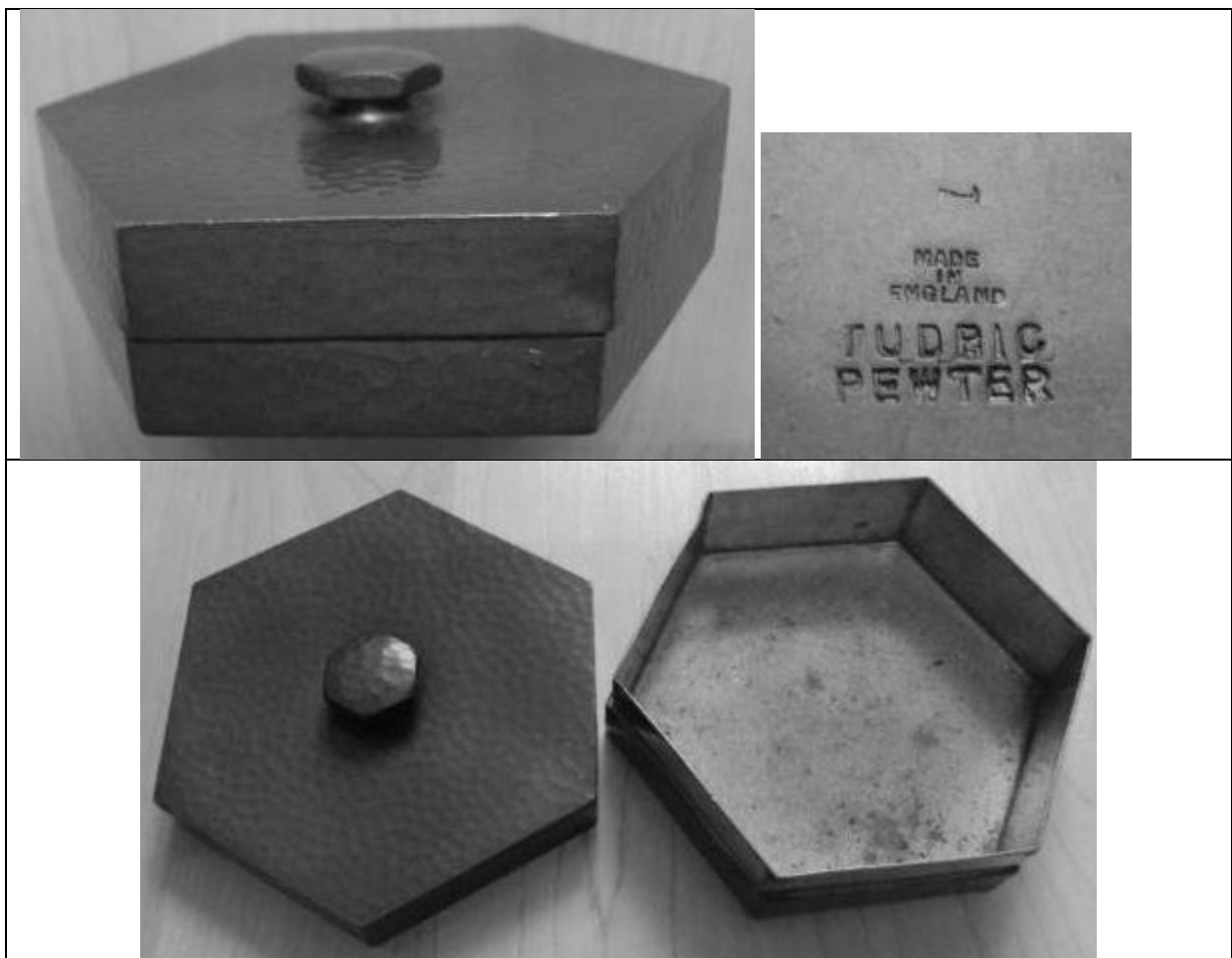
Does anyone know for sure why? and when?
inverted commas around “TUDRIC” were used?

No 11) –

Is this NEXT PIECE really what it claims to be. Yes it does say TUDRIC PEWTER on it – but that alone without numbers is unseen to this writer as ever being produced by Liberty? Others might know better?

Tudric Pewter Trinket Box – Liberty

Small Tudric trinket box - 4.5 inches across points with planished finish on the outer and polished on the inside.



No 12) –

The next mark is quite likely right - OK -

It is simply that it is not often seen

MOORCROFT PLUM WISTERIA VASE LIBERTY TUDRIC PEWTER BASE 01516

Item: A quality made early William Moorcroft Plum Wisteria vase complete with its original pewter Tudric base retailed at the Liberty store. The piece is wonderfully painted and tube lined, the shape is most unusual. Fully impressed to the base made in England Tudric Moorcroft 01516.

Date: early 20th century- c.1925

Measurements:

6 ¼”, 16 cm x 3 ¼”, 9 cm

Condition Report: Excellent condition - No chips, cracks or hairlines. There has been a small amount of restoration carried out to the lip where some age old hairlines / craze lines have appeared. This is very minor and does not affect the display of the piece.



