

# PCCA newsletter

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## Greetings

Your newsletter is arriving later than scheduled due to *The Bulletin* coming out later than usual. The reason for the delay led me to reflect on our club.

What is the PCCA? Like any club it is made up of people who have a shared interest, in our case old pewter. But the purpose of a club is not only to join but in some way, participate. How do we benefit from and add to the PCCA?

We have regional groups that provide social and educational gatherings centered around pewter. How many are active, two or three send pictures and information about their activities that we periodically share through this newsletter. Are you involved? If there isn't an active group for your region start one or join into the activities of one that is active. You can access the names and contact information of members in your area through our online membership roster.

Our bi-annual national meetings are well organized, informative conferences. The "usual suspects" tend to put these together year after year. Have you attended one? If you haven't make a commitment to yourself and club to attend the Fall conference.

Your newsletter is designed to disseminate club information. My musings frame each addition but is not the purpose, it should be contributions from members that comprise the bulk of the content. The comments I've receive since becoming editor indicate feature articles on member's collections have been a highlight. Have you offered to be interviewed about your collection and interests?

Why would someone join a club and not get personally involved? In the case of the PCCA there is one benefit that by itself makes membership worthwhile. *The Bulletin* is the primary connection for our membership. It is a peer reviewed, academic publication that makes our small annual dues a bargain. The articles provide knowledge and enhanced enjoyment of our collections and guidance for pewter related pursuits. Have you written an article about something in your collection or about a subject you have researched? I did and it was a good experience from which I learned more about the subject and hope I contributed to the literature.

My questions are not intended to be accusatory but an encouragement to participate. In every issue of your newsletter and *The Bulletin* there is a plea for contributions. If you enjoy member interviews about their collections make yourself and collection available to your club. Let us know about club activities, new finds or let us know what you're looking for.

This brings me to the reason for my reflections on the purpose of the PCCA. The reason *The Bulletin* and newsletter arrived off schedule is there weren't enough articles to publish *The Bulletin* on time. Our editor, Garland Pass, had to seek out contributions for what turned out to be a good edition. Garland should be spending his time vetting articles, choosing among several to publish what represents the best our club has to offer. His job shouldn't be not seeking articles but editing them.

When you see the request for articles or material pertinent to our club don't just read on, stop to consider why you belong to the PCCA. Do you have a piece or two that deserve to be explored in *The Bulletin*? Should you offer to share your collection and interest with the rest of us?

Scott ([scott@gabrielrest.com](mailto:scott@gabrielrest.com))

# To List or Not to List?

There is an ongoing conversation regarding listing auction prices in *The Newsletter*. There have been good points made on both “sides” of the argument though only a few members have “voted.” The small number of respondents may not represent a majority view but as in politics silence is a vote. Therefore, we will continue to list auction prices. However, I’m exercising editorial privilege by filtering the items included.

The pieces listed will not include those with significant disclosed or obvious condition issues. Further, for the most part the hammer price will fall within or sell above pre-auction estimates. To the extent possible this places trust in auction buyers to make good decisions. Of course, there are occasional bargains, that’s what makes auctions attractive but as with all bargains, “buyer beware.” (My observation is that auction prices have more often fallen within or above pre-auction estimates over the past year.)

Please comment on the criteria selected. Also, as you review reported auction records let me know if these are useful or harmful in your opinion.

A suggestion in an email comment on auction prices was to share my experience of buying pewter at auction. I’ve reproduced my first experience from the spring 2016 Newsletter:

“As many of you know live auctions are different in most ways from buying in a store or from a trusted dealer. I was on my own and unschooled in the ways of the auction house. The first thing I noticed about a live auction is that the bidding moves fast, surprisingly fast. But there is also a lot of waiting before the gun sounds and the flurry of activity starts when the first piece of interest comes to the podium. When the first piece I wanted to buy came up it almost startled me. The bidding started I didn’t move fast enough and it was gone before I knew it. There was a lesson in this since it went in a flash for less than I was willing to pay! I wasn’t totally unprepared - I’d had read a bit about auction behavior and did my research well in advance and then set maximums for each piece I planned to bid on. This sounds very reasonable but once I got caught up in the action I bid on a few items that I hadn’t considered beforehand because they seemed cheap. This is a quick way to acquire pewter I didn’t really want or know much about before I plunged in. There are an array of emotions surrounding an auction for the novice. The preparation intensified as the deadline approached. I studied the pieces and decided what to pay for each and then almost forgot to register. Then anticipation of the auction itself was cut short by not knowing when my pieces would come up - sitting much longer than necessary at the computer so I wouldn’t miss anything. Excitement is next in the thrill of victory and momentary agony of defeat-oops! missed another one as I reconsidered the one that got away. Then suddenly it’s over and I reviewed the carnage buyer’s remorse set in. What had I done? I asked Frank Powell to check out what mistakes I might have made and repair the pieces with just a little damage. He assured me that they were what they were purported to be and made a few minor adjustments. All is well. All in all I enjoyed the auction and plan to play in this arena again. Next time I’ll be more prepared to strike quickly And I hope I’ll be more disciplined in preparing for what I might be interested in if the price is below some figure.”

