

SPoon COLLECTORS

OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

NEWSLETTER



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Website: www.souvenirspoons.com/scsc

ANOINTING SPOON REPLICAS IN SILVER AND SILVER GILT FROM GREAT BRITAIN

- PART 2 -

By Jack F. Wilson

My collection presently has spoons dating from 1885 to 1997, with one hundred and thirty-five examples. Fifty-four silversmiths are represented in the collection, although not all of them actually made the spoons they have marked as theirs, particularly from 1936 onwards.



Spoon from the author's collection by Barker Brothers Ltd, Birmingham 1952, 25.30 cm

Examples of teaspoon-sized replicas with highly abbreviated ornamentation began to appear in or around 1910. There were vestigial remnants of some of the ornamentation on the original spoon found on these examples, but many were definitely made utilizing stamping machines and not cast. Earlier examples were made up of cast [and sometimes stamped] parts sweated together. Often the bowl engraving on the earlier examples was cast, but many of these castings were refined by hand chasing. Bowl shape varies as well. Some are rather narrow, others broad-ranging to almost round. I have a few examples of a spade-shaped bowl. Also around this time smaller versions to be used as salt and mustard spoons began to appear.

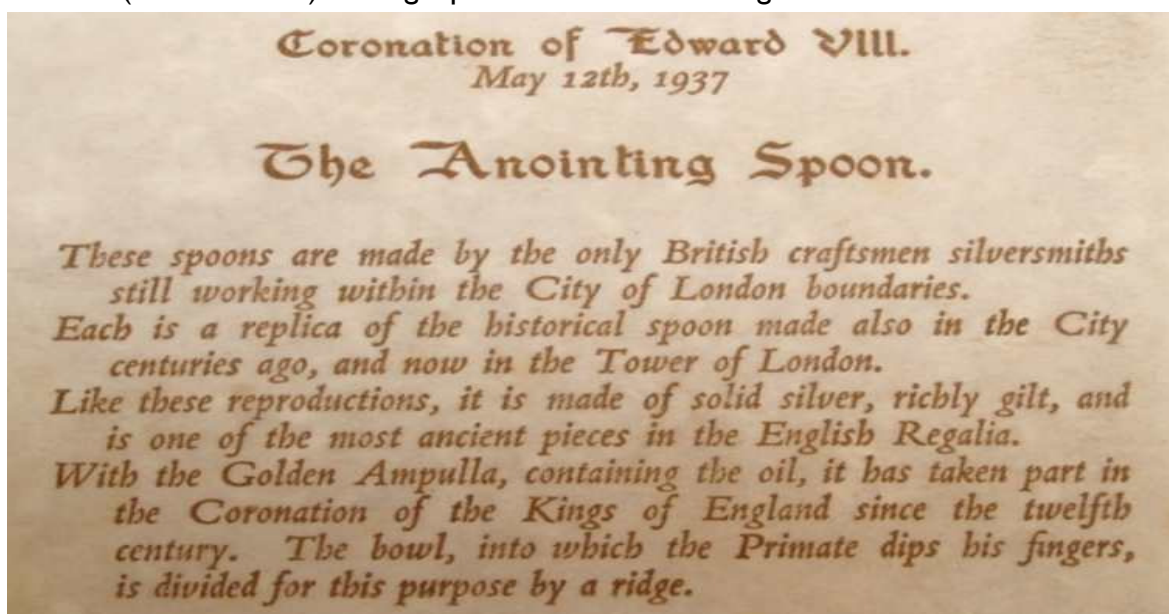
In 1910 the pendant and brooch forms made their appearance. Before the anticipated coronation of Edward VIII, and the eventual coronation of George VI in 1937, several examples of spoons were made for actual use, such as teaspoons, in addition to being keepsakes or commemoratives.

