

A GERARDIN PINT BARREL SPOUTED MEASURE

with interest.....





The GERARDIN weighs 422 gms and stands 11.9cms tall rim to table. (13.8 ounces 4.7inches)

We know of another such piece by a different maker which is –



A Rare Antique Pewter Barrel Pint in Fine Condition made by Samuel Turner of London (OPM4840/5982) pewterer.

He worked from 1790 through 1810 to an unknown date.

To the left of the handle are three hall marks clearly showing to the front the remains of an owners initials engraved in the style of the times - also a triad of initials stamped to the front as perhaps B over SM which if a later verification (perhaps issued in 1825 according to Ricketts) would be for St Marylebone Borough and Parish.

Also can be seen the initialled S T pot touch in the base.

This stands 4 7/8" tall with a footrim of 3" and weighs over 14 1/2 ozs.



So what does this tell us –

- 1) The pot touch and hallmarks to the exterior were not unusual.
 - 2) The owner's initials engraved to the outside are in keeping with each other for style.
 - 3) The weight and height of the GERARDIN indicate a less expensive item - being some 3.5% less in height and some 4.8% less in weight (and it shows).
 - 4) This was a style of the times for a pewter measure as both Turner and Gerardin appear to work through similar years in London. So when was it made? Who knows – Peter R G Hornsby identifies another one made by perhaps Alderson which he says was made about 1820 (in POTWW) but it is a fair guess that both of these shown above were made before that as Gerardin is dead in 1821 and by then Turner would have worked for 30+ years. So c 1810 is just a fair guess?
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The GERARDIN is unusual in that –

This has rekindled thoughts about the marks of the small flower.

It was suggested previously that the multi-petal flower with the C to the centre was likely his and not the usually accepted one - small flower as shown mostly on the data base from various folk.

This pint measure shows that the crowned WR mark has been over stamped by the commonly associated small flower.

Would a reasonable pewterer would likely over stamp the crown on his pieces?

His pot touch is already in the base.

Is it likely that a retailer/dealer would put his mark on as he wished and that makes the small flower - perhaps not Gerardin's at all but that of a dealer - (who maybe sold a lot of his stuff....) ??????

What was best practice most likely by Gerardin? - a French exile on his own working before before Gerardin and Watson so perhaps about ... say 1790-1800.....

He was born in 1769 - the revolution was say 1789 for several years.

He married in England in 1797 His wife sister's son Thomas Watson was apprenticed to him and free in about 1808.

So the GERARDIN mark likely predates then, and that is the reign of George III so confusion!!!! (not so confusing as we are assured by long term use of the WR mark read below -)

As for it perhaps being a W IV mark then why just the GERARDIN mark as he was long dead then and his wife needed Watson - so ? was it old stock?

Was it verified a long time after his death?

Who then over-stamped - with the three flowers - the crowned verification mark? Would the maker stamp both?

A long standing collector of considerable experience tells us that

- I have never seen hallmarks stamped over a crowned WR..... (WR?)

Let us compare the flower head marks –



Experienced opinion that this as shown above is definitely not a “C” is shown below – it is simply the centre of the daisy – we are told.....



These flowers are not the least bit alike. Both appear on GERARDIN product. The C in the centre of the first supposed flower head corresponds to the French word for Common metal that was used for drinking mugs and there are fourteen extended ‘n ‘ shape petals.

The right hand simple flower suggests eight solid petals within a petalled looking outer circle.

Quite different then.

Why would one man use both?

The ones on the right are those especially are attributed to Francis Gerardin and later to Gerardin & Watson (Thomas Watson his nephew in partnership with his Aunt (wife to FG) from 1821, free from 1811.)

Another collector writes –

The large crowned WR with three petal marks are the secondary marks of Gerardin which were used on pots, c 1820-ish to c 1830.

The large crown over WR is a verification mark used by the maker to signify compliance with the OEAS prior to the Act of 1826.

This mark, and various varieties of it had been in use from c 1700 onwards, certainly in use c 1780-1800.

It simply indicates capacity of vessel in compliance with the Act of 1700 and was in use up until c 1825.

Another experienced collector emails – (with considerable reference to the remarkable Pewter Society Database of pewterer's marks -)

The hallmarks here are not M15353 - the ones with what you believe to be a C in them. Look at the outlines, and you'll see they match M16136 (under Francis Gerardin, PS3750) and not M15353 (under Gerardin & Watson, M3751). So, this piece does not, I regret, support your theory that M15353 belongs to Gerardin.

To me, the WR mark M5108 isn't a puzzle either. It's a WR mark, not a W IV R mark, so it's pre-Imperial and that fits Gerardin well.

Apart from the City of London and Westminster marks, all the other crowned WR marks are peculiar to the individual pewterer, so they must have been applied by the pewterer.

They seem to have been used to indicate that the measure conformed to ale rather than wine capacity.

So, were the hallmarks applied by Gerardin, or could they have been applied by a retailer who bought wholesale from Gerardin? I can't see any evidence here to suggest a retailer was involved.

OK, it's not impossible, but if the hallmarks do belong to a retailer, (a) he must have bought an awful lot of Gerardin's wares and (b) he didn't buy wares from anyone else.

Either way, I think the partial over stamping of the WR mark is just carelessness.

We're in the days of mass production. Pewterers were turning out mugs in large quantities and didn't have time to line up all their punches carefully, so you inevitably got an occasional mis-stamping like this.

It's a mis-stamping whoever applied it, because why would a retailer deliberately overstamp a WR mark?

I think your suggested date range of 1790-1800 for this mug is a little too early. As far as we know, the business traded under Gerardin's own name until his death in 1821.

Watson may have been working as a journeyman for him since 1808, but there's no evidence he went into partnership with him.

'Gerardin and Watson' only came into being after Francis Gerardin's death, presumably because Mary Gerardin decided she needed the help of the senior journeyman to run the business. So, we must assume the GERARDIN label continued in use until at least 1821, and possibly for a year or two after that until the partnership was created. Most barrel shaped mugs like this date to the period 1800-1820, and that fits Francis Gerardin fine.

Finally, going back to the other hallmarks, although you've tried hard to persuade me otherwise, I remain unconvinced that the centre is a letter C. I cannot think of any other mark or hallmark which has a letter in the centre of a flower, and the simple explanation that it merely depicts the centre of the daisy strikes me as rather more plausible.

So as readers will "C" there is a divergence of opinion!

(though most likely the experienced collector will be correct)