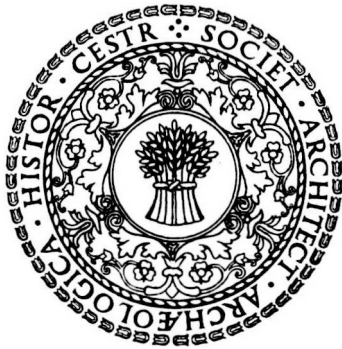


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The Council of the Society announces with the deepest regret the death of its patron, Col. His Grace the Duke of Westminster, D.S.O., whose obituary appears in this volume.

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Sketch made about 1550 and used as the frontispiece to the first of the Chester Goldsmiths' minute books.

Chester Goldsmiths

FROM EARLY TIMES TO 1726

by

CANON MAURICE H. RIDGWAY, B.A., F.S.A.

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PREFACE

Anyone undertaking a work of research of this nature is deeply indebted not only to those who in the past took the trouble to place on record in innumerable and often rare books of reference the information from which later generations can draw, but to a host of persons who by their encouragement and help supplied new material and evidence on which to work. Neither source, however, can take the place of personal research, and I have attempted to see and examine afresh almost every piece of plate mentioned in this book. This has been especially valuable when testing the reliability of the monumental work by Sir Charles Jackson, *English Goldsmiths and their marks*, 2nd edition, 1921, to which constant reference is made. This applies also to all other documentary evidence both in manuscript and print, but so little has been written previously about the Chester goldsmiths that I can claim that most of the information now passed on is new to the general public. I am, nevertheless, fully aware that although I have attempted to make it as accurate and as complete as possible, other interesting facts about the lives of the Chester goldsmiths and examples of their work may still come to light, and it is my sincere hope that this record will help to disclose such information. In recording and innumrating Chester plate, I also hope to establish an easily identifiable pedigree to these remaining pieces, perhaps making successful theft less easy.

Among the many I would like to list for special mention, I am particularly grateful to the Chester Goldsmiths' Company through their last Assay Master, Mr. Vincent Ward, for placing at my disposal the earliest records of the Company and for allowing some of the pages to be photographed. I would like to thank Sir Leonard and Lady Stone who first planted the idea for this book and Mr. John Lowe, goldsmith, of Chester, for generous encouragement at all times; Mr. Charles Oman; Mr. Claude Blair of the Department of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Mrs. G. E. P. How; Miss Judith Bannister and Mr. Gerald Sanders of the Society of Silver Collectors; the Librarian of Goldsmiths' Hall, London; Mr. Arthur Westwood, Assay Master at Birmingham; Mr. Brian Redwood, Cheshire County Archivist; Mr. Arthur Grimwade and Mr. Michael Clayton of Christie, Manson and Woods; Mr. Denis Petch, Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester; The Right Rev. D. D. Bartlett, Lord Bishop of St. Asaph; Her Grace Anne Duchess of Westminster; the Holt Trustees; Archdeacon emeritus R. V. H. Burne; Lord Kenyon; Lord Mostyn; Mr. George B. Leach; the Rev. R. E. Mallinson of Bolton; Mr. D. Lockett; Colonel and Mrs. R. H. Whineray and the late Mr. Sidney Jeavons of Streetly, Staffordshire. I would also like to thank the Chester Archaeological Society under its Chairman Miss A. F. Estelle Dyke; Mrs. E. K. Berry who, not only in her capacity as City Archivist, but also as Editor of the Chester Archaeological Society *Journal*, gave invaluable assistance in preparing the manuscript for the press; Mr. Michael Sherratt of Bowdon for preparing the plates; and also the innumerable clergy throughout England and Wales, but especially in the Dioceses of St. Asaph, Chester and Bangor, who have, almost without exception, shown the greatest interest, courtesy and co-operation in these researches, often at what must have been great inconvenience to themselves. Lastly I would like to thank my own family, who on so many occasions have accompanied me on my travels in search of Chester silver, have waited so patiently whilst it was studied, and have helped at all times.

I would also like to thank the following for their courtesy and kindness in allowing me to use photographs, and for the trouble so many took to provide them: Her Majesty the Queen for plates 4 and 5, from photographs supplied by the National Museum of Wales; Chester Goldsmiths'

Company for the frontispiece and plates 9, 10, 11, 33 and 34; the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, for plates 1-3, 55, 59 and 60; Chester Corporation for plates 6, 27-29, 78-79 and 83; Caernarvon Corporation for plates 80-82; Lord Mostyn for plate 7; Carlisle City Museum for plate 8; Cheshire County Record Office for plates 12 and 39; Mrs. G. E. P. How for plates 56-57; Manchester City Art Gallery for plate 54; Mr. Charles Oman and the Oxford University Press for plates 16 and 18; the Holt Trustees for plates 23-26; Messrs. Spink and Son for plate 48; the Ven. L. S. Tyler, Vicar of Leigh and Mr. R. D. Halliwell for plates 31-32; Mr. Gerald Sanders for plates 44-45, 49-50; Mrs. G. E. P. How and Sotheby and Co. for plate 35; Mr. D. Lockett and Mr. Inglis of Messrs. Spink and Son for plates 36-37, 46-47 and 52-53; Mr. A. C. D. Pain for plate 38; Mr. John Lowe for plate 41; Mr. Arthur Westwood, Assay Master, Birmingham for plates 58 and 61; Mr. Ian Gee of Altrincham for plates 62-77, and the incumbents of the parishes concerned for plates 12-22, 30-32, 42-43 and 84-85. Plates 14-15, 17, 19, 20-22 and 51 have been taken from E. A. Jones, *Church plate of the Diocese of Bangor*, 1906, and plate 40 from T. S. Ball, *Church plate of the City of Chester*, 1907.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- Ball T. Stanley Ball, *Church plate of the city of Chester*, 1907.
- C.A.S. Chester Archaeological Society *Journal*.
- C.C. Chester Corporation Archives.
- CWA. Churchwardens' accounts.
- C.S. *Cheshire Sheaf*: NS. New Series; TS. Third Series.
- F.H.S. Flintshire Historical Society *Journal*.
- F.R. *The rolls of the freemen of the City of Chester 1392-1805*, edited by J. H. E. Bennett, Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society, vols. 51 and 55, 1906, 1908.
- Jackson Sir Charles Jackson, *English Goldsmiths and their Marks*, 2nd ed. 1921.
- Jones E. Alfred Jones, *Church plate of the Diocese of Bangor*, 1906.
- L.C.A.S. Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, *Transactions*.
- L.C.H.S. Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society, *Transactions*.
- L.C.R.S. Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society.
- Morris R. H. Morris. *Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor Reigns*, [1895].
- P.R.O. Public Record Office, London.
- R.C.A.M. *Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments*.

