

NORWICH GOLDSMITHS' MARKS

By GEORGE LEVINE

FOREWORD

GOLDSMITHS' marks, the subject of this paper, were not used in Norwich until 1565. In that year it was ordered that every goldsmith should stamp his wares with his own mark before submitting them for assay at Goldsmiths' Hall. The Hall was in London Street on the site of Jarrolds' shop and is shown on Blomefield's plan of 1746. If, after assay, the metal was found to conform to the required standard, it was then stamped with the City marks by an official of the Goldsmiths' Company. No documents of the Company have survived and the only information available is from apprenticeship rolls, Court Books, registers and wills. Between 1553 and 1642 twenty-four persons apprenticed to goldsmiths did not take up their freedom. Whether they remained with their masters as workmen, left for other parts as did William Howlett of Lynn, or died, is a matter of conjecture. The subsequent history of one such person is known. On 16 April 1642 Edmund Hobart, then aged 28, son of James Hobart of Holt Market was apprenticed to John Howlett for a term of eight years. It was probably his intention to train as a goldsmith in order to qualify as a banker. He became involved in the abortive Royalist "Christmas Rising" of 1650, escaped by wherry to Yarmouth and thence to London where he lived for some time in disguise. He later made his peace with the Commonwealth and died in 1666 aged 52. His brother, also involved in the rising was less fortunate and was hanged. It will be noted that nearly all the early marks were devices rather than initials. This makes identification of their owners in most cases impossible. In two cases identification has been assisted by the mention of the goldsmith's name in the churchwardens' accounts, and in at least five cases the mark consists of a rebus or play on the maker's name. Only two instances of marks with makers' initials occur during the sixteenth century, those of Christopher Tannor and Valentine Isborne. From the middle of the next century, with one exception, initials only were used. Apprenticeship to the goldsmiths' craft was usually for a period of seven or eight years but there are two instances of terms of nine and one of ten years, in the latter case no premium was given. It is clear that not all who practiced as goldsmiths in Norwich became freemen of the City, as reference is occasionally found to goldsmiths whose names do not appear in the Freemans' Roll. In addition some of the marks are composed of initials which do not coincide with the names of any freemen. It can only be supposed that they were goldsmiths who settled in the City and were allowed to practice their craft for a limited period. The Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company of London made periodic visits to provincial centres of the craft in a supervisory capacity, but by what authority is not clear. On one such visit in 1568 they "took the oaths" of six Norwich

goldsmiths and tested plate found in their workshops. On the premises of Thomas Buttell they found several pieces of plate below standard, which they confiscated. Two instances occur where two makers' marks appear on the same article; the St. Margaret's, Norwich communion cup which bears Peterson's mark together with the "trefoil slipped" mark (No. 11), and the four Dutch Church beakers which carry Cobbold's mark and another mark of a wyvern's head (No. 15). It can only be assumed that in each of these cases, two goldsmiths collaborated in making the pieces.

The financial affairs of the Norwich goldsmiths varied widely. At one end of the scale was Peter Peterson who, judging by his will,¹ must have been quite a wealthy man. Probably most of his wealth was derived from activities outside the craft of the goldsmith, as his work shows no outstanding quality. Cobbold was certainly well off and left a substantial sum in legacies as well as real estate.² I have recently examined the will³ and probate inventory⁴ of Simon Borough or Borrow, who died in 1602. Though only 33 years of age he left nearly forty pounds worth of stock and a very comfortable home. On the other hand some were definitely poor. Valentine Isborne was beset by bailiffs,⁵ Thomas Buttell left to better his fortunes at Cambridge, and even Nicholas Wharlow was lent five shillings by the Churchwardens of St. Andrew's.⁶

Apparently the only remaining untapped sources of information which might lead to the identification of the ownership of the unknown marks, are churchwardens' accounts. Where churches have old Norwich plate and contemporary churchwardens' accounts, a search of the latter may reveal the name of the goldsmith who supplied the piece.

THE MARKS

1. ORB AND CROSS IN LOZENGE

This was the first mark of William Cobbold (used between 1565 and 1569). He was born about 1530, was not apprenticed, free 1551, Warden 1564 and 1566. Lived in the parish of St. Andrew where the Church register records the baptism of his children. He died in 1586. For many years this mark was thought to be that of Peter Peterson. An entry in the churchwardens' accounts at St. John Maddermarket,⁷ under date 1567, records:—"pd. Cobbold makyng and gyldyng ye communion kup with 3 qts. silver 39s. 7d.". The cup fortunately survives and bears the orb and cross mark. Cobbold was by far the most accomplished goldsmith Norwich produced, an outstanding craftsman judged by any standards. Examples bearing his mark are invariably of excellent quality and design. His masterpiece is the "Reade Salt" which is considered to be the finest piece of provincial Elizabethan plate existing. This mark appears on 112 recorded pieces, including the aforementioned "Reade Salt".

