



**J. FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGNS**

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

THE PUNCHBOWL AND LADLE

The History of Signboards, published in London in 1866, records: “The Punchbowl was introduced on the signboard at the end of the seventeenth century, when punch became the fashionable drink; in one instance, at Penalney Kea, near Truro, we have the *Punchbowl and Ladle*, but most generally it is found in combination with other heterogeneous objects. The reason of this is that punch, like music, had a sort of political prestige, and was the Whig drink, whilst the Tories adhered to sack, claret, and canary, connected in their memory with bygone things and times. Hence it followed that the punchbowl was added as a kind of party-badge to many of the Whig tavern signs, and hence such combinations as: *The Magpie and Punchbowl*, Bishopsgate Within; *The Red Lion and Punchbowl*, St John’s Street, Clerkenwell; *The Union Flag and Punchbowl*, High Street, Wapping; *The Dog and Punchbowl*, Lymm, Warrington, Cheshire; *The Parrot and Punchbowl*, Aldringham, Suffolk; *The Fox and Punchbowl*, Old Windsor.”

The popular English drinking song, “Fathom the Bowl” spoke of a ladle and punchbowl: *Come all ye bold fellows that have to this place come, And we’ll sing in the praise of good brandy & rum, Let’s lift up our glasses, good cheer is our goal, Bring in the punch ladle, we’ll fathom the bowl.*

In Colonial America, “Punch” was made by using a mixture of expensive imported ingredients. The alcohol content consisted of gin, rum, or brandy, to which sugar, citrus fruit, spices—usually grated nutmeg—and water were added.

During the early eighteenth century, there was widespread alarm about the dangers of alcoholism due to the availability of cheap, home-distilled gin, and excessive punch drinking associated with unsociable and even criminal behavior.



This sign was painted on a reclaimed panel board with water-soluble oils. The reverse side treated with sealing oils. The size is 10" wide by 29" high. Please message for pricing.

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