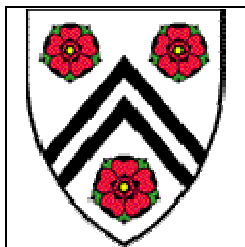


## Pewter at Winchester College from 1412.

For Pewter collectors the interest here may be in the Pewterware shown in the inventories detailed below. For example – Six Pewter Salts with Covers (what exactly were they like?). Pewter Plates and Salts with the founder's arms (these Arms are shown below).

Here follows part of the Wikipedia entry – *Winchester College was founded in 1382 by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor to both Edward III and Richard II, and the first 70 poor scholars entered the school in 1394. It was founded in conjunction with New College, Oxford, for which it was designed to act as a feeder: the buildings of both colleges were designed by master mason William Wynford. This double foundation was the model for Eton College and King's College, Cambridge some 50 years later (a sod of earth and a number of scholars from Winchester were sent to Eton for its foundation), and for Westminster School, Christ Church, Oxford and Trinity College, Cambridge in Tudor times.*



Coat of Arms of William of Wykeham

*William was born to a peasant family, in Wickham, Hampshire, and educated at a school in Winchester. He was appointed Justice in Eyre south of the Trent along with Peter Atte Wode in 1361, a position he held until about 1367. He became secretary to the constable of Winchester Castle and in that capacity learned a lot about building. This led to architectural work for King Edward III, for whom he reconstructed Windsor Castle whilst residing at Bear's Rails in Old Windsor. William was paid for these services by being given the incomes of various churches, and eventually, in 1362, he was ordained. He had shown considerable talent as an administrator and in June 1363 was appointed Lord Privy Seal and then in October 1366 he was elected Bishop of Winchester, and in 1367, Chancellor of England. He resigned this position in 1371 and began a long conflict with John of Gaunt. However, with the ascension of Richard II to the throne, William was reappointed Chancellor in 1389, retaining that office through 1391. He had many ups and downs in his long career, but at the time of his death on 27 September 1404, he was one of the richest men in England. Much of his wealth went into the schools he patronized, but he also contrived to leave a fortune to a nephew, whose descendants include the Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes family.*

*His motto was 'Manners makyth man'. This, along with a coat of arms, were granted to him by the College of Arms and not acquired by descent. His biography was written by Bishop Lowth. He was also written about by Lord Brougham in his 'Old England's Worthies' (1857) and by Froissart. 'Manners Makyth Man' is also the motto of the establishments Wykeham founded, Winchester College and New College, Oxford.*

Our interest in Pewter asks the question – is there old Pewter today at Winchester College? does it carry the Founder's Arms? are the Salts lidded?

Pewter at Winchester College extracts (from 570(original)/354(digi) pages of –

## The Annals of Winchester -

Original source information as follows -

This information quoted below from – Annals of Winchester College – author T F Kirby - December 1891 was -

Digitized for Microsoft Corporation by the Internet Archive in 2007. From University of California Libraries. May be used for non-commercial, personal, research, Or educational purposes, or any fair use. May not be indexed in a commercial service.

T F Kirby introduced his preface with these words – *THIS compilation is a result of the unrestricted access which the compiler has enjoyed to the muniment room of the College for some years past.*

There now follows various quotations which feature the word 'pewter' (the page nos are those of the Microsoft Document) - and after these a few thoughts from a knowledgeable collector

\*\*\*\*\*

The substructure appears

to have been finished and the timbers of the spire in their places on the opening day. It was leaded in 1397-8. Wykeham supplied the lead from his stores at Wolvesey. The plumber's wages for casting 2 and laying it, 18s. 5d., were paid by the College ; and four thousand ' led nayles,' three hundred ' bord nayles,' and thirty-four pounds of pewter (solder) were used.

Page 44

The notion 'gomer '

(go home-er) for a Sunday hat is said to arise from the circumstance of hats being worn when the boys were going home. But it most likely comes from ' gomer,' the name in the inventories for a pewter bowl. We say ' a pot hat ' for the same reason.

Page 60

'Flandrestiel,' however, in the early accounts is the name for a sort of Bath brick used for scouring brass and pewter.

2 In solut. pro XLVMCCC pavyngtiel empt. de Flandre, per M vj s viij

Page 100

The following inventory of household stuff, made in compliance with Archbishop Arundel's injunction, is written on the back of the roll for 1412 :

' In the Pantry : Four latten salts, with covers. Six pewter salts, with covers. Twenty-four latten candlesticks. Twenty-four silver spoons. Two trencher knives. One paring knife. Two table cloths of Flemish linen, each six yards long. Four " tuells "of same, each

' In the kitchen : Twelve pewter plates, twelve potegers (soup plates or saucers), fourteen salts ; all with Founder's arms. Eighteen pewter plates, eighteen potegers, eighteen salts, all marked "III. M.an. X." Twelve pewter plates, twelve potegers, twelve salts of another pattern, marked "V. M. an. X." One pewter "char" (charger), five plates, five potegers, four salts, all marked " D. P. an. X." Eight old pewter plates and ten others, and fifteen potegers of another pattern, not marked. Three brass pots (ollae), two of them marked with three branches on their sides. A great brass pot "Colman," with ears and feet.