As a rebus mark was favoured by at least four other Norwich goldsmiths, I suggest that this mark is a play on the letters ORB of CORBOLD alias Cobbold. Cobbold's will (Norwich Archdeaconry Court Wills 1586 O.W. 80) was signed on 13 May 1585 and proved at Norwich on 18 March 1586 (new style). He died therefore between these dates and probably nearer the latter. He is

described as a goldsmith "late of the City of Norwich" so he may have died outside the city. His burial is not recorded in the register of St. Andrew's Church to which he left 6s. 8d. It is clear from his will that he was a man of substance, leaving real estate; he also left legacies to his five sons, four daughters and to a grandson totalling £111 14s. 10d. There were three witnesses of his will, Peter Peterson, goldsmith, George Birch, apothecary, and Richard Lusser, scrivener. No mention is made of plate, except in a general way, nor is there any mention of stock in trade or tools. Had he already retired from trade at about the age of 56? He was churchwarden of St. Andrews in 1581.

2. ORB AND CROSS IN OBLONG WITH ROUNDED BASE

Cobbold's second mark which he used between 1569 and 1574. Only two examples are known, the Haddiscoe cup and cover and the cover at Little Witchingham.

3. ORB AND CROSS IN SHAPED SHIELD

Cobbold's third mark. Used after 1574, it occurs on the "Peterson" cup in the City collection and on the four Dutch Church beakers. It is also found on two flagons, on the cup at St. Andrew's Norwich and on the cup at Gaywood.

4. ORB AND CROSS IN SHAPED SHIELD

This mark appears on plate made after William Cobbold's death in 1586 and I believe it was adopted by his son Matthew as a family mark. Matthew Cobbold, baptized 23 February 1564, apprenticed to George Fen in 1583, free 1593. Buried in St. Andrew's Church 22 April 1604. This mark occurs on a stemmed cup of about 1600.

5. ORB AND CROSS IN WAVE TOP AND ROUND BASE SHIELD

Possibly the mark of Richard Cobbold who was apprenticed to Timothy Scottowe on 19 March 1622. Apparently only one example is known, on the Attleborough cup and cover of 1627.

6. SUN IN SPLENDOUR

The mark of Peter Peterson. Born in the parish of St. Andrew about 1518, he was apprenticed to John Basyngham and became a freeman in 1554. Master 1565, Warden 1570 and 1587 and Chamberlain of the City in 1574. The mark is a rebus on the last syllable of his name. The churchwardens' accounts of St. Margaret's Norwich record under date 1567 "pd. to Pet' Peterson, ye Goldesmyth, for making ye communion cuppe, for every ownc wourken vjd. Sm xij owc and di vjs. iijd. It. paid more to him for iij qrters of a ownc sylver iijjd". And again in 1568, "It. pd. for amendinge ye communion cuppe, and for makinge ye cover, ijs".⁸ Both the cup and cover bear the above mark while the cup bears the additional mark of a "trefoil slipped" on the foot. The font-shaped cup in the City collection which carries the inscription "THE MOST HERE OF IS DVNE BY PETER PETERSON" carries the orb and

cross mark of William Cobbold. The inscription which has long been misunderstood, is intended to convey the information that most of the metal of the cup came from a 16 oz. cup given to the City by Peterson 1574.⁹ The present cup weighs 30½ oz. According to the late Mr. Beecheno,¹⁰ Peterson lived at what is now No. 3 Castle Street. He died in 1603 and was buried in St. Andrew's Church. That he was wealthy is clear from his long and very detailed will, printed in full in Vol. XI of this Society's reports. Peterson was by no means an outstanding craftsman. His mark occurs only on church plate.

7. FLAT FISH IN OVAL

The mark of Thomas Buttell. The fish is a "but" and the mark is a rebus on the first syllable of Buttell's name. He was probably a member of an Ipswich family of goldsmiths of that name and became a freeman, presumably by purchase, in 1564. His mark appears on forty-two cups and six covers in Norfolk churches. When the London Wardens visited the City in 1568 they reported "brake VII communion cuppes with iiij covers, all white, fond in the hands of Th. Buttell of Norwiche then workynge in Cambridge". Having left Norwich in 1568 he set up in Cambridge and made church plate in that town. There are twenty-seven cups bearing his mark in Cambridgeshire churches, with engraved dates of 1569 and 1570. He also made the cup at Little Harroden, Northants, which he must have sent to London for assay, as it bears the London marks for 1569. His mark also appears on five other cups in Northants.

