

NATIONAL MUSEUMS **LIVERPOOL**

**ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT
BUSINESS ARCHIVES**

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF WILLIAM THORNTON & SONS LTD.,
STONEMASONS, BUILDING & CIVIL
ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS**

**Reference Code: B/THO
Acc. No.: MMM.2003.262.1-5**

**Listed by
Sarah Starkey, Curator of Maritime Archives
24 February 2004**

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Introduction

William Thornton was born in 1814, the son of a stonemason and in 1840 established his own business. When his sons, Richard and James, joined the firm it was named William Thornton & Sons, Stonemasons. William died in 1878 and the firm continued to expand as a general contacting organisation. The partnership was converted into a limited company in 1916. The firm was based at 38 Wellington Road, Dingle. In 1936 (or 1932 according to the collection donor) a new masonry works was opened at the corner of Wellington Road and Grafton Street, by the Herculaneum Dock. The stonemasonry business ceased in 1961 and the firm closed in 1969.

The collection contains photographs of the yard, workforce and commissions of William Thornton & Sons, Stonemasons. Two of the photograph albums included in the collection contain photographs taken by Stewart Bale. National Museums Liverpool holds the archives of Stewart Bale Ltd.

The collection is held at the North Street Store of the Maritime Archives & Library and is only accessible by prior appointment. It was donated to National Museums Liverpool by Arthur Worrall. Mr. Worrall started work for William Thornton as an apprentice on 14 April 1932, he was later a stonemason and foreman.

The collection may not be copied without the permission of National Museums Liverpool.

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Contents

1	Printed Album of Photographs	n.d., c.1950s(?)
2	Photograph Album, Stewart Bale images	1947 - 1957
3	Photograph Album, Stewart Bale images	c.1936
4	Loose Photograph of Thornton's Staff	1950
5	Photograph of India Buildings	1985

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**Title of Deposit: PHOTOGRAPHS OF WILLIAM THORNTON & SONS LTD.,
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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/THO/1 - 5	<u>PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS</u>	<u>1932 - 1957</u>
1	Printed album of photographs of William Thornton & Sons Ltd., Liverpool, re Thornton's commissions. Published by Civil Engineering Publications Ltd., Croydon and divided into pre-war, post-war and masonry contracts.	n.d., c.1950s(?)
2	Photograph album of Stewart Bale images, re William Thornton's commissions. Includes images of Knowsley Hall, Mossley Hill Church, St. Mary's Church, Walton and Liverpool city centre office buildings. [some photographs unattached]	1947 - 1957
3	Photograph album of Stewart Bale images, re William Thornton's Masonry Yard, Dingle. [possibly 1936, see B/THO/1]	c.1932
4	Loose photograph of Thornton's staff at St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool, possibly Stewart Bale.	May 1950
5	Photograph of India Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool. [adhered to album 2 above, authorship unknown]	1985