

Richard Munday – active in the 1980s

A few photos and comments from website readers concerning the years 1985 – 1989.

Firstly - Why would we prowl around in this man's personal life?

It is not only that it is so full of contradictions.

It is because of his hugely ironic sense of humour in dealing with others, his enjoyment of and relentlessness in selling, his love and knowledge of Old Pewter, and his total desire to be front of the stage in the small world of Old Pewter.

Also because in learning how he traded, how he had repairs carried out, might help us when looking at the old Pewter that is sold today, especially at auction of 'good' collections.

He certainly helped shape many Old Pewter collections and Old British Pewter trading in the 20th century. As to how he shaped them is a question dealt with elsewhere.

As a second generation poor Russian Jewish immigrant (fatherless by eleven) in his trading with many English people he used everything he could to enhance his position.

Here follow in no particular order a few details from his last 5 years 1985-1989

The King of Norway

King Olav of Norway was a visitor to the Chorlton Street shop (firstly after the war years as Crown Prince Olav) and amusing anecdotes are included in the article dealing with Early Collectors of Old British Pewter

King Olav continued this friendship and visited Richard Munday at his home at 10 Wheatley Street on November the 9th 1987. It is fascinating to realise that RM must have continued this contact with the Norwegian Royal Family many years!

Even so - such a visit was not an opportunity to be missed.

RM had the King pose in front of his pewter cabinet with RM's wife, Etta, and also by himself. The photo of the King alone was better posed to show the contents of nearly the whole of this cabinet. This was a photo that would be given to at least one other friendly collector.

We should take note of this cabinet of his 'personal' collection of 17th Century Pewter in 1987 and of the photograph next to the TV aerial showing Richard and a piece he surely must have been proud of.

This piece is a bell based 17th century candlestick of large size.



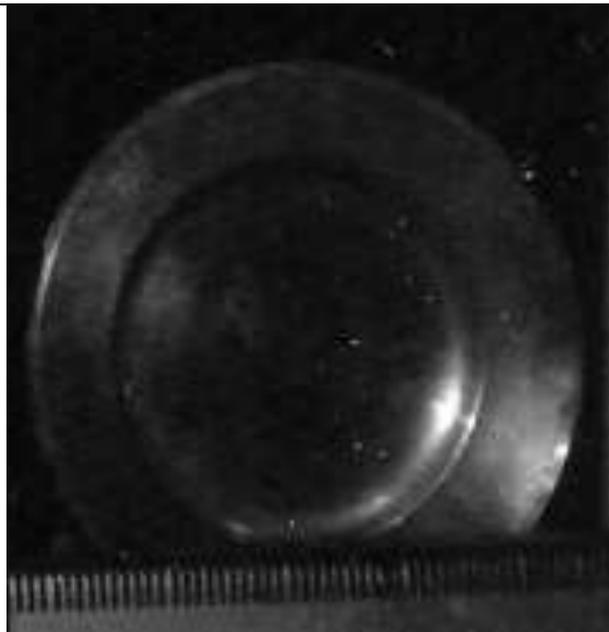
Just some ten months later another collector, whose face has been concealed (although now passed away) is shown photographed in September 1988 in front of the same cabinet.



Customer /friend in 1988 considering but did not buy the York Acorn Measure. Note also the posing here of the bell based candlestick photograph on the seat for this photograph.



The York Acorn Measure enlarged.



A semi broad rim Charger decorating the Fireplace.

It is interesting to note that the Acorn in the hands of the visiting collector/friend did not come out of the cabinet. Further the contents of the cabinet have changed slightly within a ten month period.



1987 to the left and 1988 to the right

There is no suggestion here that any of these pieces are not 'right'. What is to be admired is that Richard Munday in his 88th year is still trading, still using his wiles, knowledge and skills to his own great pleasure and benefit.

The collector whose face is obscured was little known to most other collectors, but gave first option of refusal on his collection to a friend (who has considerable experience of Old British pewter), and who did indeed do that.

This collector says that after appraising the collection he was of the opinion that the deceased collector had purchased some 80% of his collection over the years from Richard Munday.

Further photos have been made available to this website and are shown below.

Firstly a photograph of Richard Munday at the front door of his Chiltern Street premises and another of him at his famous typewriter. Actually his labels are famous from far earlier, so this is perhaps a newer typewriter – no doubt a typewriter collector could tell us that?



August 27th 1985



Retiring in 1987 - he continued trading from home with customers in the following places –

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- San Francisco, Oklahoma City, Ohio, Chatham New Jersey, Washington, Annapolis, Paso, Richmond, Atlanta, Maryland – in the USA
- South Australia,
- Brazil,
- In the UK Edinburgh, Northants, Wooton Under Edge, London, St Albans

There is good evidence that he never gave up selling in ways which were developed in his earlier career.

He was still having very substantial repairs (even rebuilds) to pieces carried out in 1986/1987.

(Ronald Michaelis in the early seventies (or before) had called him – the first Pewter Millionaire).