

## TWO UNUSUAL AND SCARCE, DECORATED, ABBOT OF GATESHEAD, MUGS

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### FIRST A MOST UNSUAL JOHN ABBOT OF GATESHEAD MUG

Precis and information taken from PCCA Bulletin Summer 2006 Dwayne Abbott piece - credited to John Abbot of 1812-1863 PS13074

With thanks to Dwayne Abbott of the USA



The above Mug, other than its decoration, is a typical (in all aspects) Abbot Pint Pewter Mug of the early to mid-Victorian period.

This website has not yet seen the inside of the mug but Dwayne writes that the elaborate engraving has five cartouches around the body hammered out from the inside (decoration sometimes or more usually seen on pewter plates hammered out from underneath and in silver work). The front cartouche might have been intended to have further engraving for

example for a presentation). Dwayne has two of these but others are unknown to this collector.

The reason for the elaborate and time demanding decoration is unknown. This website (as does Dwayne) welcomes any further information CONCERNING THIS EXTREMELY RARE MUG – WITH MOST UNUSUAL DECORATION.



Another American Collector writes -

I would think that users of Abbot mugs included a lot of metal workers and perhaps one was skilled in repousse and decorated one for his father's 60th birthday, or hired a metalsmith to do so.

While repousse IS hammered from the inside, a tool used as an anvil on the outside makes the detail. In the cartouche in the attached, a hammer with a rounded point was banged inside the cartouche while another tool was held at the front, just outside the line of the cartouche so the cartouche rises sharply inside the line. After going around the cartouche, lion, rococo scrolls all are slightly higher than the rest of the design. Then lines are punched around all of this (lion's mane etc) with an edged tool, not removing anything like would be the case with V-shaped tools for engraving.

The result is a very crisp image on the outside, with much more rounded relief on the inside. This would be much more cumbersome with thick cast pewter hollow ware compared to thin Britannia ware or silver, so is uncommon.

Especially in the confines of a pint measure compared with my two litre

French measure. **Cartouche** ka:'tu:f/

*noun*

noun: **cartouche**; plural noun: **cartouches**

1. **1.**  
a carved tablet or drawing representing a scroll with rolled-up ends, used ornamentally or bearing an inscription.
  - o a decorative architectural feature, such as a modillion or corbel, resembling a scroll.
2. **2.**  
an ornate frame around a design or inscription.  
"a coat of arms in a cartouche"
  - o **ARCHAEOLOGY**  
an oval or oblong enclosing a group of Egyptian hieroglyphs, typically representing the name and title of a monarch.

Below this is simply an example from this collector of what he views as similar workmanship in his collection.



**THIS SECOND TANKARD SPEAKS CLEARLY FOR ITSELF**



**OR AT LEAST FROM THE FRONT IT DOES! SEE BELOW.**

A WEBSITE READER SENT IN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THIS PINT WITH A GLASS BOTTOM - WHICH LOOKS AS THOUGH MADE IN 1896.

OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IS THAT THE GREAT GRANDSON OF THE OWNER "AM" ALSO WITH THE SAME INITIALS - USES THIS IN 2016 IN HIS LOCAL PUB – SOME 120 YEARS AFTER IT WAS MADE .



The owner also sent the following information.

This is Alexander from the 1891 census:

Name: Alexander Petrie  
Age: 86  
Estimated birth year: abt 1805  
Relation: Head  
Gender: Male  
Where born: Scotland  
Civil Parish: Gateshead  
Ecclesiastical parish: St Mary  
County/Island: Durham  
Registration district: Gateshead  
ED, institution, or vessel: 27  
Piece: 4180  
Folio: 18  
Page Number: 29  
Household Members:  
Name Age  
Alexander Petrie 86  
Jane Petrie 56

From the National Probate Calendar, he died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1896 (aged 91 or 92) leaving £207 12s with probate to his spinster daughter Jane.