Barry Potter made this observation: *"The spoon design has also been used in a variety of other silverware of which the following have been observed or reported:*

- i) A brooch of 1 7/8" length, hallmarked Chester, made by C.D Saunders & J.F.H. Shepherd.
- ii) A necklace ornament of 1 1/2" length (in non-hallmarked silver of non-British origin).
- iii) A pair of sugar tongs (reported).
- iv) A knife and fork set (reported).
- v) A pickle fork of 6 5/8" length, hallmarked London 1910, and made by Barnard & Sons.
- vi) A Salt and Mustard Spoon Set, hallmarked Birmingham 1901, but with the backs of each handle being plain.
- vii) A pair of 20th Century Salt and Mustard Spoons, incorporating the handle design only, the bowls being plain.

- viii) A 2" high, ornamental chalice, hallmarked London 1910, made by Saunders & Shepherd, with the spoon being used for the handle. The side of the chalice has, in relief, the emblems of England, Scotland and Ireland.
- ix) A Toast Rack, hallmarked London 1910, made by Saunders & Shepherd with pairs of 3" spoons [4 pairs], handles crossed, used as the upright dividers. The central divider has two 4 1/2" spoons, further embellished with the outline of a crown, as an extension to the handles.
- x) A set of 6 Coffee Spoons with a pair of Sugar Tongs [Cased] of Dutch origin.
- xi) A pair of pickle forks of 6 5/8" length, hallmarked London 1937 and made by Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Co., Ltd.
- xii) A set of 6 Coffee Spoons of 4 1/8" length with a pair of Sugar Tongs (Boxed), hallmarked London 1910, and made by Saunders & Shepherd, stamped with a Registration Number of 57028.

Spoons have also been used in conjunction with other objects to create presentation sets; one example of this is a cased set containing an enamelled 8" spoon (Birmingham 1933), maker Levi & Salaman] paired with a silver bowl (Chester 1910) making a presentation Christening Set."



Parchment printed exposition of the Anointing Spoon history . Photo courtesy Saunders Sheperd & Co Ltd.

It is obvious that a great many of the smaller late spoon forms were made by stamping them out from one or two dies that were utilized by a single (or a small number of) producer(s), and then sold to other shops where their hallmarks and maker marks were added. The uniformity of detail cannot admit any other explanation. I have found only one example of the old quality made after the 1953 coronation of Elizabeth II (1955, Saunders & Shepherd).

From the earliest dates these spoons could be had in silver gilt or in plain sterling silver. My 1885 example retains quite a bit of its original gilding, and many examples of later date gleam like solid gold.

When I wrote Mr. David Freeman-Valle, General Manager of Saunders Shepherd & Co Ltd. of London [formerly, Saunders & Shepherd], he made contact with several people in the firm and asked them about any history of spoon production. Unfortunately, the company's records were destroyed in 1941 during the Blitz. However, the present chairman, Mr. Tony Shepherd, had these recollections:

"I can only state the fairly obvious, from memory, as you know our records were destroyed by bombing in 1941. I recall:

- Associated with each Coronation.
- Always sterling silver.
- Usually the spline and bowl were cast as one but for the larger spoons the splines and bowls were cast separately.
- The method of casting before 1941 was by "sand casting", whereby a form was created by pressing the master-

model into wet sand, either in once piece or two pieces, later to be "sweated" (fused) together. As can be imagined, this method gave rise to many failures and faults unless the highest skills were employed, until centrifugal casting was developed after (World War II).

Hence, SS&Co's success in this field.

- The bowl was always gilded inside, if it had been cast as opposed to pressed. Often the splines were gilded too."

Mr. Freeman-Valle also provided some excellent photographs from the firm's museum and from the personal collection of Mr. John Coupland, Managing Director of SS&Co. Some of these photographs appear in this article.



Cased set of spoons made to commemorate the Coronation of Edward VIII, which did not take place due to his abdication. Photo courtesy Saunders Sheperd & Co Ltd.

Mr. James Deakin, of Deakin & Francis, Limited (formerly James Deakin & Sons, Birmingham and Sheffield) responded to my request for information thusly: "We undoubtedly made anointing spoons but really do not have any records of them. This example (see Addendum) from our museum was made for Edward VIII when he was marrying Mrs. Simpson, but he abdicated before it happened!"

