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## **Portsmouth Museums and Records Service**

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PORTSMOUTH CITY RECORDS OFFICE

348A

WILL BROWN  
DRAPER

c1900-1971

INTRODUCTION

This collection is comprised of the business and family papers of Will Brown, a Portsmouth draper. He opened his first shop in Twyford Avenue, c1913-14, and in 1930 opened new premises in London Road. The Twyford Avenue shop was closed in 1934 but the London Road premises expanded throughout the 1950's until their closure in the late 1960's

- 1 Views of London Road, North End  
[4 items, also copies and negatives]  
c1900-c1950  
(348A/1/1/1-4)
- 2 Topping out the new building [5 items,  
also copies and negatives], 1951  
(348A/1/2/1-5);  
  
Shop interiors and window displays  
at London Road and Twyford Avenue  
premises [45 items], c1930-1962  
(348A/1/2/6-51);  
  
Glass negatives of shop interiors  
and window displays [6 items]  
(348A/1/2/52-57);  
  
Exterior of London Road and Twyford  
Avenue shops [11 items], c1933-1957  
(348A/1/2/58-68);  
  
Staff outings to I.O.W. [3 items],  
1920's  
(348A/1/2/69-71);  
  
Delivery van [3 items], 1929-1963  
(348A/1/2/72-74);  
  
Staff outings (?) [7 items], 1920's  
(348A/1/2/75-81);  
  
Staff [3 items], c1950  
(348A/1/2/82-84);  
  
Staff dance [8 items], 1957  
(348A/1/2/85-93);  
  
Horace Brown in shop [1 item], 1961  
(348A/1/2/94);  
  
Shop exteriors, 1930's, and family  
photographs, including Horace Brown  
wearing chain of office as president  
of the Drapers' Association [10 items]  
19th - 20th cent  
(348A/1/2/95-104);
- 3 Individual family photographs [32 items]  
and albums of family photographs [4 items]  
19th - 20th cent  
(348A/1/3/1-36)

('Cash Book' on spine) summary  
receipts and payments

- 1 21 February 1914 - 23 October 1919
- 2 28 February 1947 - 15 February 1952
- 3 20 February 1952 - 17 May 1957

348A/2/2	<u>Invoice Ledger</u>	<u>1913-1919</u>
	20 March 1913 - 16 December 1919	
348A/2/3	<u>Monthly Sales and Purchases</u> <u>(Summary) Book</u>	<u>1930-1943</u>
	1 1930 - 1943	
	2 Key to list of departments	
348A/2/4	<u>Purchase Analysis Books</u> (see also above key)	<u>1937-1959</u>
	1. 20 March 1937 - 20 October 1937	
	2 20 November 1937 - 20 June 1938	
	3 20 July 1938 - 20 March 1939	
	4 20 December 1946 - 20 November 1947	
	5 20 December 1953 - 20 October 1955	
	6 20 October 1955 - 20 July 1957	
	7 20 July 1957 - 20 March 1959	
348A/2/5	<u>Sales Analysis Books</u> (see also key in 348A/2/3/2) Daily sales in each department	<u>1930-1961</u>
	1 September 1930 - November 1933	
	2 February 1931 - May 1933	
	3 December 1933 - March 1937	
	4 April 1937 - March 1941	
	5 April 1941 - February 1949	
	6 February 1949 - August 1953	
	7 September 1953 - June 1957	
	8 July 1957 - February 1961	
348A/2/6	<u>Daily Takings Books (Twyford Avenue)</u>	<u>1912-1934</u>
	1 2 March 1912 - 13 October 1928	
	2 15 October 1928 - 12 May 1934	

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Analysis Book

1938-1943

contains:

- a) Analysis of types of stockings sold, February-December 1938
- b) Daily takings by each member of staff, March 1942 - May 1943
- c) Analysis of types of macs, gloves and haberdashery sold, 1938

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Invoice Books  
(refers to all stock)

1940-1942

- 1 January - December 1940
- 2 January - December 1941
- 3 January - December 1942

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Wages Books

1919-1965

Twyford Avenue:

- 1 1 March 1919 - 28 October 1922
- 2 4 November 1922 - 14 January 1928
- 3 21 January 1928 - 12 May 1934

London Road:

- 4 19 July 1930 - 12 May 1934  
(this book can be used for key to money code)
- 5 24 February 1934 - 1 May 1937
- 6 8 May 1937 - 25 June 1942
- 7 2 July 1942 - 30 March 1944
- 8 26 July 1945 - 12 February 1948
- 9 26 February 1948 - 8 January 1965

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Thrift Club

1951-1969

Note by Horace Brown:

Will Brown Thrift Club Begun when a Mrs Abrahams entrusted some gold sovereigns to Mrs W.M.Brown, to keep them from an idle son. Customers would

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Thrift Club [continued]

set aside sums (often from pensions) regularly, to be kept by Mr Brown until particular articles could be purchased.

