

## SUFFOLK PEWTERERS

by GLYN JAMES

### PEWTER

PEWTER IS AN ancient alloy of tin hardened by the addition of small amounts of other metals such as copper, lead or antimony. This attractive material is more durable than pure tin and more able to withstand the vicissitudes of regular domestic use.

The craft of pewtering was introduced into Britain by the Romans but largely died out at the end of the Roman occupation. It was probably reintroduced in the 12th century by the Cistercian monks who used the tin alloy to make ecclesiastical ware such as chalices and patens. The peak of consumption of ecclesiastical pewter seems to have occurred in the 14th century (Hatcher and Barker 1974, 29). With the general development of craft guilds at this time pewter became an important secular trade and, although relatively expensive, was used in increasing amounts in the houses of the nobility and wealthy merchants. Household accounts and inventories of the 15th century reveal that flatware, also known as sadware, such as chargers, platters, dishes and saucers was the most common form (Hatcher and Barker 1974, 55). Vessels used for storage and drinking, known as hollow ware, were the second most important category referred to in the inventories of the wealthier households.

London was the centre of the trade, but competition from provincial craftsmen led to the London pewterers seeking wider powers of control. A Royal Charter was granted in 1474 giving them the legal control of manufacture throughout England. They formed themselves into the Worshipful Company of Pewterers and the Charter gave them powers to specify the composition of the alloys to be used and to search and seize substandard wares. The records of these searches now provide valuable evidence for the distribution and location of provincial craftsmen. By 1503 all pewterers were required to mark their wares with a distinctive personal 'touch mark', in order that makers of defective goods could be readily identified. The records of early marks were destroyed in the Great Fire, but the marks recorded from 1666 onwards are preserved on touch plates kept at Pewterers' Hall and are readily accessible in the classic reference work *Old Pewter its Makers and Marks* published by H.H. Cotterell in 1929.

From the middle of the 16th century the evidence of inventories suggests that pewter was being used in at least half of English households (Hatcher and Barker 1974, 96) and the demand rose steeply throughout the 17th century. Ecclesiastical use also increased when the regulations of 1603 admitted the suitability of pewter flagons (Figs. 23, 24) to bring the wine to the communion table. Many of these handsome pieces survive, probably on account of their quality, size and secure custody. The records of the London Pewterers' Company (Welch 1902) suggest that the London industry achieved a sevenfold expansion between the early 16th and mid-17th centuries as domestic use increased significantly. It has been estimated that the nation's pewter stock was at its peak in the 1680s on account of both rising population and wider distribution of wares (Hatcher and Barker 1974, 141). The fifty-year period between the Restoration and the end of Queen Anne's reign in 1714 was the high point of English pewter production in terms of both design and craftsmanship and many changes of style were introduced. Thereafter production declined in the face of competition from other materials such as pottery, porcelain, brass and copper which responded better to mass production. However, pewter remained in extensive use throughout the 18th century and some production continued into the 19th century mainly as tavern ware.

## PEWTER CENTRES

London was much the most important centre of the industry in all periods. The large cities of Bristol and York had substantial pewtering communities and Wigan, although only a small county town, was a major producer in the 17th century. Other large towns such as Worcester, Gloucester, Coventry, Cambridge, Newcastle, Lincoln, Norwich and Walsall probably each had ten to twelve pewterers at work by 1680 (Hatcher and Barker 1974, 128). Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich are among the lesser centres with smaller numbers, and individual practitioners of the craft were to be found in some of the smaller market towns and villages of Suffolk.

It has been the purpose of this study to try to identify the pewterers in these Suffolk towns. The numbers found in different periods are summarised in the following table and they are listed in the Appendix with reference details.

	1450-1600	1600-1700	1700-1800
Ipswich	42	16	10
Bury	14	5	1
Smaller Towns	5	12	2

## IPSWICH PEWTERERS

Ipswich is most fortunate in the preservation of its historical record. The Corporation records begin in the 13th century but are most extensive from the Tudor period onwards. The town's able and industrious Recorder, Nathaniel Bacon, compiled his *Annalls of Ipswich* which gives abstracts of records of the governance of the town until 1649. The transcribed abstracts of the Corporation Records by Vincent Redstone, made in the early 20th century, provide ready and extensive access to many perspectives of the town's history. Particularly useful are those in the 'Entries upon the Rolls' in which land and property transactions are recorded. It is mainly from these sources, together with wills and Pewterers' Company searches, that the names of Ipswich pewterers are culled.

Ipswich was one of the ten richest towns in Tudor England (Webb 1996, 1). Its prosperity derived from the growth of the cloth industry, which reached its high point in the early 16th century. This study demonstrates that during the period of woollen cloth prosperity, from Henry VI's Charter in 1446 to the accession of James I in 1603, a significant number of Ipswich pewterers achieved high office in civic affairs.

