

***Notes on Double Volute pewter balusters by Geoff Lock in an address to the UK Pewter Society at Abergavenny in September 2012***

***Introduction***

*These notes are written about English Double Volute pewter balusters to accompany a presentation of mine at Abergavenny, Wales, in Sept 2012. Little has been written exclusively on this form of baluster before although reference to DVs has been made in several articles and books over the past 100 or so years.*

*The earliest reference to Double Volute measures that I have found is contained in Ingleby-Wood's "Scottish Pewter-ware and Pewterers", published in 1906.*

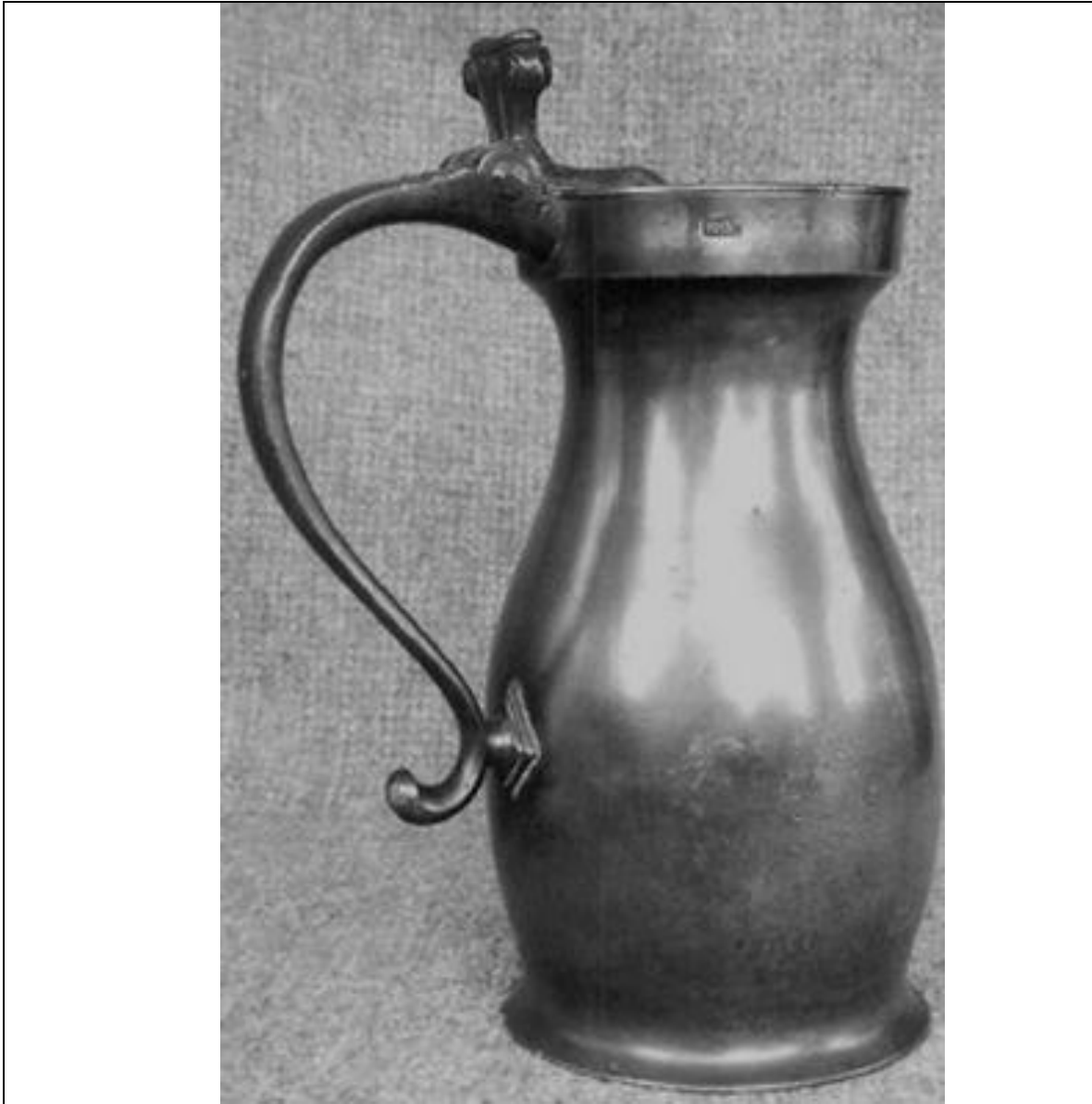
*I have been collecting Double Volutes since 1987 and since then have acquired over 30 examples.*

*The majority of these have been bought from Britain with only 4 purchased in Australia.*

*Information from fellow collectors, and access to more than 80 DVs in their collections, has been of considerable assistance in the writing of this research project and presentation.*

*I am most grateful to all of them for their willingness to assist and to share their knowledge.*

***Double Volutes*** are the last English lidded balusters to be made in OEWS capacity and were in use from the mid 1700's to the 1820's.



