

GEBELEIN *Silversmiths*

INCORPORATED

286 NEWBURY STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115

(617) 529-3871

May 8, 1970

Mr. Cornelius C. Moore

Meanwhile, since mentioning it before, I have had our Mr. Parsons checking on the Halsted & Myers Coffee Pot which was found to have had some soft solder added as if to stop a trickle where the spout is attached. The soft solder has been dissolved away and the leak stopped properly with hard silver solder, the patina ~~then~~ refired. It does have importance to spice a collection, while recognizing the drawbacks of (1) weakened spot left side, yet the tracery of the engraving in circle still visible, (2) the wrought silver handle, which has age in its own right although a long past displacement of, or replacement for, an original of some kind of wood. The pear-shape body was antil-raised (seamless). As you may recall, the price I have on it is \$4,500.00. Comparatively, as will notice in the paragraph about the Benjamin Burt teapot, the teapot has its original (it appears undoubtedly) ebony handle. In certain other cases of valuable early globular or pear-shape teapots, silver handles along the way were substituted.

I am not sure, now, whether I did send you pictures of the H&M coffee pot. You have, besides the illustrations of the Cowell pieces, and an early unmarked cup attributable to Dummer, a folder of photos and notes on the John Burt tankard. If you elect to pass that one up, with return of the latter material I would be re-submitting the same to the notice of an applicant for a tankard whose interest I have been putting off.

While something else may be coming up, a small piece of nice quality which is at hand is the Mug (child's cup) by Benjamin Pierpont of which photos are enclosed. It is \$1400.00.

Checking through our few earliest Colonial spoons, I find what may be the choicest, by a maker whose name was not in your Newton list, none other than William Homes, Senior (Boston 1717-1783), referred to as "The Honest Goldsmith", nephew of B. Franklin. This is a "proof" piece for the WH mark which it bears alongside the mark HOMES, slanting capitals. This is mid-ridged and backed with a shell, has interesting handing-down initials on the back. Homes has been noted especially as maker of the "Dawes" Bowl which was "the" bowl on exhibition in the MFA, Boston, to which the Revere "Liberty" Bowl became the more famous added attraction. Homes' mother was Mary, sister of Benjamin Franklin, their mother a Folger from the Nantucket family, (trusting my offhand recollection of the lineage serves me correctly). The spoon is available at \$300.00. Incidentally, while the New England scene reigns in your collection, there are presently three choice early New York spoons at our disposal. These, in remarkably fine condition, include a

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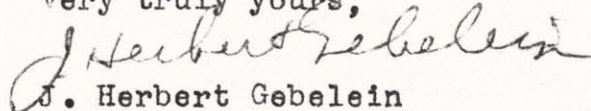
(continued)

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pair by Adrian Bancker (\$400.00), and one by John Brevooort (\$200.00).

While I wish my availability was less hemmed in by the attentions on the job, I hope I may be of some stand-by use, perhaps as an occasional reviewer as you propose, while Mr. Gourley and Mr. Pelletier are putting words and pictures together to good report in what is insured by the collection itself to be a great contribution to the library of early Americana.

Very truly yours,


J. Herbert Gebelein