

Tongs Hallmarks – London
All pictures of hallmarks shown are from actual pairs of sugar tongs

From 29th May 1800 to 28th May 1810

1800/01

The date letter for 1800/01 was a capital “E”. Notice with this first group of hallmarks that there is a slight flaw to the bottom right of the duty mark.



The remainder of these marks all appear to be in good condition.



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1801/02

The date letter for 1801/02 was a capital “F”. Notice that there are a number of marks where the bottom right hand side of the duty mark is damaged in a similar way.



The remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.



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1802/03

The date letter for 1802/03 was a capital “G”. Notice that the flaw to the bottom right hand side of the lion has returned.



The remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.



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1803/04

The date letter for 1803/04 was a capital “H”. Notice that the flaw to the bottom left side of the duty mark has returned.



The remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.



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1804/05

The date letter for 1804/05 was a capital “I”. Notice that the familiar flaw to the bottom right of the lion has returned.



There is also a new flaw with the lion, a thin line joining the base of the lion's tail to the right hand side of the punch.



The remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.



On 11th October 1804 duty was again increased (from 1s to 1s 3d per ounce) and this time it was indicated with a single clip to the bottom of the duty mark. Curiously none of these hallmarks appear to have any of the flaws identified with previous marks.



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1805/06

The date letter for 1805/06 was a capital “K” (the capital “J” was omitted from the series). Notice that there appear to be no particular flaws with any of these hallmarks (other than those that can be attributed to general wear and tear of the sugar tongs).



1806/07

The date letter for 1806/07 was a capital “L”. There are a very few marks where the bottom left of the duty mark appears slightly damaged but the remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.



These marks all appear to be in good condition.



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1807/08

The date letter for 1807/08 was a capital “M”.



1808/09

The date letter for 1808/09 was a capital “N”. The flaw to the bottom right hand side of the lion has returned.



The remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.



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1809/10

The date letter for 1809/10 was a capital “O”. The shape of the date letter has now reverted to the rounded base, rather than the ogee. We can see some very slight damage to the top left corner of the lion. This has not been seen before.



The remainder of the marks appear to be in good condition.

