



Royal College  
of Physicians

# The silver collection at the Royal College of Physicians

Display information



## Introduction

This display shows some of the finest silverware in the collection owned by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). All the items have been collected in the last 350 years and reflect the events in the RCP's history as well as the lives and generosity of its fellows and members.

Rare and costly metals have been the first choice for ceremonial objects and symbols of authority since ancient times, and it is known that the College had a collection of silver by the 1600s. During the Great Plague of 1665 the physicians abandoned London, leaving the College's premises unguarded, and nearly all the silver was stolen – only two items escaped the plundering. One of the surviving items was the demonstration rod of William Harvey (11), which he is thought to have used during his ground-breaking Lumleian lecture to demonstrate the circulation of the blood. The other item was Baldwin Hamey's silver inkstand bell (27). The following year, in 1666, the College was again struck by disaster when the Great Fire of London completely destroyed the building and almost all of its contents. It was a number of years before fellows had the finances to donate silver, and the need to rebuild its premises left the RCP itself without the resources to replenish the losses.

Only three pieces were added over the next 45 years: a silver salver, the head of the porter's staff and the mace (31 and 30). In 1719, president Sir Hans Sloane and other RCP officers presented a selection of silver plate to the RCP to begin replacing the stolen items. These included the punch bowl given by the four censors in 1719 (41); 10 candlesticks, with a snuffer and stand; a silver-gilt standing cup and cover given in 1720 by John Friend; and an inkstand (or standish) presented by the registrar Henry Plumptre.

During the 19th century, it became traditional for fellows receiving an honour from the Crown to give silver plate to the RCP, while other pieces were received as bequests. Large cups, drinking vessels and bowls became popular, and many have contemporary inscriptions, providing glimpses of past people and events. For example, the fellows' cup (8) records the names of all 55 RCP fellows in 1872 and 1873. Sir William Jenner's cup (34) was a gift from his grateful patient Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's eighth child, who suffered from haemophilia.

The RCP received several new gifts in 1964, when it moved to the current building in Regent's Park. These included a cigar box from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (46) and a quaich from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (48).

## Ceremonies

Ceremonies are a big part of the RCP's character, and engaging with traditions is a vital way of connecting the RCP with its historic roots.

The new fellows and members ceremonies, where physicians are welcomed into the RCP, are at the heart of the ceremonial calendar but other events, such as special lectures, also include a full procession of RCP officers.

This procession starts with the president and officers putting on their robes in the Censors' Room, from where they walk to the Dorchester Library. The president carries the staff of office – the silver caduceus presented by John Caius in 1556 (on display in the Censors' Room) – and is preceded by the bedell, who carries the mace (30) to symbolise the Crown. By the late 1600s, the mace had been widely adopted by various organisations as a symbol of royal power.

Other silver items are also used in ceremonial functions within the RCP. For example, Baldwin Hamey's silver bell (27) is rung to bring the annual general meeting to order once a year and a large monteith is used to collect the ballot papers for a new president.

# Silver collection catalogue

## Bay 1

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### 1 Silver porringer

Turner Bradbury for Thomas Bradbury & Sons (London, 1890)

Accession number X1078

Presented to the RCP by Sir William H Broadbent in 1893

This two-handled bowl has an embossed circular body in a late 17th-century style. It has a corded girdle, flutes and lobes above the base and a baroque cartouche enclosing the RCP coat of arms.

### 2 Gold touch-pieces

Royal Mint (London, c.1660–85)

Accession numbers X318 and X319

Presented by Dr Raymond Crawford in 1916

This pair of gold touch-pieces was used in a healing ceremony during the reign of Charles II (1630–85) and was given to persons touched by the king to help cure a disease known as ‘the king’s evil’ or scrofula. From the 15th century onwards, the king or queen would present a small gold coin as well as giving the royal touch. These coins, known as angels, bore an image of the archangel Michael and allowed the sick to continue their ‘treatment’ at home by proxy. Coins from the reign of Charles II bear the motto ‘soli Deo gloria’ – ‘glory to God alone’.

