

poole silver co history

poole silver co history traces the rich legacy of one of America's most renowned silver manufacturers, known for its exquisite craftsmanship and innovative designs. Established in the late 19th century, Poole Silver Company has contributed significantly to the development of American silverware, combining artistic excellence with practical functionality. This article explores the origins, growth, and lasting impact of Poole Silver Co, highlighting its key milestones, signature styles, and the influence it has had on silverware design. The history of Poole Silver Co is marked by periods of innovation, adaptation, and collaboration with prominent designers, making it a fascinating subject for collectors and historians alike. This comprehensive overview will delve into the company's founding, its evolution through various design eras, and the legacy it has left behind in the world of decorative arts.

- Founding and Early Years of Poole Silver Co
- Design Evolution and Artistic Influence
- Notable Products and Signature Styles
- Collaborations and Designer Contributions
- Legacy and Collectibility of Poole Silverware

Founding and Early Years of Poole Silver Co

The Poole Silver Company was founded in 1892 in Taunton, Massachusetts, a city with a long tradition in metalworking and silver manufacturing. The company quickly established itself as a producer of high-quality sterling silver and silver-plated flatware, hollowware, and decorative pieces. The founders aimed to blend superior craftsmanship with artistic design, setting the stage for Poole Silver Co to become a key player in the American silver industry. Early products reflected the Victorian tastes of the era, featuring ornate detailing and classical motifs popular at the time. The company's commitment to quality and innovation helped it grow steadily, gaining a reputation for reliability and elegance in silverware production.

Establishment and Location

Located in the heart of Taunton, the Poole Silver Company took advantage of the area's skilled workforce and access to raw materials. The choice of location was strategic, ensuring efficient manufacturing processes

and distribution channels. This early foundation was crucial for the company's long-term success and ability to compete with other major silver manufacturers in the United States.

Early Product Lines

In its initial years, Poole Silver Co focused on producing sterling silver flatware sets and hollowware such as tea sets, trays, and bowls. These products were designed with intricate patterns that appealed to the affluent middle and upper classes. The company adhered to strict standards regarding silver purity and craftsmanship, which earned it several accolades in trade exhibitions during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Design Evolution and Artistic Influence

Throughout its history, Poole Silver Co adapted its designs to reflect changing artistic movements and consumer preferences. From Victorian intricacy to the sleek lines of Art Deco and Modernism, Poole's silverware evolved while maintaining a high standard of quality. The company embraced innovation by incorporating new techniques and materials, which allowed it to remain relevant in a competitive market. Design evolution at Poole Silver Co demonstrates the broader trends in American decorative arts and silver manufacturing from the late 1800s through the mid-20th century.

Victorian and Edwardian Styles

During its early decades, Poole Silver Co's designs were deeply influenced by Victorian and Edwardian aesthetics, characterized by elaborate floral motifs, scrollwork, and classical elements. These styles catered to the tastes of the time and showcased the company's technical skill in detailed silverwork.

Transition to Art Deco and Modernism

By the 1920s and 1930s, Poole Silver Co began incorporating the geometric patterns and streamlined forms associated with Art Deco design. This period marked a departure from ornate decoration towards more minimalist and functional aesthetics. The company's willingness to embrace contemporary art movements helped it reach new customer bases and ensured its products remained fashionable and desirable.

Notable Products and Signature Styles

Poole Silver Co is renowned for several signature patterns and product lines that have become highly collectible. These pieces are celebrated for their combination of artistic merit and everyday usability. The company produced a diverse range of silver items, including flatware, serving pieces, and decorative

objects, many of which featured distinctive design elements unique to Poole Silver Co.

Popular Flatware Patterns

Among the most popular flatware patterns produced by Poole Silver Co were designs that balanced elegance with simplicity, making them suitable for both formal and casual settings. Some patterns featured subtle engravings and monograms, while others embraced bold geometric motifs. The diversity of patterns reflected the company's adaptability and understanding of market trends.

Hollowware and Decorative Items

In addition to flatware, Poole Silver Co was well known for its hollowware, including coffee and tea sets, trays, bowls, and candlesticks. These items often showcased intricate repoussé work or smooth, polished surfaces, depending on the era and style. The company's hollowware pieces were prized for their craftsmanship and remain sought after by collectors today.

Collaborations and Designer Contributions

One of the defining characteristics of Poole Silver Co's history is its collaboration with prominent designers and silversmiths, which helped elevate the artistic quality of its products. These partnerships brought fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to the company's design process, contributing to its reputation as a leader in American silverware design.

Influential Designers

Several notable designers worked with Poole Silver Co throughout its history, influencing its product lines with their unique styles and expertise. Their contributions ranged from creating original patterns to refining existing ones, ensuring that Poole Silver Co's offerings remained distinctive and appealing in a competitive marketplace.

Impact on American Silver Design

The collaborations between Poole Silver Co and talented designers played a significant role in shaping the broader landscape of American silverware design. By blending traditional craftsmanship with modern artistic sensibilities, these partnerships helped define key trends and set new standards for quality and creativity in the industry.

Legacy and Collectibility of Poole Silverware

The legacy of Poole Silver Co endures through its lasting influence on American silver manufacturing and the continued desirability of its products among collectors. Pieces produced by Poole Silver Co are valued for their historical significance, artistic merit, and quality, making them prized additions to collections of silverware and decorative arts.

