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THREE PIGEONS

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NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGLISH PEWTER ALE MUG

A finely patinated mid 19th Century 'straight sided' pewter Ale Mug with turned rim with a 'broken' style handle and thumb-piece all on a heavy ogee moulded and banded base. Hand engraved with the initials of the historic owner, the vessel shows a Surrey County verification mark and Imperial Pint capacity mark while on the underside it is inscribed the name of the Lightermans Arms Public House, Bermondsey. The Lightermans arms was a small beer-shop which existed between 1853 and 1907 in the Surrey Docks on the corner of Kenning Street and Swan Road in what is now considered Rotherhithe, South East London.

DIMENSIONS: 12.5cm (5") High, 13.5cm (5^¼") Wide

PRICE: £85 each

STOCK CODE: AD1685 D



HISTORY

Until the adoption of mass-produced commercial glassware in the Mid 19th Century the Pewter Mug was the customary vessel in which most people in Britain would take their Ale, Cider or Beer.

Mugs and Tankards were often the private property of individuals and were merely deposited in the ale houses which they regularly frequented.

A Mug, as distinguished from a true Tankard by its open, unlidded top, could come in any of the

English customary measurements ranging from a Half Pint up to a full Gallon in capacity.

In a tradition dating back to the earliest Witengamots of the Saxon Kings of England, Mugs, Tankards, Flagons, Cups and liquid measures of all kinds were strictly liable to periodic inspection by His Majesty's officers. Thus one can see, through the Standard Marks on many such vessels, the development of British Weights and Measures down the centuries.

While it is inadvisable to drink from pre-19th century pewter, the lead content being too high, vessels from after 1770 were manufactured from the new 'Britannia' alloy discovered by James Vickers of Sheffield and there are no restrictions on its use for drinking.