

# EARLY PEWTER-PLATE IN THE DIOCESE OF CARLISLE

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NO. I.—SOME OF THE PEWTER FLAGONS AND TANKARDS IN THE DIOCESE OF CARLISLE AFTER HAVING BEEN CAREFULLY RESTORED

IT is impossible to write of the Carlisle Diocesan pewter without reference to the tragic death in a motor accident on September 24th, 1933, of the Venerable Donald Fitzherbert Campbell, M.A., Archdeacon and Canon Residentiary of Carlisle. Archdeacon Campbell was a lover of pewter, and to such a one—on his visitations through his Archdeaconry—to see fine old consecrated pewter vessels, lying neglected here, there and anywhere, was an incentive to do something to bring about a better and more orderly state of affairs, and to see that—so far as lay in his power—greater reverence and respect should be accorded to such vessels.

As a first step towards this, he compiled a list of the pewter in his Archdeaconry, and his opportunity came with the preparations for the celebration of the eight hundredth anniversary of the Diocese, which was founded in 1133. Towards the end of 1932, a mutual friend suggested to the

Archdeacon that I might be of assistance in furthering his project ; and, within a short time, arrangements having been made, it was possible for me to examine, and make a fully detailed inventory of such pieces as the Incumbents of the various Parishes chose to send to me for the purpose, and, where the latter could afford the

expenditure involved, to have them completely restored. Under this scheme the pewter of some thirty-three Parishes had been recorded in my inventory, nearly all of which had been thoroughly restored, when, owing to the death of Archdeacon Campbell, the work had, perforce, to be discontinued and further progress is for the time being in abeyance.

The late Archdeacon suggested the compiling of this inventory as a contribution to the Octocentennial celebrations, and the scheme was put into effect, with the result that, when the Exhibition of Diocesan Church-plate was inaugurated in the Fraternity, the



NO. II.—IMITATION SILVER MARKS



NO. III.—PATEN ENGRAVED ARMS OF BIRD

## Early Pewter-Plate

display of this restored pewter was a much appreciated section, as may be judged by the photograph (No. i.). The inventory was being built up in a loose-leaf volume, sheet by sheet, a copy of each one being sent to the Archdeacon, and to each Incumbent a copy of the sheet which referred to his own particular Parish vessels. A further copy remained with myself. By this means it was hoped to stimulate the interest of the local clergy and laity in their possessions, and at the same time to accumulate a full record for the Diocesan Archives.

Several Incumbents have written to me for information as to the best way to ensure that these vessels shall not again fall into decay, and they have now protected them in air-tight cases with glazed sides, tops and fronts, and with asbestos backs and bases covered with black velvet, in which their pewter

treasures will be shown, as they deserve to be, in the respective churches. For the moment this great work is arrested, and everything depends upon the attitude towards it of Archdeacon Campbell's successor; meanwhile much

valuable data have already been assembled, and to this, it is hoped, more will be added.

Though the pewter came to me in no particular sequence, I have classified it under its respective Archdeaconries, and further under the Rural Deaneries in alphabetical order, and the various Parishes, in their turn, under the Rural Deaneries, for this seems the most satisfactory way of presenting them, because this affords, not only a local record of each Parish, but of each Rural Deanery and Archdeaconry; the several Deaneries of Carlisle, Westmorland and Furness being given in the following paragraph.

RURAL DEANERIES—ARCHDEACONRY OF CARLISLE: Appleby and Kirkby Stephen; Brampton; Carlisle; Kirkoswald; Lowther; Maryport; Penrith; Wigton.

ARCHDEACONRY OF WESTMORLAND: Kendal. ARCHDEACONRY OF FURNESS: Gosforth; Ulverston.

For the "benefit" of those Clergy who have not yet decided to send their pewter

for inclusion, let me repeat a little story, sent by me to the late Archdeacon, which he incorporated in his letter to the *Carlisle Diocesan Gazette* for January 1933; the moral may be helpful to others.

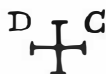
A Clergyman, on taking up residence in a new Parish, found a battered old can in one of the rooms of the Vicarage, which eventually found its way to one of the outhouses. Later, it was put into a rummage sale, but no one seemed to want it, so a flat-iron was added to it and finally the two sold for a shilling or so.

Within a short time afterwards the "can" was purchased by a pewter lover for £45!

