

FOUR PEWTER PLATES

eBay during week of September 14 2009 wording appearing quoted as follows -*On offer here is a true set I believe of Old Pewter Plates, probably 18th Century with marks to the base. All 4 plates are 6" diameter and all have what seems like the same "LONDON" stamp mark to the base. All plates have "pitting"/scratch marks to their surfaces and all have slightly misshapen rims from wear/usage. One has a crack + some loss (see photo).*

The stamped marks vary in clarity from one to the next, some very worn indeed. Besides the London mark, there is also a "Tudor rose" or foliate mark on 3 of them, the 4th worn away. On 2 of the plate are the letters "C T" with a heart + letter Y motif between. There is the same "inscribed" circular line inside each plate, they are the same diameter and all weigh 160gms.

Although difficult to validate I am happy that these 4 are a true set. PLEASE NOTE I have previously listed two 10" pewter plates "London" stamped and one with the same "Tudor rose" mark as these. (Buyer beware we guess!)



These marks are indicative of pieces produced in the early 1900s. The 'spermatoza' under the 'London' – shouts – wake up! The 3 London marks all have very little work or cross hatching in their background and resonate with a time when labour becomes more costly. Hence an opinion would be - produced early to middle 1900s. The plates look a little well engineered and that fits with a fast production. See notes on the AEW marks/touches of the 20th century.

HARVESTER repros

An email exchange -

*Could you give me a view on these two, pretty measures recently acquired?
I bought them within the space of a week or two, from 2 different sources and
would like to ask;-*

- 1) can you identify what they are and what they would have been used for?
- 2) who was the maker?
- 3) where were they made?
- 4) what kind of value would you put on them?
- 5) presumably other capacity examples are to be found?

The gill measure size is; 80mm high x 72mm base diameter
The 1/2 pint measure size is; 90mm high x 88mm base diameter
Both have a perfectly smooth, flat base recessed by about 5mm
Both carry identical marks.





The one above left sold on eBay for about £70

This was not sold on eBay as Antique but as old. And old it may be - but at 63 so likely does my Grandson think I am.

I think these marks are Birmingham decoration on pieces perhaps made in the middle 1900s there, perhaps a little before and perhaps a good bit after..

They are quite nice but I think they are repros.

So to your questions -

1) *can you identify what they are and what they would have been used for?* - Fothergill
Bristol half copies - half Fothergill half other harvester

2) *who was the maker?*

likely Gaskell or a Birmingham successor in the later 1900s

3) *where were they made?*

Birmingham - almost certainly near the BullRing as it is today likely in Digbeth area

4) *what kind of value would you put on them?*

whatever value a buyer might pay - but not a lot - although they are nice

5) *presumably other capacity examples are to be found?*

yes

Early harvesters of note were the very distinctive Bristol Fothergills after that Birmingham early Victorian production of a very distinctive alleged West Country style measure. If no Birmingham verification marks like VR over 6 on them then look for West Country marks as found on the database or any verifications as found in Ricketts - not all have them but the good ones we might find could have.

You may have noticed that pewtersellers.com sold a Fothergill a few weeks ago very quickly (and unmarked) with an asking price of £2000 which indicates they got that or near it.

Certainly I asked about it on receipt of notification of their update, and was told I was too late. (perhaps still on their website marked SOLD no doubt a scarce size as it appeared to have a mold join showing signs of age).

Yes I do like quite a lot of repros and think they are under rated as you say.

Reply –

Having considered your response and looked long and hard at these two delightful measures, I must say, I feel your observations are "spot on". As is so often the case, when someone points something out to you, one wonders why you didn't see it for yourself in the first place! I also have other Fothergill and West Country Measures and can see elements of both styles in these two measures. Clearly they are a later, stylised "copy" of some sort, albeit quite pretty. I often think that some less desirable/collectable pieces like these, are seriously underrated. Just look at the dramatic price difference between European and English/Scottish pewter. I think you may agree.



This above is the one offered by www.pewtersellers.com on their September 2009 update – their copy for it was follows –

Although unmarked, this is guaranteed to be a Bristol made piece from the body shape, and distinctive form of ball terminal handle. Most likely, this is a Fothergill conical measure, and is a half-gallon, which is one of the rarest sizes. Indeed, only one other of this form is known. Well struck capacity mark '1/2 GALLON' below the rim. Verified for 'D' Division of Southampton County. Nice turning lines under the base. In exceptional condition, with attractive medium-grey original surface patina. 9" high, with 3 5/8" mouth & 6" base diameters. **SOLD** (offered at £2000 originally and sold quickly.....)

NORMANDY PEWTER WINE MEASURE c1750 – Interesting & mark.