### 3 Antimony cup and leather case

c.1600–40

Accession number X410

Presented by Mr Gundry of Richmond in 1824; Mr Gundry was married to Miss Palmer, who is referred to as ‘the last of Dr Hamey’s descendants’ in the RCP annals

This cup is made from antimony, a highly toxic metal. Drinking from these cups was prescribed as a purging treatment by physicians in the 17th century. The treatment was lethal; three people reputedly died after drinking from this cup. It was bought by College fellow Dr Baldwin Hamey in Gunpowder Alley, London ‘at the sign of the Magpie’ in 1637 for 50 shillings.

All the known antimony cups in the British Isles are in London: in the RCP, the Science Museum and the V&A Museum. They were exhibited together at the RCP in 1977.

### 4 Drinking cane

c.1900

Accession number X696

This copper-handled cane has a malacca shaft that unscrews and contains a full-length glass brandy flask. From the 17th century onwards, doctors commonly carried ivory-, silver- or gold-headed canes to emphasise their high social status. The cane became a familiar symbol of the medical profession. Inhaling perfume or drinking alcohol before visiting patients was thought to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

### 5 Reproduction of ‘The Company of Undertakers’ by William Hogarth

1736

Reproduction of accession number PR 15014

This satirical image of medical practitioners features twelve bewigged doctors deep in thought, below caricatures of three well-known quack doctors: the medicine maker Joshua Ward, noted bone-setter Sarah Mapp (who points towards the bone at the end of her cane), and the oculist (optician) John Taylor, whose missing eye appears on his cane. The doctors at the bottom of the image are shown with the stereotypical markers of physicians at the time: they ponder flasks of urine and sniff their herb-filled canes.

## 6 Pomander cane

c.1700

Accession number X698

This cane has a rattan cane shaft, brass ferrule and silver collar. It has an ivory handle inlaid with silver and a red material, and the decoration includes a tulip motif. Small holes in the handle suggest that it is a pomander cane, and the handle may once have been able to be unscrewed from the shaft and filled with perfume to ward off contagious diseases.

## Bay 2

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### 7 The Swiney prize 1909 (silver-gilt cup and cover)

Designed by Daniel Maclise and Sebastian Garrard (London, 1908)

Accession number X1053

Bequeathed by Charles Mercier in 1919

Charles Arthur Mercier (1852–1919) won the Swiney prize twice: once in 1909 and once in 1919. Both times, it was awarded in response to his writings on criminality and its link to insanity.

#### About the Swiney prize

The Swiney prize was an award made by a joint committee of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) and the RCP. The prize consisted of £500 and a silver cup, and was named in honour of Dr George Swiney (d.1844).

Dr Swiney bequeathed money to the RSA for the prize to be given every fifth anniversary after his death to the author of the best published work on jurisprudence. Three of the cups are in this collection; two in the original design by Daniel Maclise (1806–70) and the third by Melvin Oliver (1886–1958) from 1919, when the design was first changed. A further 12 designs were used throughout the 20th century.

### 8 The fellows' silver standing cup and cover

Stephen Smith (London, 1872)

Accession number X1033

Likely to have been presented to the RCP fellows' club by the 55 fellows whose names are engraved on the silver shields

The cup and cover are in a Renaissance style, stamped with typical strapwork, masks and foliage. The cup has cast caryatid handles and a model of Henry VIII forming the finial. The stem is engraved with the RCP coat of arms and inscribed.

All but three of the engraved names belong to individuals who were fellows in 1872, and the others (Durrant, Hall and Sutro) were elected in 1873, the date on the main shield. The shields were hallmarked in 1878, suggesting that it was not until 6 years later that the presentation was finally recorded.

## 9 The Swiney prize 1889 (silver cup and cover)

Daniel Maclise and James Garrard (London, 1888)

Accession number X1054

Presented by Sir Henry Letherby Tidy, who was the son of the winner of the prize, Charles Meymott Tidy, in 1953

## 10 Glazed, unbaked clay model of Anthony Askew

Chitqua, c.1770

Accession number X302

Presented by Lady Pepys, Anthony Askew's daughter, in 1831

This model depicts Anthony Askew (1722–74) holding the gold-headed cane (29) that he inherited from Richard Mead's brother, James Mead, in 1763. He was the physician of Chitqua (Tan-Che-Qua), who was a famous Chinese artist and modeller and worked in London from 1769 to 1772.

