



THE LYON & TWINAM FORGERIES

By PAUL V.A. JOHNSON

*The
Proceedings
of*
**THE SILVER
SOCIETY**

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1. REUBEN LYON

Towards the end of the last century, the Goldsmiths' Company were becoming increasingly alarmed at the apparent increase in the number of silver articles brought to their attention bearing counterfeit hallmarks. Sir Walter S. Prideaux, the Clerk Solicitor of the Company, instigated many inquiries over several months, none of which proved to be fruitful enough for any action to be taken. However, early in July 1898 certain information did come to light and the following chain of events led to "the most extensive and important seizure of plate that has been effected in modern times" (the words of Sir Walter in his report to the Wardens of the Company on October 5th, 1898).

Reuben Lyon, of 125 Holborn, an established dealer in antique silver sold to the agents of an American firm some seventy to eighty articles of silver. A full receipt was given showing the date of each piece and the price. The total purchase price was £650. At the end of the receipt Lyon had written "I guarantee that the goods herein described are genuine, R. Lyon". The articles were all fairly large e.g. sauce boats, coffee pots, sugar basins, and cups. The hallmarks on the pieces were nearly all of the George III period, 1770-1790, and in the main had London hallmarks although a few pieces apparently bore hallmarks of the Dublin Assay Office.

The agents, not being experts in the field of antique silver, requested as a condition of sale that the articles be sent to Messrs. Comyns and Sons (Silversmiths) of Beak Street, Regent Street, to be checked prior to exportation. They chose Messrs. Comyns as they had previously dealt with them and had several items with them awaiting export. I imagine that they intended to export the two purchases as one consignment. Lyon, as requested, later sent the articles to Messrs. Comyns and Sons.

Experts at Comyns subsequently examined the articles and immediately recognised them as spurious. Mr. Comyns called upon the advice of Mr. Dobson, Snr., of Dobson and Son (Silversmiths) who came over and inspected the articles, confirming this opinion. They decided that the best course of action was to take all the articles at once to Goldsmiths' Hall. This they did on Saturday, July 23rd, leaving the articles with Mr. H.W. Robinson, the Deputy Warden.

The Deputy Warden immediately telephoned Mr. J.M. Garrard of Garrards (Silversmiths), one of the foremost experts in antique silver at the time and a past Prime Warden of the Company. The situation was explained to him and he offered to come to the Hall and inspect the articles. He arrived later in the afternoon and after thoroughly examining the articles pronounced that forty-three of the articles had forged hallmarks. His opinion was based on the marks themselves and on the workmanship, which he considered was not consistent with the dates of the hallmarks. As to the remainder, there were some pieces to which he could hardly swear and a few pieces which he considered to be quite genuine.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dobson had offered to visit the premises of Reuben Lyon to ascertain whether or not there were any more articles bearing counterfeit marks being offered for sale, and if so discreetly to purchase one or two. He returned later having purchased the following articles all bearing counterfeit marks with the exception of a ladle which was unmarked:

Ewer	1789	(RG)
Basin	1789	(RG)
Coffee jug	1759	(SW)
Cup	1784	(IL)

Hot water jug	1781	(TC.WC)
Basin and cover	1781	(HB)
Basin	1797	(GC)
Ewer	1791	(GC)
Ladle	unmarked	

As well as purchasing these articles he also noticed that there were many other articles bearing forged marks being offered for sale.

The Deputy Warden consulted the Assistant Clerk, Mr. Walter T. Prideaux, and they decided to apply for a warrant to search Reuben Lyon's premises. The Company's solicitors inquired and found that the shop was just inside the Guildhall Police Court District and also procured a detective inspector of police to accompany the Company's officers as required.

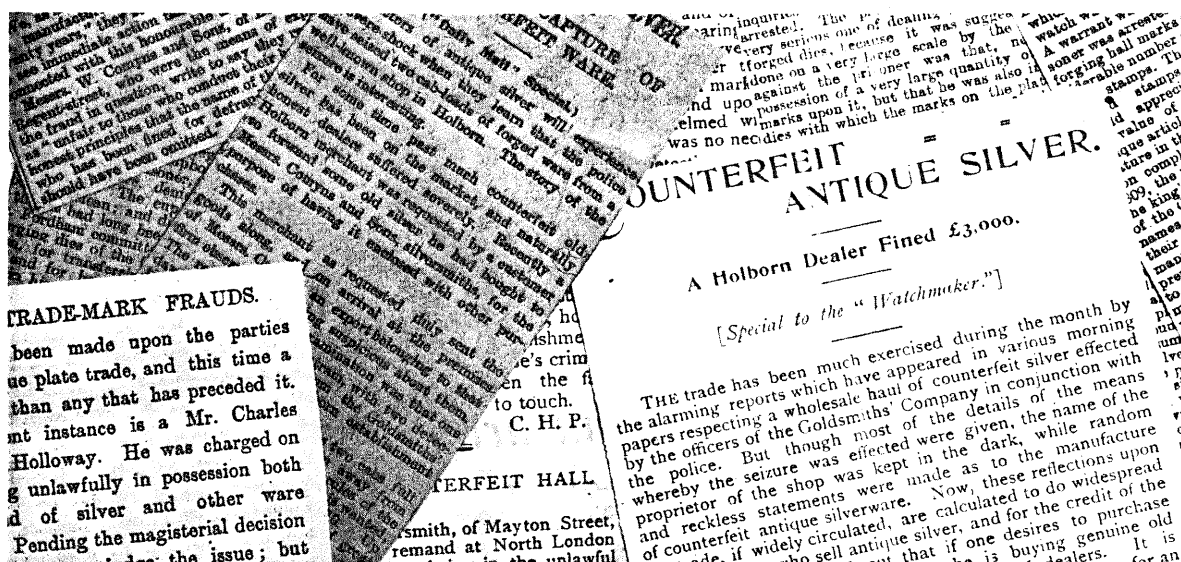
The following Monday Mr. Dobson, the detective, the Deputy Warden, Mr. Corley (the Managing Clerk in the firm Prideaux & Sons) and the Assistant Clerk went to the Guildhall and saw the magistrate's clerk. He required Mr. Dobson to swear an information and also the Assistant Clerk to swear an information stating that the application was from the Goldsmiths' Company. This they were able to do as follows:

I Charles Westcott Dobson of Number 32 Piccadilly, Silversmith make oath and say as follows:

1. That this deponent is informed and verily believes that Reuben Lyon of No. 125 Holborn Silversmith has concealed or deposited in or upon the said house shop or place divers wares of silver or of base metal having thereupon certain marks of forged or counterfeit dies or other instruments used by the Goldsmiths' Company in London for the marking or stamping of silver wares contrary to the provisions of the Act of Parliament passed in the 7th and 8th years of Her Majesty's Reign cap. 22 intitled "An Act to amend the laws now in force for preventing frauds and abuses in the marking of gold and silver wares in England" in that behalf made and provided.
2. The grounds for this deponent's belief are as follows: That this deponent has ascertained that the said Reuben Lyon has recently sold wares of silver or base metal having thereupon marks of such forged or counterfeit dies or other instruments as aforesaid and that certain of such wares have been offered for sale to him and that this deponent hath himself seen further specimens of such wares in the said house shop or place and believes that such wares are still there.

