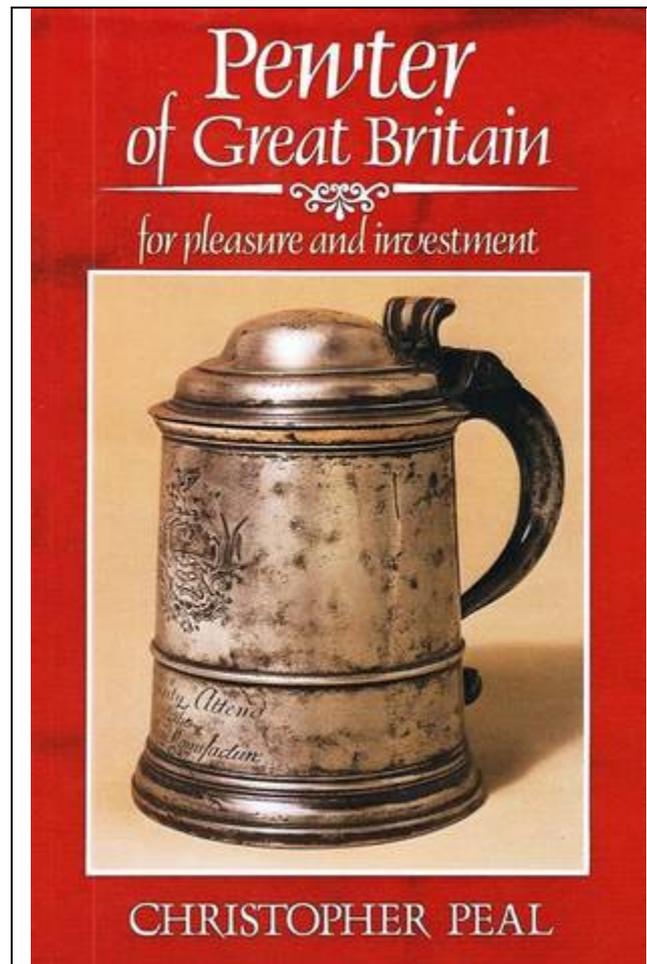


Pewter of Great Britain –

for pleasure and investment

by Christopher Peal



Hardback book size 9 7/8" x 7 1/8" x 7/8"

Published in 1983, posthumously, this book is still today an excellent reference book for any Pewter Collector. It has some 247 pages and 203 illustrations. The contents as listed at the beginning are shown below.

The Pewter Society were fortunate in sourcing a small supply, stored safely, from the 1983 print run in first class condition.

To quote from a previous short review – ‘The beginner will find most of what he needs to know about the pieces he is likely to find, and the old hand will enjoy the fresh and sometimes controversial, approach to many topics’ – ‘A very personal book, written in Chris’s inimitable English, and is a “must” for all collectors.

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As can be seen from the list of Contents above there are five chapters taking us through history from Roman Times to 1900.

There are chapters dealing with, regional British, European, and British Pewter found in New England.

There are very useful chapters on – Pewter Marks, Fakes and Repros, Cleaning and Repairing and about the Pewterers Company.

There is at the end a good Index.

There are chapters written by invited specialist contributors whose names a collector is likely to recognise, namely –

C J M Hull writing about The Pewterers Company

Peter Spencer Davies – Scottish Pewter

Ian D Robinson - British Pewter in New England

D A Mundhill – European Pewter

Jack L Scott - Britannia Metal

One or two illustrations have been chosen at random to give the reader of this review a taste of this book –



Let us climb up over some general facts to set the scene for a simple overall analysis. Lidless tankards continued to be rare for many decades. It is not until c.1770 that lidless and lidded exchanged popularity. Almost immediately the proportion of lidded became very small indeed. I wonder why; probably the soaring price of metal. In any case did we not wonder *why* lids in the first case? There were more pewterers at work in the very early years of the century than at any other time (although lack of trade soon reduced the number) and no doubt for the tavern pots, in their constant clattering service, mortality was high. Yet here we are with a great many bud balusters around, with their prominent thumbpieces and their lids with fragile hinges—just asking for damage—but these have survived somehow in much greater numbers than the eighteenth-century pots.



82 Cider or ale jugs. One of these is repro. Which? The double curved wrists grasping each other is the most usual handle. That on the right is the repro. (Miss Jane Russell)

Beer had become very expensive by the end of the seventeenth century, at 3d a quart, while gin was cheap and strong. It was much more popular than beer in London, if not the whole country. Then in 1763 heavy duties were imposed on gin, thus giving a fillip to beer.

Dome-lid tankards were very well established by 1710, and thrive they did up to the time that they tailed off rather suddenly, their final disappearance being around 1825 (to reappear on the sports trophies of c.1845-c.1885). Their dating features are primarily body and fillet; handle grip under the thumb; terminal; and thumbpiece. The bodies tended to be rather squat, and were adopting the fillet by 1710—at first lower than at any time thereafter, and the fillet remained on truncated cone dome-lids, although on the other main eighteenth-century dome-lid body type, the 'tulip' or 'pear', it was inclined to be absent from c.1790.

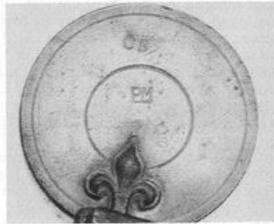
From 1730 the lidded tulip tankards had cut in parallel to the truncated cone dome-lids, but with no fillet. Then they adopted both the fillet and the pierced thumbpiece, to about 1790, once again to omit the fillet to remain plain and lidless through the nineteenth century. Note the earlier converse behaviour compared with the straight-



156 Half-gallon bud baluster measure with touch of I.F. (Laughlin 385/MPM 5595). Note pip on thumbpiece. Found in the Ashley River below Dorchester, approximately 30 miles northwest of Charlestown, South Carolina. Overall height 11½in. c.1690-1730. (Photograph courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.)



157 CM and PM stamps, frequently found on English lidded baluster measures in New England, in these cases on double-volute measures found in New England, c.1740-1800.



192



158 Pint double-volute measure by John Fasson (OP 1635). Found in Massachusetts. Overall height 6in. c.1731-69.

Teapots

Pear-shaped and drum-shaped pewter teapots made by a large number of eighteenth-century English makers exist in private collections in New England. They are scarcely ever seen in England, suggesting that they were primarily made for export. Generally,



159a Drum-shaped teapot by Henry Joseph. Wooden lid finial not original Height overall 5½in. c. 1740-85. (Collection of William O. Blaney.)

159b Touch of Henry Joseph on drum-shaped teapot. This shows coronet and crowned X over the HJ mark shown in OP 5747A. Must be a later touch than MPM 5706 (transferred to OP 2686 in *Addenda*).

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is available from the Pewter Society at a price of £14.99 plus £2.75 for first class post and packing within the UK (£17.74) – it is good value for any collector!

(In 1983 the book sold at £6.95; the above price at £14.99 represents less than the price would be to print a modest run of the book today, an option the Pewter Society was considering before this small stock was known of. The post and packing price represents less than the Postage Stamp cost - but is the maximum Amazon would allow to be charged – where this book can also be found for sale by the Pewter Society)

Individual prices will be quoted for customers outside the UK. Simply it will be the actual postage plus 74 pence for the protective wrapping (comprising two protective envelopes).

To buy this book contact - publications@pewtersociety.org

The originator of this website is the publications officer (in 2011) for the UK Pewter Society. There are no commissions or benefits to this website of recommending this booklet. It is simply here to encourage interest in the subject – and perhaps to assist your collecting.