

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Ownership and Use of Silver in Gloucestershire, 1660-1740

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1995, Vol. 113, 121-150

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By ANTHONY J.H. SALE

Introduction

Probate inventories have been used for studying the lifestyles of our forebears. Weatherill examined many aspects of the ownership of household goods in eight parts of England by looking at inventories compiled in the period 1675–1725.¹ Her study did not cover Gloucestershire, but inventories for the Frampton Cotterell district in the years 1539–1804 have been examined in general terms by Moore.²

Probate inventories were valuations of household and personal goods compiled by neighbours or executors shortly after their owners' death as part of the process of proving a will. They might list cash, clothing, jewellery, furniture, domestic utensils, stock-in-trade, agricultural implements, livestock, leasehold property and money owed to the deceased. They did not include freehold or copyhold land nor money owed by the deceased; therefore they undervalued the wealth of members of the property owning classes and overvalued that of traders who had creditors. Wealth, the fixed and movable resources of an individual, is not the sole indicator of that person's lifestyle. Income also determined lifestyle and, once it had provided the basic necessities of life, it was devoted to improving living standards and sometimes was spent on conspicuous consumption. People acquired not only novelties but also goods of higher cost and quality. Lifestyle was therefore reflected in the household possessions of a person. In listing those possessions inventories provided no information of how and when they were acquired but, despite the hazards of interpretation, discussed at length by Weatherill, much can be learned from them.

The following survey of household silver articles in Gloucestershire is based on probate inventories covering the whole county. The inventories in the Gloucester diocesan records (G.D.R.), kept in the Gloucestershire Record Office, were read and all references in them to silver and plate, the general term for silver, silver gilt and gold, noted.³ Silver and plate were frequently listed separately from other goods and almost invariably the compilers of inventories used the word silver in describing these items, e.g. 'in the room called the great chamber one silver tankard, one silver caudle cup, six silver spoons and one little spoon, all valued at £12'⁴ or 'the silver plate: two tankards, one college cup, a porringer, one sugar dish, three spoons, two salts and a little silver mug, all at £20'.⁵ In a very few cases silver was not specified but it can be inferred from the valuation placed on an article, silver being worth much more than other metals. As it was also customary to distinguish brass, pewter and iron goods there is little chance of confusion. When unspecified collections of plate had a high value the lack of details is unfortunate as they might have been particularly useful in analysing the types of silver used.

Research was limited to the period 1660–1740 because relatively few earlier and later inventories have survived. The inventories represent only a fraction of those compiled in the years 1660–1740, for which there were many more wills and grants of administration. Poorer social groups are probably under-represented in the diocesan inventories and the wills of many members of the landed, professional and mercantile classes were proved not in the diocese's consistory court

but in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (P.C.C.). To offset the latter imbalance this survey has included the P.C.C. inventories, held by the Public Record Office in London. In both collections no inventory for a person of higher rank than baronet was found. The inventories studied provide an insight into the lifestyle of a wide range of people of middling social status.⁶

Statistical Analysis

The diocesan records contain 22,428 wills and letters of administration and 12,650 inventories for the period 1660–1740. 1,286 inventories, or just over 10% of the total, included plate. Of these, 870 listed and valued silver items piece by piece and 416 merely gave an overall valuation of them. Of the wills which those 416 inventories accompanied 38 contained more detailed descriptions of silver possessions, making in effect 908 lists of silver goods. There are 360 legible P.C.C. inventories, of which 160 included plate and of these 87 specified individual items. Altogether 1,446 inventories, 11 per cent of the combined total, mentioned silver and plate and, including the 38 for which wills have provided supplementary information, 995, or 69 per cent, of those gave details of individual pieces.

The proportion of the Gloucester diocesan inventories with plate was highest, at over 12 per cent, in the years 1691–1710. In the decade 1661–1670, at the beginning of the period of study, the figure was below 7 per cent and by the last decade, 1731–40, it had fallen to under 5 per cent. With the inclusion of the P.C.C. inventories, which reflect wider ownership of plate among wealthier members of society, the incidence of silver is greater. The proportion of inventories recording plate was *c.* 8 per cent in the decade 1661–70, rose rapidly to *c.* 14 per cent in the decade 1671–80, declined to 13 per cent in 1701–10 and fell to 5 per cent in the final decade, 1731–40 (Table I).

Weatherill provided data on the ownership of plate. Her figures, based on sampling inventories from the records of eight dioceses every tenth year between 1675 and 1725 and thereby excluding P.C.C. data, disclose a pattern different to that revealed by the Gloucester diocesan inventories:

Year	Percentage of inventories with plate
1675	23
1685	21
1695	24
1705	23
1715	29
1725	21

The proportion of inventories with plate is about double that for Gloucester diocese, but over the period 1675–1725 there were wide regional variations:

Diocese	Percentage of inventories with plate
Canterbury	41
Carlisle	10
Chester	13
Durham	34
Ely	15
Lichfield	8
London	44
Winchester	27

The figure for Gloucester diocese, for the comparable period, works out at 11 per cent and is therefore similar to that for other regions some distance from London, with the exception of Durham.

Ownership

Most inventories gave the status or occupation and the parish of the deceased. Where they did not provide that information the relevant will or letters of administration often made good the omission. The number of inventories with plate for each decade is presented according to status and occupation in Table II. For about 10 per cent of them, including some dealing with women's belongings, it was not possible to determine the status or occupation of the person concerned. As the number of inventories with plate in each decade varied, the figures may mislead and therefore the number of people in each occupation or group is given as a percentage of the number of inventories in those decades in Table III.

The figures reveal no obvious trend over the period, apart from the decline in the number of clergy owners, but they indicate the wide range of people who owned silver. Prominent among the tradesmen are mercers, clothiers and others connected with the cloth industry, innholders and maltsters. Over the period as a whole gentry accounted for 16 per cent of the inventories, yeomen for 20 per cent, professional men for 5 per cent, tradesmen for 39 per cent and women for 20 per cent. If the number of tradesmen's inventories is calculated as a percentage of the total number of inventories for men of known status or occupation a relative increase over the period in tradesmen owning plate is revealed.

Decade	Percentage of tradesmen's inventories
1661-1670	35
1671-1680	32
1681-1690	38
1691-1700	42
1701-1710	44
1711-1720	44
1721-1730	44
1731-1740	47

The figures for the years 1671-80 and 1721-30 may be less reliable than the others as in those two decades there was a greater number of inventories for men of unknown status or occupation. Another problem is posed by the title of gentleman and the extent that it was used by tradesmen aspiring to gentry status. A comparison of wills and inventories revealed a number of men described in one document by a trade or occupation and in another as a gentleman. Some silver recorded in widows' inventories may have belonged to their husbands and therefore might have been recorded more than once in the inventories. However, comparison of the inventories of widows and of earlier men with the same surname and parish of residence suggested that duplication was insignificant and that women sometimes acquired silver in their own right.

Geographical Distribution

The number of inventories with plate for each parish was counted and the pattern of distribution plotted on a map of the county (Fig. 1). There was a striking preponderance of ownership in the Severn Vale, on both sides of the river and particularly in the city of Gloucester. There were notable clusters in the cloth-working regions centred on Stroud and Wotton-under-Edge and also in the Berkeley and Thornbury areas. In contrast there were very few inventories with plate for the part of the county east of the Cotswold escarpment. Only the market town of Cirencester produced a significant number and the smaller towns of Fairford and Lechlade yielded remarkably few. For the parishes of the north and west of the county there was a

