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THREE PIGEONS

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NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGLISH PEWTER QUART ALE MUG,

An finely patinated 19th Century pewter Ale Mug with broad banding and turned rim with a 'broken' style handle and thumb-piece all on a heavy ogee 'pear shaped' moulded base. Made by the famous firm of George Farmiloe & Sons (1876-1940), Pewterers of St John Street, Barbican, London. The Touch-Mark of 'B' is the signature of the unnamed craftsman. More broadly the Pewterers marks indicate a mid to late Victorian date, with the crowned arms of the City of London and the history of the founders at which it was made circumscribing the period of manufacture to between 1876 and 1878. The Capacity Mark indicates a true Quart measure.

DIMENSIONS: 16.5cm (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "") High, 17cm (6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "") Wide

PRICE: £85

STOCK CODE: AD1685 F



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.