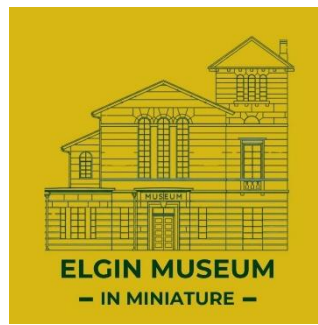




## **ELGIN MUSEUM IN MINIATURE 2026 – A BRIEF GUIDE**

Elgin Museum is owned and run by The Moray Society, a membership organisation open to anyone who shares our interest in Moray's heritage. It was designed by Elgin architect Thomas MacKenzie and opened in 1843. We are Scotland's oldest continuously independent museum – that means we've been community-run since we first opened, more than 180 years ago. Entry is free but your donations are welcomed and are essential to keep the Museum going. Donations are automatically Gift Aided. There are donation boxes throughout as well as a contactless donation machine in the shop area.

The Museum is staffed by volunteers (ask if you would like to join us!) with the exception of our paid Inventory Manager and our part-time Project Manager, who are both temporary, grant-funded, appointments working on our much-needed renovation project.

The old building is now showing its age and, due to ongoing problems and the need for repair substantial repair works, we have moved into our Side Hall and opened *Elgin Museum in Miniature*. As space is reduced, we ask you to be respectful of other visitors and our volunteers. We recommend that you follow the cases round in a clockwise direction.

There is internet available in the museum: EM\_Public, Password: Elginia17.

There is a quiz for children during their visit, and free resources for children available as you exit the museum. There are more child-friendly activities on our website.

Please be aware the space is monitored with CCTV.

### **Entrance to the museum**

As you enter the building and come through the double doors, you will be welcomed by one of our volunteers and given general advice about what you will find in *Elgin Museum in Miniature*. Our aim is to show items that have not been on display recently (or ever!). Additionally, The Royal Scottish Academy is celebrating its 200th Anniversary and, working in partnership with them, we have a displayed some of our art collection by RSA Academicians.

We will have volunteers in the museum at the reception desk and also staffing the shop area.

### **Toilet Facilities**

There is a toilet in the entrance lobby, between the exit door and the double doors into *Elgin Museum in Miniature*. There is another toilet with ambulatory access in the main gallery. If you require access to this facility, please advise a volunteer as you will be escorted to and from the toilet in the main gallery by one of the volunteers.

## **Displays**

### **On the left hand (West) wall**

Four watercolour paintings by George Souter (1845 – 1920), Engineer and Artist. These paintings act as an important historical record capturing Elgin's buildings and closes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many of which have been demolished.

### **Case 1: Boy's Kilt Outfit from the Davidson Collection**

William Davidson (1901 – 1989) a tailor and draper in Burghead and Elgin. This kilt set was donated along with a number of other items by the family in 1995. The photograph is of William Davidson and his three sons outside his Burghead shop.

### **Case 2: 150th Anniversary of the first telephone call - Alexander Graham Bell's Moray connection**

Commemorating this momentous innovation Bells' connection to the Moray area.

### **Case 3:**

#### **Shelves 1 & 2 - John Henning RSA**

John Henning HRSA (1717 – 1851) and his innovative cast-making from the Parthenon sculptures

### **Case 3**

#### **Shelves 3 & 4 - The Incorporated Trades of Elgin**

Memorabilia of The Hammermen

### **Case 4: Treasure Trove**

Archaeological objects and excavation assemblages, including the Ballindalloch Hoard and the Rothes Beaker.

### **Case 5: The Elgin Reptiles and Other Animals**

Models and plaster casts illustrating animals in the Recognised Collection: 3D model skull of *Gordonia traquairi* from MRI/CT scans, a model of the dinosaurs' hairy ancestor, *Saltopus elginensis*, plaster cast of *Elginia mirabilis*, resin model of *Palaeocharinus turbiculatus*. Also, one of the fossils of *Stagonolepis robertsoni* (found by Dave in 2018) and the CT scanning results.

