

Book reviews, a section devoted to looking at interesting books on pewter, old and new. We look first at:

An Introduction to British Pewter

by

David Moulson and Alex Neish

ISBN: 1 85858 102 8

This is a classic booklet, first published in 1997 by Brewin Books, © The Shakespeare Birthday Trust.

Both authors are now Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. In the Introduction, they comment that:

“The origins of pewter are lost in antiquity. The earliest known example of the metal to have survived is the flask-shaped, two-handled, lidded container found in an Egyptian grave at Abydos. Dated to between 1580 and 1350 BC, its alloy comprises 93% tin, 6% lead and 1% copper. Tin is always the major constituent of pewter. On its own the metal is relatively soft and difficult to cast, but the addition of small percentages of hardening agents like copper, lead, bismuth or antimony, overcomes this problem and adds durability.”

This little, lavishly-illustrated, booklet will take you through the ages of the metal, from *Romano-British Pewter*, through the *Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries to Further Reading*.

The WCoP has some spare copies to sell (apply to the [Clerk](#)), otherwise look on e-Bay or Amazon.

David Moulson (<mailto:dmoulson@hotmail.com>) is a collector and dealer in pewter, and an active member of The Pewter Society.

Alex Neish (<mailto:neishpew@gmail.com>) put together the Neish Collection, a renowned collection of British pewter, once displayed by The Shakespeare Birthday Trust at Harvard House in Stratford-upon-Avon, but now happily housed at The Smith Museum (<http://www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk/>) in Stirling.

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