The town was governed by twelve Portmen and twenty-four Common Councilmen who were all free burgesses. The chief magistrates were chosen from the Portmen and the most senior of these were the two Bailiffs who normally held office for a year, but could be re-elected. Four Justices and two Coroners, who were also Portmen, assisted with the work of the General and Petty Courts and financial affairs were administered by a Treasurer and two more junior Chamberlains. During the affluent Tudor era, when some forty pewterers have been identified as working in Ipswich, five held the senior office of Bailiff, some on several occasions, and many others were appointed to other positions of civic responsibility.

Pewterers were, of course, also involved in the Merchants' Guild which regulated trade in the town. They headed the annual *Corpus Christi* procession, under the banner of *St George*, along with 'plumbers, sadelers, massonys, tylers and armerers'. The religious significance of the pageant ceased with the Reformation, but in 1575 the trades of the town were drawn together into four companies for the Guild Feasts and the pewterers joined eighteen other crafts in the Tailors' Guild (Wodderspoon 1850, 165).

The Winter family were the first pewterers of significance in Ipswich and their prominence in the craft was matched by their importance in the town. Ipswich's first recorded pewterer was a civic figure of considerable distinction. Edmund Winter (Wynter) was appointed Justice in 1441 and elected Bailiff on no fewer than five occasions, 1456, 1459, 1462, 1466 and 1476. No will survives

and no references are made to his pewter trade in the Corporation records. However, information in a 'miscellaneous' card index at Pewterers' Hall mentions Edmund Winter as an Ipswich pewterer practising the craft between 1453 and 1473.<sup>1</sup> The first reference in the Corporation records is to William Winter (Wynter), pewterer of St Peter's parish, who was granted land of the common soil in the *Foreshore Deeds* of 1452 and 1463.<sup>2</sup> William's relationship to Edmund is unclear but further Corporation records, which do not denote his trade, make reference to William between 1445 and 1472 which is contemporaneous with Edmund.<sup>3</sup> He was clearly another Winter of civic significance since he held the offices of Treasurer, 1449, Chamberlain, 1465, and Coroner, 1472.

The activities of Edmund's presumed son are well documented. Nicholas Winter (Wynter), pewterer of the parish of St Peter's, was elected Chamberlain in 1477, Portman in 1480 and Bailiff in 1485. He died in 1488 requesting in his will that he should be buried in St Peter's Church, before the cross, by the burial place of his father.<sup>4</sup> In this will he leaves to his sons John, Nicholas and Edmund 'all the utensils of my trade of Pewterers Craft viz. "mooldes and toolys" to be equally distributed in three parts among them, according to the discretion of my exors. To each of my aforesaid sons a hundred of "fyne metall" and a hundred of "lay metall".<sup>5</sup> To the Guild of *Corpus Christi* he gives 'half a garnish of pewter vessel of the best make and a pewter charger'.<sup>6</sup> Money is also left to three apprentices, but their names do not appear subsequently in the records. Of the sons, John certainly became a pewterer, he was admitted burgess in 1488 and was a juror in 1491.<sup>3</sup> However, it is interesting to note that a John Winter was also elected to the *Freedom of Norwich* in 1491/2 (Cotterell 1929, 342). Edmund appears to have left Ipswich, but reference is made to a will of Nicholas junior in 1506 again requesting burial in St Peter's next to his father Nicholas.<sup>3</sup>

William Revet (Rivet), of the parish of St Nicholas, continued the tradition of pewterers' involvement in civic affairs. He was elected Chamberlain in 1490, Bailiff in 1501 and was excused the office of Portman in 1509 on the grounds of ill health.<sup>3</sup> William Revet was also Warden of St George's Guild in 1491 and participated in the Guild of *Corpus Christi*. Ipswich burgesses were required to find ten horses and ten men to 'work in the service of Henry VII under the Earl of Oxford' in 1495 and both William Revet and John Winter, son of Nicholas, were contributors.<sup>3</sup>

The relationships between Ipswich pewterers were not always harmonious. John Smith, pewterer in the parish of St Matthew's, was Chamberlain in 1508 and Nicholas Outyng held the more modest office of Sergeant at the Mace for nine years between 1515 and 1528. Nicholas Outyng was accused of trespass and assault by John Smith in 1499. 'Nic Outyng entered the shop of John Smith and assaulted Roger Smith servant of John and took away a skomer (skimmer). Roger could not carry out his master's work as pewterer since that date. Damages 40s'.<sup>3</sup> A plea of assault by John Smith on Nicholas Outyng is recorded five years later, but relations were restored sufficiently for Outyng to be a witness to John Smith's will in 1516. It is clear from this will that John Smith was a man of substance with two houses, 'within and without the bargates'. He leaves to Roger his son 'all my moldes and working tools that belong to my occupation and my wife to have custody of them until my said son comes of age of 20'.<sup>7</sup> Roger's son was also a pewterer, but a court entry of 1541 indicates that Nicholas Brenn, also a pewterer, and Roger Smith junior stood bail of £40 to the Bailiffs for Roger Smith elder to be a 'true prisoner'.<sup>8</sup> The offence is unrecorded but the sum huge.

