

# WHITE IRONSTONE NOTES

VOL. 6 No. 3



WINTER 2000



*Upper left: President Shape by J. Edwards, 1856; a 3-quart covered toddy bowl without handles and a President Shape ladle and matching cups. (Anspaugh coll.) Upper right: Boote's 1851 Shape covered 5-quart bowl with matching cups. (Dieringer coll.) Lower left: Fluted*

*Panels bowl, maker unknown, with Classic Gothic cups. Bottom right: Ceres Shape covered bowl with handles and a dozen Ceres cups, by Elsmore & Forster, 1859. These bowls have been found in three sizes; this one holds four quarts. (Fox coll.)*

## SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY BOWLS & CUPS

How do you know if you have a syllabub, posset, toddy or punch bowl? We asked Geoffrey Godden, noted author of over 30 books on British Ceramics, just that question. He asked why we needed to know, and suggested that, what ever you put in it, is what it's called.

No matter what you call them today, these were bowls designed for serving hot or cold mixed beverages, called "celebratory libations" by Martha Stewart

The earliest known was posset (poshote), a spiced hot drink made of

milk curdled with sweetened ale or wine, which dates back to the 15th century. In the 16th century, came a syllabub. It takes its name from sillery (a wine of the Champagne district) and bub (Elizabethan slang for a bubbling drink) made of cold sweetened wine or ale and cream whipped to a froth, which was skimmed as the bubbles rose to the surface. After draining in a sieve for a number of hours, the froth was transformed into a light, fluffy spume which distinguishes syllabub from other beverages. Early syllabub bowls (continued on page 4)

## SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY BOWLS

(continued from page 1) and cups were shaped like inverted bells, which helped support the delicate froth and stopped it from sinking into the liquid. A lid could be used to protect the froth. Punch also dates to the 16th century and usually contained no milk or cream but was made of any alcoholic liquid that you cared to combine with fruit juice. Champagne with floating strawberries is a modern version. The toddy, which arrived in the 17th century, is Hindi in origin and takes its name from the fermented juice of the "todi" palm tree. A modern toddy is served hot and made of brandy or whiskey, blended with sugar and spices. A traditional American toddy is hot mulled hard cider.

The handsome large 19th century bowls and their accompanying small cups, were used mainly on special occasions. Elevating their importance, all of the bowls and most of the cups have pedestals. Almost all of the cups have handles which added to their cost. Ironstone tea and coffee cups of the same period, had no handles unless specially ordered. Some of the potters made bowls in three graduated sizes with and without handles or lids. Toddy and posset bowls, made for hot drinks, needed handles for carrying and lids to retain heat. The

classic punch bowls usually are larger and much wider. Punch bowls are rare, we could only find three examples. (See Adriatic and Gothic bowls on this page) Punch was generally cold and didn't need handles or a lid. A cold syllabub didn't need handles. Half of the bowls we've photographed have handles and lids.

We measured the liquid volume of some bowls and cups. They varied from 1 1/2 quarts to 10 quarts. The cups hold from 2 3/4 to 4 ounces (regular tea cups hold 5 to 7 ounces.) The smallest cup was the Masons' Curved Gothic. The largest is Elsmore & Forsters' Morning Glory cup. Almost all body shapes had only one size cup. The cups were rarely marked which makes it very difficult to identify the corresponding early paneled and later plain, round shaped bowls. The ladles seem to be interchangeable with those of the large soup tureens.

So far no sales catalog or auction records have been found that tell us what is in a set or if they were sold as sets. Our guess is that one could order any number of cups or sized bowl wanted. In closing, we leave it to you to decide what to call your bowl. Cheers!



