

Victoriana Case 1: Victorian Accessories

Shelf 1 (top)

1) 'Mourning' jewellery - Earrings

Queen Victoria went into mourning following the death of her beloved Albert, Prince Consort in December 1861 and remained so, until her own death in January 1901, aged 81.

Although already in use, Victoria popularised 'mourning' jewellery in various materials of a black colour, to remember the death of a loved one, reaching a peak from 1840-1870.

Mourning jewellery can be in the form of an image, motto, lock of hair, ring or brooch and may bear the name and/or date of death of the person.

This pair of Victorian earrings are made from vulcanite, a rare copper telluride mineral used as a substitute for ebony in jewellery.
ELGNM: 1977.179



2) Silk fan

Possibly hand painted, decorated with sequins and a lace trimming, stamped "latest Paris fashions, novelties". Used as a device for cooling oneself due to the use of many heavy petticoats and corsetry, and for flirting with the opposite sex. Circa 1890-1920. It belonged to Miss J Paterson of Buckie.
ELGNM: 1977.153



3) Paperweight

High quality Venetian glass mosaic paperweight, circa 1860-1870s, a speciality from *the Mercerie*; the main commercial artery of the city of

Venice, Italy, from the area of the Clock Tower, Mercerie dell'Orologio by A. Gelsomini. ELGNM: 1978.645



Shelf 2

4) Powder Compact Box

Octagonal shaped, sterling silver box, decorated with orange coloured enamel, to contain face powder.



The Victorian's favoured the 'English Rose' look of a pale complexion and lightly rouged cheeks – a symbol of good morals and indicating that upper class women did not have to labour in the sun unlike the lower classes.

Ironically, the face creams and powders of the day could be extremely damaging to the skin, and to health in general, containing an assortment of lead and mercury, and caustic chemicals, including arsenic and vermilion. This compact is post-Victorian, circa 1930-40s. ELGNM: 1994.57.2

5) Fob

Gold plated fob and chain, featuring a marathon detail. Decorative fobs were usually worn attached to a gentleman's pocket watch.

ELGNM: 1977.206

6) Brooch

Gold mounted wild boar's tusk engraved J.S. and F.W.C. made in New Zealand, collected by a Miss J Simpson of Hastings, New Zealand.

Donated to the Museum in 1921 by Mrs Wink of Kew Cottage, Elgin.

ELGNM: 1921.10

7) Scent Bottle

Cylindrical cut glass scent bottle for disguising the smell of an unwashed body with a screw top, made by J.H.W. silversmith, Birmingham, England, circa 1905.

ELGNM: 1975.64



8) Smelling Salts Bottle

Glass smelling salts bottle with shamrock cut glass stopper; to prevent or awaken a lady after fainting.

ELGNM: 1965.43

9) Gold Brooch

Gold brooch with central amethyst stone and shamrock on either side.

ELGNM: 1975.67

10) Silver Brooch

Silver brooch commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 1837-1897, which was designated a festival of the British Empire. Victoria surpassed her grandfather, George III, as the longest reigning monarch in Sept 1896.

ELGNM: 1975.73

11) Pin

Brass pin with a reddish-pink glass stone (possibly a ruby), dating to the late 19th century.

ELGNM: 2007.17.1

12) Fob

Gold fob with a purple stone encased in it (possibly an amethyst).

ELGNM: 1977.203



13) Scent Bottle

Cut glass scent bottle with a cylindrical metal cork and hexagonal base.

ELGNM: 1965.45

14) Gold Brooch

Gold brooch with circle and ball in the centre for decoration.

ELGNM: 1975.103

15) Fob

Stirling nickel silver 'Albo' fob pendant with (unknown) stone, decorated with a crown, commemorating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

ELGNM: 1977.205

16) Scent Bottle

Cut glass scent bottle with silver screw top, Birmingham circa 1910.

ELGNM: 1977.233

17) Brooch Pendant

Gold, oval brooch and pendant in one, containing a hand painted portrait of a gentleman in red regalia with a lock of (his) hair entwined with ribbon on the reverse, decorated with tiny pearls.

ELGNM: 1978.639



18) Fob

Gold filled gentleman's fob pendant, stamped 'Marathon'. Further research required (may be early Edwardian, 1901-1910).
ELGNM: 1977.207

Shelf 3

19) Comb

Large (*faux?*) tortoiseshell (*celluloid*) Spanish style *peineta* decorative hair comb, featuring a carved leaf design. Circa 1880 – 1920s.
ELGNM: 1971.14



20) Comb

Ladies black, faux tortoiseshell decorative 3-pronged hair comb or *peineta*, leaf design.
ELGNM: 1977.158

21) Comb

Black, tortoiseshell, two-pronged decorative hair comb or *peineta*, inlaid with paste and white paint floral design.
ELGNM: 1965.73

22) Comb

Small comb, imprinted with a tortoise-shell pattern and decorated with glass stones.