The Lymer family practised the craft in Ipswich for well over a hundred years and some were prominent civic men. Christopher Lymer (Lymner), pewterer of the parish of St Stephen's, was elected to the Twenty-Four and the office of Chamberlain in 1511.<sup>11</sup> However, he did not become Bailiff until 1543 (Nathaniell Bacon, ed. 1884). His son Philip and daughter Mary were the beneficiaries of his will in 1558 and, as was common at the time, probably continued with the pewterer's craft although there is no record of it. Robert Lymer and John Lymer were certainly pewterers, who were surely related to Christopher. Robert, whose property was at the end of St Stephen's Lane, was Bailiff in 1580, 1586 and 1593 and was discharged from the office of Portman in 1602 at his own request.<sup>9</sup> The Pewterers' Company Searches provide useful evidence of the activities of local craftsmen. The Search of 1569 at 'Harlestone', probably at a fair or market, seized small amounts of substandard wares from six pewterers. Two of these were from Ipswich and one of

them was Robert Lymbard.<sup>10</sup> 'Seized at Harlestone of Robert Lymbard (Lymer) of Ipswich one platter, one dish, one saucer and 7lbs of hollow-ware and chamber pots. Seized at Harlstone of Thomas Smythe (q.v.) of Ipswich hollow-ware weighing 3½ lbs and one chamber pot'.

John Lymmer (Lymer), also a pewterer, was contemporary with Robert, with premises in Brook Street.<sup>11</sup> The Lymer tradition can be presumed to continue into the 17th century with Thomas Lymbard (Lymer) who is now denoted a brazier of St Peter's. A beneficiary of his will in 1638 was Stephen Searson, brazier of St Stephen's parish.<sup>12</sup> However, the precise relationship between these pewterers is difficult to determine and their names are variously recorded as Lymer, Limmer, Lymmer and Lymbard or Lymber.

In selectively acknowledging the civic prominence of some pewterers in Tudor Ipswich it is important to remember that the wealth of the town derived from the woollen cloth industry and its most wealthy citizens were wool merchants and clothiers. They lived in houses that were visible statements of their wealth and some pewterers benefited from marriage to their daughters. The imposing house known as *Parminters*, on the corner of Cox Lane and Carr Street, was successively occupied by pewterers Richard Dene (Deen) and T. Tylden who both married daughters of Richard Skynner (Skinner). He was a cloth maker who was elected to the Assembly of Portmen and Councilors in 1550 and became Bailiff in 1553. Richard Skynner was the intermediary in the transfer of the property from Richard Dene to T. Tylden.<sup>13</sup> 'T. Tylden of Ipswich pewterer and wife Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Skynner, messuage called Permyntours in St Margaret which R. Skynner bought of Richard Dene of Ipswich pewterer. 15 Sept. 5 Ed. VI. 1551'.

Some pewterers were themselves wealthy. Luke Melton of St Helen's parish, who was Chamberlain in 1585, owned properties in the parishes of St Helen, St Mary le Tower, St Lawrence, St Stephen and St Nicholas.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore his will of 1591 also bequeaths 'all his messuage, land and tenements' in the villages of Monks Eleigh (Illie), Whitton and Bramford, to his wife Elizabeth.<sup>14</sup> His daughter and only child, Elizabeth receives the enormous sum of £400 and £20 is given to the poor of the parish of St Mary le Tower. The pewterers Laurence Bodman and Simon Gooding receive only 20s. each, however. Simon Gooding also lived in the parish of St Mary le Tower, in Tavern Street 'ouer againste the foregate of the White Horse Inn'.<sup>15</sup>

John Brende (Brenne) was contemporary with Luke Melton and appears to have been more active in civic affairs. He was the last of the 16th-century pewterers to hold borough office, being elected Chamberlain in 1552 and Coroner between 1569 and 1590 before being discharged in 1596. The Greyfriars monastery was dissolved by Henry VIII and John Brende assisted in its conversion to alternative use in 1579.<sup>9</sup> He also became Warden of the Tooley Foundation in 1569.<sup>9</sup> The Treasurer's account of 1557-8 (Webb 1996, 46 and 114) indicates that they 'received of John Brende the xijth of Julye 1578 for reper'cions to be done for the towne against the Queen's Majeste's commynge xxli'. The same account refers to John Brende as *treasurer* of the Hospital and also indicates an item 'paid unto Mr. Brende the 16th January for the Headborowes' dinner xvijis'. Reference is also made in the Corporation Records to John Brenne junior, but there is no evidence that he continued the craft, although it is probable.<sup>9</sup>

