

## Mr Ingram's Room

When the museum was built in 1842, two rooms were set aside for the then Keeper, Mr William Ingram in the Museum Tower. He was a wood turner by trade, and it is likely that he would have had a workshop on the ground floor. He was paid the sum of £10 per year to keep the Museum clean and tidy and to look after the visitors.

It must have been hard living in such a small room, carting coal and water up the stairs, and as such, for a while, he was granted an extra stipend of one and six a week to take lodgings in town. In the picture you can clearly see the original stove.

Mr Ingram died in the Museum in 1871 and his obituary stated:

*“No man could be more devoted to his charge than Mr Ingram. He lived alone. The Museum was his hermitage. Day and night he was in it, and unless turning small things to sell to visitors, his whole time was spent in wandering about the benches, crowded with specimens, or showing them to strangers.”*