### **Case 6: Discoveries from the Inventory**

A selection of interesting items from our East Store, chosen by our Inventory Manager.

### **West Wall above case 6: More from the Inventory**

Enlarged photographs of specimens of dried seaweed from the album in case 6; a copy of the Proclamation regarding Bonnie Prince Charlie and a picture of Bonnie Prince Charlie in the style of John R. A. Pettie RA.

## **Case 7:**

### **Pictish Stones**

Two carved stones from Drainie Kirk, not normally on display, and a cast of one of our Burhead Bulls.

## **Case 7**

### **Isaac Forsyth and the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850**

A recently rediscovered book, donated by Isaac Forsyth, one of the founders of Elgin Museum.

## **Case 8: New Acquisitions**

A selection of the latest additions to our collection.

### **Mr Ingram**

Mr Ingram was the first Keeper of Elgin Museum and he lived in two rooms in the Tower. Beside him, on the small table, is an enlarged photograph of the real Mr Ingram.

## **Case 9: A Day at the Beach**

Using the collections of the Rev Dr George Gordon, Minister at Birnie, geologist and one of the founders of Elgin Museum, to inspire you to explore the coastline and start your own seashell collection.

## **East Wall between cases 9 & 10**

2026 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of The Royal Scottish Academy (RSA). Over that time the RSA has played a significant role in shaping the nation's cultural landscape. We are joining the celebrations through a display of works in our collection by RSA Academicians (John Henning RSA, Sir David Young Cameron RSA and Sir George Reid RSA). We're also hosting a series of creative workshops over the summer – visit our website to find out more.

## **Case 10: Fossil Fish**

Specimens of fossil fishes collected by local 19<sup>th</sup> century enthusiasts (John Grant Malcolmson, William Stables and Lady Eliza Gordon Cumming) that were subsequently included in Louis Agassiz's seminal work on fossil fishes published in 1844/5. Three associated plates from his monograph are hanging above the case.

The case also has the fossil of *Stagonolepis robertsoni* associated with Patrick Duff (the first Secretary of the Elgin and Morayshire Scientific Association). This appeared in Agassiz's monograph as a fish and was only correctly identified as a reptile when more bones were found in the local quarries.

## **Case 11: Mineralogy**

Collection of minerals from around the world (in watch glasses) in a mahogany box, donated by Archibald Hay Gordon Duff in 1915. The Museum's 1844 *Catalogue of Minerals* – most (but not all) are still in an old cabinet in the West Store. Page from the catalogue

with a listed specimen of pyromorphite from Leadhills, South Lanarkshire. A copy of Rutley's *Elements of Mineralogy* – the go-to-book for mineralogists – held open at the entry for pyromorphite by a magnifying glass with an amber handle (on loan).

### **East Wall next to Case 11**

Four more watercolour paintings of Elgin and its closes, painted by George Souter.

### **Museum shop**

Here we sell various items, the profit from which goes to help maintain the Museum.

We accept both cash and card payments and we are also happy to take donations!

Please sign our Visitors' Book or put your counters into the relevant jar to show how much you enjoyed your visit.

If you have any questions, please ask one of the duty volunteers or send in your question via the website. You can also email: [curator@elginmuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@elginmuseum.org.uk)

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit and that we will see you again!

### **What next?**

Become a Friend of Elgin Museum – join The Moray Society! Visit our website for more information on how to join.

Sign up to our newsletter (via our website): [www.elginmuseum.org.uk](http://www.elginmuseum.org.uk)

Continue your visit on our website, where you will find more information about some of the items on display, or via our YouTube channel, where you will find creative activities, video footage of collections and interviews with people whose passion is for heritage.

### **Find and follow us on Social Media:**

On Facebook we are @ElginMuseumMoray

On Instagram, Threads and Bluesky we are @ElginMuseum

[Youtube.com/elginmuseum](https://www.youtube.com/elginmuseum)

