

## **John Fossey and John Fessey: a confusion resolved.**

Arthur Grimwade, in 'London Goldsmiths 1697-1837'<sup>1</sup>, has the following entry for the silversmith John Fossey:

Fossey, John (1288-9, 1310). Son of Daniel Fossey of the parish of Hempstead in the County of Hertford draper deceased. Apprenticed to Thomas Tearle 7 May 1724 on payment of £20. Free 9 September 1731. Mark entered as largeworker, 9 January 1733. Address; 'at ye Hand & Seale in Gutter Lane.' Second mark, undated but before August 1734, on moving to 'Next Door ye 3 Tunn tavern Wood Street.' Third mark, 15 June 1739. Address: Wood Street. Heal records him at the Hand and Seal, Gutter Lane from 1724 to 1733; as goldsmith, Lombard Street, died 1746; also presumably a son, John Fossey, goldsmith, Golden Ring, corner of Ball Alley, Lombard street, 1746-8; and goldsmith and jeweller, Blackamoor's Head, Corner of Ball Alley in Lombard Street, 1748.

Grimwade took from Ambrose Heal<sup>2</sup>, the date of John Fossey's death as 1746. This led him, given the evidence of a John Fossey working after that date, to the throwaway phrase 'also presumably a son, John Fossey, goldsmith.' In fact, as shall be seen, Heal was wrong and Fossey died in 1748 and not in 1746 but the presumption that there must have been a John Fossey junior drew two later scholars, Helen Clifford and John Culme, into compounding the original error. Helen Clifford, in her article on George Willdey<sup>3</sup> gives a list of Willdeys suppliers, which included 'John Fossey, engraver'.<sup>4</sup> She repeated this information in her later work on Parker and Wakelin,<sup>5</sup> referring again to an engraver, 'John Fossey'.

In 2000, John Culme,<sup>6</sup> referred also to a John Fossey, engraver: 'Many of those [forgotten] relationships were between the Goldsmiths' Company and its members. Indeed the Company was very generous in deserving cases. In 1761, for instance, John Fossey, Jr., an engraver, applied for help to free himself from the Fleet Prison where he languished as an insolvent debtor. Eighteen months later he had settled his debts and paid the gaol discharge fee, but the ready money he had from one of the Company's annuity schemes was gone and he applied for further funds. His petition to the Committee explained that 'most of his Clothes & Necess[arie]s are now in Pawn & his Rent unpaid & that 5£ wo[ul]d fetch all his things out of Pawn & pay his Rent so that he may be prepared to set out for Yorkshire to take poss[ess]ion of an appartm[en]t allotted for him there.' The £5 was duly awarded.'

Not only, however, did John Fossey, the Goldsmith, die in 1748 and not in 1746 but he does not appear to have had any children at the time of his death. In his will,<sup>7</sup> Fossey left money to a brother, 'Benjamin Fossey, 'if he is living at the time of my decease' and to Benjamin's 'several Children'. Other bequests were to his workman, 'my now Boy', John Newman, to his maid, and to Mr. Samuel Spindle, Refiner, of Gutter Lane. The will was not witnessed and Richard Stevens of the parish of St. Botolph Aldgate, gentleman, and John Newman, 'Goldsmith', of the parish of Allhallows Lombard street attested to the death of Fossey in September 1748 and to the handwriting of the will.

It would seem, therefore, a good idea to re-examine the facts of Fossey's life and the mistaken notion that there was a John Fossey, junior.

Surviving silver marked by John Fossey, is generally plain and uncluttered but well-formed in accordance with the geometric precepts of the period. The pieces are utilitarian, of average weight, and, engraved armorials apart, lacking in any surface decoration. There is certainly no hint of the high rococo. If Fossey's silver was plain and straight-forward, it would appear that his approach to business was much the same - with clear prices and no credit given or asked. He is noteworthy for a series of advertisements placed in the 'Penny London Post or The Morning Advertiser' towards the end of his life. The advertisements of 1747 read as follows:

'This is to acquaint the PUBLICK, As well as his FRIENDS and ACQUAINTANCES, That JOHN FOSSEY, Goldsmith, at the Gold Ring, the Corner of Ball-Alley, in Lombard street, near Gracechurch-street, STILL

continues to deal in second-hand Plate, Watches and Rings, as he has done for near twenty Years last past, both in the home, as well as in the foreign Trade, but is now determined to buy and sell only for ready Money; for which he continues to sell, retail, large and small Plate, Jewels, Watches, and Rings, as well new as second-hand, cheaper than any one else, for ready Money; And the most Money, as usual, given for old Gold and Silver, Jewels, Watches, Rings, &c.

