

THE HASLEWOOD FAMILY OF NORWICH GOLDSMITHS

By G. N. BARRETT

IN the 150 years during which Norwich Plate was (with some exceptions) assayed and date marked, there were forty-three men awarded the freedom of the City on becoming goldsmiths.

We know comparatively little of many of them, but there is one family unique in their continuity—from father, son to grandson—from 1627 till 1740 in the trade. What is most unusual is that they were all named alike, Arthur Haslewood.

Arthur Haslewood I was born in 1593. He was apprenticed to David Aynsworth, the goldsmith, and after serving his seven years, became a freeman of the City in 1625. He became a successful silversmith, and was three times Warden of the Company, in 1628, 1629 and 1640. In 1635 searchers on behalf of the London Goldsmiths Company found he was selling plate of inferior standard and fined him, but the fine was later remitted "because of poverty." All his plate was broken up. He lived to a good age, dying on 25 March 1671, aged 78. He was buried in St. Andrews Church, Norwich.

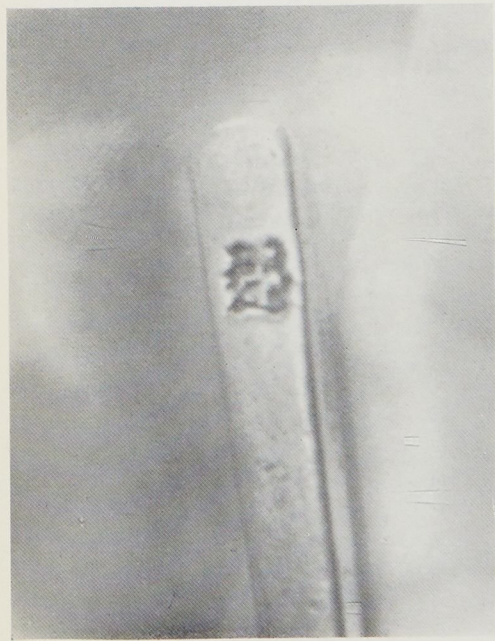
His son, Arthur Haslewood II was born in 1638. He became a freeman by birth, and took up his freedom in 1661. He lived in St. Andrews, and became churchwarden in 1675. At the comparatively early age of 46, he died 14 November 1684, and like his father was buried in the parish church.

Arthur Haslewood III was born in 1674, became a freeman of Norwich in 1702, and like his forebears was intimately connected with St. Andrews Church, becoming churchwarden 1717. He died 12 October 1740, and is buried in the same grave as his parents.

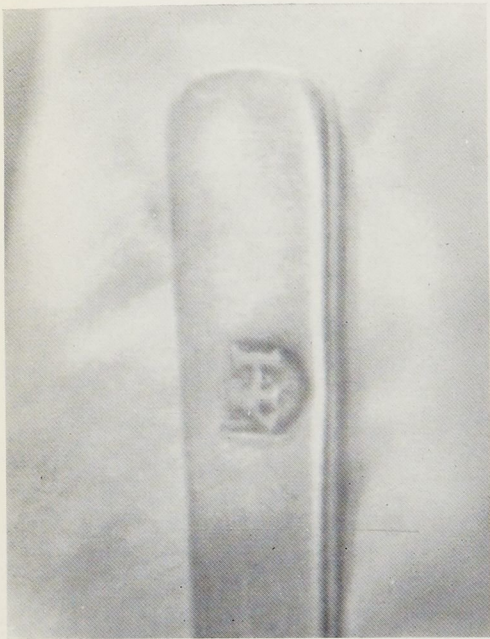
It will be observed that Arthur Haslewood II died in 1684 when his son was 10 years old; but this did not prevent his wife Elizabeth from carrying on the business and using her mark until her son was free.

The Haslewoods lived in the parish of St. Andrew, in which parish was situated the Goldsmiths' Hall. No record exists of their earlier house or shop; but from the end of the seventeenth century until mid-eighteenth century it was situated in London Street, then called Cockey Lane. A cockey was the local name of an open sewer. John Kirkpatrick in his notes on the streets and lanes of Norwich written about 1715 says that "Cockey-bridge seems to have been over that part of the Cockey on the south side when it issued into this street through a certain lane which laid between the houses where Mr. Haslewood the Goldsmith and Mr. Chase the bookseller now live."

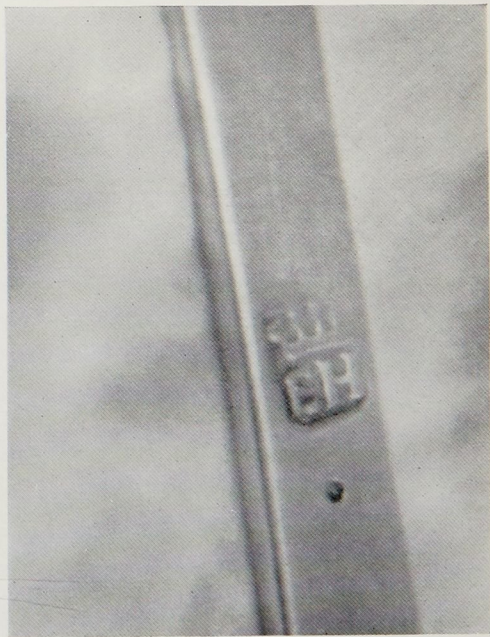
The family played a full part in the life of St. Andrews Church, a fine building with a wealth of monuments to bygone merchants and leading citizens.



