
OUR HERITAGE

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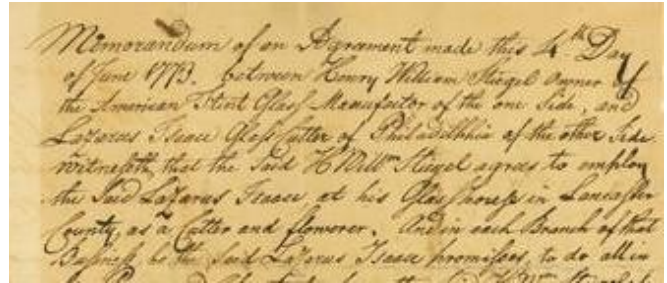


Circa 1770 - 1800

WHO MADE IT AND WHERE ?

The above copper wheel engraved mug was sold at auction on November 19, 2020. The design and the mug are a bit of a mystery. Is the mug American; is its origin with the American Flint Glass Manufactory and what is the design? The new owner believes that it is American and that it may have been made in the glass factory here in Manheim. Given to somewhat wishful thinking, he believes that the design is a cutaway side view of a pomegranate. He also feels that the engraving might very well be the

work of Lazarus Isaacs. An existing June 4, 1773 memorandum states: "**WITNESSETH, that the said H. Will Stiegel agrees to employ the said Lazarus Isaacs, at his Glass House in Lancaster County, as a Cutter and flowerer.**"



Lazarus Isaacs being Jewish; needing to come up with appealing designs, why wouldn't he consider the pomegranate as a design. The pomegranate is a symbol used in both Jewish and Christian religion.

In Jewish tradition, pomegranates are a symbol of fertility and love, winning them frequent mention in, among other biblical texts, the Song of Songs.

In the Christian religion, pomegranates are often used as a decoration. The seeds can be placed in a dish and set out for memorial services as a symbol of the sweetness of heaven. The seeds may also represent the people of the church and royalty. Commonly, the fruit represents the promise of eternal life.



The engraving might depict the flower bud seen on a pomegranate and the small engraved spots perhaps simulate the seed-like fruit. The design doesn't indicate a stem and the leaves might be there for a more decorative design.



Pomegranates on Ancient Jewish Coins

During the Jewish Revolt in 66 CE, the revolutionaries quickly captured the holy city of Jerusalem, thus assuring them access to the great Temple for religious purposes and to its vast treasury as well. From the silver therein - presumably consisting of Tyrian coins paid in taxes over the years - they struck the most famous of all Jewish coins - in shekel and half shekel denominations. These handsome coins are the first truly Jewish silver coins. They feature a chalice on one side with the year of the revolt above, surrounded by the ancient Hebrew inscription "Shekel of Israel." Three budding pomegranates are featured on the reverse, with the inscription "Jerusalem the Holy." Unique in ancient numismatics, the edge of each shekel and half shekel was hammered, creating multiple flat facets (except for year 1 coins). The shekels and half shekels were issued in five different years. Year 1 (66/67 CE); year 2 (67/68 CE); year 3 (68/69 CE); year 4 (69/70 CE) and year 5 (70 CE). The date on the specimen pictured above is year 2 (67/68 CE).

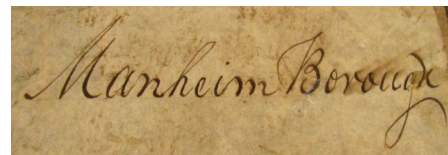
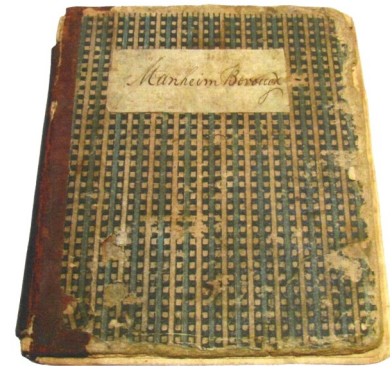


The above coin is the type of Tyrian shekel that might have been seen in the temple treasury at the time of the revolt.

The above information is from internet sites.

Items Back Home

At the 1991 auction held in Manheim for the estate of Sylvia Rupp, several important items related to Manheim's early history left the town. A few of the items have since found their way back to the Manheim area. At the sale, two early quitrent ledgers (books in which ground rent payments were recorded) went into the hands of a dealer from Bucks County and later into the hands of someone from Lititz. The ledgers eventually found their way back to Manheim. It's known that a third ledger with quit rent payments exists but fortunately/unfortunately it is now in a museum in Philadelphia. The fortunate side of its existence is that according to George Heiges the ledger was found in a box set at curbside for trash pickup and was discovered by someone associated with the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia and thereby saved from destruction. This third and earliest ledger contains many different entries, some written by Henry William Stiegel. It's hoped that HMPF, in this age of technology, will be able to acquire a copy of what the pages in the ledger contain.



The quitrent book contains entries for the period from 1798 into 1812. Recorded on the pages are the payments made by many of the early and prominent citizens of our small town. On the pages are names like: John Heintzelman, tavern keeper and clock-maker; Samuel Ensminger, druggist and Martin Yetter an enameller in **Henry William Stiegel's American Flint Glass Manufactory.**