Why would this Moorcroft and Pewter piece be made in 1925?

Previous indications are it could be a good while before.

The hammered base, however, looks like it would be made after 1918.

The number (1516) suggests 1914.

Perhaps this means earlier age estimates (by this website and others) of numbers to the middle 1500s being up to 1914 will have to be revised.

It is looking increasingly as though LIBERTY did not get to 1500 in numbering before the Great War started in 1914.

Does any reader actually know?

No 13) –

Clock – No number.....Haseler Birmingham ...but when?

This writer has no knowledge as to if this mark is 'right' for a Liberty piece or not.

Why is there no number?

The hammered all over look has a feel for after the Great War – say in the 1920s – so who made this?

Well it was Haseler of Birmingham as can be seen from the crossed roses and the script and the "Tudric" – but when did they make it?

Here follows is what the advertiser says (and perhaps they know...)

- Read the sales copy - after the photos – and if you find the alleged scratched B then you do better than this reader.



This is an Art Nouveau/Arts and Crafts period TUDRIC enameled hammered Pewter mantle clock, made by Solkets for Liberty & Co, & probably dating to the 1st decade of the 20th Century, around 1900 - 1910.

It has a lovely simple, organic shape, without many of the overblown flourishes normally associated with this period, which makes it very unusual.

The face of the clock has been enamelled in the electric blue & marine green enamels, which were typical of Liberty & Co during this period.

The base is fully stamped with 'MADE IN ENGLAND', 'SOLKETS', 'TUDRIC', and there is an impressed Z plus a scratched initial B (?) Stamped above crossed roses, used by W H Haseler Ltd, the word derived from `solitaires' and `lockets', their original speciality.

Could be designed and made by Oliver Baker (B) who worked for Tudric in 1907.

Archibald Knox also worked for them at this time, but as pieces were rarely signed it is difficult to attribute certain designs unless they have a registered mark.

Condition is good. The enamels are bright & free from damage, but the CLOCK IS NOT WORKING. It looks like someone has tried to remove the face of the clock from the pewter case and it has been slightly bent.

The clock has the original domed glass case.

There are a couple of minor scratches to the base (minor & easily addressed) and it could do with a good all over polish.

The dish measures approx 15 x 8" high, and the clock face is 3 ½" in diameter.

No. 14) –

This is said to be –

TUDRIC LIBERTY & CO. HAMMERED PEWTER TEA POT IN GREAT CONDITION, SOME OF THE WRAPPING AROUND THE HANDLE HAS COME AWAY, BUT THAT IS ALL THAT IS WRONG WITH IT, IN LOVELY CONDITION, 6.5 " DIA. AND 4 " IN HEIGHT, A COUPLE OF SLIGHT DENTS, BUT COULD BE PUSHED OUT EASILY ENOUGH. IT HAS A LOVELY HAMMERED PORTION AROUND THE MIDDLE AND ON THE LID, A REAL FIND.



The photo to the right is simply a cropped enlargement of the mark on the piece.

The mark is interesting in that here we can read the banner where it claims to be –

‘TUDRIC PEWTER WARE’ – the lettering is reasonable and the numbering looks as it should be.

The questions to ask then are if this has anything to do with Liberty whatsoever other than it was once one of their designs – which likely they sold off – and here is a piece that looks as though it was made in the 1920s – but was it made by “Solkets” – Haseler of Birmingham – on their own behalf after the partnership with Liberty ceased.

Certainly it failed to sell for a price that a recognised Liberty piece would sell for.

No.15 –

Clearly not Liberty of London (or Birmingham)

As the advertiser wrote -

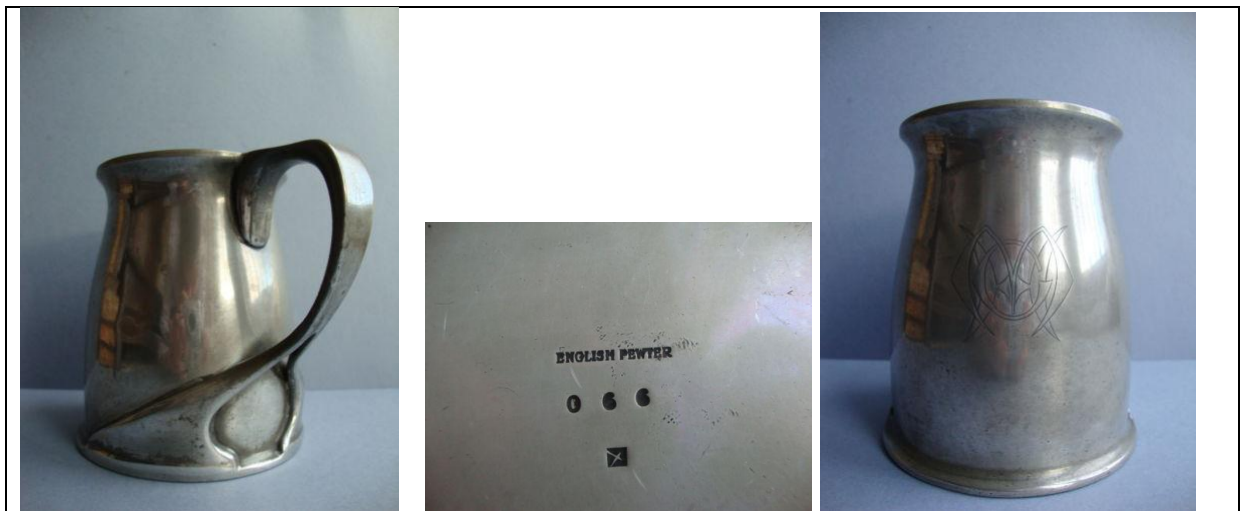
LIBERTY CRAFT India - octagonal pewter plate serving dish 10" vintage?