Page 111

In the computus of 1416 will be found :

' Custus aulae : In cirpis (rushes) empt. pro sternendo in aula viij 9 vij d.'

' Custus coquinae: Six plates, six potegers, and six salts of Somerset pewter with the Founder's arms, weighing 29 lbs., at 4d. 9s.8d..

Ten dozen trenchers (disci lignei, the first mention of them), 2s.7d'

Page 125

Custos aulae in 1494 : A ' Garnysshe de pewter veshell ponderant. xlix lib.' at 4d., cost 16s.8d., less 3s.8d. allowed for 28 lbs. of old pewter at 2d. Eight pence for eight hoops pro eadem campana, iiij', occurs in the computus of that year. It had to be cast anew in 1525, and again in 1573. These are the items of cost on the last occasion :

' Sol. Mro Dove pro iij c et amplius ly bell mettell xj l v" viij d

. Item Joh. Burton collector! vassium (old brass and copper pots) xvj d.

Item pro viij lib. et dim. pewter p. lib. v4 ,

Page 151

Custus coquinae in 1562 :

'A garnysse of pewter, comprising twenty-four plates (disci), twelve dishes (paropsides), and twelve cruets (acetabula) for the scholars' tables, weighing 83 1/2 lbs., at 9d. per lb., £3.2s.7d. A copper pot weighing 65 lbs., at 11d. per lb., 59s.7d ; a brass ladle, 20d. ; a marble mortar, 25. ; two firkins for vinegar or milk, 20d. John Page, the London carrier, had 11s. for the carriage of fish, hops, spices, and a Piece 2 of raisins, weighing 5 1/2 cwt.

Page 193

Under custus panetrieae in the year 1594 there are entries relating to a set or garnish of pewter, comprising twelve large platters, twelve small platters, twelve large potegers (soupletes), twelve small potegers, twelve sallet dishes (first mentioned here), and twelve saucers, weighing nearly 126 lbs., which cost, at 8d. per lb., £4.3s.4d.

\* The price of pewter had therefore doubled within the space of a century. In the next

year it rose to 12d. per lb., and in another thirty years to 14d. per lb.

Page 200

1 A garnish of pewter, according to Harrison, who wrote his -Description of England in 1530, 'usually doth contain twelve platters, twelve dishes and twelve saucers.' He adds, ' In some places beyond the sea a garnish of good flat English pewter is esteemed almost as pretious as the like number of vessels made of fine silver.' This circumstance may account for the rise in the price of pewter referred to in the text.

Page 200

The following purchases are recorded in the Bursars' Book of 1630 :

twelve large pewter dishes, 42 1/2 lbs. ; twelve small ditto, 33 1/2 lbs. ; twelve broth bowls, 24 1/2 lbs. ; three dozen mutton plates (patinae pro carne ovina !), 70 lbs. ; thirteen porridge bowls (patinae polentariae), for the children, 15 1/2 lbs. ; twelve sallet dishes, 7 lbs. Total, 192 lbs. pewter, at 12d., less 43 lbs. of old pewter allowed for at 10d. ; net cash, £8. 2s. 5d:

1 These, it may be conjectured, were for the Fellows' table. The scholars eat their mutton off wooden trenchers until a time within living memory.

Page 212

One brasse candlestick for the Subwarden.  
Item. Three pewter candlesticks, two of tinne, twelve wooden, four of yron for ye Masters : and two yron and six wooden for ye children.

Page 229

.....  
A knowledgeable and experienced Pewter collector has the following thoughts about the above mentioned –

The bits I find most interesting are:

- 1) The suggestions that pewter bowls were called gomers and that Bath bricks were used for scouring pewter. However, both need some research to establish whether the author is correct about them.
2. The reference in 1412 to pewter salts with covers. The V&A have a hexagonal lidded box of c1320 which they speculate may have been a salt, and we know there are a number of silver salts with cover, the earliest being one of c1470 in All Souls, Oxford. However, apart from the possible V&A example, we are unaware of any pre-1600 English pewter salt or any surviving lidded English pewter salt.
3. The reference in 1416 to six salts of Somerset pewter. It is very difficult to know what that means, and I do wonder whether the original document has been correctly transcribed. (there are three other references to Somerset in this document, one stating that pupils could be accepted from that County, and others relating to the Gift by Edward VI in 1542 of The Manors of Langlode (Longload) and Sevenhampton (Seavington) in Somerset to the College)

4. The various references to the price of new and old pewter, though I'd like to see the trends in prices summarised rather than buried in a series of verbatim quotations.

*( in response an attempt then to use the information above –*

*1416 – 4d per lb new*

*1494 – 4d per lb new*

*1494 - 2d per lb old*

*1562 – 9d per lb new*

*1594 – 8d per lb new*

*1595 – 12d per lb new*

*1625 - 14d per lb new*

*1630 - 12d per lb new*

*1630 – 10d per lb old*

*trade in prices here might imply that making charges and hence mostly labour – melting down the old and making the new – cost 2d in 1494 and the same (unchanged 2d) in 1630)*

5. The quotation from Harrison in 1530 is also interesting, though it needs to be checked.

6. That on page 229 (August 1649) the Masters were using candlesticks made of four different materials - pewter, tin, wood and iron. No attempt to get a matching table service there!