8. IV ABOVE A HEART

The mark of Valentine Isborne. This mark includes his initials in reverse and the heart is probably a rebus on Valentine. He was the son of Nicholas Isborne and obtained his freedom by patrimony on 19 June 1556. His mark appears on four cups, and in two cases the inscriptions are so quaintly worded as to indicate that he was of Dutch extraction. The Mayor's Court Book of 1568 records:—Valentine Isborne, goldsmith, living in the parish of St. Michael of Muspole, Sheriff's Officer distrained on him by taking tools out of his shop window. After this unpleasantness he, like Thomas Buttell, moved to Cambridge to make plate in the Diocese of Peterborough. The cup of St. Andrew the Great at Cambridge bears his mark and is engraved "THIS FOR SENT TANDROS PARES IN KAMBREDGE". It is also engraved with the date 1569.

9. C T CONJOINED

The mark of Christoper Tannor. He was apprenticed to William Rogers and became free on 21 September 1572. His mark is found on seal top spoons, an apostle spoon and on the mounts of a tigerware jug. It is probable that the covers at Arminghall and Burgh next Aylsham are by him. His mark also occurs on the cup of Ellingham Parva which has an engraved date 1584. He lived in Upper King Street, on or near the site of "The Compasses" public house.¹¹



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10. MAIDENHEAD OF GORGON'S HEAD

Maker's name unknown. This mark is found in the 1560's, mainly on church plate. It occurs on forty-four cups and five covers in Norfolk churches and on four cups in Suffolk churches. It also occurs on a two-handled wine cup and on a very interesting cast oval badge with a portrait of Henry VIII, which may have been the badge of office of the Master of the Great Hospital, Norwich. Both bear the date letter for 1567.

11. TREFOIL SLIPPED

Maker's name unknown. So far no piece of secular plate has been found with this mark. It occurs on forty-two cups and nine covers in Norfolk churches and on two cups and covers in Suffolk churches, all between 1566 and 1568. This mark is also found in company with Peterson's on the cup of St. Margaret's, Norwich.

Note: Jackson¹² represents the trefoil with a straight stem, in fact it curves to the left.

12. TUDOR ROSE

Maker's name unknown. Only one example of the mark is known (on the cover, foot and mounts of a stoneware jug) bearing date letter for 1568.

13. MONOGRAM

Maker's name unknown. Only one example of this curious mark, which somewhat resembles a merchant's mark, is known. It is on the cup and cover at Hassingham with the date letter for 1570.

14. FLEUR-DE-LIS STAMPED TWICE

Maker's name unknown. Two examples of the mark are known. It occurs twice on the cup at Little Snoring and again twice on the cup at Great Snoring together with the Norwich castle and lion mark. The cups are of *circa* 1580 type.

15. WYVERN'S HEAD ERASED AND INCUSE

Maker's name unknown. Only two examples of this mark are known and they are in both cases found in conjunction with William Cobbold's mark. They occur on the Dutch Church beakers and on the cup at Gaywood.

16. BIRD IN SHAPED SHIELD

Maker's name unknown. Three examples of this mark are known:—on the Thomas Lane steeple cup in St. Peter Hungate Norwich, on the cup at Guestwick and on the cover at Smallburgh. The same bird but surrounded with a wreath of leaves occurs on the cover at Bittering Parva. The date of these pieces is 1600-1610.

17. A SHIP

Probably the mark of Richard Shipdam or Shipden with the ship as a rebus. The son of Henry Shipdam, carrier of Norwich, he was apprenticed to Daniel Eynsworth in 1602 and became free in 1609. Warden 1634. His mark appears only on seal top spoons. He died in 1638, aged 52 and is buried in St. Peter Parmountergate Church, where there is a stone to his memory.

18. W H CONJOINED IN SHAPED SHIELD

The mark of William Haydon. He obtained his freedom in 1613 but does not appear to have been apprenticed to a Norwich goldsmith. There is only one example known of his mark, on a beaker of post-1643 date.

