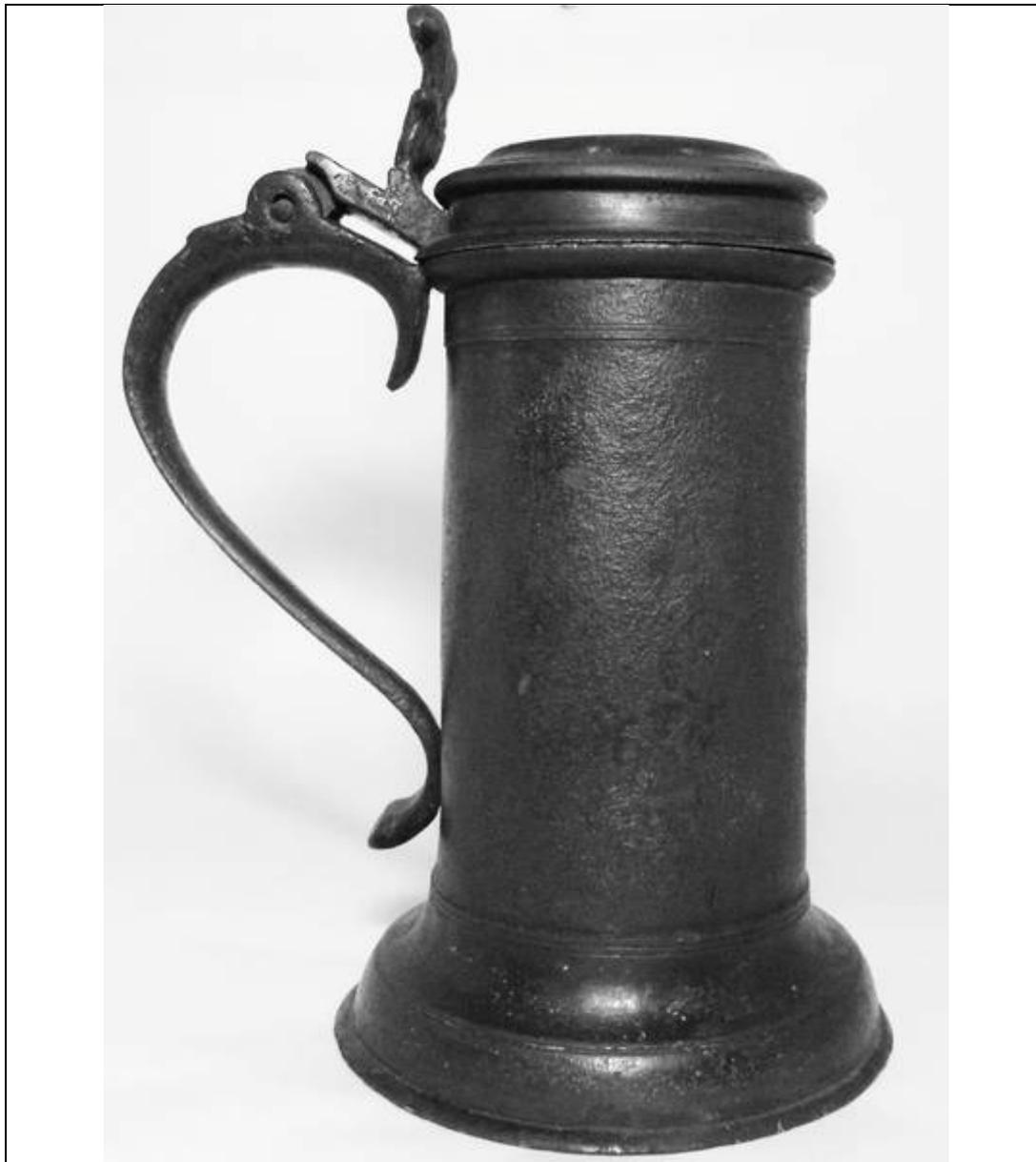


## **Rare, befeater Flagon from Barnstaple with distinctive thumpiece and diminitive size.**

Exceptionally small sized Beefeater flagon being about 8” from table to lid top - capacity of 33 fluid ounces thus an OEWS quart showing that often flagons were made to an approximate size so that customers knew what to ask for. This is said to be by John Webber of Barnstaple c1680 The very few remains of a touch inside centre base appear to have a beaded edge. Alexander Webber working 1710-1735 is recorded as having the only beaded Webber touchmark, but there is no record of any beaded pot touch.

This has a rare and distinctive thumbpiece. The Stanley Thomas collection is said to have similar. A similar piece in a different size is shown clearly to the front of the booklet detailing – the Stanley E Thomas collection of pewter in the museum of North Devon Barnstaple (with an account of the pewterers of Barnstaple).







An experienced dealer and collector emails to say -

The touch shown on the (Pewter Society) Database for Alexander Webber is of the style recorded for John Snr and Jnr. These touches are quite large and were probably just used on sadware (plates).

I think the touch inside the befeater is smaller than these and is probably a pot touch so I would discount the fact that it has a beaded edge being confirmation of Alexander as the maker.

I see no reason not to date this piece therefore to the last quarter of the 17th c, towards the end of when this style was fashionable.

This is the smallest size of this type of flagon recorded' and I don't know of another of this size.

It has a rare type of spray/ram's horn thumbpiece only found on a few pieces from the West Country. The only illustrations seen of this type are in the Stanley Thomas catalogue and shown on three slightly larger flagons. These are noted as having been made by Jeffrey and John Webber snr.

Presumably the touch inside these shows J and Webber and as no Jeffery Webber is recorded, thus I assume that all are by John.

This is an exceptionally rare thumbpiece and size of befeater - otherwise unrecorded to the best of my knowledge.

.....  
The Stanley Thomas Collection was partly on display during 2010 in the -

North Devon Museum at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon EX32 8LN. The Museums Development Director in late 2010 is Alison Mills. Should collectors wish to see pieces stored but not displayed then prior contact is essential and it might be possible to see pieces not on display.