*They are markedly different to preceding English balusters, having several distinctive features.*

*These include: the double-volute thumb-piece with a centre "feather" motif, fleur-de-lye attachment on the lid to the thumb-piece,*



*ball finial terminal to the handle,  
diamond attachment on the lower body join to the handle, and  
small curved strut connecting the handle to the lower body.*

*They co-existed with the earlier Bud baluster design in some parts of  
England until the introduction of Imperial Measure in 1826. Some were  
adjusted to Imperial Standard for use after that date.*

*There is evidence to show that “Transitional” bellied measures with bodies  
of both OEWS and Imperial Capacity fitted with Double Volute lids and  
handles were made, c 1820-c 1830.*

*Traditional Double Volute balusters range in capacity from ½ gill to gallon  
OEWS and were mainly produced by **London** pewterers. It is generally  
agreed that no genuine ¼ gill OEWS DV balusters were ever made.*

*It is likely that this form of baluster was also produced in **Birmingham**  
towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, possibly by the firms **Birch & Villers,**  
**1770-85,** and later, by **Villers & Wilkes, c1805-1835.***

*There is evidence to suggest that **Ingram & Hunt of Bewdley** may have also made baluster measures in the early 1800's. Stock lists of their products from **c1803-1805** list "**Lidded wine measures**".*

*Several pewterers from **Bristol** are also thought to have either made or marketed Double Volute balusters.*

### ***Opinions on the Double Volute baluster thumb-piece design***

*The origin of the thumb-piece of the Double Volute has been open to conjecture for many years.*

*Its design, together with the "Fleur-de-lye" lid attachment, is unique in English pewter.*

*Opinions vary as to the time of its introduction, with dating ranging from c 1727 to c1750.*

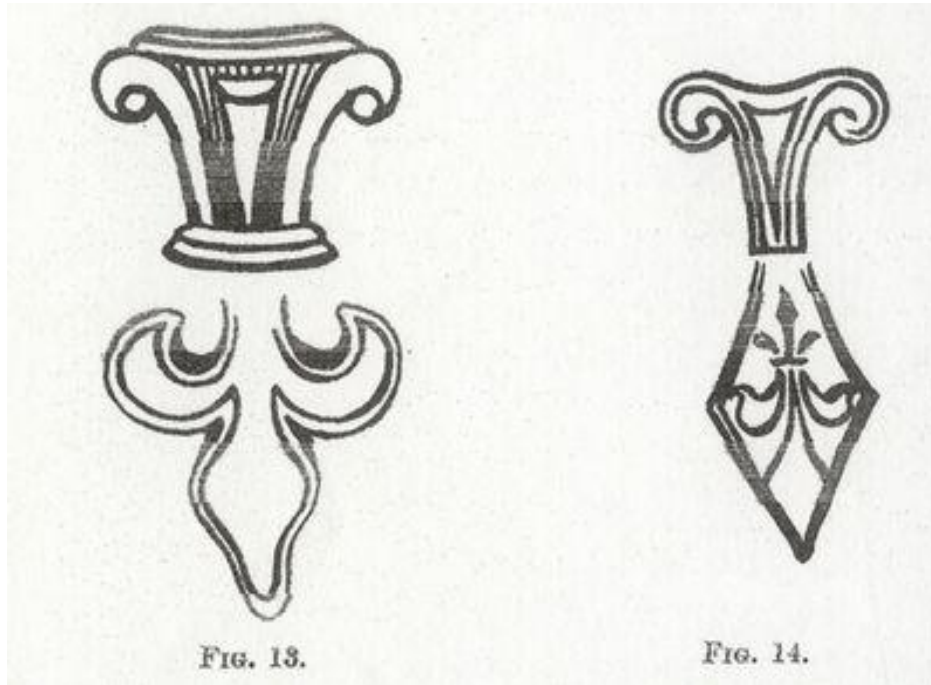
*Webster's Dictionary describes a volute as "a spiral or scroll-shaped form, a spiral scroll-shaped ornament forming the chief feature of the Ionic capital".*

***Ingleby-Wood***, in "**Scottish pewter-ware and pewterers**", **1906**, dates the introduction of the Double Volute thumb-piece as c 1740. This is on p 133 in the chapter "Tavern and other measures".

*He describes the thumb-piece thus: "This consisted of what may be termed two volutes or spirals separated in some cases by a triangular pattern, and in others meeting at the bottom of the hinge. The attachment to the lid was in the form of a Fleur-de-lye either as the simple ornament or enclosed in a small diamond-shaped piece."*

*This is accompanied by two line-drawing illustrations of thumb-pieces and lid attachments, Fig 13 being that found on DVs of ½ pint to gallon capacity*

and Fig. 14, being that found on ½ gill and gills.



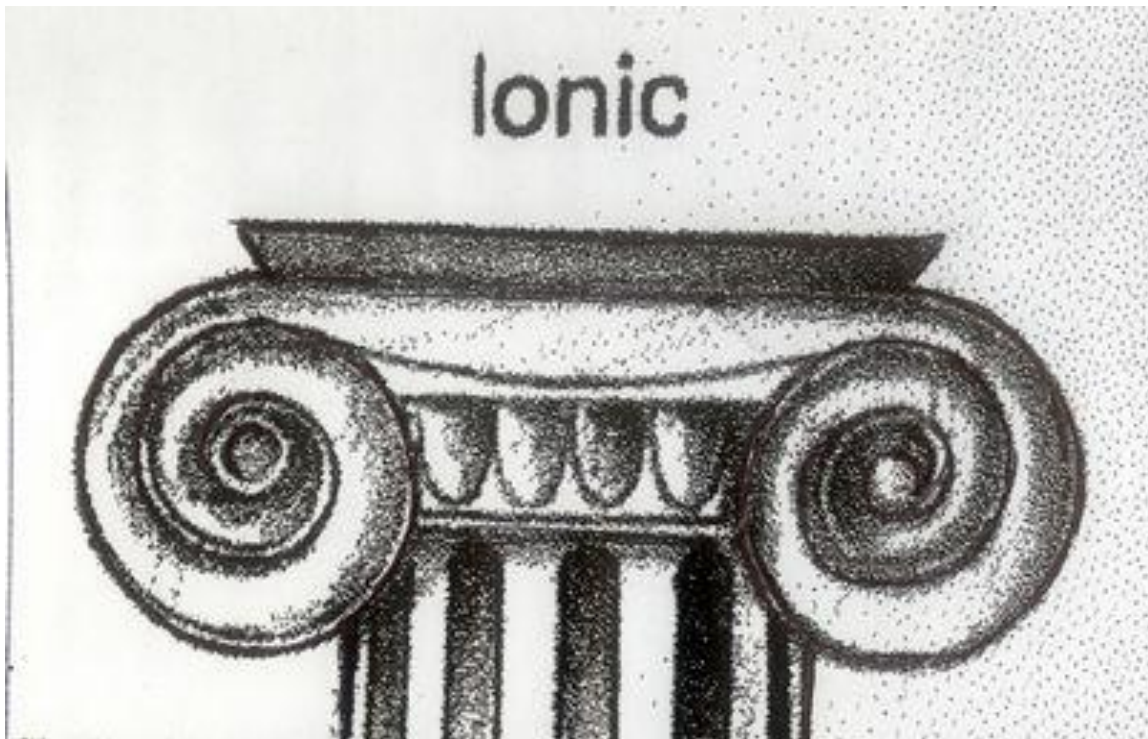
*The above description and naming of the thumb-piece must have been adopted by Cotterell as the basis for his classification of DV balusters in his article of 1919.*

