

Victorian Case 3 - Silver and Snuff Boxes

Shelf 1 (top)



1) Snuff Box

Cowrie shell used to hold snuff, with a silver lid, presented to Rev. James Patterson (1778-1840), Minister at Birnie, from Rev. Dr. George Gordon of Birnie.

ELGNM: 1919.3

2) Snuff Box

Silver and shell snuff box, engraved *J.M.* on top of the lid.

ELGNM: 1978.714

3) Snuff Box

Cowrie shell with a silver lid made into a snuff box, by John Sellar, silversmith, Elgin and *Presented to Mr William McLennan by a few of his Friends, 1840.*

This snuff box was purchased in 2008 from a private dealer in West Sussex with assistance from the Welsh Family Trust.

ELGNM: 2008.5

4) Snuff Box

Shell and silver snuff box engraved *G.F.C.* (George Findlay Cooper) with Masonic symbols, made by Edinburgh silversmith, Patrick Robertson circa 1780. The shell was discovered in the stomach of a whale when Mr Findlay was frozen up in Greenland.

ELGNM: 1907.4

The box was later mounted by William Stephen Ferguson. A notable Moray man, Ferguson was born of a farmer father in Forres in January 1802. He



became a jeweller, silversmith, goldsmith and master watchmaker by trade, a prominent member of the Merchant Guild and the Charity Fund, a member of Elgin Town Council, Police Commissioner and Magistrate and for 10 years, a Councillor and Bailie.



Above: Stuart Lynch, Great Great Grandson of William Stephen Ferguson, standing by oil paintings he donated to the Museum of W. Ferguson and his wife, Margaret Stewart, circa 1850 – they had 6 children together.

Ferguson died at 277 High Street, Elgin in December 1875, having retired from business only a few weeks previously. He is buried alongside family in the grounds of Elgin Cathedral.

Right: Standing by the memorials of the Ferguson family, courtesy of Elgin Cathedral



Shelf 2

5) Snuff Box

Oval, double lidded silver snuff box engraved on either side of the lids *R.M.V.* and *P.M.* Circa 1720s but would be passed down from one generation to the next. No makers mark.

ELGNM: 1919.2

6) Teaspoon

Silver teaspoon made by silversmith John Keith of Banff circa 1790, engraved *A.I.S.* and stamped *M. IK. B.* Old English pattern.

ELGNM: 1966.9

7) Sugar Bowl

Elgin Silver sugar bowl, circa 1815, by Thomas Stewart (alias Thomas McGuirman, 1784-1856), gold and silversmith, of Elgin and Inverness. Purchased with generous assistance of The Welsh Family Trust.

ELGNM: 2007.29.3

8) Teapot and stand

Silver, George III silver teapot and stand by Duncan Urquhart and Naphtali Hart, London 1800, with silver handle made by William Stephen Ferguson of Elgin (1802-1875). Purchased with generous assistance of The Welsh Family Trust.

ELGNM: 2007.29.1 and .2

9) Cream Jug

Elgin Silver cream jug, by Thomas Stewart (alias Thomas McGuirman, 1784-1856), gold and silversmith, of Elgin and Inverness c1815. Purchased with generous assistance of The Welsh Family Trust.

ELGNM: 2007.29.3

10) Punch Ladle

Punch ladle for serving, with a silver bowl and narwhal bone handle; omitting maker's mark, circa 1800.

ELGNM: 1969.9

Shelf 3



11) Snuff Mull

Curved horn inset with silver and gold mounts and yellow coloured inset cairngorm stone, engraved, *From J.T to W.T.*
ELGNM: 1978.611

12) Snuff Mull

Curved horn snuff mull with silver lid and thistle design, engraved to James Grant, 1820.
ELGNM: 1978.613

13) Snuff Mull

Curved horn with a silver, hinged lid engraved to Mr Joseph Shanks (1844-1887), the grandson of John Shanks, former local worthy and keeper of Elgin Cathedral. The snuff mull was donated to Elgin Museum by his great great granddaughter, Miss M. Wilson of Lauder, Berwick.
ELGNM: 1977.232

14) Snuff Mull

Curved horn with a silver, hinged lid engraved to *H.P.* It latterly belonged to Mr Scott, the nephew of Mrs Paterson who (along with Miss Pennycuick) funded the building of the Elgin Museum Lecture Hall in 1921.
ELGNM: 1978.722

15) Snuff Box

Silvergilt snuff box made by N. M. goldsmith, Birmingham, England in 1839. Nathaniel Mills the Elder (1746-1843) has been called 'the greatest box maker of them all'; the most collectable pieces date from 1840-1853.

