

My pewter collection



I bought a set of metric measures in France earlier this year. I found it in a downmarket antique shop in Seès, Normandy.

In fact the set comprises six plus one, the smallest having a slightly different configuration and a different mark.

David Hall put me through to Bob Huddle in France; he in turn introduced me to Jean-Claude Commenchal, a pewter expert there, who catalogues sales for auctioneers and deals in pewter himself.

He identified the mark on my measures, and told me that it was that of Georges Gras of Angers, who made pewter from 1897 onwards. They are thus very late models, from the very end of the C19 or the first third of the last century.

Jean-Claude Commenchal has his own database of makers' marks, mostly French, and thus can identify many marks quickly. His e-mail address is jc.commenchal@orange.fr.



He told me that the law of "Service of Weights and Measures", created in 1802 and imposing an obligation for such measures to be present in each drinking establishment, had never been repealed, and that today one can still ask for one's glass of red wine, for example, to be measured to verify the correct capacity!

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Photos: Alan Williams

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