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APRIL, 1921

No. 1



BROADWAY, GRACE AND TRINITY CHURCHES
Original Drawing, by William Strickland, about 1812

**NEW YORK: 170 CENTRAL PARK WEST
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THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 170 CENTRAL PARK WEST.
(Erected by the Society 1906.)
Wings to be erected on the 76th and 77th Street corners.

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COLONIAL SILVER IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Fortunate, indeed, is it for their posterity that the Colonial housewives prided themselves upon their pewter and silver plate which they burnished and set in glistening array upon the shelves of cupboard or dresser. Fortunate, too, that while much of the baser metal has long since been melted down, many rare old silver pieces have been preserved, not only for their beauty but for their wealth of associations, and now are the cherished possessions of descendants of their original owners or have been given to those public treasure-houses, the museums. Such a hoard of ancestral plate has been accumulated at The New-York Historical Society, largely through the generous gifts of members of the De Peyster and the Schuyler families. These fine old pieces deserve a detailed description not only because of their intrinsic grace but also because they can reveal so much concerning the life and customs in the Colonies and in England and Holland, the mother countries to which the early settlers were so closely allied.

Perhaps the rarest and most charming piece in the whole array is the bowl illustrated in figure 1.¹ Its maker, Benjamin Wynkoop of New York, was of Dutch descent and very naturally followed Dutch traditions in his silverwork. This superb example of his skill follows a typical Dutch form, bowls of this style being very popular in Holland. The present example is of unusual size and is elaborately decorated. In the conventionalized flower sprays reserved in panels round its sides it employs a characteristic bit of Dutch design and recalls the formal gardens of tulips and pinks beloved alike in Holland and in New Amsterdam. The beautifully modelled handles are cast in the form so popular with seventeenth century European goldsmiths, with a woman's head serving to accent the graceful curve of the scroll and affording a convenient support or thumb-rest. Two similar bowls of smaller size and simpler design were exhibited in the Metropolitan Museum's exhibition of silver in 1911.² One is still on view at that Museum as a loan of Miss Margaret Remsen.

¹ Height of bowl $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, diameter $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

² Exhibition of Silver Used in New York, New Jersey and the South, held at the Metropolitan Museum in 1911: cat. no. 27 made by Jacob Boelen; cat. no. 102 made by Simeon Soumaine. Lent by Mrs. Robert Remsen.