# **Lower Courtyard**

This display contains about 0.01% of RAMM's collection.

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#### 1 - Shoes

About 1795 Suttons, Covent Garden, London

Silk satin shoes, latchet tied with a ribbon lace, fashionably shaped in a chiné silk with a pointed toe and low curved heel. The technique of printing only the warp threads derives from South East Asian textiles.

#### 2 - Shoes

Between 1770 and 1840 Turkey

Silk satin and kid leather edged with metallic braid and Ottoman embroidery in silver gilt threads. Turkish dress inspired many romantic costume balls and masquerades in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and in turn influenced fashionable dress.

#### 3 - Hat

About 1893-1896 Wells, Somerset

A dyed straw hat trimmed with a fancy 'lace', woven from split straw and horsehair, a silk ribbon bow and ostrich feathers. Supplied by a West Country milliner, J.H. Holloway of Wells. By the 1890s outdoor bonnets were spurned as old-fashioned, worn only by the elderly and the working class, or for mourning.

#### 4 - Shell of the bellybutton nautilus

Nautilus macromphalus Noumea, New Caledonia, western Pacific

The nautilus is related to octopuses, squid and cuttlefish. Like its relations, the nautilus has many tentacles around its mouth, but unlike the rest of its family, it can withdraw completely inside its external shell.

#### 5 - Carapace

Michael Ayrton (1921-1975) 1972, bronze

Michael Ayrton was fascinated by the Minotaur, a mythical bull-headed monster that inhabited a labyrinth on Crete. This sculpture is based on the inner chambers of a nautilus shell which suggest the maze-like structure of a labyrinth. A carapace is the shell covering the back of crabs and other creatures.

# 6 - Figure in Landscape (Zennor)

Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975) About 1966, bronze on wooden plinth

This sculpture relates to a Cornish legend from Zennor, near St Ives, where Hepworth lived. It tells of a mermaid who heard a young man singing in church and lured him into the sea.

#### 7 - King helmet shell

Cassis tuberosa West Indies

This shell was one of seven helmet shells collected by Captain Thomas T. Phillips during his Naval service. He travelled to stations in North America and the West Indies whilst serving aboard HMS Nile in 1860, and again 10 years later on HMS Fly.

# 8 - Altarpiece of the Passion

Artist unknown About 1450-1500, tempera and tooled gold on carved oak panel

This altarpiece shows the 'Passion of Christ', or the suffering of Christ on the cross, and the events surrounding the crucifixion. Its style is typical of late 15<sup>th</sup> century religious paintings from the southern Netherlands.

#### 9 - Earthenware dish

1977 Made by John Pollex

Two sgraffito unicorns, scratched into the surface, occupy the centre. John chose unicorns to symbolise "the mind, body and spirit of which all creative things are made" and "the heavenly twins of the Gemini star sign, which is the sign I was born under". He established his Plymouth pottery in 1971.

#### 10 - Wine and cider flagons

Around 1850-1900 Made in Bristol

Flagons were often marked with the names of the businesses which used them. One of the flagons is marked Elizabeth Bowcher and Son, a wine and spirit merchants at 72, High Street, Exeter in 1850. The other is from the Heavitree Brewery Limited and dates to around 1899. This is one of Exeter's oldest surviving companies.

#### 11 - Orange on Perspex

Justin Knowles (1935-2004) Perspex, 1966

Knowles's is concerned in form, dimension and space. His work is realised through a variety of systems to a set of ideas he calls 'artform concepts'.

Highly inventive his work is a distillation of form and proportion, using two and three dimensions. He used a wide variety of materials including: concrete, steel and glass.

He was born in Exeter in 1935 and attended Kelly College, Tavistock Devon. He did not have a formal art background working in the industry until 1965. He was a fellow of The Royal Anthropological Society and travelled extensively in Africa.

## 12 - Keyed or Kent bugles

About 1815-1840 Made in England

The traditional bugle is a simple wind instrument. It has no valves and all pitch is controlled by the mouth. In 1811 Joseph Haliday patented the 'Kent' bugle, named in honour of the Duke of Kent. Haliday added keys to allow a greater range of sound, making it popular with military bands and orchestras.

