

Two Intriguing Sauceboats and interesting research.....by John Robson.

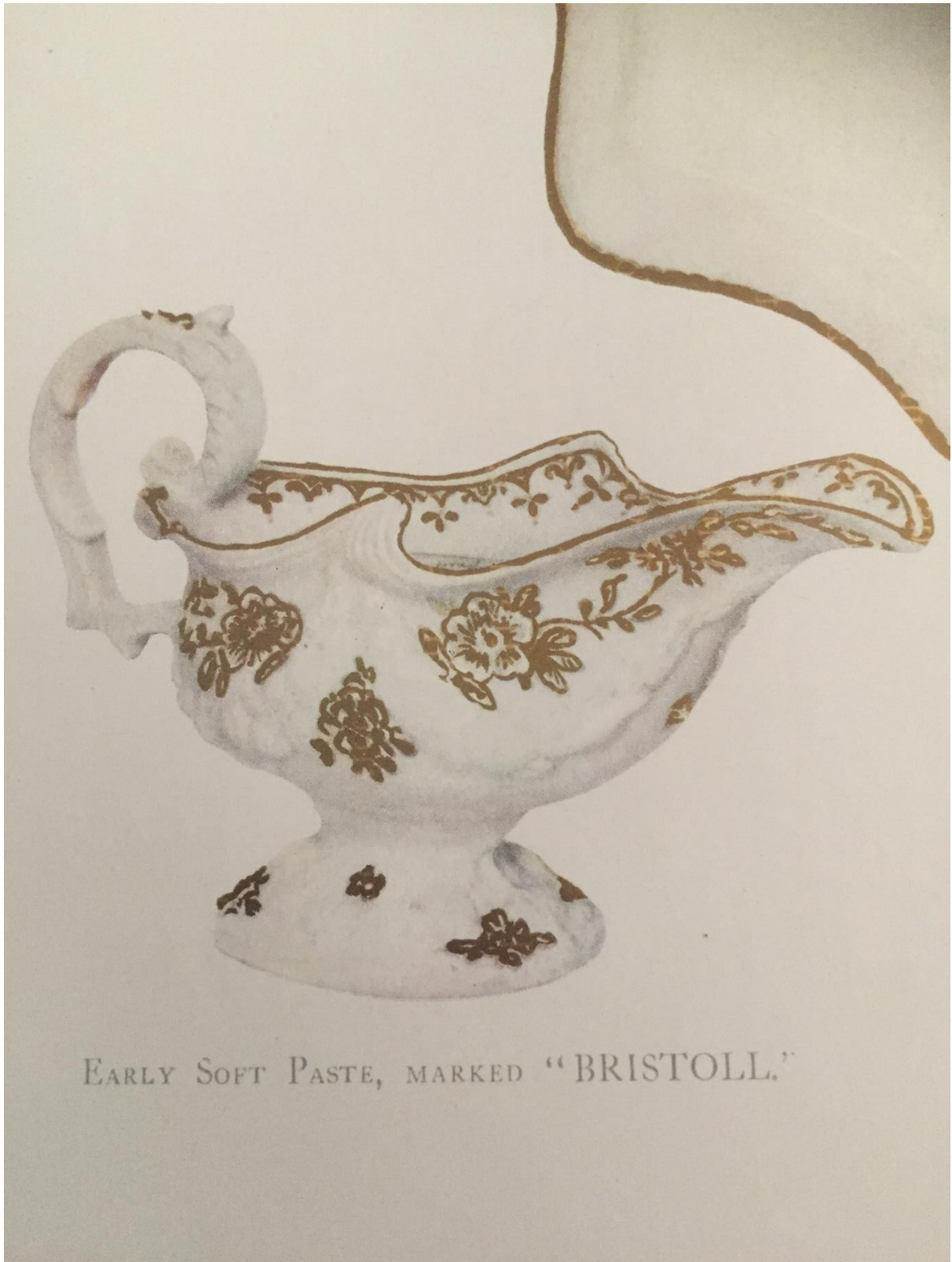
With so much time on our hands these days, I thought it worthwhile to look at some of the items I own with a view to taking a closer look at their provenance and history. Interesting facts emerged as to a pair of my sauceboats which I would like to share with you.

These are-





And from Mr Moore Binns' book-



EARLY SOFT PASTE, MARKED "BRISTOLL."

Similar ones to mine are illustrated by Nicholas Panes in his sauceboats book with the following caption-

‘Figure 85: A fine rococo sauceboat moulded with hanging garland and on a narrow single foot. Scrolled moulding to the rim and with a rococo silver handle shape. Decorated inside and out with gilt flowers. The use of gilt inside the body suggests the possibility that these might have been cabinet pieces, not meant for use. C.1750-1752.’

I had turned to my book by Moore Binns ‘The First Century of English Porcelain’ (1906) and noticed that opposite page 172 a picture of the same sauceboat with the caption ‘Early soft paste marked Bristoll’. At that point I became very excited thinking that I had in my possession a pair of rare Lund’s Bristol sauceboats!

But then I noticed that neither of my two sauceboats has ‘Bristoll’ embossed underneath. So I continued my research, noting that books about Bristol porcelain included commentary about what we now call ‘Lund’s Bristol.’

I then continued to research other books and Hurlbutt in his book on Bristol Porcelain (1928) at page 39 states that the photo in Moore Binns’ book had transposed with the caption next to it! The applicable caption was ‘Early Soft Paste.’ How annoying and disappointing! Although it was not, as we now

know, Lund's Bristol but Bow. Nevertheless, still beautiful and, indeed, magnificent.

In 2008, Simon Spero's Exhibition catalogue illustrated a blank white sauceboat at entry 17 with a caption-

'It is illuminating to compare this sauceboat with the celebrated Lund's Bristol model, often embossed with the word 'Bristol', which is almost exactly corresponding in period. The two models share the same overall contours, the same oval pedestal base and approximately similar moulded swags. The elaborate scroll handles made in two sections are also closely allied. They may even have been adapted from the same George II silver prototype, most probably dating from the late 1740's and almost certainly supported on three feet rather than an oval base.

'The parallels can be extended still further. At both Worcester and Bow, the model was issued in two sizes and by about 1752-53, the handles had become modified and simplified for practical purposes. Yet the relative cost of these sauceboats was intriguingly discrepant.

'Whereas the Bow sauceboats would have sold for approximately five shillings per pair, their Bristol counterparts, according to Dr Richard Pococke after visiting the factory in 1750, cost sixteen shillings a pair.

'These prices should be seen in the context of their silver counterparts which might have cost as much as two or three guineas a pair. From these comparative

prices, it is no wonder that the porcelain makers were keen to adapt silver designs as closely as was practicable.’

My particular sauceboats were purchased by the late Herbert Kennard who died in March 2020 aged 105. He had purchased them from Simon Spero in 1994 for £1,500.

I must add that I am very grateful (?) to Nick Panes for dampening my excitement and steering me towards a calmer, truer attribution of Bow to my sauceboats!! Indeed, he pointed out ‘The gold sauceboats are very common, I owned figure 85 [in my book] and one other but probably saw at least a dozen more over the years.’

Bump.....

12/04/21..JMR.