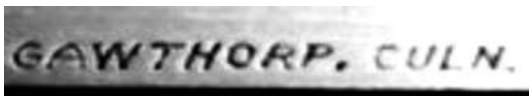


BRASS, CULN & LATTEN

The confusion caused by these three words happens most frequently in the Memorials Section but also occurs in Metalwork.

The material in question is **brass**, an alloy of copper and zinc, but when the word **culn** or **latten** appears on a metal tablet, usually in a lower corner, it refers to the material, and not to the maker nor to the maker's business location. In the mid 16thc, brass as a raw material was imported from Europe, especially from the area near Cologne (Köln), hence the name.

The term **culn** is often found on tablets signed by Gawthorp & Sons, like this:



You can see that this could imply, wrongly, that Culn is the location of the Gawthorp company, but in fact the use of culn on one of their products

denotes that a superior, often thicker, plate was used, and a clear varnish 'baked' onto it so that it did not tarnish. In reality visually there is little difference between culn and latten plate. Thomas John Gawthorp (1831-1911) established his successful art metal work company in Covent Garden, London, together with his sons, Walter Edmund and Thomas George. They held royal appointments from Queen Victoria and King Edward VII and, amongst other church work, made many memorial tablets and reredoses. The firm joined with J Wippell & Co in 1920 as a limited trading company and ceased trading on Walter's death in 1936.

Latten is also an alloy of copper and zinc and was another name for the brass which was often used to make memorial tablets and candlesticks. The name was also used by Gawthorp & Sons as seen on the following two trademarks which incorporate Thomas Gawthorp's initials. The firm's name is found variously as *Culn Gawthorp & Sons Ltd*, *Gawthorp & Son*, and *Gawthorp Sc.*

