

GEBELEIN

Silversmith

79 CHESTNUT STREET

BOSTON 8, MASS.

Jan. 6, 1954

Mr. Cornelius C. Moore
179 Thames Street
Newport, R. I.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have been expecting to put together a few notes to go along with the meanwhile delayed acknowledgment and thanks of your letter of August 21st and its enclosure which was a check on account for 425.00.

In connection with your further payment, meanwhile, a few weeks ago our bookkeeper in her eagerness to gather some needed cash seems to have inadvertently referred to the entire amount of the charge for the Early American Caster instead of the unpaid balance of \$100.00. Through the kind cooperation accorded forthwith in response, your check was received in the amount of 275.00, effecting a credit balance on our books of 175.00. You may prefer to receive our refund check for the over-payment or choose to let the credit stand to be applied against future acquisitions.

For your information on one of the finest pieces you have acquired from us, I have come to obtain, through conversations with another line of descent which my father recorded and which have been renewed with me since, the identity confirmation of the original owners initialled "T.E.C." who were Thomas and Elizabeth Cutts. This data was gathered in the first instance but somehow the name Cogswell got mixed into the picture for consideration in the event of checking the genealogy.

It turns out also, as you will no doubt be greatly interested to know since you have the gravy boat which came to my father from the Lexington, Mass. (Brown-Thornton) descent, that there is in existence a matching mate to it, comprising with it an original pair, engraving the very same, etc. While each separately has the same interest for the appreciation of different owners to the enhancement respectively of their collections, it seems almost fabulous that we might have had a chance to re-assemble them as the even greater rarity together. It

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may be that on the possibility of possessing such a balanced exhibit as a pair of these splendid pieces, your own interest is the paramount one for our notification in the event of the second gravy boat coming to us. It may be of further interest that the same owners also had a porringer, the initials shown ^CT^E, also by Emery. While I have not followed up the notation, it appears that one of the family had a most popularly famed member in the person of Dorothy (Dolly) Cutts Madison. The Cutts name was also prominent in notes we have on old Salem pieces handed down from the Pickmans and Fries who were conspicuous for loyalists Col. Benj. Pickman and Col. Peter Frye, granddaughters becoming Cutts by marriage. While I may be inclined to suit our business convenience on the chance of eventually taking on these definitely appealing pieces, should you wish me to make sure they don't get away, I will take earlier steps toward getting them, or in particular the gravy boat. Another piece we hold from the Lexington descent that came with the gravy boat, is the creamer of the later 18th century by Joseph Loring, plain oval reeded, which is engraved on the bottom "E.C." for Eunice (Scammon) Cutts, with her long-lived dates "b. 1698 d. 1795".

For purposes of bibliography on R. I. silversmiths' data, for your reference if you do not have them on record, I pass along my notice on recent reading of items #144 and 164 in "Eighteenth Century American Arts" on the M. & M. Karolik Collection, by E. J. Hipkiss, curator at Boston M.F.A. From Newport Historical Magazine, Vol II, 1881, p. 187, a quotation is taken of the silversmith Wm. S. Nichols who had served his apprenticeship with Thomas Arnold 1739-1828. The location of the latter's shop was on the east side of Thames Street between Mary Street and Washington Sq. Of Daniel Rogers 1753-1792 it is recorded that he and also his brother Joseph served their apprenticeships with John Tanner. Daniel Rogers' shop in later years was at the north-east corner of Thames and Mary Streets and in 1792 he served as Deputy to the Assembly from Newport. Presumably the forthcoming work for publication which I read in "Antiques" is being done on the subject of 18th Century Newport crafts will cover such a lot of ground that these mentions will be found only small parcels from the whole picture to be compiled.

Very truly yours,

GEBELEIN SILVERSMITHS, INC.

by *J. Herbert Gebelin*

JHG/js