All Sorts of the best new Plate, viz. Tankards and Mugs, Coffee Pots and Tea Pots, Sauce-Boats, Cream Boats and Salts, Table Spoons, and TeaSpoons, Shoe Buckles and Knee Buckles, Mourning Rings, Wedding Rings, &c. cheaper than any where else.<sup>8</sup>

In the following year, the advertisements are repeated<sup>9</sup> with much the same preamble but with a detailed list of prices:

...‘for the Benefit of the Publick, that they may be no longer impos’d on by fictitious Pretenders, who make a Practise to deceive the Innocent and Unwary, I have, as below, for their better Information, stated the Prizes distinctly of the best Sorts of NEW PLATE made in the newest Taste, and by the best Workmen as follow, viz.

The best polish’d Tea-Kettles and Lamps at 7s 6d. per Ounce.

Tea-pots ditto at ditto per Ounce.

Coffee-pots ditto at 7s. per Ounce.

Sauce-boats ditto at 7s 4d. per Ounce.

Tankards polish’d, round Bottom, at 6s. 10d. per Ounce.

Tankards ditto burnish’d at 6s 7d. per Ounce.

Strait ditto at 6s 5d. per Ounce.

Pint Mugs round-bottom, at 6s 7d per Ounce.

Crewit Frames and Castors at 7s 6d per Ounce.

Candlesticks polish’d, of the newest Patterns at 7s 4d

Waiters, neatly polish’d, of all Sizes, at 7s per Ounce

Large Table Spoons polish’d, at 18s per Doz. Fashion

Large ditto Burnish’d, at 8s per Dozen.

Leg’d Salts polish’d at 8s per Pair.

Neat Wedding Rings of the best Sort.

Mourning Rings of all Sizes at 17s each.

And all Sorts of Goods in the Goldsmith’s and Jeweller’s Way in Proportion; and farther Allowances to be made to those who buy a Quantity.

The most Money given for Gold and Silver Watches, Jewels, and Rings, as usual.

Note, No Credit given or required.’

Fossey’s date of birth has not yet been found but he was the fourth of five sons of Daniel Fossey, a prosperous woollen draper of Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. His father died in 1716

and the will<sup>10</sup> leaves bequests to each of his sons and to four daughters. Daniel Fossey had married Mary Long of nearby Abbots Langley in 1685. To his widow, Mary, Fossey left full discretion to dispose the bequests to his children as she thought best for their education. John Fossey, then presumably only about six years old, was left the sum of £100 to be given when he reaches twenty one together with ‘five acres of freehold property in the occupation of Robert Turner called Great Harts’ and also ‘8 acres in Caddington in the occupation of John Gardner.’ In May 1724, as Grimwade noted, Fossey was apprenticed to Thomas Tearle, the silversmith. Tearle was the son of Thomas Tearle of Stanbridge in Bedfordshire and entered his first and second marks in 1719 and 1720, giving his address as Foster lane. At the time of entering a third mark in 1739, Tearle had moved out of the City of London and was working in Russell street, Covent Garden, where he remained for about a year before moving back to ‘Shurbin lane’ and then Foster lane in the City. Fossey was made Free of the Goldsmiths’ Company and completed his apprenticeship in September 1731 but, in the ensuing eighteen months, it would seem that Fossey continued to work for Tearle. In January 1731/2 Fossey sold his property, Great Harts, and is described in the deed of sale as a goldsmith of Russell street, Covent Garden.<sup>11</sup> In January of 1733, Fossey entered his own first mark as a largeworker in Gutter lane. Fossey’s subsequent addresses in the City of London are correctly recorded by Grimwade.