One more Elizabethan pewterer of significance did ensure that his business continued into the Stuart era. Thomas Smythe's (Smith) workshop was in Tavern Street in the parish of St Mary le Tower and his search and the seizure of sub-standard wares by the Pewterers' Company in 1569 has been quoted with that of Robert Lymbard.<sup>15</sup> His will of 1604 bequeaths to his son, also called Thomas Smith, his tenement in Ipswich and another at Tuddenham together with 'all my mouldes and tooles'.<sup>16</sup> His kinsman John Benhall, also a pewterer, is however 'to have the use and occupation thereof for so long as he live', which was in fact until 1649.

This account of the successful Ipswich pewterers of Tudor times has concentrated on those who were wealthy and those who contributed to the governance of the town. By no means all the practitioners of the craft were in this category. Many references in the Corporation Records are concerned with minor misdemeanours and petty offences. Some were more sinister as indicated by the trial of John Lewes for sedition in 1596 who proclaimed 'I would that the Spanish would come

that I might be cutting the Riche churles throats'.<sup>11</sup> Some sixteen Ipswich pewterers continued to service the trade into the 17th century, but by the middle of the century the same craftsmen were sometimes referred to as braziers and others exclusively as braziers. In the 18th century all references are to the more versatile trade of brazier only, the last of whom was John Buddery in 1779.<sup>17</sup>

### BURY PEWTERERS

The population of Bury St Edmunds exceeded that of Ipswich in the early years of the 16th century. As the principal town of West Suffolk and a centre of pilgrimage it is not surprising that a small, but significant number of pewterers were able to sustain their craft in the period prior to the Deed of Surrender of the Abbey in 1539. Ipswich was, nevertheless, the primary centre of wealth, trade and commerce and supported some four times as many pewterers as Bury.

Four braziers have been identified in the pre-Tudor period, but the first Bury pewterer mentioned in the records of the London Pewterers' Company is John White who paid 6s. 8d. 'entrance' to the Worshipful Company, presumably for membership.<sup>18</sup> His name appears again in the Company's searches of 1475-6, in Thetford, where some of his wares were taken for assessment and assay. 'A bill of certain stuff taken by John Vymont (the searcher) at Thetford in the hands of the said John White of Bury in great plates ix, middle platters x, great dishes xvii, middle dishes xv, middle saucers xix, in iii penny ware xvii, ii penny ware xvi, all this taken iii day of May'.<sup>19</sup> John Magson, sometimes referred to as Anyson on account of careless reading of the disjointed script in the surname, was a prominent member of the London Company in the early years of the 16th century who originated from Bury (Cotterell 1929, 148). He was elected Warden in 1502, 1508 and 1513 and became Master in 1523 (Welch 1902 II, 205). It is probable that he resided in London during his term of office, but he may well have learned his craft in Bury although there are no local records. John Annable (Hannable), pewterer of Bury St Edmunds (with Robert Wrighte, glazier), was granted a twenty-two year lease by the Abbey of the manor of Haberden and lands in the 'Vynefeld' in Bury in 1533.<sup>20</sup> His son John was also a pewterer and the beneficiary of the will of John the elder.<sup>21</sup>

The five pewterers identified in Bury in the 17th century are well documented. The 1636 will of Thomas Bumpstead of Cook Row, Bury reflects the tradition of craftsmen passing their business and the tools of their trade to their sons.<sup>22</sup> He leaves 'To my son Thomas all sadware, moulds and tools belonging to same. 10 garnish (see note 6) of rough pewter, all jugs, trenchers, spoons and 2 dozen lay salts and 10 plates which I did lend forth. To my son Joseph all my hollow ware moulds and tools belonging thereto and £30'.<sup>23</sup> It is interesting to note that his son Thomas is probably the T. Bumpsted referred to in the London records (Ricketts 2001, 59) who emigrated to America with his wife and two small sons and was recorded as working in Boston in 1640. He may also be the Thomas Bomsted searched in Ipswich in 1635 whose chamber pots were seized and deemed defective.

