

## Highlights: Part 1: 1600-1660

### 43-152 : Bell-Salt (silver, parcel-gilt), maker 'TS', London, 1603/4, wt: 9.956 oz.



- bought by WB at the Taylor sale, London, 28 April 1938, £497.10s.
- decoration: embossed & chased with strapwork, hops & stylized foliage on a granulated ground; domed top section chased with acanthus foliage & gourds.
- lower & middle sections have concave tops to hold salt; upper section is a shaker;
- each section marked: mark visible on middle section;
- bell-salts (named after their shape) are the largest class of salt from the period to survive: more than 24 are known;
- bell-salts were derided in 1607 by Goldsmiths' Company as the simplest object capable of being made by the most unskilled journeyman.

### 43-16, 43-17, 43--18 : Set of Three Steeple Cups (silver gilt), maker 'TB', London, 1611, wt: 24.25, 25.26, 30.64 oz.



bought by WB from W.R. Hearst, via Partridge's, 13 February 1939, £3900 (previously sold at the Swaythling sale, 1924, for £4500)

- WB's most expensive silver purchase, & acquisition from the Hearst collection.
- decoration: embossed with bell-shaped tulips, carnations, foliage; bowls; spiked & pierced obelisk finial.
- steeple cups: a specifically English form - Tudor/ Stuart version of mannerism;
- steeple cups symbolized stable rule - fashionable under James I, but cease with Civil War; called 'pyramids' at time;
- the obelisk symbolizes the 'sovereignty of princes', also immortality (cf, for example, architectural feature at Burghley House);
- this is the only known set of 3, though over 150 survive, from 1598-1646 (first documented c.1560); over 50% made 1604-15; peak year was 1611 (14 survive)

### 43-15 : Cup & Cover (silver gilt), Nuremberg [but marks for 'maker' TV, London, 1619/1625-26], wt: 23.378+6.769 oz.



- bought by WB from the dealer, David Black, 17 July 1946, £1600 + 5%
- decoration: embossed and chased landscapes; 3 winged-cherubim's heads; domed cover with finial of Jupiter & Eagle.
- in the style of Nuremberg silver cups, but with London marks;
- 'TV' was possibly a London-based importer of foreign silver, i.e. his mark could be that of a sponsor or retailer not a maker;
- in the decades around 1600, the English regarded Nuremberg silver as the most interesting, so imported a lot of it, though the term 'Nuremberg' was used genetically for highly-ornamented plate, not all of it was from Nuremberg;
- the piece may have been made in England by [German] aliens, or may lack Nuremberg marks because it was an export piece, or the Nuremberg marks could have been obscured in London;
- this perhaps reflects the laxity of Assay Office - all hallmarked silver should reach the English silver standard.

## Highlights: Part II: 1660-1702

### 43-21 : Coconut Cup (silver, nut), maker 'IW', London, c.1651-62, wt: 8.37 oz.



- bought by WB from the dealer David Black, 22 August 1941, £100
- decoration: carved with 3 scenes relating to flight of Charles II after Battle of Worcester (3 September 1651):
  - - [1] Boscobel oak with heads of Charles II & Colonel Carlis (with scroll inscribed: '\*\*\* 1000 PVN/D - F.D.K.');
  - mounted Cromwellian soldiers below;
  - - [2] Charles II on horseback, with Miss Jane Lane;
  - - [3] Charles II, dressed as a servant, watering horse by houses.
- Charles II lost to Cromwell's army at Worcester, & a £1000 reward was offered for his capture; cavalry patrols were charged with finding him. Charles reached the Boscobel estate of a royalist, where he hid in an oak tree with Colonel Carlis [1]; he later reached Bentley Hall (Walsall), the house of the royalist Colonel Lane. Lane's sister, Jane, had a permit to travel with a servant to Bristol; instead, Charles travelled with her in disguise as her servant, 'William Jackson', on the same horse [2]. At Bromsgrove, the horse lost a shoe, so Charles, still in guise of a servant, took him to blacksmith [3], who told him that Charles Stuart deserved to be hanged 'for bringing in the Scots' [into the Civil War]. Eventually Charles escaped to France. Oak Apple Day (King's birthday, 29 May) was celebrated till the C19 by the wearing of a sprig of oak leaves.

### 43-102 : Quaich (silver, wood), Scottish, late C17th, wt: 6.79 oz.



- bought by WB from D. Duff, 4 December 1924, £37
- quaiches made in Scotland in C17 & C18;
- similar in form to medieval English mazers, but with addition of flat handles;
- supposedly derived from scallop shells, used for whisky in Highlands & Islands;
- used for whisky & brandy; larger ones used for ale;
- used for welcome & farewell drinks.

### 43-55 : Tankard (silver), maker 'IR' London, 1678/9, wt: 39.16 oz.



- bought by WB from How, Edinburgh, 24 July 1950, £375
- inscribed (front) with arms of Hasluck, within plumed mantling
- decoration: devoid of ornament other than the heraldic bearings of the owner within tied plumed mantling.
- nb large size - ?2+ pints - ?more ceremonial than functional.
- armorials: those who could afford silver at all were minority, perhaps c.5% of population in C17;
- many people were armigerous & those not - prosperous urban 'aristocracy' of London & other major towns, also lesser gentry - could use personal devices;
- armorials & crests not intended necessarily to demonstrate ownership, but to record a donor's or patron's identity;
- from C16 on, the most consistent use of armorials was on sideboard plate intended for display throughout the meal: ewers, basins, flagons;
- 1680-1730: the golden period for the goldsmiths' engravers - specialists employed on piecework by retail goldsmiths;
- engraving was often the main ornament on everyday drinking & serving vessels.



