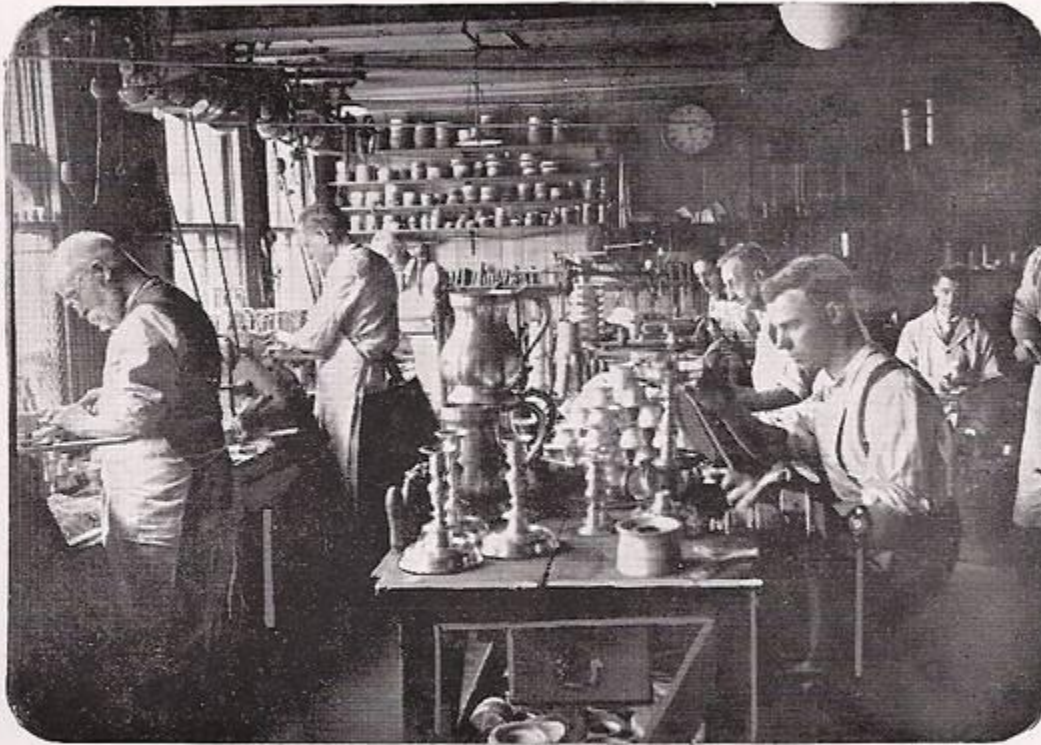


Englefields - Reproduction Pewter from Original Moulds

In a previous article we showed the following photograph, an undated interior of Englefield's workshop.

PEWTERERS AT LATHE AND BENCH



A view of one floor of our factory—men at work at the lathe and bench. The lathe nearest the camera is the one that was used in the Pewterers' Car in the Lord Mayor's Procession.

This led to the question as to how the pewter being made here - clearly reproductions of earlier pieces - was marked by Englefields? - so that the collector might know.

The dates during which they used the old moulds might be longer than this article suggests, but are not likely to be shorter.

Richard Munday writing about Englefields as he knew them in the early 1920s wrote -

I knew Elsie and Ralph Englefield children of the late famous William James Englefield who founded the late 19th Century firm of "Englefields" specialising in the production of traditional cast pewter, using genuine 18th and early 19th Century moulds. Watching Ralph work was an education.

A personal Interview with Mr W J Englefield in about 1902.

Brown & Englefield Pewterers, 1, Little James Street, Gray's Inn Road, WC

(A delight for collectors everywhere) - This Interview was in preparation for the book by William Ransom F.R.G.S. published in 1903 - Marks on Old pewter and Sheffield Plate

(the book is shown in its entirety on the website of www.pewterbank.com - Further Reading section- 2012)

After corresponding for a time with Mr. Englefield, we had a personal interview. It was then we found that pewter can be hammered, spun, or cast into shape. By the courtesy of Mr. Englefield, we were permitted to see the casting process; also the polishing process of Old Pewter Plates. The moulds are of brass or gun-metal, very carefully fitted and massive. The metal is poured directly into them, as with lead and zinc. If hollow castings are required, as in the case of handles to tankards, &c., the mould is reversed before the metal is chilled all through. What is still molten runs out, leaving a cavity in the interior of the casting. The surface of the casting requires no touching except when it is to be left plain and bright, then it is turned on the lathe and burnished. After turning, Sadware, such as plates, dishes, bed-pans, &c., are generally

hammered over to improve their appearance and toughen the metal.

