

Bristol and West Country Pewter

This article is here to show some of the pewterware produced in this area, mostly in the 18th and 19th century. It is a random selection, chosen simply because the illustrations were available, and could be used here without infringing any copyrights.

There is no intention on this website to provide a full education in this subject. Please be clear the intention is to tempt those interested to seek out more information for themselves and to take a greater interest in the subject. Hopefully helping those interested to look at pewter with a little more knowledge when they see it. But for better informed opinion perhaps you should also look at the UK Pewter Society website.

Most people (though certainly not all) selling old British pewter have little or no idea what they are selling – so hopefully this website gives the reader a few clues and guidance as to where to find better information.

So which geographical area is referred to here? The answer is mostly Bristol, but some from Essex, North Devon, (generally west of Exeter) pieces found in Wales, and further afield. Bewdley is not especially shown here as it is hoped to offer an article at some later date concerning Bewdley (Glos).

So all this is - is a simple selection of pewter pieces and a few details - relative to this area.

Bristol Pint Mug c1870 – well marked

A Pint mug made by George Hayter of Bristol OP2237. He appears in the Bristol trade directories of the 1870's as of Temple Street Bristol. Both this and the half pint have his pot touch of H over Bristol though uncrowned. Of the truncated cone type with a centre waistband a distinctive short skirted footrim.

The pint is 4 ¾" tall with a 4" diameter footrim, which is a little dented, weighs 12 ozs about 330 gms. A pint label to the left of the handle and 2 VR verifications and a CBC and a Bristol City circled verification to the right of the handle



Bristol Spouted Pewter Quart mug about 1860 well marked.

Crowned X with H in the base perhaps for Hale. (Hale and Sons would make this about 1860) Engraved ownership for E



Stone, Bear Inn, Box Wilts.

Verification mark for Bristol City above ownership engraving. To the left of the handle Quart stamp and verification crowned VR over 464 (Wiltshire County) over N and to the right of the handle GcrownR over 574 (Wiltshire County again) and a Crown over CB over C (Bristol County of City). A fine quart mug with nice spade terminal on handle base flat to body. Nice bold footrim to steady the mug. Stands nearly 6 ½" with a footrim of 4 ½" and weighs a respectable 1 lb 10 ozs.



Bristol Pewter Half Pint Mug made George Hayter about 1875.

Simple inscription to the front remains for J Cope Old England Tavern. To the left of the handle remains of ½ pint and to the right CR over C topped by another mark now illegible and also in the base remains of Crowned X over Bristol over H (as George Hayter so marked his goods) Weighs 8 ½ ozs. stands over 3 ½" tall with a footrim over 3" OP 2237 (differs slightly in that this shows H over Bristol – probably about 1875.



Pewter Ale half-pint mug by T & W Willshire c1800

This mug was 'exported' to Wales, and has 2 verification marks for the old Cardiff Borough, with a feint GIVR mark to the left of the handle. Their crowned 'superfine hard metal' label inside base, which they used instead of a touchmark – recorded at MPM 5203 (2nd from left in first row.) Height of 4" weighs just over 11 ozs, footrim diameter of 3



1/8" and rim diameter nearly 2 5/8"



HALE BRISTOL

An Early Bristol Antique Pewter Mug probably made by Richard and Thomas Hale of Bristol about 1795. The only mark is that of H A L E under the crowned X quality mark as pot touch in the base of the mug. Otherwise a plain tulip shaped mug with ball terminal and convex foot. Someone's hard work has rescued some of the pewter patina below 200 years of oxidation and a lot of use. Height of 4 1/2" footrim of 3 1/2" and weighs about 12 ozs.