## 11 William Harvey's demonstration rod

c.1616

Accession number X280

This is a whalebone rod with silver mounts. It was reputedly used by William Harvey when giving the RCP's Lumleian lecture of 1616, where he demonstrated the circulation of blood.

## 12 Silver-mounted wood pointer

Accession number X1052

This pointer is inscribed 'Joseph Lister, Rudolf Virchow 17/7/[18]83' in two different hands. Rudolf Virchow (1821–1902) was a German physician and leading expert on modern pathology. Joseph Lister (1827–1912) was a surgeon famous for pioneering the use of antiseptics in surgery while working at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, introducing the use of carbolic acid to sterilise surgical instruments and to clean wounds.

We do not know why Lister and Virchow's names are inscribed on this pointer. In 1883, Lister was created a baronet by Queen Victoria. Both Lister and Virchow were members of the Royal Society of London at this time, and in 1901 Lister delivered a heartfelt speech in honour of Virchow's 80th birthday, in which he described Virchow's 'gigantic intellectual powers'. It is possible that this pointer commemorates their professional relationship or a joint venture.



## Bays 3 and 4

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### 13 Silver decanter

Joseph Angell & Son (London, 1846)

Accession number X1012

Presented to the RCP by Sir Richard Quain (1816–98) in 1894

This decanter has an elongated body of neo-classical form, with applied fruit and foliage decorating the handle, on a spreading foot, engraved with vine motifs and a cartouche enclosing an inscription: 'Bequeathed to Richard Quain M.D. F.R.S. by C.J.B. Williams M.D. F.R.S. as a token of affectionate regard for his long and faithful friendship 1889'.

### 14 Silver fruit dish – the 'Prujean dish'

Maker's mark AF, possibly Anthony Ficketts (London, 1664)

Accession number 2006.1

The dish was purchased by the RCP in 2005, thanks to a generous grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and donations from Sir Richard Thompson (then treasurer) in memory of his parents, Dame Carol Black (then president) and many officers, fellows, members and friends of the RCP.

This silver fruit dish belonged to the eminent physician and former RCP president Sir Francis Prujean (1593–1666). Prujean married Dame Margaret Fleming in Westminster Abbey in 1664 and the dish may have been a wedding gift. Prujean and Margaret's coats of arms are combined in the centre. The Prujean dish is one of the only two recorded examples of this type of sideboard dish remaining in England. It was probably displayed in the dining room of the Prujeans' London home, and as a status symbol it shows the taste of the rising professional classes, which deliberately imitated the established landed gentry.

The RCP also owns a portrait of Sir Francis and his family chest of surgical instruments, both of which are on display in the Treasures room.

## 15 Parcel-gilt silver pineapple cup and cover

Philipp Pepfenhauser (Germany, c.1620)

Accession number X320

Donated to the RCP by George Berkeley FRCP (1865–1946) in 1947

This cup has a waisted body and cover embossed with lobes on a bracketed vase stem, and a foot similar to the body. The lid is centred by sheet scrollwork, and a vase of flowers forms the finial. The foot has the maker's mark 'IR'.

## 16 Pair of silver wine cups

John Paul Cooper (unmarked, 1911)

Accession number CC16

Presented by Sir Squire Sprigge in 1935

Sir Samuel Squire Sprigge's (1860–1937) interest was in writing rather than medicine. He joined the staff of *The Lancet* in 1893, becoming its editor in 1909 – a position he held for 28 years. The wine cups were commissioned by Sir Samuel and Dr Henry Patrick Cholmeley as a gift to Dr Gustave Schorstein (1863–1906), who was appointed physician to the London and Brompton Hospitals in 1905 but died shortly afterwards.

