

# PCCA newsletter

Issued semiannually by the Pewter Collectors' Club of America, Inc.

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PCCA Website: [www.pewtercollectorsclub.org](http://www.pewtercollectorsclub.org)



## Greetings

This is a lot of activity in the PCCA. The fall national meeting is on the horizon, a new membership directory is being updated and several of our members have submitted items for your newsletter. Bette Wolf shared something for a recent cruise, Robert Lindsay and John Bank sent interesting tidbits and some great pictures of a nice plate with comments. Tom Madsen provided a report and pictures from the NE Regional meeting and special thanks go to Philip Ruberry who consented to share his collection.

Our poll on whether to publish auction results didn't generate the activity we need to indicate the preference of our membership. A few of you did respond with good reasons for and against including these results. I'll make another attempt to get a read on this with a different question; do you pay attention to the auction results and if so how important are they to your pewter collecting considerations? Please share your thoughts on this via email to my address.

The auction items included in this edition were selected from the somewhat limited amount pewter sold at auction since our last issue. As always, I have exercised editorial discretion to include diverse forms, regions and makers. As has been pointed out by our members, there are likely fakes and condition issues not disclosed or discernable from pictures alone. Therefore, I have excluded items known to often be faked or have obvious or significant disclosed condition issues. Please send comments to me about my criteria and/or about including auction results in your newsletter.

Scott (scott@gabrielsrest.com)

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## Regional News

### *Northeast Region August Meeting*

*by Tom Madsen*

"The northeast region of the PCCA held a luncheon meeting at the Danversport Yacht Club in Massachusetts on August 12. The subject discussed was the pewterers of the North Shore aka "The Beverly Boys". Members brought many fine examples of the items produced by

Israel and Oliver Trask plus those of Eban Smith. Thirty-four attendees participated in discussions led by David Kilroy and Wayne Hilt. There was a brief Show-and-Tell and a sale table. North Shore pewterer Edmond Dolbeare of Salem Mass., the earliest recognized American pewterer,

*Regional News continued.*

was represented by two multireeded plates fashioned in the late 1600's. Although from the same mold, the plates are markedly different.

Prior to the luncheon, members toured the Rebecca Nurse House. Rebecca was the first person to be hung during the Salem Witch Trials. Also on the property stands a reproduction of the church/meeting house of that period."

Below are two pictures of the luncheon presentations. Do you see anyone you know?



Fig. 1. David Kilroy discussing a pewter lamp



Fig. 2. Wayne Hilt discussing a number of pewter items.

# Heard from or about our members:

## Robert Lindsay shares the latest issue of The Pewterer

Robert provided access information for the latest issue of The Pewterer from Alan Williams. He also gave guidance on navigating the website: "When you click on the link below it will say Page not found then click on the- pewterer-vol-8-2-april and it will appear."

<https://sites.google.com/a/the Pewterer.org.uk/the Pewterer/the-pewterer-vol-8-2-april>

## John Bank has access to the Cotterell archives

John is the Acting Librarian for the UK Pewter Society. In this capacity, he was given the task of sorting and indexing 5 large tin boxes of H H Cotterell papers. He passed along an advertisement of interest he found in one of the boxes and added pictures of a plate by the firm represented in the ad. Brown and Englefields was selling, repairing and still practicing the pewter's craft in 1904.

