

Jewellery Studies

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DAVID MITCHELL AND HAZEL FORSYTH

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The Society of
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Jewellery Studies is the Journal of the Society of Jewellery Historians, and is the leading academic journal on the subject. Articles cover all aspects of jewellery from antiquity to the present day, and include related material from archives, technical data, gemmology and new discoveries on collections and designers. All papers published in **Jewellery Studies** are subject to peer review.

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The Editor welcomes contributions of unpublished material on current research into all topics of jewellery history. See the Notes for Contributors at the end of this paper. Please email suggestions for articles to the Editor at js@societyofjewelleryhistorians.ac.uk

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London ringmakers' marks from the seventeenth century

KEYWORDS:

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HAZEL FORSYTH FSA FRSA is Senior Curator of the Medieval and Post-Medieval collections at the Museum of London. She has written extensively in the fields of jewellery, smallwares and London's history, including *The Cheapside Hoard. London's Lost Jewels*, (London, 2013); *Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: Surviving the Great Fire of London* (2016); *The Museum of London Pewter Collection* (2017) and with Geoff Egan, *Toys, Trifles & Trinkets. Base-Metal Miniatures from London 1200 to 1800*, (London, 2005).



Front cover:

Portrait of a goldsmith with a ring and touchstone. It is thought to be Bartholomeus Jansz van Assendelft (1585-1658), who was assay-master of the Leiden guild of goldsmiths and silversmiths. The ring in his right hand is an allusion to his profession, and the touchstone in his left to his function as assayer.

Artist: Werner van den Valckert, oil on canvas, 1617. Image © The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

London ringmakers' marks from the seventeenth century

DAVID MITCHELL AND HAZEL FORSYTH

This paper is based upon the searches carried out in London by the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company during the seventeenth century. Rings that were thought to be below the Gold Standard of 22 carats were taken to Goldsmiths' Hall to be assayed. A description of the rings and the subsequent result of the assay were entered into the Court Books by the Clerk. Some of these descriptions include a note and sometimes a drawing of the maker's mark. Other entries in the Court Books give the names and details of the careers of certain ringmakers which are entered in the Mitchell Merry Database at Goldsmiths' Hall. By comparing these records with the marks given for particular rings, it is possible to suggest which ringmaker used the mark.

Short biographies are given of possible or probable owners of these marks. An illustrated glossary of seventeenth century terms for the various ring types is provided. These records give an indication of the lives of seventeenth century ringmakers and how they coped with the calamities of the century: war, plague and fire.

Introduction: David Mitchell

During the Elizabethan and Stuart eras, the Goldsmiths' Company had the responsibility from the Crown for the assay of gold and silver. Unlike many London Livery Companies which had the right to search within the City and its suburbs, the Goldsmiths' Company could search throughout the whole realm of England. Apart from regular searches in goldsmiths' shops in London, the Bartholomew Fair in the City and the Lady Fair in Southwark, the Company mounted occasional 'Ridings' to search in provincial cities, towns, and fairs. This was the Company's principal role to exercise quality control over all those that made or sold wares in gold or silver.

The entries in the Court Books of the Goldsmiths' Company recording the wares taken in these searches which were suspected of being substandard, were made by the Clerk who was generally a

lawyer by profession, rather than a goldsmith. The amount of detail recorded varied greatly from one Clerk to another. Fortunately, between 1630 and 1656, with a hiatus during the Civil Wars, the makers' marks on a number of rings taken in searches by the Wardens in London were noted by the Clerk, which form the basis for this paper. For example, on the 8 October 1630, Thomas Paulson had two gold rings broken as they were below the standard for gold of 22 carats; 'one marked with S: being but 21 car 1 gr and the other marked with W: I: but 21 car 2gr' (fig. 1). There was no fine as he was free of the Horners' Company, but was sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company and paid for his oath.¹ In some cases, a detailed drawing of the mark was given (fig. 2).² Some further marks were noted for 1668-69 and 1681-83; in all

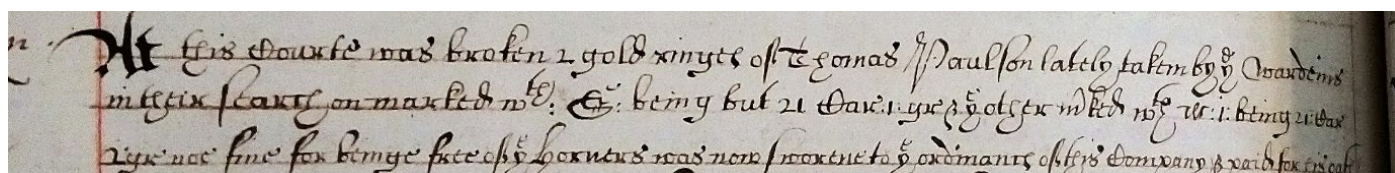


Fig. 1.

At this Court was broken 2 gold rings of Thomas Paulson lately taken by the Wardens / in their Search one marked with S: being but 21 Carats 1 grain & the other marked with W: I: being 21 Car. / 2 gr., no fine for being free of the Horners' [Company] was sworn to the Ordinances of this Company and paid for his oath

Gold rings taken from Thomas Paulson marked S and W:I, 8 October 1630, GCCB.R.1, fol.12v. Archive: The Goldsmiths' Company. Image © The Goldsmiths' Company

- 1 Freemen of other companies but goldsmiths by trade were required to take the oath which was sworn by goldsmith apprentices on taking their freedom and pay the fee of 2s 4d.
- 2 Goldsmiths' Company Court Book, hereafter GCCB.R.2, fol.89. From 1575, all gold wares were required to be of 22 carats and throughout the period silver of Sterling Standard of 11 oz 2 dwt of silver to a Troy pound of 12 oz of alloy.

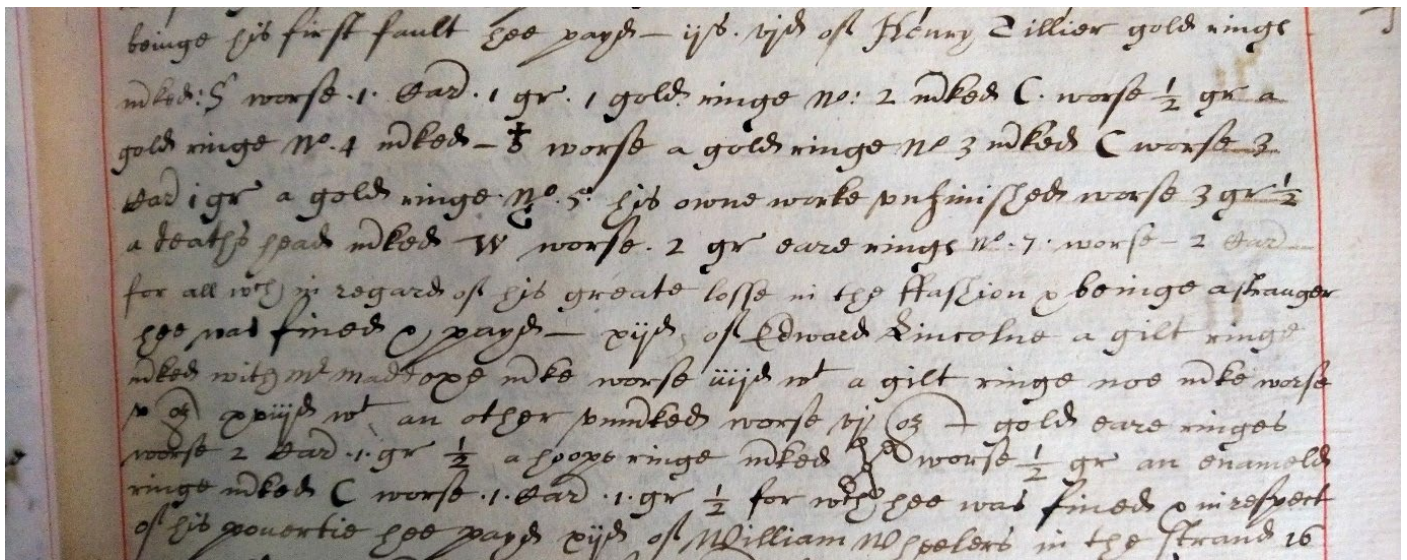


Fig. 2.

... Of Henry Tillier gold rings / marked S worse 1 Car. 1 gr., 1 gold ring no.2 marked C worse $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., a / gold ring no.4 marked cross and orb worse, a gold ring no.3 marked C worse 3 / Car. 1 gr., a gold ring no.5 his own work unfinished worse $3\frac{1}{2}$ gr. / a deaths' head marked W worse 2 gr., earrings no.7 worse 2 Car. / for all which in regard of his great loss of Fashion & being a stranger / he was fined and paid 12d. Of Edward Lincolne a [silver] gilt ring / marked with Mr Maddox's mark worse 4 pennyweights (dwt), a [silver] gilt ring no mark worse / 5 oz 18 dwt, another unmarked worse 6 oz, gold earrings / worse 2 Car. $1\frac{1}{2}$ gr., a hoop ring marked with an knobbed X worse $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., an enamelled / ring marked C worse 1 Car. $1\frac{1}{2}$ gr. For which he was fined & in respect of his poverty he paid 12d

Gold rings taken from Henry Tillier marked S, C, orb surmounted by a cross, and 'of his own work'; from Edward Lincoln gilt rings with Mr Maddox's mark; gold rings with C, and an X with knobs on the ends, 22 February 1632, GCCB.R.2, fol.89. Archive: The Goldsmiths' Company. Image © The Goldsmiths' Company

124 marks were recorded in table 1 below.

At other times, when rings were taken in searches from a shopkeeping-goldsmith, the name of the ringmaker was sometimes given. If the retailer had provided the workman with gold to make the rings, then he was held responsible if they were worse than standard as was the case on 30 July 1630 when John Trevillian was fined 6d for two 'gold Jymmall [Gimmel] rings, only 20 car 2 gr'.³ However, if the ringmaker had supplied the substandard gold, then he would be fined as well as the retailer for putting the rings to sale, for example, broken and 'Delivered to [George] Dale in Lumbardstreete one maze gold ring, but 15 car 1gr', fined 2s, with [William] 'Jackson in Foster Lane who made the ring fined 10s'.⁴

During the periods that the makers' marks were recorded, some forty ringmakers were identified. As there are some striking links between certain marks and particular makers, this article has been prepared to aid future research, as much has been published on the design and wearing of rings but little on their makers. This is not surprising, as only a minority of rings has a maker's mark and none have date marks. It is not easy to attribute a maker's mark found on several pieces of fully marked plate to a particular silversmith, but even more difficult for rings with maker's marks only. Indeed, the difficulty is compounded

by the use in a number of cases of a single upper or lower case initial. It seems that some jewellers used two marks, possibly depending on the size of the object to be marked, one with a single initial of the surname and the second with the initials of both Christian name and surname. On the 1682 Copper Mark Plate at Goldsmiths' Hall there are two examples of such marks.⁵

Thus, with very few exceptions, all the following possible attributions should be treated with a considerable degree of circumspection. It will be noted that often candidates are sidelined as little is known of them. Unfortunately, this can prove a mistake, for although honesty and integrity are admirable qualities in life, they are a mixed blessing for the scholar; if a workman is never in trouble with the Goldsmiths' Company, little is known of the nature of his trade. Finally, it will be seen that there are no attempts to attribute possible makers to the marks Gothic G and the double mark p and JP. The Gothic G may well have belonged to a Mr Greene but sadly there are several Edward and John Greenes and a single Thomas Greene that made or sold quantities of rings. Similarly, the marks p and JP may well have belonged to a James or John Prince of whom several were ringmakers. (Examples of how the attributions have been made are given in the biographies that follow the two tables and ring descriptions below).

3 GCCB.R.1, fol.6v.

4 GCCB.R.1, fol.7v

5 1682 Copper Mark Plate at Goldsmiths' Hall, column 6.36, HR & R; 7.24, p & EP.

