

# Pewterware manufacturing in the 1920s

These photographs that follow are of the firm

***Brown & Engelfield, of 1, Little James Street, Gray's Inn Road  
London W.C.1,*** in the 1920s.

This address was renamed Northington Street in 1937.

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This firm traced its lineage of ownership back to –

1700 Thomas Scattergood

1716 Edward Meriefield

1748 John Townsend 1767 Townsend & Reynolds 1776 John Townsend

1785 Townsend & Compton

1806 – 1839 Townsend, Compton & Co followed by T and T Compton by Thomas Townsend and Henry Compton by T & h Compton

1840 – Henry Compton followed by Henry Compton & Co

1848 – 1864 Elmslie & Simpson absorbed the business and traded on until 1885 when the business became

1885 – Brown & Engelfield with various descendants until

1935 – Engelfields with R H & E A Engelfield as partners

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The following photographs have been taken from the edition of Elsie Engelfield's book entitled

*A Short History Of Pewter – In Common Use, Abeyance, Revival*

first published in 1933, with a second edition in 1951 and a third edition in 1997.

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AT THE HAMMER BENCH



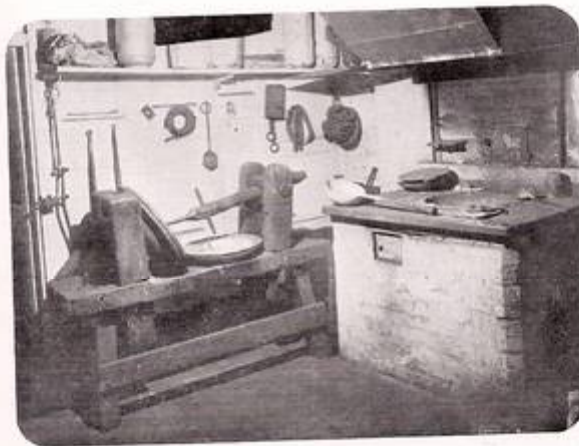
Hammering the booge of dish using the historical stake, hammers, stool and foot rests, in the possession of the firm since 1700. The art of hammering was imparted by his father, Mr. W. J. Engelfield, to his son, and his knowledge is now unique. As mentioned on page 56 these tools were used by Mr. W. J. Engelfield in the Lord Mayor's Procession of 1885.

AT THE "SADWARE" LATHE



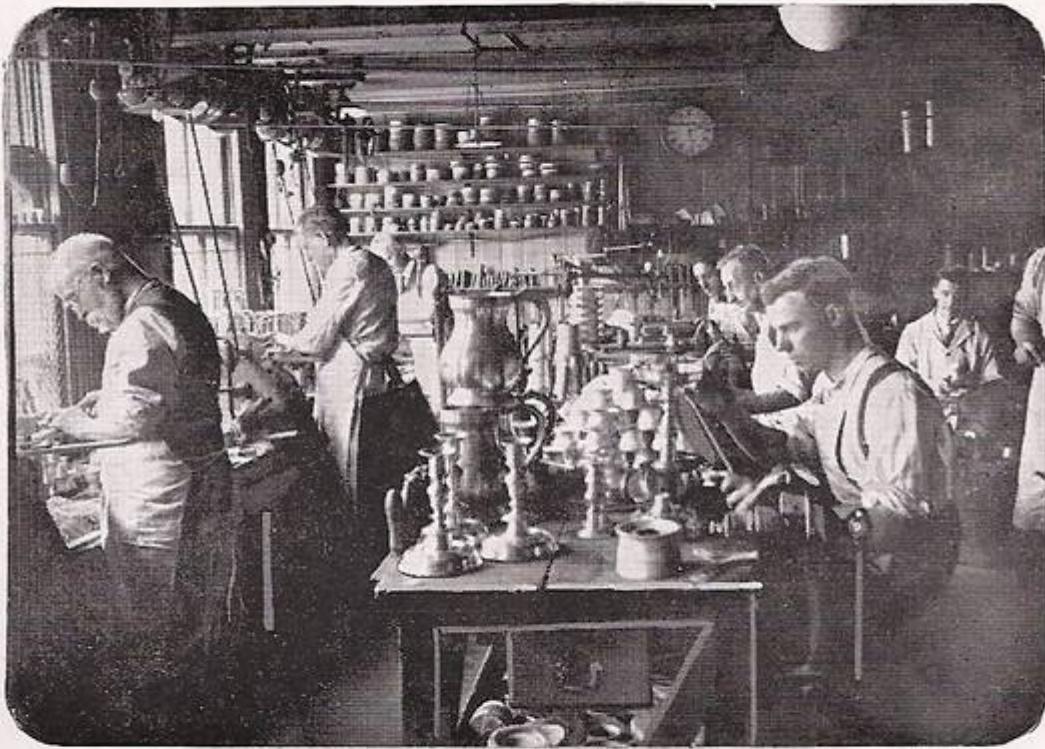
Mr. Ralph H. Englefield turning a large dish on the Sadware lathe, preparatory to hammering. This lathe was made by my grandfather for his son, and it is now being used by his grandson. "Sadware" is a term that was used by the old pewterers for low relief work—such as plates and dishes.

