

Case 4

Elgin Cathedral 800: the Cathedral as a visitor attraction and icon of Moray

Celebrating the 800th anniversary of the founding of Elgin Cathedral

1. Elgin Cathedral Visitor Books

Two visitor books from John Shanks' time as custodian of Elgin Cathedral, covering the period 1819 -1840, noting the names and home locations of early visitors to the site.

L: ELGNM: 1985.4 / R: ELGNM: 1985.3

2. Print of John Shanks

Illustration of "*weel-kent face*" John Shanks, Cicerone or Keeper of Elgin Cathedral from 1826 - 1841, also known as "*The Drouthy Cobbler*". Shanks is buried in the Cathedral graveyard.

ELGNM: 1927.6

3. Souvenir paperweights

Two souvenir glass paperweights with black and white photographs of views of Elgin Cathedral

L: ELGNM: 1990.40.2 / R: ELGNM: 2000.87

4. Door knocker

Brass door knocker with relief of Elgin Cathedral and figures of St Giles below.

ELGNM: 1989.10.2

5. Cross pendant

Decorative ivory cross with metal ring for affixing to a chain. An unusual souvenir of Elgin, if you hold the peephole in the centre of the cross up to your eye you are rewarded with a view of a series of miniature images of Elgin Cathedral and other local scenes. Known as a Stanhope Viewer or an optical bijou. It is an optical device that enables the viewing of microphotographs without using a microscope, invented by René Dagron in 1857.

ELGNM: 1969.14

6. Shoehorn

Brass souvenir shoe horn, with moulded representation of Elgin Cathedral at one end.

ELGNM: 1987.14

7. Seal stamp and silversmith's punch

Look through the magnifying glass to see the fine detail of the engraved depictions of Elgin Cathedral. On the left is a metal seal stamp dated 18xx, found by a metal detectorist at Lesmurdie / Loanhead. On the right is a metal punch or stamp used by silversmith William Ogilvie Cumming to punch a miniature etching of the Cathedral onto silver items.

L: ELGNM: 2016.37 (TTDB.2008/117) / R: ELGNM: 1991.10.1

8. Bottle

Glass Sang & Co (Elgin) bottle, embossed with an image of Elgin Cathedral. Since the 19th Century, the towers of Elgin Cathedral have been an iconic symbol of Elgin and Moray, used in logos and to advertise products.

ELGNM: 1991.19

9. Plate

Bone China plate, by Highland Fine Bone China Scotland, depicting Elgin Cathedral (plate no 42 of the limited edition run). Commissioned by Moray and Nairn Newspaper Company Limited to commemorate the centenary of *The Northern Scot* newspaper on 29th October 1980.

OE 3734

10. Biscuit tin

Metal biscuit tin, Walkers of Aberlour, depicting Elgin Cathedral on the lid.

OE 3734

11. Plate

Souvenir Bone China plate, by Royal Grafton, exclusive to Jack Carmichael, Elgin.

OE 3734

12. Elgin Cathedral 700

Two medals, dated 1924, minted to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the founding of Elgin Cathedral. A religious service was held in the Cathedral to mark the 700th anniversary, captured in this photograph.

Medals: ELGNM: 1990.47.11 / Photo: ELGNM: 1983.12.17

13. Elgin Cathedral 750

1974 marked the 750th anniversary of the founding of Elgin Cathedral. To commemorate the event, a special edition event or first day cover was produced. Within the embossed and franked envelope was an information card with a brief history of the Cathedral, describing it as “*the lanthorn (lantern) of the north*”. As in 1924, an interdenominational service was held at the cathedral to commemorate the anniversary on Sunday 21st July with H.R.H. Princess Alexandra in attendance.
Event cover: OE 3734 / Order of Service: Elgin Museum M726

14. Souvenir visitor guides

Three examples of visitor guides (L- R) from 1934, 1950 and 1996.
Elgin Museum M726

15. Books

Mediaeval Elgin by Fenton Wyness, with stylised reconstruction of Elgin Cathedral as cover illustration. *Guide to the Ruins of Elgin Cathedral* (16th edition, 1926) published for Jessie Pozzi, Keeper of the ruins of Elgin Cathedral. Along with her husband, James Pozzi, Jessie (1831-1914) was Keeper of Elgin Cathedral, residing in Cathedral Lodge until her death in 1914. Both are buried in the Cathedral graveyard.
L: on loan from CH / R: Elgin Museum M726