

## GERARDIN and WATSON London Pewterers 1805 to 1854

The marks identifying mugs and measures produced by Francis Gerardin alone or later in partnership with a Mr Watson (of as yet unknown first name), are quite often found. Although very little is known about them their pewter mugs survive from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1805-1854). Such survival implies a good quality of Pewterware as they worked within the centre of much Pewter making activity around Poland Street and Oxford Street in London.

*Usual preamble –*

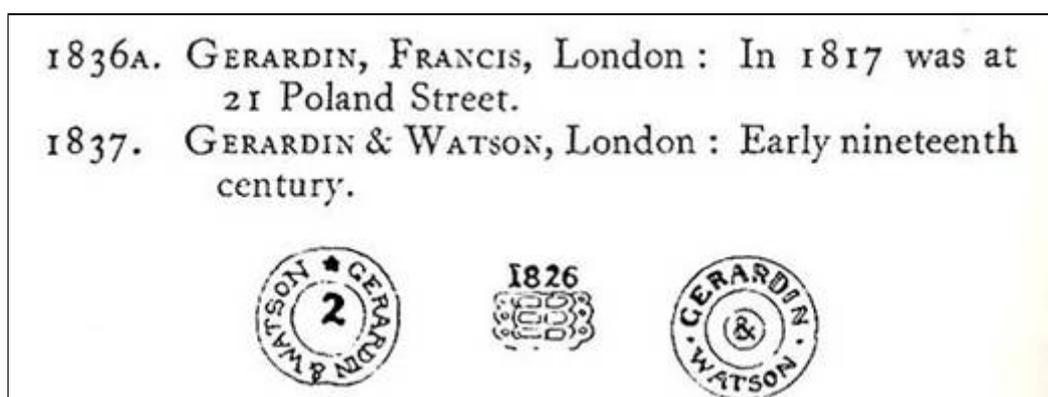
*(The purpose of such articles as this one, is not to give a conclusive account, but to put together snippets of known information so that those interested might pursue their own knowledge of the named pewterers more easily. Whilst every care is taken to publish only what is understood by the contributors or from sources believed to be good, it would still be valid to keep an open mind about all the information given. This website welcomes any updated information and would hope to make any necessary corrections at the following website review, usually occurring in spring or autumn.)*

Working 1805 to 1823 Francis Gerardin is recorded at 21 Poland Street off Oxford Street London. He is recorded as a pewterer.

The only written record is where he gave evidence at a trial of his porter who lived at his house and who was found guilty of stealing from him in 1805. As this trial took place in June of that year then perhaps it is likely indeed certain that he was actually working before then. So the dates given for his activities must be considered as ‘around that time’.

Working 1825 to 1854 the firm of Gerardin and Watson has only to its record a surviving bill from 1854 where they describe themselves as ‘Pewterers and Beer Engine Manufacturers’. Nothing is recorded as to identify further Mr Watson. Generally, dates given here have often been found by researching trade or street directories of the time

**H H Cotterell** records the following Marks and information for these Pewterers in his book *Old Pewter – Its Makers and Marks* –



He does not say how he was aware that Francis Gerardin was there in 1817.

Here follows a few examples of the Pewter made by these pewterers –

An Antique Pewter Footed and Spouted Pint Measure, with interesting marks. Inside the base there are the remains of the Pot touch of Gerardin & Watson of London (OPM1837) pewterers in the early 1800s. To the left of the handle a verification of VR crowned over 27 for Maidstone and remains of the PINT label. To the base an engraved dedication for the owner a W Featherstone of The Queens Head Inn, Mereworth, Maidstone. There has been a small repair to the left side of the spout. This has a grey cleaned (a while ago) pewter patina, it stands 4 ¾” with a footrim of 3 5/8” and weighs over 1 lb 2 ozs.



### **Antique Bucket and Ridge Pewter Half Pint Mugs.**

One clearly by and the other most likely by Gerardin & Watson Pewterers from 1824 in Poland Street, London (OPM1837)

The clearer pot touch of Gerardin & Watson is in this first Mug of a somewhat darker Pewter Patina. The wording ½ Pint as a label with three unknown verification marks of a C in a ring of what might be very small petals (other examples point to this being a representation of a 14 petalled flower). To the front are engraved the owner's initials in early Victorian style WAC.