I Walter Treverbian Prideaux of Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London, Solicitor, make oath and say as follows:

1. That I am the Assistant Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company of London.
2. That the Goldsmiths' Company have received information or complaint from the within named deponent and they have reasonable or probable cause of suspicion that Reuben Lyon of 125 Holborn dealer in gold and silver wares hath concealed or deposited in his said house shop or place or hath possession of certain wares of silver or wares of base metal having thereupon marks of forged or counterfeited dies or other instruments used by the Goldsmiths' Company of London for marking silverwares.



3. That I am instructed by the Company to lay this information and to ask that a warrant may issue directed to Herbert William Robinson, James Field and Henry James Adams Officers of the said Company and also to William Outram Detective Inspector of the City Police to search the said premises for such wares.

The information was laid before the presiding alderman Mr. Joseph Renals. Later, when the Court adjourned for lunch the warrant was handed to the Deputy Warden, Mr. Robinson. The warrant read as follows:

To Herbert William Robinson, James Field and Henry James Adams – Officers of the Goldsmiths' Company of London and to Walter Outram detective inspector of the City of London Police Force.

Whereas information upon oath this day hath been laid before me by Walter Treverbian Prideaux by and on behalf of the Goldsmiths' Company of London that the said Company have reasonable or probable cause to suspect one Reuben Lyon – a dealer in gold and silver wares hath concealed or deposited in his house shop or place at 125 Holborn in the said City or hath possession of there divers wares of gold or silver or base metal having there-upon certain marks, of forged or counterfeit die or other instrument used by the said Company for the marking of any such wares to wit – silver coffee pots, coffee jugs and other articles. Now therefore you the said officers of the said Company and you the said detective inspector of the Police Force of the said City are hereby authorised and empowered with necessary and proper assistance to enter in the day time into the said house shop or place of the said Reuben Lyon and to search the same and to seize and take away every such ware as aforesaid which shall there be found and to deal with the same according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 25th day of July 1898 at the Guildhall Justice Room in the City of London.

(Signed) Joseph Renals.

The Search

After receiving the warrant, a conference was called by the Assistant Clerk to decide a plan of action. At the suggestion of Detective Inspector Outram three o'clock was agreed as the best time to begin. At precisely that time the Assistant Clerk, the Deputy Warden, Mr. J. Field and Mr. H. J. Adams (officers of the Goldsmiths' Company employed in the Assay Office), Mr. C.W. Dobson and the Detective Inspector assembled in

Holborn away from Reuben Lyon's premises. It was originally proposed that all six of them should enter the shop together, but under the terms of the act informants were not permitted to participate in the search thus precluding the Assistant Clerk and Mr. Dobson.

Primarily they had to ascertain that Reuben Lyon was actually in his shop and this Dobson was able to do without disclosing himself or even entering the shop. Mr. Dobson was in fact the only one of the six who had actually met Reuben Lyon previously.

At ten minutes past three the Detective Inspector and the three officers from the Assay Office entered Lyon's shop, showed him the warrant and began their search, Lyon took everything quite calmly, his only comment being "I suppose this is due to the plate that went up to Comyns".

Very soon after commencing the search they realized that the task before them was a formidable one. The shop was well stocked and at a preliminary glance it was seen that probably at least half of the articles were doubtful. To make life even more difficult the doubtful pieces were well dispersed amongst genuine articles. After just over an hour the Deputy Warden left the shop to meet up with Mr. Prideaux to report on the proceedings and to clarify the position as to which articles he should seize from the shop.

He felt that the stock could be divided into four categories; (1) Good plate. (2) Plate with forged London marks which he would seize. (3) Plate bearing Irish marks which were probably forged (the Assistant Clerk advised that these should not be seized) and (4) Plate with Dutch marks, probably forged, but with no English hallmarks (again he was advised not to seize these particularly as there was no evidence, beyond the fact that they were in a case in the shop, that they were exposed for sale so as to come under the other Act*).

The majority of the articles came under heading 2. There was not as much Irish plate as they had expected to find after seeing that brought to the Hall from Comyns. The Assistant Clerk was confident that they had no power to seize these Irish pieces and as they were few, decided not to seek advice on the point.

Mr. Robinson returned to Lyon's shop and the search was continued. It was not until eight o'clock in the evening that the search was finally completed. They seized between one hundred and ninety and two hundred articles which completely

* Plate (Offences) Act, 1738, sections 1, 3 and 5, and the Customs Act, 1842, section 59.

filled two taxi cabs. The seized wares were taken to Snow Hill Police Station where they were entered in the appropriate logs and from there to Goldsmiths' Hall. A statement was taken from Lyon in which he said that he had no knowledge of the fact that the articles were forged and that he had purchased them from a man named Clarke in Rupert Street the previous December. He added that Clarke had since disappeared.

The following day officers of the Goldsmiths' Company set about listing and weighing all the articles seized. They were subsequently examined by several experts in antique silver including Mr. J.M. Garrard, Mr. Dobson and Mr. Carrington. The general opinion was much the same. "It was the worst lot I have ever seen" – "No second look was necessary" – "Workmanship new" – "Marks are fresh" – "Soft punches used" were typical comments. The same date letter appeared frequently and also the same makers' marks.

The final conclusions were that of the pieces seized, 245 bore forged hallmarks and two pieces had transposed hallmarks. Twenty-one articles weighing 251.50 ozs. troy were doubtful and no further action was taken on these. A summary of the articles seized from Lyon's shop, those purchased by Messrs. Greiner, the American agents, and those purchased by Mr. Dobson is given in the following table:

Plate seized	Pieces	Articles	Oz. troy
with forged marks	245	178	2475.45
transposed marks	2	1	13.85
Plate purchased by Greiners			
with forged marks	43	28	387.20
transposed marks	6	3	51.75
unmarked	2	2	9.35
Plate purchased by Dobson			
with forged marks	10	8	121.30
unmarked	1	1	2.85
TOTAL	309	221	3061.75

Penalties

On legal advice the Assistant Clerk decided that the only action open to him was to apply for penalties under the Gold and Silver Wares Act, 1844, Sections 3 and 4. A summary of this act as published by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in a "Memorandum on the Law relating to the Manufacture and Sale of Gold and Silver Wares" reads:

A dealer who without lawful excuse (which he must himself establish) possesses or offers for sale a ware bearing a forged or transposed hall-mark is liable to a penalty of £10 even though it is not proved that he knew of the forgery or transposition. He will be exempted from this penalty if he discloses the name of the person from whom he received the ware.

In his original verbal statement Lyon had stated that he purchased the articles in question from a Mr. Clarke of Rupert Street. The Assistant Clerk therefore wrote to Clarke at the address given. The letter was later returned by the General Post Office as 'not known at this address'.

Meanwhile Mr. J.M. Garrard had made several enquiries regarding Clarke. He learned that Clarke's business was chiefly a jobbing one and that he never had more than about nine employees, quite a small business in fact and one which was not really capable of producing the large quantity of plate in Lyon's shop. Clarke had in any case given up the business over two years previously and left without trace, apparently due to differences with his wife. His books were still available for reference but there were no entries concerning transactions with Reuben Lyon.

Several days later word was received from Mr. Dobson via a second person who had seen Lyon, that he was willing to produce his books, disclosing where the plate came from, provided that someone would go up to his shop to look at them.

Dobson was extremely anxious that this should be done and assumed that having found from the books the name of the manufacturer, the Company would then be able to obtain a search warrant against Lyon.

The Assistant Clerk pointed out to him that this was probably an attempt to rush them. He told him that he could not see any advantage being gained by departing from their usual course of action. He added that even if they had the name of the manufacturer and his address they would have absolutely no case to apply for a search warrant. The fact that he was a manufacturer would not help.