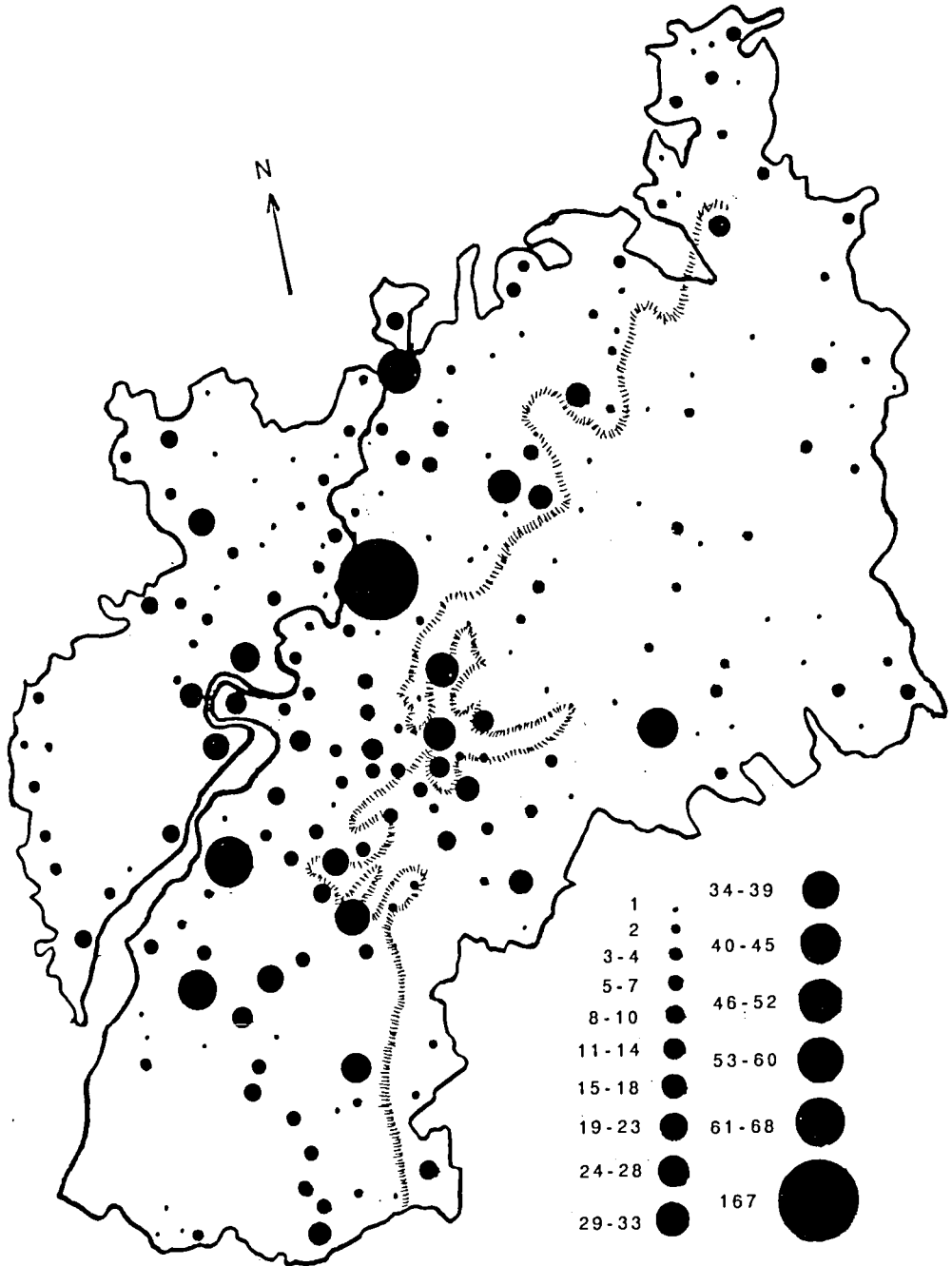


Fig. 1 Distribution of silver owners; number of inventories with plate for each parish and Gloucester. Escarpment indicated by 150 m contour.

scattering of plate inventories and the unsettled tract of land forming the extraparochial Forest of Dean is shown clearly on the map. An obvious conclusion of the pattern is that ownership of silver was most popular in areas of trade and manufacture and less frequent in rural farming areas. The regional contrast may reflect differences in wealth, taste or population density.

To judge the extent to which ownership of silver was a result of conspicuous expenditure, possession of plate worth £5 or more was considered. In Gloucester, Cirencester and Tewkesbury the majority of the more valuable collections of plate belonged to merchants and tradesmen. In the cloth regions as many tradesmen as members of the gentry and the professions and yeomen possessed plate worth more than £5, but in the Severn Vale, and especially at Berkeley and Thornbury, it was mostly gentry, professional and yeoman classes who owned such amounts. Elsewhere in the county the more valuable collections were usually in the hands of gentry. Although some gentry were in fact prosperous and aspiring merchants and tradesmen, it is clear that members of both the landed and mercantile classes liked to buy or invest in silver.

Wealth and Ownership of Silver

The total value of a probate inventory is an important guide to the wealth of the deceased. The accuracy of the valuation depended on the competence and integrity of appraisers about whom little is known. Although the frequency of figures slightly below those at which higher rates of tax were levied, e.g. £10 and £20,⁷ suggests that valuations were sometimes reached by compromise, valuations appear reasonably reliable and they seriously undervalued silver in very few cases. The inventory compiled in 1687 of the goods of Samuel Webb, a Painswick clothier,⁸ recorded that a large amount of silver, probably well over 100 ounces, had been sold for £10, a veritable bargain.⁹ Another inventory recorded that part of the silver of Thomas Morgan,¹⁰ a Lydney landowner, was bought at a fair price of 4s. 11d. by Richard Corsley. He was a Gloucester goldsmith, as were Thomas Price and Richard Lewis who acted as appraisers.¹¹ In 1731 they valued the plate owned by Thomas Browne, a wealthy resident and former alderman of the city,¹² and in 1740 Price valued the plate of fellow Gloucester resident Edward Machen, whose property included land in English Bicknor.¹³ Sometimes plate and other goods were not appraised because the owner had sold or handed them on before his death¹⁴ and there is the possibility that goods were removed before they could be valued.

Ownership of silver was spread among people of widely varying levels of wealth. Throughout the period a significant number of owners had goods appraised at under £25 in total and the majority had goods valued at under £250 in total.

Inventory value ¹⁵ £	Number of inventories with percentages in brackets				
	G.D.R.		P.C.C.		Total
0-24	98	(8)	2	(1)	100 (7)
25-49	109	(9)	4	(3)	113 (8)
50-99	221	(18)	2	(1)	223 (16)
100-249	376	(30)	19	(13)	395 (28)
250-499	279	(22)	41	(28)	320 (23)
500-999	130	(10)	36	(24)	166 (12)
1000 or more	42	(3)	44	(30)	86 (6)

Most collections of silver were of small value (Table IV) and the value did not reflect the wealth and status of the owner. Some people of modest wealth held a significant proportion of that wealth in silver and some of the wealthiest people owned very little silver. Some wealthier

yeomen owned more plate than members of the gentry and within each group or occupation, e.g. the clergy, there were wide variations in ownership.¹⁶

Where Silver was Kept

Most inventories did not indicate where silver was kept but when the contents of a house were recorded room by room that place might be revealed. From the evidence of 158 inventories it appears that silver was generally kept in the more private rooms or chambers (Table V). That was particularly true when the quantity was small and may suggest that silver was prized more for private use than for public display. It is assumed that in interrupting the routine of daily life, death had not caused valuable possessions to be removed to a more secure place.

Valuations and Weights

Sixty-nine per cent of the inventories listed individual pieces of silver. The remainder recorded items under the general heading of plate and sometimes added its total weight and value. Although silver and plate were usually recorded separately from other goods, they were sometimes included and valued with other furniture. Most silver was valued at 5s. per ounce with valuations for Sterling silver (i.e. pure silver content of 92.5 per cent) ranging from 4s. 6d. per ounce to sometimes over 5s. per ounce, the higher values presumably being for elaborately fashioned pieces, including those embellished with gilt. Values below 5s. per ounce may include unassayed silver without hallmarks. James Baskerville's large collection of plate, listed in 1738,¹⁷ ranged in value from 5s. to 6s. 6d. per ounce and presumably included some highly elaborate and gilt items. Britannia standard (i.e. pure silver content of 95.84 per cent) was introduced in 1697¹⁸ to combat a shortage of silver coinage, which was of Sterling standard and was being converted into domestic items, and took its name from the figure used for the hallmark. The new standard was compulsory until 1720 when Sterling standard was again permitted and generally adopted.¹⁹ The distinction between Sterling and Britannia standards was first recorded in an inventory in 1716, giving them values of 5s. and 5s. 6d. per ounce respectively.²⁰ That difference more than allowed for the difference in silver content.

As most inventories valued several articles of silver and plate together the precise value and weight of many individual pieces is not known. When individual pieces were valued separately it is possible to estimate their weight on the basis of 5s. per ounce. From such calculations and from known weights it is clear that particular items varied considerably in weight (Table VI).

Silver Articles in Inventories

Individual articles of silver and plate were described in inventories in simple terms and the number of pieces of each type of article was usually given. Descriptions varied considerably and different words may have been used for the same type of article. Drinking vessels included bowls, cups, goblets, cans, tuns, mugs, tankards and dishes; silver dishes for food are improbable in the context of the inventories. The articles described in the inventories giving details of individual pieces have been tabulated by type and number for each decade (Table VII) and the average number of each article in those inventories has also been calculated for each decade (Table VIII).