Table 1: Ringmakers' marks from Goldsmiths' Co. Court Books

No.	Ref.	Date	Retailer	Ring Type	Mark	Possible Maker	GlobalID ⁶
1	R.1 f.12v	08/10/1630	Tho. Paulson	Gold	S		
2	R.1 f.12v	08/10/1630	Tho. Paulson	Gold	W:I	William Jackson	2847
3	R.1 f.71	05/10/1631	[Wm] Bixe	Pease	PLCmon.	Peter Le Clerk	805
4	R.1 f.71	05/10/1631	[Wm] Bixe	Hoop	y	John Yates	48
5	R.1 f.71	05/10/1631	[Wm] Bixe	Hoop	S		
6	R.1 f.71	05/10/1631	[Wm] Bixe	Hoop	WW	William Wade	476
7	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Barth. Pitman	Gold	S		
8	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Barth. Pitman	Ameld ⁷	C	Edward Craggs	2098
9	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Barth. Pitman	Seal	H	Thomas Hopton	422
10	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Barth. Pitman	Hoop	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
11	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Barth. Pitman	H. hoop	WI	William Jackson	2847
12	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Henry Tillier	Gold	S		
13	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Henry Tillier	Gold	C	Edward Craggs	2098
14	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Henry Tillier	Gold	+ over o		
15	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Henry Tillier	Gold	W	William Wade	476
16	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Edw. Lincoln	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
17	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Edw. Lincoln	Hoop	X + knobs		
18	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	James Prince	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
19	R.2 f.89v	22/02/1632	Geo. Norfolk	Ameld	H	Thomas Hopton	422
20	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	John Walcot	Hoop	AR conj.	Arthur Radcliffe	774
21	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	[Chas] Cockyn	Hoop	T over H	Henry Tillier	2401
22	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	[Chas] Cockyn	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
23	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	[Chas] Cockyn	Ameld	E	John Elliott	572
24	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	[Chas] Cockyn	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
25	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	John Prince	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
26	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	John Prince	Ameld	B	Thomas Best	409
27	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	John Prince	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
28	R.2 f.99v	20/04/163	Thomas Barker	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
29	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	Thomas Barker	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
30	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	Richard Lovett	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
31	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	Ralph Raysing	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
32	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	Ralph Raysing	Ameld	E	John Elliott	572
33	R.2 f.99v	20/04/1632	Ralph Raysing	Ameld	W:S:		
34	R.2 f.208v	17/01/1634	Thomas Totney	Hollow	W:I:	William Jackson	2847
35	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Rob. Dickenson	Ameld	B	Thomas Best	409
36	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Robert Cordell	Earwires	J:P:		
37	S.2 f.220	19/08/1636	Robert Cordell	Earwires	W	William Wade	476
38	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Robert Cordell	Hoop	J:P		
39	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Robert Cordell	Hoop	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
40	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Robert Cordell	Ameld	C	Edward Craggs	2098
41	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Robert Cordell	Hoop	p		
42	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Tho. Daintry	Death's head	W:E:	William Eccles	405
43	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	Tho. Daintry	Hoop	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
44	S.2 f.219v	19/08/1636	[Rob.] Sherley	Hoop	W.D.		
45	S.2 f.219v	19/08/1636	[Rob.] Sherley	Hoop	B	Thomas Best	409
46	S.2 f.234	13/01/1637	Samuel Bradley	Hoop	S in shield		
47	T f.39	15/12/1637	_____	Ameld	H	Thomas Hopton	422
48	T f.39	15/12/1637	Tho. Paulson	Death's head	I:P		
49	T f.39	15/12/1637	Tho. Paulson	Death's head	T over H	Henry Tillier	2401

⁶ GlobalID numbers refer to the identifiers in the Global Table of the Mitchell Merry Database at Goldsmiths' Hall.

⁷ Enameled. See Glossary below

50	T f.42v	12/01/1638	John Pauncefoot	Hoop	I.Y.	John Yates	485
51	T f.55	16/02/1638	Richard Foster	Ameld	T over H	Henry Tillier	2401
52	T f.55	16/02/1638	Richard Foster	Ameld	W:S		
53	T f.55v	16/02/1638	John Perryn	Hoop	R:S	Robert Simpson	2351
54	T f.55v	16/02/1638	John Perryn	Hoop	p		
55	T f.116v	31/08/1638	James Prince	Ameld	T		
56	T f.120	14/09/1638	[John] Parker	Hollow hoop	I:P		
57	T f.139v	09/11/1638	Elston Wallis	Ameld	E	John Elliott	572
58	T f.173v	05/04/1639	John Richard	Ameld	J:H:		
59	V f.40	21/02/1640	Edward Perryn	Hoop	G.S.	George Strong	382
60	V f.40	21/02/1640	Edward Perryn	Ameld	+		
61	V f.75v	21/08/1640	_____ Day	Death's head	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
62	V f.75v	21/08/1640	_____ Day	Death's head	Ⓞ		
63	V f.75v	21/08/1640	Henry White	Seal	B	Thomas Best	409
64	V f.75v	21/08/1640	Andrew Edwards	Ameld	T:H:	Thomas Hopton	422
65	V f.75v	21/08/1640	John Richardson	Ameld	T:C		
66	V f.75v	21/08/1640	Robert Sherley	Seal	B	Thomas Best	409
67	V f.78	04/09/1640	Robert Cordell	Hoop	W:M:		
68	V f.78	04/09/1640	Robert Cordell	Hoop	B	Thomas Best	409
69	V f.78v	18/09/1640	John Leake	Ameld	P		
70	V f.136v	03/09/1641	Barth. Pitman	Hoop	E	John Elliott	572
71	V f.136v	03/09/1641	Barth. Pitman	Ameld	B	Thomas Best	409
72	V f.136v	03/09/1641	Barth. Pitman	Seal	Gothic O		
73	V f.136v	03/09/1641	Andrew Osey	Seal	Gothic G		
74	V f.136v	03/09/1641	Thomas Oldnoll	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
75	Y f.11	11/09/1648	Wm Urmeston	Ameld	H	Thomas Hopton	422
76	Y f.11	11/09/1648	Wm Urmeston	Ameld	B	Thomas Best	409
77	Y f.11	11/09/1648	Robert Lympany	Ameld	T:H:	Thomas Hopton	422
78	Y f.11	11/09/1648	Robert Lympany	Hollow hoop	I:Y:	John Yates	485
79	Y f.12v	22/09/1648	George Dixon	Hoop	R:M:	Richard Marsh	380
80	X f.222	07/02/1651	Wm Urmeston	Ameld	W:	William Wade	476
81	X f.222	07/02/1651	Henry Sumner	Ameld	B	Thomas Best	409
82	X f.222	07/02/1651	Henry Sumner	Hoop	D:A	Daniel Austin	1322
83	X f.222	07/02/1651	Robert Welsted	Ameld	Q	Richard Quintin	3195
84	X f.222	07/02/1651	Robert Welsted	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	774
85	X f.222	07/02/1651	Mr Bushell	Ameld	D:A	Daniel Austin	1322
86	Z f.11	05/09/1651	Edward Du Cane	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
87	Z f.11	05/09/1651	Edward Du Cane	Ameld	D:A	Daniel Austin	1322
88	Z f.11	05/09/1651	Robert Cooke	Ameld	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
89	Z f.81	23/07/1652	Henry Pinckney	Hollow hoop	p		
90	Z f.81	23/07/1652	Henry Pinckney	Ameld	D:A	Daniel Austin	1322
91	Z f.81	23/07/1652	Henry Pinckney	Hoop	p		
92	Z f.91v	10/09/1652	John Ellyott	Hollow hoop	R	Henry Radcliffe	2629
93	Z f.91v	10/09/1652	John Ellyott	Hollow	Y	John Yates	485
94	Z f.189v	02/09/1653	John Geery	Hoop	JS		
95	Z f.189v	02/09/1653	John Geery	Seal	M	Richard Marsh	380
96	Z f.189v	02/09/1653	Michael Stamper	Death's head	B	Thomas Best	409
97	Z f.189v	02/09/1653	John Smith	Hoop	W:I:	William Jackson	2847
98	Z f.194v	16/09/1653	[Rob.] Cuthbert	Seal	D:A	Daniel Austin	1322
99	Z f.197	16/09/1653	George Alexander	Ameld	B	Thomas Best	409
100	Z f.197	30/09/1653	George Alexander	Hoop	B	Thomas Best	409
101	Z f.197	30/09/1653	Mrs Walke[r]	Gold	p		
102	Z f.197	30/09/1653	Mrs Walke[r]	Gold	Heart & Crown		
103	Z f.224	02/12/1653	Robert Blanchard	Seal	B	Thomas Best	409
104	1 f.89	14/09/1653	John Maddox	Hoop	J:M or T:M		
105	1 f.89	14/09/1653	John Maddox	Hoop	W:F		
106	1 f.146	07/03/1656	Robert Blanchard	Hoop	Gothic Q	Richard Quintin	3195

107	1 f.187v	29/08/1656	Richard Marsh	Ameld	<i>R</i>	Henry Radcliffe	2629
108	1 f.187v	29/08/1656	Richard Marsh	Ameld	<i>D:A</i>	Daniel Austin	1322
109	1 f.187v	29/08/1656	Richard Marsh	Ameld	<i>J</i>		
110	1 f.187v	29/08/1656	Edward Kayne	Hoop	<i>L</i>	William Limpany	531
111	1 f.187v	29/08/1656	Edward Kayne	Hoop	<i>R</i>	Henry Radcliffe	2629
112	1 f.195	26/09/1656	William Butler	Hoop	<i>D:A</i>	Daniel Austin	1322
113	5 f.231	27/11/1668	Henry Dryden	Hoop	<i>W:S:</i>		
114	5 f.231	27/11/1668	Henry Dryden	Seal	<i>I:S:</i>		
115	5 f.242	05/01/1669	David Tucker	Hoop	<i>J.C.</i>		
116	5 f.242	05/01/1669	David Tucker	Hoop	<i>J.A.</i>	John Alman	2119
117	5 f.257v	22/02/1669	Evodias Inman	Wedding	<i>R:M:</i>	Richard Marsh	380
118	8 f.207	20/05/1681	George Bowers	Gold	<i>W:W:</i>	William Wade	476
119	8 f.207	20/05/1681	George Bowers	Gold	<i>R:W:</i>	Richard Welsted	728
120	8 f.207	20/05/1681	Joseph Marlow	Gold	<i>M</i>		
121	8 f.207	20/05/1681	Francis Sedgwick	Ring	<i>J:C:</i>		
122	8 f.207	20/05/1681	Francis Sedgwick	Ring	<i>J:D:</i>		
123	8 f.208	01/06/1681	Mich. Schrimshire	Hoop	<i>Q</i>	Richard Quintin	3195
124	9 f.73	15/08/1683	Moses Sicklemore	Ring	<i>JC</i>		
123	9 f.87	16/11/1683	Wm. Essington	Ameld	<i>RW</i>	Richard Welsted	728
124	9 f.88	24/11/1683	Warden Ducayne	Joint	<i>HR</i>		