**43-25 : Beaker (silver), maker 'PR', London, 1692/3, 3.54 oz.**



- bought by WB at Christie's, London, 7 July 1937, £51.9/6
- decoration: engraved with a band of birds among branches, in the Chinese taste;
- *chinoiserie*: fashionable as flat-chased designs, on London silver c.1670-95, but especially c. 1680-85;
- became especially popular in 1680s in England & Netherlands because of closer trading links with China, & after the publication of a series of engravings of the Dutch embassy to Peking (published 1668, Amsterdam; 1669, London);
- probable that more than one specialist chaser responsible, because of variety of designs & techniques;
- mock-Chinese designs so popular that even found on church plate, while other plain wares taken back to be 'beautified' well after they were made;
- technique, using stabbed line, quite unlike that adopted for other chased work at the time, implying it was peculiar to the original medium.

**43-77, 43-78 : Pair of Salvers (silver), maker (?)John Ruslen (fl.1656-c.1715), London, 1693/4, wt: 1.58oz, 1.68 oz.**



bought by WB from How, Edinburgh, 18 June 1947, £150

- inscribed with demi-virgin, loose long hair, eastern crown [crest of Mercers' Company];
- Mercers' Company: documented back to 1348; mercery = trade in luxury fabrics & other piece goods (e.g. ribbons & laces); premier livery company;
- 'Mercers Maiden': symbol & coat of arms of Co.; first appears in seal of 1425; often depicted wearing the fashions of any given period, because not formally granted as coat of arms till 1911; maiden 'property marks' often seen on exteriors of buildings belonging to Co.
- armorials: an alternative for those who were members of livery companies, was to adopt the Co.'s arms or badge: large quantity of

silver exists engraved with corporate armorials, though many were originally private orders; others were gifts, or plate sold by institutions at, times of hardship to their members;

- objects made at corporation's expense as gifts for ipenibers were usually engraved with corporation's arms.
- salvers: from Spanish, *salva*, term applied to plate or tray on which object offered to person; here used of food & drink;
- first English salvers appear in early C17, 'used in giving Beer, or other liquid thing to save the Carpit or Cloathes from drops' (T. Blount, *Glossographia*, 1661); later used 'to hold glasses or Sweetmeats' (Cocker, *English Dictionary*, 1704);
- servants used them to bring wine glasses from side table to main table when gents 'took wine with one another': typically broad & flat with foot underneath.

**43-72 : Salver** (silver gilt), maker (?) Benjamin Bathurst, engraver Simon Gribelin (1661-1733), London, 1695, wt: 47.5 oz.



bought by WB via S.J. Philips at Christie's, London, 10 July 1929, £586

- originally commissioned by Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax, 1695.
- decoration: engraved with obverse & reverse of Exchequer Seal [William III & Mary II beneath canopy; royal arms;], above arms of Chancellor of Exchequer;
- Montagu had been Chancellor for just 9 months at death of Mary (Dec. 1694).
- tradition since C16 that when the official seals were broken after the death of a monarch, the holder of a seal could melt its silver into plate for himself as a perquisite of office;
- Gribelin got most of this work, because he was the best engraver in the UK c.1700); his salvers, of which this is the first, are regarded as the finest ever engraved English plate;
- Gribelin biography: 1661, born in Blois, France (centre of watch making & Protestant town); c.1680, to England; 1686, member of Clockmakers' Co.; c.1690, changed from engraving watches to plates, esp. salvers; 1733, died.
- NB excellent condition: for display not use.

**43-173, 43-174 : Pair of Candlesticks** (silver gilt), makers (?) Robert Smythier (fl.1660-85) (173), 'IH' (174), London, 1671/2, wt: 19.4 oz., 21.23 oz.



bought by WB from John Hunt, 24 August 1937, £430

- inscribed under foot: 'CC under coronet [?for Earls of Clarendon].
- decoration: square-section columnar stem, a cylindrical stem below, which merges via cut-card ornament with a square sloping acanthus-leaf moulded foot.
- clustered columns & cast acanthus details typical of 1670s work by German maker Bodendick, who came to London after the Restoration. This was a newly-fashionable pattern, with a strong German/Dutch influence. Similar candlesticks were made in France (where the form may have originated in the 1660s) & Italy, reflecting same influence; and followers in London;
- cut-card ornament first appeared in England in mid-1660s, though especially favoured by Huguenot makers.
- candlesticks only became numerous from 1650s: lighting appliances (also sconces, chandeliers) were especially popular in the Restoration period;
- typically made from a sheet of silver: hollow stem & single vertical seam.
- Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (1609-1674), Lord Chancellor, 1658-67, but in exile in France from 1667; Henry Hyde, 2nd Earl of Clarendon (1638-1709), Lord Privy Seal & Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1685-87.

**43-269 : Inkstand** (silver), maker William Lukin I (fl. 1699-1755), London, 1699/1700, wt: 19.07 oz.



bought by WB from S.J. Philips, London, 18 October 1934, £375

- inkstands still rare in Caroline times & usually V. simple: oblong casket on 4 feet, with interior sections for ink, seals, pounce, sealing-wax & pens;
- 2 main forms: (1) single lid; (2) double lid with central hinge with handle - latter known as 'Treasury' inkstands because examples still; survive examples in Treasury & Privy Co., originally ordered by the Lord Chamberlain, 1686.

Robert Wenley May 2007