Here is an eBay transaction of mine that went wrong. I failed to see a hairline crack to the front of a measure despite having done a volume check. This piece is not a fake. The customer told me and was fully refunded (post both ways included) – in the meantime the customer purchased a similar replacement from the USA on eBay. This shows what can happen/go wrong with the best of intentions by all concerned.

His replacement however is likely a repro.

So firstly my NORMANDY MEASURE as described on eBay

This measure weighs 640 gms it stands 15.5cm rim to table or 17.7cm top of acorns to table. There are prickles to the acorns, no strut to the lower handle, the lid wedge is approx 2.5cms. Bands of reeding as follows, 2 to neck, 3 to waist, 2x2 to the upper footrim and 1 to the lower foot rim. There are small dings to the front lower left hand side otherwise few signs of use, the footrim nudged slightly to the front, no apparent repairs. Interestingly it holds about 680 ml (say 24 fluid ounces) so about 2 thirds of a litre.

The makers touchmark shows clearly as a name around and within a beaded oval of Jean Dufour 1723 and a pewterers hammer to the centre. Above this appears perhaps the flight of an arrow.

This was sold last as a Jersey Measure but there is no evidence of any Jersey usage





The customer receives it and mentions the crack – excerpts from his email are as follows –

I am sorry it has that hair line. The leak grows gradually as a bubble of water. It would be difficult to see.

I'm as disappointed as you are because I liked the flagon. It was well wrapped by yourself and was not damaged by the post office. You will see it is an older crack from a dink I think.

It is in the front directly above the slight bump in the bottom rim and coincident with one of the dents. It is like a hair line about 3/4" long. The edges are not sharp but polished consistent with

being an old event. The same can be seen inside. I filled it with water only to see if it would in fact leak. I can also see slight clean scratches inside but I think this is probably from you drying the inside. I used kitchen paper and a bone handle to dab the corners just in case.



The above shows the crack. I reply as follows –

You were absolutely right to point it out and I am disappointed in not seeing it myself. Thinking about it and the small dings to the front makes me wonder (considering how clean the rest is) if it were once damaged and then straightened out. I did originally put those little dings down to over vigorous washing up, but did think it strange they were only to the front.

The really interesting aspect to this piece for me is the volume. It is probably very straightforward - but two thirds of a litre? I never heard of the suchlike before.

Yes I think you are right. The crack propagates from a dent and around it. I think it has been straightened. It's a real pity, it would be a real beauty if it were not for that.

The collector then tells me of his Purchase from the USA

Talking of Pewter.....the USA flagon has arrived. It is original I think and is in very good all-round condition. I can't imagine the USA would reproduce a Normandy flagon. I strongly suspect it has not been used at all and has sat on a shelf all it's life. It is made and looks exactly as yours does.

Here are the pics. I think it's right but it is very crisp. Only a couple of minor bumps. It is 160mm to the lip and holds 600ml if filled to about 12" from the top. So it is bigger and I suppose if filled correctly is 500ml.

If it is a copy please feel free to say. Oh and there is a small mark on the handle.



If I had to make a decision one way or the other I would come down on it being a repro.

I attach three photos taken from yours and comment as follows -



1) The mark has a style of pewterers hammer I have never seen before it looks rather as two sausages on a thickened (sausage handled) stick. The mark has no sign of a makers' identity. Neither with initials in the crown nor about the mark. The images to the side of the alleged hammer (just how would it ever work?) and the alleged hammer itself are simply too clean and perhaps too 'modern' as interpretations of berries? and fleur de lys for me to accept them without curiosity.

2) The mark to the back of the handle may be a kind of fleur de lys - that I have not seen it ever before, does not mean it is not for real.

3) The hinge lug and acorns. Heck they appear badly made are they? Clearly the lid opens and perhaps just the acorns move? The hinge lug has been sliced with sharp cuts to imitate a central moving section? I would like to see the lug photographed side on with lid open.

4) Your volume measurement sounded fair enough to me at 600ml

5) The piece is strangely clean or is it unpolished (or too little ever polished?),

Anyway do remember what I say in that I am not experienced enough in this type of measure (well anything outside the UK) to know for sure. And if you find out more then do please let me know.

Mmmm.....I do think it looks too good to be true too. If you see it in the flesh it is very clean. It has been made well or indeed correctly I think. The lid does operate as it should but if it was of the age we would expect, we would have expected a little more wear I think. It seems strange to me that in America it would be copied but then again it may have come from Europe I suppose. The weight is right too. A pity but I think I will keep it for now just in case and as a measure. We would really need to get in touch with Pewter collectors in the USA and see if they are known as report's. As you say.....even the mark is too sharp.