#### 13 - Sunda pangolin

Manis javanica Malaysia

During the Malayan Campaign Major John Salmon MC joined his SAS regiment in Kuala Lumpa. He served in the deep jungle and a local chief he was working with gave him a live pangolin as a gift. Sadly, Major Salmon was unable to give the pangolin the diet of ants that it required and the pangolin did not survive. He was stuffed and brought home to England where Major Salmon's family named him Wilfred.

## 14 - Tiger skull

Panthera tigris
Current range eastern and southern Asia

Three of the nine recognised sub-species of tiger have already become extinct. At least three more, including the Bengal, Sumatran and Siberian tigers, are now endangered. It is not known which of the sub-species this skull belongs to.

#### 15 - Sloth bear

*Melursus ursinus* Sri Lanka

Although bears belong to the order Carnivora, the flesh eaters, with robust skulls and powerful canine teeth, most of them are actually omnivores. They will eat whatever food is available. The sloth bear even feeds on termites.

## 16 - Four-horned antelope

Tetracerus quadricornis India

Sir Samuel White Baker shot this small male antelope in India. It is also known as the Chousingha.

## 17 - Figure of the god Osiris

Around 3,000-4,000 years old Egypt

The reverse of this greenstone carving of Osiris is covered with hieroglyphs. Such pieces were popular with Victorian collectors.

#### 18 - Cordial glass in 'Bristol blue' with air twist stem

About 1750 Made in England

Glasswares with this distinctive blue colour were made in Bristol during the 1700s and early 1800s. Factories in other parts of England produced similar wares also known as 'Bristol blue'.

# 19 - Needlework panel

1651 England

Faith (on the right), Hope and Charity (on the left) are represented by the figures in the centre of this panel. The embroidery was worked in various stitches in silk and chenille threads on silk satin, highlighted with silk-wrapped wire, peacock feathers, and mica for the windows. 'EMH', the maker's initials, were worked in metal thread in the top left hand corner.

## 20 - Ivory and silver azimuth travelling sundial

About 1670 Made by Charles Bloud the Younger, Dieppe, France

This complex sundial has an equatorial dial to measure latitude north of the equator. Another dial indicates the time from the azimuth of the sun, which is calculated by the solar height and angle. Inside the lid are indicators for date, month and phases of the moon.

#### 21 - Wooden angel

Made in the 1400s Collected by Harry Hems

This angel came from Bere Regis church in Dorset. It was collected by the Exeter sculptor and businessman Harry Hems. His firm restored many medieval churches throughout Britain.

# 22 - Proboscis monkeys

Nasalis larvatus Sarawak, Borneo, south-east Asia

This family of monkeys was purchased by the museum in 1921. Proboscis monkeys were so named because of the male's extraordinary nose. In elderly animals this can be over 15cm (6 inches) long.

## 23 - Sampler

1864

Devon

Sampler stitched in silk threads on a woollen ground, made by 11-year old Lydia Hood at Mamhead school, near Exeter. Lydia's father George was a gardener on the Mamhead estate. Lydia was working as an assistant teacher at the National School in Exeter by the age of 18. Samplers were an essential part of a girl's education. They taught the stitches necessary for marking laundry.

#### 24 - Child's dress

About 1850-1858 England

Worsted tunic trimmed with couched braid, with silk girdle. Probably made for a little boy. Boys were dressed in tunics or frocks until they were breeched (put into trousers) at the age of 4 or 5, depending on family tradition and preferences. Little boys usually experienced their first hair cut at the same time.

#### 25 - Hammerless revolver with accessories and case

About 1855-1865 Made and retailed by W.J. Harvey, South Street, Exeter

W.J. Harvey were Exeter's leading gunsmiths in the 1800s. They supplied high quality revolvers to officers in the British army and also made sporting rifles and shotguns. Their 'hammerless' revolver kept the firing mechanism undercover and protected it from damp. Accidental firings were also less likely with this design.

#### 26 - Hammerless revolver

About 1855-1865 Made and retailed by W.J. Harvey, South Street, Exeter

# 27 - Flintlock 'greatcoat' pistol

About 1800-1810 Made by Harvey of Exeter

Flintlock guns had been in use for about 200 years by the time this pistol was made. They had simplified the firing mechanism by using a compact spring-loaded flint which sparked on contact with a serrated 'steel'. By about 1840, flintlocks were made obsolete by the invention of percussion fire.