## ~ SAVE THE DATE ~

**The Fall National PCCA meeting will be held on September 7 & 8 in Poughkeepsie, NY**  
**There are only a few rooms left at the Holiday Inn Express (the host hotel)**  
**If you plan on attending, please make your reservation today at 845 -473-1151**

## Check out the new and improved PCCA website

Tom Madsen reported our new website is up and running. He said it needed a fresh look and new features to support interactive features which allows members to get and disseminate information with each other and the Club. National and Regional Meeting announcements will be posted and members will be able to register and pay through the site. Periodic, topical “blasts” will refresh and enhance our knowledge of the pewterer’s craft. Visitors will find easy access to pewter news and articles with an invitation to join to obtain more, in depth information. They will be able to join online and pay dues through the site. And member dues can now be paid online too.

It took months of hard work by many members to get to this point. Gamal Amer chaired the committee that drafted the specs, sought bids and selected the web design firm, RC Website Group. Gary Mezack is our new Chair of the Web Site Committee is working with the RC Group to implement the various programs and will oversee its continuing progress. If you have suggestions for features that you would like to include in our website, communicate them to Gary at [gmezack@yahoo.com](mailto:gmezack@yahoo.com)

The web address remains [www.pewtercollectorsclub.org](http://www.pewtercollectorsclub.org). Check it out regularly because it changes often as new things are added.

## As Heard From or About Our Members

~ Gary Wiggins needs a picture for a Bulletin article. ~

Does anyone know who currently owns the Flagg & Homan candlestick featured in the article: McClaskey, Fred and Mary Ellen McClaskey. “Flagg & Homan, Cincinnati, O. Pewterers, 1842-1854.” The Pewter Collectors Club of America *Bulletin*, v. 7 no. 3 (76), February 1976, pp. 104-105.

I’d like to use a picture of it and the mark that I have in an article I am writing, but I don’t know the source of the picture. Please contact Gary at 812-332-6861 if you have or know the whereabouts of this picture.

.....

~ David Kilroy spotted an unusual item. ~

It is a *19th century cake icer*.

It was sold at Victor Mee Auctions, Ltd  
on December 29, 2017 in Belturbet, Ireland.

*Pictured at right.*



*continued on page 4*

## John Bank passes along a request for photos

John bought a York flagon in September 2017 at a Lincoln UK Auction, which had been in the Norman Merritt Collection and before that in the Cyril Minchin collection. He is curious as to numbers to be seen, types, and variations. This type of flagon is not verified as it was used in Churches, is impractical as being difficult to empty unless turned through 180 degrees, and the acorn finial (if present) is frequently found damaged.

He has photographs of 56 different flagons and asks that if you have one in your collection or know of one would you send him a photograph (preferably by email though post is fine) and the height, table to rim, and advise if there is a maker's mark on it. This is not an attempt to find all of them. John has found around 13 in private collections with the remainder in churches or museums if their location is known.

They were probably made in York, Tadcaster, Stockton on Tees, perhaps London and Wigan. They were made in the period around 1690-1790. Three or four makers marks have been found. Information please to – [johnstephenbank@btinternet.com](mailto:johnstephenbank@btinternet.com)

### BELOW 3 TYPES OF YORK FLAGON - THERE ARE VARIATIONS



**EDMUND HARVEY  
STYLE YORK ACORN  
FLAGON  
Stockton on Tees**

Of the four Stockton on Tees style Flagons found 1 is in a private collection and 3 are in Churches, it is likely more are in Churches closer to Teesside than York.

(John thinks there might be another 4 known of in Churches, not yet seen.)



**YORK - YORK STYLE ACORN FLAGON**

York Type – maker 'I H' assumed to be a John Harrison of York. Variations found in dome lids, thumbpieces, acorn finials, spouts handle, body rings etc. Makers Marks likely to be found inside centre base and occasionally, perhaps unusually, under centre base.

A second maker (or 2) with an unreadable script type mark is seen twice now but utterly unknown (so far).



**(Tadcaster) - PENNING-  
TON STYLE Early type  
of York Acorn Flagon**

(tall - those found are 12" 14 or 16" overall). There are 8 of these known and 4 are in Museums, 3 are in churches today and the whereabouts of the other is unknown. It is possible to likely that they were made in Tadcaster. A type of flagon unknown of in most books or collections.

### Correction

It was reported in the last issue of The Newsletter in the article about John Banks' access to the Cotterell archives that the "Toms Chop House" plate was in the Cotterell. However, John has corrected this error, it is at The Stirling Museum and part of the Neish Collection. (See the article on the Neish collection in the most recent issue of The Bulletin.)