19. T S CONJOINED

The mark of Timothy Skottow or Scottow. The son of Richard Skottow, merchant and alderman of the City, he obtained his freedom on 29 March 1617 and was Warden in 1624 and 1633. His name appears among those who refused to contribute to "The Subscription towards the Regaining of Newcastle" in 1643.¹³ In spite of this he was appointed "Receiver of Plate" under the Commonwealth. He died in 1645 and his will indicates that he was in rather reduced circumstances. His mark appears on four cups and two covers, a stemmed wine cup and on a number of seal top spoons. Rye erroneously states that he stamped his productions with a star.

20. A H IN SHAPED SHIELD

The mark of Arthur Haslewood the elder. He was born in 1593, was apprenticed to Daniel Eynsworth, and became a freeman on 30 May 1625. He was the first of a family of goldsmiths who worked in the City for about eighty years. Was Warden of the Company in 1628, 1629 and 1640. Died on 25 March 1671, aged 78 and was buried in St. Andrew's Church. His mark appears on four pieces of church plate, a tankard, mounts and cover of a serpentine jug, seven seal top spoons and a slip top spoon. For further particulars of the Haslewood family see an article by Mr. G. N. Barrett in *Norfolk Archæology*, Vol. XXXIII, pp 318-320.

21. A H CONJOINED IN ANGULAR SHIELD

The mark of Arthur Haslewood the second. He was probably apprenticed to his father and became a freeman by patrimony 26 March 1661. Was a churchwarden of St. Andrew's in 1675. Died 14 November 1684 aged 46 and was buried in St. Andrew's Church, where there is a stone to his memory, bearing the family arms. His mark appears on thirty-three pieces of church plate in Norfolk and Suffolk, also on a feeding cup, a beaker and fourteen spoons mostly of trifid type. His mark is also to be found on the three Spendlove cups in the City Collection.

22. E H CROWNED IN DOMED SHIELD

The mark of Elizabeth Haslewood, widow of Arthur Haslewood the second. She carried on her husband's business after his death in 1684. The Mayor's Court Book records that on 14 January 1685 (new style) "Mrs. Haslewood to be paid 42/6 for gilding the sword". The Town Book of Brooke also records under date 29 December 1689 "Paid Mrs. Hazelwood for mending the Communion plate 5/6" (the cup and cover at Brooke are by William Cobbold). Her mark appears on sixteen pieces of church plate, four beakers, two tumbler cups, a snuff box and nine trifid spoons. She died 22 January 1715, aged 71 years and is buried in the same grave as her husband. The family lived in a house in London Street, opposite Little London Street. There is another version of this mark in an angular shield.

23. A PEGASUS

Maker's name unknown. It is found on two cups and on two covers in Norfolk churches and on the splendid flagon of St. Gregory's Church, Norwich, which is hallmarked 1627. It also occurs on seal top spoons.

24. W D CONJOINED WITH A PHEON BELOW

Maker's mark unknown. It is possible that the owner was a London goldsmith who worked for a short time in the City around 1630. The identical mark appears on the cover at Newton by Sudbury, Suffolk, together with the London hallmarks for 1627. The mark appears on only one piece of Norwich plate, the Dehem Flagon of 1630 date in the City collection.

25. A LION RAMPANT

Maker's name unknown. It occurs on three pieces of Norfolk church plate—on cups at St. Simon & Jude, Norwich, at Toftrees, on the cover at Potter Heigham and on three pieces in Suffolk churches. It is also found on a spoon with Virgin and Child finial and on seal top spoons. All these pieces bear hallmark dates 1634–1639.

26. A PELICAN IN HER PIETY

Maker's mark unknown. It appears on six church cups, on four covers and on seal top spoons, all of 1628–1640 date.

27. A TOWER INCUSE

Maker's name unknown. There is only one example known of this mark. It occurs on the mounts of a coconut cup in Norwich Museum which bear the Norwich hallmarks for 1641. The foot of the cup is engraved with the arms of Calthorpe impaling Lewknor.

28. WE AND AH IN MONOGRAM

This is clearly a partnership mark and is almost certainly that of William Edwards and Arthur Haslewood the second. William Edwards was apprenticed to John Howlett and became a freeman on 24 February 1653. They probably entered into partnership when Haslewood obtained his freedom in 1661, as the fine cup and cover at Southwold which bears this mark also has the engraved date 1661. This mark is incorrectly given in Jackson.¹⁴ It is also found on a slip top spoon, the cup at Yaxham, cover at Mulbarton and on the cover at Ilketshall St. Margaret in Suffolk.

Their names appear one above the other, when they subscribed five shillings each to the "Voluntary Gift" to the King in 1662.¹⁵

29. E D IN RECTANGLE

Maker's name unknown. Only one example of this mark is known. It occurs on a mug of 1680 period in Norwich Museum.