***To my mind, it remains the best and simplest description of the Double Volute thumb-piece.***

*Writing in the **February 1953** edition of **The Antique Collector**, **R.F.Michaelis** said that “The name “Double Volute” is given for reasons which, it is thought will be obvious to the reader”.*

*From this, I infer that he was saying that the double ends of the thumb-piece closely resembled the spirals of the Ionic capital design of ancient*

Greek architecture.



An alternative view was offered by **Hepburn Myrtle** in ***“The Antique Collector”*** of **February 1954**.

*He proposed that the thumb-piece and lid attachment were based upon the three feathers of the Prince of Wales motif, suggesting it was introduced*

*around 1727 to honour the new Prince of Wales.*



***Additional published references to Double Volute balusters from c1903 to present day, 2012***

*The earliest work containing any illustration of a Double Volute that I have found is in **Redman's "Marks on Old Pewter and Sheffield Plate" of 1903.** An early photograph, possibly pre 1900, of part of the Churcher collection on p.4 shows what appears to be 3 DVs on a table to the left of the group. What appears to be a gill is within the photograph of the York Museum on p.23 and another is shown on p.83, titled "A pewter tankard, formerly in the possession of the Bronte family".*

***"Pewter Plate" by H.J.L.J. Masse 1904,*** contains photographs of private collections, two of which contain a Double Volute amongst the many platters and tankards.

*These are found on p.2, titled "A dresserful of pewter" from the A.F. de Navarro collection, and p.37, titled "An array of pewter" from the W.H.Clarkson collection.*

*Masse did not mention balusters as such, nor did **de Navarro** in his publication "**Causeries**" of 1911.*



*The earliest description of balusters following Ingleby-Wood is in an article by the late **H.H. Cotterell**, titled "**Pewter Baluster Measures**" which was published in "**The Connoisseur**" of August 1919.*

*He mentions DVs on p 201, giving an approximate time-line ranging from early 18<sup>th</sup> century, c 1720's to c 1820's without being specific.*

*Subsequent works by Cotterell contain references to Double Volute balusters without closer dating.*

*See "National types of old pewter" pub 1925, "Old Pewter; Its marks and makers" pub 1929,*

*"Pewter down the ages" pub 1934 and "Great Pewter Collections: Rollason Collection {Part 111}*

*Apollo, Sept / Oct 1934.*

*"The Antique Collector" of Feb, 1954 contained an article by the late **Hepburn Myrtle** titled "**18<sup>th</sup> Century Baluster Measures**" as mentioned above.*

*Whilst a fanciful supposition, and based on the design of the thumb-piece on a Moring ½ gallon in his collection, nothing in the records of the WCOP supports Myrtle's theory.*

***Alternative opinions by Michaelis, in 1953 and 1968, and Peal, in 1971, are that the thumb-piece was based on the design of the ancient Ionic Greek capitals on stone columns.***

*However, Michaelis also conceded that both theories of the Double Volute design had some supporting evidence through examples in various collections. {WCOP collection 1968, p 53}*

***Curiously, only Cotterell mentions Ingleby-Wood's 1906 description of the Double Volute thumb-piece.***

***My suggestion is that the explanation was over-looked due to the title of I-G's work with the inference being that the material contained in it had no relevance to English pewter-ware.***

***In 1977, Dr. Ian Robinson's article titled "A Table of Marked Balusters" was the first to be published by the Pewter Society on this topic. {See JPS Vol.1 No.1 Spring 1977}***

*In this survey, he lists 50 Double Volute and 86 Bud balusters by maker, capacity and location in 1976, together with a 10 point summary.*

*It was to be another 27 years before Double Volute balusters featured prominently again in an article published by the Pewter Society.*

***Dr. Ian Robinson's paper, "English pewter lidded baluster measures-Makers and marks, c 1660-c1830" appeared in the PSJ Vol.22, Autumn 2004, pp24-31.***

*Some of this information was based on balusters that were brought to the Spring meeting of Oct 2003 where they were photographed by Jan Gadd and measured by Jamie Ferguson.*

*This was part of the session, "**Baluster Survey, Stratford P.S. Meeting, Oct 2003**" where Ian Robinson's paper was presented in his absence by David Moulson.*

*Jan Gadd and Jamie Ferguson's work was published in the PSJ Vol.26, Spring 2006, pp11-13 as a collective report, featuring several photographs of all 25 balusters assembled.*

