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Antique

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*Silversmiths*  
INCORPORATED

79 Chestnut Street, Boston 8, Mass.

March 1, 1965

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

Dear Mr. Moore;

The Coney tankard was held firmly at the price because it was their cost, and is now off the market having been requested for cash by a private collector here in Boston, who intends to keep it in his family which claim quite a tree in the community of local ancestry.

As for any other Colonial silver showing up there is prospect of our handling a good porringer by the oldest Edwards son Thomas 1701-1755, type of scroll pierced handle with the bridge openings or double slot.

Also I have at hand a rather remarkable set of spoons, six of one design, upturning tipt shell backs with same lion rampant crest, three bearing the mark of the noted engraver-silversmith Nathaniel Hurd son of Jacob, and three the mark of Joseph Edwards Jr. These may evidence some connection between these two, in addition to the circle already associated to the Edwardses, although of course Nathaniel Hurd's apprenticeship was with his father.

In the context of Joseph Edwards Jr 1737-1783 and Nathaniel Hurd 1729/30-1777, it might be that the former shared in some business with N. Hurd or possibly being just 8 years younger than N. Hurd (and 36 years younger than Thomas Edwards, 32 years younger than Samuel) Joseph Edwards Jr. might have taken up with Hurd although Mrs. Buhler in her article said Joseph Jr. had undoubtedly been apprenticed to Samuel 1706-1762, who left Joseph Jr. "a thimble-stamp and a swage for tea and large spoons as a token of my respect for him". She does mention Joseph Edwards skill in engraving, as demonstrated by an illustrated coat-of-arms. Whether or not this implies he had access to extra training in this phase with N. Hurd, or simply carried on a good example of all-round skills from his uncles

and grandfather, may at least be reflected upon.

Meanwhile of course if any other sample of Coney, or Samuel Vernon of course also for flat-top tankard representation, comes to light, it will remain to be seen what kind of terms will be needed to catch it if possible before it gets passed around.

We still hold (unadvertised) from my father's collection the Edward Winslow "Johonnot" Tankard dating from about the 1720's, a lip added when that practise was common c. 1825. Zachariah Johonnot, merchant-distiller and Son of Liberty who married Elizabeth Quincy and had daughters Elizabeth and Esther, any of whose initials is the E. J. engraved on the handle with date added at a later time under the initials probably as of second generation "1750".

If you can do something more for us on the balance of the account, it will fit in toward obligations that we have due at this season on the "funded debt" owed by the business to its family owners.

Very truly yours,

GEBELEIN SILVERSMITHS, INC.

By:  
G/r

*J. Herbert Gebelin*