An H H Cotterell Article in the (London) CONNOISSEUR of September 1933  
(around and including page 198)

Unpublished elsewhere and undated. Here follows a **Precis** by John Bank.

**SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY TEA CUPS A THEORY**

General use of tea, coffee and chocolate was not until after the restoration of the Monarchy, likely in the last quarter of the century. The early utensils can only be speculated about. A silver tea pot presented in 1670 is recorded in the V&A, and resembles future coffee pots. The lower form of tea pot is in use after 1690.

Small silver bowls based on Chinese tea cups of the K'ang hsi period are probable models for English tea, coffee or chocolate cups. They look like sugar bowls.



(creases show in the only copy known of this article)

The above were all made by Silversmith George Middleton of London - mark GM and two small crescents. Tea cup to the left and milk or cream jug to the right, spoon to the front with London hallmarks and a date letter for 1683. Seen also as smaller 'toys' the jug has an 'immature lip' to help it pour, though many did not have. Several with Chinese decoration and lids have been found and sold. (the toys referred to also showed the tea pot but were either in a previous article or a previous page which has not been found).

A piece previously shown here in the collection of John Bank follows – **this is in pewter and not silver** – and is the **ONLY** known old pewter example in this size, shape and style – hence does not need the table level stabilising ring foot as shown in the illustration above.



Some small details – (repeated from previous article) - This holds 15.2 fl ozs. - or the 3 gills capacity of the English Ale Gallon. The height table to rim is 8.45cm (3.3") The rim diameter is 7.77cm (3") The base diameter is 5.8cm ( 2 1/4") It weighs 260gms ( 9 1/4 ozs) **THUS FAR THEN** – this is **unique**.

*continued on page 6*

## IN SILVER



In Norwich Castle  
Museum

Jug  
Silver  
Norwich hallmark; about 1680  
Maker's mark ED in rectangle  
Bought out of the Beecham Bequest Fund  
with the help of a Government grant-in-aid  
1954.88.28



Small silver (late 17thC) mug sol  
by Mark Cooke of London  
Probably a milk or cream jug. 6.25 cms tall  
weighs 4 ozs.

If anyone has one of these in old pewter, or photographs of the silver ones, or a copy of the Connoisseur article referred to then please contact me – [johnsbank@me.com](mailto:johnsbank@me.com)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Question might be also asked then – what is this? – made of old pewter and in a UK Collection.



# 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.*



A set of 7 English graduated pewter measures; Image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.

## English pewter measures, 19th c., tallest - 6 1/4 inch

Seven graduated English pewter measures, 19th c., tallest - 6 1/4"

CONDITION: Good. Expected wear consistent with age and use.

**Item F7951748**

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole

**Origin:** England

**Type:** hollow ware - other

**Year:** 1801 - 1900

### Sales History - January 2018

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2018 - 01 - 29	\$60 - \$90	1389	\$213

**Pook & Pook Inc.**, 463 East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335 Phone: 610-269-4040

URL: <http://www.pookandpook.com>

*continued on page 8*

## Fluid Lamp; Pewter, Time Lamp, Banded Glass Font, Clear, 15 inch.



A European pewter lamp, nineteenth century. Glass font with pewter strap to mark time as oil level drops. Spout has loss. 15.25" high.

**Item F7949387**

**Category:** Lighting

**Origin:** Europe

**Type:** Fluid & whale oil lamps

**Year:** 1801 - 1900

**Sales History - March 2018**

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2018 03-17	\$100 - \$300	81	\$180

**Garth's Auctions**

## Pewter; Bassett (Francis II), Tankard, Cylindrical, Dome Lid, 7 Inch



A pewter tankard by Francis Bassett II; *Images courtesy of Garth's Auctions*

An American pewter tankard mug, touch mark for Francis Bassett II (New York City / New Jersey, 1749-1783). Scrolled handle and thumb latch. A few faint surface dings. 7.25" high.

**Item F7958484**

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares

**Origin:** New York

**Type:** drinking vessels

**Year:** 1749 - 1783

**Sales History:** November 2017

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017-11-24	\$1,500 - \$2,500	178	\$6,900

*continued on page 9*



## Pewter; Palethorp (Robert Jr.), Mug, 4 inch



An American pewter mug by Robert Palethorp Jr.; *Images courtesy of Garth's Auctions*

AN AMERICAN PEWTER MUG. Touch for Robert Palethorp, Jr. (Philadelphia, 1817-1822).  
Jacobs #224. 4 1/4" high.