Now for one of this design that looks 'right' (though what is that strange little mark below the number? – and the motif to the front?)

No.16, -

ARTS & CRAFTS LIBERTY & CO ARCHIBALD KNOX TUDRIC PEWTER 066
TANKARD Ca.1902



Interesting to see that at number 01386 Haseler are still making for Liberty and the word 'TUDRIC' is within commas

No. 17 -



No. 18 - a familiar style -



and what the advertiser said -

PEWTER TANKARD WITH GOLFER MOTIF DESIGNED BY ARCHIBOLD KNOX & SOLD BY LIBERTYS

PEWTER TANKARD WITH GOLFER MOTIF. DESIGNED BY ARCHIBOLD KNOX -
MADE BY GLOSSOID Co., HOLBORN VIADUCT AND SOLD BY LIBERTYS IN ALL
PROBABILITY. IT DATES FROM AROUND 1903-1905 - A TRUE ANTIQUE.

MEASURES 4.5 inches HIGH & WEIGHS 416gms.

.....in all probability ...not sold by Libertys

No 19 -

the advertiser says -

Liberty of London English Art Nouveau Tudric Pewter Glass Bottom Tankard

height 4 1/4 inches - it is marked Tudric with design number 066



No 20 -



Here is a design produced with and without enamels. Also produced later with a handle (see number 21 below. Might the style of handle might give us a clue - not real it came from an earlier piece called a tankard number 0335 in reality unlidded so really a mug (?))

The planished finish seems to imply post 1918? Was this produced without hammering? (if so about 1912-14? - does anyone know?) - What a jungle! - Perhaps it is just a case of - do you like it!

No 21



No 22



When this was made we do not know - but likely it was a design produced about 1904-5 and sold off to Connells some good few years later - the planished finish looks like a post Great war finish - that is post 1918 ????? Does a website reader know?

The Connell name and address looks like it was added later - was this a matter of selling unsold stock off to Connell's!

No. 23 - GLOSSOID

Advertiser said -

PEWTER TANKARD WITH GOLFER MOTIF. DESIGNED BY ARCHIBOLD KNOX -
MADE BY LIBERTY AND SOLD THROUGH TO GLOSSOID Co., HOLBORN VIADUCT.
IT DATES FROM AROUND 1903-1905 - A TRUE ANTIQUE. MEASURES 4.5 inches
HIGH & WEIGHS 416gms.



No.24

Advertiser says -

Tudric Pewter Hammered Arts Crafts Twin Handled Fruit Bowl liberty nouveau knox



No.25 -

Advertiser says -

LIBERTYS TUDRIC WW2 MILITARY TANKARD, PRESENTED TO BRITISH ARMY SERGEANT - Here we have a pre ww2 tankard made by Libertys of London,



Presented 8th July 1939

No 26 - WARRIC and number 6074

The advertiser says -

Liberty Warric Pewter Arts & Crafts Footed Comport Dish Bowl c1910

stylish arts & crafts pewter comport made by Liberty and from the Warric range
- similar in design and quality to their Tudric and Cymric range



The number shown above is not a Liberty number and were WARRIC not simply another Birmingham Pewter maker well after the great war.

No. 27 - Advertiser dated this 1900 - 1940 and called it -

One 1pt TUDRIC Pewter Beer Tankard made by Archibald Knox for Liberty &Co. 1912



No. 28 -

- said to be -

Antique Liberty Tudric Arts & Crafts pewter 19th hole golf tankard golfing 1910

but unmarked.....(and unsold)



No 29 - Marked, "English Pewter" over "Liberty & Co." "Made in England" and "01352" opposite. 4 3/4" h, 3" mouth, 4" base.



So it is very difficult for the amateur Liberty collector to know for sure if the piece he buys is Liberty. For value and the likelihood of it being a Liberty product this website suggests the earlier numbers and marking shown might be safer to collect., whilst understanding that personal preferences can be quite another matter.