



MARKS AND MASTERS the history of Swedish pewter marks

By Jan Lindström

INTRODUCTION

This document will only bring us the story of marks tied to the manufacturer. There where though other marks, as those seen on vessels used as gauges in trades. A control of the volume, would if satisfying, end with a kröning (crowning). Others outside the box, are owners marks. Included though are a list of known historic pewterers, from the authors province.

THE HISTORY OF SWEDISH MARKS

The oldest (to day known) European guild, that had to use masters-, and citystamps, is to be found in Nürnberg. This was in the year of grace 1285. Swedish pewterers were for certain living and working, in those days. But the first (to day known) Swedish pewterguild, is from 1545. From that year until 1913, the pewtermakers, had to use different forms of controlstamps. The list below, unveil the most important events, during the guild years.

1545**The highest power (not god), demanded in 1545, that masterstamps should be applied. Although the observance of this rule, were not good, until some years into the 1600-s. The rules proclaimed also, that the guildmaster, should visit the workshops once a month. Then he should make a casting (of lathe shavings etc.), that were put on a balance. The sample were then compared with a master. The masterstamp was sometimes several. One stamp were used per character. Example: MPR = 3 stamps. This type of mark can be mixed up with the yearcode-mark (described later on).

1622**In 1622 it was time for citystamps. The symbol on the citys coats of arms, were often used. Another way of doing things, was to use the initial of the cityname. The whole cityname was also sometimes placed on the items.

1640-s**In parts of northern Europe, had the rose long been a symbol of quality. From this period, an increasing import of pewter were seen. Plenty of this pewter, had roses on them. So maybe influenced by that, Swedish makers, copied that behaviour.

1680-s**Stamps showing angels are now a modernity. In Swedish *English* is pronounced *engelskt*. Ängel is the Swedish word for angel, so engelskt became Ängelskt, in a time when very few people were understanding the English language. The story behind, is that pewter from this country, for some reason, was looked upon as the best. That the pewtermakers patron is an angel, is of course, another story. Now were not always an angelmark a such, although there always called so. Figures of Fortune, and Justice, were also used.

1694**Yearcodes came in use, A=1694, B=1695, and so on. When the alfabet came to its end, a new fontstyle, were started. The letter J, and the Swedish Å, Ä, and Ö, were not used. To control the percentage of tin, in pewteritems, a new kind of touchmarks was also introduced this year. The items should be provided with 2-,3-, or 4-stamps. These representing 67, 83, or 97% tin. 2-markt should have 1 master-,and 1 citystamp. The medium quality 2 masters-, and 1 citystamp. The finest had 2 of each.

1754**In this year a coat of arms, wich shows the three crowns, became the new national qualitymark (the Sveaskölden).

1759**The yearcode series, will now change to be harmonazied, with the one for gold and silver. That was some years older, so the pewtercode was changed from r=1758, to an A=1759.

1783**The yearcode system is changed, to 1 letter + 1 figure, each year. (A2=1783, B2=1784, and so on).

1913**January the first this year, the Swedish government, no longer found it nessesery to control pewtermaking. From now on it's up to the makers, to mark there items, or not.

SWEDISH YEARCODES

Between the years 1694 to 1717 was the style of Roman capitals, used as yearcodes. The letter J, and the Swedish one`s (Å,Ä,and Ö), where not included in this alfabet. The character that looks like a V, is more of a U. To read this code just imagine A as 1694, B as 1695, and so on.

1. ABCDEFGHIKLMNO
1694-1717
PQRSTUVWXYZ

Italic uper-case took over from 1718, until 1741. V could here replace U (V normaly not used in this series).

2. ABCDEFGHIKLMNO
1718-1741
PQRSTVWXYZ

The next serie that started in 1742 used Gothic lower-case. This suite ended earlier then it normaly should, with an r in 1758. The reason for that where harmonization with the series for gold, and silver (started earlier). Adopt this was by some makers, just ignored. Thats why we can see some items with Gothic lower-case after 1758 (letters in yellow-ish box). Characters that can variate a lot is k,and s (grey squares).

