

A Brazilian Far From Home

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On his return from Christmas with friends in central France, Hillary Bagshaw, editor of the Pewter Society's Newsletter, got in touch with me to say: "During a Boxing Day wander through a small *brocante* in the wilds of the French countryside near Saint Sulpice le Dunois, I managed to negotiate the purchase of a small footed pewter bucket with interesting touch marks, and the John Somers name. But I could not fully place the marks.



"I was, therefore, more than usually delighted to read the latest edition of *The Pewterer*, as your item about John Somers ([Pewter in Brazil/3](#)) could not have been better timed. John Somers appears in the Pewter Society Database under reference (PS11677). How a John Somers piece found itself in this back end of beyond I have no idea; but I reckon the rescuing of it was 5 euros well spent."

Hillary sent to me two photos of the bucket and said that it had a height of 66 ms, a rim of 48 ms, a foot of 41 mms, and weighs in at 99gms. He suggested that it was not the most impressive piece physically, but that it was beautifully finished and sported clearer examples of the 3 "known" hallmarks than those already shown on the Pewter Society's brand new database.

Additional marks of "JOHN SOMERS" and a very impressive "M" are stamped under its base and they've obviously been positioned with great care. The "MG" stands for the state of 'Minas Gerais'.



I asked Gregory Somers when the firm was using these marks and what the significance was of the "M"? He said: "M is the year date ... if you start in 1968 then we are talking about a

The Pewterer. Vol. 10.1. March 2019

piece made in 1982. It was made by us at John Somers ... in those days we were still at the helm, only just, but still there.¹

“Pewter manufacture, the Somers family and the Somers’ name is a very confusing story. We are as bad as the worst science fiction novel possible.

“My website is www.designbysomers.com.br - here you will find my version of pewter. Not strictly pewter but now described as ‘homewares’. We have great fun developing new things for people but financial survival is an art in this country.

“If you are an Instagram user, take a look at an instagram account *la table de giselle*, where you will see some of the things we are launching at the gift show in Sao Paulo next week.”²

Articles in *The Pewterer*:

Pewter in Brazil: <http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/home/the-pewterer-volume-4-1>

Pewter in Brazil/2: <https://sites.google.com/a/thepewterer.org.uk/thepewterer/volume-5-3>

Pewter in Brazil/3: <https://sites.google.com/a/thepewterer.org.uk/thepewterer/the-pewterer-vol-9-4-dec-2018>

The Pewter Society: <https://www.pewtersociety.org/>

Websites:

Design By Somers: www.designbysomers.com.br

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PS In the next issue we hope to feature a report, and photos, of the pewter at the Sao Paolo gift show last February.

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The Pewterer, Volume10.1, number 1. March 2019.

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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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¹ The sad story of how the Somers family lost control of their business is told, in part, in the first two articles about Pewter in Brazil: <https://sites.google.com/a/thepewterer.org.uk/thepewterer/volume-5-3>

and <https://sites.google.com/a/thepewterer.org.uk/thepewterer/the-pewterer-vol-9-4-dec-2018>

² Mid-February. See: <https://10times.com/company/paralela-gift>