*Huron Shape with matching lid and ladle by Wm. Adams & Son, 1858. The lid is 10 3/4" dia. and the bowl holds 3 quarts. (Allers coll.)*



*Gothic punch bowl by Mayer & Elliot after 1858; 16" across and 8 1/4" high. Holds an astonishing 10 quarts. (Moreland coll.)*



*Gothic punch bowl with 14 sides made by F. Morley & Co., Shelton, and was potted between 1845-59. Five quart capacity. (Lowe coll.)*



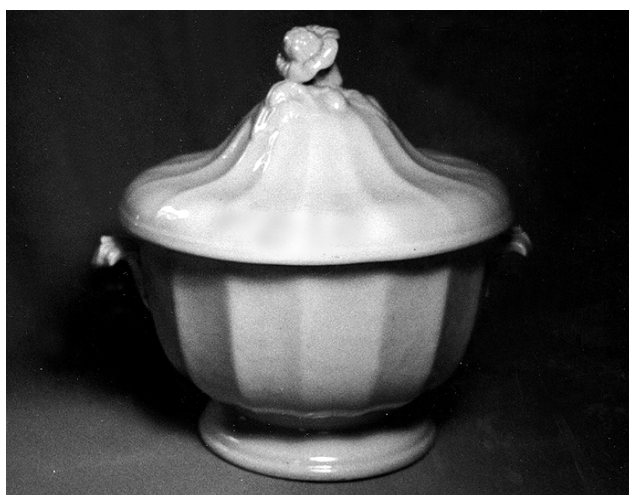
*Adriatic Shape bowl by Barrow & Co. 1853. One of the largest at 16" across holding 6 quarts. This is the traditional low and wide punch bowl shape. (Lautenschlager coll. Jones photo) A taller, narrower bowl with handles is owned by Anne Miller.*



## SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY BOWLS



*16 panel Gothic covered bowl by J.F. 10 1/2" high to the top of the finial by 9 3/4" diameter. (Hurt coll.)*



*Portland Shape with 18 panels by Elsmore & Forster, c. 1850s. 10" wide by 10" high. (Allers coll.)*



*Full Ribbed aka Ribbed Bud with handles, by Pankhurst. (Moreland coll.)*



*Full Ribbed by Pankhurst. This bowl, without handles or lid, exists in several sizes. (Moreland coll.)*

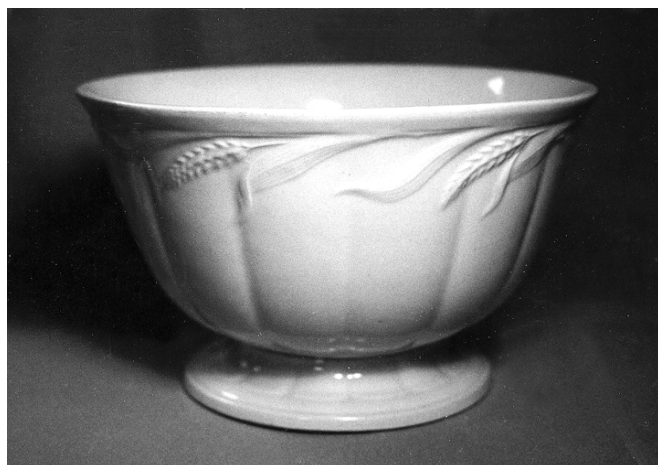


*Quartered Rose by J.F., 7" high by 10" wide. (Gosselin/Vasseur coll.)*



*Paneled Lily/Grand Loop by J.F. 9 3/4" high overall by 9 3/4" wide handle to handle. (Allers coll.)*

## SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY BOWLS



*Wheat bowl by Turner & Goddard & Co. 10 5/8" wide by 6 1/2" high, and holds 3 quarts. (Allers coll.)*



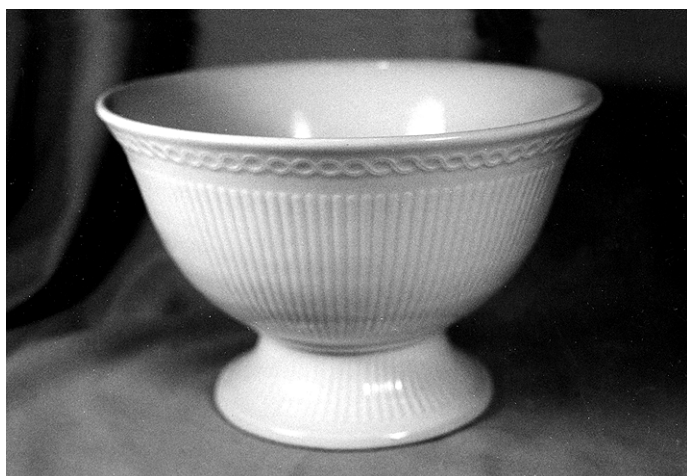
*Wheat by J.F. (Courtesy Dieringer)*



*Columbia punch bowl with Sydenham punch cups. So far, no one has seen a Sydenham bowl.*