The staples remaining to the trade are hospital wares, ice moulds, &c.

There is now only one firm, that we are aware of, that has a direct connection with the London Pewterers' Company—viz., that of Messrs. Brown & Englefield, of 1, Little James Street, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. The business was established upwards of 200 years ago in Fenchurch Street, and was then carried on by the late firm of Messrs. Henry Crompton & Co.

No. 17.—In this case we present to our readers a number of modern examples of real pewter, made by Brown & Englefield. So far as we know, they are the only firm in England who make such articles as were made in the olden times, viz., Plates, Dishes, Bed-Pans (cast and hammered), Hot Water Dishes, Tankards, and a variety of other wares, which are cast from the same moulds as were used by Hy. Crompton & Co., 150 years ago.



No. 17.—MODERN PEWTER WARE.

Some 20 or more years later Richard Munday remembers the same production methods as though they were ongoing then. So the questions arises - did Englefields produce these reproductions made from the old moulds for some 20 years or more? If so how were they marked? how many were made? and how can the collector tell?

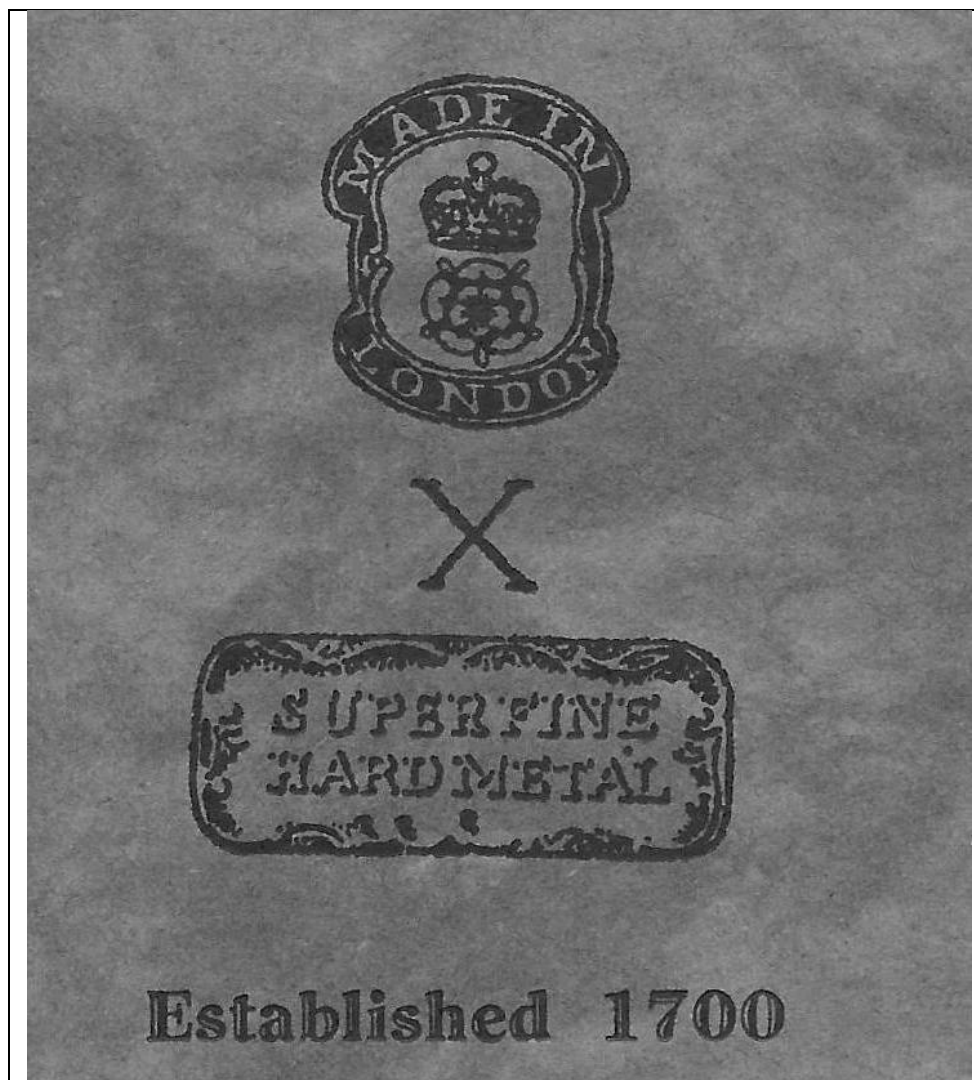
Do you have any of the pieces shown above? How old is yours? Do you know if Englefields made yours in the first 25 years of the 1900s ?