PIT OR CASTING FURNACE



On the left a 17th century apparatus for holding the gun-metal mould while casting large Plates and Dishes. This contrivance has always been known in the factory as a "horse."

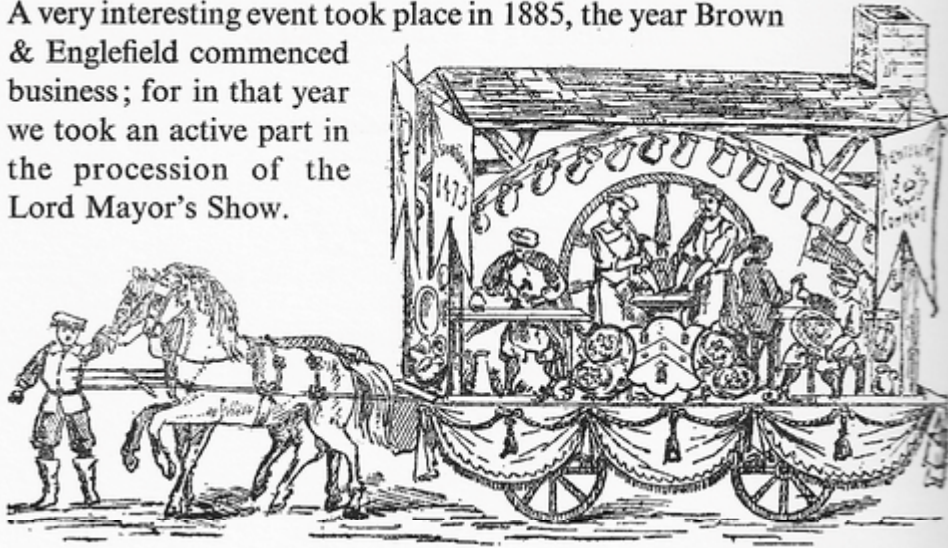
## PEWTERERS AT LATHE AND BENCH



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.



A very interesting event took place in 1885, the year Brown & Englefield commenced business; for in that year we took an active part in the procession of the Lord Mayor's Show.



PEWTERERS' COMPANY.—CAR.

As illustrated in the *City Press* November 11th, 1885.



Fascimile of the medal (showing both sides) cast in the car and thrown to the populace.



**EXTRACT FROM CITY PRESS, November 11th, 1885.  
LORD MAYOR'S DAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1885.**

"The Pewterers were in the costume of Edward IV's day, and this part of the exhibition was undertaken by Messrs. Brown & Englefield, Pewterers and Workers in White Metal. The Car represented a Pewterers' shop, in which the processes of casting, turning, hammering, soldering, and finishing were shown in operation.

It was of peculiar interest, inasmuch as the wheel and lathe, the hammering stool and stake were the identical ones in use by the predecessors of this firm over two centuries ago.

"They also exhibited the old Winchester measure, along with the present Standard measure, a barber's basin, with place to fit round the neck, and many articles of ancient and modern use, and during the progress of the procession, medals, commemorative of the occasion were cast, the Lord Mayor Elect (Mr. Alderman Staples, Pewterer), being a Past Master of the Pewterers' Company."

Mr. Englefield used to tell us that as the medals were cast they were thrown to the people along the route and silver coins were thrown back by the recipients. We still have the gun-metal mould in our possession, and, on the death of Mr. Englefield in 1927, we cast a number of medals and presented them to those who had known him, as a small souvenir to his memory. We also possess a spoke and portion of the 6 ft. wheel used to turn the lathe and