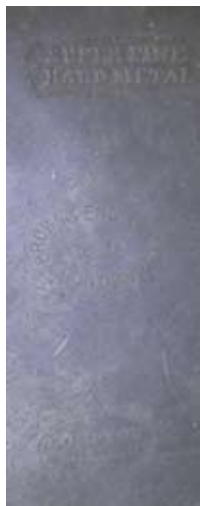
AN INTERESTING PLATE



Marked to the back as



and at close up



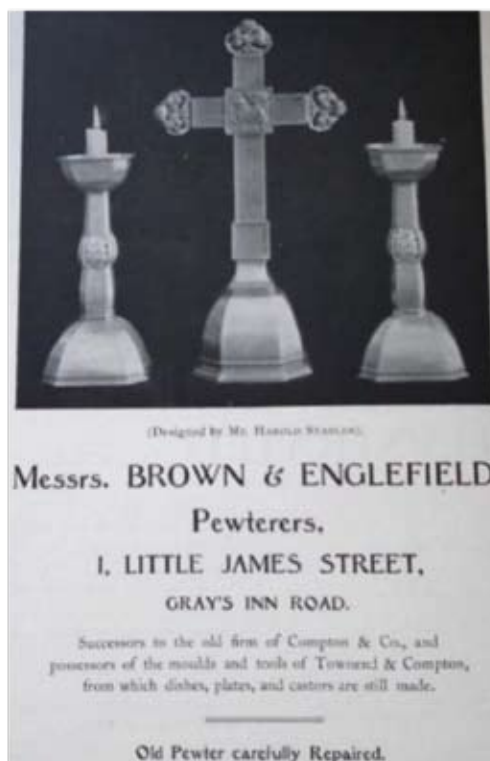
From the UK Pewter Society Data Base -

**COMPTON** worked in London from 1814-1855

(**TOWNSEND COMPTON** from 1802-1834)

**BROWN AND ENGLEFIELDS** worked 1885-1935 before becoming Englefields.

The following is their advertisement at the 1904 Clifford's Inn Exhibition



## John Bank offers PCCA members access to his website

Among his many pewter related activities, John maintains a website of interest to our membership. What I found there were a great number of articles and tidbits related mostly to English and Continental pewter. Please take a look at this resource created by a PCCA member. It can be found at: <http://www.pewterbank.com/>

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### **The Wolf's encounter pewter reminders on the high seas**

It seems pewter rears its head wherever the Wolfs may go, and they go a lot. Bette shared this: "We just returned from a wonderful cruise where I was able to play bridge. At one session my opponent was William Billings and his partner was name Weekes! Can't get away from pewter even when on vacation."

### **Garland Pass has a Query.**

"I recently found what appears to be an American 7 3/4" single reed plate, unhammered boogie, with a maker's mark, "R K" on the back, (see illustration) and would like to know if any other member has encountered this mark as well. If so, on what form did it appear? Please send any information to Garland Pass at [garlandpass@gmail.com](mailto:garlandpass@gmail.com)"

### **John Swindell notifies us of the Pewter Society's 2018, centennial meeting**

He also advises: Full details, including costs and accommodation options, will be available soon. The notice of their gathering is reproduced below:

## **The Pewter Society**

Founded 1918

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Vice-President: John Swindell, 37 Hurst Lane, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5LT  
Tel: +44(0)1625 575753, e-mail: [jswindell@pewtersociety.org](mailto:jswindell@pewtersociety.org)

September 2017

In September 2018 we will be celebrating 100 years of the birth of the Pewter Society here in the UK. The first meeting in 1918 was held at the Studio of the London Sketch Club, 246a Marylebone Road on 09 December with invitations being sent out by Howard H Cotterell.

We shall be celebrating this event on the weekend of 21/22 September at Oriel College, Oxford, England, and would love to welcome our friends of the PCCA to join us.

We will be starting on the Saturday at 1400 hours with a few guest speakers.

At 1900 hours we would like everyone to join us for a reception before dinner in the College quad, adjacent to the Hall, for a Champagne wine reception.

Sunday will be at leisure to explore Oxford and visit the many interesting sites and places around including the famous Ashmolean Museum. A programme of visits, some with guides, is being prepared and will be available the New Year.

Oriel itself, a beautiful college, was founded in 1326 and had such notable students as Sir Walter Raleigh and George Washington to name just two with trans-Atlantic associations.

Why not plan a trip to England around these dates and help celebrate our love of pewter together.

More details, including costs, will be available in the New Year, but please let me know if there is anything I can clarify beforehand.