Table 2: Ringmakers' names from Goldsmiths' Co. Court Books

No.	Ref.	Date	Retailer	Rings	Maker	GlobalID
501 ⁸	K.1 p.9	05/11/1557	Thomas Gilbert	Gold	George Forman	21734
502	K.1 p.29	11/02/1558	Richard Rogers	Gold	John Holloway	21753
503	K.1 p.184	08/05/1559	Didier Bomaire	Gold	Didier Bomaire	4030
504	K.1 p.301	03/12/1565	Guillam Pullen	Gold	Guillam Pullen	21759
505	L.1 p.13	07/10/1569	Martin Garrett	Gold	Martin Garrett	3557
506	L.1 p.85	05/10/1571	Richard Robyns	2 gold	Robert Stanger	4002
507	L.1 p.90	05/11/1571	Garret Heath	4 gold	Thomas Parrie	20205
508	L.1 p.92	16/11/1571	Thomas Pope	3 hoops	James Armes	4339
509	L.1 p.92	16/11/1571	Thomas May	4 small gold	James Armes	4339
510	L.2 p.181	08/02/1574	Thomas Brookes	Puff	Thomas Brookes	4166
511	L.2 p.198	25/06/1574	George Gachet	Gold	James Armes	4339
512	L.2 p.217	13/12/1574	Edmund Craddock	Rings	Edm. Craddock	21779
513	L.2 p.217	13/12/1574	John Davies	Rings	John Davies	1829
514	L.2 p.230	13/05/1575	Edward Hartfield	Gold	Peter Hartewell	4021
515	L.2 p.356	10/01/1578	Guy Hurtu	2 rings	Guy Hurtu	3971
516	L.2 p.282	15/05/1578	Tho. Sympson	Puff	John Prym	4154
517	L.2 p.282	15/05/1578	Tho. Sympson	Puff	[Hans] Franke	3806
518	L.2 p.282	16/05/1578	Tho. Sympson	Engraved	[John] Wilkins	2918
519	L.2 p.282	16/05/1578	[John] Wilkins	Seal	William Beale	21379
520	L.2 p.420	03/11/1578	Robert Mylls	Rings	Thomas Banger	21864
521	L.2 p.441	06/02/1579	Tho. Frankewell	Ring	Fran. Riddleston	20179
522	O.2 p.130	21/07/1600	John Sherman	Rings	John Jones	47
523	O.2 p.131	21/07/1600	Anth. Hering	Rings	[Justin.] Spencer	1619
524	O.2 p.131	21/07/1600	John Eyre	Rings	[Justin.] Spencer	1619
525	O.2 p.131	21/07/1600	John Smethwick	Rings	[Justin.] Spencer	1619
526	O.2 p.131	21/07/1600	Robert Ball	Rings	[Justin.] Spencer	1619
527	O.2 p.131	21/07/1600	Richard Martin	Rings	[Justin.] Spencer	1619
528	O.2 p.140	01/09/1600	Vincent Dove	Ring	[Justin.] Spencer	1619

8 The numbers start at 501 merely to clearly differentiate them from those in Table 1

529	O.2 p.141	05/09/1600	John Evans	6 hoops, 1 seal	Arthur Dollinge	71
530	O.3 p.469	22/08/1606	Bennet Jayes	48 gilt, hoops etc	Thomas Garnold	803
531	O.3 p.470	22/08/1606	Stephen Ball	Earwire	[Simon] Dawes	36
532	O.3 p.640	28/08/1609	John Baldry	48 gold	Arthur Radcliffe	774
533	P.1 p.256	06/09/1616	John Gloucester	Gold	John Yate[s]	485
534	P.2 p.357	04/09/1619	John Bryan	5 gold	[Hen.] Cresswell	558
535	P.2 p.597	27/09/1622	Nath. Stoughton	2 gold	John Yates	485
536	P.2 p.610	19/11/1622	[Ralph] Latham	Gilt	Wm. Cheeseman	2109
537	P.2 p.610	19/11/1622	[Ralph] Conyers	Copper gilt	Wm. Cheeseman	2109
538	P.2 p.610	19/11/1622	[John] Goodwin	4½doz bead	Wm. Cheeseman	2109
539	P.2 p.610	19/11/1622	William Bix	Silver	Wm. Cheeseman	2109
540	P.2 p.610	19/11/1622	_____ Ward	Silver	Wm. Cheeseman	2109
541	Q.1 p.68	10/03/1626	[John] Catchmaye	Gold	_____ Grunter	21921
542	Q.2 p.260	30/09/1629	John Nowell	9 bead	[Wm] Jackson	2847
543	R.1 f.6v	30/07/1630	Thomas Daintry	2 gold	[Wm] Jackson	2847
544	R.1 f.7v	13/08/1630	[George] Dale	Maze	[Wm] Jackson	2847
545	R.1 f.9	27/08/1630	Robert Simpson	Gold	Robert Simpson	2351
546	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Barth. Pitman	Gold	[John] Yates	485
547	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Henry Tillier	Gold	His own mark	2401
548	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	Edward Lincoln	Gilt	[Wm.] Maddox	154
549	R.2 f.89	22/02/1632	James Prince	Silver	[Wm.] Maddox	154
550	R.2 f.190	20/09/1633	Arthur Denton	Bead	[John] Yates	485
551	R.2 f.191v	27/09/1633	Barnabus Leigh	Gold	[Robert] Symson	2351
552	S.1 f.12v	23/08/1634	Robert Brampton	8earwires	[Wm] Mantle	427
553	S.1 f.118v	28/08/1635	Edward Perryn	Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
554	S.2 f.218v	19/08/1636	John Tyler	Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
555	T f.38v	15/12/1637	Tho. Walthew	Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
556	T f.38v	15/12/1637	Thomas Garnon	Hoops	[William] Wade	476
557	T f.38v	15/12/1637	Thomas Garnon	Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
558	T f.38v	15/12/1637	Robert Harrison	Hoops	[William] Wade	476
559	T f.51	09/02/1638	John Pitman	2 Hoops	[William] Wade	476
560	T f.55v	16/02/1638	Rich. Marmyon	2 Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
561	T f.55v	16/02/1638	George Port	4 Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
562	T f.55v	16/02/1638	John Perryn	Ameld	[Edw.] Craggs	2098
563	T f.114	03/08/1638	Henry Radley	Seal	John Greene	476
564	T f.115v	17/08/1638	Rob. Harrison?	Hoop	[William] Wade	476
565	T f.120	14/09/1638	[John]Parker	Hollow hoop	[William] Wade	476
566	T f.120v	14/09/1638	Tho. Daintry	Sad hoops	[Henry] Ratcliffe	2629
567	T f.131v	19/10/1638	John Trevillian	Ring	[Tho.] Cobham	3059
568	T f.131v	19/10/1638	John Trevillian	Ring	[Henry] Ratcliffe	2629
569	T f.139v	09/11/1638	Elston Wallis	Ameld	[Tho.] Hopton	422
570	T f.173v	05/04/1639	Rich. Vaughan	1 Ameld	[Edward] Craggs	2098
571	T f.173v	05/04/1639	John Richard	1 Ameld	[Edward] Craggs	2098
572	V f.32	10/01/1640	'Old Craggs'	8 Ameld	[Edward] Craggs	2098
573	V f.40v	21/02/1640	Edward Perryn	Hoop	[William] Wade	476
574	V f.40v	21/02/1640	Edward Perryn	Hollow hoops	[William] Wade	476
575	V f.40v	21/02/1640	Edward Perryn	Ameld	[Edward] Craggs	2098
576	V f.75	21/08/1640	Tho. Maundy	Seal	[Thomas] Best	409
577	V f.75	21/08/1640	Wm. Markham	Hoop	[William] Wade	476
578	V f.75v	21/08/1640	Henry White	Seal	[Richard] Marsh	380
579	V f.75v	21/08/1640	Henry White	Hoop	[George] Strong	382
580	V f.75v	21/08/1640	William Hough	Seal	[Richard] Marsh	380
581	V f.75v	21/08/1640	William Hough	Hoop	[George] Strong	382
582	V f.75v	21/08/1640	John Tyler	Hoop	[Richard] Marsh	380
583	V f.76	21/08/1640	Hugh Clough	Hoop	[George] Strong	382
584	V f.76	21/08/1640	Hugh Clough	Hoop	[George] Strong	382
585	V f.78	04/09/1640	Robert Cordell	Hoop	[John] Yates	48

586	V f.79	18/09/1640	William Bright	Hoop	[George] Strong	382
587	V f.79	18/09/1640	John Leake	Hoop	[William] Wade	476
588	W f.16	02/09/1642	[Wm] Tonge	Ameld	_____ Gaule	3133
589	W f.33v	09/12/1642	Ashe Totnell	Ameld	[Edward] Craggs	2098
590	W f.40	20/01/1643	Hugh Vaughan	Earrings	Widow Jackson	3095
591	W f.254	06/09/1644	John Elliott	Silver hoop	[Wm] Maddox	154
592	Z f.91v	10/09/1652	George Dixon	Seal	[Richard] Marsh	380
593	Z f.91v	10/09/1652	John Elliott	Sad Hoop	John Elliott	572
594	Z f.197v	30/09/1653	Geo. Alexander	Ameld & hoop	[Thomas] Best	409
595	Z f.224	02/12/1653	[Rob.] Blanchard	Seal	[Thomas] Best	409
596	Z f.224	02/12/1653	[Len.] Collard	Hoop	John Vaughton	488
597	1 f.189v	29/08/1656	Jeremy Johnson	2 seal	[Robert] Cooke	3081
598	1 f.193	15/09/1656	John Daintry	Hoop	[William] Bright	567
599	1 f.193	15/09/1656	John Daintry	Seal	Wm Limpany	531
600	1 f.194	26/09/1656	Simon Player	Hoop	[Rich.] Quintin	3195
601	1 f.194	26/09/1656	Wm Hardwell	Seal	John Jones	367
602	1 f.197	10/10/1656	Michael Kirby	Gold	John Jones	367
603	3 f.130v	06/09/1661	Tho. Garnett	3 hoops	Charles Dutton	14285
604	3 f.130v	06/09/1661	Wm Muncaster	2 seal	[Richard] Marsh	380
605	6 f.89	17/02/1670	Francis Hall	Hoops	Paul Ridley	2957
606	7 f.245v	05/02/1677	Rob. Blanchard	En./Wed./Joint	Richard Moore	746
607	7 f.245v	05/02/1677	Richard Hutton	Mourning	[Edw.] Blaggrave	2567
608	9 f.34	02/10/1682	James Lapley	40 mourning	Edward Blaggrave	2567
609	9 f.34	02/10/1682	Thomas Wicks	Gold	[Wm] Cowland	4953
610	9 f.38	26/10/1682	Thomas Fowle	Earrings	Nicholas Hudson	21723
611	9 f.71	02/08/1683	Ursula Pitman	Earrings	George Hawson	1028
612	9 f.70v	02/08/1683	Gabriel Newman	Ring	Gabriel Newman	4843
613	9 f.72	08/08/1683	Mr. Shute	Mourning	[Nicholas] Prior	747
614	9 f.87	16/11/1683	Wm Essington	Joint hollow	E. Jones	?
615	9 f.147	14/04/1686	Mr. Price	Gold	[Geo.] Gravener	1457
616	9 f.147	14/04/1686	Mr. Price	Gold	[Richard] Ridge	5250
617	9 f.147v	14/04/1686	Mr Maddox	Gold	[Edw.] Blaggrave	2568
618	9 f.161v	23/97/1686	Richard Bird	30 mourning	John Bird	19676
619	9 f.164v	04/08/1686	James Lapley	Mourning	[John] Sweetapple	1075
620	9f.176	12/01/1687	James Marmyon	2 gold	Joseph Gaywood	9828

Glossary of descriptions of rings: Hazel Forsyth

AMELD

Amell, to enamel, Pp. *amell'd* or *ameld*; occasionally *aumayld*, *inamled*; *inaml'd*; *inamiel'd*. See Chapman, trans. of *Iliad*, xiv, 123 'I ammel as a goldesmyth doth his worke'. Randle Holme, *Academy of Armory*, 1668, '... wrought on the Gold with diverse colours and annailed, or burnt in' (fig.3).



Fig 3.

A gold enamelled and diamond set ring. No marks. Museum of London, inv. no. 95.214. Image © The Museum of London

BEAD

Bede, a prayer (O.E. *(ge)bed* prayer. Meaning otherwise obscure: for a ring, either a perforated bead repurposed for a bezel setting, or a ring used as an aid to devotion. See Spenser, *Fairie Queene*, 1. 1.30.

DEATH'S HEAD

Rings with a death's head bezel, a skull with crossed bones, often gem-set and enamelled; sometimes in the form of a signet (see **SEAL**) and more rarely as a locket. Used as a *memento mori* (thou shalt die). See **MOURNING**. Shakespeare, *2 Henry IV*, II, iv. 255 'Do not speak like a death's head, do not bid me remember mine end'. Also, Holofernes compared to a 'death's face in a ring' in *Love's Labours Lost*, V, ii. Death's head rings were also exchanged for betrothal and marriage. For instance, in the marriage depositions of the London Consistory Court for 1601/02, Katherine Garnet, in the White Lyon tavern in Hoxton, St. Leonard's Shoreditch, said: 'I doe give yow here this ryng and she then took the same ryng of him being a gould ryng with a deathes head upon it saying and upon that condition that I will ... be your wife and yow shall be my husband I doe take it of yow'. (London Metropolitan Archives, DL/C/216/292v-293r) (fig.4).