*A detailed table of information accompanied the report.*

*Only 5 marked Double Volute balusters were included in this survey.*

*From the above information, there are lingering questions about Double Volute balusters.*

*Some are as follows:*

***Why are there so few marked balusters, particularly "One-Off's"?***

***Locations where DVs were made and verified***

***How to attribute a piece without a maker's mark?***

***Which makers can be stated to have made Double Volutes?***

***Variations in design existent in Double Volutes***

***What time-frame were they in use***

### ***Known makers of Double Volute balusters and Locations London***

#### ***Thomas Stephens {Cott.4513}***

*The earliest maker is thought to be **Thomas Stephens** of London, c1716-1742.*

*Double Volutes from gill to gallon OEWS capacity bearing his mark exist in several collections including that of the WCOP and are shown on the Database of the Pewter Society.*

*DVs made by Stephens display a "Slotted" feature to the hinge-box at the top of the handle.*

*After Stephens' death in 1742, it is likely that his business was not continued by his widow, Hannah, as his apprentice, Oswald Stables was turned over to **John Fasson** in 1743.*

*Stephens' sister, Elizabeth, was declared bankrupt in 1743, adding to the probability that the firm ceased to exist after that date.*



***John Fasson {Cott.1635}***

*Following the above information, **John Fasson** is known to have produced Double Volutes that bear a striking similarity to those of Stephens and was in business from c 1725 to 1749.*

*I am suggesting that as Stephens' apprentice was turned over to Fasson in 1743, it is likely that he might have also acquired his moulds and stock at the time of Elizabeth Stephens' bankruptcy.*

*Part of the **I\*F** mark for Fasson has been seen on several DVs but they might have been made after his death in 1749 as his widow, Mary, continued the*

*business into the 1770's.*



***William Fasson{Cott.1639}***

*William Fasson, the younger son of John and Mary Fasson, was in business from 1758 until 1800.*

*Double Volute balusters made by him also display the "Slotted" hinge-box feature at the top of the handle, showing that the moulds for making these measures were in use from Stephens' time.*

*Some ½ pint balusters by him show wear to the mould at the back left-hand side of the thumb-piece.*

*His mark, **W\*F**, has been found on balusters of both standard OEWS capacity and modified capacity.*

*This mark is usually found struck on the right-hand side of the collar.*

*Examples of Double Volutes in both Reputed Wine Bottle Quart and Irish Gallon capacities exist in private collections.*

***All Fasson-made Double Volute balusters examined in this research project have a distinctive “Slotted” hinge-box at the top of the handle. Most have a tight up-turned hooded ball-finial.***

***These are unique to Fasson wares, coming from the moulds originally used by Thomas Stephens.***

### ***Randall Moring {Cott.3294}***

*Moring had been an apprentice to William Fasson from 1772 to 1780.*

*His working career overlapped the last of the Fasson family and most likely he manufactured the last of the Double Volute balusters during the period c 1780-1820. He is also known to have produced tavern pots of OEAS capacity and may have made un-lidded bellied measures in OEWS capacity. His mark, **R\*M**, is similar to that of William Fasson and is struck on the right-hand side of the collar.*

*Double Volute balusters by Moring vary in design markedly from those of the Fasson family.*

*These differences are as follows, using a Moring pint in comparison with one by John Fasson.*

*Centre section of thumb-piece is more detailed, both front and back*

*Handle is thinner, or more slender in design*

*Upper body is more slender, up to 8mm narrower at top of collar*

*Lids correspondingly are narrower in diameter*

*Lower section of the body has more pronounced inward taper*

*towards the foot*

*Generally lighter in weight*

*Thumb-piece up to 5mm taller in height but 4mm narrower at widest point*

*Ball finial is not hooded*

*Under-side of lid usually has a stabilising / locating pin hole under the front of fleur-de-lye*

*Hinge-box area is part of the handle, not “Slotted” into the upper handle*



***Anthony Jenner {Cott.2612}***

*A Double Volute baluster of pint OEWS capacity, marked “AI” on the left side of the collar is in the collection of the WCOP and has been attributed to Anthony Jenner.*

*He was in business c 1754 but this is the only known baluster to be made by him.*

*It was purchased for the WCOP by Richard Munday at Sotheby’s sale of Frederick Jaeger’s collection on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1966. Jaeger had been a member of the Pewter Society from 1949 until his death in 1966.*

*There is some doubt as to the accuracy of this attribution.*



***John Alderson {Cott.39}***

*Whilst no known Double Volute baluster with any Alderson marks are thought to exist, the curious thing is that a slender lidded baluster appears on the upper left-hand side of John Alderson's trade card..*

*Perhaps this was simply an advertising ploy by Alderson to attract customers?*

***Other locations of possible manufacture of Double Volute balusters***

***York***

*No known York makers produced Double Volute balusters.*

*Examples of Bud and Double Volute balusters with crown over GR over Y, in Relief, on the lids are known, dating from c 1760. These are considered to be very scarce, if not rare.*

*However, this simply indicates that the piece was verified, **not made**, in York.*

*A ½ pint DV, possibly by Moring, serves as an example.*



### **Newcastle**

*Bud balusters were made in this city almost until the advent of Imperial Standard but not DVs.*

*There is no evidence at time of writing this report that Double Volute balusters were made here.*

### **Wigan**

*No known Double Volute balusters exist with provenance to this location but numerous lidless balusters do.*

### **Bristol**

*Dr. Ian Robinson, {Hon. Member of P.S.} has presented papers to the Pewter Society on the topic of English balusters in 1977 and 2003.*