*Corn & Oats, 10" wide by 9" high. (Dickeson coll.) The same size bowl without lid or handles has been found marked with a registry of Jan. 12, 1863 by Davenport, Banks Co. (Lancaster coll.)*



*Rib and Chain by J. W. Pankhurst. (Armbruster coll.)*



*Berry Cluster by Jacob Furnival. 9" wide by 6" high. (A. Miller coll.)*



## SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY BOWLS



*Athens Shape by Podmore & Walker, reg. 1857. The lion head handles are exceptional. (Courtesy Dieringer)*



*Trent Shape by John Alcock, reg. 1855. There is also a lid with a cauliflower finial, identical to this piece. (Allers coll.)*



*Berlin Swirl by Mayer & Elliot, reg. 1856. 10" dia. (Diemer coll.)*



*Wrapped Sydenham. This bowl holds 1 3/4 quarts, one of the smallest. Unmarked, but could have been made by John Maddock or several other potters. 9" wide by 6" high. (Allers coll.)*



*14-sided Fluted Panels Gothic by James or Thomas Edwards, c. 1844. (Ady coll.)*

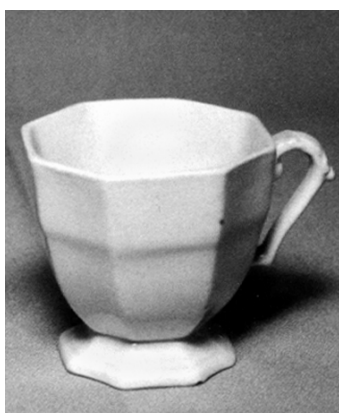


*One of the many variations on flared, classic shaped plain bowls. This one is made by J. W. Pankhurst & Co. and holds 2 quarts. (Allers coll.)*

# SYLLABUB, POSSETT, PUNCH & TODDY CUPS



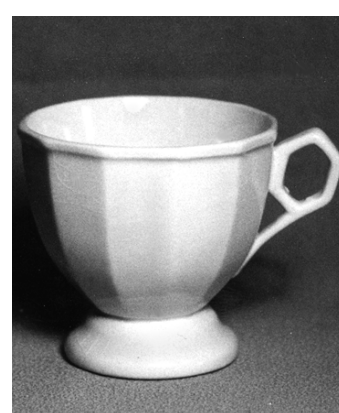
*Curved Gothic c. 1840s. Similar to James Edwards Curved Gothic. 3 1/8" high by 3 1/4" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



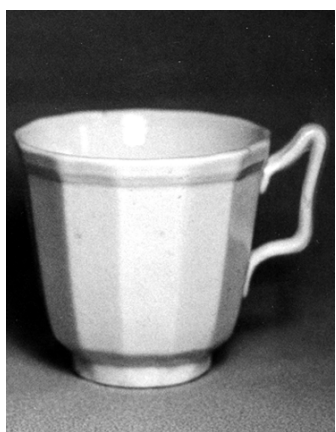
*Curved Gothic with printed Masons' mark c. 1840s. The only marked cup found so far. 2 1/2" high by 3 3/8" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



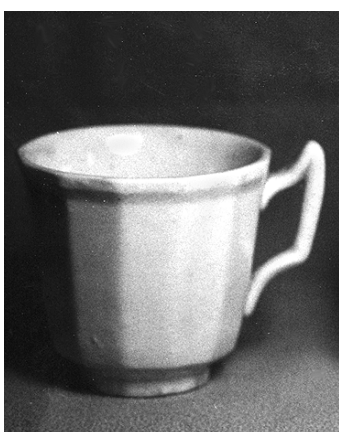
*12-panel Gothic unmarked c. 1850. Similar to J.F.'s bowl. 3" high by 3 3/4" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