GILT

Silver-gilt. The term 'gilt' occasionally used as a jocose term for money. See Middleton, *A Mad World*, ii. 2.



Fig.4.

Death's head ring – Museum of London, inv. no. 62.120/96. Image © The Museum of London

GIMMEL

gimmel, *gymmewe*, *iemowe*, pl. *gimbals*, *gimols*, *gimmals*, *joints*, *links*; more rarely *jimmal*; L. *gemellus*, OF. *gemel* (F. *gemeau*), ME. *Gymew*, *gynowe*, *gemella*. A ring with interlocking twin hoops and bezels. Also applied to rings with three interconnecting hoops (see **JOINT**). Often used for betrothal or marriage. Some are *fede* rings with clasped hand bezels. See Herrick, *Hesperides*, 1648 - The Jimmal-ring, or True-love-knot - 'Thou sent'st to me a true love-knot, but I/ Returned a ring of jimmals to imply / Thy love had one knot, mine a triple tie'... Margaret Swinerton received a 'iemowe ring of gowld' in confirmation of her marriage contract (London Consistory Court, London Metropolitan Archives, DL/C/215/181v). Many gimmel rings are inscribed on the inside of the hoops with a motto referring to the transience of life or include Biblical reminders about the indissolubility of the marriage vow (fig. 5).

HOLLOW HOOP

These rings, as the name suggests, had hollow bands. Quite literally cheaper, light-weight substitutes that artfully simulated a solid gold band. They had a rather poor reputation since they were inclined to buckle and bow and were sometimes sold above price. There are also references to the cavities being filled with lead and other base metals to **PUFF** them up.

HOOP

A simple unadorned band. The term is used throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries for a ring shank.

JOINT

Alternative term for **GIMMEL**; possibly reserved for rings with three or more hoops or connecting parts. See Shakespeare, *Hen. V.* iv. 2, 49 'In their pale mouths the gimmel bit Lies foul with chew'd grass'. The term *gymould* is often used for links applied to mailed armour (fig. 6).

MAZE

Meaning obscure; perhaps alluding to labyrinth, puzzle or knot (bezel and/or hoop). Alternatively, an abbreviation for amaze - something intricate or intriguing.

MOURNING

This term could denote a *memento mori* ring (see **DEATH'S HEAD**) bearing symbols of death - skull, cross-bones, skeleton, hour glasses &c, often with black and white enamel. They were worn as a stark reminder of the brevity of life. During the seventeenth century, they evolved into the memorial or mourning ring; usually a simple band commemorating the name and death of a particular individual. Mourning rings often included a posy inscription to reinforce the concept of commemoration. They are mentioned specifically in wills and were distributed to close associates and relatives for a funeral. Sometimes money was left to buy a mourning ring, or tickets were provided which could be exchanged at a goldsmith's shop for a ring of designated type and value (fig. 7).



Fig. 5.
Gimmel ring, inscribed 'AS HANDES DOE SHUT' and 'SO HART BE KNIT'.
No marks. Museum of London, inv. no. 62.121/10.
Image © The Museum of London



Fig. 6.
Joint ring. No marks, Museum of London, inv. no. A6776.
© The Museum of London



Fig. 7.

Memento mori (mourning) rings.

Left. Museum of London, inv. no. A18226. Inscribed inside the hoop 'Donu Johannis Pinder' ('Given by John Pinder'). Maker's mark unidentified.

Right. Museum of London, inv. no. 62.120/89 with forget-me-not design, inscribed inside the hoop 'Oh my sister, my sister R H Jan 22 1670'.

Image © The Museum of London

PEASE

Also, *pease*, *peaze*, *pese*, *peason*, a pea. O.E. *pisa*, *piosa*, a pea (Sweet). Meaning obscure: perhaps a bezel or hoop with peapod design. Alternatively, an abbreviation for 'appease' – a ring with a posy referencing tranquillity and contentment. See Spenser, *The Shepheardes Calender*, 1579 'A pese above a pearle'.

PUFF

Meaning obscure. The word puffery was used in the context of an advertisement, specifically for verse 'puffs' or commendatory poems. So it is conceivable that puff rings were designed to be especially alluring or had a motto with a suitable 'puff'. The '9 puffs of Paris' listed among 234 rings in Cardinal's College, Oxford in December 1530, were perhaps of this type (*Letters and*

Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 4, 1524-1530, ed. J S Brewer, London, 1875, pp. 3059-3078). It is also possible that they referred to rings with slashed or contrasting materials in the manner of 'puffed' sleeves. For the most part, however, the term denoted a ring of insubstantial make or quality; a mere puff. It was used for **HOLLOW HOOP** rings that had been puffed or filled with other materials and for rings with puffed bezels to raise stones in their settings. Wax, chalk and lead were used as filler-materials and there are many references to this practice in the records of the Goldsmiths' Company. The majority of the puff rings described in these accounts were set with cornelians – plain or engraved (see David M. Mitchell, forthcoming 2023).



Fig. 8.

Left: Seal ring, Initials R G. No marks – Museum of London, inv. no. A13213.

Right. Memento mori seal ring, the bezel set with a foiled crystal intaglio of a shield with forget-me-knots surmounted by the letters 'VG MN' (German 'vergiß mein nicht' ("Forget me not")) flanked by the date '15' and '87' for 1587.

Museum of London inv. no. A7486. Image © The Museum of London

SAD HOOP

Meaning obscure. Probably 'sad' in terms of sober colour. The word 'sad' traditionally used in the textile trades and dyeing industry to denote a dull brown or grey, occasionally a muddy-yellow obtained from ferrous mordants. The term 'saddening' is used for tones that become darker and browner. For instance, *A very proper treatise ...the art of limming ...*, London, 1583 '... white lead or Cereuse & saddened with the same Inde or sad black Inke, Indeaudias of it selfe maketh a darke & sad blacke ...' so sad rings were presumably those with a sombre appearance, possibly with black-work ornament in fashion from c.1590-1620.

SEAL

Rings with seals or signets; the bezel engraved or set with an intaglio (gemstone or paste); sometimes with a swivel setting. They were used to authenticate documents and personal messages. The motifs are many and various - armorial badges, personal badges and/or images that reflect a name or occupation. Many bear merchant's privy-marks and/or initials. Occasionally a seal is combined with amatory or memorial symbols engraved on the underside. The term 'seal' is more commonly used in sixteenth and seventeenth century documents than 'signet' (fig. 8).

WEDDING

Probably a plain gold hoop, as in 'a little small ring of gowld' or a 'gowld ring inamuled [enamelled]' of the type referenced in the marriage depositions of the London Consistory Court in the London Metropolitan Archives. It is worth stating that rings of many different types were used for matrimony in the 16th and early seventeenth centuries. See for instance, **GIMMEL** rings, **DEATH'S HEAD** rings, as well as rings set with gemstones, particularly diamonds. Wedding rings were often inscribed with a suitable posy as an additional declaration of love, union and fidelity. The verses were often taken from emblem books or printed texts such as *Loves Garland or Posies for Rings, Handkerchers, and Gloves; and such pretty Tokens that Lovers send their Loves*, London, 1648. In practice, the style and value of the ring was less important than the intentions of the giver and receiver in determining individual consent in the marriage contract. For instance, in 1591/2 when Richard Thompson and Helen Butt married, in the absence of a ring, a 'hostelier stooped down and made a ring of a rush and wolld have given it them but they took not the same for [a stranger] told them it mattered not for any ring ...[so he] pronounced the words of marriage between them ... and said ... that they wear (*sic*) as sure together as could be [London Metropolitan Archives, DL/C/214/118].

Bibliography of glossary sources

Anonymous, 1583. *A very proper treatise wherein is briefly sett forth the arte of limming which teacheth the order of drawing & tracing of letters, vinets, flowers, armes and imagery ... never put in print before this time*, London.

Thomas Middleton, 1608. *A mad world, my master*, London.

Robert Herrick, 1648. *Hesperides: or the Works both Human and Divine of Robert Herrick*, London.

Randle Holme, 1668. *Academy of Armory, or, a storehouse of armory and blazon, containing all-thinges Borne in Coates of Armes both Foreign and Domestick. With the termes of Art used in each Science by Randle Holme*, Chester.

'R.C.' 1648. *Loves Garland or Posies for Rings, Handkerchers, and Gloves; and such pretty Tokens that Lovers send their Loves*, London.

William Shakespeare, 1600. *Henry V*, London.

Edmund Spenser, 1579. *The Shepheardes Calender: Twelve Aeglogues Proportionable to the Twelve Monthes ...*, London.

Edmund Spenser, 1596. *The Faerie Queene*, London.

Biographies of possible owners of the maker's marks in Table 1: David Mitchell

Notes:-

1. The following entries taken from the Court Books of the Goldsmiths' Company are not footnoted as they would be legion, although they can be found in the Mitchell Merry Database at Goldsmiths' Hall.
2. The number in brackets after the attributions are GlobalID references from this Database.
3. 'Sworn' indicates 'sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company'.
4. GCCB, Goldsmith Company Court Book.

AR conjoined Mark (fig. 9)

Mark references

Table 1, entry no.20 (AR conj. 1632)

Candidates

There are several candidates for this mark, although Arthur Radcliffe was a very active ringmaker who bound nine apprentices and it seems likely that it belonged to him.

Attribution

Possibly Arthur Radcliffe (774)

Arthur RADCLIFFE (free Goldsmith 1601, date of death unknown)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entry no.532 ('Arthur Ratcliffe made 48 rings for John Baldrie', 1609)

Arthur, son of John Ratcliffe of Hickling, Norfolk, Minister, was apprenticed for eight years to John Elkington, Citizen and Goldsmith, from Pentecost [3rd June 1593], becoming free by service on 2nd February 1601. His master was a ringmaker who also made smallwares and Radcliffe followed the same career path. In 1603, there were complaints about a flagon chain and in 1608, six gold rings, a bodkin and tags were found to be worse than standard at the assay. In August 1609, in connection with the 48 substandard rings that he had made for John Baldrie, 'he was fined for going aboute to corrupt the Assayer to have him dissemble the throwth of his reporte'. Subsequently, he had three earwires broken in 1611, two gold rings in 1614 and sixteen gold hoop rings in 1616. At the end of 1617, he was accused of

supplying quantities of 'coarse rings' to goldsmiths in the West Country, including Brensford of Plymouth, and was fined the considerable sum of £5. Arthur Radcliffe bound nine apprentices between 1604 and 1617, of whom six became free.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1602	Edward Martin, free by service 1610
1604	Thomas Parnell, free by service 1615
1604	John Allen
1607	Bartholomew Hatton, turned over to [Daniel?] Hulse, free by service 1614
1610	Thomas Pemberton
1612	George Port, free by service 1619
1613	Thomas Hopton, free by service 1620
1614	Thomas Dare, turned over to Richard Clay, free by service 1622
1617	Robert Janson