William Gilly, Charles Legrice and Cornelius Melchior were the subjects of the Bury search in 1675.<sup>24</sup> William Gilly is of particular interest in that he is the only Suffolk pewterer whose touch mark and hallmark (Fig.21) can be assigned with some confidence (Peal 1983, 22). The Gilly family were armigerous and, although the bull's head of William's touch mark was not taken from the family crest, the presence of the five pointed star, or mullet, indicates that he was a third son. His own son, also called William, married Elizabeth Maltwood of Bury and their son, another William, inherited Thurston Hall in Hawkedon.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, the only artefact that can be attributed to any of the Suffolk pewterers surveyed in this article with certainty is an outstanding dish of 14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches diameter made by William Gilly (Fig. 22). The dish is decorated with a wriggle-work design depicting a pelican on her nest with her young, piercing her breast: '*The Pelican in Her Piety*'. Wriggle-work is the most famous form of decoration on British pewter and is achieved by careful incision using a hammer and nail or chisel. The touch mark and hallmark of William Gilly are taken from this dish.

The touch of Cornelius Melchior is also known from the period when he practised in Norwich

after 1702 (Peal 1983, 36). The Melchior were notable Norwich pewterers and Cornelius probably returned to the family workshops after the death of the more senior members of the family Thomas and John.

### SMALLER TOWNS

Consumers needed to purchase pewter only occasionally and pewterers usually practised in market towns which provided a range of specialist goods not available elsewhere in the locality. Sudbury, for example, dominated Babergh hundred in south-west Suffolk and a muster roll of 1522 records a solitary pewterer who serviced the needs of over 10,000 people in the hundred (Hatcher and Barker 1974, 123; Patten 1972). Most of the rural population would not have access to a pewterer's workshop, however, and would make their purchases from markets and fairs. Five further craftsmen have been identified in the smaller towns during the Tudor period. Of these John Jackson is recorded as a market pewter in Saxmundham in 1514<sup>26</sup> and John Turner of 'Okelie' (Oakley, Suffolk) had small amounts of sub-standard ware seized at a market or fair during the Company's search of 1569 at Harleston in South Norfolk.<sup>10</sup>

The number of active pewterers or braziers in the main commercial centres of Ipswich and Bury declined significantly in the 17th century and yet this was a period which saw a substantial increase in the demand for domestic ware. It is therefore not surprising that there should have been an increase in the number of craftsmen working in the smaller towns, but the numbers remain small. The interesting will of 1611 of John Cooper, of Framlingham, refers to his presence 'at the castell'.<sup>27</sup> Pewterers remained in Framlingham during the 17th century as a market rental indicates that a pewterer was one of ten traders holding a shop within the market, presumably trading from within the Market-House (Ridgard 1985, 18). The executor of John Cooper's will was George Phillips of Debenham, referred to as 'his master' and from whom he no doubt learned his trade. Evidences of title of purchase by George Phillips are available for 1594, with subsequent transfer to his son Nicholas Phillips of Ipswich, grocer, in 1625 (Allen 2000, 374). The Phillips family continued the pewtering tradition in central Suffolk, but the precise relationships between them is unclear. The brazier James Phillips died in 1666, Robert Phillips was searched at Harlesworth in 1675 as was another James Phillips at Ipswich.<sup>24</sup>

By the end of the 17th century the term pewterer increasingly gave way to brazier as the craft diversified into new forms of metalware. The inventories of two Beccles braziers indicate both the success of the enterprise and the significance of pewter within it, at least during the early years of the 18th century. The inventory of 1723 of Thomas Stubbs, whose total goods in shops, yards and counting house were valued at £1,259 included 'ordinary sadware, rough sadware, hard metal dishes, ordinary plates, liquor measures, basins and spoons'.<sup>28</sup> These pewter articles show that a wide range of artefacts was available for purchase and their value of £49 excludes the most costly items which were moulds for casting and tools. Stephen Bootman's inventory of 1738 refers to his shops in Framlingham, Halesworth and Beccles indicating the continued presence of the craft in the smaller towns up to the period of national decline when pewter was unable to withstand the competition from new materials.<sup>29</sup>

### PEWTER IN SUFFOLK

Churches are the custodians of some of the most interesting pewter in the county. A survey of the 33 churches in the Deanery of Woodbridge has revealed 8 flagons, 1 tankard, 24 plates or alms dishes, 3 basins or bowls, 2 patens and 1 modern chalice. The treasury of St Edmundsbury Cathedral holds 4 early flagons from different parts of the county.

Moyses's Hall Museum in Bury St Edmunds has a display of Romano-British pewter tableware which includes 7 plates or dishes, 2 cups and a bowl discovered in 1970 at Mill Farm, Bardwell.<sup>30</sup> A further hoard of Romano-British pewter can also be seen at the private museum at Elveden by private arrangement. Moyses's Hall Museum also has on display an outstanding Charles II tankard, c. 1690, with wriggle work decoration (Fig. 23). There are also a number of later pieces either on display or in store.

Ipswich Museum has a small plate, which may be Romano-British, and an interesting, early, large dish c. 1600. Four flagons from the church of Rickinghall Inferior provide examples of the earliest ecclesiastical styles of James I (Fig. 24) and Charles I; together with two later so-called 'spire' flagons of the 18th century. A display of domestic tableware, in Christchurch Mansion, also includes a substantial quantity of 18th and 19th century plates, dishes and the larger chargers.