The other similar mug has an unclear but similar pot touch with the number 1 within in it. There is a verification mark for Westminster to the right of the handle and ½ Pint label to the left. It has a good pewter patina. Both mugs are well made. Each stands just short of 4" with a footrim of 2 ¾" and weigh over 11 ozs (445) 12 ozs (446)



14 petalled flower head symbol has been found punched three times as here opr four times. Elsewhere this has been described wrongly as a star shape.



A good example of the type of engraving used in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century



Westminster verification



### **A Pair of Pewter Brass Rimmed Measures.**

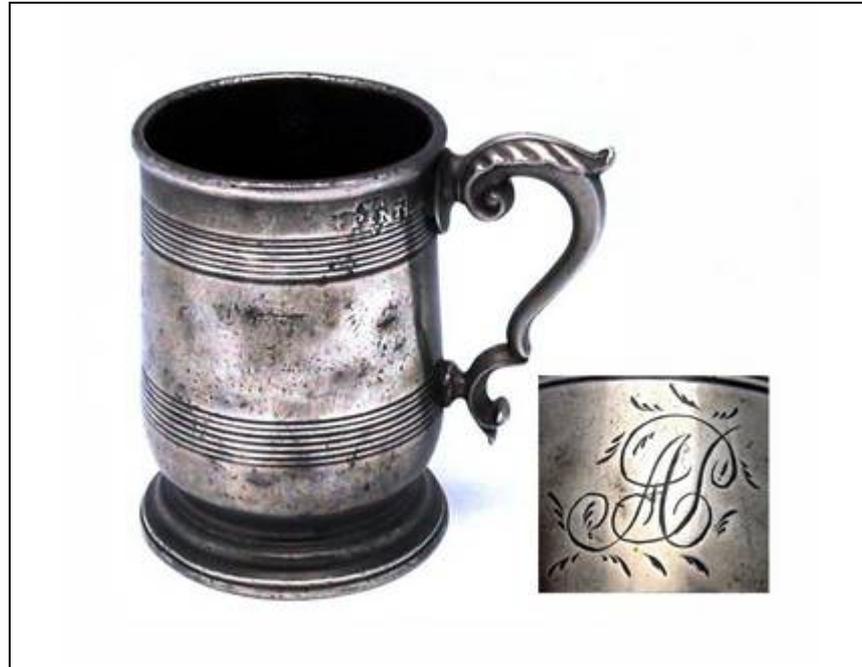
These were made by Gerardin & Watson Pewterers from 1824 in Poland Street, London (OPM1837). They are of a very high standard. These were said to be kept by landlords as their own set of standards to verify the measure served on their premises when so required to do. If so these have no verifications just Pint or Half Pint label to the left of the handles but do have a lovely set of initials engraved in early Victorian style to the front of each measure – probably ‘PP’.

The Pint weighs an impressive 1 lb 7 ozs stands 4 3/8" with a footrim of 4 3/4"  
 The half pint weighs 15 ozs stands 3 1/2" with a footrim 3" in diameter. Both are truncated cone style with mid to low fillets and have heavy bases.



Acanthus handled 1/2-pint mug by Gerardin & Watson London c1824-37 (OP1837) their pot touch struck inside base, with their distinctive combined capacity mark and crowned WRIV verification to left of acanthus top handle with fishtail terminal. The U-shaped body with pedestal

base, and two bands of seven incised lines, one high and one low. Verified for Kent County Division #4. Engraved to mid-drum 'AP' surrounded by 'flecks' usually seen only in first third of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Engraved under base: 'A Perkin, Masons Arms Greenwich'. In excellent condition, with light-medium grey original surface patina. 4" high  
The feathery engraving is interesting as it surely helps date that style to 1800 -1850?



This last piece shown from the website of [www.pewtersellers.com](http://www.pewtersellers.com) whom we thank for the use of their copy and give their website detail as they request us so to do.