

YORK OR WIGAN?

An English Pewter Flat-lidded York Flagon circa 1690

With two bands of faint engraving at the top and bottom of the body, fretted denticulation to stepped over cover heart and spray thumbpiece an indistinct touch possibly by the maker W B inside the base

11 1/8" (28.2cm) overall height weighs just over 1700 grams

Cooper Collection

Buckell Collection

Little Collection (lot 110)

Similar Worshipful Company Collection no 140 fig 20c – again in the supplementary catalogue no 212 p 38.

Attributes this style specifically to York makers

Similar in the Frank Holt sale Oct 98 Phillips Chester lot 35 by Leonard Terry.



A recent (2009) conundrum - Sale lot 606 (Kenneth Barkin collection Bonhams Chester May 2009) is a Wigan made flat lid tankard - absolutely certain it is Wigan as it has the mark of Lawrence Anderton and he is known!

At the Christies Little Sale there was - lot 110 - An English Pewter Flat Lidded 'York' Flagon. (illustrated above)

The 'York' supposedly had the initials WG inside - but with an average holiday type digital camera it is clear this is WB., - this is 1.7cms (2/3 of an inch) larger than the Anderton - variant thumbpiece and handle terminal.

So why was the Little one (lot 110) a "York" - other than people have called that style that? Far more likely it was made in Wigan - we know of no known York Pewterers as "WB" but plenty of Wigan ones about 1690.

So is this style not a York style but a Wigan style? Has it been miscalled?

A knowledgeable collector says –

These flagons have generally been called York , although many of them are Lancastrian as you have noted!! The thumbpiece for me is Wigan and the WB is known to me too, see PS10766. Wigan all the way. Very nice too!! Never believe what you read in catalogue!!

Notes

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There were three Leonard Terrys recorded in York from c1684-1745

Lawrence Anderton born in 1606 (might have been working then in the early 1620s) recorded as contributing to a gift to Charles II in 1660 and was Mayor of Wigan in 1685, held offices in the Wigan Company of Pewterers at least from 1661 to 1684

WB – is recorded as working 1680 – 1700 as a pewterer in Wigan (PS10766) This mark could belong to William Bankes III, IV or V ([PS11265](#), [PS11266](#), [PS11267](#)) or to a William Baldwin ([PS390](#) or [PS14506](#))

The above may point to this style being made firstly in Wigan,

.....(does it matter?)