The figures indicate many trends and changes that were happening at the time of the articles' acquisition rather than at the time of their owners' decease. Spoons, by far the most common article, were recorded in about 80 per cent of the inventories. The average number per inventory was over 5 in the 1670s and about 3½ in later decades. Most inventories included one or two spoons, but a significant number contained more and some as many as several dozen. Spoons were

often given as baptismal or wedding presents and many that survive are inscribed with the initials of the recipients. The sweetmeat or sucket spoon, sometimes described as a small spoon with a fork (i.e. double ended), was recorded in the middle of the period and teaspoons and other small spoons after 1710. Knives and forks were recorded from the 1680s and gradually increased in numbers.

The next most common items were drinking vessels of one sort or another. In general the larger the collection of silver the greater the number of drinking vessels it contained. The vessels were of many kinds and in addition there were porringers and similar items from which soup could be drunk or other food eaten by spoon. While the number of bowls and dishes fell throughout the period the number of cups and tankards rose, trends that may reflect either a real change of use or a change of terminology. Wooden vessels tipped with silver, such as mazers and coconut cups, had apparently gone out of fashion by 1700. Other objects used as tableware were recorded in very small numbers. Although coffee had been introduced to England in the mid 17th century, coffee pots were not mentioned until 1725.²¹ The first reference to a teapot was in 1726,²² although teaspoons were recorded in 1714.²³ Sugar boxes appear to have been replaced by casters after 1710. Large and small salt cellars and a few standing salts were recorded during the period and there were occasional references to containers for pepper, mustard and nutmeg. A significant number of salvers was listed after 1710 as was a small number of saucepans.

While silver tobacco boxes were in use throughout the period, the ownership of silver candlesticks was surprisingly rare. The use of silver seals increased and silver buttons, buckles, spurs and watches were being acquired by the end of the 17th century. There were 'two watches sent to sea for an adventure', unvalued, which appeared in the inventory of Sir Edward Fust of Hill, who died in 1728;²⁴ perhaps he was trying to win the Government prize established by the Board of Longitude in 1713 for an accurate chronometer. A silver whistle was recorded in 1678;²⁵ the two whistles and corals owned by Roger Taylor (d. 1687), a landowner in Westbury-on-Severn,²⁶ were presumably baby's rattles, later usually described as corals and bells.²⁷ Other miscellaneous silver items include a comb box in 1684 and 1685,²⁸ a tongue scraper in 1691²⁹ and a tobacco candlestick in 1714.³⁰

Conclusion: Use of Silver

Silver may have been acquired for its intrinsic value. As an investment it was an alternative to gold and silver coins, which were also recorded in inventories. People of middling social rank may also have acquired silver for conspicuous consumption to impress visitors or merely for indulging personal tastes. Silver possessions usually were few and comprised spoons, tankards, porringers and other useful items rather than collections of plate for display purposes, but the inclusion of a few pieces among larger quantities of pewter and table linen may have been designed to impress guests and create an impression of prosperity. The increase towards the end of the period in silver for personal adornment may be an indication of a move towards more conspicuous consumption. The fall in the proportion of inventories recording plate during the last decades may, perhaps, be attributed to changing fashions, with money being switched to items such as glass and china; it was also a period of increased spending on house furnishings, e.g. window curtains, clocks, pictures and mirrors. These trends were widespread, as noted by Weatherill.

Ownership of silver did not necessarily reflect status or wealth. Many wealthy people had small amounts of silver and plate and some people of more modest wealth owned greater amounts. For many, ownership of silver on a small scale was clearly an affordable luxury. Possession of large collections of silver required considerable wealth such as that enjoyed by prosperous merchants and tradesmen and by larger landowners. Such people might own massive and valuable pieces of plate, some of which may have been elaborately fashioned and gilded to enhance its appearance.

In the larger collections of silver most items were used for eating and drinking. The types of pieces suggest that they were used for small intimate occasions rather than for large scale formal dinners. Only in the case of the baronet William Juxon (d. 1740),³¹ whose house at Little Compton included a butler's pantry, is there perhaps a glimpse of formal dining and a lifestyle approaching that of the aristocracy. His table silver was confined to knives, forks and spoons, food presumably being eaten from china or pewter plates, wine drunk from glasses presented on a silver salver and tea and coffee being served later from silver vessels.

TABLES

Table I. Analysis of the incidence of plate in probate inventories

	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	1661
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1740
GLOUCESTER DIOCESAN RECORDS									
No. of Wills	2,144	1,913	3,367	2,769	2,477	3,288	3,961	2,509	22,428
No. of inventories	810	513	2,350	2,351	1,920	2,026	1,738	942	12,650
No. of inventories with plate	54	49	275	290	243	210	121	44	1,286
No. with plate unspecified	11	12	97	115	71	78	27	5	416
No. with plate specified (A)	43	37	178	175	172	132	94	39	870
No. of additional specifications from wills (B)	0	2	8	9	7	11	1	0	38
(A + B)	43	39	186	184	179	143	95	39	908
% of wills with inventories	38	27	70	85	78	62	44	38	56
% of inventories with plate	6.7	9.6	11.7	12.3	12.7	10.4	7	4.7	10.2
% of plate inventories with specification (A + B)	80	80	68	63	74	68	79	89	71
PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY INVENTORIES									
No. of inventories dated and legible	37	87	121	56	25	0	20	14	360
No. with plate	15	36	48	32	15	0	6	8	160
No. with plate unspecified	5	14	26	19	7	0	1	1	73
No. with plate specified	10	22	22	13	8	0	5	7	87
% of inventories with plate	40	41	40	57	60	0	30	57	44
% of plate inventories with plate specified	67	61	46	40	53	0	83	87	54
TOTALS OF G.D.R. AND P.C.C. INVENTORIES									
No. of inventories	847	600	2,471	2,407	1,945	2,026	1,858	956	13,110
No. with plate	69	85	323	322	258	210	127	52	1,446
No. with plate specified	53	61	208	197	187	143	100	46	995
% inventories with plate	8.1	14.2	13.2	13.4	13	10	7	5	11
% plate inventories with plate specified	77	72	64	61	72	68	79	88	69

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Table II. Number of inventories according to status or occupation

	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	Total	% of	% of
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	no. of	the	the
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	persons	1,445	1,008
										persons	men
Woman (unspecified)	2		5	4	4	1	1		17	1.18	
Widow	11	9	58	52	36	39	17	10	232	16.04	
Spinster	1	1	16	16	9	7	3	1	54	3.73	
Wife					2	2			4	.28	
Man (unspecified)	6	18	27	25	19	15	18	2	130	8.99	
Knight			2		1		1	1	5	.35	.50
Esquire	2	5	5	7	3	1	1	4	28	1.94	2.78
Gentleman	9	14	49	45	35	30	16	4	202	13.97	20.02
Yeoman	16	11	61	65	51	44	26	9	283	19.57	28.05
Bachelor		1	1			1	2		5	.35	.50
Alderman							1		1	.07	.10
Colonel				1					1	.07	.10
Clerk; Priest	4	7	14	12	15	4	4	1	61	4.22	6.05
Lawyer		1	1						2	.14	.20
Spencer			1						1	.07	.10
Doctor of Physic	1		1			2			4	.28	.40
Student of Physic			1						1	.07	.10
Apothecary			1	1	1	3			6	.41	.59
Baker			4	6	5	7	2		24	1.66	2.38
Barber-Surgeon	1		4	1	3	1			10	.69	.99
Blacksmith	1		2	1	1	1	1		7	.48	.69
Brazier			3		1	1			5	.35	.50
Bricklayer							1		1	.07	.10
Broadweaver	1		1	1		2	1		6	.41	.59
Butcher			2	2	4	1	1	1	11	.76	1.09
Button-maker						1			1	.07	.10
Caftner (sic)				1					1	.07	.10
Cardmaker	1			1		1			3	.21	.30
Carpenter			2		2				4	.28	.40
Chandler		1	2	3	3	1	1		11	.76	1.09
Chapman				1					1	.07	.10
Cheesemonger				1					1	.07	.10
Clothier	4	6	14	18	15	12	5	3	77	5.33	7.63
Clothworker			3	1	1	1			6	.41	.59
Collar-maker				1					1	.07	.10
Combmaker						1			1	.07	.10
Cooper				4		1			5	.35	.50
Cordwainer; Shoemaker		1	1	2	2		2		8	.55	.79
Cotton merchant						1			1	.07	.10
Currier							1	1	2	.14	.20
Cutler				1					1	.07	.10

