

## **Swedish and Finnish pewter - a short and sharp course.**

The Stockholm Guild laid down new marking rules in their Ordinance from 1694. These rules covered pewterers in all towns in both Sweden and Finland which from the 12th Century was part of Sweden.

The marks to look for are the town marks and pewterers' marks. They are small (next size up compared to the English "hall-marks"), each mark often contained within a shield of some kind, often within a single or a double border.

*The larger marks* (of old) are similar to the London pewterers touches and can for identification purposes be ignored as they were not required by the Guild after 1694. Pewterers often used them and various labels, however, *in addition* to the required marks.



Older marks by Erik Hinderson, Stockholm, active 1644-1655. (3-struck mark on "best pewter" prior to 1694.)

### **4-struck pewter**

This was the best, lead free alloy with minimum 97% tin and some copper. It was mostly used on sad-ware and some up-market flagons and tankards. To identify this quality, the Guild required the pewterer to strike his *town mark twice and his master's mark also twice*, thus the name "4-struck" pewter. (Some pewterers used their two initials in two different master touches which was not really allowed. Baltzar Rokus used "B" in one and "R" in the other.)



4-struck mark by Anders Hult, Arboga, 1721-1735

4-struck combination mark by Olof Winberg, Gothenburg, 1745-1767.

+ Only 4-struck pewter was allowed to be hammered, a very common feature on Swedish sad-ware, necessary to strengthen the dishes in particular.

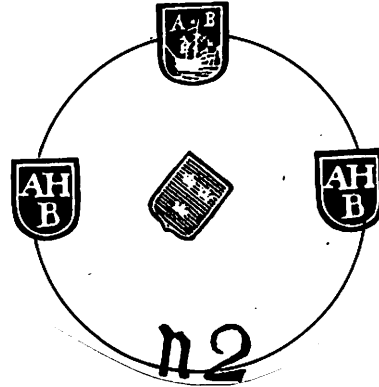
### 3-struck pewter

This was the so called "flagon-pewter" used for almost all drinking vessels, measures and flagons. It contained 83% tin, some 15% lead and some copper.

This quality was struck *once with the town mark and twice with the master's touch*, thus "3-struck" pewter.



3-struck by Johannes Lagervall, Jönköping, 1765-1772.

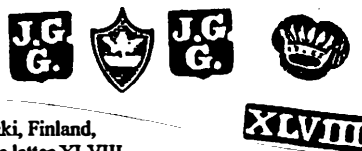


3-struck arrangement struck inside bottom of lidded tankard by Anders Hendric Bauman, Västervik, also showing three-crown assay mark and the date-letter n2 for 1795.


### Date letters

This is a unique feature on Swedish pewter from 1694, again from the Ordinance and starting with an "A". It is almost always sharp-struck (no border on the touch) and is usually found near the regular marks. The pewter date-letters were later synchronised with the silver date-letters in an act of parliament dated 1754 (see also hall-marking below). The pewter series was therefore interrupted with the "R" of 1758 and "A1" started with the new silver series in 1759. A book will have to be consulted (Bruzelli: *Tenngjutare i Sverige*) if the approximate years of a pewterer are not known.

+ *Finland* was lost to Russia in 1809. Up to this date all pewter activities here including marking practises were supervised by the Stockholm Guild (as elsewhere in Sweden). From 1809 all marks remained the same with the exception of the date letters and the mark of the hall. The new date letters in Finland started in 1810 with the Roman number "I". It is therefore easy to work out that "XXVII" found on a Finnish pewter object means the year of production of 1836 (1809 + 27).



3-struck mark by Johann Gustaf Grönlund, Helsinki, Finland, from the Russian period, also showing Finnish date letter XLVIII for 1857 and the Finnish hall-mark from 1809 (ducal crown).

	I	II	III	IV (1)		2	3	4	5	6	7	
A	1694	1718	1742	A	1759	A	1783	1807	1831	1855	1879	1903
B	1695	1719	1743	B	1760	B	1784	1808	1832	1856	1880	1904
C	1696	1720	1744	C	1761	C	1785	1809	1833	1857	1881	1905
D	1697	1721	1745	D	1762	D	1786	1810	1834	1858	1882	1906
E	1698	1722	1746	E	1763	E	1787	1811	1835	1859	1883	1907
F	1699	1723	1747	F	1764							
G	1700	1724	1748	G	1765	F	1788	1812	1836	1860	1884	1908
H	1701	1725	1749	H	1766	G	1789	1813	1837	1861	1885	1909
I	1702	1726	1750	I	1767	H	1790	1814	1838	1862	1886	1910
K	1703	1727	1751	K	1768	I	1791	1815	1839	1863	1887	1911
L	1704	1728	1752	L	1769	K	1792	1816	1840	1864	1888	1912
M	1705	1729	1753	M	1770							
						L	1793	1817	1841	1865	1889	
						M	1794	1818	1842	1866	1890	
						N	1795	1819	1843	1867	1891	
						O	1796	1820	1844	1868	1892	
N	1706	1730	•1754	N	1771	P	1797	1821	1845	1869	1893	
O	1707	1731	•1755	O	1772							
P	1708	1732	•1756	P	1773	Q	1798	1822	1846	1870	1894	
Q	1709	1733	•1757	Q	1774	R	1799	1823	1847	1871	1895	
R	1710	1734	•1758	R	1775	S	1800	1824	1848	1872	1896	
S	1711	1735		S	1776	T	1801	1825	1849	1873	1897	
T	1712	1736		T	1777 (V)	U	1802	1826	1850	1874	1898	
V	1713	1737		U	1778							
W	1714	1738		W	1779 (W)	V	1803	1827	1851	1875	1899	
X	1715	1739		X	1780	X	1804	1828	1852	1876	1900	
Y	1716	1740		Y	1781	Y	1805	1829	1853	1877	1901	
Z	1717	1741		Z	1782	Z	1806	1830	1854	1878	1902	

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ      abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z      A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

### Hall-marking

The Swedish pewterers suffered the indignity in 1754 of having to cart their production to the nearest assay office for hall-marking. This was not news for the gold- and silver smiths but the pewterers did not think highly of the new law, especially when they learnt that they would have to pay an assay-tax for the privilege.