*12 panel Gothic with loop handle, unmarked. Similar to J.F., Morley and others. c. 1840-50. (Moreland coll.)*



*Unusual 13-panel cup unmarked. Most paneled pieces have an even number of panels. (Moreland coll.)*



*12-panel Gothic unmarked. Similar to Bordered Gothic by J. & S. Alcock Jr., Reg. Mar. 27, 1848. (Moreland coll.)*



*8-panel Gothic cup with loop handle, unmarked c. 1850. (Denton coll.)*



*10-sided early fluted with inverted top panels and everted bottom panels. (See pg. 9 JWCG) (Moreland coll.)*



*12-panel Gothic unmarked c. 1840s. Possibly Alcock's Paneled Gothic. 3 1/8" high by 4" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



*12-panel Gothic unmarked c. 1840s. 3 5/8" high by 3 5/8" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



*12-panel Gothic unmarked, c. 1840-50. Possibly Classic Gothic potted by many makers. 3 5/8" high by 3 5/8" wide. (Moreland coll.)*



*12-panel tall Gothic without a rim band, unmarked c. 1840-50. Possibly Fluted Shape by James Edwards or J. Wedgwood. (Moreland coll.)*



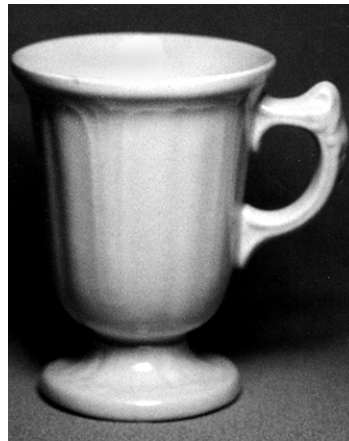
# SYLLABUB, POSSETT, PUNCH & TODDY CUPS



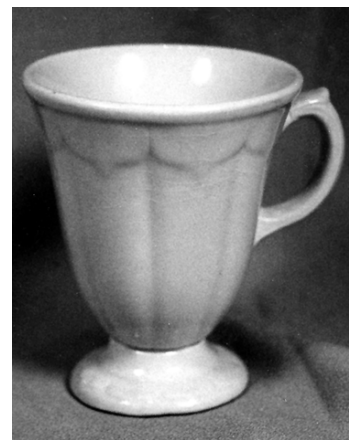
*Boote's 1851 by T. & R. Boote, Reg. July 21, 1851. 4" high by 3 1/2" wide. (Allers coll.)*



*Sydenham Shape by T. & R. Boote, Reg. June 21, 1853. (Lautenschlager coll.)*



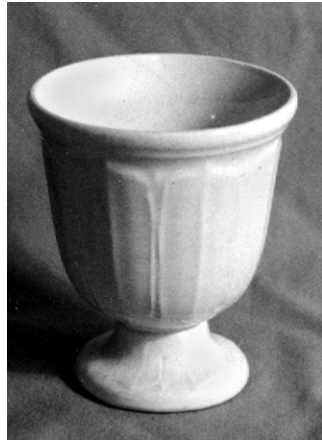
*President Shape by John Edwards, Reg. Jan. 30, 1855. (Moreland coll.)*



*Pearl Sydenham by J. & G. Meakin. (Washburn coll.)*



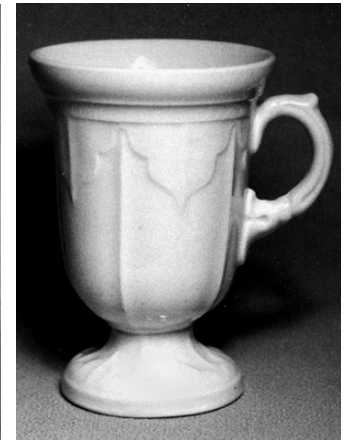
*Wrapped Sydenham (no pedestal) possibly by Adams, W. & E. Corn, Livesley & Powell, et al. See bowl on page 7. (Denton coll.)*



