

## Hand-Forged Silver Cutlery

For the last 60 years the company of C.W.Fletcher in Sheffield have supplied 85% of all the cutlery it produced to James Robinson of 480 Park Avenue in New York. Michael Rosewarne, the current managing director, who joined the company in 1957 explained, ' James Robinson sell to the rich and the super-rich. We manufacture cutlery for the most discerning customers in the world.'



The company can trace its origins back to 1550, to a silversmith named Nicholas Bartholomew. The firm's pedigree includes a number of well known eighteenth century craftsmen who made many of the same patterns being produced today. It was Mr.C.W.Fletcher, an exceedingly talented Silversmith and Silver Hand Forger who founded the present company in 1880 for the production of silver

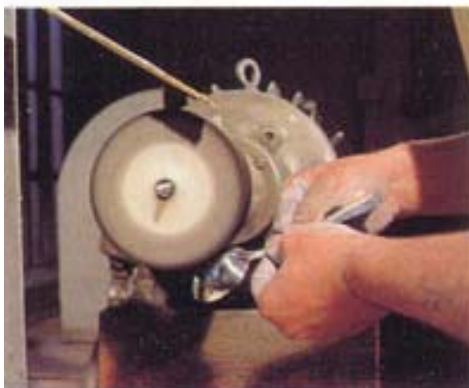
spoons and forks in exactly the same manner as that employed for hundreds of years. The company is one of the few surviving manufacturers of

hand forged sterling silver flatware in the country. Every piece, without exception, is forged entirely by hand from raw silver ingot. The modern method of using blanks which are rolled and cut out by machinery is never used at Fletcher Robinson,



the reason being that it is impossible when using machine rolled blanks to put the silver exactly where it is needed.

A hand-forged silver spoon will be fully three dimensional, beautifully shaped and comfortable to hold. The metal of the bowl will vary subtly becoming thicker at the point and edge, where the spoon attracts the most wear. No machine can achieve this variation; it can only be done by a craftsman deeply versed in traditional skills.



Fletcher Robinson also supply antique dealers around the world with matching services of cutlery from their huge catalogue of patterns. Recently a customer commissioned a huge silver spoon in Britannia silver which started from a bar weighing 49 troy ounces. The piece took 21 hours to forge

finally standing 29 inches long. David Baggaley, the maker commented, ' It normally takes 15 minutes to forge a standard spoon, but a spoon of this size was extremely awkward.'

Long live British craftsmanship!

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