1955

Anne C. Murray

Miss Anne C. Murray,
"Ivy Neck",
Cumberstone Post Office,
Anne Arundel County, Md.

BALTIMORE, MD
FEB 5
11-AM
1955

FIGHT
SUPPORT
TB ASSOC

LIBERTY

Ans 2/4 & sent Dr. J. H. Pleasants Jr.
Suggesting price to ask
from Dr. J. Hall Pleasants 1955

DR. J. HALL PLEASANTS
201 LONGWOOD ROAD
BALTIMORE 10, MD.

February 4, 1955

Dear Miss Murray,

I sincerely regret to have to tell you that a thorough examination of the maker's marks on your Philip Syng tankard, in consultation with Mrs. Miles White, with the expert on old silver at Samuel Kirk & Sons, and with other experts on old American silver, reveals the fact that your tankard was made, not by the elder Philip Syng (1676-1739), but by his son, Philip Syng, Jr. (1703-1781). The older Philip Syng was of Philadelphia and Annapolis, and the younger one of Philadelphia alone. The fact that the tankard is the work of the younger Philip considerably reduces its value but it should still be of interest to collectors of early American, and especially early Philadelphia silver.

All the experts who have seen the tankard (and none of them is interested in its purchase) feel that its value is reduced to about two-thirds of what it would be had not the inscription been added in 1881 when it passed into the possession of your mother, and that in general the work of the younger Syng is considerably less valuable than that of the elder. All of them strongly advise, however, against the removal of this inscription before it is offered for sale, although it is quite possible that a collector who purchased the tankard might wish to have the inscription removed. Whether removal can be made without the silver surface showing definite signs of its removal is problematical.

I do not know exactly how to advise you to proceed. If any member of your family goes to New York I think it would be wise for you to have the tankard shown to the head of the Department of Old Silver at the Metropolitan Museum for advice as to its value. I also think it would be advisable to show the piece to Mr. Ensko, 682 Lexington Avenue, perhaps the leading

New York dealer in old American silver, telling both of these that I suggested that you do so.

I feel that if you can get something like $2500 for the tankard it would be a good price, although it is always better to ask a little more than you expect to get and drop your figure, than it is to later raise the asking figure.

I am dropping a line to Mr. Jeffords telling him our views as to the tankard and asking his advice as to how to proceed.

Sincerely yours,

J. Hall Pleasants

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