As one might expect, the examples in Carlisle



No. IV.—PAIR OF FLAGONS, BEFORE REMOVING THE COATING OF SCALE



No. IVa.—THE TWO FLAGONS, SHOWN ABOVE, AFTER BEING RESTORED

Cathedral are not numerous, comprising only a pair of flagons in the Cathedral and eight plates in the Deanery. The flagons, a fine and important pair, are referred to in a Cathedral inventory at the end of the seventeenth century. When these reached me, one lid was severed and its thumb-piece crushed down upon it.

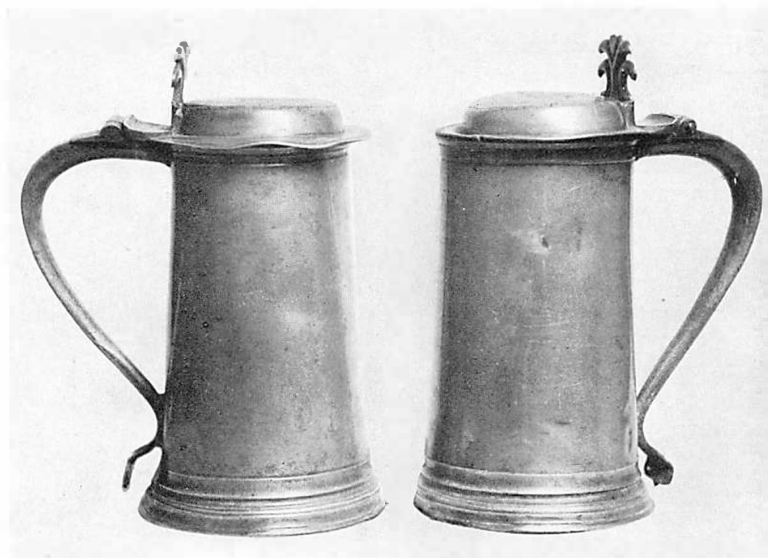
They are shown (No. iv.) after the repairs, but before the heavy scale with which they were coated had been removed; and again in their final and cleaned state (No. iva.). Though by the same maker, they are not an exact pair, as may be seen from the differences of their base mouldings and in other minor details. The deep scotia mouldings of their covers are unusual, as also are the concave bands which surround the lips of the bodies. The dimensions of the flagons are: height,  $11\frac{7}{8}$  in.; height to lip,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in.; diameter at base,  $7\frac{1}{8}$  in.; and at the lip,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. The thumbpieces are of the plain,



No. VI.—FLAGON, DATING ABOUT 1710

“twin-cusped” type with quite plain backs (No. vii.). They were made by Francis Lucas, sr., of York, whom we already know as the maker of the four important candlesticks in York Minster, which were restored in 1930.

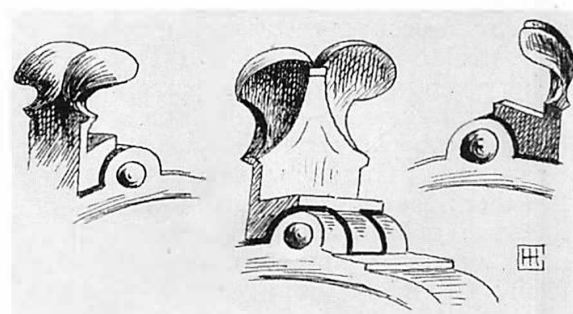
Lucas’s touch (see page 107) appears upon the base, inside, and the four small imitation silver marks (No. ii.) upon the flat



No. V.—PAIR OF FLAGONS WITH UNUSUAL TYPE THUMBPIECES: CIRCA 1700

these four small lion marks, the “Mark-of-the-Hall” for York, culled from the five lions in the City Arms. It is a point upon which further light must be sought. The period of the flagons is *circa* 1690.

The eight plates in the Carlisle Deanery are of ordinary plain rimmed type, measuring  $9\frac{3}{8}$  inches diameter. Strictly speaking, these are not ecclesiastical in the same way as the other pieces in this inventory, for they were used in everyday life in the Deanery; evidence of this being seen in the numerous deep knife-cuts. They were made by John Anson, a hitherto unrecorded pewterer, whose touch is shown (page 107), and its similarity to those of William Hogg and Robert Sadler of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, would indicate some connection with them and with that city. Upon the backs of these plates, beneath the touch and the quality mark of the X-crowned, appears a fairly large Cross potent, between the letters “D.C.” (Deanery of Carlisle), also shown here.



No. VII.—DETAILS OF FLAGON TWIN-CUSPED THUMBPIECES

tops of the covers. At first, the natural inference was that these were the “silver-marks” of Lucas only, but their appearance upon both the Dalston flagons, once with the touch of John Harrison of York, and once with no discernible touch, suggests their having another significance and prompts one to wonder whether we have not in