	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	Total	% of	% of
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	no. of	the	the
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	persons	1,445	1,008
										persons	men
Dyer		1	1		2		2		6	.41	.59
Farmer						2	1		3	.21	.30
Feltmaker				1	1				2	.14	.20
Flaxdresser				1					1	.07	.10
Fuller					1				1	.07	.10
Gardener					1				1	.07	.10
Glazier				1					1	.07	.10
Glover			3	2	1				6	.41	.59
Goldsmith								1	1	.07	.10
Grocer				1			1		2	.14	.20
Haberdasher			1						1	.07	.10
Hatmaker							1		1	.07	.10
Haulier			1						1	.07	.10
Hors rider			1						1	.07	.10
Hosier			1						1	.07	.10
Innholder	2	5	10	12	11	9	2	4	55	3.80	5.45
Ironmonger					1	1			2	.14	.20
Labourer								1	1	.07	.10
Maltster			3	4	9	4	5	1	26	1.80	2.58
Mariner			4	1	2	1	1		9	.62	.89
Mason						1	2	1	4	.28	.40
Mercer	1	2	7	9	1	5	2		27	1.87	2.68
Miller					2				2	.14	.20
Millwright							1		1	.07	.10
Musician	1								1	.07	.10
Pewterer	1								1	.07	.10
Pinmaker				1					1	.07	.10
Postmaster	1								1	.07	.10
Rugmaker						1			1	.07	.10
Sadler	1		1	2	1		1		6	.41	.59
Silkweaver				2	1				3	.21	.30
Skinner			1					1	2	.14	.20
Soapboiler					1	1			2	.14	.20
Tailor	1	2	3	1	4	1	1	1	14	.97	1.39
Tanner			2	5	4	3		1	15	1.04	1.49
Tobacconist							1		1	.07	.10
Turner				1					1	.07	.10
Victualler			1	2	2	1	1		7	.48	.69
Vintner	1		1	1					3	.21	.30
Watch or Clockmaker				1				1	2	.14	.20
Woolcomber			1		1		1		3	.21	.30
Total of all occupations/status	69	85	323	321	259	211	128	49	1,445		
Total of specified male occupations/status	49	57	217	224	189	147	89	36	1,008		

Table III. Status or occupation as a percentage of the number of inventories in each decade

	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740
Woman (unspecified)	2.90		1.55	1.24	1.55	.48	.79	
Widow	15.94	10.59	17.96	16.15	13.95	18.57	13.39	19.23
Spinster	1.45	1.18	4.95	4.97	3.49	3.33	2.36	1.92
Wife					.77	.95		
Man (unspecified)	8.70	21.18	8.36	7.76	7.36	7.14	14.17	3.85
Knight			.62		.39		.79	1.92
Esquire	2.90	5.88	1.55	2.17	1.16	.48	.79	7.69
Gentleman	13.04	16.47	15.17	13.98	13.57	14.29	12.60	7.69
Yeoman	23.19	12.94	18.89	20.19	19.77	20.95	20.47	17.31
Bachelor		1.18	.31			.48	1.57	
Alderman							.79	
Colonel				.31				
Clerk; Priest	5.80	8.24	4.33	3.73	5.81	1.90	3.15	1.92
Lawyer		1.18	.31					
Spencer			.31					
Doctor of Physic	1.45		.31			.95		
Student of Physic			.31					
Apothecary			.31	.31	.39	1.43		
Baker			1.24	1.86	1.94	3.33	1.57	
Barber-Surgeon	1.45		1.24	.31	1.16	.48		
Blacksmith	1.45		.62	.31	.39	.48	.79	
Brazier			.93		.39	.48		
Bricklayer							.79	
Broadweaver	1.45		.31	.31		.95	.79	
Butcher			.62	.62	1.55	.48	.79	1.92
Button-maker						.48		
Caftner (sic)				.31				
Cardmaker	1.45			.31		.48		
Carpenter			.62		.78			
Chandler		1.18	.62	.93	1.16	.48	.79	
Chapman				.31				
Cheesemonger				.31				
Clothier	5.80	7.06	4.33	5.59	5.81	5.71	3.94	5.77
Clothworker			.93	.31	.39	.48		
Collar-maker				.31				
Combmaker						.48		
Cooper				1.24		.48		
Cordwainer; Shoemaker		1.18	.31	.62	.78		1.57	
Cotton merchant						.48		
Currier							.79	1.92
Cutler				.31				
Dyer		1.18	.31		.78		1.57	
Farmer						.95	.79	

ANTHONY J. H. SALE

	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740
Feltmaker				.31	.39			
Flaxdresser				.31				
Fuller					.39			
Gardener					.39			
Glazier				.31				
Glover			.93	.62	.39			
Goldsmith								1.92
Grocer				.31			.79	
Haberdasher			.31					
Hatmaker							.79	
Haulier			.31					
Horserider			.31					
Hosier			.31					
Innholder	2.90	5.88	3.10	3.73	4.26	4.29	1.57	7.69
Ironmonger					.39	.48		
Labourer								1.92
Maltster			.93	1.24	3.49	1.90	3.94	1.92
Mariner			1.24	.31	.78	.48	.79	
Mason						.48	1.57	1.92
Mercer	1.45	2.35	2.17	2.80	.39	2.38	1.57	
Miller					.78			
Millwright							.79	
Musician	1.45							
Pewterer	1.45							
Pinmaker				.31				
Postmaster	1.45							
Rugmaker						.48		
Sadler	1.45		.31	.62	.39		.79	
Silkweaver				.62	.39			
Skinner			.31					1.92
Soapboiler					.39	.48		
Tailor	1.45	2.35	.93	.31	1.55	.48	.79	1.92
Tanner			.62	1.55	1.55	1.43		1.92
Tobacconist							.79	
Turner				.31				
Victualler			.31	.62	.78	.48	.79	
Vintner	1.45		.31	.31				
Watch or Clockmaker				.31				1.92
Woolcomber			.31		.39		.79	

Table IV. Distribution of the values of plate recorded in inventories (excluding plate valued with rings or furniture).

Value of plate	No. of inventories		Value of plate	No. of inventories
Under £2	424	} 925	£20-22	9
£2-4	164		£22-24	6
£4-6	137		£24-26	11
£6-8	108		£26-28	7
£8-10	92		£28-30	12
£10-12	59	} 189	£30-40	17
£12-14	37		£40-50	11
£14-16	38		£50-60	1
£16-18	23		£60-70	7
£18-20	27		£70-80	5
			£80-90	0
		£90-100	2	
		Over £100	2	

Table V. Number of inventories stating where silver was kept

Rooms		High chamber	1
		Inner chamber	1
Bedchamber	1	Kitchen	6
Best chamber	10	Kitchen below stairs	1
Butler's pantry	1	Kitchen buttery	1
Buttery	4	Kitchen chamber	7
Cellar	1	Little parlour	3
Chamber	4	Lodging chamber	3
Chamber above stairs	1	Middle chamber	1
Chamber adjoining lodging chamber	1	Mrs Talboys chamber	1
Chamber over buttery	1	Nursing chamber	1
Chamber over dayhouse	2	Old chamber	1
Chamber over hall	6	Parlour	9
Chamber over kitchen	16	Parlour chamber	14
Chamber over pantry	2	Room over dayhouse	1
Chamber over parlour	5	Room over lower chamber	1
Chamber over the Rose	1	Small chamber	1
Cheese chamber	1	Store chamber	1
Closet	14	Tavern chamber	1
Cock loft	1		
Dining room	2	Furniture	
First chamber	2	Buffet	1
Garrett	2	Chest	3
Great chamber	3	Cupboard of plate	1
Great hall chamber	1	Drawers under trunk	1
Hall	6	Trunk; casket in book press	1
Hall chamber	8		

Table VI. Range of weights of individual items (recorded and estimated)

	ounces		ounces
Spoon	1/2-2	Tumbrell	4
Soup spoon	4 1/4	Caster	5
Ladle	1/2	Coffee pot	11-21
Bowl	3-20	Papdish	2
Wine bowl	6	Plate	15 1/2
Can	8-13	Porringer	4-8
Cup	1 1/2-14 1/2	Salt	1-20
Caudle cup	4-28	Salver; waiter	5-21 1/2
College cup	8-20	Saucepan	3-14 1/2
Dish	1-8	Server	22
Dram dish	1/2-3/4	Sugar box	24
Goblet	2 1/2-12	Badge	1
Mug	4	Candlestick	5 1/2
Tankard	10-48	Seal	1/2
Taster	1/2-2	Snuff box	1
Tumbler	2 1/2-6	Tobacco box	2-4 1/2