In 1742, Fossey became embroiled in a case in the Court of Chancery,<sup>12</sup> which almost certainly accounts for his subsequent refusal to offer credit to his customers. The evidence reveals that from about 1736 Fossey began supplying new and second hand articles to Jonah Walker, a watchmaker and silversmith in ‘Ratcliff Cross’, a street near the Thames lying between Shadwell and Limehouse on the eastern side of the City. The court case arose out of a dispute between Walker and Fossey as to the payment for goods in 1741/2.

Walker claimed that he had paid Fossey all monies due in a complex arrangement that included the loan to Fossey of a diamond ring and an agreement to sell to Fossey his tenth share in a ship, ‘The Mediterranean’. Walker also claimed that Fossey had supplied him with sub-standard silver and had charged him an all-silver price for buckles with steel chapes. Fossey denied that Walker had paid him and declared that all the goods he had sold had been of the correct standard, with hallmarks and any duty paid. He did admit that he had charged for buckles with steel chapes as if they were all silver. Fossey stated, however, that buckles with steel chapes were customarily charged for in that way in the trade. The most interesting part of the case is that Fossey appended to his defence a list of all the goods, with their weight and price per ounce which he had supplied to Walker:

Schedule of goods supplied to Walker by Fossey

Date	Description	£	s	d	oz	dwts	Grs
1736	To One Silver Tea Pott at pr. ounce	5	10½	12	10	0	
July 13th							
25	Added to a Mugg	5	10½	6	0	0	
Sept 1	To One pair of Salt Sellers with Leggs Polished	5	10½	4	15	0	
Jany 22d	To two Tankards	5	10½	71	15	0	
24th	To One Mugg	5	10½	14	0	0	
	To One Tankard	5	10½	26	7	0	
Feby 5th	To One Mugg	5	10½	18	0	0	

March	To One Mugg	5	10½	14	0	0
22d						
1737	To One Waiter	5	10½	8	6	0
May 26th						
June 14th	To One Waiter	5	11½	13	7	0
20th	To One Waiter	5	11½	12	17	0
27th	To one Wax Candlestick	5	11½	3	10	0
	To One Tankard	5	11½	26	5	0
28th	To One Tea Kettle and Lamp	5	11½	48	15	0
July 2nd	To One pair of Candlesticks	5	11½	18	10	0
	To Six Milk Juggs	5	11½	18	17	0
	To Six Milk Saucepans	5	11½	15	18	0
	To Six Milk Eures	5	11½	24	11	0
	To One Coffee Pott	5	11½	16	11	0
	To One Tea Boat	5	11½	2	12	0
	To One Pepper Box	5	11½	2	0	0
	To One Wine Coopers Taster	5	11½	3	10	0
	To One Cup	5	11½	14	8	0
7th	To Twelve large Spoons	5	11½	23	8	0
8th	To One Tea pott	5	11½	39	10	0
Octob	To one Tea Kettle and Lamp	6	0	66	0	0
13th						
14th	To One Orange Strainer	6	„	2	14	0
	To One Pair of Candlesticks	6	„	27	5	0
	To two Muggs	6	„	14	13	0
	To One Tea pott	6	„	12	7	0
	To three Pepper Boxes	6	„	8	0	0
	To four large Spoons	6	„	6	15	0
	To one Mugg	6	„	13	0	0
	To three Punch Ladles	6	„	5	17	0
Dec 3d	To four Waiters	5	11	39	0	0
9th	To four pair of Salt Sellers	5	11	12	11	0
17th	To One hand Candlestick	5	11	9	16	0
	To One pair of Snuffers	5	11	3	4	0
	To One Punch Ladle	5	11	1	13	0
	To one Tobacco Box	5	11	3	9	0
	To One Coffee Pott	5	11	20	8	0
	To One pair of Candlesticks	5	11	18	10	0
	To two Butter Dishes	5	11	15	8	0
	To three Casters	5	11	19	11	0
	To One Coffee Pott	5	11	18	0	0
1737	To One Mugg	5	11	9	13	0
Decr 17th						
	To Twenty four Coat Buttons	5	11	6	3	0
	To Twenty four knee Buttons	5	11	3	0	0
	To twelve Breeches knee Buttons and two large ones	5	11	1	14	0
	To One Round Stand	5	11	8	7	0
	To One Tankard	5	11	28	18	
	To One Punch Bowl	5	11	18		
	To One Soop Ladle	5	11	3	8	
	To One Milk Eure	5	11	5	6	0
	To Eight pair of Coat Clasps	5	11	2		
	To One Tea Spoon Boat	5	11	2	3	