The box is inscribed "*This box is presented to Major John Alves (born at Elgin 1787-1862) by his brother Officers on his leaving the 74th Regiment by promotion, as a mark of their high esteem in which he has been held in*

the Corps during his service of 34 years, 30th September 1841, Montreal, Canada”.

Alves served with the 74th Regiment during the Peninsular War, 1810-1814, subsequently in West Indies, Canada and other foreign assignments.
ELGNM: 1863.5



He received the Peninsular War Medal (left, *ELGNM*: 1863.4) with eleven clasps and was appointed Sergeant-at-arms to the House of Lords, which he held until he died.

16) Snuff Box

Wooden snuff box, stamped inside the lid *Wm Stephen Elgin*. The box was worked by Mr William Stephen (or Stiven) from an Ayresshire family who specialised in making popular transfer scenes on small wooden items. ELGNM: 1847.1

The top shows an illustration of Elgin Museum and 3 High Street, the Little Cross and the old gateway entrance to Cooper Park and a Victorian with their dog, followed by two children.



The reverse provides a glimpse of the old Elgin Tolbooth (jail), once situated in the centre of Elgin High Street on the plainstones.



17) Snuff Box

This wooden snuff box was “Presented by the Elgin and Morayshire Horticultural Society to William Robertson for the best 12 carnations” in 1825. It contained Fribourg & Treyer ‘Morlaix’, a moist, medium brown nasal snuff, blended from Zimbabwe flue cured stem, dark fired and sun cured leaf tobaccos. Despite the fine plaque, the box is cheaply made, as can be seen from the inside.

ELGNM: 1999.37



18) Match Box

Nicol Silver matchbox holder, or vesta case, engraved front back and side to *Joseph Shanks for Friendship* with two right hands shaking in friendship and an engraving of Burns Cottage, circa 1844-1887. Joseph Shanks was the Grandson of John Shanks, Shoemaker and keeper of Elgin Cathedral. ELGNM: 1975.104



19) Snuff Box

Silver, tortoiseshell snuff box dated 1724. It was presented by *Admiral Duff of Drummur* to *The Elgin Morayshire Scientific Association* (now the Moray Society), in 1838.

It was one of the earliest donations to the Association, formed in 1836, which went on to fund and build Elgin Museum for the purpose of housing the collections of its members and for the benefit of the people of Moray.

We remain Scotland's Oldest, continuously independent (charitable) Museum, with thanks to the support of the inhabitants of Moray.

ELGNM: 1978.610



20) Match Box and Strike-a-Light

Stirling silver matchbox engraved *J.B. and S.D. & Co.* It has an abrasive strip for striking matches.

ELGNM: 1978.713

Shelf 4 (Bottom)

21) Queen Victoria Chocolate Box

An expensive commodity, Queen Victoria provided this New Year gift to soldiers in the Boer War, South Africa, 1900.

Containing the original chocolate and confetti, this chocolate box was later gifted to Provost Murdo Mackenzie in 1939 and Sheilagh Murray, to Elgin Museum.

ELGNM: 2003.25



22) Commemorative Medal

The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway was authorised by Act of Parliament on 4th July 1838 and finally opened to passenger traffic on 21st July 1838 between Glasgow Queen Street and Haymarket; it's construction cost £1,200,000.

By 1850, the company needed 58 locomotives and 216 coaches to cater for the number of passengers using the service. Goods traffic started in March 1842 and slowly increased, overtaking passenger traffic in revenue terms, by 1855. It continues to be the main line between Edinburgh and Glasgow today.

ELGNM: 1936.22



23) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations or The Great Exhibition, sometimes referred to as the Crystal Palace Exhibition (in reference to the temporary structure in which it was held) it took place in Hyde Park, London, from 1 May to 15 October 1851.

The exhibition was organised by Prince Albert, Henry Cole, Francis Henry, George Wallis, Charles Dilke and other members of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce as a celebration of modern industrial technology and design and to make clear to the world, Britain's role as industrial leader.

This medal was struck in the 'Crystal Palace' building that Queen Victoria and her family visited three times.

ELGNM: 1978.849



24) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating the National Rifle Association. The first meeting of the Rifle Association was held at Wimbledon on 2-7 July 1860. Captain Edward Ross obtained the Queen's prize of £250 and the gold medal of the Association. The dates 1300-1500 by the side of the archer possibly refer to the period in which the use of the longbow flourished; it was in regular use in the English army from 1285 to 1546.