Dobson however was still insistent, saying that it was a great opportunity and should not be missed. The Assistant Clerk did not give way but endeavoured to show him that no step which could be safely taken would be neglected, but did say that he would submit the point to Counsel and see if he had any suggestions to make.

In the evening the Assistant Clerk went to see Counsel (Mr. Bodkin) and talked the matter over with him. Mr. Bodkin was of the same opinion as the Assistant Clerk and could not see anything that could be done to throw light upon the matter until a formal letter had been sent to Lyon. He thought that they might encourage him to produce his books after this had been done – though the lapse of time would have enabled all clues that perhaps could have helped in criminal proceedings to be suppressed.

On August 9th, the Clerk of the Company wrote the formal letter to Lyon stating that the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company required a penalty of ten pounds to be paid in respect of each piece in their possession which had come from his shop and which contravened the hallmarking laws. A total of £3090. A letter from Reuben Lyon's brother was received by return stating that Lyon was out of town, but that the matter would have his attention as soon as he returned.

It was not until August 22nd that any further communication was received. Again the letter was from members of Reuben Lyon's family, this time asking for the fine to be reduced to £2000. In mitigation they wrote – "We beg to assure you that R. Lyon has no other means than his stock in trade and the proposed larger amount of money will have to be found by his family and friends, pending the realization of his stock. We respectfully beg to urge on his behalf – his advancing age (70 years) and ill-health, this sad affair has been such a shock to him that his health has been completely shattered and is quite prostrate which alone will be a great punishment for him. I feel sure he will never be able to go into business again".

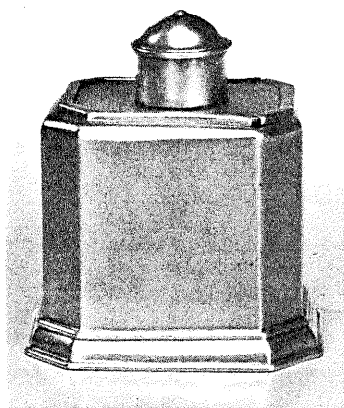
The letter was later circulated to the Wardens of the Company. The plea was rejected. There were rumours that Lyon was in fact worth a hundred thousand pounds notwithstanding certain losses he made speculating. Also it was thought that any reduction in the fine would bring a lot of unfavourable publicity and possibly cause upset in the trade.

A further letter from the Clerk was sent to Lyon on August 29th, again asking for the sum of £3090. Lyon replied that he hoped to be in a position to pay the amount asked for by the end of the following week.

The money was eventually paid in full through his solicitors, Nordon and De Freece of 23 Wormwood Street, on September 10th. The source from which Lyon obtained the money was never divulged. The plate seized from his shop was returned to him as bullion several months later after representations had been made by his solicitors to the Wardens of the Company.

Reaction

The first newspaper to concern itself with the story was *The Daily Mail*. On September 22nd it published a short article "Faking Antique Silver – Wholesale Capture of Counterfeit Ware". An outline of the search of Reuben Lyon's premises was given together with details of the plate seized. The newspaper expressed concern that the affair, though of great public



1 Tea caddy of early 18th century style with spurious marks of a lion passant, the leopard's head crowned, date letter h (1783) and maker's mark GS in script.

interest, had been kept quiet. It also pointed out that an illicit dealer may be able to command about £20 an ounce for silver really worth only about a few shillings.

It followed up two days later with details of the penalty paid to the Company and added the following comments: "Further enquiries made by a *Daily Mail* representative reveal the fact that dealings in forged ware have been of a very extensive nature and from all that can be gathered, quite an extensive trade is done in this direction. Clerkenwell is the chief seat of operations, and from this quarter emanates most of the spurious material at present on the market." It pointed out the Company's power to inflict the "very severe" fine of ten pounds per article and added "unfortunately for the purchaser, under the charter this offence is not criminal, and the illicit dealer is exonerated so far as the Company is concerned on payment of the necessary fine".

The *Daily Mail* received several letters referring to these articles; one from Messrs. Charles Boyton and Son of 19 Upper Charles Street, Clerkenwell expressed "much surprise" at the statement that much of the spurious plate emanated from their district and another letter from Messrs. Comyns and Sons who regarded it as "unfair to those who conduct their business on honest principles that the name of the shopkeeper who has been fined for defrauding the public should have been omitted".

Another correspondent in *The Echo* on September 29th, had similar grievances: "Surely the name should be made public to avoid suspicion being cast upon silversmiths trading in the same thoroughfare, and to safeguard the public from such an establishment".

The trade magazine *Watchmaker* on October 1st, 1898 published a lengthy article on the subject, their correspondent accusing the Company of "Star Chamber Methods" giving rise to some of the sensational matter which had appeared in the press to the detriment of *bona fide* dealers. He wrote "A few hundred years ago one who brought discredit on the trade would have been publicly disgraced, nailed by the ears to a post, pilloried, and hounded out of the trade. Now the Company seem to think that justice is met by quietly fining the culprit." Sir Walter Prideaux in answer to the accusations said that he regretted that with the existing state of the law the Company had no power to take action by advertising the names of wrongdoers. The editor of the *Watchmaker* countered by calling upon the Company to make representations to Parliament in order to get the law changed.

The magazine *Truth* finally uncovered Lyon's name and published it in their edition of October 20th. They too were most critical of the action taken by the Company.

As a result of this publicity questions were asked in the House of Commons. Sir S. Northcote, member for Exeter, asked the Home Secretary whether he would amend the law so as to

transfer to the Public Prosecutor the duty of dealing with persons charged with tampering with the hallmark. Mr. Collings, member for Birmingham, in reply referred to certain previous convictions for forgery and outlined the Lyon case. He said that he could see no reason for finding fault with the way in which the Goldsmiths' Company carried out their statutory duties.

William Sills

The disturbing fact about the Lyon case as far as the Company was concerned was that at the time no information had come to light regarding the source of the forged plate or the punches used. Extensive enquiries had been made ever since the seizure of plate from Lyon's shop, and Lyon himself never gave any satisfactory explanation of his source.

The first lead which was considered to be worth following up eventually came on September 29th. Mr. Thomas, an associate of Mr. J.M. Garrard, had had a visit the previous morning from two men, Lambert and Harris. They said that they had certain information which would be of interest regarding the Lyon case. Thomas asked them to accompany him to Goldsmiths' Hall to see the Clerk. They were willing to do so, but after Mr. Thomas had telephoned the Hall and found that the Clerk was away, made excuses. Thomas was able, however, to get the information from them and came up to the Hall in the afternoon and saw the Assistant Clerk. They had told him that the punches were in the possession of Sills, an assistant of Lyon, and that Sills was willing to bring them to the Hall. They also mentioned that there was a quantity of forged plate belonging to Lyon at the Safe Deposit in Chancery Lane and that this was to be moved almost at once. Harris was persuaded by Mr. Thomas to endeavour to get Sills to bring the punches to the Hall the following morning.

William Sills did in fact turn up at the Hall the following day. In the presence of the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, the Deputy Warden, Mr. J.M. Garrard, Mr. C. Dobson and Mr. F. Thomas, Sills volunteered the following statement:

I William Sills of 63 Frobisher Road, Hornsey, say:

I quite understand that the information which I am giving is given by me quite voluntarily.

I went to live in Lyon's house in Holborn in June 1897, and began to act as manager to him in September 1897. I left the house in February 1898, as it was being pulled down. I acted as manager until yesterday, when I left.