SLIPTOP SPOON
Arthur Haslewood I



PURITAN SPOON
Arthur Haslewood II



TRIFID SPOON
Elizabeth Haslewood

All members of the family are buried in the church. Arthur Haslewood I's stone cannot now be seen under the wood flooring of the south aisle pews; but in the south aisle passage is the tombstone of Arthur Haslewood II and his wife and son Arthur Haslewood III.

At the top is the crest and Coat of Arms of the Haslewood family, the crest being a squirrel holding a hazel branch. The Coat of Arms consists of two halves each with a chevron across the centre. In the left half are two hazel leaves above the chevron and one beneath, and in the right half are three owls above the chevron and one beneath. The words carved in the hard black stone are:

Here Lyeth the body of
Arthur Haslewood, who dyed the 14th of
November 1684 aged 46.

Here Lyeth the body of
Elizabeth Haslewood, his wife who dyed
ye 22nd of January 1715
age 71 yrs.

Interred in this place are the remains of
Arthur Haslewood
Goldsmith
who died Oct. ye 12th 1740
aged 66 yrs.

These appear to be the only tombstones to Norwich goldsmiths in existence.

The silver produced by the Haslewood family predominates the second half of the seventeenth century in Norwich. There are, as far as is known, forty-four pieces of domestic plate and fifty-three of ecclesiastical plate still in existence. In the section on Norwich silver in Jackson and other authorities, no attempt has been made to separate the three members of the family with the same name. The initials A. H. are mentioned in all books, articles and sale catalogues without any clarification as between the three men.

We can ignore the third Arthur Haslewood who was free in 1702, the year when, as far as we know, Norwich silver ceased to be assayed in Norwich with the local mark. The puzzle is to separate the first and second, they overlap by ten years, and for the last twenty-eight years of Arthur Haslewood I's life there was no Norwich date stamp, and for the whole of Arthur Haslewood II's working life the same situation appertained.

It is only through recent detailed study that we can put forward a simple clear definition. This is that Arthur Haslewood I stamped his work with a punch having A separate from the H and with an irregular indented edge. Arthur Haslewood II used A.H. conjoined, the right stroke of the A being also the left stroke of the H, generally in a shaped shield. The illustration in Jacksons, page 318 lines 2 and 3 compared with the lines 6 and 7 on the same page give a clear picture of the difference in punches. The spoon on line 8 is wrongly dated, it is probably *circa* 1650.

There are seven seal-top spoons and one slip-topped spoon which appear to be by Arthur Haslewood I. The latest spoon with a date letter is S for 1641,

the others undated and probably *circa* 1650. The latest pricked date is 1653. He also appears to have made a tankard *circa* 1650 and a Serpentine Jug, both are in Norwich Castle Museum. These pieces made during the Commonwealth have irregular marks.

Of the ecclesiastical silver there are four pieces dated between 1636 and 1647 which appear to be by Arthur Haslewood I. One of the finest is a chalice at Framlingham Pigot dated 1638.

The mark with conjoined letters identified with Arthur Haslewood II begins with a Puritan spoon and thirteen trifid spoons of domestic silver. The three other pieces are a tankard, a feeding cup and cover and a beaker, all *circa* 1670. Of ecclesiastical silver there are thirty-three pieces in Norfolk and Suffolk churches, including the communion plate of the Bishops Palace Chapel.

When Arthur Haslewood II died in 1684, he left a widow aged 40 and a son aged 10. His widow continued his business, and immediately used a mark E.H. crowned. Nine trifid spoons are known of this mark, four beakers, two tumbler cups and one snuff box. One spoon has no date mark, it is pricked 1687, one year before a new series of date letters was adopted. A spoon with the K letter of 1697 shows the perfect workmanship that came from her workshop. In churches there are sixteen pieces of plate with the E.H. crowned mark. In 1685 Mrs. Haslewood was paid 42/6d. by the Corporation for gilding the mace.

Investigation into the history of the snuff box mentioned above may be of interest. It is stamped with four punches, E.H. crowned, the Castle and Lion, Rose crowned and the date letter D, and on the lid is engraved a crest consisting of a lozenge pierced by a sheaf of five arrows. Through the College of Arms this has been traced as the crest of the Crowe family resident in Norfolk in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. Blomefield's Norfolk led to a bible in Norwich Cathedral with silver hinges and clasp given by Roger Crowe in 1673 with this Crest engraved thereon. Other information in Blomefield led to St. Andrews Church where memorials on the walls decorated with this Crest commemorated Henry Crowe I, Henry Crowe II and Roger Crowe of that parish. The snuff box is dated by the D of 1691. Roger Crowe died in 1690 so that it can, with almost certainty, be judged to be the property of Henry Crowe II, merchant, who in 1691 was 24 years of age and was a fellow parishioner.

Arthur Haslewood III was free in 1702. The assaying of silver ceased in 1697 through the passing of the Britannia Silver Act. The Act was amended in 1701 and in 1702 Robert Harsonage was appointed assay master. The vitality seems to have departed from the silversmiths of Norwich, and only two pieces of Church plate and one Tankard of 1702 are known, but the goldsmith shop of Haslewoods continued to flourish, and presumably only closed on the death of Arthur Haslewood III in 1740.