Craig Robathan, Proprietor of C. Robathan & Sons Ltd, a Birmingham firm founded in 1908, passed on some information. "My company made a tea spoon of 4 1/8" (10.50 cm) long, a salt spoon of 2 3/8" (6.0 cm) long and a mustard spoon of 2 5/8" (6.70 cm) long. We started making the Anointing Spoons in 1952 in time for the Queen's Coronation in 1953." The latest spoon from this firm in my collection dates to 1997.

So many of the silversmiths were in business for such a short time, and their records are just non-existent, being lost or destroyed. Many of the firms only issued one spoon, because they were in production for only one year, their owners moving in and out of business as shop masters, partners and journeymen. But the great firms, Saunders & Shepherd, Wakeley & Wheeler (taken over by Barry Witmond, who did his apprenticeship there), The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company [acquired by Garrard], produced top quality replicas over the years with high consistency. It is to be hoped that, should Queen Elizabeth II live another five years, these firms will continue their tradition and offer replicas to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. And if she turns out to live as long as The Queen Mother did, we might look forward to spoons commemorating the longest reign in British history. At any rate, collectors would be gratified to be treated to fine quality replicas in the future and not have to be satisfied with the stamped, souvenir-type spoons so common today.



Back of bowl with Saunders & Co maker's mark
Photo courtesy Saunders Sheperd & Co Ltd.



Detail of Saunders & Co maker's mark
Photo courtesy Saunders Sheperd & Co Ltd.

Collecting these spoons presents its own problems. Most shop owners and other vendors do not know what they have. They know they have a British spoon, maybe even the assay city and the year mark. Rarely do they know the maker. They don't know what kind of spoon it is, nor really how to price it, since no catalogues or guides exist. eBay usually has several examples for auction at any given time. The lack of knowledge found in established shops is equally present on eBay. Uniformity of valuing is similarly lacking. A spoon worth seventy-five to one hundred dollars may languish for weeks on end with a four-hundred and fifty dollar starting price, while a quite valuable and rare spoon may be offered with no reserve and a starting price of ninety-nine cents. It is very much of a flea market atmosphere. Having said this, I must assert that eBay has been a wonderful venue for collecting these spoons, and the sellers have been uniformly kind and helpful.

The collecting of these Anointing Spoon replicas has brought me considerable joy in the hunt and the acquisition; kindled my enthusiasm for detective work in trying to puzzle out the identities of silversmiths; and many hours of relaxation studying the intricacies of design and execution of these spoons. It has also given me a glimpse into the continuity of tradition in the life of the British people and the heritage of their great workshops of guildsmen.

Acknowledgements: Thanks go to my friend, mentor, and fellow collector, **Barry Potter** of **Hayes, Middlesex, England**, who provided invaluable and hard-sought material for this article. As a body of information, it is not found anywhere else, and I could not have found all of his sources on my own. His generosity in sharing this information is deeply gratifying. **Mr. David Freeman-Valle**, General Manager of **Saunders Shepherd & Co Ltd.**, was most generous in his time and efforts in tracking down members of the firm who might have the information I requested and in providing and making some of the photographs. **Mr. Tony Shepherd**, Chairman of **SS&Co**, provided invaluable memories of spoon production. **Mr. John Coupland**, Managing Director of **SS&Co**, generously shared part of his private collection to be photographed. **SS&Co** provided photographs of spoons from their museum. **Mr. James Deakin** of **Deakin & Francis, Ltd** provided an anecdote and some photographs. I exchanged several emails with **Craig Robathan**, Proprietor of **C. Robathan & Sons Ltd**, **Birmingham**. He very kindly looked into their reco (If you have a request of them, please provide a photograph or drawing of the maker's mark). Thanks are due to those representatives of firms and organizations who responded to my requests for information with sincere regrets. So much valuable information has been destroyed or lost.

JACK FOWLER WILSON is a retired Episcopal priest living in the southeastern United States in Alabama. His enthusiasm for collecting these spoons comes from an appreciation of fine craftsmanship and British ancestry on both sides of his family. His father's parents emigrated from England, and his mother's family came to these shores from Scotland and Wales.