*Wrapped Sydenham without handle. Also called a custard cup. 3 1/2" high by 3" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



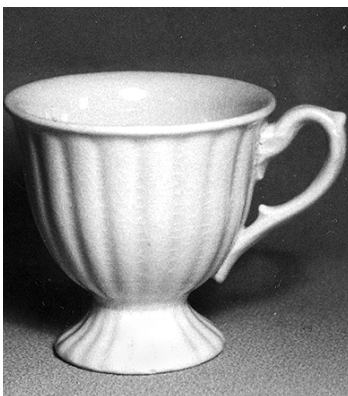
*Columbia Shape Reg. Oct. 29, 1855 by G. W. Reede (modeler). Potted by many makers. See bowl on cover. (Gosselin/Vasseur coll.)*



*Baltic Shape (aka Mississippi, Maltese, Dallas), reg. Oct. 25, 1855 by D. Chetwynd (modeler). (Moreland Coll.)*



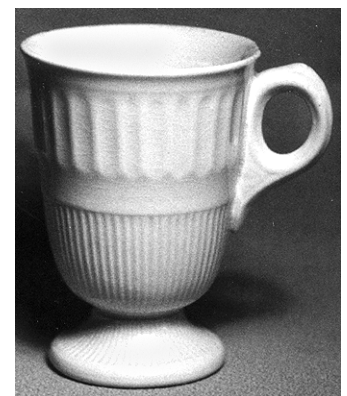
*Scallop Decagon/Cambridge Shape by Davenport/Wedgwood Reg. Oct. 23, 1852. (Andre coll.)*



*Full Ribbed/Ribbed Bud by J. W. Pankhurst, Hanley, c. 1855. 3" high by 3 3/4" wide. See bowl on page 5. (Denton coll.)*



*Ribbed Chain by J. W. Pankhurst, Hanley, c. 1860. See bowl on page 6. (Denton coll.)*



*Ribbed Raspberry with Bloom by J. & G. Meakin, c. 1860. (Allers coll.)*

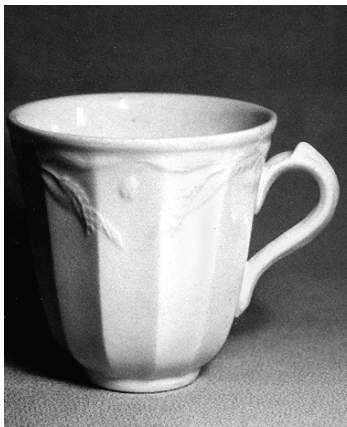
## SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY CUPS



*Fig/Union Shape by Davenport and Wedgwood, Reg. Nov. 14, 1856. No bowl found yet. (Allers coll.)*



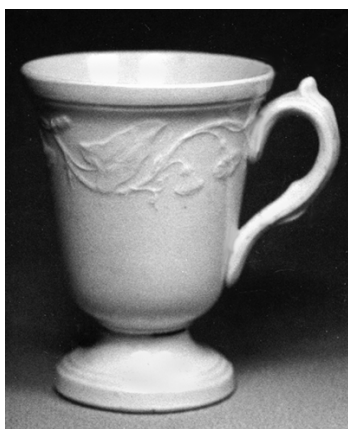
*Ceres Shape by Elsmore & Forster, Reg. Nov. 9, 1859. (Burgess coll.)*



*Scotia or Poppy Shape by J. Jones & Co. (Moreland coll.)*



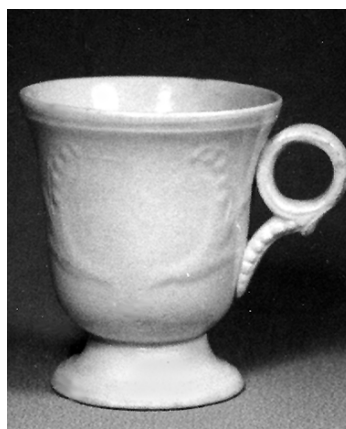
*Laurel Shape by Wedgwood & Co. after 1860. (Moreland coll.)*