30. A HEAD IN HELMET

Maker's name unknown. This mark is given in Jackson as a "bust" but on the cup at Worstead it is clearly a head wearing a helmet. The Worstead cup has an engraved date 1664. The mark also occurs on the Windham Cup in the City collection, on a cover at Stansfield in Suffolk, on a seal top spoon and on a fine oval tobacco box of 1675 period.

31. R O CONJOINED AND INCUSE

The mark of Robert Osborne. He was apprenticed to Elias Browne and became a freeman on 21 August 1665. This mark, only one example of which is known, was probably his first and it occurs on a beaker of about 1665 date. He lived in the parish of St. Peter Mancroft and was a churchwarden there in 1675.

32. R O BENEATH TWO DOTS

The second mark of Robert Osborne. It appears on a trifid spoon of *circa* 1670 which is in Norwich Museum.

33. TH ABOVE A STAR

The mark of Thomas Havers, born 1646. He was not apprenticed to a Norwich freeman but obtained his freedom 21 September 1674. His mark appears on three communion cups, thirteen covers and a pair of flagons in Norwich and Norfolk churches. He gave an alms dish to St. Michael's-at-Plea, Norwich. His mark is also found on three alms dishes and six covers in Suffolk churches. Three tankards, two mugs, a lemon strainer, a teaspoon and a

number of trifold spoons carry his mark. He was one of the Sheriffs in 1701 and Mayor in 1709. While Mayor he refused the Duke of Norfolk permission to enter the City preceded by trumpeters. In consequence the Duke gave up his palace in the City.¹⁶ Thomas Havers died in 1732, aged 86 years and is buried in the south chapel of St. Michael-at-Plea.

34. J D CONJOINED

The first mark of James Daniell. The son of Joseph Daniell, he does not appear to have been apprenticed to a Norwich goldsmith but became a freeman on 2 March 1693. This mark occurs on an alms dish, a beaker, a salver on foot and on trifold spoons with dates between 1689 and 1691. He was one of the Sheriffs in 1707.

35. JD ABOVE A STAR

The second mark of James Daniell. Only one example of this mark is known, on a porringer of 1696.

36. L G IN RECTANGLE

The mark of Lionel Girling of Beccles. He came of a Yarmouth family and was probably born there. There is no record of him being apprenticed. When the Wardens of the London Goldsmiths' Company visited Beccles in 1703, Girling was fined by them for having sub-standard plate in his possession. His mark appears in conjunction with the Norwich hallmarks for 1691 on the cover at Stockton. It also occurs on a beaker of the same date stamped above the mark of Elizabeth Haselwood. Two other covers in the Beccles area carry his mark only. Although Lionel Girling was, so far as is known, never a citizen of Norwich, it is proper that his mark be included as he used the Norwich Office for assaying.

37. H A IN OVAL

Probably the mark of Thomas Havers. It occurs in conjunction with the Norwich version of "Britannia Standard Marks". These were presumably used after the re-opening of the Norwich Assay Office in 1701 or 1702. Under the provisions of the Statute 8 Wm. III, it was enacted that the first two letters of the plateworker's surname should comprise his mark.

It is therefore possible, though unlikely, that it could be the mark of Robert Harstong or even Thomas Harwood. The mark occurs on the communion cup and on a large cover at Kirstead and also on a fine tankard. These are the last pieces to bear the Norwich marks.

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- ¹N. & N. *Archaeological Soc.*, Vol. XI.
²Norwich Archdeaconry Wills 1586, O.W. 80.
³Norwich Consistory Court Wills 1602. 137 Candler.
⁴Norwich Consistory Court Inventories 1603, No. 152 B.
⁵Mayor's Court Book 1568.
⁶St. Andrew's Churchwardens' Accounts.
⁷*Norfolk & Norwich Notes and Queries*, 2nd Series.
⁸*Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Soc.*, Vol. X, p. 392.
⁹*Eastern Counties Collectanea*, p. 157.
¹⁰Beecheno. *St. Andrew's Church and Parish*.
¹¹Tillet. *St. George Tombland Past and Present*.
¹²Jackson. *English Goldsmiths' Marks*, 2nd edn.
¹³*Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Soc.*, Vol. XVIII, p. 152.
¹⁴Jackson. *English Goldsmiths' Marks*, 2nd edn.
¹⁵*Norfolk Record Society*, Vol. I.
¹⁶Rye. *Norfolk Families*, p. 324.