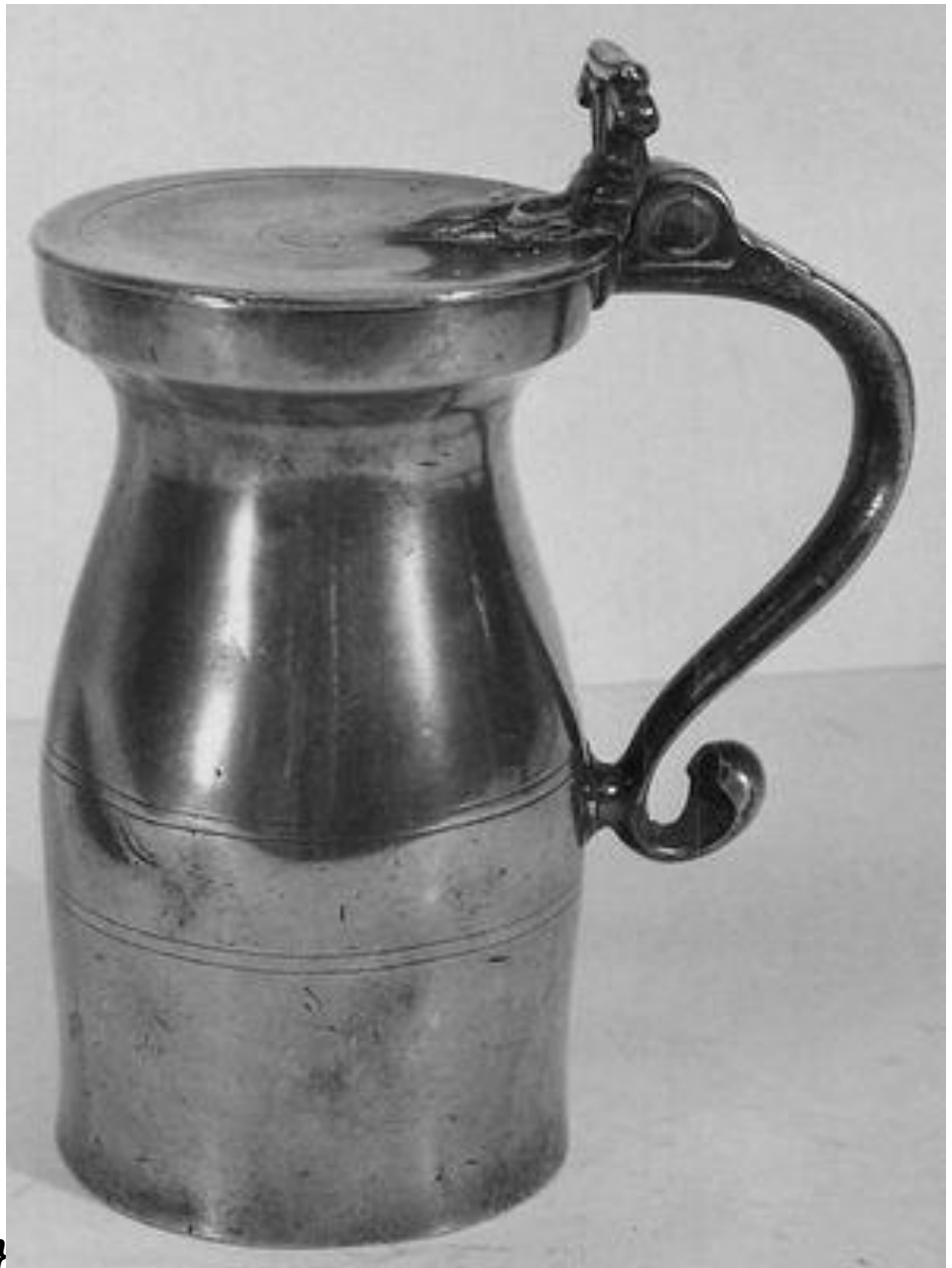
*Both of these reports indicate that some Bristol pewterers either made or marketed Double Volute balusters.*

*He listed the following Bristol makers in his report of 1977:*

***Allen Bright {Cott.574}***

***Burgum & Catcott {Cott.708}***

*P. Edgar & Son {Cott.1511}*



*Robert Bush {Cott. 737}*



*During this research project, I have located photographs of DVs with marks for three of the above makers .*

*There is an example by **Bush**, illustrated on the cover of the P.S. Journal, Vol. 22 Autumn 2004.*

*The mark, Bush, within a circle is clearly stamped in the centre of the lid.*

*Its source was from the Currier collection, present location unknown.*

*This baluster has some similarities to balusters made by the Fassons.*

*The handle, thumb-piece and slotted style of upper attachment on the handle, {Slotted feature} are Fasson-style but the body is different. Pieces like this are known in the US, possibly being made as export wares by Bush in Bristol to order, for trade to the Americas after the Revolutionary War.*

*OEWS capacity has been maintained in the US to the present day.*

*Possibly the export trade from Bristol to there in wares obsolete in Britain after 1826 continued for some years.*

*Similar pieces to this quart are known to exist, currently in the US but not in known British collections.*

*A gallon with **Burgum & Catcott's** mark on the lid was once in the Len Evans collection in N.S.W.*

*This piece had been purchased from Richard Munday and was sold in the Evans Estate auction in 2009.*

*A pint DV attributed to **Allen Bright** is known to have been in the Campbell collection in the USA before 1975. Correspondence received on this piece suggests that it is now in the Horan Collection.*

*The mark was struck in the centre of the lid, as is that on the Bush and Burgum & Catcott pieces.*

*All known London-made DVs have the maker's mark struck on the collar, usually on the right-hand side.*

***It's suggested that the above Bristol makers either bought stock from London to supply the US trade and simply added their own marks to the lids or bought in pieces such as handles, lids and bodies.***