- 1 February 1951 - November 1959
- 2 February 1958 - January 1969

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BUSINESS PAPERS

1925-1971

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Out-Letter Books

1950-1968

- 1 General business matters,  
17 June 1950 - 23 November 1950
- 2 General business matters,  
24 November 1950 - 3 May 1951
- 3 Letters re National Retail  
Distribution Certificate and  
giving of talks, 20 January 1953 -  
17 December 1958
- 4 General business matters,  
21 December 1961 - 23 October 1962
- 5 General business matters,  
23 October 1962 - 10 August 1963
- 6 General business matters,  
17 August 1963 - 21 March 1964
- 7 General business matters,  
24 March 1964 - 11 February 1965
- 8 General business matters,  
17 February 1965 - 12 October 1965
- 9 General business matters,  
16 October 1965 - 24 August 1966
- 10 General business matters,  
26 August 1966 - 4 July 1967
- 11 General business matters,  
4 July 1967 - 30 August 1968

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In-Letter Files

1954-1964

- 1 re Household textiles (includes  
leaflet with photos of 2 shops in  
1933), November 1956 - January 1957
- 2 re Linen, February 1954 - April 1964

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Special Order Books - re curtains  
& loose covers:1933-1968

- 1 8 April 1933 - 20 September 1933
- 2 2 July 1935 - 4 February 1936
- 3 3 November 1952 - 1 May 1954
- 4 4 May 1954 - 24 June 1955
- 5 25 June 1955 - 16 June 1956
- 6 16 June 1956 - 3 June 1957
- 7 3 June 1957 - 7 July 1958
- 8 7 July 1958 - 14 August 1959
- 9 15 August 1959 - 5 August 1960
- 10 16 August 1960 - 22 August 1961
- 11 23 August 1961 - 1 December 1962
- 12 1 December 1962 - 20 January 1964
- 13 20 January 1964 - 16 February 1965
- 14 27 February 1965 - 29 March 1966
- 15 Carpet Estimate Book:  
11 December 1965 - 11 January 1968

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Catalogues and Advertising1925-1967

- 1 Fashions & Fabrics Directory of  
Textile Trade Marks & Trade Names 1947
- 2 Branded Textile Merchandise & Trade  
Marks Directory 1965
- 3A A.R.P. materials - brochures [7 items] 1939-40
- 3B Clothing Catalogues [14 items] 1936-65
- 4 Bunting & flags catalogues [4 items] c1937
- 5 Book: *Draping for Window Display &  
Figure Draping* by D.E. Lewis c1925
- 6 Catalogue of Household Textiles &  
Soft Furnishings 1960
- 7 Folder of brochures of plastic  
material for floor & wall coverings  
[19 items] 1939-66
- 8 Catalogue for pouffes [3 items] 1966-67

348A/3/4	<u>Catalogues &amp; Advertising [continued]</u>	
9	Catalogue for prams	1936
10	Catalogue for lawn mowers	1965
11	Catalogues for shop fittings [15 items]	1936-68
12	Folder of Will Brown bill heads, trade cards adverts & Golden Jubilee Pencil	1930s-60s
13	Bundle of Will Brown packaging material	1930s-60s
14	Catalogues re commercial delivery vehicles [15 items]	1955-63
348A/3/5	<u>Shop Building</u>	<u>1933-1966</u>
1	Folder of shop plans including 'Means of Escape in Case of Fire' [14 items]	1950-66
2	Folder of specifications and estimates for shop [9 items]	1933-60
3	Glass insurance schedules [2 items]	1947-8
348A/3/6	<u>Staff &amp; Statutory Rules &amp; Orders</u>	<u>1937-1968</u>
1	Apprentice indentures [5 items]	1955-62
2	Acts & official posters re hours & wages of shop workers [9 items]	1937-68
3	Statutory wages sheets/posters for dressmaking trade [10 items]	1953-68
4	Statutory Rules & Orders: Goods & Services (Price Control for Utility Cloth Household items & carpets) [64 items]	1946-52
348A/3/7	<u>Miscellaneous Business &amp; Trade Associations</u>	<u>1940-1971</u>
1	Menus of Annual Dinner & Dance of W.H.Brown Ltd [7 items]	1950-59
2	Menu card of Annual Dinner & Dance of United Commercial Travellers Assoc - (Brown speaking) - [4 items]	1954
3	Papers re Early Closing Association [13 items]	1940-60

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Miscellaneous Businesss & Trade  
Associations [continued]