	To One Tankard	5	11	29	6	0
25th	To One pair of Sauce Boats	5	10½	26	16	0
March	To One Crewitt frame and Castors and Crewitt	5	10½	35	10	0
15th	Tops					
1738	To One Mugg	5	11	12	9	0
June 1						
	To One Spoon	5	11	1		
Novr 7th	To a pin to a Tankard	6		0	6	0
24th	To One Sauce Boat	6		14	18	0
Feby 9th	To One pair of Sauce Boats	6		26	12	0
14th	To One Tankard	6		31	6	0
17th	To One Milk Euer	6		5	12	
March	To One Mugg	6		13	15	0
24th						
	To One Milk Euer	6		4	8	0
1739	To One Tankard	6		28	10	0
June 1st						
	To Two Muggs	6		20	3	0
7th	To One Tea Kettle and Lamp	6		78	10	0
8th	To One Ditto	6		68	18	0
9th	To One Milk Euer	6		5	12	0
	To One Tea Spoon Boat	6		3	12	0
	To Six tea Spoons	6		2	16	0
	To One pair of Tea Tongs	6		1	10	0
July 16th	To One Waiter	6		20	13	0
19th	To One Coffee pott	6		22	7	
	To One pair of Salt Sellers	6		4	14	0
20th	To Twelve Spoons	6		21	15	0
24th	To Twelve Tea Spoons	6		5	11	0
	To One Soop Spoon	6		5	18	0
	To One pair of Salt Sellers	6		3	1	0
	To One Waiter	6		30	10	0
	To ten pair of Buckles,	6		23	9	0
	To four pair of Spurrs,					
	To One Clasp					
30th	To One Crewitt Frame and two Crewitt Tops	6		36	0	0
	To One Tankard	6		31	5	0
Augt 8th	To One Tankard	6		31	8	0
1739	To one pair of Sauce Boats at p. ounce	6		20	12	0
Augt 10th						
25th	To Eight pair of Buckles	6		11	15	0
Sepr 1st	To Six pair of Buckles	6		16	4	
Oct 20th	To one Sauce pan	6		19	3	0
Novr 10th	To one Milk Jug	6		3	7	0
Decr 12th	To a Mugg	6		7	15	0
	To One Milk Jugg	6		2	14	0
Jan'y 6th	To One pair of Candlesticks and one pair of snuffers and one Pan	6		36	12	0
10th	To ten pair of Buckles	6		17	17	0
28th	To One Waiter	6	½	17	8	0
30th	To twelve pair of Buckles	6	½	29	7	0
Feby 3d	To One pair of Candlesticks, one pair of Snuffers and one Pan	6	1	38	0	0
1740	To One Cup	6	1	18	0	0

