

The heyday of the Kilkenny silversmiths was the last quarter of the seventeenth century, in so far as identifiable examples can be found from that era. The names of a few Kilkenny apprentices who were enrolled to serve under Dublin Goldsmiths at that time are still recorded. In 1678 Joseph Teate was enrolled. He was a son of the late Joseph Teate, Dean of St. Canice's Cathedral. Two years later the name of John Cooke of Kilkenny occurs. And there are a number of pieces of silver of that era in Kilkenny churches, which probably are locally made. Furthermore, there is a town mark based on the Kilkenny three-flagged castle. This is found in conjunction with the letters E R. It is found on a tankard of 1689 in the National Museum, and on several pieces of Church silver, notably in Screene, (illustrated), Piltown, Fethard, Co. Tipperary, and Carrick-on-Suir, where the inscription links the chalice with Kilkenny by saying that it was given (in 1673) by "the Duke of Ormonde's Troop". It has been conjectured that the E R may have been a member of the Kilkenny civic family of Rothe.

Galway was famous for its Church plate down to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was particularly good during the first half of the eighteenth, and initialled pieces are to be found by such makers as Richard Joyce, or Bartholomew, Mark and Martin Fallon. The town mark at that period was usually an anchor. A lymphad, or sailing-boat, with sail furled on a horizontal yard arm, is also to be found as an earlier mark of origin, as on Bartholomew Fallon's Cornin-Macnamara chalice of 1683. A group of typical Galway-marked chalices is shown.



Limerick-made Freedom Case. - *National Museum Photograph.*

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Limerick silver started its distinctive city marks of origin during the sixteen sixties, as far as surviving examples show us. Earlier pieces of course have shown signatures in the cases of O Carryd (the O Dea mitre and crozier) and Fennell who made the Quin chalice 1670 and the two Ennis chalices 1761. The late seventeenth and the early eighteenth centuries show the castle mark—the civic emblem—and a star,



The Ennis Chalice, 17th Century, showing Limerick Castle mark and Star

sometimes wavy. After about 1720 STERLING is found in various forms. During the eighteenth century a mark rather like a three feathered plume is found—e.g., on the Newmarket-on-Fergus chalice or on the Peter Haly chalice of 1734 in Killarney Cathedral, which has the sterling mark and the initials CR (perhaps one of the Robinson family), as well as the plume mark. At this era some Limerick makers produced a mark which enclosed their initials with a crude resemblance to the Dublin crowned harp. The best known of the Limerick makers included the families of Buck, Johns and Robinson.



Limerick Silver, two-handled Cup and bright Cut Spoon (Note typical Fleur-de-Lys)

The incomparable M S D Westropp listed the recorded makers in a paper in this Journal, "the Goldsmiths of Limerick". He illustrated it with his drawings of some of the marks (which we reproduce) and also gave an alphabetical list of makers as far as it was known. No research seems to have added much to his list, though credit is due to J N A Wallace of this Society for the identification of the Limerick star mark.



JOSEPH JOHNS.



GEORGE MOORE



W. FITZGERALD.



R. O'SHAUGHNESSY.



GARRETT FITZGERALD



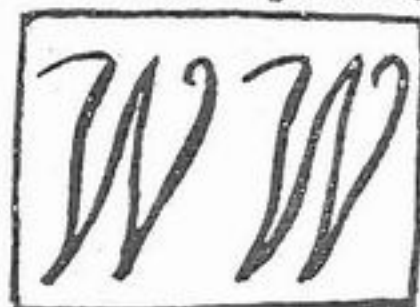
SAMUEL JOHNS.



PHILIP WALSH



GEORGE HALLORAN.

