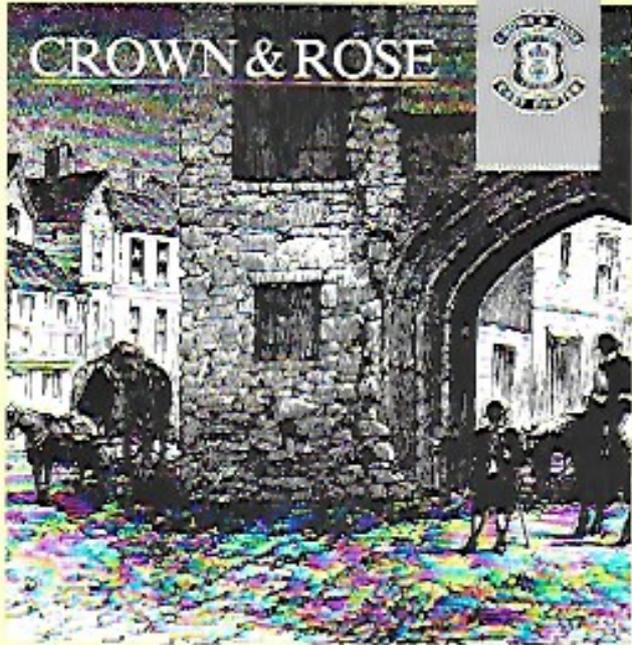


# Crown & Rose

Amongst our papers, during a clear-out, I came across the Crown & Rose advertisement featured here. It brought back many memories; in particular, the memory, as a young liveryman, of joining a group from the Worshipful Company of Pewterers in a visit to the Englefield works, then in Cheshire Street, just round the corner from where we now live.

So the visit must have taken place over 40 years ago!



**CROWN & ROSE**

**Making Pewter is a 300 year old Craft. Come and see the Craftsmen at work.**



**T**ake a step back in time and visit the oldest cast pewter manufacturer in London. Watch pewter made by the same methods, and in many cases, using the same moulds that were used nearly 300 years ago.

Englefields has kept those skills and crafts alive in its traditional Crown & Rose pewter for you to catch a glimpse of London's traditional past.  
Crown & Rose the finest pewter in the world.

**Regular Conducted Tours**  
Conducted Tours are run 6 times a week all year round on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10.30 am and 2.30 pm (Except public holidays and August 8th-19th).

You will also be able to buy pewter from the extensive collection on display at our showroom during your visit.

In Chapter 1 of Elsie Englefields' book, *'Two centuries of Pewtering in London'* published by the Company in 1997, she says of the history of Englefield's:

"A long-standing family tradition traces the origins of Englefield's to the London pewterer, Thomas Scattergood who set up his shop in the capital in 1703. Thomas Scattergood, by the same tradition, was succeeded by Edward Merrieffield who took over his business and struck his touch on the touch plate of the Company in 1724. It is, however, with John Townsend – who is said to have succeeded to Merrieffield's business – that the early history of Englefield's predecessors can be placed on a firm footing.

"In 1767 John Townsend was joined in partnership by Robert Reynolds, with the leave to strike their touch that same year. They moved their business from Holborn to Fenchurch Street (near to the Company's Hall) the next year."

While many dispute the Scattergood tradition, there is no doubt that by 1776 the firm's title was changed to John Townsend and Co, and that in 1784 John Townsend became Master of the Company. There then followed many changes of partnership and name until in 1880, one William James Englefield, Elsie's father, became manager. In 1885 the firm became Brown & Englefield.

In 1935 the company became known as “Englefield’s” following the purchase of the business by Ralph Englefield and Elsie Englefield.



It was in 1904 that Elsie’s brother, William James Englefield, had restored the ancient practice of stamping the company’s cast pewter with touch marks. Two touches from the previous century had been revived, including the “Crowned Rose” touch. This was a crowned rose bearing the wording “Made in London”.



This touch was struck on the Company’s fifth touch plate in 1913. In 1928 the wording on the touch was changed to: “RH Englefield”; and in 1953 a new and more artistic touchmark was designed, the lettering: “Crown & Rose Cast Pewter” being curved round the original “Made in London” mark.



WILLIAM JAMES ENGLEFIELD  
(Master Pewterer),

*Master of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers of London, 1909-10*

The advertising slip (above, page 1) does not appear to give credit to the pewter craft earlier than the 17th century but it does indicate that Englefield’s was flourishing. It is not clear when this advertisement was published but it features a current member of the Company: Roger Withrington, one of the last craftsmen who worked at Englefield’s and who became a Liveryman of the Company in 2006.

Valerie Macdonald, the daughter of Ralph, niece of Elsie and grand daughter of William James, was also one of the first lady Liverymen of the Company. She died in 2008.