Owing to his heavy health problems, **Jack F. Wilson** is resolved to sell his wide collection of silver anointing spoons. People interested in his unique collection may contact Rev. Wilson at presterjack1@aol.com

This article has been reprinted with the kind permission of its author, Jack Fowler Wilson. It was previously published in the Association of Small Collectors of Antique Silver, article #97, ascasonline.org. Part I of this article appeared in the August 2008 issue of this newsletter.

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND FUN 2008 SPOON COLLECTORS CONVENTION

by Nickie Devine



The 2008 Spoon Collectors Convention, sponsored by the Spoon Collectors of Southern California was held at the Town and Country Resort and Hotel in San Diego, California. It was a perfect setting for 80 “spooners” to get together, some as far away as Canada and New Zealand.

Some early-bird spooning started on Tuesday. The convention continued Wednesday with a Welcome Buffet Banquet that evening. The speaker was Linda Canada, a San Diego Historian. Thursday began early with the spoon display setups. There were 6 competing entrants, and there were 6 winners who were announced at the Farewell Banquet on Saturday. The judges were Betty Locke, Clink Stark and Wayne Bednersh.



The winners were, as seen in this photo from left to right: Donald Tritt, Best Overall; Carolyn Keating, Newcomer; Bob Corson, Veteran, 1st place; Rick Marek, Veteran, 2nd place; Anne Marek, 1st place Enamels; Trudy Geer, 2nd place Enamels. There were also non-competitive displays by Wayne Bednersh, Bob Corson, Nickie Devine, Lee Geer and Carol Hyland. All spooners were able to vote on “Spooners’ Choice” and that prize went to Bob Corson for his Plique-a-jour display.

Thursday afternoon there was a lively auction led by Chris McGlothlin. Friday was a free day for sightseeing or relaxing. Saturday there were meetings in the morning. The steering committee for the 2009 convention and the National Liaison Committee both met. That afternoon there were 3 excellent seminars. Paula Freund spoke on the Female Form on American Souvenir Spoons, Nick Spark spoke on Fred Harvey, Navajo and Souvenir Spoons of the Southwest and Barbara Burns spoke on Skyline Spoons, United States and Territories. All the talks were accompanied by wonderful slides.

Saturday evening was the Farewell Banquet, after dinner there were display prizes and door prizes given out. Wayne Bednersh, SCSC President honored the convention committee with many thanks and a gift to those pictured from right to left:



Barbara Bucsis, Convention Coordinator; Nickie Devine, Information packets; Paula Freund, Newsletter Editor; Trudy Geer, Banquet Centerpieces; Carol Hyland, Goody Bags; Andrew Kwiat, Auction Organizer and Catalog; Betty Locke, Display Judge; Bill and Malva Smith, Display Contest and Awards; Clint Stark, Display Judge and Diana & Clint Stark, Centerpieces and chocolates for the Banquet.

The 2009 Convention will be held in Las Vegas, September 14-17 at the Palace Station Hotel.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY CAROL HYLAND

Good news—most of our members sent in their dues last month! If you are among the few who did forget to mail in your check (\$15 singles, \$20 couples), please send it to me, Carol Hyland, 1217 Marengo Ave., South Pasadena, CA 91030-3901. Please respond promptly, we want to include everyone in the new roster which will be mailed with the February newsletter

More good news—we have several new members: Cathleen Brannon, San Juan Capistrano; Ed & Nancy Bathe, Littleton, CO; Bill & Joyce Wright, Salado, TX and Bill & Dorothy Voss, Bellaire, TX . A warm welcome to each of you—and happy spooning!

SPOON COLLECTORS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEETING NOTES:

Saturday, October 5, 2008, by Nickie Devine

On Sunday, October 5, we met for our Potluck Luncheon at the home of Trudy & Lee Geer which was decorated for Halloween with spooks and witches. After our usual spoon trading the 17 of us sat down for lunch, and many delicious desserts.