March						
25th						
28th	To One Waiter	6	1	16	2	0
April 4th	To Thirty Six large Spoons	6	1	50	10	0
	To Six pair of Buckles	6	1	12	0	0
May 13th	To two pair of Buckles	6	1	2	11	
July 31st	To one Tea kettle and Lamp	6	1½	53	6	0
Augt 5th	To ten pair of Buckles	6	1½	35	13	0
	To Six Tea Spoons and one pair of Tea Tongs and One tea Strainer and Six dozen of Sleeve Buttons And Twelve tea Spoons					
7th	To Eighteen air of Buckles	6	1½	43	14	0
12th	To Six Cork Screws	6	1½	57	15	0
	To three Patch Boxes					
	To thirty one pair of Buckles					
	To Seven Stock Buckles					
	To Eight Waistband Buckles					
15th	To Six Punch Ladles	6	1½	14	12	0
Sepr 2d	Twelve large Spoons	6	1½	24	13	0
4th	Twelve large Spoons	6	1½	50	2	0
	To forty two Tea Spoons					
	To one pair of Salt Sellers					
	To One Punch Ladle					
	To Six pair of Tea Tongs					
	To Six tea Strainers					
	To two pair of Stock Clasps					
24th	To Six Punch Ladles	6	1½	41	10	0
	To Eighteen pair of Buckles					
	To One Neck Clasp					
	To Six Stock Buckles					
Octr 8th	To One Waiter	6	1½	19	8	0
10th	To twelve large Spoons	6	1½	32	18	0
	To One Soop Spoon					
1740	To One Waiter at p. ounce	6	1½	14	13	0
Octr 10th						
	To One Milk Euer	6	1½	5	5	
Jany 5th	To One pair of Buckles	6	2	3	14	0
20th	To One Mugg	6	2	23	15	0
March	To two pair of Buckles	6	2	41	10	
18th						
1741	To Sixty pair of Buckles	6	2	119	10	0
April 29th	To five Waistband Buckles					
	To One Girdle Buckle					
30th	To Fourteen pair of Buckles	6	2	72	15	0
	To Seven dozen and two Stock Buckles					
	To twelve pair of tea Tongs					
	To Twenty Eight Seals					
	To One pair of Salt Sellers					
	To One Snuff Box					
	To One Mouth peice for a French Horn					
	To one pair of Spurrs					
May 1st	To one Tea Kettle and Lamp	6	2	62	5	0
7th	To Twelve pair of Buckles	6	2	16	12	0
8th	To ten large Spoons	6	2	34	5	0

	To Twelve Tea Spoons					
	To four pair of Buckles					
	To One Corral					
27th	To Sterling Silver	5	8	30	0	0
Sepr 4th	To Eighty two pair of Buckles	6	2	96	11	0
	To one Waistband Buckle					
	To One Stock Clasp					
Decr 24th	To one pair of Small Wax Candlesticks	6	2	9		
1742	To one Tea pott	6	2	13	0	0
April 23d						
	For second hand plate					
1736	To One Cup at p ounce	5	10	10	10	0
May 24th						
	To One Tankard	5	10	24	10	0
	To one Salver	5	10	16	5	0
1737	To one Cup	6		41	6	0
June 27th						
July 2d	To one Coffee pott & one Tea Spoon	6		21	3	0
	Boat and one pepper Box					
Octr 13th	To One Cup and Cover	6		41	9	0
	To four Snuff Boxes	6		7	2	
	To five Tea Spoons	6		1	15	0
	To One Sauce pan and three Cups	6		4	3	0
	To One pair of Spurrs	6		4	16	0
14th	To One Tankard	6		25	10	0
Decr 17th	To three thimbles and one pair of Sleeve Buttons	6			18	
1738	To two Castors and one Mug and One Orange	6		27	15	0
Feby 9th	Strainer and one wax light Candlestick					
June 1st	To One Salver	6		14	13	0
July 16th	To One Boatswains Call and One	6		3	7	0
	Watch Case					
24th	To One Tankard	5	10	28	8	0
Augt 3d	To one pair of Spurrs and One Corral	6		4	15	0
Sepr 13th	To One Tankard	5	10	41	7	0
1739	To one Tankard	6		31	10	0
Janry 19th						
	To One Tankard	6		28	10	0
March	To a parcel of Small Silver Goods	6		20		
20th						
24th	To five pair of Spurrs	6		19	1	0
1740 29th	To one Tankard	5	9	28	7	
	To one Tankard	5	11	30	5	0
May 9th	To one Tankard and Mugg	5	10	36	5	0
	To one Salver	5	11	16	0	0
Sepr 13th	To Nineteen Coat Buttons	6		5	2	0
March	To four pair of Salts	6	6	18	0	0
15 <sup>th</sup>						
	To one pepper Box	6	6	2	19	0
	To One Orange Strainer	6	6	3	2	0
1741	To One Punch Bowl	6		31	5	0
Jany 11th						
1742	To One Tankard	6		25	5	0
April 7th						