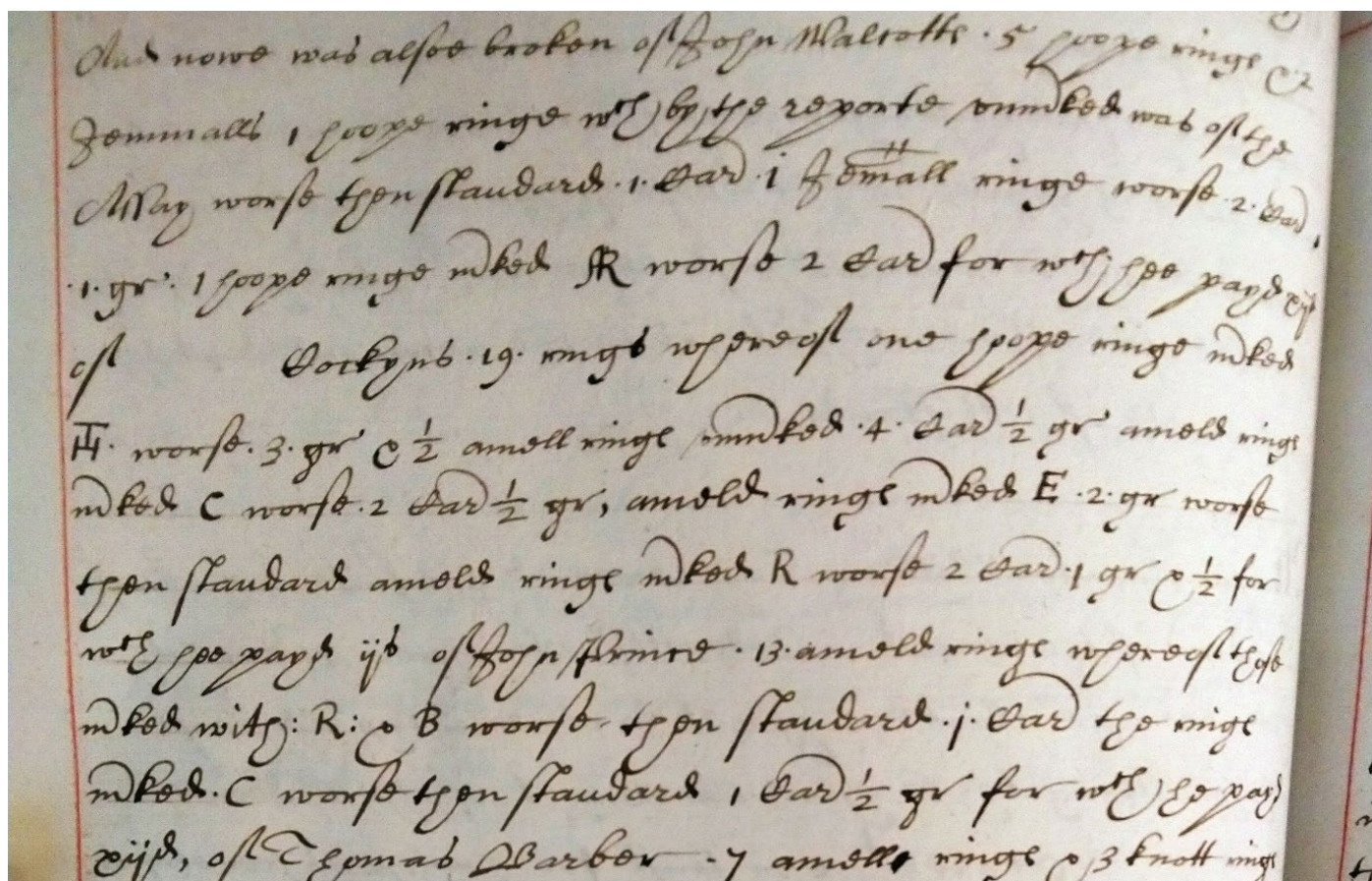


Fig. 9.

And now was also broken of John Walcott 5 hoop rings & 2 / gummels, 1 hoop ring which by the report unmarked was of the / Assay worse than standard 1 Car., 1 gimmel ring worse 2 Car. / 1 gr. 1 hoop ring marked AR conjoined worse 2 Car. for which he paid 12d. / Of [Charles] Cockyn 19 rings whereof one hoop ring marked T over H worse 3½ gr., enamelled rings unmarked 4 Car. ½ gr., enamelled rings / marked C worse 2 Car. ½ gr., enamelled rings marked E 2 gr. worse / than standard, enamelled rings marked R worse 2 Car. 1½ gr., for / which he paid 2s. Of John Prince 13 enamelled rings whereof those / marked with R: & B worse than standard 1 Car. the ring / marked C worse than standard 1 Car. ½ gr., for which he paid / 12d. Of Thomas Barker 7 enamelled rings & 3 knot rings...

Gold rings taken from John Walcott marked AR in monogram; from [Charles] Cockyn or Cockayne marked T over H, C, E, and R; from John Prince marked R, B, and C, 20 April 1632, GCCB.R.2, fol.99v. Archive: The Goldsmiths' Company. Image © The Goldsmiths' Company.

B Mark (fig. 9)*Mark references*

Table 1, entries no.26, 35, 45, 63, 66, 68, 71, 76, 81, 96, 99, 100 & 103 (all *B*,1632-53)

Candidates

In 1653, George Alexander's wife stated that 'the two rings marked with *B*: were of Mr Bests making' and Robert Blanchard said that the three 'rings all marked with *B*: which he affirms to be of Mr Bests making'. The only Best active in the wider goldsmiths' trade at this period was Thomas Best, (Master, Arthur Woodnoth, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1631-39), so he is the most likely owner of this mark.

Attribution

Probably Thomas Best (409)

Thomas BEST (free Goldsmith 1631, died 1679)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entries nos, 576, 594-5 (all 'of Mr Bests making', 1640-53)

Thomas, son of Pharnam Best of London, Cutler, deceased, was apprenticed to Arthur Woodnoth, Citizen and Goldsmith, for eight years from 25th March 1631, becoming free by service on 5th April 1639. Between 1632 and 1653, he supplied eleven different retailers with a variety of rings which were found to be worse than standard: enamelled, hoop, seal and death's heads (see above). In the Bartholomew Eve Search of 1649 in Foster Lane, he had 'a doublet, a jemall and an ameld ring' taken; they were all 'old' and he was fined but 12d. In December 1652, he was a signatory to the 'Petition (to Parliament) of divers members agt the present Government of the Company'; a demand by the 'Commonalty' to have a part in the election of Wardens which was then wholly in the hands of the Assistants. The following year, he both refused to become a Liveryman and to open his glasses for the Wardens during a search. However, in 1660, he agreed to join the Livery.⁹ In 1661, he had breeches buttons and seals taken. He probably fashioned the seals for he was an engraver as well as a ringmaker, being one of three candidates to be elected 'Graver of the Punshons' in 1676: Thomas East, William Collins and Thomas Best; East was elected. He retired soon afterwards for the will of Thomas Best, Goldsmith of Sunbury, Middlesex was exhibited on 28th May 1679. During his career he bound eight apprentices, none of whom became free of the Goldsmiths' Company, although five of them were the sons of London citizens and might have become free of their Father's company by patrimony.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1640	Gervase Marston
1647	Thomas Edwards
1648	Brian Jaques
1649	James Cloberry
1655	Stephen Pownall
1660	Edward Wolf
1661	John Mather
1671	Henry Osborne

⁹ For the structure of the Goldsmiths' Company see,

Mitchell D. M., 2017, Chapter 3.

C Mark (fig. 9)*Mark references*

Table 1, entries nos 8, 13, 16, 18, 22, 27, 29, 30, 31(all a single *C*, 1632), 40 (*C*,1636)

Candidates

The mark *C* is recorded ten times between 1632 and 1636, with nine on 'ameld' or enamelled rings. Between 1635 and 1642, there are twelve references to enamelled rings 'of Craggs', 'of Craggs making' or 'of Craggs mark'.

Attribution

Probably Edward Craggs (2099)

Edward CRAGGS (Company unknown, first noted in 1621, date of death unknown)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entries nos 553-5, 557, 560-2, 570-2, 575 & 589

Edward Craggs' company is currently unknown. He was first recorded in the Goldsmiths' Company records on 17th August 1621 when his twelve gold rings were found to be worse than standard at the assay. Between 1635 and 1642, he supplied eleven retailers with a number of mostly enameled rings. They were generally only a little under the standard. On 20th December 1639, the Clerk recorded that 'Cragg the enameld ringmaker delivered unto the Wardens 'a noate in writeinge' which is to be read at the next Court of Assistants. This was on 22nd January 1640 when 'Edward Cragg a goldworker insisting by way of complaint against the shopkeepinge goldsmiths for delivering gold to worke not so good as it ought to be'. The matter was referred.

D:A Mark*Mark references*

Table 1, entries no.82, 85, 87, 90, 98, 108 & 112 (all *D:A*,1651-56)

Candidates

DA is a very uncommon combination of initials and the only candidate for this mark is Daniel Austin, (Master, Thomas Hopton, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1631-40)

Attribution

Probably Daniel Austin (1322)

Daniel AUSTIN (free Goldsmith 1640, died 1656)*Maker's references*

None

Daniel, son of Henry Astell of Charlton, Berkshire, yeoman, was apprenticed to Thomas Hopton, Citizen & Goldsmith, for nine years from Midsummer 1631, becoming free by service on 3 July 1640. He had signed his binding as 'Daniel Austell', which first indicates the different forms of his name, for the Company often referred to him as Austin. John Austin, a leading jeweller in the City and Upper Warden of the Company in 1667, was recorded as John Astell in his apprenticeship binding of 1638. He was either Daniel's younger brother or a cousin. Daniel Austin does not appear to have been fined by the Goldsmiths' Company throughout his career. In 1652, he was among twenty-six Liverymen and other members of the Company who complained of 'turbulent spirits' who had elected 'pretend Wardens' and was one of those called into the Court

of Assistants to testify to their knowledge of the disturbances. The next year, Evodias Inman was accused of slandering the Wardens; 'whilst taking his morning draught [he] met John Clay, Daniel Austen & Henry Whittingham who gave evidence against him'. Daniel Austin bound six apprentices between 1641 and 1655, all of whom became free, with two of them, William Bright and Thomas Sharpe trading as active ringmakers. The will of Daniel Austin Goldsmith of Saint Leonard Foster Lane was exhibited on 30th September 1656.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1641	William Bright, turned over to Thomas Maddox, free by service 1649
1645	William Astell or Austin (a cousin?), free by service 1652
1646	Thomas Sharpe, free by service 1652
1650	James Jorden, free by service 1657
1652	Samuel Clay, free by patrimony, son of Richard Clay, Goldsmith.
1655	John Galhampton, freedom records his first master as John Austen, then turned over to James Jorden and then again to John Jones from whom he took his freedom by service in 1662.

E or E Mark (fig. 9)

Mark references

Table 1, entries nos 23 & 32 (E, 1632); 57 (E, 1638); 70 (E, 1641)

Candidates

The only ringmakers at this period with a surname beginning with E seem to be: William Eversley, (Master, John Wilcock, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1589-87); John Elliott, (Master, Simon Sedgwick, 1605-15); and William Eccles, (Master, John Elliott, 1627-35). Eversley died in 1637, so the rings recorded for sale in 1638 and 1641 could only have been made by him if they were second hand. Eccles who was free in 1635 could not have made the rings sold in 1632. Thus, the most likely owner of this mark is John Elliott.

