



79 Chestnut Street, Boston 8, Mass.

August 18, 1955

COLONIAL AMERICAN SILVER PORRINGER  
by Jonathan Clarke, Newport, R. I.  
1705-1770, handle scroll-pierced  
type variations peculiar to Newport  
with broad solid center shield  
engraved P (worn original initials),  
H M

the bowl engraved on front in later  
but old linked script T N W (Wightman  
family).

Maker's mark clearly struck back of  
handle J. Clarke (script italics with  
wavy terminating flourish).

The planishing with small faced hammer  
evidently was done to close pits of  
the sand-casting and harden the handle.

This must have been done by the maker  
as it must have preceded the striking  
of his mark. It appears that the same  
hammer was used inside the bottom.

This hammering appears to be old as the  
natural wear of the outside bottom  
evidences. It would be interesting to  
compare other Clarke examples in respect  
to this planishing. The porringer has  
not been out in the hands of the Antique  
trade. It came to us directly from a  
member of the family in which it was  
handed down, that of Wightman, the  
initials at the front representing a  
generation of around 1800.