Ilfracombe Museum

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This report arises from a survey of archives in museums on behalf of the Museums and Galleries Commission, with support from the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, January - April 1995. (Museums and Archives, a Museums and Galleries Commission Report, researched by Clare Conybeare and Anita Travers)

Ilfracombe Museum is an independent trust, which gained charitable status in 1975. It was originally founded in 1932, and occupies a late 19th century building, formerly a hotel laundry.

Collecting is eclectic, and by no means confined to Ilfracombe itself. Retired colonials have donated objects from around the world, and it holds the national collection of specimen bats. Its newscuttings and memorabilia include national events such as the General strike, the Festival of Britain, and Royal celebrations.

Probably the earliest and most attractive document displayed is a verification of a grant of arms to John Wood of Harstone, 1533. There are some 100 deeds, wills and other legal documents, family history collections and compilations, notably for the Dennis family, glass negatives, daguerrotypes, gramophone records and cine films on tourism. Business records include prescription ledgers (6) 1909-19, a solicitor's letter book 1914-19, and Score cemetery records. There are 200 newspapers, miscellaneous local government records, research notes, war memorabilia such as identity cards, ration books and clothing coupons, also savings books, recipe books, greetings cards, cigarette card collections and holiday scrapbooks.

Lists are by location within the museum. These, basically, were the loft and office store, under display cabinets, and on display. Photocopies were provided of sections of the list, and notes were taken where appropriate, summarised as follows.

A market charter with restored seal is on loan to North Devon Record Office, and overseers' accounts (8 vols) 1741-88, were transferred in 1981.

Loft store boxes list

20825 B Gramophone records
Box 6 WA Steven's slides
Box 7 Score cemetery records
Box 8 Cine films: tourism
Box 16 Record player and tapes
Box 22 Glass negative plates (107; nos 8863-8978)
Box 35 A-D glass negatives
Box 39 Victoria photographs in frames (25231)
Box 43 Post Office savings book (20929)
Box 43 Small 1915 diary (20773B)
Box 43 Tiny photograph album (20873D)
Box 44 Message book MZ10 US Army
Box 45 Slide show, 60 years at a seafront museum (ILFCM 21035)
Box 46 see photocopy
Box 47 see photocopy
Box 48 see photocopy
Box 49 Misc newspapers and periodicals
Box 50 Enlargements of rly photographs produced by North Devon Heritage Coast Service [Clare - railway?]
Box 51 Queen's Court deeds (photocopies)
Box 52 see photocopy
Box 53 see photocopy
Box 54 Daguerrotype photographs (2) (1062, 1063)
Box 55 Farleigh's Stores account book 1906 (20545)
Box 56 Bill Stevens: army memorabilia (20934)
Box 57 Prescription ledgers (6), Ilfracombe area, 1909-19
Box 58 Solicitor's notebook
Box 59 Solicitor's letterbook, 1914-19 (ILFCM 20455)
Box 60 Vets (?) prescription book
Box 61 MG Palmer, photographs by, (25279 A, B)
Boxes 62-66, see photocopy

Rolled maps are kept in the loft

Storeroom below loft
largely given over to newspapers: Ilfracombe Chronicle, and Ilfracombe Gazette and Observer, 1868-1953. Some have been filmed by the British Library and film copies provided, but there is no film reader. The newspapers have been partially indexed by a Manpower Services Scheme.

Display
There are a large number of photographs etc on the walls and in display cases. Display falls into three categories:

1. Photographs, posters, advertisements and ephemera shown throughout the museum. These are too numerous to describe here.

2. Document cabinet, of shallow wooden pull-out drawers, the documents visible under sealed glass. A photocopy of a typed list of contents is appended.