ELGNM: 1978.1371

23) Spectacles and Case

Ladies spectacles in a hammered metal case lined with velvet with a hook to attach to a skirt.

ELGNM: 1977.154



24) Necklace

White metal necklace with flat linked sections of floral design. chained together in a floral design.

ELGNM: 1994.57.5

25) Comb

Three-pronged carved tortoiseshell, decorative hair comb or *pieneta*, manufactured by Murray & Co, with original box (box *not shown*).

ELGNM: 1971.16



26) Hair 'Mourning' Bracelet

Ladies' bracelet made from plaited human hair, interlaced from 3 or 4 strands, to form a solid bond around the wrist and held together with a wooden bead. Possibly made in remembrance of a loved one, using the hair of the deceased.

ELGNM: 1966.6



27) Powder Box

Silverplate box with hinged lid and mirror inside, decorated with an intricate leaf pattern; to contain a lady's makeup powder.

ELGNM: 1975.75



28) Chatelaine

A decorative belt hook and clasp worn at the waist, usually with a series of chains suspended from it and mounted with useful household items such as scissors, thimbles, watches, keys, vinaigrettes and household seals. This one also has an attachment for holding up a lady's skirt.

ELGNM: 1978.733.7



29) 'Mourning' Ring

Ring made of wound and braided human hair. Referred to as 'mourning rings'; hair jewellery reached a peak between 1840 – 1870, in remembrance of a person (*although this did not always refer to a deceased relative*).

ELGNM: 1986.1

30) Scent Bottle

Nickel-plated scent bottle with a push-button safety catch and hinged lid.

ELGNM: 1978.55

31) Brooch

Black coloured (wooden?) 'mourning' brooch with an outstretched hand holding a wreath.

ELGNM: 1977.167

32) Earrings

Pair of black 'mourning' earrings, with central star, made from vulcanite.

ELGNM: 1977.180

33) Hat or Clothes Pin

Hat or Clothes Pin for mourning.

ELGNM: 1978.733.11

34) Hair Brooch

Plaited hair brooch with gold lettering around the edge "IN MEMORY" of "DF", unfortunately we do not know who "DF" was as the provenance is unsecure.

ELGNM: 1978.1370

35) Hair Brooch

Oval shaped, gold brooch containing plaited hair, engraved with the words "In Memory of My Mother" "J. S. Mc. J. died 22nd Sept 1882". The brooch belonged to the deceased's daughter, Mrs Elsie Riach and was donated to the Museum by her son in 1979.

ELGNM: 1979.36

36) Hand Mirror

Small handheld embossed brass mirror.

ELGNM: 1988.7.3

37) Photo Album

Miniature photograph album featuring 10 images of historical figures, such as Oliver Cromwell and Marie Antoinette.

ELGNM: 1978.733.3

Shelf 4 (bottom shelf)

38) Toothbrush

Plastic toothbrush stamped "Cruickshank, Elgin"; found during renovations of a kitchen at South Guildry Street, Elgin, in a partition behind a sink, dating back to 1857.

ELGNM: 2005.16

39) Sunglasses

Case and sunglasses with blue tinted lenses and wire frame. Surprisingly, these are early 19th century; belonged to the late Mr. Ian Keillar's Grandfather.
ELGNM: 1993.13.3

40) Unknown Item

We think this could be a sovereign coin purse; do you know what this is?
ELGNM: Uncatalogued

41) Cut-throat razor

Traditional barber, fold up, steel razor and case.
ELGNM: 1965.41

42) Pocket Watch

Small handheld pocket watch and winding key. Made of silver, brass and enamel, made by N. W. Watchmaker, London, 1875.
ELGNM: 1964.5

43) Dress Watch

Metal Dress Watch and winding key for female use. Features code stamp inside case lid – c 800 & L1 77713, along with an unidentified hall mark.
ELGNM: 1979.38

44) Pocket Watch

Silver pocket watch, with back decorated with a pointing hand, lion, rose, and leaf/flower like decoration. Made in 1798.
ELGNM: 1978.622

45) Buttons

Silver buttons worn by inmates of the Elgin Institution.
ELGNM: 1968.128

46) Pen/Pencil

Propelling Pen and Pencil with amethyst stone.
ELGNM: 1990.47.22

47) Bi-focal Glasses

Pince-nez, bi-focal glasses made from gold with an oval lens shape.
ELGNM: 1978.753

48) Chatelaine

Silver Chatelaine, 19th century in date. A decorative belt hook or clasp which was attached to the belt for holding various objects from each clasp attached to a small chain, such as keys or watches.
ELGNM: 1978.31