The medal is made by George Gammon Adams, (b. 1821-1898), a portrait sculptor and medallist. He designed and exhibited prize medals for the Great Exhibition. In 1852 he was chosen to model the death mask of

Wellington. One of his public monuments is the 'Napier' statue in Trafalgar square, London.
ELGNM: 1978.61



25) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (the 60th anniversary of the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne).

The Diamond Jubilee Medal was instituted in 1897 by Royal Warrant as a British decoration. The medal was awarded to members of the Royal Family and the court, guests and dignitaries present at the celebrations of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and to selected soldiers and sailors who formed the jubilee parade in London.

The Medal followed the Golden Jubilee Medal, issued ten years previously, both in terms of design and award criteria, with those qualifying for both medals receiving a ribbon clasp in lieu of a second medal.

ELGNM: 1919.9



26) Commemorative Medal

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ELGNM: 1971.26



27) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating the inauguration of the Birmingham National Association for the Promotion of Social Science (NAPSS), often known as the Social Science Association: a British reformist group founded in 1857 by Lord Brougham. It pursued issues in public health, industrial relations, penal reform, and female education until its dissolution in 1886.

ELGNM: 1858.3



28) Commemorative Medal

White metal, commemorative medal or token for the opening of the International Exhibition, or Great London Exposition, a world fair, held from 1st May 1862, in South Kensington, London (where the Natural History Museum is now sited), struck in the minting facilities of Messrs Pinches.

The obverse shows a view of the exhibition building with the legend and date. The reverse depicts Britannia, seated, holding the flag with Commerce holding incuse inscribed flag.

ELGNM: 1978.818



29) Commemorative Medal

White metal medal commemorating Florence Nightingale. Following reports in 'The Times' of the soldiers' suffering in the Crimean War (1854-56), Florence Nightingale answered a government appeal for nurses and was appointed 'Superintendent of the Female Nurses in the Hospitals in the East'.

Florence and her nurses improved medical and sanitary arrangements, set up food kitchens, washed linen and clothes, wrote home on behalf of the soldiers and introduced reading rooms. Her work in the Crimea set the standards for modern nursing and helped transform its public image.

The obverse of this medal depicts a half-length figure of Florence reading a book, within a beaded oval frame. On either side are sprays of roses, thistles and shamrocks.

The reverse carries an oval badge flanked by palm sprays and bearing the words: '*Blessed are the merciful*'. Above it are three mullets and at the centre is a cross in splendour surmounted by a crown and the letters VR.

Below is a scroll inscribed: 'Crimea', and the around the edge of the medal the inscription: 'As a mark of esteem and gratitude for her devotion to the Queen's brave soldiers'.

ELGNM: 1922.2



30) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating the coronation of Queen Victoria which took place on 28 June 1838 in Westminster Hall, just over a year after she succeeded to the throne of the United Kingdom at the age of 18.

The procession to and from the ceremony at Westminster Abbey was watched by unprecedentedly huge crowds, as the new railways made it easier for an estimated 400,000 to come to London from the rest of the country. During the ceremony, the Treasurer of the Household threw silver medals to the crowds. The Queen had sat specially for the portrait.

Obverse: profile bust of Queen Victoria to left. Reverse: Queen Victoria enthroned, being offered the crown by Britannia, Scotia and Hibernia. Donated to Elgin Museum by Captain Stewart in 1866, likely a witness to the procession to and from Westminster Abbey.

ELGNM: 1866.4



31) Commemorative Medal

As above, commemorating the coronation of Queen Victoria, 28th June 1838.

ELGNM: 1866.5



32) Commemorative Medals

Two medals struck to commemorate the marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert on 10th February 1840.



32a The obverse side of the medal shows the heads of the couple in profile while on the reverse side, the wedding ceremony at the Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace, London.

ELGNM: 1936.12



32b The obverse side of the medal shows the heads of the couple in profile while on the reverse side, a different view of the wedding party at the Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace, London.
ELGNM: 1978.833

33) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's first visit to Scotland in September 1842. Victoria was greatly excited by Sir Walter Scott's novels and very anxious to make the acquaintance of her northern kingdom, arriving by sea at Granton, Edinburgh.



During their visit, they stayed at various castles as guests of members of the Scottish nobility. Scotland soon became one of their favourite retreats after the purchase of Balmoral Castle; Balmoral is also a firm favourite of Queen Elizabeth II.
ELGNM: 1936.21

34) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating the launch of the longest ship in the world, the SS Great Britain into Bristol's floating harbour, 19th July 1843.



Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859) and built by the Great Western Steam Ship Company, for transatlantic service between Bristol and New York.

The company sold tickets to the event, advertising the guest of honour '*Prince Albert – to be seen alive!*' Albert had travelled on Brunel's Great Western Railway from London to Bristol to attend the event.

ELGNM: 1978.855

35) Commemorative Medal

Robert Burns (1759—1796) was and is Scotland's National Bard - professional storyteller, verse-maker, music composer, oral historian and genealogist.

Poetry is at the core of his lasting fame and his birthday, celebrated throughout the world in January, with Burns Night suppers, poems and songs.



This medal, however, commemorates an event in August 1844. Robert Burns was born in Alloway, a town in the suburb of Ayr in 1759. The Illustrated London News and a Topographical Dictionary of Scotland (Volume 1) described a national festival in Ayr on the 6th August 1844 of 100,000 participants, in honour of Robert Burns, with three of his sons, and his sister in attendance.



Crowds at the Burns Monument, Alloway, for the Celebration in 1844
Engraving from the Illustrated London News,
Courtesy of the G. Ross Roy Collection, University of South Carolina

The grand procession passed from the town of Ayr along a road thronged with people to the banks of the Doon. Here, in the vicinity of the poet's birthplace and beneath the monument raised in his honour, the procession closed, and a banquet was partaken of by above 2,000 persons in a pavilion 120 foot square, in a field adjoining the Burns monument. This medal commemorates that banquet.

Notably, on the same day, Queen Victoria's second son, Alfred Ernest was born at Windsor.

ELGNM: 1978.851

36) Commemorative Medal

White metal medal commemorating the opening of The New Coal Market in London, 30th October 1849 by Queen Victoria.



James Bunstone Bunning's design model for the Coal Exchange, held by the Royal Institute of British Architects and displayed by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The London Coal Exchange was situated on the north side of Thames Street, London, opposite to Old Billingsgate Market, occupying three different structures from 1770 to 1962.



The original coal exchange opened in 1770. A second building from 1805 was replaced by a new purpose-built structure constructed from 1847 to 1849, and opened by Prince Albert on 30 October 1849.

This third London coal exchange was one of the first substantial buildings constructed from cast iron, built several years before the hall at the Great Exhibition.

ELGNM: 1978.862

37) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating Victory at the Battle of Alma; a battle in the Crimean War between an allied expeditionary force (made up of French, British, and Turkish forces) and Russian forces defending the Crimean Peninsula on 20 September 1854.



The battle cost the French roughly 1,600 casualties, the British 2,000, and the Russians some 5,000.

ELGNM: 1978.814

38) Commemorative Medal

Commemorating The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, London, 1851. It was also known as The Great Exhibition and The Crystal Palace Exhibition, in reference to the temporary structure in

which it was held – it was an international exhibition that took place in Hyde Park, London, from 1 May to 15 October 1851.
ELGNM: 1935.5



39) Commemorative Medal

As above - Commemorating the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, London, 1851.

ELGNM: 1978.850



40) Commemorative Medal

As above - Commemorating the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, London, 1851.

ELGNM: 1978.854



41) Commemorative Medal

White metal medal commemorating the 1884 Franchise Demonstration led by Gladstone, Leader of the Liberal Party.

The Second Reform Act of 1867, stipulated that a man had to be richer if he lived in a 'county constituency' than a man living in one of the towns and cities that enjoyed 'borough constituency' status, in order to vote. In early 1884, Gladstone's government had introduced to the Commons a bill to equalise the franchise rules.



During the summer of 1884, Britain experienced the largest series of political demonstrations in its history, thousands of processions and public meetings took place in protest at the attempt by the House of Lords to

block Gladstone's (third) reform bill, to allow around 2 million working class men from rural areas, the right to vote.

Gladstone persevered and the Lords passed the bill after making an agreement with Gladstone that the 1884 Reform Act would be followed by a Redistribution Bill.

The 1884 Reform Act gave the counties the same voting rights as the boroughs had: all adult householders and men who rented unfurnished lodgings to the value of £10 a year. The electorate after this act stood at 5,500,000 – though an estimated 40% of all men still did not have the right to vote as a result of their status within society.

ELGNM: 1978.858

42) Commemorative Medal

As above. White metal medal commemorating the successful 1884 Franchise Demonstration led by Gladstone, Leader of the Liberal Party.

ELGNM: 1978.857



43) Commemorative Medal

French, 1892 medal of the Central Society of Hunters Against Poaching.
ELGNM: 1921.3

