

1
Wine goblet, George II, c1750, ogee bowl, double-series air-twist stem, conical foot, 8.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jun 07. HP: £800. ABP: £941.*



2
Pair of heavy cut glass goblets, engraved within a crowned shield Richard Scott 1844, the other Elizabeth Scott 1849, both engraved with Masonic symbols, 5.75in high. *Wallis & Wallis, Lewes. May 02. HP: £750. ABP: £882.*



3
Large glass hunting goblet, with inscription, 19thC, 27.5cm. *Woolley & Wallis, Salisbury. Sep 00. HP: £620. ABP: £729.*



4
Early 19thC armorial goblet with partly diamond cut body, short knopped stem and star cut base, rim engraved with fruiting vines and engraved with a coat of arms (thought to be of the Duke of Stirling) with the initial 'M' in oval cartouche, 8.75in high x 6in dia. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Feb 07. HP: £620. ABP: £729.*



5
Large engraved rummer, 19thC. *Sotheby's, Billingshurst. Oct 99. HP: £450. ABP: £529.*



6
Late Georgian rummer with partly slice cut bowl engraved with a working horse, wheat and barley, and oval cartouche with initialled monogram, squat knopped stem and plain footrim, 6.5in high. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Feb 07. HP: £380. ABP: £446.*



7
Early 19thC Masonic rummer, partly sliced body engraved with Masonic symbols and initialled 'J.A.G.', short bulbous knopped stem and star cut base, 5.75in high. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Aug 03. HP: £360. ABP: £423.*



8
Pair of 19thC engraved glass roemers, decorated with archers within beaded border, lemon juicer base, 5.25in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Oct 08. HP: £320. ABP: £376.*

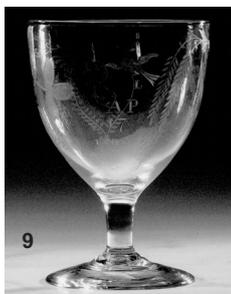
When is a Rummer not a Rummer?

by John Ainsley

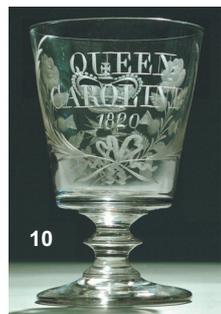
The debate about the origin of the word *rummer* goes on and to my knowledge no author or expert has come up with a solution. Some argue it is the English form of the German word *römer* or the Dutch *roemer*, both meaning a large drinking glass. You can see a Continental example at **21**. In middle Dutch the word *roem* means praise, and *roemen* to praise or toast so the association is clear. On the other hand it has been argued that the word *rummer* derives from the drinking of rum, which became popular in late eighteenth century England. In particular, and in that period a hot toddy of rum, water, spices and sugar did become popular, but so also were negus, a kind of mulled wine, ginger beer, wassail, a kind of cider based drink, punch, cider, lemonade, porter, a kind of dark beer and by 1772, even carbonated drinks had been developed, so why the association only with rum? However, my purpose is not to present some form of lexical analysis of the word but rather to present the story of how the word is used, and abused today.

In the specialist world of Georgian drinking glasses we have no doubts about what we mean when we use the term to describe a drinking glass. Firstly we recognise that it is a form that developed in the late eighteenth century and runs its course through to about the beginning of the Victorian period, and even to perhaps 1850 or so when good, heavy glasses, with pontils were still being produced. The pontil is the rough gather of glass in the centre of the foot where the glass was snapped off the pontil rod. Increasingly after 1800 this was ground out but I have seen rough pontils, certainly on glasses up to about 1850. Hence its life span is about sixty years. However one of the pitfalls in the study of history is to periodise or pigeon hole events so we must realise that their introduction and then their demise would have occurred over years. Interestingly even experts like L. M. Bickerton, who wrote the bible in the field, *Eighteenth Century English Drinking Glasses*, plays loose with the terms rummer or goblet, defined also as a large capacity drinking glass. Both terms clearly mean the same today. However for glasses made before the rummer period we always refer to large capacity drinking glasses with a bowl, stem and foot as goblets. These all have long stems, from the heavy balusters of the early period, through the balustroids, moulded pedestals, plain stems, air twists, incised twists, composites, opaque twists, mixed and colour twists and finally the faceted stems. All of these glass types are characterised by long stems, the showpiece, the art, the ingenuity of the glass. Only when the century had exhausted every type of stem formation does the stem itself become rudimentary and the goblet in today's terminology develops a new name, the rummer. In the early nineteenth century there is some further stem development, but only in terms of knops. The stem remains rudimentary, an essential feature of the rummer. Only after the beginnings of the Victorian period does the tall stem re-emerge.