I bring you six punches. I found them at Lyon's shop last Friday – or it might have been Thursday – a bureau was being shifted and one of the drawers fell out, and afterwards I found the punches on the floor amongst the rubbish. I never saw them before, though I was suspicious before I went into Lyon's employment that everything was not straight. I was traveller to Charles Stuart Harris before I went to Lyon.

I took the punches to Walter Harris at dinner time on the day I found them.

The punches cannot have been used at Lyon's shop, because we had no vices or appliances, and I should have heard the noise. They must have been given to the manufacturer. I do not know who made the punches, but Neale in Percival Street made a name punch for Lyon.

I know the manufacturer – it is George Drake of Gloucester Street, Clerkenwell. He lives at Loughborough Junction – Gillett is the name Drake works under. There are three in the firm, Gillett, Drake and a man whose name I do not know. Clarke of Rupert Street used to make bad plate for Lyon till two years ago.

Lyon never let me in communication with Drake. I was merely a salesman and had to refer everything to Lyon. Drake used to bring the silver plate in the rough and Lyon used to see him privately. The plate was taken away and then brought back finished.

I never saw Lyon's books and he never let me know

his private stock mark. Any books he kept have since disappeared.

Lyon is now at Holborn, but his shop will be closed on Monday. There was a good deal of bad plate put away recently, it was on the premises, but is now in the Chancery Lane Safe Deposit. I dare say there is a ton there. Lyon has transferred it to Van-den-Bergh.

Lyon used to live at his shop in Holborn, but he also has a house and a good deal of property at Kew.

The fine paid the other day was I believed paid by Lyon himself. He used S. Lyon and the others as a shield C.S. Harris took some of his good stock for £1,000.

I don't think the good plate came from Drake; it was second hand plate by Garrards and others.

Lyon used to sell all over the country. There is a firm named Lister at Newcastle who had a lot of bad plate from him, also Sawby at Glasgow, and someone in Brighton.

Lyon means to sell the rest of the plate about the country.

At first sight the statement of Sills appeared to be most useful, but after due consideration serious doubts arose. The punches brought by Sills were poor and did not resemble any of the marks on the plate seized from Lyon's shop. It was also thought to be strange that the Company's officers had not come across these punches when they searched Lyon's shop. Certain other points in Sills's statement were considered to be false. Harris was known by the Company to be of doubtful character and Mr. Garrard put forward the suggestion that Harris and Sills had probably got together and made up the whole story, probably to cover up any facts that might incriminate them in the affair. The fact that Sills had indicated, after giving his statement, that he expected some sort of consideration for the help he had given seemed to indicate that he was not particularly sincere.

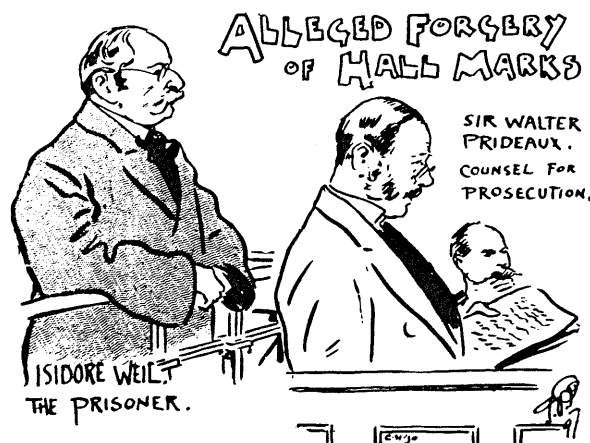
It was suggested by Mr. Garrard and agreed to by the Clerk that it would be wise to ask an enquiry agent to keep watch on Lyon and Sills to see if any further developments took place. Mr. Edwin Williams, of 31 Queen Victoria Street, was asked to take on the case. At the same time Mr. Garrard agreed to make enquiries among the trade about some of the other points mentioned in Sills's statement.

His foreman was able to make a few discreet enquiries and found that there may have been perhaps a glimmer of truth in Sills's statement. Drake, the man alleged by Sills to have produced Lyon's plate, apparently put out work to men who worked at home, often in kitchens, marked it himself and then got it polished elsewhere. It was deemed to be difficult to take any action against Drake unless goods could have been found in his possession. Despite further enquiries the information was never substantiated.

The enquiry agent and two of his assistants kept watch on both Sills and Lyon for several weeks. The only activity worth noting was that several large cases were unloaded at Lyon's shop and later moved to a warehouse in North Audley Street; the contents were unknown but it was probably much of the remainder of Lyon's stock. The enquiry agent eventually lost track of Lyon and towards the end of the month it was reported and later confirmed that Lyon had moved to Belgium.

Sills was kept under observation, but he appeared to be leading a life of inactivity except for frequent visits to various taverns and inns in the vicinity of Hatton Garden. The various other hints given by Sills in his statement were followed up but to no avail. The Company decided that they could get no further in this particular line of enquiry.

There were, however, certain other relevant facts in the Company's possession which stemmed, not from the Lyon case, but from previous cases dealt with by the Company. It was these facts which subsequently led to the apprehension and later conviction of Charles Twinam. It would appear that the statement of Sills was, in the main, a fabrication.



2. CHARLES TWINAM

In February 1898, the Company prosecuted a man named Isidore Weil for certain frauds against the hallmarking laws. He was later convicted and subsequently sentenced to twelve months hard labour. In the course of the trial Weil called as a witness on his behalf Charles Twinam, of 72 Mayton Street, Holloway, who gave testimony to the following effect:

That 14 years ago, he had, for 9 months only, been in business as a silversmith on his own account; that he then held a plate licence; that since then he had been working as a journeyman silversmith; that when he went out of business he had a considerable stock of plate and that during the past 13 years he had been gradually dealing in and selling portions of that stock; that he had sold many of the articles, the subject of the prosecution, to Weil; that he had not held a plate licence for the past 13 years.

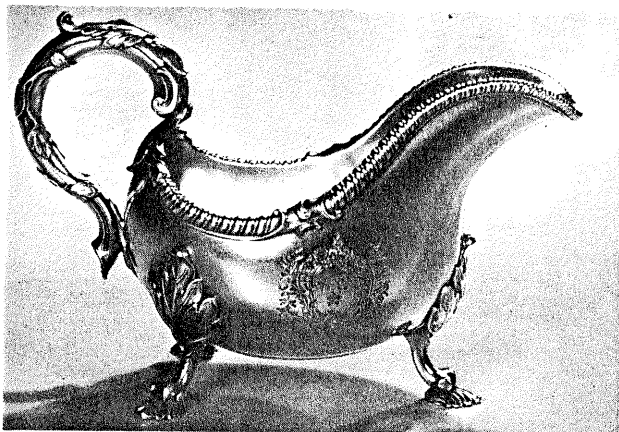
The Company later submitted the above facts to the Board of Inland Revenue in order that they might take action against him under the Revenue Acts. They found, however, that technical difficulties stood in the way and nothing was done. The main point against action was the fact that the alleged sale took place over six months previously.

In June, just previous to the Lyon affair, the Company received several articles bearing transposed hallmarks from Messrs. Dobson of Piccadilly. They had purchased them from Messrs. Robinson and Fisher of King Street, St. James' Square, at one of their auction sales. They in turn had obtained them from a Mr. E.C. Purdie. A few days later several more articles were brought to the Hall and again these were traced back to E.C. Purdie. The Clerk of the Company wrote to Purdie asking him to explain how he came to be in possession of these articles in the first place. Purdie replied that he had purchased them all two years previously but that they had been bought under peculiar circumstances. He said he would be prepared to explain to the Clerk in person.