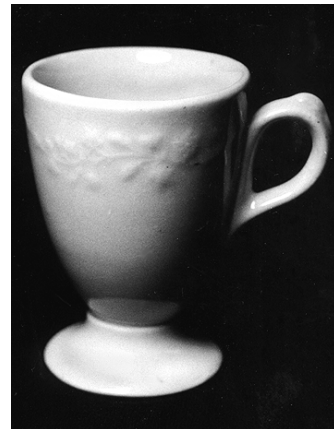
*Morning Glory or Halleck Shape by Elsmore & Forster, c. 1860, 4" high by 4" wide. Tallest cup measured. (Dieringer coll.)*



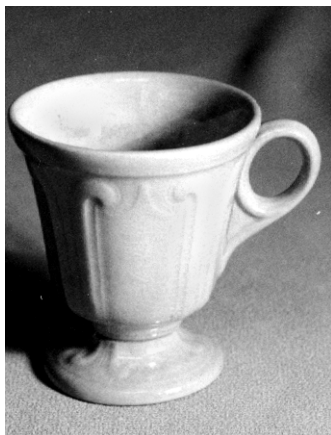
*Shaw's Lily of the Valley by Anthony Shaw, c. 1860. (Denton coll.)*



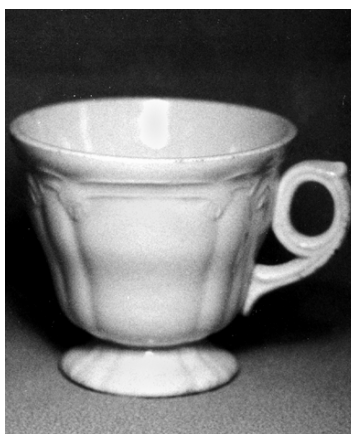
*Edwards' Lily of the Valley by James Edwards & Son, Reg. Sept. 1, 1859. 3 1/2" high by 3 3/4" wide. (Moreland coll.)*



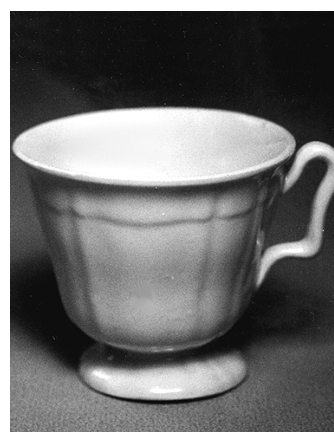
*Budded Vine by Meakin & Co., c. 1869. (Lautenschlager coll.)*



*Berlin Swirl by Mayer & Elliot, Reg. Jan. 21, 1845. See bowl on page 7. (Hitt coll.)*



*Trent Shape by John and Henry Alcock, Reg. June 7, 1855 or Stafford Shape by S. Alcock & Co., Reg. Sept. 5, 1854. (Allers coll.)*



*Hebe Shape by John Alcock, Reg. May 7, 1853. See bowl on page 7. (Allers coll.)*



*Flora Shape by J. W. Pankhurst, c. 1855. 3 1/2" high (Dieringer coll.)*



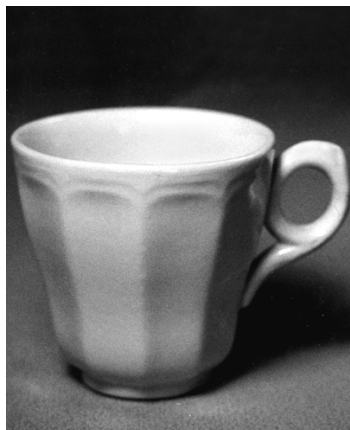
# SYLLABUB, POSSET, PUNCH & TODDY CUPS



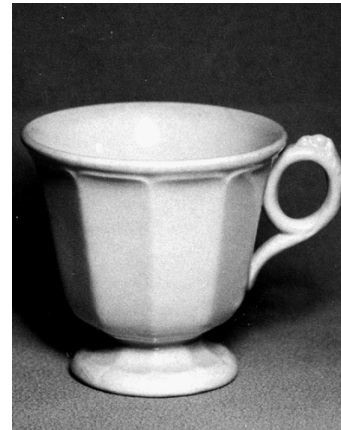
*St. Louis Shape by J. Edwards, Fenton, c. 1860. (Lautenschlager coll.)*