***These were assembled as balusters in their own work-places, stamped and exported to the east coast of America..***

***If they were using their own moulds for manufacture, then surely more would exist in Britain.***

*The practice of trade between pewterers was quite common and mutually profitable, one supplying the other.*

*There is evidence to show that this practice occurred between pewterers in the same towns and between locations.*

*At present, no other examples of Double Volute measures by any of the above Bristol makers are known.*

*Bristol Pewter experts, Mike and Alyson Marsden, who have collected for over 30 years are yet to sight one.*

*Un-marked DVs from US collections with CM or M struck on the collar and with Fasson-like appearance have been sold at Bonhams in recent years,{2009} but not attributed to having Bristol origins.*

## **Birmingham**

*There is evidence that Double Volutes were made in Birmingham in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The likelihood of this is through a comparison of crowned WR marks known to have been used by various Birmingham pewterers on tavern-ware with similar marks seen on the lids of DVs.*

*Crowned WR verification marks, in either Relief or Incusive form, have been recorded on pewter-ware made by **Birch & Villers** c1770-1785, **Villers & Wilkes**, c 1805-'35, **T. Meeson**, c1812-23, **Abel Grove**, c1823-'30 and **W McKenzie**, c 1825-*



'41.

*Numerous Double Volute balusters exist with a crowned WR, in either Relief or Incusive form, stamped on the lid, showing that they were verified in Birmingham, c 1780-1820.*

*Examples include balusters of ½ gill, gill, ½ pint and pint OEWS capacity.*

*A number of Birmingham-verified balusters have pairs of incised rings to the collar and to the body.*

*A unique aspect to some Double Volute balusters from this locality is the absence of any detail to the centre section of the thumb-piece {between the two volutes}, creating a Blank centre.*

*5 examples of this design have been located, all ½ pint OEWS capacity with a crowned WR on the lid.*

*Of these pieces, 4 verification stamps are in Relief form, the other Incusive.*

*At present, whilst no makers of DVs in Birmingham can be positively identified by their known maker's marks, it is reasonable to assume that at least one of the above listed firms produced balusters.*

## **Bewdley**

*A possible maker of balusters in Bewdley is the firm of **Ingram & Hunt, {Cott 5708}**.*

*Evidence taken from their order books from c 1803 to 1805 lists wine measures, full, with lid; wine measures, short, with lid; and pint liquor measures, wine with lid.*

*These three products, whilst not illustrated, suggest that balusters are the likely pieces made.*

*Unlidded bellied measures of OEWS capacity bearing Bewdley crowned WR verification stamps indicates the transition from baluster to a different form of measure was taking place pre 1825-26.*

## **W Banckes**

*This maker is listed in Dr. Robinson's 1977 report with two gallon DVs attributed to him.*

*One of these in the WCOP collection is now thought to be by Randall Moring. The label under the lid, written in reverse appears, to be part of an address for a Bleacher and Dyer rather than Banckes' name in reverse. The over-all appearance of this piece suggests that it was made by Moring.*

*The only other DV known is that attributed by Dr. Robinson in 1977.*

## **Other marks found on Double Volutes**

### **Verification stamps / marks**

*Locations identified from verification / Inspection marks struck on Double Volutes include the following.*

#### **London**

*City of London HR mark Examples of this have been recorded on pieces by W Fasson and R Moring.*

*City of Westminster pre-1826 Portcullis mark Examples have been seen on balusters by Moring.*

*London marks are usually struck on the collars of pieces.*



***Birmingham*** crowned WR, Relief and Incusive.



*Several examples of both varieties have been recorded, mark usually struck centre of lid.*

***Coventry.***

*The Elephant and Castle mark for Coventry has been recorded on the lid of a ½ pint DV baluster that was once in the Michaelis collection. This piece has a blank*

*centre section to the thumb-piece.*



**Durham**

*One example has been found with an early version of the Durham City mark, being a cross within a shield.*

*This mark was struck three times on the lid and once under the base of a Fasson ½ pint DV.*

**York**

*A crowned GR over Y in Relief mark has been recorded on the lid of a ½ pint DV, probably by Moring.*

*The YNR over a rose mark for York, North Riding together with a crowned GR ,Inclusive, has been noted on a Gill that has been converted to Imperial capacity. This piece had a section added to the centre of the body.*

***Owner’s names, initials and House-marks***

*Numerous examples of DV balusters marked with either owner’s initials such as F over G D , engraved with a name such as “J Thomas” or house-marks relating to an inn, tavern or town have been observed in the forming of this report.*

*One example, formerly in the Michaelis collection, had 14 pairs of initials stamped on the lid!!*

*House-marks and owner’s initials are usually found stamped on the lid and occasionally on the handle strap.*

*Owner’s names are most often found inscribed on the front of the body.*



***The demise of the Double Volute baluster, c 1800-1820’s***

*There are several suggestions for the ultimate dis-appearance of Double Volutes from the liquor trade scene.*

*Changes in fashion had seen the introduction of lidless balusters in Wigan and Newcastle, in the Northern regions of England from roughly the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Towards the closing years of the 1700's, lidless bellied measures of OEWS capacity from ½ gill to quart were also being made in London, Birmingham, Bewdley and probably Bristol thus providing a "modern" alternative to balusters.*

*These were quite different in appearance, and more economical to produce, having fewer parts, hence less metal.*

*Curiously, lidded Bud balusters continued to be made in Newcastle almost until the introduction of the new Imperial standard in 1826.*

*Flat-lidded balusters of Imperial capacity continued to be made in Edinburgh into the 1840's and lidded bellied measures remained in production in Scotland almost until the 1890's.*