3. abcdefghijklmn
1742-1758
opqr fs tuvwxyz

When we now arrived to Gothic capitals, will we meet the most difficult to read, of them all. This old-fashion style where in use between the years 1759-1782. The capitals C,E,G,S,U,Z, and maybe A, can be quite a match to master for modern people. The marks where also made by hand, and the style itself can variate somewhat in looks.

4. ABCDEFGHIKLMNO
1759-1782
PQRSTUVWXYZ

The new system combines one letter with one (later two) figure(s). For some years where the style of Gothic capitals, still in use. The start in 1783 gave the code A2, the following year became B2 and so on. In more modern times have we for example A11=1999, and B11=2000. As in the earlier days are not J, Å, Ä, and Ö included.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	1783	1807	1831	1855	1879	1903	1927	1951	1975	1999
B	1784	1808	1832	1856	1880	1904	1928	1952	1976	2000
C	1785	1809	1833	1857	1881	1905	1929	1953	1977	2001
D	1786	1810	1834	1858	1882	1906	1930	1954	1978	2002
E	1787	1811	1835	1859	1883	1907	1931	1955	1979	2003
F	1788	1812	1836	1860	1884	1908	1932	1956	1980	2004
G	1789	1813	1837	1861	1885	1909	1933	1957	1981	2005
H	1790	1814	1838	1862	1886	1910	1934	1958	1982	2006
I	1791	1815	1839	1863	1887	1911	1935	1959	1983	2007
K	1792	1816	1840	1864	1888	1912	1936	1960	1984	2008
L	1793	1817	1841	1865	1889	1913	1937	1961	1985	2009
M	1794	1818	1842	1866	1890	1914	1938	1962	1986	2010
N	1795	1819	1843	1867	1891	1915	1939	1963	1987	2011
O	1796	1820	1844	1868	1892	1916	1940	1964	1988	2012
P	1797	1821	1845	1869	1893	1917	1941	1965	1989	2013
Q	1798	1822	1846	1870	1894	1918	1942	1966	1990	2014
R	1799	1823	1847	1871	1895	1919	1943	1967	1991	2015
S	1800	1824	1848	1872	1896	1920	1944	1968	1992	2016
T	1801	1825	1849	1873	1897	1921	1945	1969	1993	2017
U/V	1802	1826	1850	1874	1898	1922	1946	1970	1994	2018
W	1803	1827	1851	1875	1899	1923	1947	1971	1995	2019
X	1804	1828	1852	1876	1900	1924	1948	1972	1996	2020
Y	1805	1829	1853	1877	1901	1925	1949	1973	1997	2021
Z	1806	1830	1854	1878	1902	1926	1950	1974	1998	2022

SOME OLD MARKS

Here can you observe a few marks, of some historic pewterers. The thing they have in common, are that they all worked in cities, located in the province of Småland, Sweden. The yearcodes that show, when the item is made, are not included in the pictures. The marks has been copied, to drawings, by hand. Some of the marks has become rather worn, after many years of use. In those cases a contour can be traced, the lines had been filled. No guarantee is given for the exact origin look.



NILS-ERIK JUSTELIUS, EKSJÖ

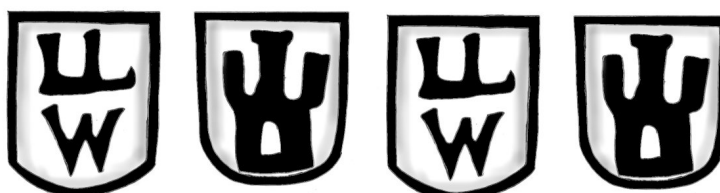
In business 1820-1866

The marks is taken from a 4- markt item.



JOEN JO(E)NSSON, JÖNKÖPING

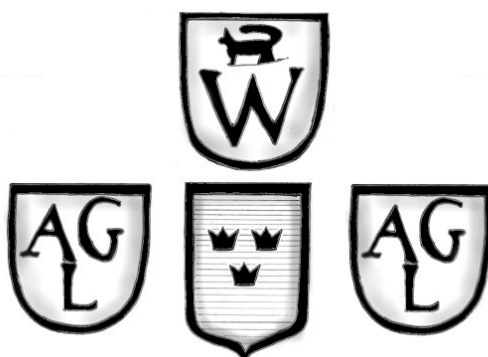
In business 1649-1666



LARS LUNDWALL d.y., JÖNKÖPING

In business 1753-1779

From a 4- markt item. The castle with 3 towers is a part of the city Jönköpings, coats of arms.