## 17 Wine funnel

Thomas Shepherd (London, 1771)

Accession number X316

Presented to the RCP by George Godber FRCP (1908–2009) in 1974

This is a George III silver wine funnel with a detachable strainer. The funnel and strainer would have been used to help pour red wine into a decanter and collect sediment. The sediment, which develops over time as a product of the maturing process, is seen as the sign of a fine wine. It is made up of tartrate crystals and tannins, which give fine wine the ability to age well.

## 18 Silver sugar tongs

Thomas Nash (London, c.1767)  
Accession number X1070

These tongs are formed with shell grips and engraved with 'COLL. MED.'

The eighteenth century saw a huge increase in the popularity of tea in Britain, which would be drunk sweetened with sugar. Tea and sugar were imported to Britain from Asia and the Americas as part of lucrative international trade networks based on the exploitation and enslavement of local peoples and transported workers. These tongs would have been used to add sugar to tea, a more elegant method than using the fingers.

## 19 Serving spoons

Accession numbers X440 and X441

This pair of silver serving spoons has an inscribed image of the 'rod of Asclepius' – the symbol of the ancient Greek god of healing and medicine – on the top of each handle.

## 20 The 'Wasey' candlesticks

Thomas Heming (London, 1750)  
Accession number 2014.2

These candlesticks were purchased by the RCP in 2014 with the help of generous grants from the Art Fund, the Beecroft Bequest and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, as well as the RCP governing body.

They were made by royal goldsmith Thomas Heming and purchased by former president Dr William Wasey (1691–1757) in 1750 as part of a 17th century RCP tradition of presenting each president with 'silver plate'. Wasey was an eminent RCP fellow, elected to high office as censor and later president in 1750. He was subsequently re-elected four times and served multiple terms.

These stunning silver candlesticks are some of the purest examples of the hugely influential English Rococo style. The bases of the candlesticks are engraved with the crest and coat of arms of William Wasey and his wife Margaret and the coat of arms of the RCP.

## 21 Salt cellars and spoon

Salt cellars made by Walter H Wilson Ltd (London, 1936/7)

Spoon made by CJ Vander Ltd (London, 1936/7)

Accession numbers X354 and X355

Presented to the RCP by Arthur Hurst in 1937

These two silver oval salt cellars have a corded border and a rim base, and are engraved with the RCP coat of arms. The spoon is of an old English design.

## 22 Salt shaker

Thomas Bamford (London, 1725)

Accession number X1095

Presented to the RCP by G Page in 1863

This octagonal silver caster has a vase-shaped body engraved with the RCP coat of arms. It would be used in a similar way to which we would use a salt shaker or grinder to add salt to food today.

## 23 Sauce boat

Made by CB&S (London, 1957)

Accession number CC8.1

Presented to the College Club by Sir John McMichael (1904–93) in 1977

This piece is a silver sauce boat on three feet with a gadrooned rim.

## 24 Sweetmeat basket

John Daniells (London, 1766)

Accession number X321

Presented to the RCP by (Arthur) Stanley Woodwark FRCP (1875–1945) in 1932, the year of his knighthood

This piece is a George III silver sweetmeat (confectionary) basket. The oval body is pierced within panels bordered by punched beading with a similar foot and swing handle. The underside is engraved.

## **25 Silver grape scissors**

Accession number X443

These scissors are for cutting grape stalks. The handles are longer than the blades so that they can reach into a cluster of grapes, and the ends are blunt so that they do not puncture the fruit. The handles are in the shape of grapevines.

## **26 The corporation seal and box**

Accession number X1036

Presented by John Caius, c.1556, at the same time as the silver caduceus (on display in the Censors room) and a bound copy of the RCP statutes.

This seal matrix was used for creating the official wax seals on RCP documents. It would be pressed into the soft wax and then removed, leaving the image in the wax as it hardened.

John Caius (1510–73) was a scholar, physician and naturalist. He was president of the College from 1555 to 1560 and from 1562 to 1563 and was re-elected a final time in 1571.

## Bay 5

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### 27 Silver inkstand bell

Maker's mark IA with a mullet below (London, 1636)

Accession number X386

Presented to the College by Baldwin Hamey Junior in 1655

This inkstand bell is believed to be the earliest example of English hallmarked silver surviving today. Baldwin Hamey Junior (1600–76) began a long association with the College, serving many times as censor, registrar and treasurer between 1640 and 1666. While acting as registrar, he used this bell to bring silence to comitia (now the annual general meeting) and presented it to the College when he retired from this office in 1655.