Pewter Pint mug by Mark Fothergill & Sons, Bristol c1825 (OP 1740)

For a very brief period, these were made using 18th century ball terminal handle moulds. The very unusual body is not 'extended', as the lip and body are cast in one piece. Quart and half-pint examples are also known, but all are very rare. Struck with the maker's mark only very faintly remaining in the base, and their distinctive 'IMPERIAL' label to the left of the handle. Verified twice for the City of Bristol. Very good condition. 5 3/8" high. Rim diameter 3 1/2" Footrim diameter just under 3 1/2" Weight about 14 ozs.



Tulip Shaped Pint of Old English Wine Standard by Allen Bright of Bristol 1742-1763 with tongue top handle and ball terminal, his touchmark stamped in base. Ownership triad S I M stamped on side.



Matching pair of quart & pint measures by Mark Fothergill & Sons Bristol c1793-1835 (OP1740) their circular mark struck under base. All conical measures are rare, and a matching pair like these is very difficult to find.



A range of the three distinctive Fothergill of Bristol Measures in Quart, Pint and Half Pint. All with the touchmark to the base. Moderate condition and unlikely made at same time, the Quart – marked Imperial to the neck outer rim
 Pint – a Pint label crudely fastened to front with pewter solder, and a Victorian verification likely for Cornwall, a delete mark to the inner rim, a diamond shaped mark also to the inner rim
 Half Pint unmarked apart from Fothergill touch under base
 All with signs of a lot of use, some repair and some dents



etc to handles.

Bristol 'droopy' body mug by Edgar & Son, Bristol c1822-44 (OP1510/PS2152) their circular pot touch with bird inside the base. Verified twice for the City of Bristol by Chief Inspector William James Gingell whose initial 'G' appears in all verification marks from this period. Punched ownership using single letter dies is the typical style used in Bristol during the first half of the 19th century. 'W. DAVEY. CROWN & ANCHOR. CHEESE LANE', of which pub William Davey and his wife Ann were publicans from 1834-44. In marvellous condition, with light-medium grey patina. 4⁵/₈" high, with mouth & base diameters of 3¹/₄" & 3⁷/₈".



Very Rare Gallon tall form of 'West Country' measure c1850



The only known, and probably unique example of this size of the scarce 'tall' form of conical measure c1830-50. early verification marks for Gloucestershire County, and an early form of capacity label '1/2 GILL' (two views shown)



This Ale gallon (OEAS) 'West Country' measure 'found' in Hampshire is such a rare bird. Almost exclusively the pre-Imperial conical measures are Wine Standard (OEWS) so this offers up the possibility of another range of sizes!! There are faint traces of marks on the outer rim. The measure is in remarkably good condition for its age. Several conical measures with this 'short' rim are known, and Cotterell shows a gill of this form in his Old Pewter at Fig h Plate XLVII, which he dates c1790. Good concentric turning marks under the base are a useful feature not seen on later measures, as the work involved did not justify the extra labour costs. It is well made and of very heavy construction. A truly delightful feature is the large heart-shaped escutcheon plate at the upper handle attachment. The use of escutcheon plates appeared during the last quarter of the 18th century and disappeared early in the 19th century. The hollow handle is also unusual, as are the incised lines to the lower body. In very good used condition, with medium-grey original surface patina. 9½" overall height, with 8½" base diameter.



A conical half gallon - West Country style - supposedly for cider trade...but many were made in Birmingham



A rare set of four
West Country Style
Measures

Quart – 2 lbs 1 oz
Height 6" footrim 5
1/2"

Pint – 1 lb 3 1/2 ozs
Height 5 1/2" footrim
4 1/2"

1/2 Pint – 13 ozs
Height 4 1/4"

footrim 3 3/4"

Quartern – over 7
ozs Height 3 1/2"
footrim 3



A Rare Pint Conical
Measure. (west
country style)



West Country

Quart Measure in moderate
to poor body condition and
patina. Likely late Georgian.
Unreadable verification might
be a GR over SW – number 25
also which would perhaps be
for 1825. Interestingly inside
reveals a well turned base.



