

# THREE CENTURIES OF PEWTER

FROM THE COLLECTION OF  
DR AND MRS JUSTIN H. ADLER, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

## Why Pewter?

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When we were young children growing up in Germany, pewter — or Zinteller, as we called it — was an important part of our homes, as perhaps, a painting is for us today. At that time, the main purpose of pewter was the enjoyment of its attractiveness.

Political upheaval in Germany, which led to the disastrous events of World War II, forced our families to leave Germany. Although we were restricted by the German government regarding what we could take out of Germany, we managed to flee with some personal possessions including a few pieces of pewter.

Those pieces eventually made their way into our home in Memphis, and now serve as the cornerstone of our pewter collection, a portion of which is on exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, and is described in this catalogue.

We did not limit our collection of pewter to a specific time period or place of origin. Included in this exhibit are pewter pieces made in the United States and Europe during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Some of these pewter pieces were utilitarian in purpose, others were decorative.

The history of pewter — a soft metal made of tin and copper — can be traced as far back as the Roman Empire. Although we know that pewter originally was made for everyone, the advent of porcelain, in the 18th century, relegated the everyday use of pewter to the less privileged. Eventually, pewter evolved as a medium for artistic expression during the period of Art Nouveau, especially in Europe.

We hope that this exhibit gives the patrons of the Museum of Fine Arts an interesting view of the varied uses of pewter, and that it helps to foster a new appreciation for this age-old alloy which has captured our attention for so long.

Herta and Justin H. Adler

## Foreword

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Twenty-six years ago when I joined the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art as Curator of Collections, Justin H. and Herta Adler's fine collections of Judaica, silver, paintings, sculpture, Tiffany glass, and pewter were brought to my attention. Each category was of museum quality and merited exposure. The Adlers graciously lent them to the Brooks and to the Dixon Gallery and Gardens for several successful exhibitions. It is with a very great deal of joy that we present a selection of their pewter collection on the occasion of our gala opening. This is the first time in the Museum's history that we are holding an exhibition of pewter.

The earliest examples of pewter date from Antiquity. During the Renaissance, this gleaming and soft metal was used on a large scale for both the clergy and the layman, and became known as the "poor man's silver." Imported from England to America in early colonial times, it soon began to be manufactured locally and became very popular because of its durability and the simplicity of its making. Styles usually reflect the current forms found in other media like silver and porcelain, but many pieces are original, demonstrating individual artistic expression. Creative artists delight in this easy to handle and attractive material.

Pewter is basically composed of tin, to which small quantities of lead, copper, bismuth, and antimony are added for durability and strength. The higher the percentage of tin, the better the pewter quality.

We are very grateful to Herta and Justin H. Adler for sharing their collection with us, and we hope that our visitors will enjoy it as much as the collectors have enjoyed acquiring it throughout the years.

Michael Milkovich  
Director  
February, 1989

# The Catalogue

Items are listed alphabetically by country of origin.

## American

1. *Baby Bottle*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
6½" high
2. *Bed Pan*  
Hartford, Connecticut,  
Thomas D. Boardman, 1805-1820  
Eagle and X mark  
15" long
3. *Covered Cream Pitcher*  
Henry Homan, 19th century  
6½" high
4. *Hot Water Plate*  
William Calder, c. 1800-1825  
9½" diameter
5. *Lighthouse Coffee Pot*  
Beverly, Massachusetts,  
Israel Trask, c. 1807-1850  
12" high
6. *Pair of Horse Bookends*  
American?  
Maker unknown, late 19th century  
10" x 12"
7. *Porringer*  
Boston, I.C., dates unknown  
7" diameter



8. *Tea Pot*  
Hartford, Connecticut,  
Thomas D. Boardman, 1805-1820  
Brittania metal  
11½" high
9. *Three Ice Cream Molds*  
(turkey, football player, George Washington)  
Maker unknown, late 19th century, Brittania metal  
4" to 5" diameter
10. *Three Piece Coffee Set*  
Flagg and Homan, mid 19th century  
Pot 11½" high
11. *Tobacco? Container*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
7½" x 6½"

## Chinese

12. *Humidor*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
Made for export  
5" x 4"
13. *Make-Up Box with Drawers*  
Maker unknown, 18th century  
Signed with touchmark  
4" x 3" x 1½"