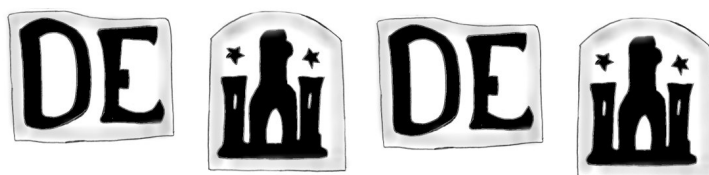


ALEXANDER GIDEON LUND, VIMMERBY

In business 1836-1845

3-markt pewter. The W, with a squirrel is a symbol of Vimmerby. Other used marks are WB, with either a crown, or a squirell, on top. A squirell in a tree, has also been used. The Sveaskölden, can be located at the center, in the lower row.

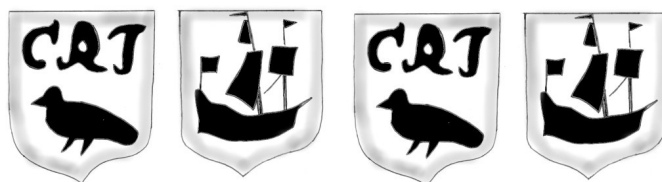
Image, see previous page.



DANIEL EKLUND, KALMAR

In business 1846-1858

4-markt pewter. The castle with two stars, above the outhter towers, says that the maker worked in Kalmar.



CHRISTOFFER RINGELTAUBE, VÄSTERVIK

In business 1755-1777

4-markt pewter. The ship bring us the conclusion, that the maker is from Västervik. Taube means pigeon, in german. Thats why the bird, exist on some of the marks.



PR-MARKS

Most marks were used, because of laws, and rules. But some type of symbols, was intended for public relations. Mainly there were two sorts, that both had there origin in foreign countries. The pictures showing one of each, made by Lars Lundwall d.y. (Jönköping). The rosemark came to Sweden in the 1640- s. The rose had a long time, been a quality-symbol, in other parts of Europe. The other kind of mark is the angelmark. From the 1680-s, this type of stamps, were rather common. You can't see any wings on the angel, which could depend on the fact, that a couple other types of symbols, were used on this kind of marks. A Fortuna-character (a woman with a sword, veil, or a palmtwig), or a Justitia-character (a woman with a balance). What the slogan at the banner, has told the people of yesterday, can i only guess. Some often used words was Fint ten(n), which can be translated into Good pewter.

MASTERS FROM SMÅLAND

Småland is by area, the largest province, in the Swedish south. The name could be translated into small countries. This refers to the many jurisdictional districts, that existed, during the middle ages, and earlier. The freedom of trade came in the mid 1800-s. At that time, the guilds, had been on retreat for some years. But in the older days were the guilds almost the same as monopoly, in the cities. At least from the 16th century has the regulations around the pewter trade, been hard. If you wanted to be a pewter artisan, the beginning was as an apprentice. This period of working, and learning, lasted for 4-6 years. After that they hopefully became, journeymen. If you at last had the will, to be a master, there was some problems. There had of course to be some tests, (masterpieces). There had to be a vacancy in the guild, and you had to have a fairly good economy.

It should of course be mentioned that though, the government try to extinct all non-guild activity, did they not quite succeed. In the countryside were craftsmen in many trades, a pain in the rear end, for there finer colleges in the more populated areas. Towns should be the place for all commercial activity, this demanded by the king himself. Easier to control maybe?. Well not even a control-freak like king Gustav Vasa, in the 16th century, accomplished that.