The officers of the hall designed a shield with the three crowns of Sweden (the lesser coat of arms). The old silver mark looks similar but has a "cat's paw" shield.



This three-crowns shield was struck by the officers of the assay hall and not by the pewterer. The Swedish tradition was for the pewterer to remove traces of his own marking on the opposite side of plates and dishes in particular. As the mark of the hall was struck after the plate/dish was finished, the outline of this mark can often be seen on the opposite side.

+ Finland used the ducal crown of Finland as a hall-mark from 1809.

**The Swedish Town marks** - (several other versions of the below examples exist).

The towns are listed in order of importance based on hall-marked output from 1754. This output in lbs was registered by the assay halls against the name of each pewterer and Bruzelli has researched and listed this output in "Tenngjutare i Sverige" and has also added each town's total output during the period from 1754. Numbers below follow Bruzelli.

**A. Stockholm**



**1. Göteborg**



**2. Jönköping**



**3. Karlskrona**



**4. Uppsala**



**5. Västerås**

**6. Örebro**



**7. Norrköping**



**8. Kalmar**



**9. Växjö**



**10. Arboga**



**11. Kristianstad**



**12. Malmö**



**13. Nyköping**



**14. Lund**



**15. Gävle**



**16. Vimmerby**



**17. Strängnäs**



**18. Hudiksvall**



**19. Ystad**



**20. Karlstad**



**21. Eksjö**



22. Lidköping



23. Visby



24. Falun



25. Västervik



26. Vänersborg



27. Linköping



28. Härnösand



29. Eskilstuna



30. Hedemora



31. Varberg



32. Mariestad



33. Karlshamn



34. Hälsingborg



35. Landskrona



36. Östhammar



37. Borås



38. Halmstad



39. Uddevalla



40. Köping



41. Kristinehamn



42. Skara



43. Sala



44. Enköping



45. Söderhamn



46. Sigtuna



47. Åmål



48. Söderköping



49. Falköping



50. Vadstena

51. Säter



**52. Sundsvall**



**53. Alingsås**



**54. Södertälje**

**55. Falkenberg**

**56. Gränna**



**57. Hjo**

**58. Ängelholm**

**59. Ulricehamn**

**60. Umeå**

**61. Askersund**

**62. Piteå**

**63. Mariefred**

## Verification marks on Stockholm measures from 1665.

Similar marks by inspectors are found in the provinces from c. 1730.

1 L  
1666


228

1681  
1 L


229

  
1696  
JL


230

  
1704  
JL


231

  
1706  
JA 2  
19  
3

232

  
1724  
ER 2  
27  
10

233

  
1727  
SK  
18  
5




13

  
  
1752  
JL  
29  
8

234

  
  
  
1740  
JL  
4  
1


235

  
  
  
1742  
CH  
24  
8


236

  
  
  
1737  
CH  
11  
11

14

  
1753  
ER  
2  
3


237

  
1754  
ER  
8  
4  
4


238

  
1763  
ER  
19  
1

239

  
1792  
P  
2  
10

240

  
1798  
88  
18  
1

15

  
AH  
1825  
1836

16

**Weight and measure inspectors in Stockholm from 1663 -1839.** (Jörgen Low held the office two years before the actual "crowning" of the measures started.)

Low Jörgen 1663 <sup>19</sup>/<sub>6</sub>–1681 <sup>19</sup>/<sub>3</sub>, fig. 228, 229.

Low Jakob 1681 <sup>19</sup>/<sub>3</sub>– före 1704 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>10</sub> (själäringsning), fig. 230, 231.

Appelman, Johan 1704– efter 1715, fig. 232.

Rising, E. före 1724–före 1732, fig. 233.

Holm, Johan före 1732–1736 i dec., fig. 234, /3

Holm, Carl 1737 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>6</sub>–1749 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>, fig. 235, 236, /4

Runeberg, E. F. 1749 <sup>14</sup>/<sub>3</sub>–1764, fig. 237,–239.

Plantin, Zakarias 1764 <sup>10</sup>/<sub>6</sub>–1797 <sup>19</sup>/<sub>6</sub>, fig. 240.

Blommenberg, Birger 1797 <sup>9</sup>/<sub>6</sub>–1810 <sup>10</sup>/<sub>12</sub>. (/5)

Hoffman, G. A. 1810 <sup>10</sup>/<sub>12</sub>–1839. (/6)

## Capacities

Kanna	260cc
Stop (pronounced "stoop")	130cc
½-stop	65cc
Quarter	32.5cc
2-Jumfru (½ quart) "double maiden"	16cc
Jumfru (1/32 Kanna) "Maiden"	8cc

+ An attempt at "decimalization without metrification" was made by the authorities in 1863 when the old "Kanna" measure was divided into 100 parts. The pewtering industry benefited greatly, but the system only lasted for 26 years, until 1889 when Sweden finally (and late by European standard) adopted the metric volume.

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