Baldwin Hamey was the most generous of all the benefactors to the College, contributing generously to the rebuilding after the fire in 1666. His other donations included the oak panelling originally installed at Warwick Lane, which can now be seen in the Censors' Room. His portrait and coat of arms hang in the marble hall.

The inscription was added after Baldwin Hamey's death in 1676. The bell is still used by the RCP registrar at the annual comitia for the election of the president.

### 28 Gilt ornaments for the presidential robe

Accession number X1039

The president's robe is the only RCP robe to be adorned with gilt decoration, where they appear down the sleeves and sides of the robe. Each robe is worn continuously until it wears out. These ornaments are from the previous but one presidential robe; the most recent retired robe is said to be over 100 years old, and can be seen on display in the Treasures room.

## 29 The gold-headed cane

English, 18th century

Accession number X1042

Presented by Sophia Baillie, the widow of Matthew Baillie, in 1824

This cane was owned and carried in turn by five generations of eminent doctors. The mount is engraved with the coats of arms of the owners: John Radcliffe (1650–1714), Richard Mead (1673–1754), Anthony Askew (1722–74), William Pitcairn (1711–91), his nephew David Pitcairn (1749–1809) and Matthew Baillie (1761–1823).

The first owner of the cane, John Radcliffe, was a court physician. He passed it on to Richard Mead, one of the most respected physicians of his day. Anthony Askew, who worshipped the older Mead, was next to acquire the cane. William Pitcairn was the next owner, and he passed it on to his nephew, David Pitcairn, whose physician, Matthew Baillie, was the final owner.

## 30 Mace

Maker's mark of Anthony Nelme (London, 1683)

Accession number X1041

Presented by John Lawson in 1683

John Lawson (c.1632–1705) was a scholar who studied medicine in Padua. He held several offices in the RCP before being elected president in 1694.

The mace is a symbol of royal rather than presidential authority. The mace is carried by the bedell before the president on ceremonial occasions. It is similar to the House of Common's mace, which was created by the same goldsmith, and both derive from a mid-17th-century design.

The cup, which is surmounted by a royal crown, is embossed with female figures supporting arcading above the emblems of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, alternating with the monogram of Charles II. The cap features the royal arms of a Stuart sovereign. The hollow stave is in three divisions separated by acanthus-leaf chased knops. A small plain section below the cup is applied with three brackets, while the two larger, lower sections of equal size are flat chased with a spiral ribbon and similar tendrils bearing thistles, roses and other flowers. Chased acanthus leaves decorate the upper half of the foot-knop and underneath are the engraved coats of arms of the donor and the RCP, together with the inscription: *'Hoc Caduceo Collegium Medicorum Londinensium Regale Johannes Lawson M.D., Eiusdem Socius Donavit Jan 1, 1683'*.

### 31 The porter's staff

Bamboo and silver (c.1679)

Accession number X1068

Received during the presidency (1676–81) of Sir John Micklethwaite (1612–82), who defrayed part of its cost

The hollow, rectangular silver head is embossed on both sides with the RCP coat of arms within scalework and foliate borders, on a knob applied with leaves attached to a flat-chased collar and a bamboo shaft.

The staff was last used in 1968, when the then-president Max Leonard Rosenheim, the Rt Hon Baron Rosenheim of Camden (1908–72), attended the 450th RCP anniversary service at All Souls, Langham Place.



## Bay 6

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### 32 The Swiney prize 1919 (silver cup and cover)

Designed by Mervyn C Oliver, Charles Welch and Arthur Nevill Kirk (London, 1919)

Accession number X1055

Bequeathed by the winner, Charles Arthur Mercier, in 1919

### 33 RCP500 cut glass vase

Bill Healy (USA, c.2017/18)

Accession number 2018.17

Presented to representatives of the RCP during a visit to the American College of Physicians (ACP) in Philadelphia on 20 April 2018

This vase was given to the RCP by the ACP at the first RCP fellowship ceremony to be held in the USA. The fellowship ceremony admitted 15 Masters of the American College of Physicians (ACP) who had been elected to the fellowship of the RCP, and mirrored as closely as possible RCP fellowship ceremonies held in London. The 'RCP500' logo refers to 2018, which was the 500th anniversary of the founding of the RCP in 1518.