	Goods not usually sold by weight			
1736	To twelve Slight Silver handle knives & forks in a	4	15	0
March 9th	Shagreen Case			
May 18th	To Six Cards of Stone Buttons set in Silver at 14s pr	3	12	0
	Card			
	To three Snuff Boxes at one pound five shillings	3	15	0
	each			
June 28th	To twelve Slight Silver handle knives & twelve forks	4	10	0
	in a Shagreen Case			
Oct 13th	To twelve Slight Silver handle knives & twelve forks	5	8	0
	in a Case			
	To twelve Slight Silver handle knives & twelve forks	4	15	0
	in a Case			
22d	To twelve Slight Silver handle knives & twelve forks	5	0	0
	in a Case			
Novr 2d	To twelve slight Silver handle knives & twelve forks	5	10	0
	in a Case			
Decr 9th	To two Philigrew Crest Buckles		12	0
	To one Watch at	1	10	0
	To seven Smelling Bottles Garnished with Silver in	2	9	0
	Shagreen Cases at Seven Shillings each			
1739	To One Snuff Box	0	15	0
August				
25th				
1740	To Silver Shanks to four Agatt Buttons	0	4	0
Dec 23rd				

### John Fessey, engraver.

The question remains as to who was John Fossey, junior, imprisoned in the Fleet at the time of his petition to the Goldsmiths' Company in 1761? The simple answer is that he did not exist. A careful reading of the script in the Company's minutes reveals that the name was not Fossey but *Fessey*.<sup>13</sup> The presumption of the existence of a son of John Fossey makes a misreading of the manuscript easy. John *Fessey* had been apprenticed to a Goldsmith, Edward Leake, on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1718 and was made free of the Company on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1725/6. He was subsequently elected a Liveryman of the Company in March 1737 but resigned the Livery in 1759. Fessey had a son, also John, who was made free of the Goldsmiths by patrimony in June 1751: so it is uncertain as to which, or whether both Fessey's were imprisoned for debt and petitioned the Company for assistance. The second of the references to Fessey in the Company Minute Books refers to him as being in receipt of a £20 pension from 'Tancred's Charity', the rules of which strictly required recipients to be unmarried: but that rule may not have been applied. More research on the Fesseys might provide an answer.

John Fessey senior's father, George, was a Citizen and Shipwright of London. George Fessey died in 1748 and John is named as administrator of his estate.<sup>14</sup> In 1749, 'The London Gazette'<sup>15</sup> refers to John Fessey in relation to the Bankruptcy of Sampson Bennett, Jeweller:

'The Creditors of Sampson Bennett, late of Catherine-Court, London, Jeweller, that have not already brought in their Accounts, are desired to deliver in the same to Mr. John Saffery, of Lothbury, Jeweller; Mr J[a]bez



Bloxham, of Cateaton-street, Merchant; Mr. John Fessey, of Foster-Lane, Engraver; or Mr. Govert Cassau, of Cullum-street, Merchant, on or before the 25<sup>th</sup> Instant, in order that a Dividend may be ascertained, or else they will be excluded the Benefit thereof.’

Fessey probably also supplied work to the silversmiths Thomas Gurney and Richard Cooke, for he is named in the sale of a lease to Gurney and Cooke for seven years of a property in Foster lane, which Fessey occupied and which immediately adjoined their own premises.<sup>16</sup> The work of Helen Clifford makes clear that Fessey also supplied George Willdey, the toyman, in the 1740’s. But Fessey was not exclusively an engraver to the silver trades. His name appears on prints, after Joshua Kirby, of the White Hart Inn at Scole in Norfolk, issued in 1740.

By 1761, as the petitions to the Goldsmiths’ Company confirm, either one or both of the Fesseys had fallen into debt. ‘The London Gazette’ of 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1761 records Fessey, ‘late of the Parish of St. Leonard Foster Lane, London, Engraver’, as an insolvent debtor in the Fleet prison.

