

GEORGE C. GEBELEIN



Silversmith

79 CHESTNUT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

EARLY AMERICAN SILVER
TANKARD

by
WILLIAM SIMPKINS, BOSTON
1704-1780

Engraved on the handle C for Thomas and
T E
Elizabeth Cutts.

Descended in the same line with the second
of the gravy boats (pair) by Stephen Emery
inscribed in monogram "T E C" for the same
original owners and the porringer also by
Stephen Emery also of the same descent
originally engraved in triangle of initials
like the tankard C for Thomas and Elizabeth
T E
Cutts.

William Simpkins, whose son Thomas Barton
Simpkins 1728-1804 was also a silversmith, was
as was likely the case of enterprising and
capable inhabitants of the early 18th century
town, progenitor of some socially and cultur-
ally prominent figures of latter day Boston.
Biographical data includes his marriage in 1726
to Eliza Symmes, service as Sergeant of the
Artillery Company 1743, as Ensign 1757, and
some of his advertisements as "Goldsmith, near
the Drawbridge" in 1728. A plate No. 32 illu-
strating a group of silver by Wm. Simpkins
exhibited at the M. F. A. Boston in 1911 is
found in the publication "American Church Silver"
of that date. In 1769 silver marked jointly by
Wm. Simpkins and Samuel Minott indicates a
temporary partnership with the Concord-born
goldsmith who was four years younger than Wm.
Simpkins' son.