Middle age pewterers living, and working, in this area, has for sure exist. The knowledge about them, are though, rather vague. Only one is included in this publication (Elert Kanngjutare, of Kalmar). From the 16th century Sweden became more of a centrally governed country. And as today very keen on controlling it's people. This list includes known pewterers, until the era of free trade. The years shows, active period in one town. The master could have been working elsewhere, before, or after. Someone else in the family could have continued the business, after the masters death. Some of the older men, have names as Kanngjutare, and Teengjutare. These are not their real surnames. It was common in those days, to combine a persons christian name, with the profession he have. This both in daily talk, and in written documents. D.Ä. in the list stands for Den Äldre (The Older or Senior). D.Y. will then be the opposite (The Younger).

EKSJÖ

Anders Kanngjutare (1667-1674)

Hans Hansson (1670-1671)

Peter Wauchman (1761-1762)

Christoffer Ekman (1764-1785)

Nils Justelius (1785-1819)

Nils-Erik Justelius (1820-1866)

GRÄNNA

Johan Simonsson (1660-1670)

Hans Hansson (1671-1673)

Carl-Fredrik Qusowski (1791-1800)

JÖNKÖPING

Jöns Staffansson (1648-1649)

Joen Jonsson (1649-1666)

Daniel Kankel(Hankel) (1670-1695)

Christian Frost (1680-1699)

Daniel Danielsson Berg (1687-1699)

Lars Ödman (1705-1729 continued by relatives to 1733)

Lars Lundwall d.ä (1731-1733 continued by relatives to 1739)

Lars Mellberg (1733-1744)

Peter Lagerwall (1739-1753 continued by relatives to 1765)

Johan Brenning (1746-1752 continued by relatives to 1753)

Gustaf Lundwall (1752-1768)

Olof Artedius (1753-1779)

Lars Lundwall d.y (1761-1780 continued by relatives to 1782)

Johannes Lagerwall (1766-1772)

Martin Moberg (1778-1815)

Hindrik Nyberg (1778-1780)

Niklas Lundwall (1781-1783)

Adolf Helleday (1782-1796 continued by relatives to 1801)

Adolf Fredrik Moberg (1816-1824)

Carl Carlsson (1825-1827)

Matias Norling (1828-1852 continued by relatives to 1865)

continued on next page

KALMAR

Elert Kanngjutare (?-?) known from document 1406
Erik Larsson (1632-1646?)
Lars Sigfridsson (1650-1670)
Nils Jonsson Sparf (1670-1680)
Martin Friedrich Mader (1695-1697)
Bengt Christiernsson Ståhlström (1715-1725)
Anders Scherling (1727-1741)
Bengt Ståhlström d.y (1742-1767)
Bengt Johan Georg (1763-1768 continued by relatives to 1773)
Christian Benjamin Macke (1769-1785 continued by relatives to 1788)
Lorentz Wassberg (1773-1800)
Peter Anders Runnevall (1779-1789)
Jonas Granbom (1788-1798)
Johan Petter Fagerström (1798-1837 continued by relatives to 1845)
Daniel Eklund (1846-1858)

VIMMERBY

Gudmund Östling (1762-1790)
Johan Peter Broman (1780-1785)
Zadock Bergenholtz (1793-1820 continued by relatives to 1825)
Johan Stösberg (1826-1845)
Alexander Gideon Lund (1836-1845)
Johan Carl Hagman (1846-1851)
Gustaf Silow (1848-1875)
Anton Ferdinand Necander (1856-1862)

VÄSTERVIK

Jöns Israelsson (1671)
Gabriel Olofsson Berg (1694-1704)
Jakob Nilsson Frisk (1705-1712)
Anders Lundberg (1754-1756)
Christoffer Ringeltaube (1755-1777)
Johan Bruhn (1778-1789)
Anders Hindrik Bauman (1794-1798)

VÄXJÖ

Hans Jönsson (1656?-?)
Niels Teengjutare (?-?) dead in april 1714
Erik Jönsson Krook (1715-1731)
Olof Franck (1748-1758 continued by relatives to 1759)
Magnus Lundwall (1758-1760 continued by relatives to 1762)
Erland Fogelberg (1762-1776 continued by relatives to 1777)
Johan Peter Deflon (1774-1794)
Carl Deflon (1777-1817)
Niklas Ahnström (1817-1843)
Carl Erik Ahnström (1843-1860 continued by relatives to 1876)