



## VICTORY FOR HALLMARKING

The threatened Directive on hallmarking, which could have put an end to a UK tradition stretching back more than 700 years, has been put on hold by the EU Competitiveness Council.



*Above:*  
A sterling silver bowl made in 2003, by Katey Felton is the latest addition to the Assay Office collection

This piece is now on permanent show at the Assay Office and Ashley is determined to keep it there. He commented, "It is an integral part of our own and Sheffield's history. After more than 230 years, the cup has returned to its rightful home."

If the legislation proposed under the Italian presidency had been passed, precious metal goods could have been sold in the UK without any independent testing, or any impartial guarantee of quality and the future of Sheffield's Assay Office would have been uncertain. Thanks to vigorous campaigning, the threat has now receded and the Office can concentrate on maintaining and improving its services to customers at home and abroad.

By way of contrast, the latest addition to the Assay Office collection is a sterling silver bowl made in 2003, by Katey Felton who is currently working from Studio 20 at Persistence Works, Sheffield and is sponsored by the Sheffield Assay Office as part of its guiding principle to encourage new designers and nurture their talent.

The Sheffield Assay Master Ashley Carson has also another reason to celebrate, the acquisition of the first sterling silver item ever marked at the Sheffield Assay Office. This silver cup and cover, made by Henry Tudor and Thomas Leader, was marked on the very first day the Office opened, September 20th 1773. It has been on display in Sheffield before, at the Assay Office and the Millennium Galleries, but only on temporary loan.



*Right:* The silver cup and cover, which was hallmarked on the first day the Sheffield Assay Office opened, in 1773