

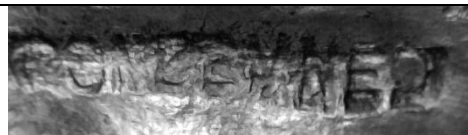
"CONDEMNED" - 1/2 1/4 PINT



VR ?



SALOP ?





The seller wrote -

Rare 1/2 gill pewter measure marked CONDEMNED.

- a very rare 1/2 gill pewter measure which has been stamped CONDEMNED five times. The measure must have been rejected by a weights and measures inspector, was there some rule preventing the inspector from just confiscating the measure? The measure has a DARK (brown) OXIDE finish. According to various pewter publications only a handful of measures stamped condemned have been recorded and in one book the author states his illustrated example is a sole example of one that got away. The capacity stamp is quite unusual being 1/2, 1/4 pint.

.....

Ricketts tells us that this Shropshire mark (Crown over SALOP) is likely from 1840 to 1891 making this most certainly a VR mark badly stamped as was the X in the base (stamped twice?). These are usually found with the initials FW (as here) though others have the surname WEST on them.

Christine Ellis from Sydney Australia discovers - 'FW' is Francis Whittaker who started life in his birthplace of Cheswardine Shropshire, having married young, as a Tailor (perhaps a family occupation) in 1841, but by 1851 he has moved to Shrewsbury as Inspector of Weights and Measures, a position he holds for at least thirty years. Interestingly no other occupation is ever listed for him so he doesn't appear to be holding down two jobs. (Confirmation sources 1851 to 1881 Directories and census). Francis Whittaker dies in 1888 (interestingly he had one son, who predeceases him by a three years, and was a Publican).

The large C is likely to be a datemark or divisional mark

The over stamped verification is most likely - N over a Crown over VR over 567 issued in 1891 (also found with S over - so we assume North and South - Salop)

So likely made and then used in Shropshire in the third quarter of the 19th century.

A web site reader and collector emails to say -

I think that from the capacity mark, 1/2 of a 1/4 pint, it might well be by Villers and Wilkes (1805-1835) as this is typical of their style of capacity marking, or another Birmingham maker. I've never seen one before and am surprised, but pleased, that it's survived all of these years.

There have been examples with a 6 pointed star struck on the body but these too are rare.

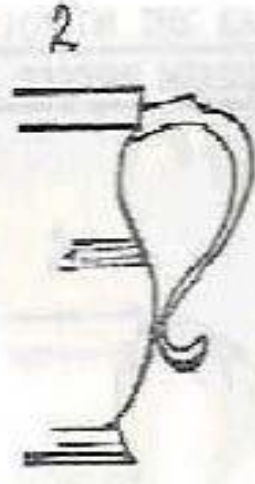
(comment - more likely a later maker, as VR verified and X in base not as crowned X recorded for V&W).

Below is shown a guide to the styles of the English Bulbous Tavern Measure which seems to suggest this was likely made 1826 - 1850 - it was certainly used long after.

This guide is shown in full on this website under - Mugs and Makers



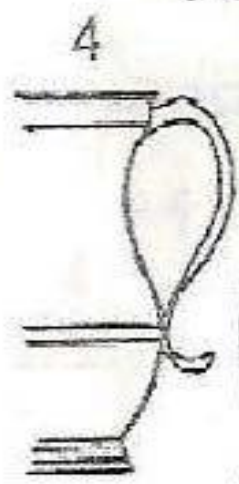
c.1790-1826



c.1820-40.



c.1826-50



c.1830-60



c.1850-date



c.1860-date



c.1880-date.

Type 1 c1790 – 1826 Type 2 c1820 – 1840 Type 3 c 1825 – 1850 Type 4 c1830 – 1860
Type 5 c1850 – to date Type 6 c1860 – to date Type 7 c1880 – to date