

'Allen, William'

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ALLEN, WILLIAM

110/11

February 5th, 1910.

Dear Sir,

In Mr Henry S. Wellcome's absence abroad, your letter and box containing the piece of old Lambeth delft ware have been handed to me for inspection. In my opinion, there is no doubt that this was originally an ointment pot, as I have seen many similar of a little later period. As a matter of fact, until recent years, that old established proprietary medicine - Singleton's Goldent Ointment - was put up in a pot similar to this. The ointment was laid in the shallow cavity, not more than one-sixth of an inch in thickness, and was then covered with a piece of bladder or skin; the knob at the back was used for holding the pot, in order to apply the ointment to the part affected.

I do not think the modern eye bath was evolved from this, as I have seen an eye-bath undoubtedly of the early 15th century exactly in the same form, as that used to-day. I should think your Delft ointment pot probably dated from the early 18th century.

Union Place, Lambeth, does not now exist, and I believe was demolished some 50 or 60 years ago. I should think it probable that the name of Green was the maker of the ointment, and in some old price list of patent medicines of the last century, you might still find the name of the firm, and also that of the ointment. Perhaps Messrs Newbery & Sons, 27 Charterhouse Square, E.C., who are a very old established firm of proprietary medicine vendors might give you some information on this point.

Thanking you for submitting the article to us, and trusting to receive a post card stating that it has reached you in safety.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Dr W. Allen,

Derwent House.

Whalley Bridge, CO. Durham

Allen

S.H.B. White.

24th October 1911.

Dear Sir,

I regret delay in replying to your letter of the 7th inst., owing to pressure of work.

Many thanks for offering me the set of Hogarth prints, but I already have copies of the same, otherwise I should have been pleased to have availed myself of your offer.

Yours very truly,

H.S.W.

William Allen Esq.,
Shotley Bridge,
Co. Durham.

CT

Sholley Bridge

Co. Durham

7th Oct. 1911

Dear Sir

If you collect old line
engravings to complete 4th
collection of medical things I
have a set of 6 Hogarth's
Life of a Harlot - 2 of the
pictures having reference to
venereal disease and the usual
treatment in old times of large
doses of Mercury which produced
Salvation from which the
harlot died - immediately ^{before} ~~after~~
which the Doctors (rivals) had a

fight over the patient -

If the improvements are
sufficiently medical to interest
you I shall be pleased to send
them for yr. inspection

Yours very truly

William Allen

Shirley Bridge
Co. Durham

7th Feb. 1910

Dear Sir

The little delft pot
arrived safely & I thank
you very much for the
accompanying letter.

I am writing to Messrs Newbery
and am in hopes that they may
give me a point or two on the
date of introduction of these
pots which from information
already received originated
before S. Green's examples
Yours very sincerely
William Allen

5
FEB 1910

DERWENT HOUSE,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE,
CO. DURHAM.

2nd Feb. 1910

W. H. Wellcome Esq

Dear Sir

I send you by this post
(as a parcel) a small box
containing the Lambeth Weft
article that I wrote to you about
but which I could not send till
now - that the snow & frost is gone.

You will see the inscription
along the outer rim of the base
when the article is held
with the flap down. It reads
"S Green 2 Union Place Lambeth"

I have been in communication
about it with Mr. W. Barton the
author of English Earthenware
& Stoneware & also with the
expert (Mr. Hobson) of the
British Museum.

Mr. Barton has never seen a
piece like it but Mr. Hobson
has a similar piece but part
of the inscription is missing -
It has the same inscription as
mine but "Lunar" is missing.
Mr. H. refers to a note he had
from Prof Church about a

Similar article he has, but
which bears another name &
address inscribed on it, & Prof
Church calls it an ointment
pot - one that contained an eye
ointment. However I fail to
see where the ointment could
fit - unless the ointment was
smeared on the concave end
of the knob & applied to the
eye by placing the concave end
of the knob over the eye ball
and by rotating it there. ~~managing~~
to get some of the ointment - under
the eyelids - In that case the
article would be an ointment
applicator - from which the modern

eye-bath may have been evolved -

The article as you may see is a complete article - not a lid - & it may have been used as a pill finisher - The points I

sh^d like elucidating are 1 -

What is the article -

2 - How old is it ^{discovering this}

3 When did Union Place Lambeth exist? According to Chappens

S Green & Co - were Stewens pottery makers before Doulton.

But Mr. Holman says that the inscription is not the name of the maker, but of the owner of the

piece - Hoping the article will interest you & that you may be able to help me in identifying it - Yrs very truly
Wm Allen

January 27th, 1910.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your letter of the 24th inst., and for the description of your interesting specimen of old Lambeth Delft. Judging from your account, it might possibly be a pill finisher, or salve pot. but it would be impossible for me to pronounce an opinion, without seeing the object. If you would be good enough to send it to me very carefull packed, in a small box, by registered post, I should be pleased to examine it, and make any enquiries I can concerning it for you.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Dr Allen,

Shotley Bridge,

Co. Durham.

ANS^d
27 JAN 1910

RECEIVED
24 JAN 1910

Shurley-Bridge

Co. Durham

24th Jan 1910

W. H. Wellcome Esq^r

Dear Sir

Knowing that you have a
large collection of Medical
Curios I wish to know if you
have anything like a specimen
I here describe, and if so, if you
can give yr opinion as to what
it is and its age -

To begin with it is a piece of
Lambeth delft, being tin-
enamelled and having the
inscription

"J Green 2 Union Place Lambeth"

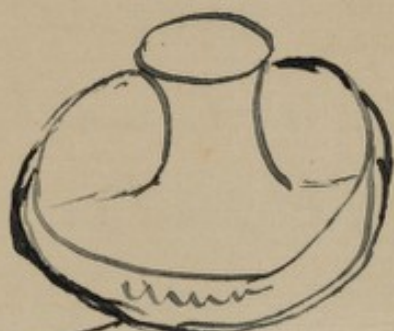
2/ is blue - over the tin enamel & under
the superficial lead glaze.

I sent a description of it to Mr
W. Burton the author of "Old
English Earthenware & Stoneware"
and he is very interested & says
he never saw anything like it, but
he forwarded my letter to Mr.
Hudson of the British Museum
and he has in the museum a
similar piece with part of the
inscription chipped off -

The ashle is like a round
flat stopper of a bottle with
a columnar knob - the script
running round the outer edge
of the circular part. A reference
to this rough sketch will show

3/

What it is like - The columnar
Knob is concave at the top & the



Letting in the position in which the
article is placed in the sketch is
turned upside down - an ideal
section vertically downward
through column & circular base
will be like this -



The hollow at the top of the knob
shown in this section, and also a ridge
along the outer edge of the circular base
which indicates that whatever the article
is it is not a stopper.

column

1/2 a pharmacist tells me it is a pill
frustrator. The article being turned
Round down - the hollow being
concave giving rotundity to the
pill man operated on.

But Mr. H. ^{another} calls it an ointment
put & quotes Mr. Church's on a
similar object which he discovered
but which has the name of another
individual on it. Personally I
fail to see where the ointment
wr. be if the article in itself is
complete, which it seems to be.

If you can throw any light
on the subject I shall be very glad
to hear from you - & if you can find out
if Union Place Lambeth was in existence
or is now. I hope to be something.

I remain dear Sir - Yours very truly
William Allen M.D.