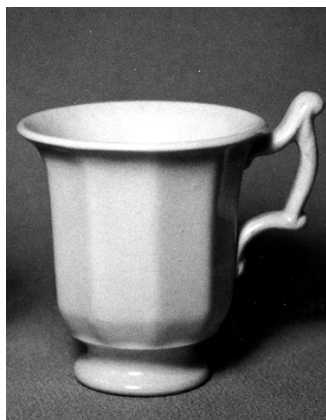
*Possibly Quartered Rose by Jacob Furnival. See bowl on page 5. (Ady coll.)*



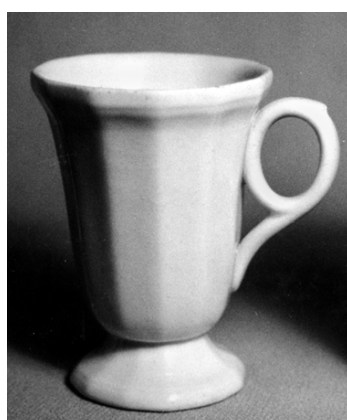
*Same as cup on left but no pedestal and more panels. (Allers coll.)*



*Paris Shape by John Alcock, Reg. Mar. 20, 1857. 3 1/8" high by 3 3/4" wide. (Moreland coll.)*



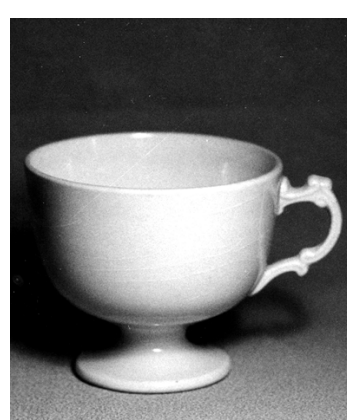
*Classic Gothic unmarked. (Denton coll.)*



*12-panel Gothic with ring handle unmarked. This cup is also found with a regular handle. (Denton coll.)*



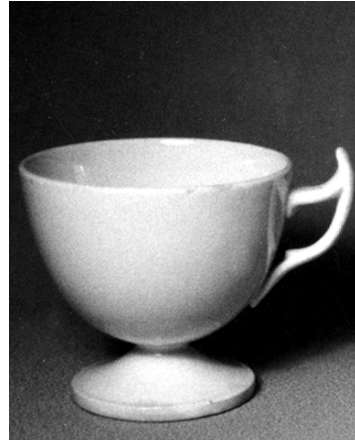
*Atlantic Shape by T. & R. Boote, Reg. Oct. 7, 1857. (Denton coll.)*



*Early Plain pedestalled cup c. 1830-40. (Moreland coll.)*



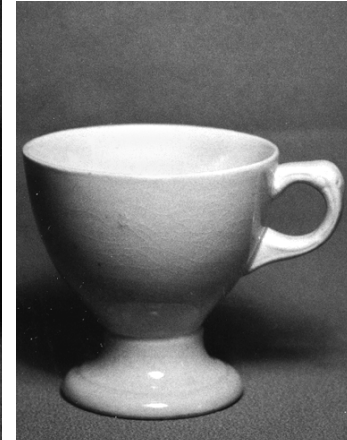
*Plain tall cup unmarked, 4" high by 3 1/2" wide. (Dieringer coll.)*



*Plain cup with pointed handle unmarked c. 1840-50. (Denton coll.)*



*Plain cup unmarked. This shape has been seen with many handle variations. (Denton coll.)*



*Plain cup unmarked, also seen with many handle variations. (Moreland coll.)*