

Rare mid 17<sup>th</sup> century child's porringer.



In his 1949 Apollo article '*English Pewter Porringers, part III*' Ronald Michaelis classified this style of porringer as Type IVb and stated that he only knew of three of them, including this one. It dates from the first half of the seventeenth century as it has a flat base with a central boss and straight sides sloping outwards towards the top. (See *Antique Pewter of the British Isles*, page 61 also by Michaelis) There is a three-lobed single ear with a small wedge-shaped attachment to the bowl and the ear is pierced with a crescent moon and four heart shapes. Crowned owner's initials of 'TW' are stamped on the upper surface of the ear. There is a small, pre Fire touchmark incorporating the letter 'W' struck to the centre of the underside of the base. The bowl is 3.5 inches in diameter with an overall width across the ear of 4.9 inches and this porringer weighs 3 ounces.

Porringers were often made to an approximate capacity such as 'great pints' and 'small pints' as mentioned in the Pewterers' Company Sizing of the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1674. (Welch *History of the Pewterers' Company* page 147) At 4 fluid ounces this one is close to a Wine standard gill, a suitable size for a child. The Worshipful Company have a somewhat larger porringer with a similarly bossed bowl dated to c1660. (No S5/501/9 in their catalogue) This delightful piece was previously owned by Richard Munday, Kenneth Bradshaw and David Little. It is in good condition with no repairs and a dark colour.

