

# Pewter Hire

Reading my *Ricardian* (the magazine of the Richard III Society) the other day, I came across an article about “The medieval housewife - Part 3 - Luxury Goods”. In it was this reference:

“So the dining table would look at its best, the Celys also hired 16 sets of pewter dishes for the occasion.”

The footnote gave the source for that reference as BA Hensch, “The Medieval Cook” Boydell & Brewer, 2009, p 96. I wonder whether they hired the pewter from the Company, or from a manufacturer? Would the latter hold so much stock? Or could there have been a professional hire service. I suspect it was from the Company, but further research may tell a different story!

The Cely family were wool merchants based in London, and the article concentrated on the arrangements for a commemoration feast for old Richard Cely, who died in 1482.

**Alan Williams**

*The Pewterer*, Volume 8, number 3. October 2017.

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

Articles: copyright the several authors 2017. Get-up: copyright Alan Williams, 2017.

No reproduction without permission. All enquiries to the Editor.