Unfortunately none of these items can be attributed to any of the pewterers discussed in this article and the magnificent dish by William Gilly (Fig. 22) is the only piece of certain provenance.

## APPENDIX

### SUFFOLK PEWTERERS

#### *Sources and Abbreviations*

- PRI. *Index to the Probate Records of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk 1444–1700.*  
(B.R.S.1979)
- PRS. *Index to the Probate Records of Sudbury 1354–1700.*  
(B.R.S.1974)
- NCC. *Index to the Probate Records of the Norwich Consistory Court 1370–1684.*  
(N.R.S. 1945,1953, 1958)
- PCC. *Index to the Probate Court of Canterbury 1383–1619.*  
(B.R.S. 1895, 1901, 1912)
- PCR. *Pewterers Company Records.*
- PCS. *Pewterers Company Searches.*
- ICR. *Ipswich Corporation Records.* Transcriptions by Vincent Redstone.  
Suffolk Record Office Ipswich (SROI).  
Dates define first and last entries. ( ) defines number of entries.
- JPS. *Journal Pewter Society.*

#### *Ipswich*

##### **Edmund Winter**

1453–1473. PCR.  
Bailiff 1456, 1459, 1462, 1466, 1476.  
Presumed father to Nicholas Wynter.

##### **William Winter**

1452–1472. ICR (5) 30Hen.VI-10Ed.IV.  
Treasurer 1449, Chamberlain 1465, Coroner 1472.

##### **Nicholas Wynter**

(Winter)

1475–1488. ICR (19) 14–22Ed.IV, 1–4Hen.VII.  
1488. PCC Will.  
Chamberlain 1477, Portman 1480,  
Bailiff 1485.  
Sons. Edmund, late of Ipswich ICR.  
John Wynter. 1488–1491. ICR (2) 3–6Hen.VII.  
Nicholas Wynter. 1506. ICR(1)21Hen.VII.



FIG. 21 – Touch and hall marks of William Gilly.



FIG. 22 – Dish by William Gilly (reproduced by courtesy of Malcolm and Sylvia Toothill, *The Pewter Society*).





FIG. 23 – Charles II tankard (*reproduced by courtesy of St. Edmundsbury Museum Service*).



FIG. 24 – James I flagon (*reproduced by courtesy of Ipswich Borough Council Museums and Galleries*).

- William Revet**  
(Rivet) 1478–1509. ICR(22) 17–22Ed.IV, 2–22Hen.VII, 1–5  
Hen. VIII.  
Chamberlain 1490, Bailiff 1501, Justice 1502.  
Son. William Revet. 1528. ICR(4) 20–21Hen.VIII.
- Giles Lackford** 1478. ICR(2) 18–19Ed.IV.  
In dispute with the Pewterers' Company. JPS,  
Homer. R.F. Vol. 6(3), 1988.
- William Wight** 1479. Calendar of Freemen of Norwich.
- Richard Wegen**  
(Wegyn) 1488. ICR(1) 3Hen.VII.
- William Creyk** 1487–1493. ICR(4) 2–8Hen.VII.
- Richard Kirke**  
(Kyrke) 1494–1509. ICR(10) 9–24Hen. VII.  
Sergeant 1508/9, 1519.
- Nicholas Outyng** 1499–1507. ICR(3) 14–22Hen. VII.  
1538. PRI will.  
Sergeant 1515, 1517/18, 20–24, 28.
- John Smyth** 1499–1509. ICR(6) 14–24Hen.VII. 1516. NCC will.  
Chamberlain 1508.  
Son. Roger Smyth. 1521–1534 ICR(6) 12–25Hen.VIII.
- Giles Laesmith** 1505. ICR(1) 20Hen.VII.
- Robert Byrd** 1511. PRI will.
- Thomas Bryan** 1511–1512. ICR(3) 2–3Hen.VIII.
- Christopher Lymer**  
(Limmer, Lymner) 1514–1545. ICR(20) 1–36Hen.VIII. 1558. PRI will.  
Chamberlain and Burgess 1511,  
Bailiff 1543, Justice 1544.
- William Smyth** 1514. ICR(5) 1–5Hen.VIII.
- Robert Hardyng** 1517. PRI will.  
Son. John Hardyng 1521–1530  
ICR(13) 12–21Hen.VIII.
- John Smyth** 1521–1523. ICR(1) 12–14Hen.VIII.
- Roger Smyth** 1521–1534. ICR(7) 12–25Hen.VIII  
Son of John Smyth, Chamberlain 1508.  
Son. Roger Smyth. 1540–1554.  
ICR(19) 25–37Hen.VIII, 2-6Ed.VI
- John Hardyng** 1521–1530. ICR(13) 12–21Hen.VIII.  
Son of Robert. 1517. PRI will.