*The firm, James Yates, of Birmingham, also produced lidded bellied measures of Imperial capacity for the Scottish market as advertised in company catalogues of the 1870's.*

*The changes to the capacity standards introduced in the **Acts of 1824-26** meant that OEWS balusters and measures were 20% under size in comparison to the new Imperial capacity. This immediately rendered them as obsolete.*

*As inspectors weren't widely established until after the **Act of 1835**, it's probable that OEWS balusters remained in use in some country areas until that time.*

*This Act also saw the compulsory stamping of capacity on measures and tavern pots in accordance with the new Imperial standards. Measures of old capacity, once stamped to show their contents, could still legally be used.*

*Consequently, from 1835 onwards, many obsolete measures such as balusters would have been scrapped, or replaced whilst some were stamped to indicate "Old Measure" or modified to Imperial capacity in keeping with the laws.*

*Some manufacturers made balusters to conform to the new standards by adding a section in the middle of the body.*

*This was done at the time of casting, rather than the time-consuming process of removing the separate parts, including the handle and then re-assembling.*

*Evidence for this is shown through surviving balusters that were “converted” in this way, one gill showing a verification stamp for York North Riding on the collar.*



*Some existing balusters were converted through the removal of the handles and lids and making additions to the collar, either in copper or pewter, to increase the capacity to Imperial. A new, modified handle, minus lid, was re-attached.*

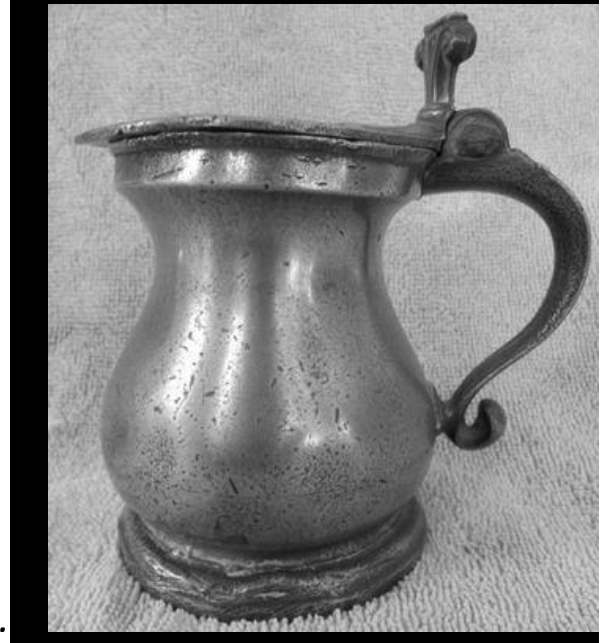
*A few scarce OEWS bellied measures with Double Volute handles and lids also survive in collections.*

*One is recorded as being inscribed “1/6<sup>th</sup> less than Imperial Standard”, showing its continued use after 1826.*

*Even rarer are bellied measures of Imperial capacity fitted with DV handles and lids.*

*These might have been made by Moring to order for a particular client. .*

*Three examples are known to exist, each stamped with the City of London G IV*



*mark on the collar,*

*Some publicans and possibly also apothecaries continued to use Double Volute measures marked accordingly to indicate the old capacity.*

*Examples of these include a pint marked "Old Measure", a ½ gallon by Moring, once in the Michaelis collection, with "Half Gallon Wine Measure" inscribed on the lid and a gallon by J Elliott in the Auckland Museum, New Zealand from the Fenton bequest, stamped "Wine".*

*Another, a ½ gill has had 2 OZ inscribed on the lid, suggesting an extended life in the liquor industry.*

*Some ended their days in chemist's shops with home-made side spouted indentations whilst others became storage containers for dyes used in the fabrics industry, or for paint, poisons or oil on some farms.*

*The mass production of graduated sets of bellied measures of Imperial capacity*



*hastened their exit.*

*The passing of the **Beer-House Act in 1830** also contributed to the demise of balusters in general.*

*This Act legitimized the selling of beer by house-hold rate payers from their homes through their purchasing of a license for 2 pounds. The Act was directed against the illicit gin trade and associated depravity amongst the poor and was supported by various groups that promoted beer consumption as being healthy. This included some churches.*

*Some figures estimate that of the 15000 gin-shops in London c 1830, more than half were illegal dens of iniquity!!*

*License-holders were permitted to brew both ales and ciders at home for sale and saw the number of licensed beer-houses increase from under 400 in 1830 to over 46000 by 1836!!*

*Effectively, the number of premises licensed to sell beer more than doubled in a short period of time.*

*The ensuing demand for pewter pots and jugs to serve this new industry and clientele could contribute to fewer balusters surviving through their value as scrap metal for melting down and re-casting.*

*This recycling of pewter as scrap metal was to re-appear in the life and death struggles of two World Wars.*

*The late Richard Munday prided himself on rescuing numerous pieces of pewter left out for scrap in war-torn London.*

*Perhaps one of our own treasured pieces owes its survival to him?*

### **Conclusion**

*This article has attempted to provide additional information to collectors about Double Volute baluster measures.*

*New evidence presented traces the naming of this style of baluster thumb-piece to Ingleby-Wood in 1906.*

*Several listed makers in previous publications have been re-appraised without discrediting others' work.*

*Whilst no new makers have been discovered, features on Double Volutes peculiar to known makers have been identified to assist in attributing un-marked pieces.*

*Like-wise, marks for locations such as Birmingham have been listed, together with known makers that might more closely determine the origin of un-marked pieces.*

*Variations in thumb-piece design have been noted to help narrow the source of maker / location.*

*Transitional bellied measures of both OEWS and Imperial capacity with Double Volute lids and handles have been included as these have been omitted in previous studies. Whilst quite scarce, these pieces warrant further study.*