3. Wallmounted swing frames in the 'extension', mostly photographs and postcards, but some MSS. These are:

   Valentine, c1841-2 (9907)
   RD Blackmore letters (4) 1887 to 'Dear Sir' (display does not reveal addressee) (7946)
   CH Spurgeon (Baptist evangelist) letter 1877 (9909)
   Letter 1855 from a soldier at Sebastopol, described in caption only as grandfather of the Misses Harding of Chambercombe Rd (7932)
   Letters patent 1533 from Thomas Benolt, Clarencoix King at Arms, to John Wood of Harstone, verifying coat of arms (attractively decorated) (7926)
   Letters (2) by Charles Vellacott, mariner, to his wife 1840, and 'Richard' 1850, (7931, 7934)
Samuel Mountjoy Smith letter 1850 with engraved Ilfracombe pictorial letterhead (1371)
Marriage certificate Samuel Winne to Mary Attison at Springfield near Gretna Green 1816 (7967)
Marriage certificate William Broome to Kate Elizabeth Gean, Barnstaple 1876 (7951)

Under cabinets

Framed photographs, paintings and prints (over 100) in 2 storage chests in extension.

Under case 30, incl:
coronation souvenir progemme, birthday cards, ration books and identity cards
Festival of Britain booklet, Devon & Exeter Savings Bank book 1897, museum reports 1934-39, Withycombe family photograph album, other photograph albums incl Cotswolds, various posters, scout's book, recipe books, harbour dues 1946, railway corresp, advertisements, Gatakers Sermons, papers about tobacco, magazines, knitting patterns and theatre programmes, Magna Carta, photographs of John Betjeman in Ilfracombe, 2 swimming certificates, and a map of Tasmania.

Under case 29, incl:
6 prints, foreign bank notes, Civil Defence corresp (queried)

1994 accessions include
a tea shop receipt book
indenture 1822
National Savings certificate book 1941
TS diary, Nicaragua
Opera Society and theatre programmes
cigarette cards
holiday scrapbook 1976
French newspapers for D-Day anniversary
UDC rates estimate 1970
scrap book/photograph album c1830-50
book of instructions for 1911 census
business cards
photographs
foreign bank notes
newscuttings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CONTENTS OF DOCUMENT DRAWERS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Map of North Devon &amp; Ilfracombe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Will of Thomas Ridd. 27th March 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Will of John Fosse. 26th October 1693.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Will of John Fosse Junior. 5th February 1760.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Will of Peter Fosse 22nd January 1713.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Indenture of P.J.Dennis. 13th April 1868.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Will of John Fosse 22nd January 1713.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Title Deed. 1528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Will of William Saunders. 6th September 1778.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Copy of Will of Emperor Napoleon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Indenture of John Blackmore. 10th January 1862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Will of Charles Dennis. 18th June 1853.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3 x Indentures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Indenture of John Darracott.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fine or Agreement. February 1731.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Passport of Joseph Goodacre. 20th April 1867.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Will of Thomas Lovering. 6th August 1770.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Indenture of Alex Redmore. 25th March 1871.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Passport of Captain R. Stevens 9th May 1910.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>2 x Songsheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Discharge papers of R. Baker. 20th February 1710.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>House contents insurance policy. 29th September 1891.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Indenture of Thomas Lovering. 12th August 1854.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>3 x various letters etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Folio of sketches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Walkers Hibernian Magazine 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Passport of Lord Russell. 24th June 1865.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Indenture of R. Pugsley 1893.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>&quot; of James Hill aged 9. 1837.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Local Paper etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BOX 46