- Nicholas Cony** 1527. ICR(1) 19Hen.VIII.
- William Revett** 1528. ICR(4) 20–21 Hen. VIII.  
Son of William, Bailiff 1501
- Robert Smyth** 1531–1544. ICR(3) 22–35Hen.VIII.
- J. Bury** 1542. ICR(1) 33Hen.VIII.
- E. Goodyng** 1542. ICR(1) 33Hen.VIII.
- T. Tilden** 1546–1552. ICR(3) 37Hen.VIII–5Ed.VI..  
Son J. Tylden 1588–1616 ICR(2) 30Eliz.I?
- Nicholas Brenn** 1547. PRI will.
- Richard Deene** 1550–1552. ICR(4) 4–6Ed.VI.  
(Dene)
- Henry Bodman** 1553–1564. ICR(2) 6Ed.VI, 6 Eliz.I. 1573 PRI will.  
Son Laurence Bodman? 1575–1578.  
ICR(5) 17-42Eliz.I.
- Luke Melton** 1564–1591. ICR(8) 6–33Eliz.I.  
1591. PCC will.  
Chamberlain 1585.
- Robert Lymmer** 1569. PCS searched.  
(Lymner, Lymer  
alias Lymbard) 1574–1602. ICR(5) 14–44Eliz.I. Chamberlain 1574.  
Bailiff 1580, 1586, 1593. Justice 1587, 1594.
- John Brende** 1569–1591. ICR (17) 11–33Eliz.I.  
(Brenne) Chamberlain 1552? Coroner 1569–1590.
- Thomas Smythe** 1569. PCS searched.  
1597. ICR(1) 39Eliz.I.  
1603. PCC will.  
Son Thomas Smith  
1610–1627. ICR(3) 7–2 Jas.I.
- Laurence Bodman** 1575–1578. ICR(5) 17–42Eliz.I.  
Son of Henry Bodman?
- I. Lymmer** 1586–1589. ICR (2) 2–41Eliz.I.
- J. Burye** 1589. ICR(1) 31Eliz. I.
- Simon Gooding** 1589–1592. ICR(5) 31–34 Eliz.I.  
(Goodinge) 1605. PRI will.

- J. Tylden** 1588–1616. ICR(2) 30Eliz.I, 11Jas.I.
- I. Lewes** 1596. ICR(1) 38Eliz.I.
- John Lybert** 1610. Brazier. PRI will.
- Thomas Smith** 1610–1627. ICR(3) 7–12Jas.I, 2Chas.I.  
1635. PCS searched.  
Son of Thomas Smythe 1603 PCC will.
- William Kimbleton** 1614. Brazier. PRI will.
- John Benhall** 1612. ICR(1) 9Jas.I.  
1603. PCC will , bequest from Thomas Smith, kinsman.  
1604. PRI will.
- Thomas Somer** 1614. ICR(1) 11Jas.I.
- Richard Wolpett** 1614–1630. ICR(3) 11, 18Jas.I, 5Chas.I.
- Thomas Limbard** 1618–1638. Brazier. ICR(6) 15Jas.I.–13Chas.I.  
(Lymbard, Lymer  
Lymberd, Lymber) 1638. PRI will. Beneficiaries wife and  
wife's son Stephen Serson (Searson) 1675. PCS .
- Robert Bristowe** 1630–1653. ICR(2) 5Chas.I, Prot. 4.  
1635. PCS searched Robert Buistones?  
1655. PCC will.
- Robert Kimbleton** 1630. ICR(1) 5Chas.I.  
Son William Kimbleton 1614 PRI will?
- Thomas Bomsted** 1635. PCS searched.
- Richard Nunn** 1635. PCS searched.
- William Rogers** 1644. Brazier. ICR(1) 19Chas.I.
- John Benhall** 1649. PRI will.
- Timothy Brown** 1657–1674. ICR(12) 8Prot–14Chas.II.  
1676. PRI will.
- Stephen Searson** 1675. PCS searched.  
1713–1715. Brazier. ICR(2) 11Anne-2Geo.I.  
1638. Beneficiary will Thomas Limbard.  
1722. PRI will. Beneficiary Son William Searson.
- James Phillips** 1675. PCS searched.