*Writers in the 1950's such as Michaelis and Peal viewed Double Volute balusters in an almost blasé manner, saying that they were quite commonly found. Bud, and earlier, balusters were held greater esteem, then and now.*

*Modern collectors hold a similar view today with pieces by James Yates and later makers.*

*I wonder what the collectors in the future will think of us now as we so readily spurn good Victorian pewter-ware.*

*In 1919, Cotterell noted that almost 90% of balusters were un-marked, much to the consternation of collectors.*

*In that regard, nearly a century later, nothing has changed, no long-lost horde of marked balusters has been discovered and the reasons why makers didn't mark their products remains an un-solved puzzle.*

*Hopefully, however, these notes will broaden our knowledge of these balusters and assist collectors in attributing a piece without a maker's mark.*

*My appreciation and thanks, again, to those who have assisted in this report.*



**Geoffrey R Lock August 2012.**

**Additional Photos**

*additional photos add index descriptions.*



*Gallon measure with HR City of London mark,  
c 1930's P.Soc Lib Colln {PSLC}*



*Pint Double Volute baluster, inscribed "Old Measure"  
Ex Michaelis collection c1955 PSLC*



*Group of 4 Double Volute balusters, Churcher collection c 1905 Plate XXVb, I-W 1906*



*Group of 7 DVs, Walker Collection, c 1930's. PSLC*



*Group of 6 DVs, Ex Cotterell collection, c 1918. Later in A C-W coll. PSLC*



*Group of 9 DVs, Ex Cooper collection, c 1950's PSLC*



*Close-up of thumb-piece on 1/2 gallon  
Double Volute baluster by Randall Moring*



*Double volute pint, possibly by John Fasson,  
or Bush, Lock coll 2012*



*Front view of 2 double volute balusters, showing  
differences in thumb-pieces, Fasson {L} Moring {R},  
Lock 2012*



*Rear view of same balusters*



*Profile view of two DVs by Moring,  
pint and quart, Lock coll 2011*



*Profile of 1/2 pint DV by Moring, Priv coll 2012,  
Canberra*



*Group of three pieces, all with same crowned  
WR in Relief, poss Birmingham.  
Priv coll, Adelaide 2012*



*Group of 6 DVs in profile, Lock coll 2010*



*Front view of 2 ½ pint DVs, poss Birmingham. Thumb-piece on right has blank centre section. Lock coll 2012*



*Front view of two ½ pint DVs, showing blank section to centre of thumb-pieces, Birmingham? Priv coll 2012*



*View of lids of two DVs, poss Birmingham, one showing crowned WR in Relief Lock coll 2012*



*Profiles of 6 DVs, ½ gill to pint, Adelaide 2010. Lock coll 2010*

### ***References used in writing about Double Volute balusters***

- Cotterell; H.H. Pewter baluster measures, "The Connoisseur" Aug 1919, pp197-203*  
*National types of old pewter Revised Editn, Weathervane Books 1972*  
*Old Pewter; its makers and marks Batsford 1929*  
*Pewter down the ages Hutchinson & Co. 1932*  
*Great pewter collections: Rollason collection {Part 111} Apollo Sept / Oct 1934*  
*De Navarro A: Causeries on English Pewter, Country Life Libraries 1911*  
*Douglas J & rickets c: Marks and markings of weights and measures, Devon Design & Print 1996*  
*The use of verification marks to identify pewterers, Pewter Soc. Journal Autumn 1994*  
*Douglas J; An introduction to verification marks, Pewter Soc. Journal Autumn 1977*

*Gadd J & Ferguson J: Baluster Survey Oct 2003, Pewter Soc. Journal Autumn 2006*  
*Hall D.W. & Homer R: "Provincial Pewterers" Phillimore & Co. 1985*  
*Holding A & Moulson D: Pewtering in Bewdley Wyre Forest District Council 1994*  
*Ingleby-Wood L: Scottish pewter-ware and pewterers, G.A.Morton Edinburgh 1906*  
*Law. A.S: Related Hall-marks, Pewter Soc. Journal Autumn 1988*  
*Masse H.J.L.J: Pewter Plate George Bell & Son 1904*  
     *Chats on old pewter Ernest Benn 1928 Editn*  
*Michaelis R.F; A short history of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers London 1968*  
     *Old pewter wine measures, part 1 The Antique Collector Feb 1953*  
     *Capacity marks on old English Pewter Measures, The Antique Collector August 1953*  
     *Antique pewter of the British Isles, Dover 1971*  
*Moulson D: Crowned hR and HR verification marks Pewter Soc. Journal Spring 2008*  
*Myrtle J H: 18<sup>th</sup> Century baluster measures, The Antique Collector Feb 1954*  
     *Un-usual English Pewter Measures, The Antique Collector Dec 1959*  
*Peal C A: Notes on Pewter Baluster Measures and their capacities, Apollo May 1950*  
     *British Pewter and Britannia Metal Gifford 1971*  
     *Pewter of Great Britain Gifford 1983*  
*Redman W: Marks on old Pewter and Sheffield Plate 1903*  
*Richardson A.E: The old inns of England Batsford 1934*  
*Ricketts C: Unusual capacities and odd sizes-a myth? Pewter Soc. Journal Autumn 1989*  
*Robinson I.D: Tables of marked examples-Buds and DVs, Pewter Soc. Journal Spring 1977*  
     *English pewter lidded baluster measures- Makers and marks, Pewter Soc. Journal Autumn 2004*  
*Speight H.W: Verification marks on old pewter measures, The Antique Collector August 1962*  
*Webster's 7<sup>th</sup> New Collegiate Dictionary: G & C Merriam 1971*