

# Marks on pewter

No, not an article on how to clean pewter. For an articles on cleaning pewter - one with a health warning - see *The Pewterer* Issue 6.1, 2015: <https://sites.google.com/a/thepewterer.org.uk/thepewterer/the-pewterer-volume-6-1> .

The best way, in my view, is still warm soapy water! (See: Volume 3.4.1: [Warm, soapy water](#))

I was, actually, looking for Keyser silver; Keyser were a German firm, based in Leipzig (more of that, possibly, later). The site took us to 'Keyserzinn' and a fascinating troll through silver-plated pewter. 'Zinn' is German for pewter. <https://www.etsy.com/uk/market/zinn>

I had always understood that silver and pewter did not go well together - on the workbench they can 'fight' each other like crazy. I had started to doubt that that was necessarily so when first Keith Tyssen and then Gordon Robertson showed their work with pewter and silver. But that is by-the-by.

And then I found the Canadian site (see below for the url) showing a publication in 1987 by the Environment Parks Canada Service, comprising a comprehensive list of marks; and reference to the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. The work of reference was complete up to about 1900. A quick scroll through produced the marks of a number of Blydes, including Edwin, and John. (See the article about Edwin Blyde in *The Pewterer* Issue 5.3, published in 2014: <https://sites.google.com/a/thepewterer.org.uk/thepewterer/volume-5-3> .)

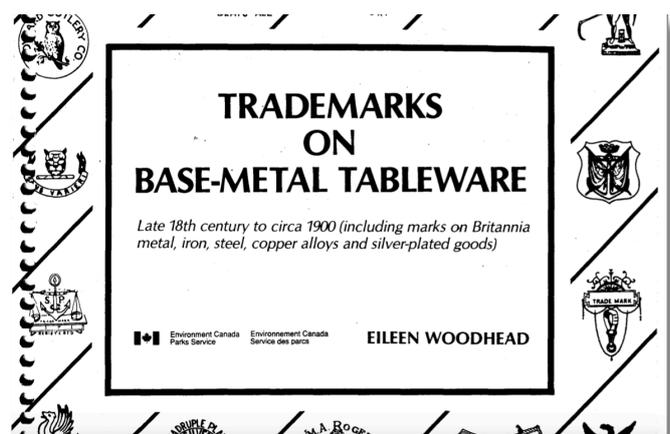
I will leave you to have a happy time hunting through the site, but the introduction, at least, is worth a read, with its reference, already mentioned, to the Company.

## TRADEMARKS ON BASE-METAL TABLEWARE

Late 18th century to circa 1900 (including marks on Britannia metal, iron, steel, copper alloys and silver-plated goods) by EILEEN WOODHEAD

Environment Canada Parks Service  
©Minister of Supply and Services Canada  
1991.

"For a number of years the Metal Unit of the Material Culture Section, Archaeology Research Division, Canadian Parks Service, has maintained a reference file identifying marks found on metal artifacts. This book is a selection of marks on file that relate primarily to tableware items, from the late 18th century to about 1900. These marks were used on tableware and other small hardware goods made in base metals in Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States."



"The base metals used in the manufacture of domestic goods included the ferrous metals, iron and steel, tin alloys (including pewter), and copper alloys such as the brasses and nickel-silver. Tin and silver were used as plating materials. Sheffield and Birmingham were among the large metal

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manufacturing centres in England that had local registries of marks kept by trade organizations: the Cutlers' Company of Sheffield or the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. These compendiums only include marks used by manufacturers.”

The site is at: [https://sha.org/documents/research/Parks\\_Canada\\_Resources/Trademarks%20on%20Base-Metal%20Tableware.pdf](https://sha.org/documents/research/Parks_Canada_Resources/Trademarks%20on%20Base-Metal%20Tableware.pdf)

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