Table VII. Numbers of each article specified in inventories

	No. of items per decade								Total
	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1740
CUTLERY									
Fork			5	12	20	10	12	6	65
Knife			2	6	6	1	6	13	34
Spoon	254	318	696	686	644	502	340	157	3,597
Mustard spoon								1	1
Salt spoon							2	1	3
Soup spoon							1	1	2
Sweetmeat spoon		1	6	7	5	7			26
Teaspoon						12	8	34	54
Ladle						1		2	3
DRINKING VESSELS									
Beaker	1	2	2	5	2				12
Bowl	32	25	60	48	22	13	6		206
Beer bowl	2	3		1					6
Coconut bowl			1	2					3
Wine bowl	2		3						5
Can	5	3	4	3	2	2	4	1	24
Cup	4	14	33	30	34	43	20	13	191
Caudle cup		2	5	14	11	3	4	3	42
College cup	2		1		4	1		1	9
Wine cup	3	2	4						9
Dish	6	11	22	18	11	8			76

OWNERSHIP AND USE OF SILVER

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	No. of items per decade								Total
	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	
	— 1670	— 1680	— 1690	— 1700	— 1710	— 1720	— 1730	— 1740	
Brandy dish		2	1	1					4
Dram dish		1	8	11	11	9	13	2	55
Strong water dish			3						3
Wine dish		2	7	4	19				32
Goblet	1	6	17	18	14	8	6	1	71
Jack (tipped with silver)		2							2
Mug			3	6	5	1	2	5	22
Stoop						1			1
Tankard	4	21	67	72	75	63	45	21	368
Taster		1	4	10	9	9			33
Tipped wooden vessel	2	1	2	2					7
Tumbler		12	11	9	7	10	2	1	52
Tumbrell (=goblet)	1			1	1	3	5	1	12
Tun		1		3	1	1			6
ALL DRINKING VESSELS	65	111	258	258	228	175	107	49	1,251

TABLE AND KITCHEN GOODS

Basin			2	1	1				4
Boat	3								3
Caster			1	3		13	6	13	36
Chafing dish			2						2
Charger			1						1
Coffee pot							2	3	5
Fruit dish		2							2
Flagon			2						2
Jug		1					1	1	3
Mustard pot								1	1
Nutmeg grater			1			2			3
Pepper box		1		1			1	1	4
Plate	2	3	3	5	2		1	2	18
Porringer		3	13	13	15	13	8	6	71
Salt	8	26	48	45	31	36	24	5	223
Salver or waiter			2	2		7	9	8	28
Saucepan						1	2	3	6
Server				1					1
Skillett			1						1
Strainer							1	1	2
Sugar box; sugar dish		5	6	4	4				19
Teapot, lamp & equippage							1	1	2
Toaster					1				1
Tongs							1	2	3
Vessel				1					1

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Badge				1					1
Bodkin	1	2	6	8	5	3	5	1	31
Box			3	2				1	6

	No. of items per decade								Total
	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	
Brush & comb		1							1
Buckles (no. of entries)	1		4	3	8	9	17	8	50
Buttons (no. of entries)			5	4	9	2	6	6	32
Candlestick			3				1	10	14
Chamber pot			1						1
Comb box			2						2
Coral & bells					3	2	1		6
Dog collar								1	1
Dressing plate			1						1
Hatband	1		2						3
Inkhorn			1						1
Medal				1	2	2			5
Mouth cleaner				1					1
Needle case					1				1
Papdish; papspoon			2		2	2			6
Picture							5	1	6
Pothanger		1							1
Seal			3	3	8	2	5	4	25
Service			1						1
Smelling bottle						1			1
Snuff box				1	1	2	3	3	10
Snuffers pair			2					2	4
Spurs						2	3	2	7
Standish		1							1
Strong water bottle		1							1
Surgical instruments					5	1			6
Thimble			4	1	7	4	3	3	22
Tobacco box	1	1	4	1	6	4	4	3	24
Tobacco candlestick						1			1
Tobacco stopper			3	1	2	1	1	1	9
Toothpick case	1		1		1		1		4
Tweezer case							1		1
Watch		4	9	9	12	11	11	14	70
Whistle		1	5	4	2	2	2		16

Table VIII. Average number of each article per detailed inventory in each decade.

	No. of items per detailed inventory							
	1661 — 1670	1671 — 1680	1681 — 1690	1691 — 1700	1701 — 1710	1711 — 1720	1721 — 1730	1731 — 1740
CUTLERY								
Fork			.02	.06	.11	.07	.12	.13
Knife			.01	.03	.03	.01	.06	.28
Spoon	4.79	5.21	3.35	3.48	3.44	3.51	3.40	3.41
Mustard spoon								.02
Salt spoon							.02	.02
Soup spoon							.01	.02
Sweetmeat spoon		.02	.03	.04	.03	.05		
Teaspoon						.08	.08	.74
Ladle						.01		.04
DRINKING VESSELS								
Beaker	.02	.03	.01	.03	.01			
Bowl	.60	.41	.29	.24	.12	.09	.06	
Beer bowl	.04	.05		.01				
Coconut bowl				.01				
Wine bowl	.04		.01					
Can	.09	.05	.02	.02	.01	.01	.04	.02
Cup	.08	.23	.16	.15	.18	.30	.20	.28
Caudle cup		.03	.02	.07	.06	.02	.04	.07
College cup	.04				.02	.01		.02
Wine cup	.06	.03	.02					
Dish	.11	.18	.11	.09	.06	.06		
Brandy dish		.03		.01				
Dram dish		.02	.04	.06	.06	.06	.13	.04
Strong water dish			.01					
Wine dish		.03	.03	.02	.10			
Goblet	.02	.10	.08	.09	.07	.06	.06	.02
Jack (tipped with silver)		.03						
Mug			.01	.03	.03	.01	.02	.11
Stoop						.01		
Tankard	.08	.34	.32	.37	.40	.44	.45	.46
Taster		.02	.02	.05	.05	.06		
Tipped wooden vessel	.04	.02	.01	.01				
Tumbler		.20	.05	.05	.04	.07	.02	.02
Tumbrell (=goblet)	.02			.01	.01	.02	.05	.02
Tun		.02		.02	.01	.01		
ALL DRINKING VESSELS	1.23	1.82	1.24	1.31	1.22	1.22	1.07	1.07
TABLE AND KITCHEN GOODS								
Basin			.01	.01	.01			
Boat	.06							
Caster				.02		.09	.06	.28
Chafing dish			.01					
Charger			.01					

	No. of items per detailed inventory							
	1661 — 1670	1671 — 1680	1681 — 1690	1691 — 1700	1701 — 1710	1711 — 1720	1721 — 1730	1731 — 1740
Coffee pot							.02	.07
Fruit dish		.03						
Flagon			.01					
Jug		.02					.01	.02
Mustard pot								.02
Nutmeg grater						.01		
Pepper box		.02		.01			.01	.02
Plate	.04	.05	.01	.03	.01		.01	.04
Porringer		.05	.06	.07	.08	.09	.08	.13
Salt	.15	.43	.23	.23	.17	.25	.24	.11
Salver or waiter			.01	.01		.05	.09	.17
Saucepan						.01	.02	.07
Server				.01				
Skillett			.01					
Strainer							.01	.02
Sugar box; sugar dish		.08	.03	.02	.02			
Teapot, lamp & equippage							.01	.02
Toaster					.01			
Tongs							.01	.04
Vessel				.01				
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS								
Badge				.01				
Bodkin	.02	.03	.03	.04	.03	.02	.05	.02
Box			.01	.01				.02
Brush & comb		.02						
Buckles (no. of entries)	.02		.02	.02	.04	.06	.17	.17
Buttons (no. of entries)			.02	.02	.05	.01	.06	.13
Candlestick			.01				.01	.22
Chamber pot			.01					
Comb box			.01					
Coral & bells					.02	.01	.01	
Dog collar								.02
Dressing plate			.01					
Hatband	.02		.01					
Inkhorn			.01					
Medal				.01	.01	.01		
Mouth cleaner				.01				
Needle case					.01			
Papdish; papspoon			.01		.01	.01		
Picture							.05	.02
Pothanger		.02						
Seal			.01	.02	.04	.01	.05	.09
Service			.01					
Smelling bottle						.01		
Snuff box				.01	.01	.01	.03	.07
Snuffers pair			.01					.04

	No. of items per detailed inventory								
	1661	1671	1681	1691	1701	1711	1721	1731	1741
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	
Spurs						.01	.03	.04	
Standish		.02							
Strong water bottle		.02							
Surgical instruments					.03	.01			
Thimble			.02	.01	.04	.03	.03	.07	
Tobacco box	.02	.02	.02	.01	.03	.03	.04	.07	
Tobacco candlestick						.01			
Tobacco stopper			.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.02	
Toothpick case	.02				.01		.01		
Tweezer case							.01		
Watch		.07	.04	.05	.06	.08	.11	.30	
Whistle		.02	.02	.02	.01	.01	.02		

APPENDIX

Abstract of references to silver in selected inventories.