Attribution

Possibly John Elliott (572)

John ELLIOTT (free Goldsmith 1615, died before 1660)

Maker's references

Table 2, entry no. 593 ('of his own making', 1652)

John, son of John Elliott of Portsmouth, yeoman, was apprenticed to Simon Sedgwick, Citizen and Goldsmith, for ten years from 7th February 1605 (possibly 1606), becoming free by service on 8 September 1615. During his working life, he fashioned both rings and smallwares and between 1622 and 1653, he was fined a dozen times for such goods. The jewellery included silver, silver-gilt and gold rings, together with gold earwires and two pendants of blew glass set in gold, whilst the smallwares included silver and gilt bodkins, silver clasps, toothpicks, whistles and seals. There were two mentions to his own work: in 1635 to 'bodkins with his own mark' and in 1652 to 'a sad hoop of his own making'. He stayed in London during the Civil Wars for he had wares taken by the Wardens in both 1644 and

1645, as well as binding apprentices in 1646 and 1648. Before the Wars he was living in Foster Lane, noted in a search in 1637 but for the Poll Money of 1642 was in the parish of St Giles Cripplegate. He was among those freemen 'willing ... but unable to pay £3', contributing 20s (poor freemen paid 12d) and in the following year paid 10s towards the 'Adventure in Ireland'. John Elliott bound ten apprentices between 1618 and 1655, with five becoming free by service in the Goldsmiths' Company and a sixth taking his freedom by patrimony in the Vintners' Company, after Elliott's death.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1618	Robert Rockhold
1621	John Maynard
1627	William Drayton
1627	William Eccles, free by service 1635
1632	Thomas Greene, free by service 1640
1639	Daniel Browne, free by service 1648
1646	William Tunstall
1648	William Nayer, freedom by service 1655
1651	Richard Pissing, freedom by service to John Elliott, deceased, testified by William Mouse and Stephen Venables, Goldsmiths 1660
1655	Thomas King, presumably free of the Vintners' Company by patrimony

G.S. Mark

Mark references

Table 1, entry no. 59 (G.S., 1640)

Candidates

The only candidate that is known currently to be a ringmaker is George Strong, (Master, John Yates the elder, Cit. & Goldsmith, 1627-35)

Attribution

Possibly George Strong (382)

George STRONG (free Goldsmith 1635, died after 1679)

Maker's references

Table 2, entries nos, 577, 579, 581 & 583 (all 'of Strongs mark') George, son of William Strong of Alvaston, Derbyshire, yeoman, was apprenticed to John Yates [the elder], Citizen and Goldsmith, for eight years from 29 September 1627, becoming free by service on 2 October 1635. He clearly intended to drive a retail trade, as well as making rings and smallwares, for he sealed a bond according to the Lord's order for all shopkeeping goldsmiths to be located in Goldsmiths' Row in Cheapside or in Lombard Street. In 1640, he supplied four different retailers with hoop rings that proved to be worse than standard. In December 1652, he was a signatory to the 'Petition' regarding the election of Wardens (see Thomas Best above). In 1664, he applied, unsuccessfully, for the position of Assistant Beadle and had two hoop rings taken from his stall at the Bartholomew Fair, when he was described as of Rood Lane. In 1671, in a Special Search Eastwards, the Wardens took a coral from George Strong in St Katherine's [Coleman Street]. In a similar search in 1677, he had a joint ring, a pair of clasps and a pair of buckles taken.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1638	John Strong (brother), free by service 1648
1650	William Muncaster, free by service 1657
1668	Joseph Strong (nephew), free by service 1679
1674	John Kerley
1676	Judah Hitchman

IY & y Marks*Mark references*

Table 1, entries nos 4 (y,1631); 50 (I.Y.,1638); 78 (I.Y.,1648); 93 (y,1652)

Candidates

IY is a very unusual combination of initials and the only candidate for these marks is John Yates the elder, (Master, John Sellowes alias Smythe, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1605-14)

Attribution

Probably John Yates the elder (48)

John YATES the elder (free Goldsmith 1605, died 1652)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entries nos 533 (made by John Yate,1616), 535 (marked by John Yates,1622); 546 (marked by Mr Yates,1632); 550 (made by Mr Yates,1633)

John, son of George Yates of Basingstoke, yeoman, was apprenticed to John Sellowes alias Smythe, Citizen and Goldsmith, for nine years from 25 March 1605, becoming free by service on 19 August 1614. In September 1616 a gold ring made by John Yates for John Gloucester was found to be worse than standard but, as it was his first offence, he was fined but 12d. Between 1622 and 1640, he had rings made for four different retailers taken by the Wardens; three parcels were found to be worse than standard but the fourth was standard and he was paid 10d for the loss of fashion of a hoop ring. In 1645, he had two small cups broken.

In 1638, he refused to join the Livery on account of his age and fitness. In the same year, he asked the Company to renew the lease of his house 'in the Rowe in Cheap' which had just five years to run. He was offered an extension to twenty-one years for a fine of £25. In 1644, during the Civil Wars, he was a suitor for the 'Lease of Tenement, garden and bowling alley late Dodson's', offering a '£40 fine & to bestow £400 in building'. He requested a 30 year lease at 40s per year rent. There were several other suitors and Yates was unsuccessful. In April 1652, 'Mrs Yates, the widow of John Yates', petitioned for a review of her house in Cheapside and in August, Jane Yates widow was offered the 'Tenement in Cheap for 80 years in reversion from Christmas 1661 at £5 10s rent and a fine of £130'.

John Yates was respected by his colleagues being one of six freemen, 'not of the Livery', elected to serve on the Committee for Parliament in 1640. He bound eight apprentices between 1616 and 1639 with five of them taking their freedom; among them the ringmakers William Jackson, George Strong and John Vaughton. Strong and Vaughton both intended to have a degree of retail trade for they both sealed a bond to comply with the Council's ruling that all shopkeeping goldsmiths should be located in either Goldsmiths' Row in Cheapside or in Lombard Street. John Yates had several sons: two of them, John and

James, probably trained with their father as they became free by patrimony in 1640 and 1647 respectively. In 1641, his son Joseph was apprenticed to Thomas Willoughby, Skinner, and his son Robert to Arthur Mowsse, Fishmonger.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1616	William Jackson, free by service 1626
1616	John Hawes
1620	William Arnold
1626	Jonathan Pink, free by service 1633
1627	George Strong, free by service 1635
1629	John Vaughton, free by service 1638
1631	Richard Wither, turned over to Edward Hanson 1631, free by service 1638
1639	William Ferrer

J.A. Mark*Mark references*

Table 1, entry no.116 (J.A.,1669)

Candidates

JA is a common combination of initials and there are a number of candidates including: John Alman, (free of Goldsmiths Company by redemption 1651); John Atkinson, (Master, John Harling, Citizen & Merchant Taylor, 1659-66); John Atkins, (Master, Thomas Herbert, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1659-68). John Harling was a specialist maker of 'corals' or babies' rattles and it seems Atkinson followed in his footsteps. In view of his master, Atkins should have been a smallworker but little is known of him. In contrast, Alman was certainly a jeweller and may possibly have owned this mark.

Attribution

Possibly John Alman (2119)

John ALMAN (free Goldsmith 1651, date of death unknown)*Maker's references*

None

'John Alman a working goldsmith jeweller free by redemption' 10 September 1651, 'by order of the Court of Aldren 3 July 1651, 40s to be paid to the poor of the Company'. In October 1653, he refused to be of the New Livery but in the same month was asked to advise the Committee of Court in response to the petition from the workmen against Strangers. In that year he was among the 40 'persons of the goldsmithry most members of this Co.' who volunteered to wait upon the Lord Mayor, the Goldsmith, Sir Thomas Vyner at his installation. In 1666, Edward Backwell paid 'Mr Almond ye Jeweller in full to 14th April 1666, £10'. For the 1692 Poll Tax, a 'John Almond', who may be the same man, was assessed in the precinct of St Bride, next Temple Bar, with a wife and maid servant and for the 4s Aid of 1694, in Fleet Street near Water Lane in the same precinct with a rack rent of £18 but no stocks. He bound three apprentices, one of whom became free.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1653	Thomas Horne, free by service 1661
1655	David Alman (son)
1659	Unton Bullen

L Mark*Mark references*

Table 1, entry no.110 (*L*, 1656)

Candidates

To establish candidates for marks with a single initial is extremely difficult but one of two brothers may possibly have owned this mark: William Limpany, (Master, James East, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1631-40) and Robert Limpany, (Master, firstly Israel Smith 1625, secondly John Parker 1632, both Citizens & Goldsmiths, free 1640). Robert Limpany sold a number of rings and smallwares but there is no direct evidence that he made any of them. In contrast, his brother William is recorded as making a seal ring for John Daintry, so perhaps he is the stronger candidate.

Attribution

Possibly William Limpany (531)

William LIMPANY (free Goldsmith 1640, date of death unknown)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entry no.599 ('of William Limpanyes making', 1656)

William, son of William Limpany of London, Goldsmith, was apprenticed to James East, Citizen and Goldsmith, for ten years from 22 February 1631, becoming free by service on 4 September 1640 when he sealed a bond 'not to sett up shop but according to the order of the Lords of the Councell'¹⁰. This indicated that he proposed to trade, at least in part, by retail. (His brother Robert sealed a similar bond in the same year). It appears that he remained in the City during the Civil Wars as he paid 3s Poll Money in 1642 in the parish of St Mary Woolnoth and in 1646 bound an apprentice. Nevertheless, it was not until 23 August 1656, that 'Limpany in Fanchurch Street' had a seal ring weighing 6dwt taken in the Bartholomew Eve Search. On 29 August, William Limpany was fined 12d by the Court of Assistants. The next month, 'wares taken of John Daintrie in Towerstreete' comprised a 'hoope ring of Mr Brights making, one seal ring of William Limpanyes making' and two pairs of buttons, all worse than standard. In December 1652, William Limpany was a signatory to the 'Petition' regarding the election of Wardens (see Thomas Best above). In 1657, he owed the Company 26s in 'quateridge' [quarterage fees].

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1646	Richard Williams
1658	Harrington Drayton

PLC in monogram Mark*Mark references*

Table 1, entry no.3 (PLC in monogram, 1631)

Candidates

If the drawing in the Court book has been 'read' correctly, then there is only one candidate for this mark, Pieter le Clerke, (Stranger, sworn in 1597).

Attribution

Probably Pieter le Clerke (805)

Pieter le CLERKE (Stranger, sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company 1597, date of death unknown)*Maker's references*

None

On 19 December 1597, it was noted in the Goldsmiths' Company Court Book, 'rec. of Petar Clarke fornyer with renier Drall for his othe 3s'. Two years earlier, he had goods 'stayed' – colletts & other pieces ... & viij grete bottons – to bring in his fine & for his men to be sworn'. In a search in August 1599, 'one Collett with a Dyomond set in it and a little piece of working gold [was] taken from Peter Clerke'. The gold was a carat worse than standard and he was fined 2s 6d. He had buttons taken in 1604 and in 1613, 'Bancks, Mr Gossons man was fyned 12d for delivering a quantity of wier worke gold to Clarke in St Martins [le Grand] to make a chaine found at the assay 19kr 1¼gr'. In August 1616, he had a jewell and two pieces of thin gold plate broken and was fined 5s. He was included in the extensive 'List of Strangers' of those engaged in the Goldsmiths' trade in 1615. Two years later, the Dutch Church Lists of Goldsmiths, Diamond Cutters & Jewellers within the City, included 'Pieter le Clerk, Denizen, from Geneva, in London 22 years' (i.e. from 1595). On Midsummer's Day 1600, at the Dutch Church in London, Pieter de Clerck from Geneva married Lynken Engelbusche from Hassel. Subsequently, they had four sons and four daughters baptized in the Church including the twins, Isaac and Jacob. His wife died and he married for a second time on 5th August 1628, Pieter le Clerk, widower of Catharina Engelbosch, from Geneva with Maijken Christiaens, widow of Frederic van der Sande.

Q Mark*Mark references*

Figure 1, entries nos 83(Q, 1651); 106(Gothic Q, 1656); 123(Q, 1681)

Candidates

Very few surnames begin with the letter Q and there are only two candidates for this mark: Richard Quintin, ('Master', Elizabeth Jackson, free by courtesy of the Goldsmiths' Company, 1638-45) and William Quintin, (Master, John Smith, Citizen and Goldsmith, 1639-47). They may well have been brothers and drove similar trades. As the records often refer to Mr. Quintin, it is very difficult to distinguish one from the other. Nevertheless, Richard lived in Cheapside and William in Tower Street which were sometimes used by the Company to identify them. There were many John Smiths free of the Goldsmiths' Company but William's master was not identified in his binding. It may possibly have been 'John Smith in Fanchurch Street' who made smallwares but also drove a retail trade, as William Quintin seems to have done. Indeed in October 1665, 'Leonard Collard, William Quintyn & William Cuthbert, Liverymen and Shopkeeping Goldsmiths, [were] accused of selling gold at a higher rate than permitted by the Crown'. Unfortunately, in 1656 Simon Player's hoop ring was simply of 'Mr Quintins making', without giving a Christian name. Nevertheless, it seems more likely that this mark belonged to Richard Quintin as it is found on Michael Schrimshire's hoop

10 From 1623, the crown tried to force shopkeeping-goldsmiths back to Goldsmiths' Row in Cheapside or Lombard Street. On taking their freedom, apprentices who proposed to trade as retailers were required to establish themselves in either of these locations by order of the Privy Council. See Mitchell D. M., forthcoming 2023, chapter 12.

ring in June 1681, whereas the last record of William in the Company's records is his election as Renter Warden in 1671.

