

## Revere's Bookplates

REVERE'S engraving of bookplates is represented by eleven plates, four signed by him, four which were unquestionably his work, two which were probably his work, and one plate probably by his father, Apollos Rivoire. In general the plates are divided into two groups according to the style of the mantling. In the first group there are seven plates, three signed and four unsigned. They are almost identical, in the elaborate Chippendale style of mantling, scroll work, flowers, and motto ribbon. Revere used the same mantling many times, changing the coat-of-arms, the crest, and the name. It is probable that he used some English bookplate as his model, copying it faithfully, yet I have never located this English plate, although I have examined many thousands by English engravers. It is possible that he used his father's Paul Rivoire plate for a model. The seven plates in the first group are as follows:

Gardiner Chandler. Signed "P Revere sculp." The coat-of-arms and the crest follow the design of the bookplate of his brother, John Chandler, Jr. (1721-1800), earlier engraved by Nathaniel Hurd; but the mantling is more elaborate and is distinctly Revere's. Also the plate bears in the upper left corner the abbreviation "No," with a superior "o" directly above two parallel lines, a characteristic of Revere's bookplates and also of his colonial paper currency. Gardiner Chandler's dates were 1723-1782 and the plate was probably engraved in the 1760's. The original copper was long owned by Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer of Lancaster, who occasionally made restrikes from it on modern paper. Since her death in 1934 the copper has not been found. On the reverse of the copper, in the upper left corner, is a small trial engraving of a coat-of-arms, of which restrikes were made about forty years ago by Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed, to whom the copper had been loaned.

John Gardiner. Almost identical, in mantling and motto ribbon, with the

David Greene and Gardiner Chandler plates. Although unsigned this was undoubtedly Revere's work. In addition to the American Antiquarian Society copy, there are copies in the Baillie collection in the Metropolitan Museum and in the Libbie collection at Dartmouth College. John Gardiner (1714-1764) was the fifth proprietor of Gardiner's Island, and his career is well described in Curtiss C. Gardiner's *Lion Gardiner and his Descendants*, 1890, pages xix, 116. Long after his death his grand-nephew, Robert S. Gardiner (1786-1824), used the copper by covering John's name with paper and inserting his own name in handwriting. Robert was the grandson of Colonel Abraham Gardiner, who was John's executor. He died unmarried and the original copper is now unlocated. Another Gardiner bookplate, with "By the name of Gardiner" on the motto ribbon, was used by John-Lyon Gardiner (1770-1816), seventh proprietor of Gardiner's Island. It was engraved about 1800 and copied closely the John Gardiner plate, but was not engraved by Revere. David Gardiner (1772-1815), brother of John-Lyon Gardiner, also used this plate by writing in his own name.

David Greene. Signed "Revere scp." The mantling is almost identical with the Chandler plate. The abbreviation for "No" in the upper left corner is not on the Greene plate. The motto ribbon is filled in with "Nec timeo nec sperno." There is also an identical impression of this plate, but without the Revere signature. David Greene (1749-1812) was a Boston merchant who frequently bought silver from Revere. His son, David I. Greene (1782-1826), later used the plate by having his middle initial engraved on the copper, crowded in between the first and last names. David Greene's grandson, the Reverend David Greene Haskins (1818-1896), also used the plate by covering the engraved name with paper and inserting his own name in handwriting. One example in the American Antiquarian Society carries the name of Mary C. D. Haskins, the Reverend David's wife, and another has the inscription "David Greene Haskins, Jr., from Father, March 5, 1857."

Andrew Oliver. Unsigned, but unquestionably by Revere, and almost identical in design and mantling with the David Greene plate. Bears the motto "Pax quaeritus bello." Andrew Oliver (1706-1774) was Lieutenant-Governor of

Massachusetts and became unpopular in 1765 for his attempt to enforce the Stamp Act. His name is occasionally entered in Revere's Day Book as a purchaser of silver.

Paul Rivoire. Unsigned, but the same design, almost identical, as the Gardiner Chandler plate. This plate was presumably engraved by Paul's father, Apollos Rivoire. Apollos, born in 1702, arrived in Boston from France in 1716, and was indentured to John Coney, silversmith. Coney died in 1722 and Apollos, with the aid of his French relatives, paid off his indenture indebtedness, and succeeded to the business. Coney in his will calls the boy Paul Rivoire. He soon changed his last name to Revere, but apparently used the name interchangeably in the 1720's. In his marriage record in 1729 it is called Revere, but in the same year Samuel Mather's *Life of Cotton Mather* carries the name in the list of subscribers as Paul Rivoire, and in the birth records of his children the name is spelled Rivoire. In the *Boston News-Letter* of May 21, 1730, he advertises over the name of Paul Revere the removal of his shop. Hence this bookplate was undoubtedly made by the father, either from his own design or by copying the mantling from an English plate. If so, it could well have served as the model for the design which the son Paul Revere used in the Chandler, Gardiner, Greene, Oliver, Sargent, and Thomas plates. The father obtained his heraldry from the arms of the Rivoire family of Dauphiny, from which, however, he was in no way descended. Apollos Revere was born at Riaucaud, near Bordeaux, in 1702. The subject of the Revere ancestry in France is interestingly told by Paul F. Cadman in the 1935 publication of the State Street Trust Company, entitled *Boston and Some Noted Émigrés*. The copy of the plate in the American Antiquarian Society is torn at the bottom, but that in the Massachusetts Historical Society, deposited by William B. Revere in 1921, is perfect. If made in the 1720's, young Paul could not have engraved it, as he was born in 1735. There is no reason to believe that it was engraved in England, and it is not in the Franks collection in the British Museum.

