

Franks Forages No 19

The Dining Room Silver Hallmarks

There are five elements to silver hallmarks; the silversmith's initials, the year of manufacture letter, the monarch's head, the town symbol (leopard's head for London and anchor for Birmingham) where the silverware was made and the passant lion denoting sterling silver.



The hallmarks on the two **salvers** are very clear and show from left to right the passant lion, leopard's head, year letter m for 1787, the monarch's head (George III) and the maker's initials IC over TH (John Crouch and Thomas Hannam). Note I for J in John.



Each prince on the **centrepiece** has its own hallmark on the heel of one of the shoes. These were very difficult to photograph. From the left the year letter **e** for 1879, the anchor, passant lion, monarch's head (Victoria) and the maker's initials (Frederick Elkington). The princes were

cast in Birmingham and the rest of the piece which is plated was made in London as was



the plate on the base. The descriptive plate also has Frederick Elkington's initials with the lion at the top, leopard's head at the left, the queen's head at the bottom and the London year letter D for 1879 on the right.

The silverware on the dining table.



The largest piece on the table is the **centrepiece** presented to Thomas Williamson Ramsay by the people of Bombay on his retirement. He was brother-in-law to Sir Henry Fairfax, 1st. baronet and his portrait is on the stairs. The top photo shows the maker's initials; **IM & ISH** for Mortimer and Hunt, (John Mortimer and James Samuel Hunt) in partnership from 1839-1843. This mark is



on each of the elephants and the figures (merchants) accompanied by the queen's head and the lion. The bottom photo shows a mark elsewhere on the piece which shows in addition the leopard's head and the year letter G for 1842.

The name Mortimer and Hunt and the number 1224 are inscribed on the base.



The coasters or decanter holders are in two parts, the circular base and the gilded upper, both having hallmarks. The makers name **PR** refers to Philip Rundell of Rundell, Bridge and

Rundell, Royal Silversmiths. The year letter **e** refers to 1820 and the king's head is George III. Also seen are the passant lion and the leopard's head. Philip Rundell entered his own mark in 1819 and as he retired in 1823, his mark PR is rather rare. Paul Storr was also with the firm until 1819.

The gilt silver cutlery is interesting; the knives and spoons were by Paul Storr and the forks by William Chawner. However neither Storr's mark nor the leopard's head are on the knives and it must be assumed that there is evidence somewhere that the knives are by Storr. Both Storr and Chawner were renowned for their cutlery.



Spoon



Knife



Fork

All the above have the date letter **S** for 1833; the spoons **PS** for Paul Storr and the forks **WC** for William Chawner. Storr was considered the foremost craftsman in silver of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He was for a time in partnership with John Mortimer. **The cruet set** consists of eight cut glass containers, two with silver lids, a silver stand and two silver spoons. The stand has the initials **JA** for Joseph Angell with the letter **c** (1818) as has the lids. The spoons are by William Eley and William Fearn, also with the letter **c**.



Stand



Lid



Spoon

All five symbols appear on the stand but the monarch's head is not shown on the lid and the leopard's head is neither on the lid or spoon. Note **WE/WF** for Eley and Fearn.

The sugar sifter is German silver plate and has the name of Carrington of 130 Regent St. W1 underneath with a series of marks which at first didn't make sense but which I now know to be gothic scrip for EPGS or electro-plated German silver.



Carrington and Co were "retail silversmiths with manufacturing connections". As is general with plated ware, there is no date mark. I cannot find what the A1 in the shield on the right means.



The six silver **sweet dishes** are by William Comyns and Sons (**W.C** registered in 1890) and are much later than other silver on the table; the **R** in a shield denoting 1893. There are four marks; the queen's head missing.

The silver gilt **grape scissors** have a maker's mark **WSH** and other indistinct marks but hours of foraging



have not produced name, date or place of manufacture.



The **nutcrackers** are silver close plate which consists of silver foil soldered onto a steel base and generally made in Birmingham. The marks are difficult to determine.

Also on the dining table are a pair of Sheffield Plate **candelabra** by Matthew Boulton and Co. marked with two embossed stars on the base.



There is also a pair of Sheffield Plate **candlesticks**.

Most of the items on the table are engraved with the Lucy crest.

On the table in the corner are three silver plated serving dishes, with fish symbols inside.

The silver gilt **trophy** on the table behind the screen was won at Newmarket is by Rebecca Eames and Edward Barnard with the marks **RE/EB** and year letter **U** for 1815.



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Notes. Details of the hallmarks are from <http://www.925-1000.com/dlLondon.html> "Online Encyclopaedia of Silver Marks- London and <http://www.925-1000.com/dlBirmingham.html> for Birmingham marks.

My thanks to Jana Eastwood for supplying the majority of photographs in this 'forage'