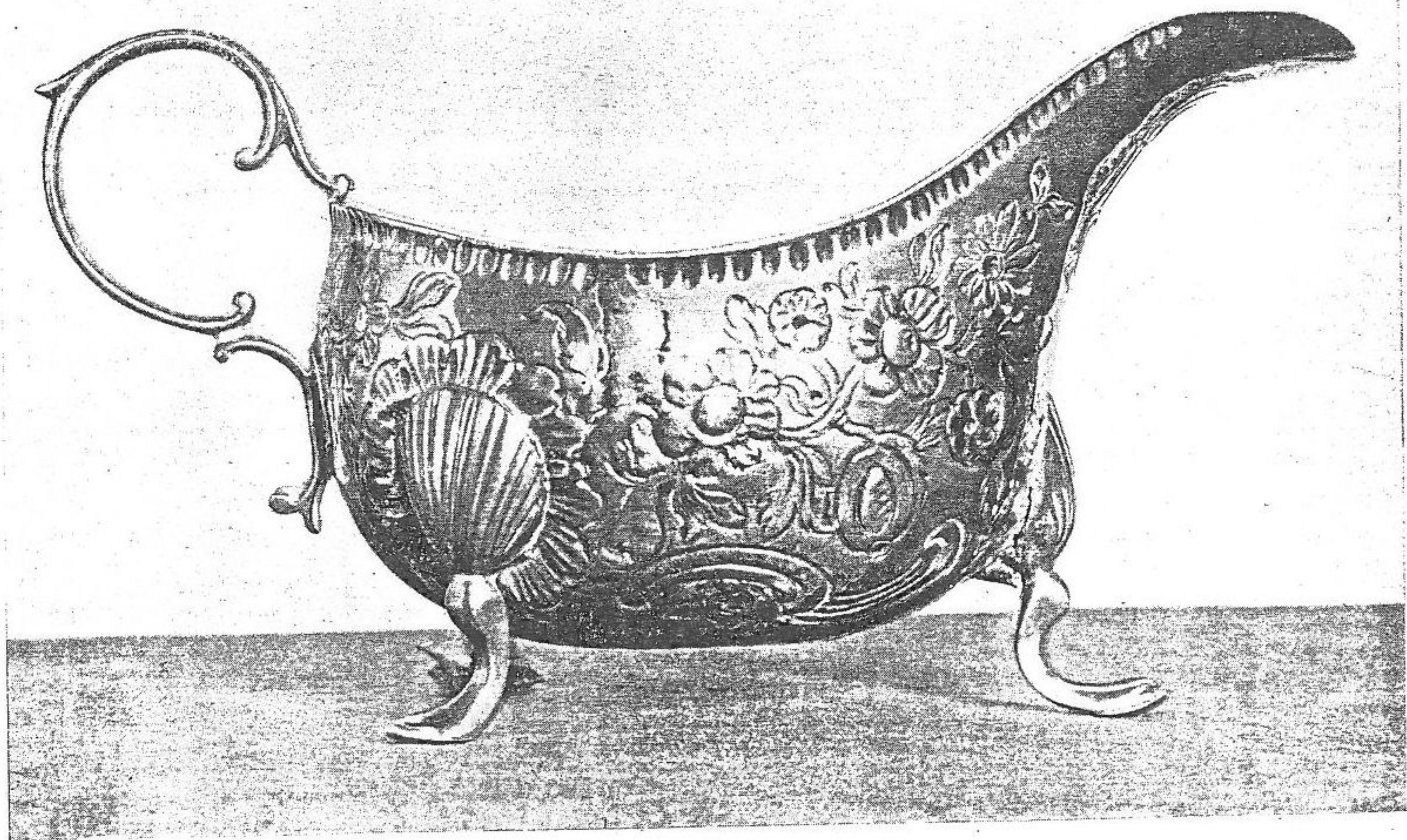


W. WARD.



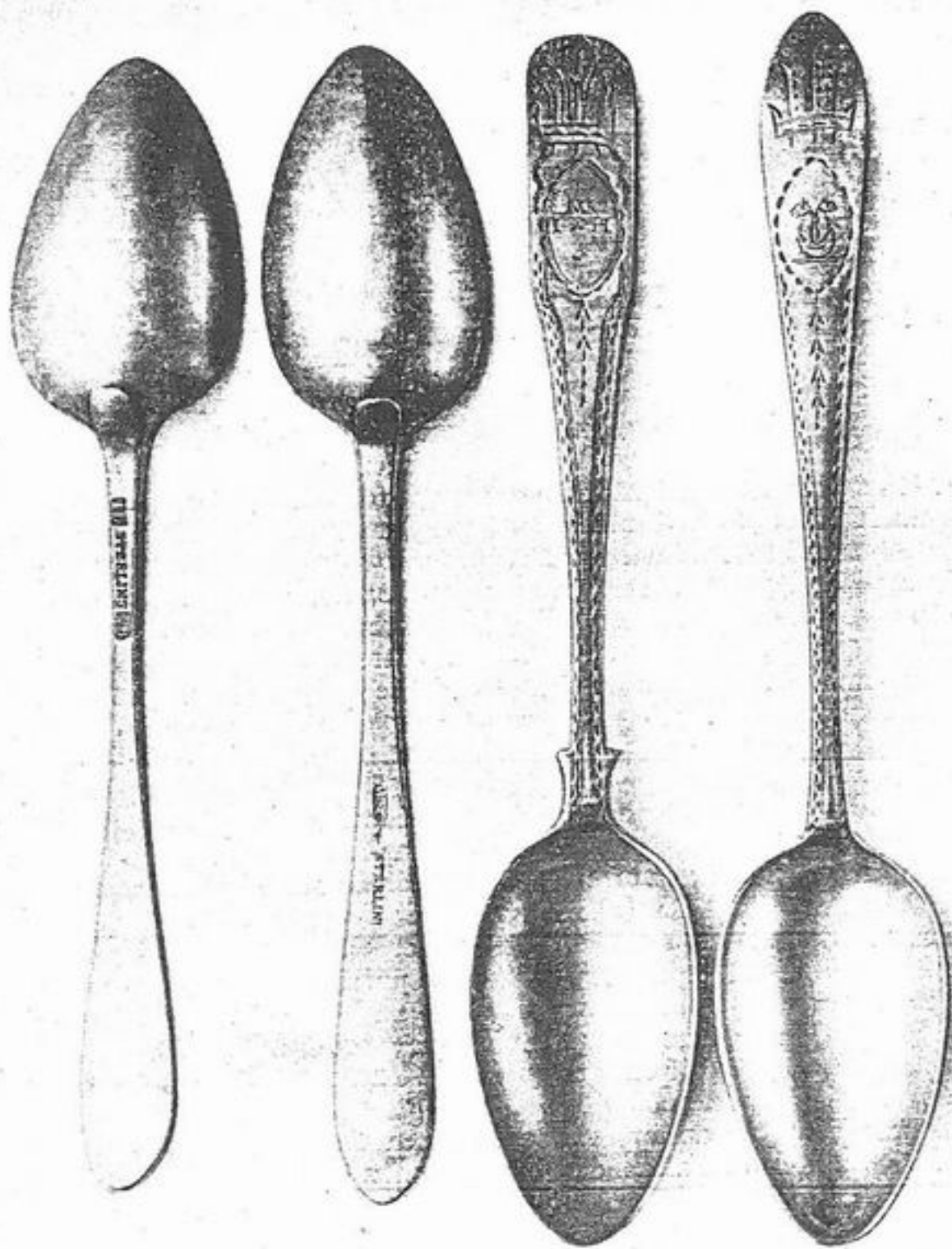
Westropp's Drawings of Limerick Makers' Marks

Here is Westropp's list—Adam Buck, died 1725—(there is a spirited little animal in his personal mark to be seen on an item in the National Museum) ; Jonathan Buck, 1725-40 ; Collins Brehon, died 1768 ; George Brush 1769 ; Robert Bradford 1770 ; Thomas Burke, died 1800 ; Caleb Colbeck, 1720, 1730 ; John Collum 1751, died 1788 ; Patrick Connell, 1784-8 ; Henry Downes died 1788, ; Maurice Fitzgerald, 1760-1810 ; Garret Fitzgerald, 1768, died 1780 ; William Fitzgerald, 1800 ; William Fitzgerald and son, 1820 ; John Gloster 1755 ; Hill 1727 ; Joseph Johns 1731, Mayor 1773 (the great maker of two-handled cups and who also made the Waterville Killeely) communion plate ; Samuel Johns 1765, died 1795 ; George Halloran 1766, died 1804 ; John Hackett, 1770-84 ; George Hurst of Pallaskenry died 1842 ; Daniel Lysaght 1786, 8 ; John Laing 1846 ; Donald Mecgyllysaghta 1559 ; George Moore 1768, 84 (whose mark has been punched on the Tudor paten of Eglis, Offaly—) ; W D Moore 1779, Thomas O Carryd 1418 ; Gilladuffe O Cowltayn 1559 ; Robert O Shaughnessy, 1802, died 1842 ; Edward Parker 1731, died 1782 ; John Purcell, 1787, died 1813 ; Francis Phipps, 1788 ; Samuel Purdon, 1800, 46 ; James Robinson 1680, 1698 ; John Robinson, 1730, 39 ; George Robinson, 1750, 68 ; Joseph Robinson, died 1767 ; Robert Smith 1674, 87 ; John Strit or Stritch 1771, 84 ; H Smith and R Wallace, 1832, 40 ; Philip Walsh 1777, 84 ; Matthew Walsh 1784 ; T Walsh 1810, 46 ; John Walsh 1846 ; William Ward 1798, 1810 ; James Watson, 1774.



LIMERICK-MADE SAUCE BOAT

The illustrations show typical pieces of Limerick made silver. Church plate. Two handled cups—a favoured Irish production at about the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Freedom and seal boxes—the illustrations show those engraved with the arms of the city, the castle which had been used as a town mark of origin. And spoons—many bright cut, and of these, mostly engraved with a fleur de lys.



LIMERICK BRIGHT-CUT SPOONS