John Swindell  
Sep 2017



# Phil Ruberry shares his collections

PCCA member, Philip Ruberry, graciously offered to share his pewter collection and other interests with our membership. (Phil's wife, Karen participated by taking the excellent pictures below.) As we've seen in previous articles about our member's collections each has a somewhat different emphasis and history of getting started with pewter. Phil is no different. His pewter collection isn't so much about the metal as about his wider, related interests in lamps. However, pewter certainly represents a significant and growing focus of his collecting activities. What follows is my interview:

*Phil, when did you start collecting pewter and what got you interested?*

I started collecting kerosene lamps in 2003 and quickly added whale oil lamps. These were basically all glass lamps. I started to attend some glass shows and found a dealer that also had some pewter whale oil lamps. I have liked the look of pewter since I was a boy. The dealer had a few marked lamps that I found attractive, but he couldn't tell me much about them. That led me to the PCCA via a google search as I needed to educate myself about pewter whale oil lamps.

*Was there someone who introduced you to pewter or encouraged you along the way? If so who was it?*

No one introduced me to pewter, but several members of the PCCA gave me some guidance on how to learn about pewter whale oil lamps.

*Is there an emphasis in your collection?*

As indicated, I'm basically a whale oil lamp collector, not a pewter collector per se.

*Do you have a piece or two that are your favorites? Why?*

I have about a dozen lamps that I prize above the others, but I have two marked Marston, Baltimore and a marked Holmes & Sons that are special as they are the only two pewterers from Baltimore, MD.

*How many pewter items do you have? Are you actively collecting today?*

I currently have 84 pewter lamps, but I'm very active. I've acquired about 20 lamp this year and just found a few more that I'm interested in acquiring if the prices are right.

*Do you have other collections? If so what are they?*

My wife and I collect miniature kerosene lamps and Thousand Eye pattern glass in opalescent and apple green. Their basically hers, but I have financed many of the purchases.

*How have you acquired your collection? Dealers, auctions, Ebay, searching shops and antiques mall, etc.*

I acquired pewter lamps from dealers, antique malls, auctions (primarily via the internet) and eBay.

*What else should we know about you and your collection(s)?*

My goal in collecting pewter whale oil lamps is to acquire at least one marked example of each maker, concentrating on scarcer examples or ones that I found particularly attractive.

Pictured below are several examples from Phil's collection. Pictured are: Marked Double Bulls-Eye lamp, Roswell Gleason marked Cigar Lighter two marked Marston, Baltimore lamps, unmarked Yale & Curtis Cardan lamp, a pair of Boardman & Co. w/ Eagle mark, marked Ephraim Capen and unmarked Meriden Britannia.

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Figure 1  
A Roswell Gleason marked Doule Bulls-Eye lamp.



Figure 3  
A Roswell Gleason marked Cigar Lighter.



Figure 2  
Two marked Marston Baltimore lamps.



Figure 4  
An unmarked Yale & Curtis Cardan lamp.

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Figure 5  
A pair of Boardman & Co. lamps with eagle mark.



Figure 7  
An unmarked Meriden Britannia lamp.



Figure 6  
A marked Ephraim Capen lamp.

# Auction Report



*The PCCA Board of Governors encourages you to take note of the caveats that accompany auction reports. Members need to frequently remind themselves that there are a variety of pitfalls associated with the following auction data. Hammer prices should be viewed with caution as numerous factors influence the final price. While maker, form, and degree of rarity are relatively easy concepts to convey, other factors such as condition, repair and authenticity are much more difficult. Additionally, how well the auction was advertised, attended, and how aggressive the bidding, all bear on the final price as well.*

## Pewter; Dunhuam (Rufus), Teapot, Tapered, Cone Lid, Scroll Handle, 6 inch.



A pewter teapot with the touch of Rufus Dunham:  
Image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

A Westbrook, Maine pewter teapot, mid 19th century, bearing the touch of Rufus Dunham, 6" high.

CONDITION: Loss to tip of spout. Solder repair to base.

Item F7978662

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares  
Type: Pots

Origin: Maine  
Year: 1840 - 1880

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017	\$40 - \$80	1252	\$38
03-08			

Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Pewter; Richardson (George), Sugar Bowl, Hinged Lid, 4 inch.



A pewter teapot by George Richardson;  
Image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

2017 March Sale Offering: A Cranston Rhode Island pewter sugar bowl, 19th century, bearing the touch of George Richardson, 4 1/2" high.