Wayne Bednersh, President, opened the meeting by thanking Trudy and Lee for having the meeting. Nickie, on behalf of the convention committee presented Barbara Bucsis, Convention Coordinator, with a rose plant. Andrew Kwiat, Convention Auction Chairman reported on that event and wanted to thank Chris McGlothlin again for doing such a great job as auctioneer. Almost all the spoons that were submitted were purchased. Trudy, member of the National Liaison Committee, reported that the South West Spoon Club has become inactive. The club decided to take this action because of lack of new members. She also mentioned that the National Spoon Convention in 2009 would be sponsored by the N. L. C. in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 14, to September 17. Our club voted to give their committee \$100.00 to help fund the convention. Barbara Bucsis, Treasurer read her report. She also thanked all the volunteers who contributed to the convention. Carol Hyland brought some convention pads and pens she still has with the convention logo on them.

Malva and Bill Smith will host our next meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008. The theme will be Military spoons. Trudy will conduct the meeting, as Wayne will not be present.

The meeting was closed and we all shared Columbus spoons and spoons that we acquired at the convention.



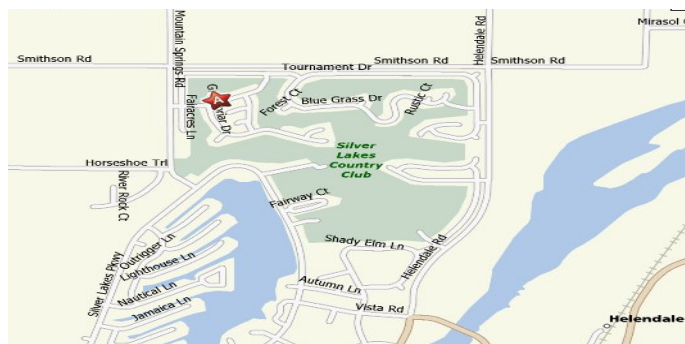
SCSC Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 7, 11:00 am

@ The Home of Bill & Malva Smith, 27983 Club Court, Helendale, CA 92342

Potluck Luncheon, Please call to confirm attendance, 760-243-2945

Topic: Military Spoons

Directions: 1. Take Hwy 15 to Victorville. As you leave Victorville take the D street/Hwy 18 exit to the right. Keep left to the stop light. 2. At the light turn left and stay on the National Trails/Hwy 66 road for approximately 14 miles. 3. Turn left on Vista Road for approx. 1.5 miles. 4. Turn right at Lakeview Drive, which becomes Silver Lakes Parkway 1 mile. 5. Turn right at Mountain Springs Road .4 miles. 6. Turn right at Robin Lane (through the wall) .2 miles. 7. Turn left at Club Court (second street) 27983 Club Court, will be on the end on the right.



SPOON COLLECTORS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEETING NOTES

Saturday, August 16, 2008, By Nickie Devine

Carol Hyland hosted the potluck luncheon and spoon meeting on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Carol lives in a lovely old Craftsman home in South Pasadena. Her home was built in 1911. Craftsman Homes were designed in part by Gustav Stickley, a furniture builder from Syracuse, New York. He was interested in the American Art & Crafts Movement in the early 1900's. Some people had grown tired of the over built Victorian homes and wanted something using more natural woodwork and stonework and more windows letting in natural light. We ate our lunch and held our meeting in her backyard. The huge elm trees overhead and umbrellas provided shade.

Wayne Bednersh, President, opened the meeting by mentioning the Anointing Spoon article in our August newsletter. He said the author, Jack Wilson was selling his collection and to contact Wayne for more information. Trudy Geer asked us all to give a great big "thank you" to Paula Freund, who is the editor of the newsletter. She does a super job. She lives up north and cannot attend our meetings, but she and her husband are going to be able to attend convention this year. Andrew Kwiat spoke about the Marketplace section and had some great ideas. Barbara Bucsis, Treasurer, read her report. She also told us that the 2008 convention from 9-10 to 9-13 was progressing on schedule. She has 3 speakers lined up for Saturday. She thanked Andrew for organizing and collecting spoons for the auction and Lee Geer for printing and mailing the auction lists. Lee also printed the pads of paper

with the convention logo on them that will go in the "goodie bag.

