

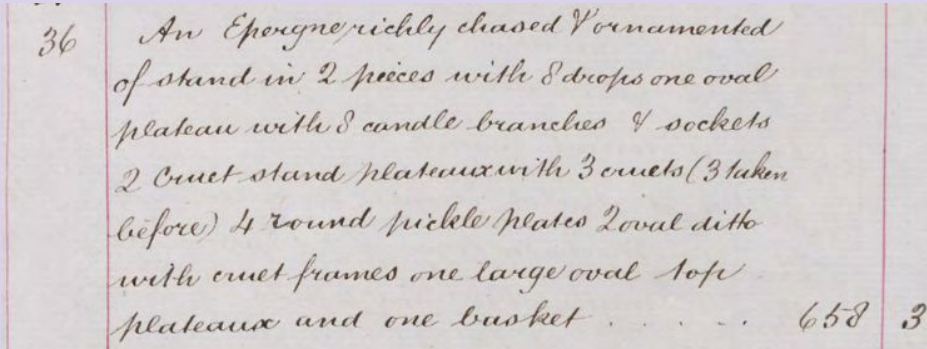
# Dining With Gregory Gregory

This particular epergne was multitiered, standing in two pieces with eight handle branches and several cruets, small containers used for holding salt, pepper, oil, or vinegar at the dining table. The silver piece was richly chased and ornamented, including four round pickle plates and a single basket. Such an elaborate epergne would have been used as the centerpiece for Gregory Gregory’s dining table, most likely used during supper or for dinner parties. The inventory’s description was long and detailed in comparison to other objects on the list.

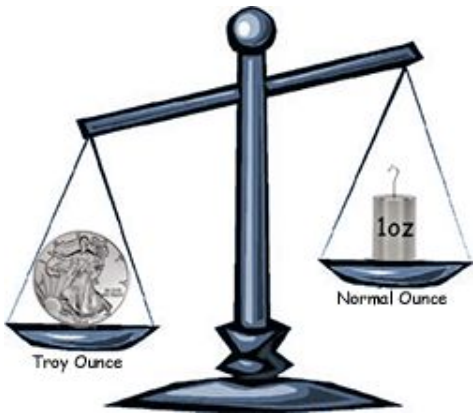


Above: An example of an epergne; an ornamental centerpiece for a dining table, typically used for displaying fruits, sweets, or other dishes in a fanciful manner.

Below: Harlaxton Manor Inventory, 1876



	Troy Weight measurement of (physical bullion, gunpowder)	Avoirdupois Weight measurement of (sugar, groceries, copper)
penny-weight	20 pennyweights = 480 grains 1 pennyweight = 24 grains	penny-weight is NOT generally used in this system of weight measurement
grain	1 grain = 0.0065 grams 15.43 grains = 1 gram 480 grains = 1 troy ounce	437.5 grains = 28.35 grams
gram	31.10 grams = 1 troy ounce 373.24 grams = 1 troy pound	28.349 grams = 1 ounce
ounce	1 troy ounce = 31.10 grams 12 troy ounces = 1 troy pound	1 ounce = 28.349 grams 16 ounces = 1 pound
pound	1 troy kilo = 32.13 troy ounces	kilo = 2.2 pounds kilogram = 1,000 grams
Metric Ton	1,000 kilograms = 32,150.7 troy ounces	1 Metric Ton = 2205 lbs Long Ton = 2,240 lb Short Ton = 2,000 lbs



Silver, highly coveted metal and obviously expensive, was priced by the ounce. Silver is weighed in Troy ounces, which are about 10% heavier than a standard ounce. This system for weight, while seeming unnecessarily complicated, is used for all precious metals. It was maintained as the standard unit of precious metal measurements in order to ensure purity standards would remain constant. With this in mind, this large set of silver was most likely broken up and sold to separate buyers to increase its cost.

Below: A fine pair of George II silver casters attributed to Paul de Lamerie c.1735; they are thought to have been part of the Gregory Gregory epergne set.



Photo: Lot 191, Mellors and Kirk, 2019

It was unable to be traced past the inventory, though there is significant evidence that the set was broken up along the way with no record of the buyers. However, Linda Dawes discovered a set of George II silver casters in an auction under lot 191. While unmarked, these casters are virtually identical to a well documented Paul de Lamerie model, whom the auctioneers claim that the casters are attributed to. Though there is no description of the casters recorded to provide conclusive evidence, the casters could feasibly be from the epergne as stated in Mellors and Kirk’s inventory description.

Right & Below: Silver cruets that may have been similar to those of the epergne.