2017 January Sale Offering: A Cranston, Rhode Island pewter ciborium, 19th century, bearing the touch of George Richardson, 4 1/2" high, 6 3/4" wide.

CONDITION: Repair to hinge. Base repaired. 1 1/2" tight crack mid body.

Item F7979911

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares  
Type: bowls, basins & baskets

Origin: Rhode Island  
Year: 1801 - 1900

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017	\$140 - \$240	1658	\$138
03-08			

Pook & Pook, Inc.

*continued on page 9*



## Pewter; Badger (Thomas), Plate, 8 inch.



A Boston, Massachusetts pewter plate, ca. 1800, bearing the touch of Thomas Badger, 8 3/8" dia.

CONDITION: Good. No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7978663

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares

Origin: Massachusetts

Type: chargers & plates

Year: 1790 - 1810

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017	\$80 - \$120	1254	\$163
03-08			

A Boston pewter plate with the touch of Thomas Badger;  
Image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Candlesticks (4); Flagg & Homan?, Pewter, Baluster, 10 inch.



A set of four pewter candlesticks, 19th century, probably Cincinnati, Ohio, 9 3/4" high.

CONDITION: No apparent damages or repairs.

Item F7978375

Category: lighting

Origin: Ohio

Type: candlesticks

Year: 1840 - 1880

A set of four pewter candlesticks likely by Cincinnati maker Flagg and Homan;  
Image courtesy of Skinner Inc.

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017	\$100 - \$200	1636	\$313
03-08			

Pook & Pook, Inc.

## Pewter; Boardman (Thomas Danforth & Sherman), Mug, 4 inch.



A pewter mug with the touch of Thomas and Sherman;  
Image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

A Hartford, Connecticut pewter mug, ca. 1840, bearing the touch of Thomas and Sherman Boardman, 4 1/4" high.

CONDITION: Typical dents.

Item F7978639

Category: pewter, tin & tole wares

Origin: Connecticut

Type: drinking vessels

Year: 1820 - 1860

### Sales History - March 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 03-08	\$200 - \$400	1260	\$488

Pook & Pook, Inc.



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### *A Challenge to Our Members*

For the past eight years, membership in the PCCA has experienced a steady and persistent decline of thirty-five percent. This is not unique as a decline of interest in all categories of antiques has affected membership in all collectors' clubs. However, this is not a healthy trend and the Board of Governors will be exploring several ideas in an attempt to reverse it. One suggestion, put forth by Gamal Amer, one of our Governors-at-Large, is to challenge each member to persuade a friend or acquaintance to become a member of the PCCA. This has proven successful in another organization in which Gamal belongs. And, if this should prove successful with only ten percent of our members, it would be enough to reverse the decline in our membership.

# Every Back Issue of The Bulletin... Available Now on a DVD!

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Send your order or questions to: **John and Fran Latch**, 210 Wyman Ave, PO Box 536, Intervale, NH 03845-0536. Email: [johnl143@roadrunner.com](mailto:johnl143@roadrunner.com) or [fml811@roadrunner.com](mailto:fml811@roadrunner.com).



# Concluding Remarks

Thank you for your contributions to this issue. Several sent pewter related items which not only makes your newsletter more interesting and diverse but broadens our participation as a club.

The portion of this publication that has generated the most positive comments is getting to learn about other member's collections. Phil Ruberry's interview in this issue is the fourth installment of this popular feature. I hope it was as enjoyable for you to read as it was for me to get to know the Ruberrys. For us to continue this feature club members need to volunteer to share their collections. As you can see the questions are not intimidating...

To date I haven't received any "Letters to the Editor" I suggested would be a good addition to your newsletter-please send what you want to share about your club and related issues. If you have a comment, grip or areas of interest you would like your club to address this is your opportunity to make it know.

Your newsletter depends on club members submitting items of interest Anything pewter related is appreciated. This edition is the result of several member's contributions. Keep it up!

Scott



## **A Reminder:**

The Spring 2018 National Meeting will be held on April 27 and 28 in Charlottesville, VA,  
close to the homes of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Mark your calendar.