

## COLLECTING – TEA POTS AND COFFEE POTS

The intention of this article is simply to show a number of tea pots and coffee pots, hopefully to encourage those interested in the wide variety of such pieces available. Specialist collectors, of which there are not many, can collect particular shapes, particular makers, or certain periods. Easy to collect perhaps are the Britannia Metal pots from the middle 1800s. Often these are not expensive, prices here might vary from a few pounds to say £400 (though there are two amongst these that would sell to serious collectors for over £2000.).



*A Coffee Percolator of the finest quality by James Dixon and Sons unusually with two coffee containers. The Victorian kite mark under the base for the year 1846. Height 8 inches*



*A Superb Adams style Coffeepot by James Vickers of Sheffield. Bright cut engraving on spout, lid and both sides of the body with a space for owners initials which were never added. Stamped underneath with Scott 467. The long finely carved handle remarkably undamaged. Height of coffeepot 8" A related oval Vickers stand stamped with the same Vickers mark. Two of the feet have old repairs. Length 6 3/4" Both circa 1790*



GEORGE THE THIRD, LATE 18th CENTURY, CAST PEWTER TEAPOT of bulbous "BULLET" shape, the body with relief-cast classical figure decoration, adapted from the PORTLAND VASE now in the BRITISH MUSEUM. Hinged cover and cast ornamental handle. The famous Portland Vase was copied by Josiah Wedgwood about 1785. It is understood that this pewter teapot with the Portland Vase motif was produced about the same time approximately. Underneath is a SHIELD. It originally was engraved with a Coat of Arms, traces still visible. The rest worn away. We believe the Portland Teapot was a limited issue at the time of less than a hundred. Extremely rare now. MADE IN ENGLAND, c. 1790. Exhibited READING MUSEUM during September and October 1967.

*A Rare Bullet Shaped Teapot with classical figures cast in relief round the body adapted from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC Portland Vase which was presented to the nation by the widow of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Portland. It is now in The British Museum Collection. Diameter 5" Height 6"*

*The Portland Vase was copied by Josiah Wedgwood in pottery circa 1790 and it is thought that a limited edition of these pewter teapots were produced at the same time*

*The pictured label was inside the teapot and a label under the base states "The Portland Teapot. Exhibited at Reading Museum 1969" It is pictured in that catalogue, item No.195*

*Late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century*



*An Attractive Small 18<sup>th</sup> century Teapot by James Curtis of Bristol OP1260 (1770-1793) His touchmark stamped under the base. The pewter handle japanned. Height 5 ½” Capacity 1 pint OEWS.*

*It is claimed that these teapots were made for export to north Africa though it is difficult to imagine that the inhabitants of the Levantine could have afforded such luxury. Teapots of a similar style however, were made by some American maker's. It seems far more likely that this form was made for export to America*



*A Rare Britannia Metal Tea Urn by Phillip Ashberry and Sons, Sheffield.(Scott No.31) with decorative finial of three ramsheads and finely cast strap handle with large leaf shaped ends. The square base standing on bun feet. Height 19 inches Circa 1856-60*





*A Rare Teapot by Broadhead Gurney Co of Sheffield .with fluting decoration to lid and base. Upper body engraved with bright cut decoration. Unbroken handle Length 10 ½”Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century*



Marked on the base “**James Dixon & Sons Sheffield**” with the trumpet and banner mark underneath.

Below that it reads “Hard soldered”, “4” and “K628”.

Probably made in 1908. Measures approx. 19cm high x approx. 11.5cm at body’s widest point. Weighs approx. 820gms.

Coffee pot bears the engraved sign for the **Egyptian Mail Steamship Company Limited**, a British-owned company started in 1908 that provided a fast mail service between Marseilles and Alexandria. The mail service was not successful the service was ended after a year.





James Dixon & Sons Sheffield late 1800s Coffee Pot



made by James Allan of Sheffield [a Britannia metal worker active 1849-72] - pattern number 960.