On June 16th, the Clerk interviewed Purdie at the Hall. He was unable to give any satisfactory explanation of the purchase. The Wardens decided, after hearing a report on the matter from the Clerk, to impose a penalty of £10 for each piece in their possession (48 in all), a total of £480. The penalties were later paid in full by Purdie.

Enquiries were made regarding Purdie and during the investigations it was found that he put out work to a number of silversmiths working on their own or in their spare time. One of these proved to be Charles Twinam, then employed by Messrs. Wakely and Wheeler as a journeyman, and who worked at home in his spare time.

With this information at the back of their minds, the Clerk



2 Sauceboat in rococo style by Charles Twinam bearing forged marks for 1784.

and other members of the Company were most suspicious of Twinam and they never ruled out the possibility that he may have been connected with Reuben Lyon.

In the few months after the Lyon case various articles with forged hallmarks were brought to the Hall at various times. Many of these pieces bore hallmarks similar to the ones on the plate seized from Reuben Lyon. On two occasions Twinam's name was put forward as a possible source but without corroboration.

At the beginning of March the long awaited break came. A man brought to the Hall a few pieces of silver with the now familiar forged marks. He was seen by the Clerk who asked him where he obtained the pieces. The man replied that he would supply the source on the condition that his name was not divulged and that he would not be called upon later to give any evidence in any actions which might arise in consequence.

The Clerk reluctantly agreed to his request. The man stated that he had obtained the articles from Charles Twinam who had both made them and put the forged marks on them. He also stated that Twinam had in his possession a number of steel punches, which he had seen. The Clerk asked the man if he thought Twinam would be prepared to strike marks on pieces made by some other person if requested to do so by him (the informant). He said that he believed that this would be possible and added that he would be prepared to take such articles to Twinam if the Clerk so wished.

Consultations were held and the actions taken, a description of which follows, led to the arrest of Twinam and a search of his premises.

Arrest

On the evening of Tuesday March 7th, 1899, two unfinished silver spoons, upon which the Clerk had placed private marks for the purpose of identification, were handed by an agent of the Company, specifically employed for the purpose, to the informant. He took them to Twinam's house in Mayton Street, Holloway. The informant was kept under constant observation by the Company's agent. After about an hour the informant came out of Twinam's house with the spoons which had been marked with counterfeit marks and handed them back to the agent.

The Company now felt in a position to take positive action. It was decided that Mr. Robinson, the Deputy Warden, should make application to the North London Police Court the following morning for a warrant to search Twinam's house, and that the police should apply for a warrant for the arrest of Twinam. The information and application for a warrant given by Mr. Robinson before the sitting magistrate, Mr. E. Snow Fordham, read as follows:

Information and application for Warrant to search for certain forged or counterfeit dies, used by the Goldsmiths' Company in London for the marking or stamping of silver wares and for certain wares of silver or of base metal having thereupon the marks of such forged or counterfeit dies.

Herbert William Robinson, Assay Officer of the Goldsmiths' Co. in London maketh oath and saith.

1. *That this deponent is informed & verily believes that Charles Twinam living at 72 Mayton Street Holloway in the County of London & within the district of the North London Police Court has concealed or deposited in or upon the said house divers forged or counterfeit dies or other instruments used by the Company of Goldsmiths in London for the marking or stamping of silver wares, and also divers wares of silver or of base metal having thereupon certain marks of such forged or counterfeited dies as aforesaid, contrary to the provisions of the Act of Parliament passed in the 7th and 8th years of Her present Majesty's reign, cap. 22 intituled "An Act to amend the laws now in force for preventing frauds and abuses in the marking of gold and silver wares in England" in that behalf made and provided.*
2. *The grounds of this deponent's belief are as follows:- That this deponent has ascertained that the said Charles Twinam has been in the habit of marking, for divers persons, wares of silver by means of such forged or counterfeited dies, and that this deponent has himself seen specimens of such articles which, to the best of his information and belief have been so marked by the said Charles Twinam.*

(signed) Herbert W. Robinson

Sworn before me this day of March 1899 at the North London Police Court.

*(signed) E. Snow Fordham
One of the Magistrates of the Police
Courts of the Metropolis.*

The warrants were granted and placed in the hands of Police Inspector James Morley for execution. Having regard to information which had been received as to the methods of concealment adopted by Twinam and to the complicity of his wife in the matter, it was judged to be necessary to make elaborate preparations for searching the house. The search and the arrest of

Twinam was to take place the following morning. Twelve detectives were employed, enough to occupy every room in the house and to watch the premises both in the front and the rear while the Company's officers made the search.

At 8.15 in the morning Twinam was seen to leave his house in Mayton Street. He was followed for a short distance and then approached by Inspector Morley. The Inspector stopped him and said "Your name is Charles Twinam?"

Twinam replied "It is".

The inspector continued "You live at 72 Mayton Street?"

"Yes" replied Twinam.

Inspector Morley then informed him "I am an inspector of police, and hold a warrant for your arrest".

Twinam made no reply. He was then handed over to other police officers.

Inspector Morley then met up with officers from the Company and they effected an entrance to Twinam's house. Each room was immediately occupied by a police officer and an officer from the Company. Twinam was brought into the house and told by Inspector Morley "We do not want to give you more trouble than we can help; perhaps you could tell me where these dies are". Twinam denied knowledge of any dies. He was then searched and amongst other things four keys were found to be in his possession; these were later found to open various tin boxes in the house which contained counterfeit punches.

The search proper was then commenced. The job proved to be an enormous one; nearly every cupboard or drawer contained something of consequence. The kitchen was the first place to be searched. One of the cupboards contained the following:

10 silver knife blades, 13 salt spoons, 13 parts to sugar tongs and spoons, one silver bowl (partly made) and a large wooden box.

The box was locked but the officers were able to open it with one of the keys found on Twinam's person. Inside the box there were four metal boxes. One contained 11 punches, a second 14 punches, the third 4 punches and the fourth one 3 punches. There were also, loose in the box, 4 punches, 6 pieces of silver plate, pieces of pewter, a pair of nippers, 2 metal spoon patterns and 21 bars of silver together with a small booklet giving tables of date letters as used for hallmarking. It was a noticeable point that although the cupboard was in a very dirty state the box itself was quite clean indicating that it had been recently handled. Two spoons bearing forged marks were found in another part of the cupboard. The remainder of the kitchen and the other rooms on the ground floor were searched but nothing further was found.

The search moved to the first floor. In the first bedroom, the one used as such by Twinam, a tin box was found which contained a further 59 punches. In the second bedroom a huge quantity of silver plate in various stages of manufacture was uncovered. There were in fact over 300 pieces which were complete though none of them was marked. In the front room on this floor even more plate was found, this time the majority of it was marked, counterfeit punches having been used. The final count revealed that 581 articles were found in this room. There was a variety of wares, large numbers of different spoons, cups, jugs, trays, candlesticks, caddies, coffee pots, muffineers, salts and the like. In fact just about as large a selection as there could have possibly been. Inspector Morley also found in this room £53 in gold coin and four £5 Bank of England notes. These were later handed to Twinam's wife.

His workshop was found to be a wooden lean-to shed in the garden. This too was searched and about 80 pieces of unfinished silver were found together with a number of tin boxes containing pieces of scrap silver.

By the middle of the afternoon the search was completed. All the articles found were taken to Dalston Police Station as was Twinam himself. Twinam was later charged to which he made no reply.