DOCUMENTS

Indenture - Nicholas Hooper, Elizabeth Issac
7909 -
Indenture - William Vye, John Fosse, William Lerwell
7910 -
Indenture - John Emmett, Rebecca Browne, Robert Browne
7911 -
Indenture - Mary Kemsey, Henry Wiles
7912 -
Indenture - Syon Hovins, Margaret Branton
7913 -
Indenture - Susanna Incledon, James Hiern
7914 -
Indenture - Robert Wyatt, John Fosse
7915 -
Indenture - George Iey, William Smith
7916 -
Indenture - William Vye, Thomas Stinton
7917 -
Indenture - Abraham Harris, Thomas Vye
7918 -
Indenture - Nathaniel Blackwill, Alice Ierwell
7919 -
Indenture - Alice Lerwell, Thomas Stinton
7920 -
Indenture - John Baker, Roger Haddon
7921 -
Conveyance - George Norman Baul to Mrs N Down
7922 -
Latin Deed
7923 -
Two Remandums - Francis Charteris
7924 -
Personal letter - difficulties of travel in 1823
7925 -
Letter patent - Thomas Benolt
7926 -
Rate Book Alframont 1865
7927 -
Fine
7928 -
Will - William Saunders
7929 -
Stamps (in rough cabinet - removed on dedime index card 793)
7930 -
Letter from Charles Vellacott to wife
7931 -
Letter written at Sebastopol
7932 -
Letter (poem to Jane Bird) in box cabinet - December 16
7933 -
Letter from Charles Vellacott
7934 -
Will - John Fosse
7935 -
Will - Peter Fosse
7936 -
Letters - six
7937 -
Letter from George Battersall
7938 -
Letter from Samuel Kountjoy Smith
7939 -
Newspaper - Ilfracombe Chronicle - 1877
7940 -
Discharge - Richard Baker
7941 -
Bond
7942 -
Discharge
7943 -
Valentine card
7944 -
Character reference
7945 -
Four letters by R D Blackmore
7946 -
Will of John Fosse
7947 -
Indenture - Thomas Langdon, George Tarriyder
7948 -


CONTENTS OF CABINET  
IN LOFT  

Top Drawer  Slides of Museum Photos

2nd Drawer  Various Slides + Printing Blocks

IlFCM 5739  Miss J. Watt-Smyth's Slides  used for Field Club talks
25062-21  Slides of St Pancras
20714  Printing Blocks (1st Girls' Brigade)
25112A  Glass Slides Nat. History
17548  Slides illustrating Railway Story
17526  Slides of 1819 OS Map
21522B  Slides, Natural History
21004A  Copper Printing Block, Peace Baptist Church
17352A  Unknown people

3rd & 4th Drawers  
Newspaper Cuttings: IlFCM 17083, 17082, 17084, 17085, 17444, 17686, 17665, 17663, 17305, 17022, 17080, 20987AY8 (by TR Green), 17079

Information Brochures N Devon  IlFCM 17482

Visitors list 1875 (as in 4th Chrom)  17429

Miss Thurs's Notes 1979
Nature Obs 1975-77
Bird Obs  1978-79
Flowers in Bloom (2)

Water colours by Lucy C Skelton  17445
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>Thomas Ivering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>Thomas Ridd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>The Selector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge</td>
<td>William Hornsby (In Wartime Servi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeting Cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will of Napoleon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souvenir Napper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold to receipt stubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy and translation of Charter granted by Henry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Will of Isott Harris 1785
Mortgage involving John Hill Charter 1863
Poem by Tombay Town Crier on shipwreck of Thistlemore 1909
Army Black Stamps on letter 1868
Letters Maria Leman
1810 Mortgage, Richards/Coats
Glouce. indenture 1851
Logs re defence of red deer 1803 Deer Cede
1804 notice re defrac. wages
Unresearched parchment 1691
BOX 48 Documents

Cat No

✓ 20882  Land purchase by Council of Oxford Gardens
✓ 20910  Pier & Harbour Orders 1863
✓ 20958  1894 Apprenticeship
✓ 20972A+B  Swimming Arts 1934
✓ 20839A  Discharge from RAF 1919
✓ 20812  Lukens Fire Insurance
✓ 20831  Title Redemption Costs 1898-1899
✓ 20801  Unsorted legal documents c.1900 H. Besley
✓ 5887  1727 Act for repairing quays
✓ 20805  Research material produced by W. Stevens
✓ 20837E  Message from Eisenhower etc
✓ 20743FCH  1917 etc railway papers
✓ 17415  1916 letter to Mrs Greg
✓ 17426  1924 Bye Law re waste paper
✓ 17547A-H  Docs relating to Rev. Herbert Green
✓ 20743A  1914 Registration Form
✓ 20324  Old leases conveyances etc. particularly 10-11 Castle Terr.