Epes Sargent. Signed "P. Revere Sculp," and almost a replica in design of the Gardiner Chandler plate. In Revere's Day Book, under date of September 27, 1764, there is a charge against Epes Sargent, Jun., "To Engraving your Arms on a Copper Plate 0-12-0" and "To 150 Prints at 4s pr Hund. 0-6-0." The American Antiquarian Society copy of the bookplate came from a volume of Lady

Montague's *Letters*, and on the title-page the signature of "Epes Sargent, jun'r, Aug. 3, 1764." Epes Sargent (1721-1779) was a frequent customer of Revere for silver. He seldom used the "Junior" after his father's death in 1762. The original copper of this plate is still owned by members of the Sargent family.

Isaiah Thomas. His first engraved plate, practically a replica of the Gardiner Chandler plate except for the arms. His first bookplate was an oblong printer's type label, dated Charlestown, South Carolina, July 8, 1769. This second plate, unsigned, but unquestionably engraved by Revere, with the characteristic Revere "No" at the top, does not seem to have been used to any extent. Only the copy in the American Antiquarian Society collection is known. It is the supposition, in fact the tradition, that Thomas did not relish that his plate was an evident facsimile of the plate of Gardiner Chandler, and engaged Revere to make a new one, which is described later.

The second group of bookplates designed by Revere is represented by two examples, one signed, one unsigned. The first is that of William Wetmore, signed "Revere sc." It shows a coat-of-arms, surrounded by a mantling of palm branches and flowers, with a crest above and a motto ribbon below. It presumably copied the design of some English plate. The American Antiquarian Society has two copies of the plate in varying shades of blue. The Reverend Robert G. Wetmore (1774-1803) copied the plate, although his was evidently made by another engraver. He was only a distant cousin of William Wetmore (1749-1830), although he had frequent correspondence with William's branch of the family. Also identical with the Robert G. Wetmore plate is that of Thomas Wetmore (1767-1828), brother of Robert and a Loyalist who removed to Nova Scotia, where he became a prominent lawyer and Attorney-General of the Province of New Brunswick.

Perez Morton. Exactly the same mantling and design as the William Wetmore. In addition, it has the characteristic Revere "No" at the top. In Revere's Day Book, under date of July 12, 1784, is entered "Perez Morton Esqr Dr. To Engraving your Arms on Copper 18[sh]. To Printing 100 Impressions 4-6. [Total] £ 1-2-6." Perez Morton (1750-1837) was a frequent buyer of silver from Revere from 1781 to 1797, invariably with his crest engraved thereon. He

was an ardent patriot, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Attorney-General.

There are two plates not signed by Revere but probably his work. One is his own plate, showing a lion holding the Revere coat-of-arms copied from the Paul Rivoire plate. The motto "Pugna pro Patria" might indicate that the plate was engraved after the beginning of the Revolution. The lettering and the engraving look like Revere's work, but the chief argument in favor of his having made it is that he would be unlikely to call upon another engraver to make his own bookplate. The American Antiquarian Society copy of the plate was removed from Volume I of Hugh Latimer's *Sermons*, London, 1758. The original copper is owned by Edward H. R. Revere, of Canton, although in its present state only the last name "Revere" is on the copper. Restrikes in prints were made about fifty years ago, and twenty-five years later restrikes of fifty prints and proofs were made for Mr. Revere by the John A. Lowell Company of Boston.

The second engraved plate made for Isaiah Thomas was probably engraved by Revere. Why Thomas disliked his earlier Revere plate, almost a replica of the Gardiner Chandler plate, we do not know; but when he acquired a new plate there was no one to whom he would have turned more quickly than his friend, Paul Revere. The plate is distinctly in Revere's style, with the characteristic "No" at the top, the drawing of the mantling, and the lettering, both on the motto ribbon and for the script letter of the name underneath. In the American Antiquarian Society copy of the *Royal Magazine* for 1766, Thomas pasted this plate which he numbered "no. 4" and the year "1798," showing that its use was almost at the end of the century.

Revere has only three bookplates noted in his Day Books, which would mean little as this journal was far from complete and contained only charge accounts. In addition to the Sargent and Morton plates noted above, he has an entry under date of January 15, 1765, charging Captain William Ellery, Jr., 12 shillings for "Engraving a Copper Plate with your Arms," and 4 shillings for one hundred prints. Inquiry among members of the Ellery family has so far not resulted in finding the plate.

The only William Ellery, Jr., who bore the title of "Captain" was born in

Gloucester in 1694 and died there in 1771. William Ellery (1701-1764) of Newport was the son of Benjamin, and the father of William Ellery of Newport, signer of the Declaration, who apparently had been a naval officer and might have been called "Captain." Benjamin Ellery (1699-1746), of Gloucester and later of Newport, owned a bookplate, or it might have been his grandson Benjamin Ellery (1725-1797) of Newport, who was known, according to his obituary, as "a gentleman of culture." The Benjamin Ellery bookplate was engraved probably by Hurd, but surely not by Revere.

Other eighteenth-century bookplates have been occasionally ascribed to Revere, such as the Minot, William Cabot, and William Bell plates, but they are not characteristic of Revere's style and there is no outside proof, documentary or presumptive, to connect them with his work. Of the plates credited above to Revere, the American Antiquarian Society has all the originals and re-impressions.