



Sheffield Plate & Electroplated Nickel Silver (EPNS)

These examples will help you to recognise items of Sheffield plate and avoid being confused by marks arranged in the sterling silver hallmark format.

Useful book: Seymour B Wyler *The book of Sheffield plate: with all known makers' marks including Victorian plate insignia* 1949

Reference source: English electroplated nickel silver: Marks & Hallmarks of British Silverplate web site: www.silvercollection.it/electroplatesilver.html

Roberts, Cadman & Co

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|---|------------------|
| | Bell | Roberts, Cadman & Co, Eyre Street, Sheffield Roberts, Smith & Co, 5 Eyre Street, Sheffield Smith, Sissons & Co, 5 Eyre Street, Sheffield | 1785 1828 1848 | Sheffield |
|--|-------------|---|---|------------------|

This was under Old Plate Marks on a website

W & J A Baxter, Sheffield.



The ear of wheat is a trade mark used by W & J A Baxter. The letter, here a 'w', is a date letter which initially corresponded to those used by the Sheffield Assay Office but, as Baxter's also used an 'i' as well as a 'j', the table became a year out! If there is also a number, here '34', it is for reference during manufacture to

ensure the different parts of an item are allocated and aligned correctly.

Baxter's have been supplying to churches since the late 1980s - before that they only made cutlery and scissors.

Ref for Record - Information supplied by W & J A Baxter



A Greek cross within a circle within a square is the logo of **Vanpoules Ltd** (seen stamped on base metal)

The word **DIADEM** (seen stamped on silver plate) is a trade name for **Blunt & Wray**. Their HQ was in Diadem House.

James Dickson & Sons.

Maker's mark: JD&S in gothic caps with a bugle and banner, and the number 849 below (849 not shown here). This mark is copied from English electroplate silver on-line.



James Dickson's business was established in Sheffield in 1806. The 'trumpet & banner' (bugle) trade mark was registered in 1879 but it appears that the initials JD&S were used mainly after 1920. The firm was taken over by William Hutton & Son in 1930.

Some marks from other countries

Occasionally there will be items among the church plate which appear to be made of silver but have not been marked by a UK Assay Office. They will probably not be made of sterling silver but of silver nonetheless and so will be recorded after the sterling silver and, if there are several of them, perhaps with a subheading. The photos are not good but give an idea of what you might be looking at and promote further research.

Indian Colonial Silver



This is one of the maker's marks used by Hamilton & Co of Calcutta (1811-1971) - with an elephant instead of a lion passant.

Indian silver seems to have had varying standards of purity, often 80%, (as opposed to 92.5% for sterling) across both time and locations but in 1844 Indian silver was allowed into England at the same rate of duty as English silver.

Hamilton & Co was formed in 1811 by Robert Hamilton in partnership with James and Henry Glazebrook. Robert Hamilton was born in England in 1772 and went to India where he became established as jeweller in Calcutta in 1808. He returned to England in 1819, a wealthy man, and bought Bloomfield Hall in Surrey where he assembled a collection of Old Masters. He died in Brighton in 1847.

Ref. WRT Wilkinson, *The makers of Indian colonial silver...*, 1987

Russian Marks



These marks were found on the rims of a set of hanging lamps. They are Russian assay marks which comply with the Russian Assay Charter in force between February 1700 and 1896. This stipulated that all gold and silver objects must be registered and carry a maker's mark, the fineness number, the assayer's mark

together with the year of assay, and the town mark. Registration by both maker and assayer had to be made in a single place.

The marks here are worn and some are not shown as they are too faint to identify the town mark. The date 1836 is shown at the bottom right and, above to the left, is 84 for silver of 84 zolotniki (equivalent 87.5% fineness, the basic standard at that time). The Assayer's initials, НД (Cyrillic - ND in Latin letters) have not been identified.

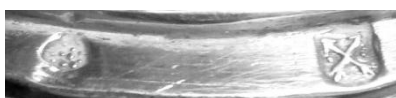
French Marks



As in the UK there have, over time, been different town assay marks and symbols but these are 20thc. From 1972 the head of Minerva was adopted and shown in a barrel-shaped cartouche for 800, and in a rectangle with chamfered edges for 925 parts per 1,000, the same standard as sterling silver. Here there is also a maker's

mark of a lozenge with initials, possibly FT or FJ, with a sunburst in the middle, but not identified.

German Marks from 17th century



These symbols have been seen in London and Hamburg and represent the Augsburg pine cone and two arrows in saltire for Master Philipp (Jakob) Benner (1573-1634), of Augsburg.

The fineness of the silver is a stamped number, here it was 14 for 14 lötigem, ie 875 fineness.