Notes:
10021  No re penmanship.
Register for Mortgages
Hoskins Receipt 1922
Victoria the Great
Pamphlet 24 Anna Maple Film
War-Time Recipes
Sheffield College Speech Day
Singer Sewing Machine Instructions
Museum of Rural Industry, Sticklepath Pamphlet
Clothing Coupons
Cape Town 1-12-1918 Victory Public
Souvenir Menu Central Clearing House, A.C. Southambo 1945
SPCC Form ofatar 24th June of War, 4/8/1918
Ovaltine pamphlet
Safe Conduct. For use by German kitchen girls
Middle East Forces Xmas "card" 1941
Souvenirs of 8th Army
P.O. Telegrams 1922 + receipts (Re. Hubbard)
Recipe Book for Greens Products
With Sanitary Inspectorate Association Building
ARTS VAD Release Book
New Physiological Chart by Prof. Short
Kodak Instant Camera Instructions
Hancocks Barracks (Re. Sifrac) - Char-a-banes etc
Desert Survival, Air Ministry Pamphlet
Recipe Books 1926 etc
Sifrac Police Ball 1945
P.O. Savings Bank books 1903 etc
Form of Service late Seco VI, 1952
1897, "Sifrac "Banner of fidelity"
Re. RH Lewis, Chambercombe Pit, Nannancies
20909  Receipts, Jewels.
L. Luxmoore & Stephens Bgs

20899c  "Miner's Right" from New South Wales

20915  Menu, Bremen, New York

20898c  "Advent for Walking Boots" (eg 2 (11/39)

20835  INF. Carnarvon Week 1945 Official Program

20894a  "Guide to Smallholders" 1919

20849  Roller Skating Rink, Lee Place

20849  Studies of Type of Aircraft in Old Testament

20947E  National Registration Cards (1915

25073r  Scheduled Occupation Cert. (under 1917 reg.)

20916c  "Current Affairs" issued by Army Bureau 1944

20839  Receipts for 'Eliza & Devonia'

20525E  Receipts of Bills re Fair Oaks St. Brannocks Rd.

20758c  Canadian Magazine (pre-war)

20926  Draftee Junior School material for Time Capsule at
Medical Centre 1971

20789  Various receipts c.1929

20796A  Motor Car Coupons

20726  Fire Guards' Handbook 1942

20788  Various receipts c.1929

20742  "The Groce's "Buyers' Calculators"

20909D  "Rohini's" cash book 1885

20742  Army Memoirel, mainly Middle East 1939-45

20842D  "Carl Rosa Opera Co. 'Stories of the Tragedies'

5288  Ration Books
CONTENTS

5577-5581 Documents relating to Robins Family
5438 Ticket from Ifracombe to Swansea, 1920 "Comrades of the Great War."
1942 Victorian cartoon - paddle steamer arriving in "Combe."
17351A, C3 Cigarette card albums (on loan). Rugby etc
17359 Memorabilia of holiday in "Combe" 1923
17504 " re Royal Thanksgiving services
20950b, b Tickets Ifracombe Swimming baths 1948-49
20465 Clothing Coupon Book
21033A Empire Day 1941 card
21033C Envelope 1874 with 2 One penny Vic Stamps, illustrated, to J. Ifracombe, address
21048b, c Various documents - receipts - military service etc
21045 Posters c. 1950
21057 Small poster - Coronation Badges & Rosettes (1953)
21056 Souvenir brochure to Opening of New Pier 1952
21057 Various Inland Revenue etc memorabilia
21057 Motorcar pocket book
21057 Photo folder with advert for Head, High St.
21008 Tennis dialect poem "Our Christmas Zirkler"
21009 Copy of verses on W. J. Dyson, executed at York for murder
21125 Memorial card
21114 "your fortune" card
21006 Card with hymn re unveiling Queen Victoria's Memorial
20995 Shop receipts c. 1948 Ifracombe & Barnstaple
20842c Clothing Coupon book
20991 Gillette miniature brochure
20907 Newspaper cuttings - Food Facts
20908 ration book + do...
BOX 69 Newspapers/Maps incl.
Royal Weddings

