

GEBELEIN
Silversmiths
INCORPORATED

79 Chestnut Street, Boston 8, Mass.

December 2, 1961

Mr. Cornelius C. Moore
112 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Moore,

I have taken the folio home for time to review as requested the itemized listing of our "Edwards Collection", which I have been holding intact as for special exhibition purposes and have occasionally added to on opportunity and to which further opportunity appears in the offing for still a little more comprehension in the remarkable coincidence of pieces making possible a specialized collection representing this family and related makers important in Colonial goldsmithing from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the American Revolution, the theme being as I have covered by the orientation in brief on the reprinted advertised mention.

Looking at the summary which you have, which is headed by the "Parks" Tankard made by John Edwards, with prices totalling \$21,010.00, for the immediate consideration desired on your recent viewing of the collection as it stands, in addition to the "bonus" piece reduction of \$1100.00 for the side-handled Dredger or Pepper Pot (as a throw-in or frosting which I volunteered in a gesture of the occasion, a valuable piece treasurable over this amount), which I had just acquired (by fortune of the owner's preference to sell it to us over another interest) when admitting to your acquaintance our holding of this group apart as a one school demonstration, I would make reductions on the pieces to the extent of a further \$2035.00 on the collection in that summary, or a total of \$3135.00 from that principal listing. This would include deletion of one of the small rat-tail teaspoons by Samuel Edwards as a duplication, although a second of a kind is helpful to an exhibit for the purpose of showing one top side up and another mark side and back detail up.

A component element essential to the idea of a collection representing a certain one of the early noted makers and his related school would be lacking if their spoon craft were not included by sampling of selected specimens to the extent available, conceding omission of uncertain attributions or a case of a nearly alike second specimen of a type and maker. In that light I would suggest whether now or later from the supplementary list I sent you, the first two items: wavy-end rat-tail by John Edwards and rat-tail by Samuel Edwards, one of the two upturning shell-backed specimens by Brigden, interestingly also the one re-marked by Joseph Coolidge over Brigden, one of the feather-edged examples by Brigden (although the second is a

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variant in having opposite feathering), and the John Coburn specimen teaspoon with identified original owner's initials T W of Hon. Thomas Welles of Connecticut. These selections totalling \$588.50 I would reduce to \$550.00.

The combined total \$18,425.00.

To make the listing clearer to you as you make your resume away from the silver, I am sending along for your reference the illustrated folio and typed notes which I have put together on the subject of this collection. In the photo with the Joseph and Rebecca Williams Pepper Pot or Dredger by John Edwards is also a bun-top Caster with initials of early Harrises of Boston which bears no maker's mark, doubtless an interesting identification should it become possible by some comparison. This piece is not in the Edwards listing. It is however even in the unmarked state a very commendable and desirable example. On the other hand as a future prospect for addition I have mentioned I have in view the procurement of a pair of dome-topped casters by Samuel Edwards (a pair of any Colonial American casters a rare occurrence), from the same source as a specimen of that rare type, a small trumpet-based salver or paten, by each of the two, father and son, John and Samuel Edwards.

Needless to say and with a view to pave the way for the acquisition of these further few highly desirable pieces, I should require a substantial part of the purchase price in hand while reserving the collection and in the event of a division of payments we would best defer on our ledgers actual record of sales accordingly as in part pending for the thus later excise or any other incidental tax obligations.

I am not sure whether you wished me to include in review the price status of the Hull & Sanderson Tankard. As the most favoring proposition on this, I would come to \$4400.00, and with it I might advisedly include a specimen of the famous Colonial minters' "Pine Tree Shilling". If you may be in wait of a Samuel Vernon tankard, any offering might come to your knowledge before mine, but you may be sure I would refer the subject to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Herbert Gebelein
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