

# Book Reviews

Home

## Irish Brass, Bronze and Copper, 1600-1900 by David Hall

David Hall on copper? Not exactly pewter, but as you all know, copper is one of the constituent parts of the pewter alloy! The first study of Irish pewter for this period was made by Cotterell & Westropp in an article published in 1917. In 1995 David wrote a book called *Irish Pewter – A History* and in 2005 he published, with the National Museum, *Types of Irish Pewter*. David is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, the Company Archivist and a member of the Company's Treasures Committee.

With the exception of bells, this is the first work to be undertaken on early modern Irish copper and copper alloy products. Beautifully illustrated in colour, it is not intended to be definitive, but is, rather, an attempt to identify and list the brass founders and coppersmiths in Ireland, and their products, between the 17th and 19th centuries inclusive.

Bronze is, typically, an alloy of 70% copper and 30% tin although the proportion of the ingredients may vary widely.

The other major copper alloy is brass, customarily consisting of about 70% copper and 30% zinc; sometimes a small quantity of lead may be added.

So no excuse is needed to include a reference to this book in a Journal concentrating on pewter.

Special Offer: click-through this [link](#) to order a copy of David Hall's *Irish Brass, Bronze and Copper, 1600-1900* at the special postage-free price of £12.

**Alan Williams**

Irish Brass Bronze and Copper, 1600 - 1900. ISBN: 978-0-901777-98-0

### Irish Brass, Bronze and Copper, 1600-1900

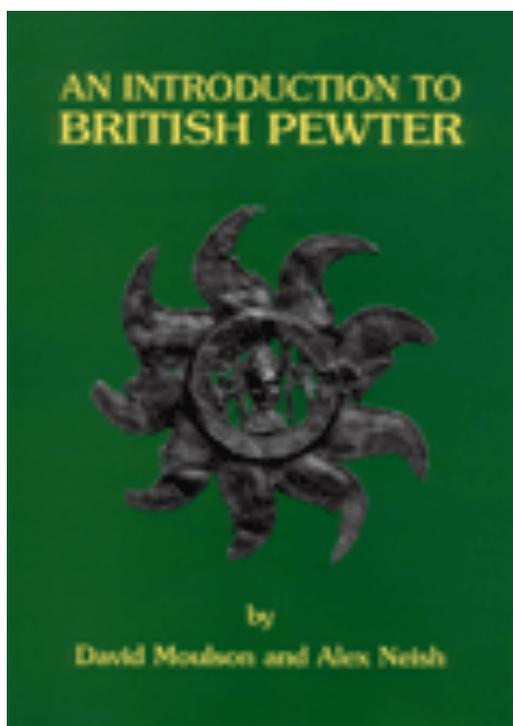
By David Hall



Published by the author in association  
with the National Museum of Ireland  
This book was published last year by the author, in association with the  
National Museum of Ireland, with the ISBN: 978-0-901777-98-0.

# An Introduction to British Pewter

by David Moulson and Alex Neish ISBN: 1 85858 102 8



This is classic booklet (© The Shakespeare Birthday Trust) was first published in 1997 by Brewin Books. David and Alex are both now Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. In the Introduction, the authors comment that:

*“The origins of pewter are lost in antiquity. The earliest known example of the metal to have survived is the flask-shaped, two-handled, lidded container found in an Egyptian grave at Abydos. Dated to between 1580 and 1350 BC, its alloy comprises 93% tin, 6% lead and 1% copper. Tin is always the major constituent of pewter. On its own the metal is relatively soft and difficult to cast, but the addition of small percentages of hardening agents like copper, lead, bismuth or antimony, overcomes this problem and adds durability.”*

This little, lavishly-illustrated, booklet will take you through the ages of the metal, from *Romano-British Pewter*, through the *Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* to *Further Reading*.

The WCoP has some spare copies to sell (apply to the [Clerk](#)), otherwise look on e-Bay or Amazon.

David Moulson (<mailto:dmoulson@hotmail.com>) is a collector and dealer in pewter, and an active member of The Pewter Society.

Alex Neish (<mailto:neishpew@gmail.com>) put together the Neish Collection, a renowned collection of British pewter, once displayed by The Shakespeare Birthday Trust at Harvard House in Stratford-upon-Avon, but now happily housed at The Smith Museum (<http://www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk/>) in Stirling.

## Alan Williams

[Home](#)

*The Pewterer*, Volume 6, number 1. April, 2015.

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 2015. Get-up: copyright Alan Williams, 2015.

No reproduction without permission.

All enquiries to the [Editor](#).