

Gerhardus Lotter

Likely active period:

1785-1824

Born/baptised : 18 November 1764

Died : 1824

Son of Johannes Casparus Lotter (b1737) and Johanna Catharina van Kerken. Baptised at the Cape 18 November 1764. Welz records the first mention of him as a silversmith in 1810, but based on the style of items bearing his mark, and the typical apprenticeship periods for silversmiths at the Cape, I believe that he could have been producing silverware under his own mark as early as around 1785 at age 20.

Tablespoons, table forks and teaspoons are found in the Hanoverian and Old English patterns. Serving pieces in these patterns include konfyf forks and soup ladles. Orange spoons have pointed terminals.

Other objects include beakers, buckles, furniture fittings, salvers, sugar bowls, tea pots, covered jugs, tessies and vases.

The type and decoration of objects appear to span two distinct style periods. The majority of pieces conform to the Dutch / German style of the period described by Welz as the 'Dutch East India Company period (1652-1795)'. Flatware in this style would be of the Hanoverian pattern. The vase-shaped covered sugar vases with their pineapple and leaf finials, tessies and furniture fittings also typify this period. Decoration is restrained – mainly beaded borders and piercing.

Other pieces exhibit the characteristics of Welz's 'Heterogeneous period (1795-1830)'. The first British occupation resulted in demand for objects in the English style, and the silversmiths at the Cape during this time, largely descendants of the immigrant silversmiths of the first half of the eighteenth century, obliged with what Welz describes as 'a badly-executed mixture of Dutch, English and sometimes oriental styles'. The English influence can be seen in the Old English pattern flatware, the oval teapots, jug and sugar bowl, and the salver with its simple reeded border and applied foliate feet. Decoration includes bands of engraving.

The monumental vase or two-handled cup (33cm high, weighing 2223 grams) was sold by a major London auction house, whose catalogue unfortunately did not include a photograph of the marks on the piece. We therefore have only their identification of the maker to go by, and the style of the piece does not resemble any other piece that I have seen by this maker.