- |    |  |              |
|----|--|--------------|
| 4  | Papers re North End Businessmen's Association [7 items]  | 1940-65      |
| 5  | Leaflet on Drapers' Chamber of Trade   | 1949         |
| 6  | Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce<br>- List of Members  | 1963         |
| 7  | Journal of Port of Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce [51+34 issues]<br>- from January 1962 called <i>Trade Winds</i> , April 1955, November 1956, July 1957, September 1957 - June 1959, August 1959 - March 1961, May 1961, July-August 1961, October-December 1961, January-February 1962, April 1962, August-October 1962, February-May 1963, July 1963, September 1963-August 1964, October 1964-January 1965, March 1965, August 1965, October-November 1965, May-June 1966, January 1967-April 1968, June 1968-April 1969, July 1969-August 1969, December 1969, February-April 1970, June 1970, October 1970-January 1971, September-November 1971 | 1955-1971    |
| 8  | Menu of Banquet of Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce  | 1953         |
| 9  | Guide Books to Portsmouth Trade Fairs [3 items]  | 1950-51      |
| 10 | Booklet: <i>City Affairs - Local Government News - Magazine of City of Portsmouth</i>  | 1949         |
| 11 | Brochure, illustrated on Brickwoods Ltd, Portsmouth Brewery  | 1962         |
| 12 | Booklet: <i>House of Wadham Went to War</i>  | c1945        |
| 13 | The Efficiency Magazine  | October 1940 |
| 14 | Booklet: <i>Pilferage</i>  | 1949         |
| 15 | Leaflets on Decimalisation [2 items]   | 1968-71      |

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

1938-1942

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Correspondence to obtain petrol coupons [16 items] | 1940-42 |
| 2 | <u>ARP</u>   |         |
|   | 1 Handbooks, Nos 1-4, 8                            | c1940   |

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS [continued]

- 2 ARP [continued]
- 2 Manuals and leaflets [8 items] c1937-40
- 3 First Aid Certificates and ARP  
Warden papers [8 items] 1938-40
- 4 ARP leaflets on protection of the  
home and construction of shelters  
[9 items] c1940
- 3 Domestic Poultry Keepers' Council -  
leaflets on keeping poultry in wartime  
[5 items] 1940s
- 4 Dig for Victory leaflets [8 items] 1940s
- 5 Leaflets on Government Evacuation Scheme  
[4 items] 1939
- 6 War Emergency Public Information  
Leaflets [6 items] 1939

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PERSONAL1914-1966

- 1 School text and exercise books of  
Horace Brown [1 box] c1915
- 2 Diary of W.J.M.Brown 1931
- 3 Election leaflet and congratulatory  
letters to W.J.M.Brown as councillor  
for Horndean Parish on RDC [4 items] 1932
- 4 Justice of the Peace Papers of  
H.W.M.Brown:
- 1 Justices' Handbook [2 items] 1965-66
- 2 Probation Committee and Case  
Committee papers [3 items] June 1960  
ACCESS TO BE RESTRICTED
- 3 List of Licensed Houses in Portsmouth 1957
- 5 Cash book of money collected for Lord  
Mayor Treloar College, Alton by H.Brown  
with printed Annual Report of College  
[2 items] 1921-4
- 6 Highway Code [4 items] 1931-c1940

PERSONAL [continued]

- |    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
| 7  | Automobile Association:  |                  |
|    | 1 Maps of roads in England covered by<br>AA patrols [2 items]  | 1925-6           |
|    | 2 AA Handbooks [3 books]   | 1933, 1939, 1949 |
|    | 3 AA Road Book   | 1925             |
|    | 4 AA Industrial Motor Vehicle Law  | 1932             |
| 8  | Royal Automobile Club Handbook   | 1939             |
| 9  | Bacon's Cycling Road Map of England<br>with brief diary of holiday in SW<br>England  | c1920s           |
| 10 | Geographia map of Hants and W Sussex<br>Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1 mile   | c1930            |
| 11 | Street maps of Portsmouth [7 items]  | c1920-50s        |
| 12 | Bus and train timetables - mainly<br>Portsmouth area   | 1920s-50s        |
| 13 | Leaflet of specifications for properties<br>by F.E. Vernon, architect  | nd c 1930        |
| 14 | Holbrook's Drill Diagrams for Section,<br>Platoon and Company Drill  | 1914             |
| 15 | Souvenir Booklet for Britain's<br>Memorial to F.D.Roosevelt  | c1946            |
| 16 | Annual Reports of City of Portsmouth<br>Boy Scouts Association [2 items]   | 1962-3           |
| 17 | Leaflets on North End; Selborne;<br>Liphook Horticultural Society Annual<br>Exhibition; Library for Portsmouth<br>Grammar School; Mayville Hotel, Southsea | 1920s-30s        |
| 18 | Portrait of Rose Norton; Xmas card from<br>World War I; birthday card  | c1916            |