Hence at **1** we have a Georgian goblet and it is so described. However at **13** the goblet, is misdescribed as a rummer and sold too cheaply. The terms rummer and goblet, during the period I have defined, are interchangeable but come with their own marketing connotations. The rare and quite grand glasses at **3** and **4** have been rightly called goblets. They are far too good to be tainted by the common or garden term *rummer*. However at **8** the auction seems to be seeking some marketing mileage by calling this pair of glasses *roemers*, when they are as English as can be. Alternatively I think that at **16** the superb glass goblet would have benefitted, at 21 centimetres by being so called, because it was worth more and could command four figures today. At **24** the nine glasses, called rummers by the auction, averaged less than £12 each whereas the average for genuine Georgian period rummers would be about £50. Most are later and the auction would have done better to have sorted out the wheat from the chaff. Similarly the five glasses at **31** fetched a poor price because there are only a couple of period glasses in the lot. Now to **32**, four so-called rummers which fetched what they were worth at auction, about £12 each. These 'rummers' are no more than late Victorian pub glasses. They have straight-sided bowls and look like a tumbler stuck on a stem and a foot. Although such forms were made in the Georgian period, of lead crystal and with pontil marks these later glasses are usually made of an inferior soda metal. Forget the pontil mark. The manufacturing aid was called a *gadget*, which by then had replaced the pontil rod by grasping the foot in a clamp thus allowing the glassmaker to work and shape the bowl after removing the glass from the blowing iron. Often this tool leaves two scars, at right angles to each other near the centre of the base, almost in the shape of a 'T'. Additionally clamp marks may be detected near the foot rim. These may be called rummers or goblets in terms of their capacity, being about half a pint, but they are far more common than true



9
Large engraved rummer, dated 1808. *Sotheby's, Billingshurst. Oct 99. HP: £300. ABP: £352.*



10
Early 19thC commemorative glass rummer, tapered bowl engraved and dated 1820, short knopped stem and plain footrim, 5.75in high. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Aug 02. HP: £270. ABP: £317.*



11
Set of five Regency rummers, semi fluted tapering bowls, vine engraved borders, knopped stem, 14.5cm high. (5) *Rosebery's, London. Dec 03. HP: £260. ABP: £305.*



12
Sunderland Bridge rummer, c1800, engraved with a ship sailing under the bridge, inscribed 'Sunderland Bridge over the Wear', back with initials JSW under a basket of flowers, between hops and barley, 16.5cm. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 05. HP: £260. ABP: £305.*



13
18thC opaque glass twist rummer, with double twist conical foot and engraved decoration, 7.25in. *Gorringes, Lewes. May 10. HP: £220. ABP: £258.*



14
Pair of Regency rummers, c1810, bowls engraved and initialled cartouche, lemon squeezer base. *Rosebery's, London. Sep 03. HP: £200. ABP: £235.*



15
Four mid 19thC cut glass urn-shaped rummers with diamond bands on square plinth bases, 14.5cm high. *Dreweatt Neate, Donnington. Nov 02. HP: £200. ABP: £235.*



16
19thC large glass rummer, engraved with a hunting scene of hounds and a huntsman jumping a fence, 21cm. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 05. HP: £200. ABP: £235.*



17
Pair of early 19thC bucket rummers engraved, plain stems with domed circular bases, 5.5in high. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. May 02. HP: £190. ABP: £223.*



18
Early 19thC engraved glass rummer, cut with a ship in full sail beneath a bridge, the reverse with initials ECH within wheat sheaf and a fruit casket, 6in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Dec 08. HP: £190. ABP: £223.*



19
Early 19thC Masonic cut glass rummer, decorated with Masonic symbols and initialled WNW, 5.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Dec 09. HP: £160. ABP: £188.*



20
Four glass rummers, c1840, tallest 14cm. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 05. HP: £130. ABP: £152.*



21
Early 18thC North German or Dutch glass roemer, with fronted stem, c1700, 10in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jul 08. HP: £130. ABP: £152.*



22
19thC Masonic glass rummer decorated with six Masonic symbols. *Denhams, Warnham. May 04. HP: £110. ABP: £129.*



23
Pair of late Georgian rummer glasses, 5.5in high. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. May 10. HP: £110. ABP: £129.*



24
Nine glass rummers, tallest 13.5cm. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 05. HP: £90. ABP: £105.*



25
Large bucket rummer engraved with fruiting vine and an arched bridge with sailing ship under and inscribed 'SPAN 236ft, height 100ft', 8in high. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. Apr 05. HP: £80. ABP: £94.*



26
Late 18thC rummer, the bowl engraved with monogram J A M, on knop stem and lemon squeezer foot, 5in high. (2) *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Jul 08. HP: £80. ABP: £94.*



27
Rummer glass engraved with shield and farming implements, entitled 'Speed the Plough', 6in high. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. Jan 03. HP: £75. ABP: £88.*



28
Early 19thC rummer, ovoid bowl part thumb cut, stepped faceted knop stem and lemon squeezer foot, 5in high, two others on plain stem, circular foot, 5.25in. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Apr 10. HP: £75. ABP: £88.*



29
Engraved rummer, ogee bowl with a swag band, capstan stem and circular foot, 13cm high, early 19thC. *Dreweatt Neate, Donnington. Nov 02. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



30
Three 19thC glass rummers, etched decoration. *Wellers Auctioneers, Chertsey. Jun 09. HP: £55. ABP: £64.*



31
Five 19thC glass rummers, 15cm high. *Wellers, Chertsey. Jun 09. HP: £50. ABP: £58.*



32
Four 19thC rummer's. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 07. HP: £40. ABP: £47.*