Attribution

Possibly Richard Quintin (3195)

Richard QUINTIN (free Goldsmith 1645, died after 1682)

Maker's references

Table 2, entry no.600 ('of Mr Quintins mark', 1656)

Richard, son of Richard Quintyne of Deptford, Kent, gentleman, was apprenticed to Elizabeth Jackson, widow of William Jackson, Citizen and Goldsmith, for seven years from 24 June 1638, becoming free by service on 4 July 1645. William Jackson was a ringmaker who probably died during 1635, for on 6 November his widow testified to the freedom of his apprentice William Wade and on the same day bound Thomas Anton as her apprentice. Elizabeth continued her late husband's trade with the help of another of his apprentices, John Cole, to whose freedom she testified in 1640. In January 1640, Hugh Vaughan had gold earrings of 'Widow Jackson's making' broken.

In August 1647, a 'difference' was brought before the Court of Assistants between Richard Quintin and his 'former Covenant servant', Philip Pakenham. It appears that Pakenham was engaged as a journeyman after his freedom from William Wade in January 1647 and had broken the terms of the agreement. The arbitrators appointed to consider the case were the ringmaker, Thomas Best, for Richard Quintin and the refiner, James Noell, for Philip Pakenham. They found against Pakenham who was ordered to pay Quintin the sum of £10.

In September 1647, Mr Quintin, either Richard or William, had several wares taken by the Wardens at Bartholomew Fair: 'two bodkins marked J:O:, two thimbles, ameld ring marked, ameld ring unmarked & four bead rings'. They proved to be worse than standard and a fine of 3s was imposed. Richard Quintin developed a retail trade and in 1661, he was fined 12d for a substandard inkhorn. He was financially successful being assessed with six hearths in Cheapside, St Vedast Foster Lane for the 1666 Hearth Tax. He also rose within the Company: Liveryman 1660; fined for Renter Warden 1670; Assistant 1672; Touchwarden 1674; Third Warden 1679 and Second Warden 1680. He was last recorded in the Company's records when he testified to the freedom of an apprentice in October 1682.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1647	Thomas Alden
1654	Robert Parker
1661	William Stone
1682	James Evetts

R: Mark (see fig. 9)

Mark references

Table 1, entries nos 10, 24, 25, 28, 39, 43, 61, 74, 84, 86, 88, 92, 107 & 111 (all R, 1632-56)

Candidates

There are two strong candidates for these marks: Arthur Radcliffe, (see above) and Henry Radcliffe, (free Wax Chandler, sworn in 1634). The mark R: on rings was recorded in six instances on or after 1651, when Arthur Radcliffe would have been about 73

years of age. Although retailers sold second-hand rings, it seems unlikely that all these rings would have fallen into that category. Further, Arthur was not recorded by the Goldsmiths' Company as paying Poll Money in 1642. Thus, it seems that this mark may have belonged to Henry Radcliffe.

Attribution

Possibly Henry Radcliffe (2629)

Henry RADCLIFFE (free Wax Chandler, sworn to Ordinances of Goldsmiths' Company 1634, date of death unknown)

Maker's references

Table 2, entries nos 566 & 568 ('of Ratcliffes making', 1656)

Henry Radcliffe was fined 3s by the Goldsmiths' Company in August 1633 for three gold rings that were worse than standard. The following January, he was noted as free of the Wax Chandlers' Company when he was sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company. In January 1638, he had twelve substandard enamelled rings taken, some marked and others unmarked for which he was fined 5s. In September of the same year, Thomas Daintry had hollow hoop, bead and sad hoop rings taken which all proved to be worse than standard; although the 'sad hoopes of Ratcliffes making' were only half a grain worse. The next month, John Trevillian had hollow hoop and knot rings taken of which three 'of Ratcliffes making were standard'. Henry Radcliffe evidently had royalist sympathies for during the Civil Wars in 1645, it was reported that 'he had hid in his house £7,000 belonging to two delinquents'¹¹.

R:M: & M Mark

Mark references

Table 1, entries no.78 (R:M:,1648), 95 (M,1653), 117 (R:M:,1669)

Candidates

RM is a very common combination of initials and there are a number of candidates, although the only man who is currently known to have made rings is Richard Marsh, (Master, John Prince, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1621-29).

Attribution

Possibly Richard Marsh (380)

Richard MARSH (free Goldsmith 1629, died c.1664)

Maker's references

Table 2, entries nos, 578, 580, 582, 592, 604 ('of Marshes mark', or 'made by Mr Marsh', or 'Mr Marsh supplied to', between 1640-61)

Richard, son of Giles Marsh of 'Boulton', yeoman, was apprenticed to John Prince, Citizen and Goldsmith for eight years from 1 November 1621, becoming free by service on 8 April 1629. He paid 12d Poll Money in 1642 as a 'poor freeman' in the parish of St Dionis Backchurch, but the following year he subscribed 10s to the 'Adventure in Ireland'. In December 1652, he was a signatory to the 'Petition' regarding the election of Wardens (see Thomas Best above). He was appointed to the Livery in 1653 but in December 1657, he had 'lately failed in his estate & having a wife & seven children was repaid his £10

¹¹ Hilton-Price F. G., 1890, p.135

Livery fine'. Between December 1658 and December 1663, he received twelve charitable gifts from the Company, totalling £10 18s.

For most of his career Richard Marsh seems to have made rings but also drove a modest retail trade. In 1638, he was fined 12d for seven enamelled and a single seal ring that were substandard. He supplied three retailers with seal and hoop rings in 1640 which were worse than standard and was also fined for a 'jemall' or gimmel ring (see above). It is unclear how he survived the hiatus in the trade occasioned by the Civil Wars, as he was next before the Court of Assistants in 1653 over a gold seal ring that he had made for George Dixon which was a carat below standard. Marsh 'fell into a great passion' over the affair but subsequently expressed his sorrow for his previous behaviour. In the Bartholomew Fair Search of 1656, he had four substandard enamelled rings taken which were all made by others: 'one marked R, another DA and two others J'. He bound five apprentices, three of whom became free. However, the last Richard Speed binding in 1655 did not proceed and he was bound a second time to Martin Johnson in 1657, becoming free by service in 1666. Robert Cooke established his trade in Fenchurch Street where he fashioned both rings and smallwares with some degree of retail trade whilst John Tassell became a goldsmith-banker.¹²

Apprentices in the Goldsmiths' Company

1631	Robert Battell
1634	Robert Cooke, free by service 1642
1641	Robert Leycroft
1651	John Tassell, free by service 1658

R:S: Mark

Mark references

Table 1, entry no.53 (R:S:, 1638)

Candidates

RS is a common combination of initials and there are a number of candidates for this mark, including: Robert South, (Master, Nicholas Hooker, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1591-99); Richard Spencer, (Master, Gilbert Gardener, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1595-1602); Richard Savage, (Masters, George Smithes & Robert Orpewood, Citizens & Goldsmiths, 1601-08); Richard Swaffield, (Masters, Francis Samborne & John Turner, Citizens & Goldsmiths, 1614-29); Robert Simpson, (free Grocer, sworn in 1629). In view of their respective masters, both South and Swaffield were presumably trained as jewellers, but very little is known of them. Spencer had bodkins broken in 1609 and received charitable gifts in 1622, but nothing else is known of him. Savage was fined for a number of substandard bodkins between 1609 and 1611, but it is unclear whether he made them. He died in 1626. If he made rings, then that with the R:S: mark in 1638 would have been second hand. This is possible, but it is known that Robert Sympton was a ringmaker and it is more likely that the mark belonged to him.

Attribution

Possibly Robert Simpson (2351)

Robert SIMPSON (free Grocer, sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company 1629, date of death unknown)

Maker's references

Table 2, entries nos 545 & 551 ('made by Robert Sympton', 1630-33)

Robert Simpson, free of the Grocers' Company had gold rings broken in both February and March 1626, but it was not until 7 October 1629, that he was sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company. In August, the next year, a 'Gold ring made by Robert Sympton in Foster Lane [was] but 21car 1gr and he was fined 18d. In September 1633, Barnabus Leigh had a 'gold ring of Symsons making' that was about a carat below the standard of 22 carats. Robert Simpson also made fashionable smallwares, for in October 1635 he had a dozen fan handles broken and was fined 2s 6d.

R:W: Mark

Mark references

Table 1, entries nos 119 (R:W:,1681) & 123 (RW,1683)

Candidates

RW is a common combination of initials and there are a number of candidates for this mark including: Richard Walthew, (Company unknown, in Goldsmiths' records in 1640); Robert Welsted, (Master, Thomas Noell, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1639-46); Robert Webb, (Masters, Francis Eystone, Citizen & Goldsmith, and Thomas Fitz, Company unknown, 1663-70); Richard Winter, (Company unknown, in 1666 Hearth Tax); Robert Williams, (Master, William Cowland, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1672-80).

Walthew was fined in 1640 for gold bodkins and rings but is not found thereafter. Webb had gold rings taken in 1683 and 1686 but it is not known if he made them. In view of his master, Williams might well have made rings but little is known of him. 'Richard Winter, Ringmaker', was assessed with four hearths in Priest's Alley, St Martin-le-Grand for the 1666 Hearth Tax. He may be identified with the Mr Winter who received thirteen payments, mostly for fashion, from Thomas Fowle between 1664 and 1667. During the same period Mrs Winter received seventeen payments, including for the fashion of three hoop rings at 2s and six flowers at 4s. However, it is unclear whether he was still alive in the 1680s although the rings taken then could have been second hand. In contrast, a lot is known of the career of Robert Welsted, although it provides several puzzles. Firstly, he was apprenticed to Thomas Noell who was a leading refiner in the City, but subsequently drove a trade as a successful goldsmith-banker. Secondly, he supplied many rings to other goldsmiths which he seems to have produced 'in house' using his apprentices and probably journeymen. Thus, this mark may have belonged to him.

Attribution

Possibly Robert Welsted (728)

Robert WELSTED (free Goldsmith 1646, died after 1687)

Maker's references

none

Robert, son of Leonard Welsted of 'Harfield', Middlesex, gentleman, was apprenticed to Thomas Noell, Citizen and Goldsmith, for eight years from Midsummer's Day 1639, becoming free by service on 4 September 1646. Initially, he resisted playing a part in the affairs of the Company, refusing in 1653, along with

¹² For Cooke as ringmaker refer to Table 2, no.594

a number of others, to become a Liveryman. In the same year, he refused to open his 'glasses' during a search by the Wardens. None the less after the Restoration, he joined the Livery in 1660, fined £40 for passing Renter Warden in 1671, elected Assistant in 1672, excused Touchwarden in 1677, and finally dismissed the Livery in 1687 during the 'Closeting Campaign'.¹³ In 1664, a 'Petition against Strangers' was 'prosecuted' by him together with Robert Cuthbert and Henry Starkey.

Robert Welsted had a number of rings and smallwares taken in searches: seven ameld [enameled] rings in 1648; three hoops, four ameld and a Death's head ring, as well as three bodkins and three thimbles, in 1651; two hoop rings in 1664; and a toothpick case in 1668. The transgressions and thus the fines were always modest. From 1666, he kept an Account with the goldsmith-banker Edward Backwell, from whom he bought gold and in turn supplied with various goods. In 1666, he bought gold which cost £217 10s and delivered silver and gold rings and a gold bodkin. Welsted bought further supplies of gold the next year and supplied Backwell with 321 gold rings as well as a gold toothpick case & toothpicks, two coral necklaces and a gold coral or rattle; the gold smallwares were sold by Backwell to Lady Fanshaw. In 1669, he sold Backwell 300 gold rings and the following year was paid £3 15s for 'fashion of 100 rings per Mr Thursby' [John Thursby, one of his apprentices].

In his 1671 account with Backwell is a debit for 'Mr Welsted & Temple bill for Amster., £100'. This indicates that his partnership with Temple was formed earlier than that suggested by Heal who had, 'Robert Welsted and Thomas Temple at the Three Tuns in Lombard Street 1677-84. Temple was a very young partner as he only became free in 1671 to Thomas Rowe, a goldsmith-banker, who had been trained in his turn by Backwell. Robert Welsted moved several times during his career: in a search in 1653, he was at Temple Bar; for the 1666 Hearth Tax in Lombard Street with four hearths; in a search two years later in Broadstreet, perhaps on account of the Great Fire; and by 1677 had returned to Lombard Street. He bound twelve apprentices between 1647 and 1668, and had another turned over to him, Timothy Birchmore from the ringmaker Philip Pakenham. Nine of them, including Birchmore, became free by service with several then driving successful careers as goldsmith-bankers, particularly John Coggs, Bernard Turner and John Thursby.