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<sup>1</sup> Arthur G. Grimwade, ‘London Goldsmiths, 1697-1837: Their Marks and Lives’, publ. Faber and Faber, third edition 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Ambrose Heal, ‘The London Goldsmiths, 1200-1800: A Record of the Names and Addresses of the Craftsmen, Their Shop-signs and Trade-cards’, first publ. 1935, Cambridge University Press.

<sup>3</sup> Helen Clifford, ‘In defence of the toyshop: the intriguing case of George Willdey and the Huguenots’, in Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol XXVII, NO. 2, Summer 1999, pp. 171-188

<sup>4</sup> ‘In defence of the toyshop’, Appendix 4, p. 184, ‘Business Suppliers taken from An Account of all the Moneys paid by Judith Willdey, Widow & Executrix of Mr George Willdey Deceased London 12 November 1737’.

<sup>5</sup> Helen Clifford, ‘Silver in London, The Parker and Wakelin Partnership 1760-1776’, publ. Yale University Press 2004, p.123.

<sup>6</sup> John Culme, ‘Trade of fancy; new findings from eighteenth century London’ in Silver Society, Journal, issue no. 12, 2000, pp. 98-110. In notes 119, 120 and 121 to this article, Culme refers to Grimwade, ‘London Goldsmiths’ p. 512, for John Fossey, ‘senior’, and to the Goldsmiths’ Company Committee Books 10, p.194, 20 May 1761, and p.246, 2 December 1762.

<sup>7</sup> Nat. Arch., Prob.11/765/453,11 November 1748.

<sup>8</sup> For example, in the ‘Penny London Post or The Morning Advertiser’, June 24<sup>th</sup> 1747, Issue 648.

<sup>9</sup> ‘Penny London Post or The Morning Advertiser’, July 25<sup>th</sup> 1748, Issue 812.

<sup>10</sup> Hertfordshire Record Office, filed Will, 1716, 42HW78, Daniel Fossey, mercer, Hemel Hempstead.

<sup>11</sup> See Hertfordshire Record office, Draft Assignment of 200 yrs., DE/Nm/80530 24<sup>th</sup> January 1731/2, 1) John Fossey of St Martins in the Fields, Middx, goldsmith, 2). Thomas Tower of Inner Temple, London, Esq., Harts Hill als Great Harts (5 acres woodland); Agreement for sale (£52.10.0) DE/Nm/80529 20<sup>th</sup> January 1731/2, 1) John Fossey of Russell Street, Covent Garden, Goldsmith, 2) Thomas Tower of Inner Temple, London. ‘Gt Harts - 5a, now in the tenure of Benjamin Sage’.

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<sup>12</sup> Nat. Arch. C11/2265/25, C11/1325/57 both 1742, *Jonah Walker v. John Fossey and Samuel and Thomas Posford*.

<sup>13</sup> I am entirely indebted to David Beasley, Librarian of the Goldsmiths' Company, who kindly re-read the Company Minutes referring to John Fessey and supplied the details relating to his apprenticeship, freedom and election to the Livery.

<sup>14</sup> Nat. Arch. PCC3/47/19 Inventories and Associated Documents, Fessey, George, p. of St. Botolphs, Aldersgate, London, 29<sup>th</sup> February 1748.

<sup>15</sup> London Gazette Nov 7 1749 Issue 8900.

<sup>16</sup> Indenture of Lease (for seven years) **HMD/X/245** *2 Feb 1746. 20 George II*, London Metropolitan Archives:

(1) Elizabeth Bowes of Saint Edmunds Bury, Suffolk, widow.

(2) Thomas Cooke and Richard Gurney of the parish of Saint Leonard Foster Lane, goldsmiths.

Messuage in Foster Lane in the tenure of John Fessey, engraver, fronting Foster Lane west, and abutting south on a messuage in the tenure of the said Thomas Cooke and Richard Gurney and north on a messuage in the tenure of Samuel Garnett. There is a schedule of fittings. Signature and Seal: Thomas Cooke, Richard Gurney. [The LMA online catalogue has Fossey in error for Fessey].