

# GEBELEIN

*Silversmith*

79 CHESTNUT STREET

BOSTON 8, MASS.

February 8, 1951

Mr. Cornelius C. Moore  
179 Thames Street  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Moore:

I was hoping to be able to call the owner back today regarding an important piece which she was in negotiation with a New York dealer buyer to sell providing he would meet her price higher than his previous quite fair bid. The item is a very nice Cann by Revere bearing the Dennie family arms, an example of a larger than ordinary size. I said I thought she did pretty well at the bid she has which was about what I would match on behalf of someone else in my family who was collecting a few pieces, as for any higher I could tell her next morning. But as she was expecting a New York call tonight I said I might be able to let her know later this same day.

As Revere pieces run, this piece would command an appraisal of around \$2500.00. Would you be interested anywhere up to this figure? I would aim to get it for you at \$2400.00 or in a cash transaction \$2250.00. It is understood I do not know for certainty whether it will still be available tomorrow, having left message for you to call me back what you think about it. I have seen the piece. The mark is the pellet REVERE stamp up under rim at the left of handle, all 100%. I bought outright a small P R teaspoon from her, engraved D for the same family.

It is reasonable to suppose that something else will come along if the price requirement on this item is too demanding.

In connection with the Sons of Liberty, as you know I have the interesting item of two porringers by Parker, made for same family, and in same descent as the Emery gravy boat. Another silversmithing Son of Liberty, not one of those engraved on the bowl, was Joseph Coolidge, Jr. 1747-1821 whom I have represented by a nice spoon specimen. Next to him might be lined up his father-in-law Daniel Boyer 1725-79 who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Bulfinch. A nephew of the latter was the architect Charles Bulfinch ~~married~~, whose sister married one of the Coolidge sons.

A very nice tankard by Boyer was brought in here recently. The owners were not selling but probably sounding out what might be gotten for it, perhaps the price would range about \$1800.00 to turn it over. Meanwhile I have on hand another by the same maker which however had its 1775 monogram hatched

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out with engraved decoration leaving the date only, a coffee pot spout added, and the handle fitted with ivory insulators. We can restore to a tankard by spout removal, filling perforations, and reconnecting the handle without insulators, but I have left it as is for the possibility of someone liking to use it as is. Price of this is \$300.00. *plus any work.*

Your chance to get a Cowell octagonal dredger is a curious coincidence with the one by Oliver just obtained. We, that is, my father, formerly had one by Cowell. The dates of Cowell, Senior 1682-1736 correspond as of his earlier career to those of Peter Oliver, 1682-1712. Cowell Junior 1713-1761, is roughly contemporaneous with Andrew Oliver, whose date of birth is placed circa 1722 but possibly before. The marks on the dredger is probably W:Cowell in shaped cartouche, for Cowell Jr. I would estimate up to \$1200.00 for one of these little rarities although one would sooner accept one at half that amount.

It was because the owner was willing to keep on holding this Oliver one, insistent on the price with no come down from what the agent was given to understand some years back (although now actually nearly halved by inflation against the dollar), that I had to go stronger than I ordinarily would have on my own account in view of other commitments here.

Another connection, *to Boston Liberty movement association* that I utilized to augment my exhibition at Concord Antiquarian Museum last spring (for 175th anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride) was that of John Coburn, census taker in Boston in 1776, showing a nice porringer by him which was in my father's collection. Also I considered fitting although an earlier period, in a legendary connection a rare tankard by Andrew Tyler 1692-1741 at whose former residence Revere is said to have stopped to get "mufflers" for his ears. Tyler was brother-in-law to Sir Wm. Pepperell.

From the same collection as the converted Boyer tankard, is a piece by Wm. Homes 1717-1783 "The Honest Goldsmith", which I exhibited also, since Homes was a nephew of Benj. Franklin, and his wife was Rebecca Dawes, sister of another Dawes besides William of the Lexington ride, rather Thomas Dawes, Adjutant of the Boston Regiment whose officers in 1763 presented him with a famous bowl made by said Homes (collection of Mus. Fine Arts, Boston before acquisition of Liberty bowl). This Homes piece is a colonial period mug c.1750 with later lip addition. Price on this only \$360.00.

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I also showed pieces by Samuel Minott 1732-1803, Boston Tory silversmiths born in Concord whose brothers were captains of Revolutionary Militia; by Samuel Bartlett and Joseph Loring, the former Concord-born and Register of Deeds in Cambridge, Mass, by Zachariah Brigden 1734-87 A Cann handed down through the hands of an ex-minute man of Concord, and the few Revere items I had including your cream pitcher which I held on to for the sake of the exhibition. As I also had been able to acquire a pair of Paul Revere silver shoe buckles which added a suggestion of personal appearance to the exhibition.

The purpose of this line as it began was to get your reaction regarding the Revere Cann. I wish to thank you for the two checks which have come in, in addition to the \$750.00 sent at the end of December. We sent a full statement as of December 28th which then showed a balance, inclusive of the two items being held for you, of \$3215.00, now reduced to \$2415.00. We will send another copy if this did not reach you as intimated in your next letter. The two pieces requested to be sent down will go as soon as the shipping situation is clear.

Yours very truly,

GEBELEIN SILVERSMITHS, INC.

By *J. Herbert Gebelein*

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