Apprentices in the Goldsmiths' Company

1647	Samuel Urlin, free by service 1655
1647	James Winch, free by service 1654
1651	John Coggs, free by service 1658
1654	John Cox, free by service 1661
1655	Robert Ryves, free by service 1671
1655	Bernard Turner, free by service 1664
1659	John Thursby, free by service 1674
1659	Benjamin Swayne, died 1661
1661	John Compton
1663	Thomas Pardoe, free by service 1671
1664	Nicholas Knight
1668	Robert Phillips

T over H conjoined Mark (fig. 9)

Mark references

Table 1, entries nos 21, 49 & 51 (all T over H conjoined, 1632-38)
Candidates

There are four candidates for this mark: Thomas Hilton, (Master, John Cheeseman, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1605-17); Thomas Hopton, (Master, Arthur Radcliffe, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1613-20); Henry Thorowgood, (Master, Edmund Sell, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1614-24); Henry Tillier (Stranger, sworn to the Ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company 1618). Some initials arranged as monograms can be difficult to interpret today as modern Europeans are programmed to read from top to bottom and from left to right. This was not the case around 1600, as it was not uncommon for stained-glass windows, engravings and linen damasks to depict stories as told from the bottom up.¹⁴ Further, some initials can only be elegantly arranged in one way, for example F over W which is found on fine plate and was very probably the mark of Walter Furler. Similarly, H over T in monogram is awkward, as it could more logically be read as H over I. Thus this mark could belong to ringmakers with the combination of initials TH or HT. In this particular case, identification is complicated by the occurrence at this period of the marks H and T:H: If the Clerk has recorded these correctly, they must have belonged to a ringmaker whose surname began with an H. It has been suggested below that these marks possibly belonged to Thomas Hopton.

Of the three other candidates, nothing is known of Thomas Hilton save for his apprenticeship and freedom from John Cheeseman, who made smallwares and silver rings. Similarly, the apprenticeship and freedom of Henry Thorowgood with the jeweller Edmond Sell are known, together with his payment of 5s for the 1642 Poll Money in St Butolph Aldgate and being assessed with two hearths in the same parish for the 1666 Hearth Tax. His will was exhibited on 28th June 1673. However, nothing is known, at present, of the nature of his trade, so perhaps the most likely candidate for this mark is Henry Tillier who was clearly an active ringmaker during the 1630s.

Attribution

Possibly Henry Tillier (2401)

Henry TILLIER (Stranger, sworn to the Ordinance of the Goldsmiths' Company 1618, date of death unknown)

Maker's references

Table 2, entry no.547 ('his own work', 1632).

Henry Tillier was an 'Alien' who was sworn on 14 August 1618. In 1632 he had a number of rings taken by the Wardens, all of which were substandard: 'gold rings marked S, gold ring no.2 marked C, gold ring no.4 marked cross over orb, gold ring no.3 marked C, Gold ring no.5 his own work unfinished, Deaths head marked W, Eare rings no.7. Being a Stranger, fined 12d'.

T:H: & H Mark

Mark references

Table 1, entries nos 9(H), 19(H), 47(H), 64(T:H:), 75(H), 77(T:H:) (1632-48)

¹³ For Closeting Campaign see De Beer E. S., 1970, vol.6, pp.196-205.

¹⁴ See Mitchell D, M, 2017, p.184 & Table 115.

Candidates

There are two candidates for this mark: Thomas Hilton, (Master, John Cheeseman, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1605-17) and Thomas Hopton, (Master, Arthur Radcliffe, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1613-20). Nothing is known of Thomas Hilton save for his apprenticeship and freedom from John Cheeseman, who made by smallwares and silver rings, so these marks possibly belonged to Thomas Hopton.

Attribution

Possibly Thomas Hopton (422)

Thomas HOPTON (free Goldsmith 1620, date of death unknown)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entry no.569 ('of Hoptons making', 1638)

Thomas, son of Fardinando Hopton of Stroud Water, Gloucestershire, clothier, was apprenticed to Arthur Radcliffe, Citizen and Goldsmith, for nine years from 25 July 1613, becoming free on 4 August 1620 when he paid 8s for his 'freedom within term'. In 1638, Elston Wallis had 'ameld rings of Hoptons making' one carat worse than standard. Thomas Hopton paid 12d as a poor freeman in the parish of St Vedast Foster Lane for the Poll Money in 1642. Two years later, he was a suitor for the lease of a tenement in Wood Lane. This was 'exhibited by his wife who is living in part of the house, Thomas being in Scotland' and offered a fine of £40. It would be fascinating to know what Thomas was doing in Scotland in the middle of the Civil Wars. He clearly had problems financially for he received twenty-five charitable gifts, totalling £14 15s between December 1632 and June 1651, and applied, albeit unsuccessfully, for an Almsman's place in 1650. He was in difficulties again in 1665, and he received a further eight gifts until July 1668, totalling £5 12s. His widow received 10s towards his burial in December 1668.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1622	John Vickers
1623	Timothy Rolls
1631	Daniel Austin, free by service 1640
1635	Edmund Cumppear, free by service 1642
1639	Edmund Hopton (son), free by patrimony 1647
1639	Samuel Hopton (son), free by patrimony 1645
1645	Nathaniel Hopton (son)
1646	John Felton

W:E: Mark*Mark references*

Table 1, entry no.42 (W:E:,1636)

Candidates

The only ringmakers at this period with a surname beginning with E seem to be: William Eversley, (Master, John Wilcock, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1580-87); John Elliott, (Master, Simon Sedgwick, 1605-15); William Eccles, (Master, John Elliott, 1627-35). As the E or E mark has been attributed to Elliott, then this mark could have belonged to either Eversley or Eccles. As the mark W:E: was recorded on a death's head ring in 1636, it could have been new and fashioned by Eversley who died the year after in 1637. However, it is perhaps more likely to have belonged to Eccles.

Attribution

Possibly William Eccles (405)

William ECCLES (free Goldsmith 1635, died 1667)*Maker's references*

None

William, son of William Eccles of London, brewer, was apprenticed to John Elliott, Citizen and Goldsmith, for eight years from 24 June 1627, becoming free by service on 3 September 1635. He struggled financially, receiving his first charitable gift in 1638. He seems never to have been fined by the Goldsmiths' Company for substandard goods. In 1648, he was given 10s in charity by the Company whilst a prisoner in the Poultry Compter, presumably for debt. He received over forty charitable gifts between June 1646 and April 1667, totally some £32 8s. He became an Almsman in June 1666 but only held the place for about a year as on 5 June 1667, John Warner was elected in the place of William Eccles, deceased.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1638	Thomas Tarr
1662	William Lloyd, free by service to William Eccles, deceased 1670, testified by William Pemberton in Grubstreet in Butler Alley, a wafermaker free of the Founders

WI Mark (fig.9)*Mark references*

Table 1, entries nos 2(W:I:,1630); 11(WI, 1632); 34(W:I:, 1634); 97(W:I:, 1653)

Occurrence of Mark

Gold hoop ring with internal inscription, 'My heart and I vntill I dye'. Mark WI with serifs in a plain shield. Enquiry to Goldsmiths' Company 11th April 2008.

Candidates

WI is a common combination of initials and there are a number of candidates including: Walter Jackson, (Company unknown, entry in Goldsmiths' records in 1608); William Illingworth, (Master, Michael Barksted, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1604-13); William Ireland, (Masters, Richard Man & John Settle, Citizens & Goldsmiths, 1605-13); William Jackson, (Master, John Yates, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1616-26); William Inger, (Master, John Bryan, Citizen & Goldsmith, 1616-22). Walter Jackson was a jeweller who was in trouble for 'colouring' counterfeit stones in 1608 but does not appear again. William Illingworth was almost certainly a shopkeeping goldsmith and although William Inger sold many gilt rings to Thomas Wilkinson, a goldsmith in Canterbury, it is not known if he made them. William Ireland was trained by a jeweller and smallworker and may well have made gold rings. However, little is known of him and neither of his apprentices became free. In contrast, William Jackson was apprenticed to a leading ringmaker, John Yates, and two of his apprentices, William Wade and John Cole, also followed that trade. In consequence, he seems the most likely owner of the mark until his death about 1635.

Attribution

Possibly William Jackson (2847)

William JACKSON (free Goldsmith 1626, died c.1635)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entries nos 542-544 (all 'made by Jackson in Foster Lane', 1630)

William, son of Arthur Jackson, deceased, was apprenticed to John Yeate [Yates] for ten years from 29 September 1616, becoming free by service on 6 October 1626. He applied and was granted a £50 interest-free loan of Mr Cuttings money which had been left to help 'young beginners and workmen'. The loan was duly repaid in January 1632. In 1629 and 1630, he was fined on three occasions for substandard rings for three different retailers: nine bead, two gold and a maze ring, all 'made by Jackson in Foster Lane'. He died young, probably in 1635, for on 6 November his widow Elizabeth testified to the freedom of his apprentice William Wade and on the same day bound Thomas Anton as her apprentice.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1628	William Wade, free by service 1635, testified by Elizabeth Jackson.
1629	Edward Astley
1632	John Cole, free by service 1640, testified by Elizabeth Jackson.

WW & W Marks*Mark references*

Table 1, entries nos 6 (WW,1631); 15(W,1632); 37(W,1636); 80(W:,1651); 118(W:W:,1681)?

Candidates

WW is a common combination of initials but little is known of the potential candidates save William Wade, (Master, William Jackson, Cit. & Goldsmith, 1628-35) and it is probable that the W mark probably belonged to him and possibly the WW mark.

Attribution

Probably William Wade (476)

William WADE (free Goldsmith 1635, died 1673)*Maker's references*

Table 2, entries nos 556, 558-9, 564-5, 573-4, 577, 587 (all 'of Wades making' 1637-40)

William, son of William Wade of Suffolk, gentleman, was apprenticed to William Jackson, Citizen and Goldsmith, for

eight years from 25 March 1628, becoming free by service on 6 November 1635 upon the testimony of the Widow Jackson. In January 1636, he was granted an interest-free loan of £50 of Benefactors money for three years which he repaid in April 1639. In December 1652, he was a signatory to the 'Petition' regarding the election of Wardens (see Thomas Best above). Between 1637 and 1640, he supplied hoop, hollow hoop and enameled rings, which proved to be worse than standard, on eight occasions to seven different retailers. In 1637, the rings were taken during a search in Foster Lane. He was next in trouble with the Company more than twenty years later in 1661, when he was fined for substandard breeches buttons. The reason for this hiatus may have been the Civil Wars when the demand for both plate and jewellery completely collapsed. It seems that he became a victualler as an assessment for the 1666 Hearth Tax lists, 'William Wade, Ordinary (a restaurant), Foster Lane, St Martin-le-Grand, twelve hearths'. It seems that the project failed as, between December 1667 and July 1673, he received twenty-three charitable gifts from the Goldsmiths' Company, totalling £20 13s. He died in July 1673 and his widow, Mary, was given 20s towards his burial.

William Wade bound ten apprentices between 1637 and 1665, including one in 1646 during the Civil Wars. Four of them became free and both Philip Packenham and John Morley made both rings and smallwares, whereas nothing is known of the careers of Thomas Blackburnurrow and William Bedford. Did these two become victuallers? A concern is the gold ring marked W:W: taken from George Bowers in 1681, which could only be explained if it was second-hand.

Apprentices in Goldsmiths' Company

1637	John Browne
1638	John Scarborough
1639	Philip Packenham, free by service 1647
1646	Thomas Blackburnurrow, free by service 1654
1651	Henry Gardener
1652	William Bedford, free by service 1659
1654	John Morley, free by service 1661
1660	John Sparrow
1663	John Buckeridge
1665	Edward Stone

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