## English

14. *Art Nouveau Fish-Handled Plate*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
Crown and VR mark (Victoria Regina, 1837-1901)  
5½" high
15. *Charger*  
Birmingham, Samuel Duncomb, c. 1740-1780?  
20" diameter
16. *Handled, Spouted Pint Measure*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
Crown and VR mark (Victoria Regina, 1837-1901)  
5½" high
17. *Hot Water Plate*  
Ingram Beadley, 18th century  
9½" diameter
18. *Pap Boat (Invalid Feeding Cup)*  
Maker unknown, c. 1800  
4" long
19. *Plum Pudding Mold*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
5" x 4½"
20. *Quart Measure*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
Crown and VR mark (Victoria Regina, 1837-1901)  
7½" high
21. *Tappit Hen (Flagon)*  
Scottish, maker unknown, 18th century  
11" high



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22. *Two Measuring Cups from a Set of Eight*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 2", 6" high

### French

23. *Art Nouveau Decorative Platter*  
 Signed, I. Garnier, early 20th century  
 Flower and crown mark  
 12" long
24. *Art Nouveau Inkwell*  
 Signed, A. Celerge, early 20th century  
 10" x 8" high
25. *Art Nouveau Spouted Decorative Pitcher*  
 Signed, O.H. Perron, 1890  
 8" high
26. *Art Nouveau Vase*  
 Signed, F. Biou, late 19th century  
 18" high
27. *Covered Pitcher*  
 Mark; maker unknown, 18th century  
 10½" high
28. *Covered Wine Cooler*  
 Maker unknown, late 18th century  
 21" high
29. *Covered Wine Dispenser*  
 Initialed JA; maker unknown, 18th century  
 12" high

30. *Footed Flower Holder*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 13" high
31. *Relief Decorated Plate*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 10½" diameter
32. *Set of Four Candlesticks*  
 Maker unknown  
 4½" high
33. *Two Measuring Cups from a Set of Eight*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 2", 6" high

### German

34. *Adam and Eve Plate*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 9" diameter
35. *Apprentice Piece Pretzel Jug*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 10" x 7"
36. *Apprentice Piece Swan Form Container*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 6" x 5"
37. *Art Nouveau Covered Vegetable Dish*  
 Maker unknown, early 20th century  
 10" diameter
38. *Art Nouveau Handled Vase*  
 Maker unknown, late 19th century  
 10" high
39. *Art Nouveau Pitcher*  
 Maker unknown, 20th century  
 11" high
40. *Art Nouveau Turkey Platter (Kayserzinn)*  
 Maker unknown, 20th century  
 11" x 18"
41. *Art Nouveau Vase*  
 Maker unknown, 20th century  
 6½" high
42. *Bedwarmer*  
 Maker unknown, late 18th century  
 12" x 8"
43. *Bowl*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 Angel with scales and deer mark  
 11" diameter
44. *Charger*  
 Maker unknown, 1774  
 Angel mark  
 13½" diameter
45. *Coffee Dispenser (Droepelminna)*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 12" high
46. *Coronation Plate (Kaiserteller)*  
 Christoon, inscribed 1786  
 7" diameter

47. *Covered Caudle Cup (Woechnerinnenschuessel)*  
 Maker unknown, dated 1760  
 7½" x 4½"
48. *Covered Cream Can*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 5" high
49. *Covered Milk Can*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 4" high
50. *Covered Pitcher*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 8" high
51. *Covered Tankard*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 Illegible mark  
 7" high
52. *Decorative Inscribed Plate*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 8" diameter
53. *Dimpled Hexagonal Whiskey Bottle*  
 BB?, 19th century  
 Rose with crown mark  
 3½" high
54. *Dimpled Hexagonal Wine Bottle*  
 BB? 19th century  
 7" high
55. *Flat Top "Chimney Sweep" Flagon*  
 Maker unknown, inscribed W. Wieland, 1821  
 8" high
56. *Footed Covered Flagon*  
 Rich Bertrand, 19th century  
 22" high
57. *Footed Tankard (Stitze)*  
 Maker unknown, inscribed 1763  
 12" high
58. *Four Bowls*  
 I. T. Schroeder, 18th century  
 8" diameter
59. *Group of Children's Toys*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 Varying in size
60. *Handled Porringer*  
 Austrian? 1740  
 Double-headed eagle mark  
 12" diameter
61. *Heart-Shaped Covered Can (Schnabelkanne)*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 8½" high
62. *Heart-Shaped Covered Tankard (Stitze)*  
 Maker unknown, 1780  
 10" x 6½"
63. *Large Gustav Adolf Commemorative Vessel*  
 Maker unknown, probably 19th century  
 18" high
64. *Octagonal Covered Wine or Beer Bottle*  
 Maker unknown, inscribed 1812  
 11½" high