Spoons and forks

Hanoverian pattern



Old English Pattern



Serving flatware

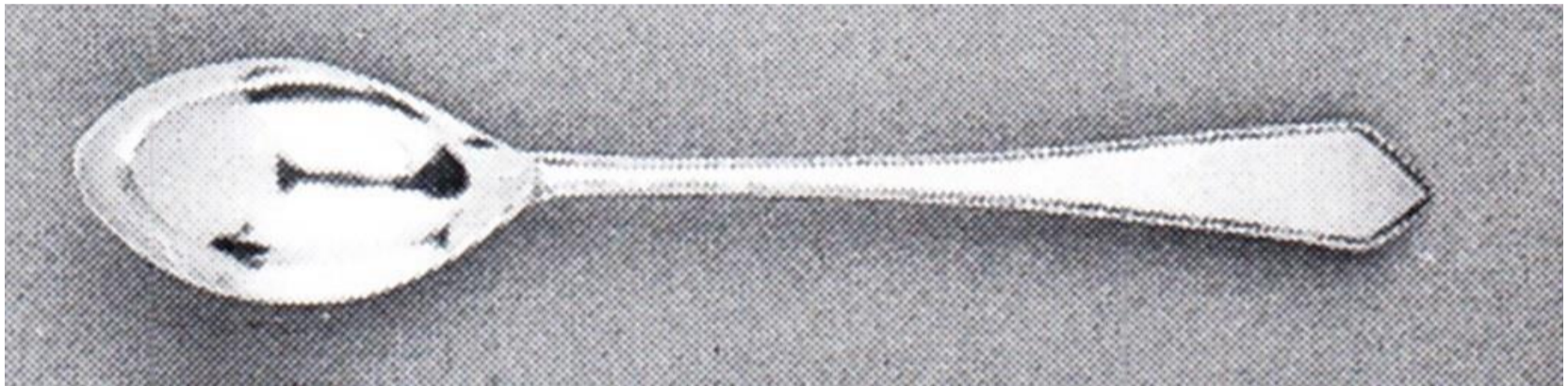
Konfytt forks



Soup ladle



Orange spoon



Other pieces

Beaker



Buckle



Furniture fittings



Tessie



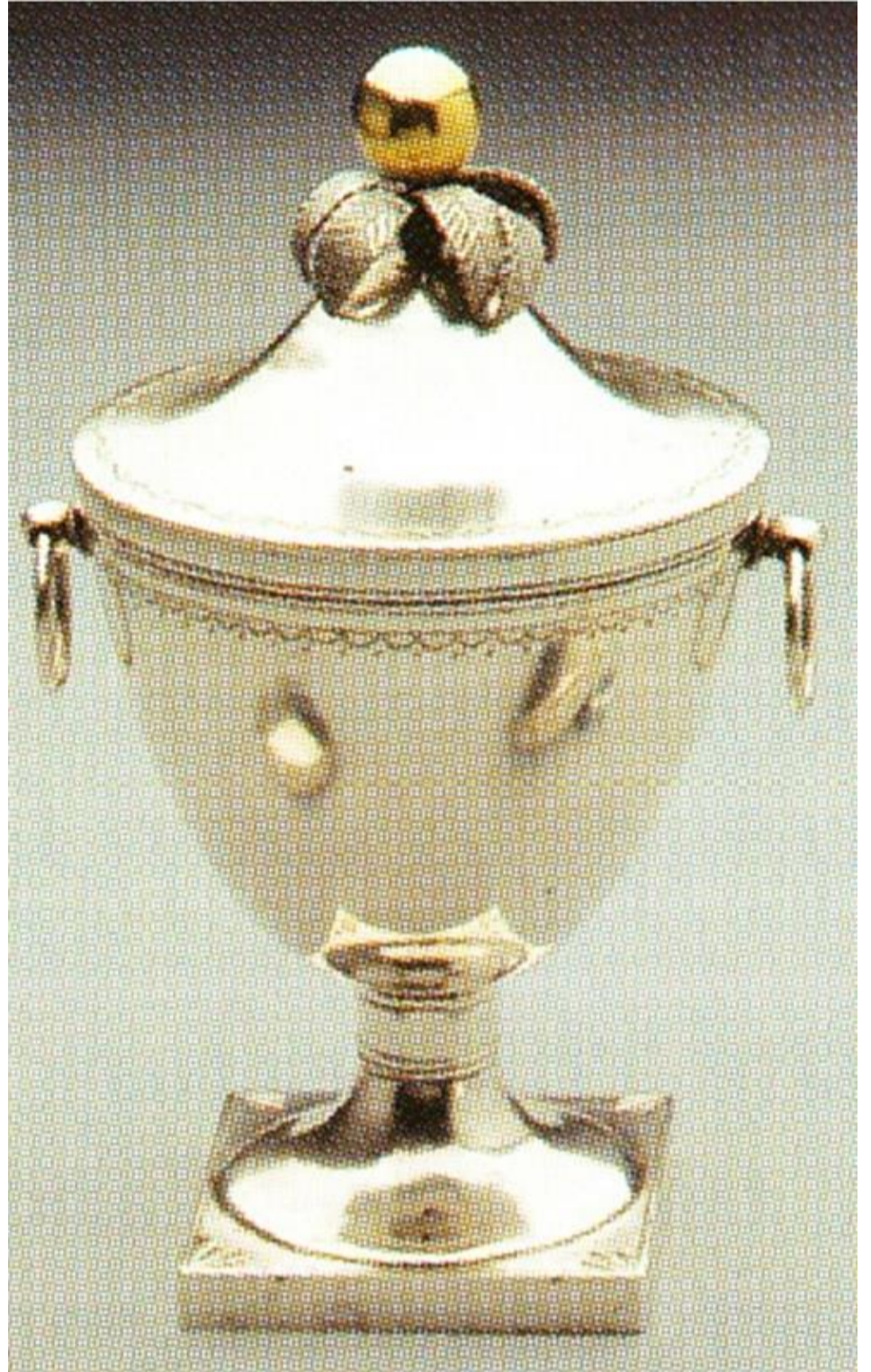
Tea pots



Salvers



Sugar bowls



Jug



Vase



Marks



Rarity indicator

Flatware	Scarce	Snuff boxes	None	Other items	Available
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Note: a set of flatware of the same category and by the same maker is counted as a single item.

Key (relative rarity within each category):

Available	more than 5% of items in our database
Scarce	1 to 5% of items in our database
Rare	fewer than 1% of items in our database
None	No items encountered

Auction price history

Note: only sales of single items by public auction, including online auction platforms, are shown here. Unsold lots and job lots have been excluded. This list does not purport to be complete.

