

## Victoriana Floor Exhibits

### 1. Stone weight

Weight weighing 36lbs from Longmorn, South of Elgin.

ELGNM: 1978.503



### 2. Gad or Gade from Elgin Tolbooth

Gads were the maximum-security facilities in Scotland's burgh gaols throughout the 18th and into the 19th century. They were situated in the cells which held criminal prisoners and were used on those condemned to death or transportation or regarded as escape risks. In Elgin, the gad was fixed to the wall farthest from the window of 'the Pit' prison, which was on the 3rd floor; there would have been manacles at both ends to allow two prisoners to be kept secure.

ELGNM: 1978.689



### 3. Zulu Fishing Boat

The Zulu was designed by William Campbell of Lossiemouth in 1879. The name 'Zulu' relates to the Zulu wars of the same date. The boat incorporated the vertical stemmed hull of the fife and the long raking stern of the scaffie. The greater overall length and shortened keel meant more canvas and improved deck space; 480 Zulus were registered in Buckie in 1900. It cost approximately £230-500 to build. It could be built under cover in about 8 weeks with wages of 5d (equivalent to 2 pence) an hour.

These boats were popular in the Moray Firth in the beginning of the 20th century, but by the time of World War II they had all gone.

ELGNM: 2000.17



#### 4. Weights

Collection of brass weights and measures used by Trading Standards from 1826 during the reign of Queen Victoria and into the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Measuring in avoirdupois literally meaning 'goods of weight', things that were sold in bulk and were weighed on large steelyards or balances; it is based on a 1lb of 16 ounces.

ELGNM: 2010.13



#### 5. Punishment Wheel or Crank Machine

Used in Elgin Tolbooth (or public jailhouse) circa 1852-1888. The crank was used for criminal prisoners like vagrants who had been sentenced to short periods of imprisonment with 'hard labour' and prisoners who were being punished for misdemeanours in prison. It was intended as an instrument of punishment rather than reform.

In November 1852 the General Board of Directors of Prisons in Scotland instructed all county prison boards to make use of these machines. An adult male was expected to turn the crank 14,400 times Monday-Friday and 12,600 times on Saturday. Sunday was allowed as a rest day.

ELGNM: 1964.13



## 6. Elgin Tolbooth Bell

The tolling of the Tolbooth bell told people when trading was permitted, as well as marking important occasions. This bell originally hung from an oak beam in the Tolbooth which was situated in the centre of Elgin High Street, near the plainstones.



The Tolbooth bell was made in 1712 by voluntary subscription but recast in 1885 because the bell was cracked. After the Tolbooth was demolished, the bell continued to do duty at the courthouse until it was donated to Elgin Museum by Mr Harrison in 1958.

It is decorated with thistles and reads:

*“This bell was founded for the courts of justice at Elgin by voluntary contribution of good clients in E and about the said town MDCCX11 per Albert Gely, recast by J Warner and Sons, London 1885, per J Hunter, Elgin”.*

ELGNM: 1958.1

*Last update 25/07/2021*