ARTS AND CRAFTS JAMES DIXON CORNISH PEWTER COFFEE POT MARKED ON BASE JAMES DIXON AND SONS SHEFFIELD CORNISH PEWTER W19452 – early 1900s



Pewter Coffee Pot Marked 'MW&W' - early 1900's Likely Marples, Wingfield & Wilkins 1909-1954 various addresses in Sheffield



Early 1900s Liberty Tea Pot designed by Archibald Knox – style number 0231



Craftsman Pewter – made in Sheffield by Viner’s in the period 1926-1939



As above



Coffee or Hot Water Pot unmarked but could be by James Dixon of Sheffield in the last half of the 1800s



Made by Philip Ashberry & Sons of Sheffield – late 1800s



Bachelor teapot by James Vickers of Britannia Place, Sheffield c1836-40, his mark under the base with pattern number '800', and '2' for two-gills capacity, with '15' for the workman. Original wooden button to lid, and wooden handle. Attractive fluted edge to foot rim. 4½" maximum height, and 9" from tip of spout to back of handle



Pewter teapot with tall domed lid was probably made predominantly for the North African trade. It has the mark of a fly under the base. Although made of cast pewter, it probably dates from no earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It has its original black painted handle, and bone finial button. The outer edge of the lid is attractively

milled, and the inside and underside of the base have lovely concentric turning marks. In excellent condition, with medium-grey original surface patina. Capacity is 11 fl oz. 3" high to rim, and 5½" overall, foot



Rare teapot by John Ferris & Co Exeter c1780-95 (OP1659) their paired hallmarks struck under base below a crowned X. The pot is very well made, with nice features like incised reeding to the lid, which has a milled edge, brass hinge pin, and attractively formed metal handle painted black. The knob is drilled to release steam, and never had a 'button'. The faceted spout has a 9-hole grille, and the interior shows beautiful turning lines. In outstanding condition following an expert restoration, with light-grey patina. Capacity is 36 fl oz. 7" high overall, and 9" overall width from spout to handle terminal. 3¾" diameter foot ring.



Rare Georgian 'tea extractor' by James Dixon & Son, Sheffield c1830-34 (S149) their mark struck on base. Original black wooden handle and black turned knob on lid top. Jack Scott shows a very similar unmarked example at Fig. 117 right, p127 of *Pewter Wares from Sheffield*. This is one of the earliest versions of a vessel whose exact function or use is unclear. In good condition, with medium-grey original surface patina. Capacity 6 fl oz, and 4" high



Lighthouse coffee pot marked 'English Pewter, Sheffield'. An attractive decorative item, with a bold knob to hinged lid, and substantial handle. In very good condition, with minimal signs of wear, and dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. 12" high



A superb coffee pot clearly marked COLDWELL under the base. Possibly American by George Coldwell of New York c1787-1811, or English by William Coldwell of Sheffield c1792-1810. There are very few high status and decorative pieces remaining outside museums, and we think this coffee pot with its bright cut engraving qualifies as one of them. It stands 12½" high, and is in the most wonderful condition. The ivory pineapple knob, and the wooden handle are original and undamaged, like the rest of the pot. From a private collection in New England. We offer it with the fullest guarantees as to authenticity and condition



Unmarked, circular teapot of heavy construction weighing 2¼ lbs. Retains its original wooden handle and wooden knob to the removable top, curved spout with crenellation to tip, and internal multi-holed strainer. This displays well despite having some condition problems. The surface has lighter areas where the metal shows through areas of medium-grey original surface patina, the lid has a 1" crack, the top of the handle attachment and spout are poorly resoldered. Capacity is 35.2 fl oz, and it is 8½" high overall





Rare low dome export teapot by Philip Matthews, London c1736-53 (OP3134/3135) his pot touch and crowned X on the outside base bottom. Good small pint size low-dome teapot with an 11-hole strainer, and 5-part hinge. Original wooden handle and wafer to the knop. Very good condition with pitting to inside surface only, and corrosion damage to two of the strainer holes. Capacity is 20.4 fl oz. 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " high, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to rim



Oval teapot and stand by James Vickers, Sheffield c1787-1836 (OP4874 & Scott 466) his mark under their bases. The well decorated Adam style teapot 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high, and 10" long overall has its original wooden handle and wafer. See Fig 62 *Pewter Wares from Sheffield* for a similar teapot with very similar decoration. The matched stand is one of the smallest we have seen at 6" long and 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide. Both are in excellent condition, with similar surface patina and colour.

*In this 'Collecting' article this website does not set out to write the history or the detail of the subject. What is attempted is to tempt you the reader into taking an interest in the subject – no more – by showing you examples - giving you just a little simple information. If your interest develops then the UK Pewter Society and the Pewter Collectors' Club of America (PCCA) offer in-depth articles on many subjects in this year's and previous years' publications. Therein also resides a wealth of collecting experience. This website is simply for encouragement that the reader might take interest and progress themselves further with it. Any prices quoted mean only that they are one off 'heard of' sales and may not reflect today's value in any which way.*