

That NZ Pot

In volume 7.2 of *The Pewterer*, I published a query from Graeme Brody about his 'tea caddy'. I received two very differing responses to his plea for help in identifying his pot. I set them out below and leave those more wise than I am to resolve the differences!

Response 1

From: Philippe BOUCAUD, Expert spécialisé, Haute-Epoque – *Etains Ancien élève de l'Ecole du Louvre, Membre du Syndicat Français des Experts Professionnels en Œuvres d'Art*

"Dear Graeme,

I have seen several of these pewter containers ...

Unfortunately, they are not old, were manufactured in Germany mostly in the years 1950/60.

Sorry to bring bad news!

Best regards,

Php"

Response 2

From Jon Burge

"You probably already have multiple answers to this one.

The item is a continental prisemkanne. These were made in quantity in Switzerland, Germany, etc. The body is made of flat, rolled pewter sheet metal that is cut and folded into usually a hexagon or octagon, and soldered to a base (sometimes with cast foot) and cast top with fittings for a lid. The lid can have a solid or swing handle. There are several names for types of these depending on whether they have a spout and the form of the handle. They are usually made of high quality metal and lack deep corrosion pitting.

The mark is struck thrice which is a common indicator of quality in Germany etc. BLOCK ZINN with various spellings for Swiss, German, Dutch indicates that the item is made of new metal (not recycled) and lead free.

The large flat surfaces are compelling targets for decoration, and most will have some wrigglework on them.

The items were made to contain liquid or solid foodstuffs. They were often wedding etc. gifts with appropriate inscriptions. They were relatively expensive fancy items and more likely displayed on a hearth or some such, rather than being carried daily by a farmer to his fields containing lunch's porridge or wine.

The construction, shape, style etc. of Graeme's can are consistent with the engraved dates 1769/1772; however, the dates inscribed on continental pieces are often questionable. I think it is probably 18thC.



I find these to be quite attractive forms of pewter.

regards - Jon Burge

PS. You are free to publish my observations.

The two items to the left of my picture (right) are circa 1800. The one on the right is probably 17thC. I have several good prisemkane on hand - let me know if you are interested in better photos.”

Alan Williams

With thanks to Jon Burge and Philippe Boucaud for their contributions to this debate. Would anyone like to add to it?

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The Pewterer, Volume 7, number 4, November 2016.

Editor: Alan Williams

Published by Alan Williams, 14 Dandridge House, 31 Lamb Street, Spitalfields, London E1 6ED and endorsed by the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, Pewterers' Hall, Oat Lane, London EC2V 7DE

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