Spellings, apart from surnames, are given in standard, modern form. The total value of each inventory, to the nearest pound, or estimate, is given in brackets after the details of the person concerned. The original description of the silver objects is added in brackets after the modern version where it is unusual or the interpretation is uncertain. Weights are shortened to oz. for ounces and dwt. for pennyweights. [] denotes an editorial interpolation and . . . an omission.

Gloucester diocesan inventories

G.D.R. reference		Value		
		£	s.	d.
1675/93	John Cooke; yeoman of Cirencester (£1,574) 2 silver tankards, 2 silver goblets, 2 silver salts, 8 silver spoons	16	0	0
1679/1	Thomas Woolough; rector of St. Michael's church, Gloucester (£1,215) In plate 82½ oz., whereof 13½ oz. gilt, at 5s. per oz.	20	12	6
1684/406	George Evans; canon of Gloucester cathedral (£11) 2 silver spoons	0	8	0
1685/276	Bridget Thorpe; gentlewoman of Wotton-under-Edge (£66) 1 satin mantua with silver clasps 1 standish with a drawerbox 1 green tabybox tipped with silver, 2 combs, 1 silver handled brush 1 comb box tipped with silver 1 silver mug	1	0	0
		1	0	0
		1	0	0
		0	6	0
		0	15	0
1686/240	Thomas Smyth; esquire of Stonehouse (£1,098) in the store chamber Plate; 1 silver tankard, 2 porringers (<i>two yeard cups</i>), 1 sugar box and spoon, 2 dozen spoons, 3 sweetmeat spoons, 1 little porringer (<i>two yeard dish</i>), 1 plate	21	0	0

G.D.R. reference		Value		
		£	s.	d.
1686/295	Samuel Arrowsmith; haberdasher of Cheltenham (£744)			
	1 silver tankard 23 oz. at 5s. per oz.	5	15	0
	1 silver salt 8 oz. at 5s. per oz.	2	0	0
	13 silver spoons 20 oz. at 5s. per oz.	5	0	0
1687/98	Roger Taylor; gentleman of Westbury-on-Severn (£422)			
	Plate: 1 tankard, 1 silver bowl, 5 salt cellars and 2 covers, 1 porringer, 14 spoons small and great, 2 whistles and corals, 1 watch, 1 wooden tumbrell edged with silver and 1 dram dish	26	5	0
	1 sword with a silver hilt and a buff belt	2	10	0
1688/8	John Bayley; [? innholder] of Gloucester (£232)			
	3 silver bowls	5	5	0
	1 salt	3	5	0
	12 spoons	4	16	0
1688/134	William Ruttor; innholder/gentleman of Cirencester (£842)			
	Plate	56	0	0
1689/92	John Webb; gentleman of Gloucester (£1,955)			
	1 earthen jug tipped with silver	0	5	0
1690/15	Richard Norwood; esquire of Leckhampton (£96)			
	In plate			
	1 silver bodkin	0	0	8
	1 broken spoon	0	9	6
	1 silver cup with a cover	3	5	0
	1 silver porringer	1	6	0
	3 silver spoons	1	7	6
	1 silver tankard	6	10	0
1690/174	Richard Hoskins; [? innholder] of Gloucester (£185)			
	Plate			
	1 silver tankard	6	0	0
	2 wine bowls and 1 tumbler	3	10	0
	Half a dozen spoons	1	6	8
	1 little caudle cup	1	0	0
1691/35	Edmund Bond; gentleman of St. Briavels (£1,217)			
	in the closet			
	1 great silver tankard, 1 little silver tankard, 1 great silver salt, 1 little salt, 1 silver service, 1 silver porringer, 1 silver sugar spoon, 2 silver forks, 1 silver tongue scraper (<i>instrument to cleanse the mouth</i>) and 13 silver spoons	24	10	0
1691/153	Dr Abraham Gregory; D.D., prebendary of Gloucester cathedral (£1,729)			
	in the dining room			
	6 knives with silver hafts	1	10	0
	Plate 300 oz. at 5s. per oz.	75	0	0
	1 medal of silver gilt	0	10	0

OWNERSHIP AND USE OF SILVER

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G.D.R. reference		Value		
		£	s.	d.
1692/88	Jonah Okes the elder; mercer of Wotton-under-Edge (£372) 1 silver tankard, 1 silver bowl, 1 silver salt gilt, 7 silver spoons, 1 coconut bowl tipped with silver, ³² 1 mazer (<i>wooden bowl tipped with silver</i>)	12	0	0
1694/240	Hester Read; spinster of Tewkesbury (£2) 1 silver spoon	0	10	0
1695/51	Joseph Sheene; mercer of Tewkesbury ³³ (£308) 1 tankard other plate Sterling	8 1	0 19	0 4
1696/20	John Young; gentleman of Westbury-on-Severn (£437) 1 silver hilt sword and belt in the buttery 1 silver tankard 1 silver server 19 silver spoons, 2 small sweetmeat spoons and 1 silver fork 1 silver porringer 2 silver tumblers 1 silver mug and 1 silver pepper box 1 silver salt double gilt with cover to it 5 pieces of old gold	2 5 5 7 1 2 2 5 6	0 10 10 0 10 10 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
1696/64	Joseph Poyntz; gentleman of Uley (£134) 3 silver bowls and 1 nut bowl edged 6 silver spoons and 3 small dishes	3 1	10 0	0 0
1700/108	Thomas Chinn; yeoman/gentleman of Newent (£1,455) Plate	28	0	0
1702/210	Mr William Abbott; [? surgeon] of Newent (£100) 1 silver tankard, 1 pair of silver buckles, 1 great and 1 small silver spoon, 4 pairs and 2 odd silver buttons, 1 silver toothpick case, 1 silver tipped tobacco stopper, 5 silver instruments belonging to surgery, 1 silver ring with a stone and 1 silver mug	9	15	0
1704/36	William Selwyn; gentleman of Horsley (£19) 1 silver goblet or tumbrell	1	0	0
1705/129	Elizabeth Long; spinster of Coaley (£9) in gold and silver	7	9	0
1706/10	John Hooke; gentleman of Pauntley (£98) in his lodging chamber 1 large silver tankard, 3 silver cups, 1 silver plate, 1 tobacco box, 1 old silver watch, 10 silver spoons and other small silver pieces about 96 oz. 1 small silver tankard, 1 silver caudle cup and 2 silver porringers 26 oz.	24 6	0 10	0 0
1710/38	Penelope Thynne; spinster of Hawkesbury (£264) 2 silver medals 9 silver bowls	0 18	3 0	0 0

G.D.R. reference		Value		
		£	s.	d.
	2 silver college pots	10	0	0
	1 silver salt	4	0	0
	8 silver spoons	3	0	0
1710/82	Elizabeth Alye; widow of Gloucester (£83)			
	1 silver sugar box and spoon	6	0	0
	1 large silver tankard	5	0	0
	1 middle silver tankard	3	0	0
	1 little silver tankard	2	10	0
	1 large silver porringer	2	0	0
	1 little silver porringer	1	0	0
	1 papdish	0	10	0
	1 silver salt	0	10	0
	1 silver mug	1	0	0
	7 silver spoons	1	10	0
	2 silver forks	0	10	0
	2 sweetmeat spoons	0	4	0
	1 silver bodkin	0	1	0
	1 silver thimble	0	1	0
	a pair of silver buttons	0	0	6
1711/61	Edward Shipman; vicar of Fairford (£357)			
	1 little silver salver	2	0	0
	1 silver cup	2	0	0
	2 silver salts	0	10	0
	1 silver taster	0	2	6
	7 silver spoons and 1 little sweetmeat spoon	1	8	0
1711/118	Giles Lawrence; gentleman of Yanworth (£19)			
	1 silver cup, 2 silver spoons and 1 looking glass	0	17	0
1712/109	John Davies; yeoman of Slimbridge (£1,488)			
	Plate	12	0	0
1712/254	Henry Washborrow; gentleman of Rockhampton (£250)			
	Plate of all sorts	20	0	0
	[His will ³⁺ mentions; 1 small silver mug, 1 silver goblet, 1 silver tumbler, 1 silver tankard, 1 silver caudle cup, largest silver caster, 2 other silver casters, 3 silver salts, 1 silver porringer, 6 silver spoons, 4 silver forks, 1 little papspoon, 1 gold hair ring.]			
1714/146	Mr Robert Perry; of Kingswood (£...)			
	Plate. 1 silver saucepan, 1 silver tankard, 1 quart, 2 pint cups, 2 lesser [cups], 2 salvers, 2 salts, 4 silver porringers of which 3 little the other large, 1 dozen large spoons, 1 ladle, 2 papspoons, 6 sweetmeat spoons, 6 teaspoons, 2 little 1 gilt, 1 pair of tobacco candlesticks, 1 coral and bell, 1 snuff box and 1 tobacco box.
1716/13	William Hynson; gentleman of Gloucester (£682)			
	1 silver hilted sword	1	10	0

