

# Tudric Pewter

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The Pewter Bowl recently purchased by Charles Hull for his collection is a good example of early Tudric Ware. Charles is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers,

His bowl is a pattern 067 Fruit Bowl, and is the first recorded Tudric piece designed by Oliver Baker, working with Liberty & Co.

Oliver Baker was a painter, antiquary and designer who ran an antique shop in Stratford upon Avon. It was his earlier sale of a piece of Elizabethan pewter to his brother-in-law, William Rathbone Haseler that had inspired Haseler to launch the Tudric range of pewter.



The manufacturer of the Fruit Bowl was W H Haseler Ltd, the Haseler family business. Between 1898 and 1901 Liberty's took a 60% share in this business, which operated in Hylton Street, Birmingham, and the Cymric Silver and Tudric Pewter ranges were conceived.

Early pieces were marked with 2 or 3 numbers preceded by zero – 067 appears on Charles Hull's fruit bowl.

A touchmark, which also appeared frequently, was the name 'solkets', beneath crossed flowers - this simply referred to the origins of W H Haseler Ltd being set up to manufacture jewellery in 1849: **SOL**itaires and **locKETS**, forming solkets, which was also their telegraphic address.

Liberty's was founded in London by Arthur Lazenby Liberty (1843-1917). Liberty had been born in Chesham in Buckinghamshire; and it was his interest in founding relationships with leading designers and in Art Nouveau that saw him sell work by the likes of Archibald Knox, David Veasey and ... Oliver Baker. Baker's first recorded piece for Liberty's was the fruit bowl (pattern number 067) now owned by Charles Hull.

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Liberty's pewterware, marketed under the name 'Tudric Pewter, came on line in 1901.

For an interesting article on Liberty and the artists involved in the Tudric pewter range, and how pewter changed in the last decade of 1880s from being of everyday use into being items of decorative purpose, see *Marks & Monograms (the decorative arts 1880-1960)* by MALCOLM HASLEM. (Though I have a copy of the article, I have not been able to find out where it was published.)

**Peter Hamblin** Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers

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Charles Hull commented: "Liberty's had a huge range of pieces in their Tudric range - I have an illustrated list of 768 pieces! I think all were made by WH Haseler. One of my favourite pieces is pattern 044, a Bollelin Tray which I was keen to get at auction, but the price was outside my budget, so I backed off - and now rather wish I hadn't!"

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Wentworth Pewter: [www.wentworth-pewter.com](http://www.wentworth-pewter.com)  
Rebus Badges and Regalia: Clayfields, Bodenham, Hereford HR1 3LG  
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[In 1934 W H Haseler moved to Warstone Lane, Birmingham and joined with J A Restall, then becoming Haseler and Restall Ltd in 1936; they specialised as Medallists, Jewellers and Pewterers, keeping the Tudric trademark and making a range of pewterware which included many items formerly made for Liberty & Co.

The company was bought by the Hamblin family and sold in the 1980's to PMC Sheffield, then owned by Alan Aitken, a Liveryman, of the Worshipful Company.

The Tudric Pewter trademark, together with the Herald and Banner Touchmark, are now in the possession of Wentworth Pewter of Sheffield, successors to PMC.

The Hamblin family, under the trade name of *Rebus Badges and Regalia*, still make the Badges, Medals and Regalia ranges in Birmingham.

Peter Hamblin also drew my attention to the article by Malcolm Haslem. The article not only refers to the pewter bowl bought by Charles Hull, but contains many interesting comments on Tudric pewter. More of that in another issue of *The Pewterer*. Ed.]

Further reading

The Archibald Knox Society  
[archibaldknoxsociety.com](http://archibaldknoxsociety.com)

The Designs of Archibald Knox for Liberty & Co, by Adrian J Milbrook

Archibald Knox, by Stephen A Martin

A circular button with a light grey background and a dark grey border, containing the word "Home" in a simple sans-serif font.

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