

**J. FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGNS**

*Handcrafted signs
in the style of
18th & 19th
century artisans.*

THE MAGPIE AND PEWTER PLATTER

In 1817, John Giles (Martha Hern, wife) was the proprietor of *The Magpie and Pewter Platter*, at 107 Wood Street, London, located in the historic center and primary financial district.

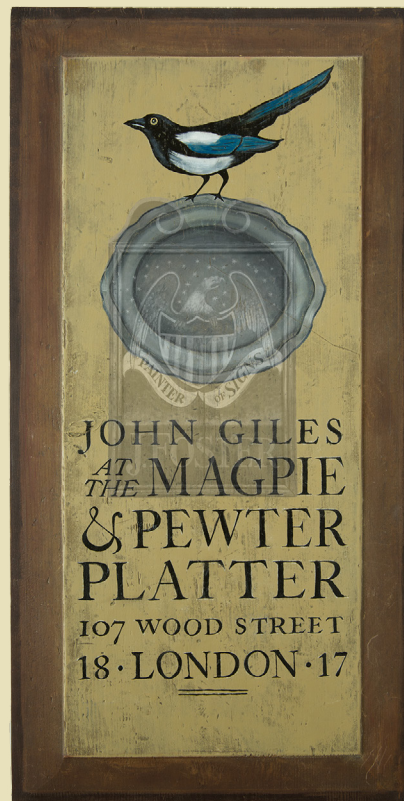
Often London shop signs contained indiscriminate combinations of names, such as the *Bull & Bedpost*, *Three Nuns and Hare*, or the *Wheatsheaf & Speaking Trumpet*. The best explanation was a tradesman may have taken over a trade different from his own, and being a well known sign and wanting to preserve it, he simply added an image more appropriate to his own calling.

The Magpie was often chosen as a name for inns because it was considered a bird of “good omen”. The original sign apparently showed the magpie pecking at the pewter plate. The original name of the magpie was pie, (Latin pica, French pie) and only subsequently for its knowing antics, did it receive the nickname of maggoty + pie, which gradually was abbreviated into Magpie. The full form of the epithet is preserved in the nursery rhyme:

Round about, round about, Maggoty Pie

My father loves good ale, and so do I.

Other “magpie” inns were *The Maggoty Pie*, in the Strand (a major thoroughfare in the City of Westminster, Central London) during the reign of James I; *The Magpie and Stump*, representing a magpie sitting on the stump of a tree, and was the sign of one of the Whig pothouses in the Old Bailey during the riots of 1715; and *The Magpie and Crown*, cited by the author of “Tavern Anecdotes”, 1825.



This sign was painted on a reclaimed panel board using water-soluble oils. The reverse side treated with sealing oils. The size is 11" wide by 24" high. Please message for pricing.

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