



79 Chestnut Street, Boston 8, Mass.

EARLY AMERICAN SILVER TEAPOT

by
Joseph Smith
Boston
c. 1772-1789

Demonstrating the proficiency of a little known maker represented by only few extant pieces, this teapot belonged to the Wells family in Canton, Mass. neighbors and acquaintances of the Reverses. It may be noted that Paul Revere's diversified activities may have prevented his taking orders for silverware at times particularly from 1775-to 1780 when he did little if any business in his chosen trade. On the other hand this piece serves to show that he had competent healthy competition. The design of this teapot is possibly unique. The outline is reminiscent of that of earlier Colonial and English Geo I-II Salvers, embodied in the basically classic design with its features of perpendicular structure in oblong with oval top and urn-shape finials a definitive motif in the classic transition. Examination of the engraved borders reveals the thistle detail which may have been of personal significance to the owners. Exhibited 1948 Colonial Dames Mansion Portsmouth, N. H. Homecoming Day . Exhibited Currier Gallery of Arts, Manchester, N. H., 1948 Exhibited 1950 Concord, Mass. Historical Museum-175th Anniversary Exhibition.