Carol Hyland, Membership, is handling the bags and has lots of things to put in them. Besides the note pads, there will be pens, pins, stickers, 3M strips, magnets, water, candy, information about San Diego and much more. Bill and Malva Smith are taking care of the convention spoon displays. He said ballots will be handed out at the viewing. Three members have volunteered to be judges.

Wayne thanked Carol for hosting the meeting. We then shared our "Naughty Nudes" spoons. Our next meeting will be at Trudy and Lee's home on Sunday, October 5. We will share Columbus spoons.



The **SouthWest Spoon Collectors Club** had its final meeting at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego. We voted to become an inactive club. We will retain the name for several years. The group attending the meetings has been very small. The meetings have been very enjoyable and informative.

Update From the National Liaison Committee , From Rick Marek, Committee Secretary

The National Liaison Committee is comprised of a representative from each of the four regional spoon clubs along with four members-at-large appointed by the Committee. We meet annually during the National Spoon Convention. This year, our 13th meeting, occurred in San Diego.

Over the past year, our chairperson, Helen Shelanskey, worked on putting together a comprehensive Mission Statement. This was accomplished with feedback from other Committee members. The Mission Statement is as follows:

The Mission of the National Liaison Committee is to act as a consultative liaison for the regional souvenir spoon clubs to promote spoon collecting by meeting during the Annual Spoon Convention to: coordinate the Annual Spoon Convention for at least the next two years; maintain and fund the National Spoon Collectors' Research and Reference Library; maintain a web site to promote the National Liaison Committee and support the regional clubs the National Liaison Committee represents. (Our address is: <http://souvenirspoons.com/spooncollectingclubs/index.htm>); maintain an address List of Spoon Collectors for the exclusive use of the clubs whose representatives comprise the National Liaison Committee; not in any way direct individual clubs as to their function, composition or activities.

Future conventions are: 2009 in Las Vegas, 2010 in Spokane, WA; and 2011 in Orlando FL.

Our National Spoon Collectors' Research & Reference Library continues to expand under the capable direction of our Librarian, Debbie Pankey. Besides adding to the number of reference books and periodicals, Debbie is working to preserve this information on discs. It is very easy to access the library. When you have a question, email Debbie at: dpankey@afwair.net.

If you are a member of a spoon club your request is copied and sent to you at no charge. This is another benefit of belonging to a club. In a related matter, if you are producing printed material for a spoon presentation, the Liaison Committee will assist with your expenses. up to \$100. Our only requirement is that this printed material be given free to the attendees and a copy sent to the library. Ask your club representative for details.

Our newest initiative to promote spoon clubs is our having a national membership drive. This 'sub-committee' is made up of Ed Bathke, Debbie Pankey, and Trudy Geer. We have also begun advertising in Silver Magazine. Our ad appeared in a recent issue. We will run this ad annually.

Each of us on the Committee want to thank each spooner for their support of the Liaison Committee and all that each of you do to support spooning and spoon clubs.

I hope to see everyone in Las Vegas in September of 2009 (14th thru 17th) at the National Convention. These conventions are always packed full of spoons, friends, and are a lot of fun!

Spoon Collectors of Southern California

Paula Freund, Newsletter Editor

4225 Howe Street

Oakland, CA 94611-4704



SCSC Meetings 2008

February 9

Buca di Beppo's
Encino

April 12

El Cholo Mexican Restaurant
West Los Angeles

June 14

Nickie & Arnie Devine's Home
Manhattan Beach

August 16

Carol Hyland's Home
South Pasadena

October 5, SUNDAY(!)

Trudy and Lee Geer's Home
Los Alamitos

December 7, SUNDAY (!)

Malva and Bill Smith's Home
Helendale

all meetings begin at 11:00 A.M.

Spoon Collectors of Southern California

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Please submit any contributions to Paulajgfreund@sbcglobal.net by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Many thanks.