### 34 Silver standing cup and cover

Robert Hennell VI (London, 1871/72)

Accession number X1027

Presented by Lady Jenner in 1902

This cup was a gift from HRH Prince Leopold to Sir William Jenner (1815–98) in 1875. Sir William Jenner was described as the undisputed leader of his profession. He held posts at University College and other London hospitals and was president of the RCP from 1881 to 1888. Jenner attended to many members of the royal family, including Prince Leopold (1853–84), eighth child of Queen Victoria, who suffered from haemophilia. The young prince gave him this cup during his last year at Christ Church, University of Oxford.

### 35 Gold champagne cup

TA & WB Slater and HA Holland (London, 1895)

Accession number X1031

Presented by members of the Samuel Wilks Fifteen Club to the founder, Sir Samuel Wilks in 1896

Sir Samuel Wilks (1824–1911) had a long association with Guy's Hospital, retiring in 1885. In conjunction with GT Bettany, he published a history of the hospital in 1892. He was elected president of the RCP in 1896, the year that this cup was presented to him, and the following year he was created a baronet after being appointed physician-extraordinary to Queen Victoria. He was the first president of the 'Fifteen Club' founded in 1885 to bring together men especially interested in the scientific side of medicine and medical education.

### 36 Silver and glass inkstand

c.1800–66

Accession number X439

Presented to Dr JD Moore by the officers of the county asylum, Lancaster

This inkstand has a taper (small candle) holder in the centre flanked by two silver-mounted, clear glass pots.

### 37 Burwell's ring

c.1650–76

Accession number X657

This gold ring has a central skull motif, surrounded by 18 amethysts. The ring was reputedly worn by Dr Thomas Burwell (1626–1701/2) at the funeral of his uncle, Baldwin Hamey the younger (1600–76), who was a generous benefactor of the College.

During the 16th to 18th centuries, the ritual of mourning was very public, and so *memento mori* and memorial rings became widespread ways of remembering the dead.

### 38 Rose-cut diamond ring

Accession number X1057

Presented by Helen Dimsdale, a descendent of Thomas Dimsdale, in 1972

This is an 18th century diamond, with a later gold mount. This ring was a gift of the Empress Catherine II of Russia to Thomas Dimsdale (1711–1800), who successfully inoculated the imperial family against smallpox. He was the author of *The present methods of inoculation for the smallpox* in 1767, and of numerous other works on the same subject.

Helen Dimsdale (1907–77) was the first female consultant neurologist in Britain. She was appointed to Maida Vale Hospital in 1947 and the Royal Free Hospital in 1950, and retired in 1970.

### 39 Baillie inkstand

Inkstand by John Wakelin & William Taylor (London, 1789)

Three ink pots by Wakelin & Robert Garrard (London, 1798)

Accession number 2013.10

This piece is a George III silver inkstand with three silver ink pots with lids. According to an inscription on the base of the stand, it was presented by Queen Charlotte, consort to George III, to Dr Matthew Baillie (1761–1823), in gratitude for his attending to her daughter, Princess Amelia. Baillie was made a fellow in 1790 and subsequently a censor of the RCP.

### 40 Smoking compendium

Wang-Hing (Hong Kong, c.1900)

Accession number X333

Presented to the RCP by Sir Percy Bassett-Smith (1861–1927)

This silver smoking compendium (smoking set) has three vase-shaped holders chased with scenes showing east Asian buildings and people, and surmounted by dragons' heads. The base is engraved with an inscription indicated that it was presented by Bassett-Smith.

## 41 Silver monteith

Samuel Wastell (London, 1719)

Accession number X1065

This monteith (large punch bowl) was purchased by the censors Hugh Chamberlain (1664–1728), John Friend (1675–1728), Richard Hale (1670–1728) and Richard Tyson (c.1680–1750) in 1719.