1/2-pint Bud Baluster
marked to left of
handle with a
crowned WR, and
cast under lid W
Bancks likely of
Bewdley c1780-1800



Gill Bud Baluster
Measure by T
Willshire of Bristol
Nice Pelican in
Piety mark to the
lid top centre



A fine very early
Tankard. by
Richard Going of
Bristol

A mark of his
found on a pint bud
c1700-1722



There were two
Goings a father and
son.



Half Pint Tulip filleted Mug
made by CB likely –
Chrstitopher Banckes II of
Bewdley 1746-1788



Charger (18 ¼")
made in the time of
George 11 that is
the middle 1700s by
John Lovell Jnr of
Bristol (OPM2990)



George 2nd, Mid 18th Century,
pewter CHARGER. Diameter just over
18". Lipped rim. Made by JOHN
LOVELL Junr, Bristol. He was appren-
ticed in 1717. Freeman 1725; was
in Bristol Poll Book for 1734.
DIED 1742. This specimen can be
dated as c. 1735-1740.
See Cott. page 259, mark No. 2990.

Possibly Unique
Valuable Scottish
Tulip Measure of
Bottle capacity –
but more likely a
Bristol 2/3 Quart
Measure/Mug
This was an
unusual measure
used in Bristol



John T Ferris Pint Mug with three different Ferris marks on it – made perhaps around 1830 - Exeter



Exeter Half Pint Mug c 1820 (pre-Imperial)



Superb Lidded 'ale' jug c1790-1820 – “ J * HOLT



12¼" beautifully hammered basin by Robert Bush of Bristol (c1775 -)

(late 1700s)



Pewter 9" Plate by Stephen Cox (OPM1189) of Bristol. Plain rimmed plate nicely cleaned some time ago with one incised line to the outer centre the rim being 1 1/4", evidence of good use. To the back good remains of touchmarks and a really nice set of hallmarks. Finely well hammered boogie and weighs 1-lb 2 ozs. Appears to have worked from 1735 to his death in 1754. So this delightful plate is over 250 years old.



0232 where? 139 – 145?



Pair of Pewter 9 1/4" Pewter Plates with plain rims and made by Thomas Bennett of Bristol about 1770 (OPM385) Each plate has a 1 1/4" plain rim and weighs about 1 lb. There are owner's initials, remains of Bennet's touch marks, his London Label and quality X marks to the rear. The patina is a dark distinguished Pewter patina with knife marks and might benefit from a little TLC.



Exceptional and rare one third ale pint Pewter Mug of likely London make in about 1780. Ownership W on drum front in period style with engraved fleck popular effect. 3 1/8" tall with an early handle, holding 6.7 fluid ozs. Weighs 7 1/2 ozs or so. The fineness of the multiple reeding bands also suggests an early date. A very rare size known as a 'blue' and used mainly in Wales and the West Country. A collector's piece. Two incised bands to the footed bucket shaped body, pleasing handle





**Pewter Ale Quart Mug
made by Richard and
Thomas Hale (OP2072) of
Bristol between 1785 – 1805**

Partial touch inside the base.
However the handle is
distinctively theirs and theirs
alone with anachronistic
shield handle terminal which
is charming but defining. 5
7/8" tall mouth 4" diam base
4 7/8". This weighs about 1lb
10 ozs.



**Pewter Ale half pint mug
by T & W Willshire c 1800
Very rare**

Two verification marks for the old Cardiff Borough Feint GIVR mark to left of handle. Crowned superfine hard metal label inside base used instead of a touchmark. See C Peal MPM 5203 (2nd left 1st row) This weighs 9 ozs stands short of 4" with a footrim short of 3".



**Single Reed Pewter Plate 7
7/8" by Bush & Perkins of
Bristol c1775**

OP740 (MPM 740 – pillared mark) and feint hallmarks excellent condition. Nice to have a genuine one! This weighs about 10 ozs the rim is only 1" wide including



**Single Reed Pewter 8 3/8"
Allen Bright of Bristol early
plate c1745-1750**

Readable strike of name is
unusual small edge crack
otherwise good condition
Weighs over 11 ozs rim
measures just over 1".