Committal

The same day Twinam was brought before the magistrate, Mr. E. Snow Fordham, at Dalston Police Court. During the hearing Detective Inspector Morley gave details of Twinam's arrest and of the search of his premises. Mr. Robinson gave evidence to the effect that all the punches which had been seized were forged and that certain of the silver articles found bore marks which had been struck by means of those punches. Twinam offered no explanation to the charges and was remanded in custody.

On March 17th, he was again brought before the court. Mr. Bodkin, instructed by Sir Walter Prideaux, prosecuted and Mr. Ricketts defended.

In opening the case Mr. Bodkin said that the prosecution was instituted under section 2 of the 1844 statute for the Prevention of Frauds and Abuses in the Marking of Silver Wares in England, this being the statute under which the Goldsmiths' Company carried out its duties. From information which recently came to the knowledge of the Company a watch was kept on the prisoner's house in Mayton Street. A warrant was subsequently obtained on which the prisoner was arrested. In the house sets of stamps for forging hallmarks were found together with a considerable number of articles which bore the impression of forged stamps etc., a felony. The magistrate would appreciate that there was a difference in the value of silver bearing modern hallmarks and antique articles bearing ancient marks. It was a peculiar feature in this case that the prisoner had in his possession complete sets of counterfeit marks from 1756 to 1809, the marks including the lion, the crowned leopard, the king's head, and the date letters. It was a custom of the Goldsmiths' Company to keep a register of the names of manufacturers of silver goods, together with their private marks which they were allowed to put on the manufactured articles. The punches or stamps found on the premises included a set of these private marks belonging to firms manufacturing during the period covered by the marks. The articles found on the premises were stamped with the maker's mark, the Goldsmiths' Hallmark, the duty mark, and the date mark. Yet all the articles found thus stamped had been recently manufactured.

Detective Inspector Morley was called upon to repeat the evidence that he had given previously and added that he had also found about £20 in bank notes which he had handed back to the prisoner's wife. In cross-examination he said that he had heard that the prisoner had lived in Mayton Street for at least 20 years but that he knew nothing of the man's character as he had not yet made enquiries. He was asked if he knew that the prisoner was employed by Messrs. Wakely and Wheeler, he replied that he did not. Mr. Ricketts asked if he had found anything else in the house to which he replied that he had found a quantity of unmanufactured silver and that the prisoner had told him to whom it belonged. Mr. Bodkin said that it would not be wise to bring names into the case at present, but Mr. Ricketts stated that he could not understand the suggestion, there was nothing in the case that need be concealed. He said that the unmanufactured silver was the property of Mr. Purdie of Sun Street, Finsbury, for whom the prisoner worked in his spare time. The Detective Inspector said that the prisoner had told him this. Continuing, he said that he had found the alleged counterfeit punches in the kitchen and in the front bedroom. He had found them in locked boxes, and in cupboards which were also locked. There was a workshop at the address which was attached to the house in the rear garden.

Mr. Ricketts then asked if any punches had been found in the workshop, the inspector replied that they had found one which was perfectly plain. Mr. Ricketts explained that it was part of his case that no punches making a hallmark were found in the workshop and he would show later that Twinam had been the dupe of others with regard to the punches found elsewhere.

Mr. Robinson was then called. He stated that all articles which bore the hallmark had to be sent to Goldsmiths' Hall to

have the stamp impressed. He said that he was present on the 9th when the prisoner's premises were raided and had since examined a number of the articles seized. He was of the opinion that the hallmarks on these articles were counterfeit. He had also examined 36 punches found in the house. They were of different sizes and represented different dates. They included the lion which had been the mark of the Company from 1756 to the present time, the crowned leopard in use from 1784 to 1821, the sovereign's head in use from 1784 until 1830, the annual letters covering those dates, and the manufacturers' private marks. The lion and the leopard's head were the marks of the Company, the sovereign's head represented the payment of the duty, and the private marks, which were all registered, would be a guide in ascertaining the date of manufacture. The genuine hallmarks were impressed by punches, and the force was given by a hammer or press.

Mr. Bodkin then asked Mr. Robinson, "Having examined the punches found at the premises occupied by the prisoner, what have you to say about them?"

He replied "They are good imitations for the purpose intended."

"What do you mean by that?" asked Mr. Bodkin.

"The countersinking is not very sharp, and that would give the stamp the appearance of age," said Mr. Robinson.

At this point Mr. Bodkin asked for a remand. Mr. Ricketts did not oppose, but asked for bail, saying that the story which the prisoner had given to him was perfectly consistent with innocence. Mr. Bodkin, however, opposed bail saying that it would not be in the interest of the prisoner to state why. The magistrate said he would fix bail at two sureties of £500 each.

Mr. Bodkin pressed the magistrate to withdraw this offer, which, in spite of protest from Mr. Ricketts, he did. Twinam was then remanded in custody.

On Saturday, March 25th, the case was resumed. Mr. Robinson was recalled and stated that he had completed his examination of the punches and manufactured articles found on the prisoner's premises. He said "Generally speaking, all the forged marks were placed on articles of modern manufacture." He could not say whether the articles were made five or fifty years ago, but they were certainly not made at the date the marks appearing on them represented. Some spoons were found which bore genuine hallmarks, but the date letter had been obliterated. There was also a spoon stem bearing an Irish mark. It was quite possible that a bowl and handle could be put to this stem and the complete spoon sold as Irish. There were no books on the prisoner's premises to indicate to whom the goods belonged. In cross examination by Mr. Ricketts, he said that no base metals were found marked. He believed that all the goods marked were of sterling silver. When he spoke of the articles as of modern manufacture he meant that they had been made in the last twenty years.

James Macmahon, the manager of Lawrence's, Pawn-brokers, of Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, was then called to the stand. He said, in answer to various questions, that he had known the defendant Twinam for some ten to twelve years, and

that from time to time he had pledged articles of silver plate. Some of the articles were modern, but many of them bore marks of the George II and George III periods. The last transaction he had with Twinam was about four years previously. Twinam had sold to him several "antique" articles bearing stamps of the last century for £12.14.6d. Macmahon said that he sent these articles to Debenham and Storr's to be sold under the hammer. In consequence of a communication from the auctioneers the articles were withdrawn from the sale. Subsequently Twinam brought some more "antique" articles and offered them for sale. The witness said that he detained the articles, told Twinam that the marks were forged, and demanded the money back which had been paid for the first lot. Twinam paid up, and both lots of silver were returned to him.

The defence as suggested by the cross-examination was that the stamps had not been used for 15 years, but the witnesses said that it was quite clear that they had been used quite recently. Detective Inspector Morley said that the box in which the punches were found had only just been secreted.

Mr. Fordham said that he would commit the prisoner for the three offences of forging the marks of the Goldsmiths' Company, of having forged punches in his possession, and of having articles bearing the forged stamps in his possession also. Mr. Ricketts said that the prisoner had a complete answer, but would reserve his defence. Twinam was then committed to the Old Bailey for trial.

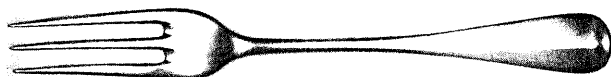
Trial

The Company felt that there was enough evidence on their side to procure a conviction at the trial. From evidence given at the committal proceedings it appeared that Twinam's defence was rather weak and centred mainly on his statements that the punches had not been used recently or by him. It was decided that the evidence of modern manufacture of the pieces and evidence regarding the recent use of the punches should be emphasised in the briefs to counsel. Mr. Bodkin and Mr. C.F. Gill, Q.C. were instructed to act for the Company.