Victorian Week Focus (2) 1992
Newspaper re Royal Wedding
W. Morning News Supp 1992 "Memories" 21076 c
Antique/Catalogue 1946

Newspaper Royal Visit to Ilfracombe 1992 Uncatalogued
Daily Graphic 1951 (end of Festival of Britain)

Oxford Journal Aug. 1914
General Strike Newspapers 1922 20112

Daily News 5 & 8, 1914 (Ultimatum to Germany)
Stars and Stripes 2 Sept 1944 5583
Verdon Falls 5601

Radio & TV Journals 1922 2084-1 A-M

Eve Standard Tutankhamun Exhibition (2) 20840
Times Moonwalk 1969 (2)
Eve Standard 1976
" Pompi Exhibition 1976"

D/Telegraph Tribute to Winston Churchill Uncat.
D/News 1934 Wedding D/Duchess Kent 20840

The Sun 6 July 1835 Museums Old of Newspaper. Newspaper Cat
Coronation of Queen Victoria

D/Mail 1952 Coronation (Pr. Eliz II Uncat
Royal Wedding 1981 (Charles/Diana) 20840 etc

Scrapbooks Uncat
20836 J Family Guide to National Insurance Scheme
20848 J Ulfrac Coronation Souvenir Progs
20741 J
25196 J Various cigarette cards
20830 A-G Coronation Queen Eliz II Souvenir Programmes
25164 E F Golden Greetings Telegrams
25164 E Leaflet 'Welcome to His Majesty's Army'
20989 J Sanitary Inspectors Assoc. Conference Ulfrac 1930
20952 J Recipe Book (ms) of Anne O'Neill Lifford c 1908
20991 J Ovaline Advert
4 Cigarette Boxes
√21117  "Los Picafloros" leaflet re show at St Phillips (children of St Andrew, Tony Baldett).
√21107  Receipt, Larampe
√210805  Small Common Prayer Book
√21111  Salvation Army Articles of War
√21109A-H  Coloured certificates St Phillips-James
  D Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery Souvenir Book
√21097A-Z  Miniature memorabilia found in 1844 volume of poetry
√20809  PO Greetings Telegram
√5388  Ration Book
√21109E  No Fred & John: memorial card
√21094  Clothing Coupons, petrol, identity cards
√21078  John Lewis, certificates re Royal Marines
√21082  Photocopy re Joseph German builder, Defrac 1871
               "ill re Fire at Cheltenham 1803"
√17762  Receipts
√9163  Photocopy £5 promise to pay from Defrac. Bank
√20534c  Receipt W6 Coats
√21086  Miniature Common Prayer Book
√21075E  Typed MS of War time Stories (Mr Gibbs Murray)
            (? 1945) Election Poster
√20544d  Advert for still Alarm Clock
√20997c  Pattern book for bedroom wear
√21071  Miscellaneous receipts, some local
√5431  Catalogue for Gas Appliances 1890
√21095#  Various pamphlets re relief of Magdalen, Special Church Services, etc.
√25190E  Revue programme, "Sons of Guns" Entertainment (RA)
√20989  21st birthday cards
√21087b  Card "How Union Jack is made up"
√17351b  Cigarette card "..."
Box 70. WARTIME MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

Box 71. AMMUNITION VARIOUS.

These boxes are in Main Store at present.

Box 72  TTYRELL HOSPITAL

Field Society (LFCM 17371 A-D)

Box 73  SCRAP BOOKS (LFCM 20996)

Box 74  SHELLS

Box 75  SHELLS

Per

DAVID HUXTABLE