**A Pewter Bristol single
reeded dish 15" in diameter**

by Allen Bright of Bristol
about 1750. The remains of
the simplest of his touches
apparent to the rear. A nice
strong single reed and an
incised line round the outer
bowl. The rim is a good 1 3/4"
and depth not far short of 1".
Allen Bright OP574 said to
be of Bristol and Colwell
Hertfordshire was
apprenticed to Wm Watkins
and his wife Mary of Bristol
in 1735. He died in 1763.
The plate then likely about
1750



A Spouted Pewter Pint about 1830 – with good marks

A spouted pint by Edgar and Son which has nice marks for both Bath and Bristol. There is a small repair to the base and a slight split to the spout. Likely to be around 1830 as with the WIV mark (he reigned until 1837) Stamped Pint to the front and a nice pot touch to the inside base. Weighs 12 ozs (say 333 gms) stands 4 3/4" with a broad footrim of just over 4". Verifications include W Crown R over 490, small CBX, Crown over WR over CIR (not I) and Crown over C B over G – the 490 appears to have been stamped over a GR also.



Bristol Pint Mug c1870 – well marked

A Pint mug made by George Hayter of Bristol OP2237. He appears in the Bristol trade directories of the 1870's as of Temple Street Bristol. Both this and the half pint have his pot touch of H over Bristol though uncrowned. Of the truncated cone type with a centre waistband a distinctive short skirted footrim.

The pint is 4 ¾" tall with a 4" diameter footrim, which is a little dented, weighs 12 ozs about 330 gms. A pint label to the left of the handle and 2 VR verifications and a CBC and a Bristol City circled verification to the right of the handle. A little out of the round to the footrim and with a few dings, but good colour and has served a good purpose.



Half Pint Pewter Mug by G Hayter Bristol c1870

A half-pint mug made by George Hayter of Bristol OP2237. He appears in the Bristol trade directories of the 1870's as of Temple Street Bristol. Both this and the pint have his pot touch of H over Bristol though uncrowned. Of the truncated cone type with a centre waistband a distinctive short



skirted footrim. The half-pint is under 4" tall with a 3 1/4" diameter footrim, which is a little dented weighs about 9 ozs. A half-pint label to the left of the handle and a VR verification (513) for Monmouth with a C over OF over M also for Monmouth and a CBC and a Bristol City circled verification to the right of the handle. A little dented but good colour and has served a good purpose.



A fine very early Pewter Tankard.

A rare and valuable collectors item by Richard Going of Bristol about 1730. Lovely pot touch to the interior base, exceptionally fine condition perhaps unused. Height 6 3/4" to the top of the upright thumbrest, footrim over 4 3/4" and weighs over 1lb 5ozs say 610 gms.



Antique Multi Reed Plate/Dish
 Just short of 10" in diameter and perhaps in need of a clean depending on how you like your pewter. A rim of 1 5/8" and an unusual depth of about 5/8". This weighs 1lb 1oz. There is a single incised line to the outer base. To the back a London stamp, a crowned X quality mark and the vague remains of a ducal coronet with perhaps a horses hock arising from it or maybe a unicorns head. This back plate touch most closely resembles that of John Duncumb of 1716, but the plate feels later say 1750 perhaps. There is a start of a small hole which has not yet made its way through where the rim connects to the booge. An interesting piece, likely to be West



Country given it was found in North West Devon and different to find a dish of this size with triple reeding. More likely John Lovell of Bristol but feels later?

Quart West of England tankard by Hale and Sons, Bristol c1778-82 (PS4236/OP2070) with their partial mark inside the base. Double domed lid, open chairback thumbpiece, and a handle with ball terminal. In good condition, with dark-grey original surface patina. 8" overall height.

Thanks to –
www.pewtersellers.com
for this illustration and some others included above.