In the 1970’s, the Englefield business was sold to the

The Pewterer. vol. 9.4. December 2018

Cookson Group (the Group included Fry's Metals, who were then Englefield's supplier of pewter alloys). Further changes of ownership followed and the business was, in the '90's, sold by Cookson to the Malaysian company, Selangor Pewter, who are using mark (but according to Roger Withrington, not the moulds) today.

## Alan Williams

Books by Elsie Englefield include:

*A Short History of Pewter and its Manufacture; In Common Use Abeyance Revival Together With a Brief Account of the Firm of Brown and Englefield the Last of the Great Pewter Manufacturing Firms of London*

by Englefield, Elsie, Published by The Priory Press, 1933.

*A Treatise on Pewter*, 1934/5, printed (in January, 1935) by The Priory Press, 48 St John's Square, London EC1. This treatise was first delivered by Elsie Englefield on 22nd November 1934, at a Worshipful Company of Pewterers' 'Converzatione' at Cutlers' Hall.

*Two centuries of Pewtering in London*, published in London by the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, 1997

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PS Not only did we find the old advertisement for Englefield's, but a search of the internet brought up the following New York Times article from 1989, about both Englefield's and Roger Withrington:

## English Company Is Exclusive Pewter Maker

January 14, 1989

By Susan G. Sawyer, New York Times

When Roger Withrington was 16, he thought he wanted to be a printer. But one day he walked by Englefields, a pewter manufacturer near his home in the East End of London, saw a help-wanted sign and got the job. "I started by sweeping up and making tea," he recalled. Now, 29 years later, he is a freeman of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers - an indication by the old trade society that he is a craftsman of standing.

Withrington's career closely mirrors that of the late William James Englefield, who took over the company in 1904. By 1909 Englefield, who started work at age 13 in an engineering shop, was a master pewterer, the highest elected position in the trade society.

Today, Withrington is one of the company's 12 skilled workmen.

Although an Englefield has not been associated with the company since the late 1950s (it is now part of the Cookson Group), the concern retains its family-like character.

Founded in 1700 by Thomas Scattergood, Englefields is the last remaining pewter company in London and the oldest cast-pewter manufacturer in the world.

In addition to such predictable items as tankards, teapots and trophies, over the centuries its product line has ranged from bleeding pans commissioned by Florence Nightingale to candlesticks for the altar boys at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The company has its 3,000-square-foot workshop on Cheshire Street in the neighborhood of Bethnal Green, on the second floor of a two-story brick building used as a stable in the late 1800s.

## The Pewterer. vol. 9.4. December 2018

Last year, it produced 90 products, 50,000 items in all. Each piece is handmade by the traditional methods of gravity casting and hand-turning, much as it was done 300 years ago and frequently with the same tools.

In Britain, tankards are the most popular item in the Englefields line, while a series of Christmas bells are most popular in the United States. The production of cast pewter is one of the most traditional crafts in England, and uses one of the earliest forms of metal.

Englefields pewter is made from an alloy that is 94 percent tin, 4 percent antimony and 2 percent copper.

In the Middle Ages, England was the pewter center of Europe. The British had discovered a substance that virtually was unbreakable and imparted no metallic taste.

It did not rust or tarnish, kept its contents at a steady temperature - hot or cold - and was pleasant to the touch.

For quality control, Parliament in 1503 required all London-made pewter to be stamped with the maker's symbol or touchmark.

Only those items made in London could be struck with the Crown & Rose symbol.

By the 1700s there were 400 pewter companies in London. But the popularity of pewter gradually declined as the English discovered tea and preferred drinking it in china or earthenware, and light ale tasted better in glasses than tankards.

In London, only Englefields survived, and it therefore has exclusive use of the Crown & Rose touchmark.

According to Bill Mitchell, marketing manager, total sales in 1987 amounted to about \$445,000 - a 120 percent increase over 1986.

Visitors see the manufacturing process at close hand. They watch the ingots of alloy placed in a huge iron vat, where they are melted at 300 degrees centigrade.

The liquid is poured into molds of gunmetal, steel or bronze - some dating back to 1700. The molds are coated with a mixture of red ocher, pumice powder and egg white so that the pewter clings evenly to the walls.

At the next work station, the resulting rough castings are trimmed and turned on a lathe to remove any uneven edges.

At this stage, the Crown & Rose touchmark is applied by hand.

Specialists in hand turning provide the texture and decorative finish and remove all seams.

If needed, handles, hinges or other embellishments are soldered to the bodies before the pieces are given a final polishing.

Pewter that is cast is heavier and more durable than pewter that is spun - a process in which the metal is spun into shape from flat sheets. If you gently tap cast pewter, it has a ringing sound.

A bell of spun pewter would make a hollow thud.

About 15 items of Englefields Crown & Rose pewter are available in the United States.

[Home](#)

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