## 42 Silver wine cooler

Reed & Barton (USA, 1973)

Accession number X1065

Donated to the RCP by the British Society of Gastroenterology in 2018

This wine cooler is engraved 'in appreciation Sir Francis Avery Jones, New York, May 22 1973' and a list of names. Avery Jones was a devoted member of the British Society of Gastroenterology, founded in 1937, and of which he was president in 1966. He was involved in the establishment of the society's journal, *Gut*.

## Bay 7

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### 43 Silver candelabra

Accession number X1098 1-2

Presented by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1964

This pair of three-light silver candelabra with tapered stems was presented to the RCP in 1964 on the occasion of the move of its headquarters to Regent's Park.

### 44 Silver-gilt standing cup and cover

WB Reynolds (London, 1923)

Accession number X1048

Given by James Hugh Thursfield in 1924 in memory of his father Thomas William Thursfield

Thomas William Thursfield (1839–1924) was a consultant physician at Warneford Hospital in Leamington, where he was mayor for 3 years and was known as the 'radical doctor' owing to his active role in the town's politics.

### 45 Silver and silver-gilt dish

Frank Cobb & Co (Sheffield, 1986)

Accession number X1029

Presented by the Sheffield fellows, in 1986, to mark the regional meeting held at the RCP

This dish is in the form of a Tudor rose, with flower heads at the junction of the petals. The centre is applied with the RCP coat of arms in a pierced and engraved cartouche of baroque design. The underside is inscribed.

### 46 Silver cigar box

Carl Paul Petersen (Montreal, c.1964)

Accession number X1026

Presented by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, 1964 to commemorate the RCP's move to Regent's Park

This piece is a rectangular, hammer-finished silver cigar box. The lid design shows beavers among maple leaves, and is inscribed. It was just two years after the RCP published a landmark report on the dangers of smoking tobacco, *Smoking and health*.

## 47 Glass paperweight

Accession number X1050

This paperweight is incised with a view of the facade of the RCP in Pall Mall. It is dated 1964–89, and commemorates 25 years of the RCP being in Regent's Park.

## 48 Silver quaich

Wakely & Wheeler Ltd (London, 1962)

Accession number X1030

Presented by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1964 on the occasion of the move of the RCP's headquarters to Regent's Park

This bowl is in the form of a Scottish quaich, with chased Celtic ornament on the handles, and the rim is inscribed. A quaich is a traditional Scottish, two-handled drinking cup or bowl, used to raise a toast at special occasions or given as a gift indicating friendship.

## 49 Silver tumbler cup

Payne & Son Ltd (London, 1976)

Accession number X1038

Presented by Edmund Brisco Ford in 1976

President Edmund Brisco Ford (1901–86) was an eminent geneticist and was one of the first scientists since the 17th century to be elected a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. This tumbler cup is a copy of those used at his college. He became an honourable FRCP in 1974.

## 50 Silver coffee pot and milk jug

James Dixon & Sons Ltd (Sheffield, 1964)

Accession number X1028 1/2

Presented by the Faculty of Radiologists (now the Royal College of Radiologists) in 1964 on the occasion of the move of the RCP's headquarters to Regent's Park

Both the coffee pot and the milk jug have a baluster body with a tall, slightly flared neck, wood finial and handle. They are engraved with the RCP coat of arms, and inscribed.

## 51 Silver and silver-gilt centrepiece

Gerald Benney (London, 1961)

Accession number X1019

Presented by Robert A McCance in 1962

Robert Alexander McCance (1898–1993) had an international reputation as a nutritionist at Cambridge, where he was professor of experimental medicine from 1945 until his retirement in 1966. He and his working partner, Elsie Widdowson (1906–2000), published *The chemical composition of food* in 1940 and were responsible for the scientific basis of food rationing in the Second World War.

The significance of the centrepiece sculpture was explained by Gerald Benney as ‘the random evolution of life and matter within the context of organised growth’. It was one of a series of centrepiece bowls in silver and silver-gilt exhibited in Zurich in 1963.

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