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65. *Oil Burning Timepiece*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 15½" high, 7" diameter
66. *Oil Lamp*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 10" high
67. *Pair of Bowls with Ladles*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 4" x 5"
68. *Pair of Candlesticks*  
 Maker unknown, 18th century  
 Crown and X mark  
 7½" high
69. *Pair of Figural Miner Candlesticks*  
 C.A.K. mark, 1708  
 9" high
70. *Shoe Form Snuffbox*  
 Maker unknown  
 3½"
71. *Small Round Container*  
 Maker unknown, 19th century  
 2½" x 2"
72. *Spouted Can (Erntekanne)*  
 Maker unknown, initialed and dated F.St. 1836  
 5½" x 11½"
73. *Sugar Server with Spoon Holder*  
 Nuremberg? JP (Possibly Jacob Prey), 18th century  
 Angel and scales mark  
 8" x 4½"

- 74. *Tankard*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
12" high
- 75. *Three Bowls*  
I. Schroeder, 1799  
12", 11", and 7" diameter
- 76. *Triple Spouted Coffee Dispenser (Droepelminna)*  
Maker unknown, 18th century  
18" high

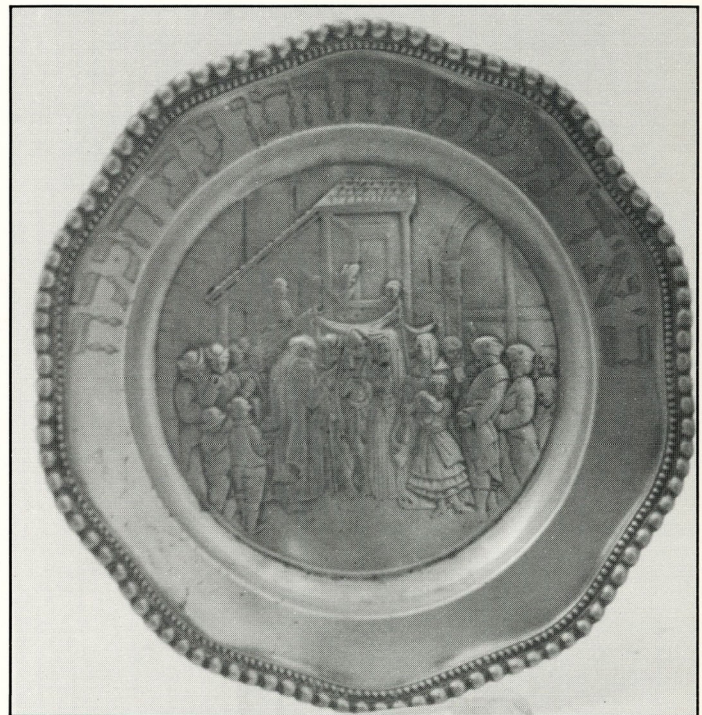


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- 77. *Tureen*  
Maker unknown, 18th century  
Angel and deer mark  
"English Zinn" pewter standard  
10" x 12"
- 78. *Twelve Tablespoons Arranged as a Heart*  
Maker unknown, Innsbruck, 1742  
12" x 10" diameter
- 79. *Two Small Plates*  
Maker unknown, 18th century  
6½" and 5½" diameter
- 80. *Wide Rimmed Plate*  
Hanover, Taberger, 1810  
Angel and scales mark  
9" diameter
- 81. *Zodiac Plate*  
Cologne, Franz Dietel, inscribed 1735  
Rose with crown mark  
9½" diameter

## Judaica

- 82. *Covered Multi Spice Box*  
Maker unknown, dated 1832  
5" high
- 83. *Havdalah Service Plate*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
10½" diameter
- 84. *Marriage Ceremony Plate*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
9½" diameter
- 85. *Menorah*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
6" x 8"
- 86. *Passover Plate*  
Maker unknown, early 19th century  
12" diameter
- 87. *Sukkot Festival Plate*  
Maker unknown, 19th century  
9½" diameter



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