**Item F7958382**

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares

**Origin:** Pennsylvania

**Type:** drinking vessels

**Year:** 1817 - 1822

**Sales History - November 2017**

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017-11-24	\$600 - \$800	181	\$1020

Garth's Auctions

## Pewter; Porter (Allen) Teapot, 7 inch.



A westbrook, Maine pewter teapot, 19th c., bearing the touch of Allen Porter, 7 1/4" high.

CONDITION: Old professional solder repair to base.

**Item F7950579**

**Category:** pewter, tin & tole wares

**Origin:** Maine

**Type:** pots

**Year:** 1840 - 1850

**Sales History - June 2017**

Date	Pre-Sale Estimate	Lot No.	Amount
2017 06-21	\$40 - \$80	1220	\$150

A pewter teapot by Allen Porter;  
*Image courtesy of Pook & Pook, Inc.*

*continued on page10*

## Pewter; Will (William), Plate, 8 inch.



An American pewter plate by William Will; *Images courtesy of Garth's Auctions.*

An American pewter plate. Touch for William Will (Philadelphia, 1764-1798). Jacobs #283, 8.25" Dia.

<b>Item F7958385</b>	<b>Category:</b> pewter, tin & tole wares	<b>Origin:</b> Pennsylvania	
<b>Type:</b> chargers & plates	<b>Year:</b> 1764 - 1798	<b>Sales History - November 2017</b>	
<b>Date</b> 2017-11-24	<b>Pre-Sale Estimate</b> \$800 - \$1,200	<b>Lot No.</b> 184	<b>Amount</b> \$1200

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**AN OLD BELGIAN PEWTERERS WORKSHOP OF UNKNOWN DATE AND LOCATION  
FROM H H COTTERELL FILES**

**THE PEWTERERS CRAFT IN BELGIUM BY J. B O E S  
CONSERVATOR AT THE MUSEUM OF FOLKLORE AT GHENT.  
(TRANSLATED BY R.M. VETTER, AMSTERDAM).  
Written in 1936**

“We insert here a series of illustrations made from photographs which the "Musee de la Vie Wallone" at Liege very kindly put at our disposal. They represent an old Belgian pewterer at work making an old-fashioned beer flagon of well-known shape, employing old dies and implements.”



**The Stack of Dies (Molds)**



**Melting the Metal**



**Preparing the Mould**



**Using the Ladle**





**Opening the die of the Upper**



**And of the Lower Portion**



**The Rough Castings**



**Turning The Body**



**Finishing On The Lathe**

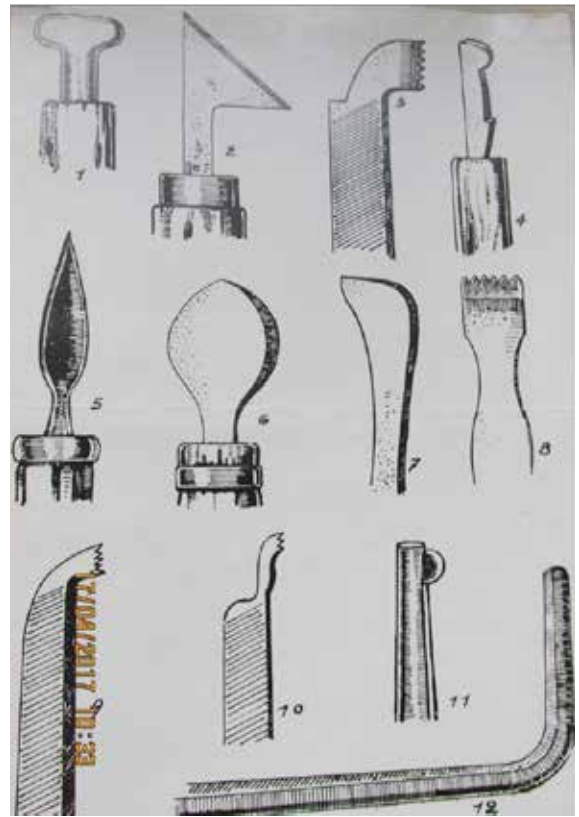


**Putting On The Lid**

*continued on page14*



**The Pewterers' Shop at the  
Ghent Museum of Folklore**



**Pewterers Tools**



**Sales Room of Pewterers Shop**

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# Concluding Remarks

Thank you to all who contribute news and interesting pewter related material. In this edition we can thank John Banks and David Kilroy for several informative pieces. As mentioned above, responses to the question of whether to include auction prices in the Newsletter were few but enough in the positive to continue the practice. Please continue to comment on this and other issues of importance to you.

The request for letters to the editor (except for four emails about auction prices) has yet to yield a single email. There must be concerns, kudos to members or the club you want to express. There should always be topics or opinions to put before the membership for comment. This is your forum, use it.

I regret what is missing in this issue is what has received the most positive responses, an article on a member's collection. If you've enjoyed these interviews and you're willing to risk my edit of a conversation about your collection and collecting in general let me know.

Scott