

Printing from PEWTER ENGRAVING PLATES – Ambrose Heal to HHC

An interesting hand written extract from HHC's own papers in his scrap book
an extract from a letter from Ambrose Heal (Heal's Dept Store) to H H Cotterell

Printing from Pewter engraving-plates:-

from "The Connoisseur", Sept. 1921, where Mr. Port illustrated a pewter engraved printing plate, 10" x 8"
of the Holy Family: made the following comments:-

"An engraving plate, signed on the back — T.W.T., Del., 10/20. Pietro William Tomkins,
"1759-1840, said to be the favourite pupil of Bartolozzi. It is not generally known
"that pewter engraving plates are still used for printing music, &c. The earliest
"plate known to the writer is the large one, now in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries,
"in four sections, used by M^r. George Vertue, prior to 1737, for the reproduction of Ralph Agas
"Map of London (1560). M^{rs}. E. Conless of Hornslow, maker of engraving plates,
"informs the writer that his plate probably contains about 2.75 per cent of Antimony
"and that very best qualities are now made almost entirely of tin, hardened with
"a slight percentage of Copper".