Collecting Poole Silver Co Pieces

Collectors seek Poole Silver Co items for their craftsmanship, design, and historical value. Authentic pieces are often marked with distinctive hallmarks and patterns that help identify their origin and era. The rarity and condition of these items significantly affect their market value, with early and limited-edition pieces commanding premium prices.

Preservation and Authentication

Proper care and authentication are essential for maintaining the value and integrity of Poole Silver Co silverware. Preservation techniques include regular cleaning with appropriate materials and storing items in conditions that prevent tarnish and damage. Authentication often involves examining maker's marks, pattern details, and consulting reference guides to verify provenance.

Summary of Key Points

- Poole Silver Co was founded in 1892 in Taunton, Massachusetts, and quickly gained a reputation for quality silverware.
- The company's designs evolved from Victorian intricacy to modern Art Deco and minimalist styles.
- Signature product lines included sterling flatware, hollowware, and decorative silver items.
- Collaborations with prominent designers enhanced the artistic value and innovation of Poole Silver Co's products.
- Poole Silver Co's legacy continues through the collectibility and appreciation of its finely crafted silver pieces.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was Poole Silver Co founded?

Poole Silver Co was founded in 1892 in Taunton, Massachusetts, and became known for its high-quality sterling silver hollowware.

What types of products did Poole Silver Co specialize in?

Poole Silver Co specialized in sterling silver hollowware, including tea sets, trays, bowls, and other decorative and functional silver items.

What is significant about Poole Silver Co's design style?

Poole Silver Co is noted for its elegant and classic American design style, often featuring intricate detailing and high craftsmanship typical of late 19th and early 20th century silverware.

Did Poole Silver Co merge with or get acquired by another company?

Yes, Poole Silver Co was acquired by the Gorham Manufacturing Company in the early 20th century, which helped expand its market reach.

How can I identify authentic Poole Silver Co pieces?

Authentic Poole Silver Co pieces are typically marked with the company's hallmark, which often includes the word 'Poole' along with sterling silver markings and sometimes a pattern number.

Additional Resources

1. *Poole Silver Co: A Legacy in Sterling*

This book delves into the rich history of Poole Silver Company, tracing its origins and growth in the American silver industry. It highlights the craftsmanship and innovative designs that set Poole apart. Readers will find detailed accounts of the company's key figures and milestones through the decades.

2. *The Art and Craft of Poole Silver*

Focusing on the artistic aspects, this volume explores the unique styles and techniques employed by Poole Silver Co. It showcases a variety of their most iconic pieces, accompanied by high-quality photographs. The book also examines how Poole's designs reflected broader trends in American silverware.

3. *Poole Silverware: From Foundry to Fine Dining*

This comprehensive book covers the entire manufacturing process at Poole Silver Co, from raw materials to

finished products. It provides insights into the company's production methods and quality control. The text also discusses the cultural significance of Poole silverware in American households.

4. Collectors' Guide to Poole Silver Co

Aimed at collectors and enthusiasts, this guide offers detailed information on identifying and valuing Poole Silver pieces. It includes tips on spotting authentic marks and distinguishing rare items. The book also features market trends and historical pricing data.

5. The Rise and Fall of Poole Silver Company

This historical narrative chronicles the company's establishment, peak, and eventual decline. It examines economic and social factors that influenced Poole Silver Co's journey. Readers gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by American silver manufacturers.

6. Innovations in American Silver: The Poole Story

Highlighting Poole Silver Co's contributions to innovation, this book discusses technological advancements and design breakthroughs pioneered by the company. It places Poole within the broader context of American industrial progress. The narrative celebrates the company's role in shaping silverware standards.

7. Poole Silver Co and the Boston Silversmith Tradition

This work situates Poole Silver Co within the historic Boston silversmith community. It explores how local culture and craftsmanship influenced the company's products and reputation. The book also compares Poole's work to other notable Boston silversmiths.

8. Silver Elegance: The Designs of Poole Silver Company

A beautifully illustrated book, it focuses on the aesthetic and design evolution of Poole Silverware. Readers will find detailed descriptions of patterns, motifs, and stylistic changes over time. The book appeals to art historians and design aficionados alike.

9. Poole Silver Co: Makers of American Heritage

This publication celebrates Poole Silver Co as a symbol of American heritage and craftsmanship. It combines historical narrative with personal stories from workers and collectors. The book underscores the enduring legacy of Poole Silver in American culture and design.

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poole silver co history: The Road to America's Economic Meltdown Raymond Beresford Hamilton, 2009-05-01 This is a story about one of our own, a US Army Sergeant who returns home after serving many years overseas. He had been to two different wars and, after 14 years overseas, this was to be his first duty assignment inside the United States. He encountered great difficulty from his home state when he tried to obtain his local driver's license, and only with the aid of a state senator, was he able to obtain his license. Then, when he went to register his car, in the new state where he was assigned, he noticed that he was being required to pay for unusual things before he was allowed to register his car. After going through all the local government's money making schemes, he, along with his wife and children, bought a house, using a mortgage, not far from where they were renting. They did so just in time to get caught up in the developing housing crisis that may affect his family's ability to hold on to their beautiful home. The sergeant had to do some quick thinking and find out everything he could about what was really going on; was there a conspiracy for the rich to get richer-at the expense of everyone else-was he the subject of predatory lending, and would his family suffer through the embarrassment of the foreclosure process? The sergeant began researching the history of land development, mortgaging, foreclosure, the economic crisis, and the government's involvement in all of this-and this is what he learned.

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