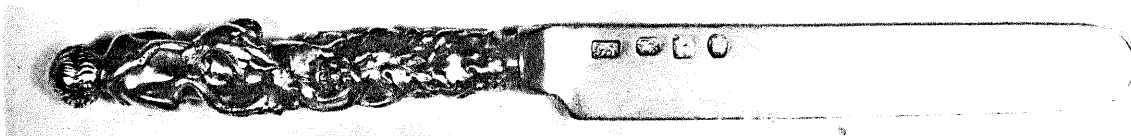
The trial duly took place on April 11th, in the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, before Mr. Justice Grantham. Mr. Randolph acted for the defence. Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, was present at the sitting of the court and occupied a seat on the bench next to the Lord Mayor.

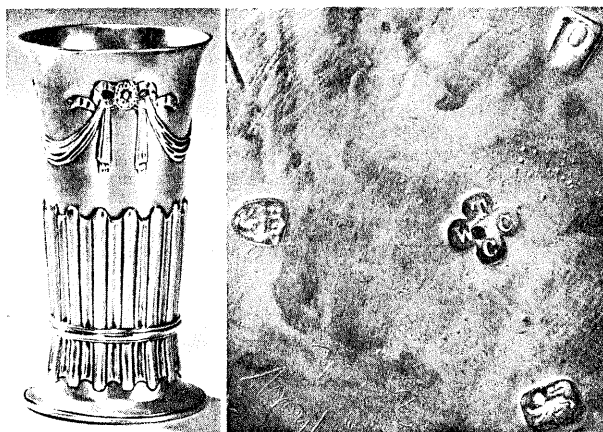
Twinam was indicted for having in his possession certain silver wares having thereon forged and counterfeited marks purporting to be the marks of dies and instruments provided and used by the Goldsmiths' Company for the marking and stamping of silver wares, he well knowing that those marks were counterfeited. Another count in the indictment charged the prisoner with having in his possession certain forged and counterfeited dies and instruments provided and used by the Goldsmiths' Company for the marking and stamping of silver wares, he knowing that those dies and instruments to be forged and counterfeited. Twinam pleaded not guilty on all counts.

In opening the case, Mr. Gill, Q.C. said it was alleged that



3 One of a set of three-pronged forks with forged marks for 1784. Note the crude appearance of the 'leopard's head'.
4 Maker's mark GS script and 'hallmarks' for 1784 again on the knife from a 3-piece set with cast figure handles.





5 The style of this vase would probably not now deceive anyone but the forged marks for 1779 might mislead the unwary buyer.



6 Another strange design for a small salt, the base with soft punches purporting to be hallmarks for 1774.

the prisoner was in possession of a very large quantity of plate which had been marked with forged and counterfeited dies, so as to make it appear that it was plate that had been manufactured 80 or 100 years ago. Old plate had a considerable value on account of its age, and there was an extensive demand for it. It was a matter of common knowledge that during recent years there had been manufactured and sold a considerable quantity of what was represented to be old plate, but which on examination by the authorities at the Goldsmiths' Hall was found to have been of quite recent manufacture, and to bear marks exactly similar to the marks which would have been properly on plate manufactured 100 years ago and forwarded to the Goldsmiths' Hall to be marked by the authorities there. It was well known that in recent years plate with forged marks upon it was being sold about the country. Some of it was taken to Goldsmiths' Hall, and, it being found that the marks were forged, inquiries were made which led to the prisoner being arrested. The prosecution put the case forward as a very serious one of dealing with and marking plate with forged dies, because it was suggested that it had been done on a very large scale by the prisoner.

The case against the prisoner was that, not only was he in possession of a very large quantity of plate with forged marks upon it, but that he was also in possession of the dies with which the marks on the plate had been made. In the process of manufacture of what was to be sold as old plate the pattern of a genuine piece of old plate was exactly copied, and then by artificial means or by exposure the plate made soon had the appearance of old plate, so that articles were produced exactly similar in design and appearance to a genuine piece of old plate. The prisoner had in his possession counterfeited dies so as to make the articles have the appearance of genuine old plate manufactured 100 years ago. Dies found in the prisoner's possession had, it was ascertained on examination, been in fact used on the plate in his possession.

On March 8th, a search warrant was applied for in order to search the premises occupied by the prisoner in Holloway, and a warrant for the arrest of the prisoner on the charge was also applied for. The prisoner was arrested on March 9th, and on his premises being searched a large quantity of plate with forged marks upon it was found, and also punches for impressing the forged marks upon it. The sum of £53 in gold and £15 in notes and a quantity of silver which had not been marked were also found on the premises. There was nothing to show for whom the silver was being made or who the people were with whom the prisoner was in touch.

The prisoner pawned some silver articles with a pawnbroker who thought they were antique silver. The articles were subsequently sent to be sold by auction at a pawnbrokers' sale, but the auctioneers returned them to the pawnbroker with an in-

timation that the articles were not genuine. The pawnbroker took the articles back to the prisoner, and told him that the auctioneers stated that the marks were not genuine. The prisoner said the articles were sent to him by a dealer in the country, and he did not know that the marks were forged.

Witnesses were then called and examined by the prosecution. Inspector James Morley was called first and gave evidence of the arrest of Twinam and details of the search of his house. Lists prepared by the Inspector giving details of the articles found on Twinam's premises were handed to the judge.

James McMahon, the Holloway pawnbroker, was called next and he repeated the evidence which he had given at the earlier committal proceedings concerning the articles which the prisoner had pawned with him.

Mr. Herbert Robinson, the head of the Assay Office, was then called. He gave details of his part in the search of Twinam's premises and of the wares and punches found. He told the court about the functions of an assay office and its statutory duties regarding the marking of silver wares. He said that he had examined the punches found at Twinam's house and decided that they were forgeries. James Field, an officer in the assay office, confirmed the evidence given by Mr. Robinson in every respect, as did Henry Adams who was called afterwards.

Next to be called was Mr. James Garrard. He too confirmed the evidence of Mr. Robinson. On cross-examination he said that he held the appointment of Goldsmith and Silversmith to the Crown, and that he had large experience in plate of all kinds. He said that he had carefully examined the several articles of silver found in the prisoner's possession, and that he was clearly of the opinion that they are all of quite modern date, and were most probably manufactured within the previous few months.

The last witness for the prosecution was John Pinches, a practical engraver and die cutter. He said that he had been in business for many years and had large experience in the cutting and engraving of punches and dies. He told the court that he held the office of engraver of punches to the Goldsmiths' Company. He said that he had examined the punches in question and although it was exceedingly difficult to speak positively as to when a punch was last used, in his judgement certain of the punches had been used quite recently, at any rate within a year. Other punches had probably been used within the past three years. As to the remainder, he said that he could not speak with any certainty about them.

The only witness to be called for the defence was Twinam himself. On examination he said that he had experience as a working silversmith and that he worked at home in his spare time. The marked silver wares, he said, had been in his home for some 14 to 15 years, having bought them when he was in business at the time at 1 St. James' Walk. He knew a man

named George Davy who was a travelling dealer. He said that he offered him some antique silver wares at eight shillings an ounce. He had some small knowledge of old hallmarks at the time and thought they were genuine and took some. He said that he met him later at Holloway and told him that he had not sold any because he had since had doubts about the articles. Davy told him that he was going away for a time but would be back and asked him to look after a brown paper parcel in the meantime. Davy never returned.

