

RENOVATING A PAIR OF WILLIAM AND MARY BEAKERS

(This article is here solely for interest – these methods were used by a very skilful experienced restorer and this website does not recommend that you try any of these methods under any circumstances.)



6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " beakers capacity 24 oz
Straightened and cleaned



I recently acquired a couple of beakers, and a very satisfying project.

Jamming a variety of terra cotta flower pots in them and banging with my wooden stone carving mallet. Jamming the terra cotta flower pot saucers into the bottoms and doing the same. Beakers back into just about their as-made shapes.

Just 10 minutes into boiling alkali and doing the insides and just the bottom and top outside edges with 600, the rest with 1000, you know the drill and then brasso; just the lightest of sanding and polishing, then wash and renaissance wax. Then do nothing more for 20 years.

A really nice pair 1 1/2-pint beaker. They usually say Dutch. I am not so sure when WIII invaded (the British claim not invaded since 1066) he brought along an army of the best continental engravers, artists, cartographers, composers and caused an industrial and artistic renaissance to this land. Notorious W&M period.

Happy result a modest but perhaps iconic example of a pewter wrigglework art form.

The amazing thing to me is that often when cleaning /polishing would be expected to degrade the relief work /makers marks /engraving, etc. in the end sometimes they appear clearer.



HORNSBY #46

The text book
regarding
decoration on old
pewter first
illustration re
wrigglework –
what W&M
period beaker
late 17thC 6
3/4" tall should
look like

← Pair nearly
identical in all
respects.