Sale date	Item category	Item description	Price realised	Price type *
1995/09/05	Forks - table	Set of ten Old English pattern table forks by Gerhardus Lotter, 665g	ZAR1760	2
1997/10/21	Sugar bowls	Covered sugar bowl by Gerhardus Lotter, the vase shaped body on reeded pedestal stem and square foot, with ring handles, the domed cover with silver-gilt ball finial resting on leaves, engraved with wrigglework bands, two leaves deficient, 17cm high, 420g	ZAR26400	2
1998/01/29	Furniture fittings	Stinkwood side cupboard with silver escutcheons by Gerhardus Lotter	ZAR49500	2
2000/10/10	Beakers	Beaker by Gerhardus Lotter, the circular section beaker of slightly tapering form with a central reeded band and a reeded foot - height 8.5 cm, 5.5 ozs.	GBP3760	2
2004/05/27	Teapots	Teapot and stand, Gerhardus Lotter, of substantial gauge and oval moulded form, engraved with wrigglework bands, repeated at the oval finial and stand on four ball supports, carved wood handle, maker's mark struck twice on teapot and stand, 16.8cm high overall, 1185gr	GBP6960	1
2004/05/27	Vases	Vase, Gerhardus Lotter, square base rising to fluted stem and lobed body with angular handles and stiff leafage chased at the rim, 33cm high, 2223gr	GBP6000	1
2011/03/07	Sugar bowls	Covered sugar bowl, Gerhardus Lotter, the tapering body with a band of beading, the sides applied with a pair of corded handles, the pierced base with beaded rim, the detachable conforming cover with ball and leaf finial, 403g, 16cm high. PROVENANCE: The Du Plessis family collection. Barend Louis du Plessis (1753 -?) of Stellenbosch married Elisabeth Blignaut in 1774. Johannes Petrus du Plessis (1778 - ?) married Susanna Sophia de Villiers in 1823. Jan Hendrik du Plessis (1826 - 1891) married Harriet Barker. Johannes du Plessis (1868 - 1935) married Aletta Helena Albertyn in 1917. Jean Henri du Plessis (1917 - 1981) married Elise van Heerden in 1947. Thence by descent to the current owners. NOTES: Jan Hendrik du Plessis (1826 - 1891) served as N G Kerk minister at Cradock from 1861, commissioner of the N G Kerk at Cape Town from 1884 to 1887 and temporary minister at Pietermaritzburg where he died. He married Harriet Barker (1831-1900), daughter of the Rev George Barker, a well-known LMS missionary at Theopolis, at Bethelsdorp and Paarl. It was at du Plessis' prompting that the NG Kerk in Cradock is based on the model of James Gibb's church of St. Martins-in-the-Fields, London. Johannes du Plessis had an extraordinary career as N G Kerk minister, traveller in Africa, missionary expert, author and professor of theology. The well-known heresy case against him was based on his views as professor at Stellenbosch, on the inspiration and authority of the Bible, the acceptance or rejection of the results of the "higher criticism", and the divine authority of Jesus. Proceedings in the Presbytery of Stellenbosch then in the Synod of the N G Kerk and finally in the Cape Supreme Court, continued from 1928 until his eventual dismissal from the Seminary in 1932. There was considerable support for du Plessis at Stellenbosch and his supporters commissioned a life-size statue of him in rose-pink marble which became popularly known as "Pink Piet". The statue by Florenci Cuairan stood until recently in the gardens of the Stellenbosch museum and is now in the grounds of the N G Kerk.	ZAR133680	3
2014/03/17	Sugar bowls	Two-handled sugar bowl and cover, Gerhardus Lotter, the sides applied with a pair of rope-twist handles with leaf terminals, with beaded borders, waisted domed circular foot, the conical cover with carved ivory pineapple and silver leaf finial, 310g, 15,2cm high	ZAR147784	3

2016/03/14	Tessie	Tessie-on-stand, Gerhardus Lotter, the everted beaded rim above a pierced border, raised on three ball-and-claw feet, fixed copper liner, 325g all in, 7,9cm high, secured by a silver nut and bolt to a circular stinkwood base, raised on three turned feet, 3,5cm high, 14,5cm diameter	ZAR363776	3
2018/10/15	Beakers	A beaker, tapering cylindrical, engraved with the initials 'PCG', 6,1cm high, 85g	ZAR11139	3
2018/10/15	Ladles - soup	Old English pattern soup ladle, 265g	ZAR13656	3

* Price types:

1 - Auction result hammer price

2 - Auction result including buyer's commission

3 - Auction result including buyer's commission and VAT