- William Searson** 1723. ICR(2) 9Geo.I.  
Son of Stephen Searson 1639 PRI will.
- Ephraim Rogers** 1725. Brazier. ICR(1) 11Geo.I.
- Edward Duke** 1720–1733. Brazier. ICR(5) 6Geo.I–6Geo.II.  
(Duck, Docke) 1734. Edward Dewk Jnr. Brazier. ICR(1)7Geo.II.
- Edward Pope** 1736. Brazier. ICR(1) 9Geo.II.
- Francis Humphrey** 1768. Brazier. ICR(1) 8Geo.III.
- Thomas Crawley** 1772. Brazier. ICR(1) 12Geo.III.  
1777. ICR will.
- John Boddery** 1779. Brazier. ICR(1) 19Geo.III.
- Bury St Edmunds*
- William Rose** 1411. Brazier. PRS
- John Roche** 1427. Brazier. PRS
- John Cheney** 1471. Brazier. PRS
- John Owey** 1475. Brazier. PRS
- John White** 1474–7 searched. PCS, PCR
- John Magson** 1523. PCR. Master Pewterers' Company, London.  
(Anayson)
- Thomas Bryan** 1526. PCR
- John Maplehed** 1528. PRS
- John Howton** 1528. Brazier. PRS
- Thomas Spere** 1531. PRS  
1561. Son. Thomas?
- John Long the elder** 1534. Brazier. PRS
- John Annable** 1561. PRS  
1591. Son. John Annabell.
- Henry Fryor** 1570. PRS
- William Long** 1595. Brazier. PRS
- Thomas Bumpsted** 1636. PRS  
Sons. Joseph and Thomas Bumpsted.

**William Gilly** 1675. Brazier. Searched. PCS.  
1716. NCC inventory.

**Charles Legrice** 1675 searched. PCS  
1687. PRS will.

**Cornelius Melchior** 1675 searched. PCS

**John Butcher** 1695 Brazier. PRS

*Smaller Towns*

*Beccles*

**Thomas Stubbs** 1675. PCS. Brazier. 1723 PRI Inventory.

**Stephen Bootman** 1738–9. Brazier. PRI Inventory.

*Debenham*

**George Phillips** 1594. ICR

**James Phillips** 1666. Brazier. PRI

*Framlingham*

**John Cowper** 1611. PRI

*Halesworth*

**Robert Phillips** 1675. PCS

**Richard Tunse** 1675. PCS

*Haverhill*

**George Awsten** 1663. Brazier. PRS

*Monks Eleigh*

**William Jefferie** 1605. ICR(2) 2–6 Jas.I.

*Nayland*

**John Gye the elder** 1667. Brazier. PRS

*Newton***Richard Radford** 1575. PRS*Oakley***John Turner** 1569. PCS*Occold***Richard Gates** 1582. PRS*Saxmundham***John Jackson** 1514. ICR(1) 5HenVIII.*Stoke by Nayland***Hugh Owen** 1606. Brazier. NCC will.*Sudbury***George Osborne the elder** 1605. PRS**George Osborne** 1638. PRS**Thomas Jarvis** 1678. Brazier. PRS*Thorndon***Chas Whitman** 1601. ICR(1) 48Eliz.I.

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## NOTES

- 1 Personal communication R.F. Homer, archivist *Worshipful Company of Pewterers*.
- 2 S.R.O.I. C/1/7/1/3/4 and C/1/7/1/3/5
- 3 S.R.O.I. Redstone transcriptions 942.64 Ips. Vol. viii.
- 4 P.C.C. Wills, 32 MILLES.
- 5 Fine metal is a term used to denote the top quality tin alloy, usually a mixture of tin and copper with some other metals. Lay metal is a lower quality material with lead as an additive to tin.
- 6 A garnish of pewter contained 12 plates, 12 dishes and 12 saucers.
- 7 N.C.C. Wills, 112 Spurlings.
- 8 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xv.
- 9 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xvii.
- 10 The Company Searches of 1569, correspondence R. Homer.
- 11 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xii.
- 12 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xx.
- 13 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xi.
- 14 P.C.C. Wills, 2 Harrington.
- 15 The "*Task Book*" of St. Mary at the Tower, Ipswich 1610. SROI FB91/E1/1.
- 16 P.C.C. Wills, 82 Harte.
- 17 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xxiv.
- 18 Personal communication R.F. Homer.
- 19 *Ibid.* Quoted verbatim but with modern spelling.
- 20 Cal. Pat. Rolls 1558-60, 395.
- 21 S.R.O.B. R2/8/36 and A5/2156.
- 22 S.R.O.B. R2/57/76.
- 23 Sad ware is a term for flatware, plates or dishes. Hollow ware denotes drinking vessels or flagons.
- 24 The Company Searches of 1675, correspondence R.F. Homer.
- 25 BL Add MS 19, 131 fol. 280, 284.
- 26 S.R.O.I. 942.64 Ips. Vol. xv.
- 27 S.R.O.I. IC/AA1/47/72.
- 28 S.R.O.B. Fe 1/16/24.
- 29 S.R.O.B. Fe 1/26/8.
- 30 *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archeol.*, xxxi, 92-93.

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