

ENGLISH LIDDED TANKARDS AND FLAGONS

As good tankards and flagons are very costly and scarce then it is difficult for the novice to remember styles and to date them. This article is simply a series of pictures with dates working back in time from George IV for 300 years. These are pieces that have been sold at good auctions in about the last three years. Prices have varied from £500 to £42000 – hence a reason why so many collectors might see or handle so few of them.

The examples whilst scarce are mostly chosen as being those that might be seen, rather than the extraordinary rare, although some of the very oldest may in fact be unique - and are there just to show an early design shape. The idea here is simply to give a picture of a style and shape used at a given date. All dates are approx – allow at least 20 years each side – and most fashions did not just come and go, but took time to evolve and change. Sizes are not given as many examples were made in a number of sizes. This solely concerns design.

A tankard is thought of here as a vessel to drink out of and flagons as a vessel to pour out of or offer round, although these definitions clearly often overlap, especially earlier, and sometimes it appears with size. Each caption gives a date and little more, as this article concerns style, not value, nor usually the maker.



1820 – Dome lidded tankard



1790 – Dome lidded tankard Bristol



1780 – Spouted Spire Lidded Flagon



1760 – Dome Lidded Tankard



1750 – Spire Lidded Flagon



1720 – Dome Lidded Tankard



1720 – Small Spire Flagon



1720 – Dome Lidded Tankard



1690 – Flat Lidded Tankard

As on the previous page it can be helpful to look at the lower handle terminal, the shape of lid and body and the fillet/s to the body.



1695 – Flat lidded Tankard
Birmingham



1695 – Flat Lidded Tankard
Wigan



1680 – A Beefeater Flagon
London



1700 – A Stuart Flagon
Stockton On Tees



1690 – A Flat Lidded Tankard



1690 – Flat Lidded Flagon York



1680 – Flat Lid Wrigglework
Tankard



1680 -A Stuart Straight Sided
Flagon London



1680 – A Flat Lid Tankard Wigan?



1670 – A Beefeater Flagon



1640 – Charles I Flagon



1640 – A Flat Lidded Tankard

 <p>1630 – A Charles I Flagon</p>	 <p>1610– A James I Flagon</p>	 <p>1610 – Great Hooped Quart or Thurndale</p>
 <p>1550 – Pear Shaped Flagon</p>	 <p>1500- Early Bulbous Flagon</p>	 <p>1500 – Spouted Flagon or Ewer shown for shape the zoomorphic spout is unique in England at the date.</p>

This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all well known shapes. It should however cover many of those ENGLISH styles that might be seen. The York Spouted Acorn Flagon for example of c1750 is not shown, as are numerous variations of Spire Flagons of 1750 – 1800.

It is interesting to note how the style made by William Eddon in London 1720 was being made much the same in 1820 by Samuel Cocks and remade again certainly in the hammered all over effect in the 1920s in Sheffield.

The following style though not commonly found was known as The Patterdale Flagon and is an English Cumbrian Church Flagon of about 1700. This is referred to on another page on this website. (with the waist fillet a Stuart of 1700 as ‘Stockton On Tees’ shown above). [Cumbrian Flagon](#)



The hope is that those interested will seek out better and more detailed information.