G.D.R. reference		Value		
		£	s.	d.
1740/63	Edward Machen; esquire of Gloucester (£151)			
	Plate			
		oz.	dwt.	
	1 large waiter	21	10	5 7 6
	2 plates	31	0	7 15 0
	1 coffee pot	21	0	5 5 0
	1 set of casters	14	10	3 12 6
	1 large tankard	35	0	8 15 0
	1 ditto	22	0	5 10 0
	1 pair of wax candlesticks	5	10	1 17 6
	1 pint and 2 half pints	22	0	5 10 0
	1 saucepan	14	10	3 12 6
	2 porringers	13	0	3 5 0
	1 small salver	6	5	1 11 3
	1 small cup	6	10	1 12 6
	1 small saucepan	3	0	0 15 0
	14 large spoons	27	0	6 15 0
	1 pepper box	1	18	0 9 6
	16 tea[spoons], 2 salt[spoons], 1 must[ard]			
	spoon, tongs and strainer	6	10	1 12 6
	1 soup spoon	5	15	1 8 6
	1 pair of silver spurs			0 12 6

Prerogative Court of Canterbury inventories

Year: P.R.O. reference

1669: PROB 4/5294	John Bache; gentleman of Tewkesbury (£459)			
	6 silver spoons and 1 silver hatband			2 6 0
	1 silver can and 2 silver bowls			6 0 0
1674: PROB 4/11886	Henry Brett; esquire of Gloucester and Down Hatherley (£4,553)			
	1 great silver can frosted, 1 gilt bowl, 2 embossed goblets, 1 caudle cup with cover, 1 sugar box, 1 porringer, 2 scrolled (<i>scrolls</i>) salts, 3 small salts, 2 dozen spoons all weighing 188 oz.			47 0 0
	1 crystal watch set with gold and diamonds and a silver gilt case			2 10 0
1675: PROB 4/444	Thomas Hodges the elder; esquire of Shipton Moyne (£...)			
	1 silver salt, 15 spoons, 6 silver tumblers one of them with a cover, 1 small can, 1 porringer (<i>small cup with an ear</i>), 2 dishes, 1 plate, and 1 sugar dish with 1 small spoon with a fork			32 5 0
1675: PROB 4/1952	Thomas Boulter; of Tewkesbury (£580)			
	1 silver tankard, 1 goblet, 1 pot hanger, ³⁶ 3 small dishes, 6 spoons			12 0 0
1678: PROB 4/458	Henry Browne; esquire of Hasfield (£598)			
	In the hall			
	1 dozen silver spoons, 3 silver tumblers, 1 cup, 2 drinking jacks tipped with silver [and other furniture]			30 0 0

OWNERSHIP AND USE OF SILVER

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Year: P.R.O. reference	Value		
		£	s. d.
1678:PROB 4/17901 John Ballard; Bachelor of Physic of Wotton-under-Edge (£2,507) In the chamber over the pantry 2 silver bowls, 2 silver salts, 2 beakers, 1 silver cup, 10 silver spoons and 1 bodkin	15	0	0
1683:PROB 4/2988 John Lidiard; yeoman of Hanham (£527) 1 silver spoon	0	3	0
1684:PROB 4/16844 Richard Townsend; gentleman of Roel (£698) His plate: 1 salver, 1 pair of candlesticks, 1 pair of snuffers and pans, 1 basin, 1 cup and cover, 1 tankard, 2 tumblers, 1 great salt, 2 trencher salts, 1 chafing dish, 1 porringer, 5 spoons, 2 little cups, 1 taster, 1 sugar dusher Plate given to his wife: 1 comb box, 2 powder boxes, 1 chamber pot, 1 skillet, 1 chafing dish	70	0	0

1687:PROB 4/346 Samuel Webb; of Painswick (£410) Plate: 2 large tankards, 1 large goblet and cover, 1 charger, 1 large salt, 2 porringers, 1 silver plate, 1 caudle cup and cover, 5 small salts, 1 small drinking cup and 9 spoons sold for 1 coconut shell tipped with silver	10	0	0
	0	10	0
1687:PROB 4/19625 Sir Robert Yeamans; baronet of Redlands [over £970] In the closet 4 small cabinets, 3 trunks, 2 earthen jugs with silver lids and some toys 130 prime oz. of plate being Lady Yeaman's dressing plate, at 5s. per oz. 316 oz. of other plate, at 5s. per oz.	3	0	0
	34	15	0
	79	0	0
1693:PROB 4/472 Roger Lingen; esquire of Quinton (£541) A cupboard of plate containing 1 silver tankard, 3 silver beakers or cups, 3 silver tuns, 20 [?small, ?] large silver spoons, 6 silver forks, 5 small spoons with forks, 5 silver salts and 3 porringers	20	0	0
1697:PROB 4/372 Miles Sandys; esquire of Miserden (£12) 1 small silver cup	1	0	0
1705:PROB 4/22718 Thomas Morgan; esquire of Hurst in [Lydney] (£467) 1 gold signet ring, 1 gold wedding ring, 2 pairs of gold buttons 1 lower [standard] silver and gilt salt, 1 other silver salt, 1 gilt bowl, forks, 4 spoons, sold to Mr Corsley, weight 55 oz. 18 silver spoons, 1 small silver porringer, 1 silver mug weight 45 oz. at 5s. 9d. per oz. 2 silver cans, 1 basin, 2 little silver salts weight 73 oz. at 5s. per oz.	4	0	0
	13	12	0
	12	18	9
	18	11	6
1722:PROB 31/7/624 Samuel Richards; of Chipping Sodbury (£318) 1 silver watch In the garret 15 oz. of old silver not standard at 5s. per oz. 1 large tankard old standard 1 little tankard and a caudle cup new standard, 1 salver and 2 rings	3	0	0
	3	15	0
	10	2	6
	12	13	0

