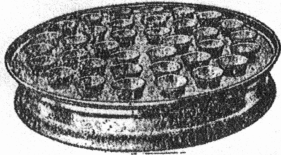


THE ORIGIN OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUPS

JOHN G. THOMAS INVENTED AND PATENTED THEM IN 1894

THOMAS COMMUNION SERVICE

THOMAS IDEAL NON-COLLECTING TRAY



1 1/2 in. Dia.
Interlocking
Dust Proof
Can be stacked
eight high on
one base

WAXED PAPER CUPS

Waxed paper cups 1 1/4 inches tall are offered at the prices shown below. They are sold only in lots of 500 and its multiples. They can not be used in our wooden communion trays.

Less than 3000 paper cups	-----	\$.45 per 100
3,000 to 5,000 paper cups	-----	4.25 per 1000
5,000 to 10,000 paper cups	-----	4.00 per 1000
10,000 and over paper cups	-----	3.75 per 1000

"UNTIL NEAR THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY the chalice, or cup, was used in the distribution of the wine at the Lord's Supper. At that time more attention began to be paid to hygiene, and the use of A COMMON CUP began to be unpopular with communicants. REV. J. G. THOMAS, who was both a minister and a physician, WAS THE ORIGINATOR OF THE IDEA OF INDIVIDUAL CUPS. From his medical practice he learned the uncleanness and danger of the common cup and felt that the LORD'S SUPPER COULD BE MADE MORE ATTRACTIVE AND BEAUTIFUL BY THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL CUPS. HIS FIRST PATENT WAS GRANTED IN MARCH, 1894. THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL CUP SERVICE was held in a little Putnam county church IN OHIO. Later, upon moving to Lima, Ohio, Mr. Thomas invented a tray to hold the brass cups and also a filler. The IDEA IMMEDIATELY BECAME POPULAR and his facilities

"A good many of the fights that I have made have been with my own brethren on points where I believed them to be in the wrong. I think I WAS THE FIRST PREACHER TO ADVOCATE THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUP and the first church in the State of Tennessee that adopted it was the church for which I was preaching, the Central Church of Christ at Chattanooga, Tennessee, then meeting in the Masonic Temple. My next work was with the church at Columbia, Tennessee, and, AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE, I GOT THE INDIVI-

USED BY THOUSANDS OF CHURCHES IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

THOMAS COMMUNION SERVICE CO.
ORIGINAL OF THE
THOMAS INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION SERVICE
BREAD AND COLLECTION PLATES BAPTISMAL BOWLS ETC.

LIMA, OHIO, U.S.A.

April 22, 1950

E. L. Miller,
Dr. A. R. McMullen
809 Butternut
Abilene, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 17, 1950 has been received and we are pleased to inform you that the writers grandfather, John G. Thomas, who was both a physician and a minister invented the first individual communion outfits. The first patents were issued to him in 1894. The Market Street Presbyterian Church, of Lima, Ohio is believe to be the first church to use individual communion cups in a communion service. This also occurred in 1894. What is believed to be the original individual communion service used by this church is on display in the Allen County Historical Museum in Lima, Ohio.

Under separate cover we are making shipment today of an old style pewter common cup. You may have it with our compliments.

Very truly yours,
THOMAS COMMUNION SERVICE CO

were taxed to the utmost. IN THE INTERIOR, March 1895, there is a picture of the original set." MANY CHURCHES STILL USE THE COMMON CUP, BUT IN INCREASING NUMBERS THEY ARE SUBSTITUTING THE INDIVIDUAL

CUP." (THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, by Thomas H. Wagner, Pages 237-238, in CHURCH MANAGEMENT, February 1938.)

G. C. BREWER BROUGHT THEM INTO THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

DUAL COMMUNION SERVICE INTO THAT CONGREGATION. About this time, Brother G. Dallas Smith began to advocate the individual communion service and he introduced it at Fayetteville, Tennessee; then later at Murfreesboro. Of course, I was fought both privately and publicly and several brethren took me to task in the religious papers and CALLED ME DIGRESSIVE. Brother Smith came to my rescue and, IN THE YEAR 1915, Brother David Lipscomb wrote a short paragraph in the Gospel Advocate saying he had CHANGED HIS VIEW IN REFER-

ENCE TO THE COMMUNION CUP and that he did not believe it was any digression or in any way a corruption of the service to use as many cups as might be demanded by the occasion. THIS BROUGHT THAT CONTROVERSY TO AN END AND, FROM THEN ON, THE CHURCHES BEGAN USING THE INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUP EVERYWHERE." (FORTY YEARS ON THE FIRING LINE by G. C. Brewer, Pages 12-13 of Introduction, Copyright 1948, Old Paths Book Club.)

DAVID LIPSCOMB PRIOR TO 1915

"The Savior USED ONE CUP ONLY, as well as ONE LOAF ONLY." (QUESTIONS ANSWERED, Page 409, Gospel Advocate Co.)

A. CAMPBELL AND RESTORERS DID NOT USE THEM

"I have been a member of the church for forty-three years, and it has been my good fortune to be acquainted with several of our most learned and influential ministers—Alexander Campbell among them—

and it seems strange to me that THEY DID NOT FIND A NECESSITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CUPS." (J. W. McGarvey, in THE CHRISTIAN STANDARD near the turn of the century.)

Additional copies may be ordered from J. Ervin Waters, Route one, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. 25 cents per ten copies; \$2.00 per hundred.