

ENGRAVING STYLES

In starting this article the writer thought that there would have been fashions for the ownership initials often found on Pewter Mugs and other pieces. Also if these styles were identified with makers then a style of engraved lettering would give a good clue in the absence of any makers mark as to when a piece might be made.

Clearly it became apparent that this is not often always so. It is the person who paid the engraver who more than likely determined the style of the engraving. Dates can be meaningless other than to the person ordering the engraving. That is, a date from this year or some year long past, might be engraved on a piece made a few years ago. A style of engraving might be chosen from recent or past styles.

In the end then this writer decided to record the engraved letter styles from pieces he has recorded or owned and present them here in something of date order. Readers might use this article to look at an engraved set of initials or an engraved name and say that it is possible that this piece was made in that period.

No really serious conclusions can be drawn from this article. But it might appear that in the 1700s the script was legible and more like printed capitals or longhand that we are used to (those educated in the middle 1900s that is).

In the first half of the 1800s there was a fashion for the feathery backgrounds and the elongated interwoven flowing script.

In the second half of the 1800s a rightwards sloping style of simpler longhand appears and some copperplate style of writing/engraving as in the early books used to teach longhand by repetition and tracery.

But when the feathery script of the first half of the 1800s appears on a Burley of c1900 then it is clear that none of these thoughts are safe!

Why write an article of this sort at all then? – simply because the more people who look at it then perhaps the better the conclusions that can be reached. If we are to try to put an age on slightly mysterious and none too old a piece, then the engraving could be a contributing factor towards attempting a decision.



Sir John Fryer 1717 – made by
Wm Newsome



John Langford c 1740



N Barber c1790 – but when
engraved?



Scottish 1784



London lidded jug late 1700s



Yates and Birch c 1800



1810-1820



Scottish Wm Scott early 1800s



Scottish Early 1800s – Wm Scott



Richard Mister c 1810



J Warner – c 1820



Verified for G IV c 1830



William Rich c 1840



Holgate c 1830



Pre Victoria



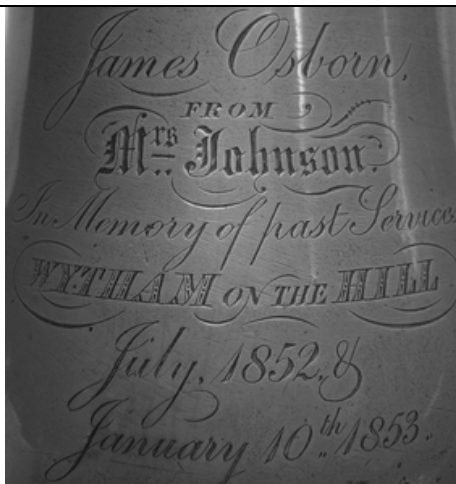
c1840



Warne c 1840



London made c1840



c 1853



c 1860



Charles Bentley c 1860



Joshua James Watts c1860



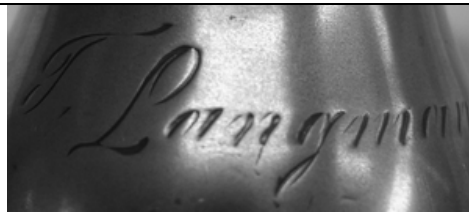
Grimes c 1850



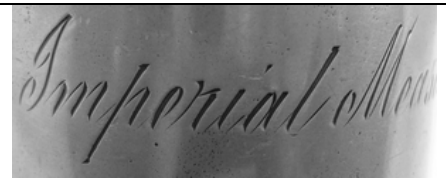
Grimes c 1850



Lemon c 1880



Moyes c 1880



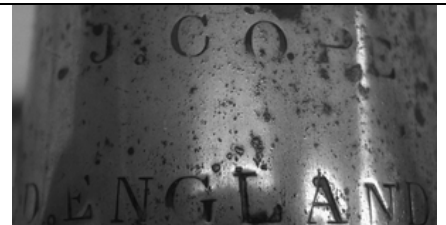
Warne late 1800s



Farmiloe c 1876



Loftus c 1874



Hayter c 1875



Burley c 1900 (engraving
maybe copying an earlier style
— or art nouveau variation?)



Burley c 1900



Farmiloe c 1890



1885 - 1920



Loftus 1890



Grimes c 1860



S Simons, Stapleton 1867



A pewterer initials T S
c 1818 (?)