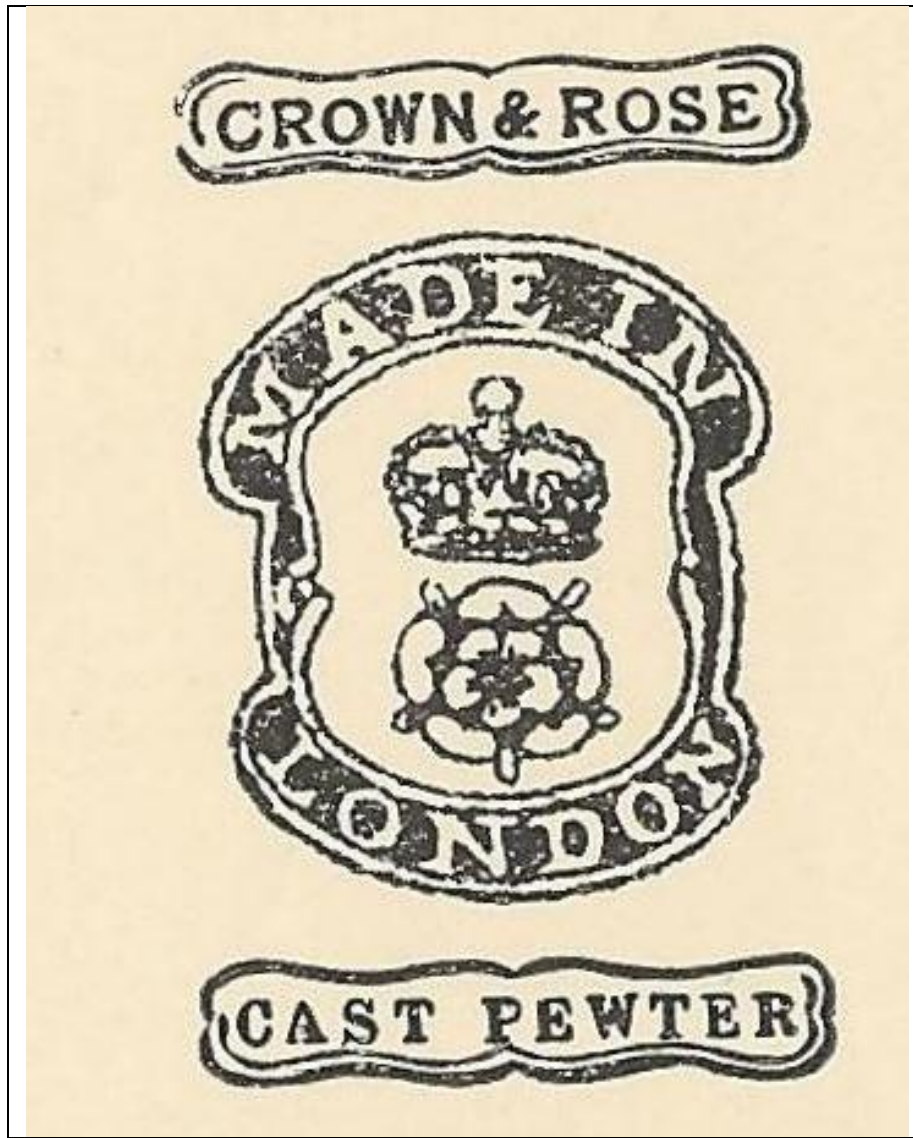
Does anyone know? Does it matter - many were after all made in the old moulds, used by the earlier 18th and 19th century makers.

Marks on Englefields Pieces of Reproduction Pewter .

It is clear that a number of these were not marked at all - and after 100 years or more will be really difficult to identify.

Marks that Englefield's did use which are apparent from their catalogues include -





The Spouted spire flagon to the bottom left in the Englefield's illustrations shares with a Spouted Spire flagon shown now in our Collecting Section the unusually thick finial to the lid and the same sort of foot.

Is that a coincidence?

From before or about the very early-1900s

and what marks did they use then?