Twinam said that he later opened the parcel and found the punches inside and was very suspicious. He put them in a box and locked them up.

On examination by Mr. Gill he said that he had sold one or two of the articles to a pawnbroker and that he had made a few unmarked things for a small manufacturer. He said that he had never used the punches.

Mr. Randolph addressed the jury for the defence, contending that the prisoner had acted perfectly innocently in the matter. Mr. Justice Grantham briefly summed up the case and the jury duly retired to consider its verdict.

The jury later returned declaring the prisoner guilty on all counts.

Mr. Bodkin said that the prisoner was a witness at the court in 1898 when a man was tried for the possession of various silver articles bearing forged marks, and he stated that he had been in business on his own account many years ago, and that on retiring from business he found a considerable stock of old silver on his hands, some of which he disposed of to the man on trial.

Mr. Justice Grantham said that the prisoner had very properly been found guilty of the offence with which he had been charged. No one who had heard the case could doubt that the prisoner had for years been carrying on this illicit trade, which was a very profitable one. He sentenced the prisoner to five years penal servitude. He directed that the plate with the forged marks upon it and the forged dies be delivered up to the Goldsmiths' Company under the Act 7 and 8 Vic., Chap. 22, the dies to be destroyed and the plate to be melted and sold for the purpose of defraying the costs of the prosecution. The unmarked silver would remain in the hands of the police, and would be dealt with as the law may decide.

The 1899 Pamphlet

The outcome of the case was most satisfactory as far as the Company was concerned. Sir Walter Prideaux in his report to the Wardens said that he regarded this as quite the most important capture of modern times.

It was the policy of the Company to fight shy of publicity in these cases. Several people however, put forward suggestions to the Company about possible further actions they could take to bring the facts of the Twinam case to the notice of the trade and the public.

The most notable suggestion came from Francis Thomas, a liveryman of the Goldsmiths' Company. He said, in a memorandum to the Wardens, that it would be desirable for the Wardens to give to members of the trade an opportunity of examining the faked silver wares, and of inspecting the counterfeit dies with which the plate was marked. He said that such a step would be in the best interests both of the public and the trade, and would prove a valuable object lesson to those licensed plate holders who should take advantage of the opportunity offered to them. Thomas advocated that the various articles of spurious antique silver might be marked, weighted, and accurately described, and the more important articles might be photographed. Facsimiles of the counterfeit dies might be drawn, and printed for future reference, and distributed amongst the trade. He pointed out that the result of Twinam's conviction and sentence would probably lead to the unloading by dealers of spurious antique silver. He hoped though that honest holders, and those who desire to do what is right would

look through and examine their stocks, and would destroy any article of a doubtful character.

The Wardens considered the suggestions of Thomas at their next meeting. They were not at all keen on having the plate put on exhibition. Mr. J.M. Garrard in particular said that he was absolutely convinced that it was bad policy to have anything to do with the public in a case of this nature. He thought that a schedule giving a facsimile of the marks and enumerating the articles would be quite sufficient to put the trade on their guard, and this was all that the Wardens could reasonably be expected to do. The Wardens agreed and instructed the Clerk to have the document produced and circulated.

The eight page pamphlet was prepared and printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode, Her Majesty's printers, then of Downs Park Road, London N.E. The pamphlet entitled "Spurious Antique Plate. Description of Silver Articles bearing Forged or Counterfeit Marks, which have been recently seized by the Goldsmiths' Company, with Facsimile Makers' and Date Marks", was published at the end of May, 1899. It was sent to every person in London holding a Plate Licence, about 600 in number, and to a few dealers in the country with the following covering letter:

Goldsmiths' Hall
London E.C.
July 1899.

Sir,

I am directed by the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company to forward, for your information, particulars of a considerable quantity of Spurious Antique Plate which has recently been seized by them, and is still in their possession, together with facsimiles of the marks on the several articles in question.

The Wardens have prepared, and are circulating, this description in the belief that it will be of use to Manufacturers, Dealers, Auctioneers, Pawnbrokers and others, into whose possession similar articles may come in the ordinary course of business, by enabling them to recognise counterfeit marks, and protect themselves, and the Public, from attempted frauds.

The Wardens trust that they may rely upon the co-operation of the Trade in this important matter.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
Walter S. Prideaux

The trade did not appear to have taken much interest in the matter, and in fact only six acknowledged its receipt. The Clerk did, however, receive applications from twenty persons in the provinces requesting to be supplied with copies of the circular, but the applications were, almost without exception, from watchmakers and persons in a small way of business. Sir Walter Prideaux in his report to the Wardens, said that the circulation of the information in question had done good and that the Company need not regret the trouble that they had taken.

The pamphlet is divided into two sections with a dividing line on page 4. The first section deals with the Twinam case, the name marks agreeing with the forged punches in the Company's possession. Detailed drawings of the marks from these punches are given on page 35. The second section in the pamphlet covers the plate seized from the premises of Reuben Lyon. The only name mark common to both lists is G.S., although many of the date letters appear in each section. Unfortunately the drawings of the marks in the pamphlet are rather poor and it is impossible to say whether or not similar drawings relate to the same punch. The plate seized from Lyon and that seized from Twinam has long since been destroyed and there seems to be no record of it besides the pamphlet.

The Lyon-Twinam case remains to this day the largest and most important seizure of forged antique silver plate in the history of the Goldsmiths' Company.

APPENDIX 1.

Name marks used by Twinam

AD	EC	GM	IL	JY*	SH	TC-WC	WC
AF	EF	GS*	IT	PB-AB	SM*	TP	WF
BP	FE*	HB	IW	PN	SW	TP-AH	WI
CD	FA	HC	IW-WT	RC	TB	TS	WL*
CT*	FW	IC	JS	RJ	TD	TW	WS*
CW-TW	GC	ID	JT*	SC	TL	WB*	

*Punch seized from Twinam as illustrated in Appendix 3

APPENDIX 2

Date letters used by Twinam (or seized from Lyon)

Date	Letter	Occurrence	Date	Letter	Occurrence
1719*	D	0	1781*	f	45
1721	F	1	1782	g	3
1723	H	2	1783*	h	59
1729*	O	4	1784*	i	52
1734*	T	0	1790*	p	11
1739	C	2	1791	q	3
1749*	o	5	1795	u	3
1754	t	2	1796	A	7
1757	B	2	1797	B	4
1759	D	14	1798*	C	2
1761	f	2	1799	D	1
1762	G	14	1800	E	2
1763	H	1	1802	G	3
1770	p	1	1804*	I	50
1772	R	2	1809*	O	63
1774	T	8	1810	P	1
1777	b	12	1813	S	3
1778	c	3	1814	T	1
1779	d	22	1830	p	1

* Punch seized from Twinam and now in the Company's possession.

The figures in the 'occurrence' columns above relate to the number of times that the date letter occurred on pieces brought to the notice of the Goldsmiths' Company up to the present time. In certain cases it is not known whether the same punch was used for marks of any other date.

APPENDIX 3

Impressions of the punches seized from the premises of Charles Twinam and now in the possession of the Goldsmiths' Company.

1719		1784		1		9		17		25	
1729		1790		2		10		18		26	
1734		1798		3		11		19		27	
1749				4		12		20		28	
1781		1804		5		13		21		29	
1783		1809		6		14		22		30	
				7		15		23		31	
				8		16		24		32	

Punches No. 36 and 37 have only limited relief and when an impression of these punches on silver is polished they can resemble a worn Leopards Head.