

The Society's gift to the Corporation of Colchester.

Our Vice-Treasurer, Mr. H. W. Lewer, F.S.A., recently gave to the Society an interesting silver spoon of late Tudor date, and with his kind permission it has been presented to the Corporation of Colchester, as a slight token of appreciation of the kindness and hospitality our Society has always received from the town of its birth. Another spoon, somewhat earlier in date, was given to the Corporation by Mr. Lewer, on behalf of the Society, in July last. A special vote of thanks, under the Corporate Seal, has been received from the Town Council in acknowledgment of the gift; and this document has been placed among the archives of the Society. These additions to Colchester's civic plate are the oldest pieces in the collection, and it seems desirable that a description of them should be placed on record.

(I) A silver, seal-top spoon. The mark is a bird, stamped once on the bowl, and thrice on the back of the stem. The same mark is found on a seal-top spoon in the Holburne Museum, Bath, which is described in Sir Charles Jackson's *English Goldsmiths and their*

Marks (2nd edition, p. 476), as "about 1600." Curiously enough it is already engraved with the initial 'C' in the bowl.

(2) A silver spoon, with parcel-gilt, lion sejant, knop. A mark in the bowl is probably the town-mark, at present unknown; the initials, R.M., of the silversmith who made it, occur on the stem. The name 'Bredalbane' is stamped on the back of the stem, the spoon being formerly the property of the Marquess of Bredalbane, and was purchased at the Bredalbane sale at Christie's, in May, 1920.

Provincial silversmiths frequently stamped their initials twice or even thrice on the backs of the stems of the spoons they made; but they rarely, if ever, added a date-letter, as it was not required of them.

A maiden-head spoon with similar marks on bowl and stem is attributed in Jackson's work (p. 475) to the period 1570-80.

G. MONTAGU BENTON.