Year: P.R.O. reference	Value			
	£	s.	d.	
1 porringer, 2 salts and 6 buttons	2	10	0	
1 tobacco box and 1 pair of silver buckles	1	2	6	
1728:PROB 31/62/739 Sir Edward Fust; baronet of Hill (£...)				
The silver plate in Lady Fust's closet at Capenors Court	100	0	0	
1 gold watch	6	0	0	
1 seal thereto belonging set in gold	1	0	0	
for the return and for 2 silver watches sent to sea as an adventure	
1730:PROB 31/79/302 John Elliott; gentleman of Blackworth in St. Philip and St. Jacob [,Bristol] (£...)				
1 salver, 3 casters, 1 candlestick, 2 salts, 1 porringer, 1 can, weight 65½ oz. at 5s. 6d. per oz. Britannia	18	0	3	
1 plate, 6 large spoons, 3 teaspoons, 1 strainer, 1 pair tea tongs, 2 salt spoons, 1 tankard weight 50 oz. at 5s. old standard	12	10	0	
1 silver watch	2	10	0	
1731:PROB 31/88/51 Thomas Browne; esquire of Gloucester [c. £1,500–2,000]				
Plate: 1 large tankard 38¾ oz., 1 large caudle cup 27½ oz., 1 little tankard 15½ oz., 1 little goblet 5¾ oz., 2 cans 25½ oz. and 36 oz., in all 149 oz. at 5s. 2d.	38	9	10	
2 porringers, 1 little cup, an old half crown piece, 1 little chain, 11 spoons, all weighing 36½ oz. and 3 old silver watches	2	10	0	
2 small gold rings taken from Mr Browne's finger when he was dead	0	14	0	
1732:PROB 31/106/455 Samuel Goodson; clothier of Wotton-under-Edge (£2,214)				
In the buffet				
1 silver pint, 1 silver half pint, 3 silver casters, 1 silver porringer, 1 salver, 6 large spoons, 3 teaspoons and 1 dram dish, 52 silver buttons, 1 nutmeg grater and case	17	2	6	
1 silver tankard weight 22 oz. 10 dwt.	5	12	6	
1735:PROB 31/138/188 William Payne; clothier of King's Stanley [c. £860]				
1 silver tankard, 1 porringer, 3 casters, 2 salvers, 12 spoons, 7 teaspoons all weighing 69 oz. at 5s. 2d. per oz.	17	16	6	
1 silver watch, 2 chains, 2 silver buckles, 2 pairs of sleeve buttons and 1 seal	3	10	0	
1738:PROB 31/175/249 James Baskerville; [? gentleman] of St. Philip and St. Jacob [,Bristol] (£790)				
Plate	oz.	dwt.	at s. d.	
1 large salver	21	10	5 3	5 12 10
1 ditto	17	0	5 6	4 13 6
1 coffee pot	14	15	5 8	4 3 7
1 pair of spurs	4	4	5 6	1 3 1
7 large spoons	11	17	6 0	3 11 1
3 salts	5	6	6 0	1 11 9 ½
1 small saucepan	3	0	6 0	0 18 0
1 small punch ladle	0	10	6 0	0 3 0
1 child's cup	1	6	5 6	0 7 1 ¾
1 dram cup	0	15	5 6	0 4 1 ½
1 tobacco box	3	3	5 0	0 16 3

Year: P.R.O. reference Plate	oz.	dwt.	at	s.	d.	Value		
						£	s.	d.
6 teaspoons and 1 pair of tongs	2	0		6	6	0	13	0
1 small silver pipe	1	6		6	0	0	7	9 ½
1 pair of shoe buckles a neck do and a small dog's collar	1	10		5	0	0	7	6
1 caster	5	0		5	0	1	5	0
1 small box and 40 counters	4	10		5	6	1	4	9
2 sweetmeat knives and forks with silver handles						0	5	0
1 gold watch						9	9	0
1 old silver watch						2	2	0

1740:PROB 31/201/376	Sir William Juxon; baronet of Little Compton (£2,148)							
	in the butler's pantry							
1 silver tea kettle lamp, 1 silver waiter, 1 silver coffee pot	72 oz. 10 dwt.					21	15	0
	at 6s. per oz.							
4 candlesticks, 2 snuffers, 3 casters, 24 spoons and 6 forks	142 oz. at					35	10	0
	5s. per oz.							
1 dozen knives and forks						0	8	0
glasses						0	4	0
1 dozen silver knives						3	3	0
1 dozen small china knives and forks						1	10	0
11 china knives and 6 forks						0	12	0

Glossary

Caftner – occupation not known. The inventory lists carfender's tools,³⁷ so he was evidently a craftsman.

Caudle cup – cup of balluster shape with or without a cover, usually decorated, and having two scroll shaped handles. Caudle was a thickened drink.

Chafing dish – device for heating or keeping food hot over a flame or glowing charcoal.

Charger – very large plate for serving food.

Coconut cup – cup formed from a coconut shell tipped and footed with silver.

College cup or pot – plain cup with a bulging body and two ring handles, generally associated with Oxford colleges. Also called an ox-eye cup.

Coral and bells – baby's rattle, comprising a whistle at one end, a wider middle section with a number of spherical bells attached to it, and a length of coral at the other end. The coral was an aid to teething.

Dayhouse – dairy.

Dressing plate – group of silver items used in dressing and toilet.

Jack – drinking vessel usually of waxed leather or coated with tar.

Mazer – wooden bowl, with no stem, and having a silver rim.

Porringer – shallow dish with one or two flat handles; probably what is meant by items described as 'small cup with an ear' and 'little two yard dish'. Also two handed cup of balluster shape with or without a cover. The distinction between porringer and caudle cup is debatable.

Scrolled salt – normally a spool-shaped vessel with three upturned scrolls to support a napkin or a dish.

Snuffer – scissors for trimming the wick of a candle, incorporating a box to collect the used length of wick, which in old candles did not burn away.

Skillet – saucepan equipped with three legs.

Spencer – steward.

Standish – inkstand, incorporating inkpot, holder for quill pens and pounce box. There were many variations of design.

Sucket – sticky or syrupy sweetmeat. It was eaten with a spoon having a bowl at one end and a fork at the other. Hence sweetmeat spoon or sucket spoon. Single ended sucket forks were also known.

Sugar dusher – presumably a sugar caster.

Tabybox – box covered with tabby, a kind of silk taffeta.

Taster – small shallow dish with two handles intended for brandy, presumably the same as dram dish, brandy dish and strong water dish.

Tobacco candlestick – candlestick with extra deep socket to hold candle firmly when inclined to light a pipe.

Tumbrell – obsolete or local term defined in one inventory as a goblett.³⁸

Waiver – alternative name for a salver, a flat dish supported on a central foot, or from the 18th century by three or more feet.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the staff of the Gloucestershire Record Office and of the Public Record Office and John Juřica for their help. Encouragement and advice from Philippa Glanville, Curator of the Department of Metalwork, Silver and Jewellery at the Victoria and Albert Museum is gratefully acknowledged.

Notes and References

1. Weatherill, L., *Consumer Behaviour and Material Culture in Britain 1660–1760* (London, 1988).
2. Moore, J.S., *The Goods and Chattels of our Forefathers* (Chichester, 1976).
3. Inventories where rings were the only silver or gold have not been included.
4. G.D.R. inventory 1695/152.
5. *Ibid.* inventory 1708/190.
6. Silver listed in a number of inventories is contained in the appendix; the selection is biased towards the longer lists of plate as they better illustrate the use of silver and its relation to lifestyles of the owners. The author's transcripts have been deposited in the Gloucestershire Record Office (CMS 187).
7. Examples of G.D.R. inventories totalling approximately £9: 1695/168; 1705/129; 1723/114; totalling approximately £19: 1704/36; 1711/118; 1724/5.
8. *V.C.H. Glos.* 11, 72, 74, 123.
9. P.R.O., PROB 4/346.
10. *Ibid.* PROB 4/22718.
11. Sale, A. J. H., 'Goldsmiths of Gloucestershire, 1500–1800', *TBGAS* 108 (1990), 151, 154–5.
12. P.R.O., PROB 31/88/51. *V.C.H. Glos.* 4, 378.
13. G.D.R. inventory 1740/63; *ibid.* will 1740/216.
14. *Ibid.* inventory 1721/123 concludes 'all the rest he disposed of before he died'.
15. List excludes inventories not giving total values.
16. e.g. G.D.R. inventories 1679/1; 1684/406; 1691/153; 1711/61.
17. P.R.O., PROB 3/175/249.
18. Statute 8 & 9 William III, c. 8, which raised the standard of plate from 11 oz. 2 dwt. per Troy pound to 11 oz. 10 dwt., came into force 27 March 1697.
19. Statute 6 George I, c. 11, which restored the old Sterling standard, came into force 1 June 1720.
20. G.D.R. inventory 1716/13.
21. *Ibid.* inventory 1725/53.
22. 'One silver teapot and lamp and all the equipage': *ibid.* inventory 1726/68.
23. *Ibid.* inventory 1714/146.
24. P.R.O., PROB 31/62/739.
25. G.D.R. inventory 1678/75.

26. Ibid. inventory 1687/98; *V.C.H. Glos.* **10**, 90.
27. e.g. G.D.R. inventories 1712/289; 1714/146; 1724/109.
28. P.R.O., PROB 4/16844; G.D.R. inventory 1685/276.
29. G.D.R. inventory 1691/35.
30. Ibid. inventory 1714/146.
31. P.R.O., PROB 31/201/376.
32. Described in G.D.R. will 1692/148 as 'coconut shell bowl fixed and footed with silver'.
33. Sheene died intestate; one of the administrators was his son Joseph, a London goldsmith: *TBGAS* **108**, 163.
34. G.D.R. will 1712/468.
35. His son Richard Engley was apprenticed to Thomas Price, goldsmith, and later set up in business in Northgate Street, Gloucester: *TBGAS* **108**, 151.
36. The pot hanger was presumably made of iron, which was ordinarily used for cooking implements.
37. G.D.R. inventory 1695/168.
38. Ibid. inventory 1704/36.