#### 28 - Double-barrelled percussion pistol with two triggers

About 1840-1850 Made by J.C. Reilly, London

The percussion lock, invented in the early 1800s, was a major breakthrough in gun technology. Instead of flints and powder pans, the main charge was ignited by a sealed metal cap attached to the breech, behind the barrel. When the cap was struck by the hammer it ignited the main charge.

#### 29 - Double-barrelled percussion pistol with two triggers

About 1840-1850 Made by J. Forryan, England

#### 30 - Revolver with accessories and case

About 1855-1865 Made by Beaumont Adams, London. Retailed by Wilkinson & Son, London

Guns with revolving cylinders were known in the 1500s, but a reliable automatic system was not developed until the mid - 1800s. At first, percussion caps were fixed into the back of the cylinder and ignited a separate main charge, as here. During the late 1800s modern ammunition became available with ignition, main charge and bullet all in one unit.

#### 31 - Grass snake

Natrix natrix
Woodbury Common

The UK has just six native reptiles – three species of lizard and three species of snake. In May 1871 Mr Holcombe donated this grass snake to the museum. He lived in Aylesbeare and was game keeper to Mr W. Snow.

#### 32 - Greater pipefish

Syngnathus acus
Exe Estuary, near Turf Lock

In life, greater pipefish are greeny-brown in colour and can be found on many of the UK's southern and western coasts. In May 1907 the museum purchased this male from a visitor. Like their relatives the seahorses, females do not provide any parental care. Once she has laid her eggs the male hatches them in a brood pouch on his belly. Rows of eggs are visible on this specimen.

## 33 - Common topknot

Zeugopterus punctatus Exmouth, off Maer Rocks

On 11 October 1938 T. E. Arscott caught this fish in the seas around Exmouth. It still has the hook in its mouth. When this specimen was first preserved it was attached to the glass support in the jar using copper wire. Over time, the wire corroded and has caused the entire fish to turn green. In life, topknots are usually mottled brown in colour as camouflage against the seabed.

#### 34 - Cuckoo ray egg case

Leucoraja naevus

Miss Cross donated this egg case in February 1912. Often called 'mermaid's purses' these seaweedlike capsules are frequently washed up on the UK's shores. Each one contains an embryo that will hatch as a miniature adult.

#### 35 - Spiny sea pen

Pteroeides spinosum Mediterranean Sea

In April 1930 RAMM purchased this peculiar specimen from the Zoological Station in Naples, Italy. Sea pens are so named because they resemble feather quills sticking out of the seabed. Each one is made up of a colony of tiny animals.

## 36 - European green lizard

Lacerta viridis

Mr J.L. Sager presented these two lizards to RAMM in 1908. We do not know where he collected them from but today they can be found in much of south-eastern Europe.

# 37 - Porcelain dish with scenes from Aesop's Fables

About 1752-1757 Made by Chelsea Porcelain Works, London

Chelsea was probably the first English porcelain or 'china' factory. They made soft-paste porcelain mainly from white clay and ground glass. The ingredients of hardpaste, or true Chinese porcelain, remained unknown in Europe for centuries. This was made from kaolin, or china clay, and a rock called chinastone or *petuntse*.

# 38 - Porcelain vase with pierced trelliswork and applied masks, flowers and insects

About 1750-1760 Made by Bow China Works, Stratford, London

The Bow factory obtained its patent in 1744 and, together with Chelsea, was the first to produce porcelain in England.

## 39 - Earthenware jug decorated in sgraffito

1921

Made by William Fishley Holland (1889-1969)

The decoration includes leaves, branches and a musician playing a wind instrument. This was said to have been the last pot made by William at his Braunton pottery in North Devon before he moved to Clevedon in Somerset.

# 40 - Pearlware jug inscribed: 'Mary Clark Berrynarbour'

**Dated 1802** 

Made at the Swansea Pottery, South Wales

English creamware became popular in the late 1700s as a cheap and hard-wearing alternative to porcelain. Much of the white clay was extracted from the Teign Valley in South Devon and mixed with calcined, or burnt, flint to produce the required body colour. Pearlware was an improved paler version.

#### 41 - Creamware jug with lustre glazes

About 1805-1815 Made by the Garrison Pottery, Sunderland

The transfer-printed decoration includes a view of the iron Wearmouth Bridge at Sunderland. One of the engineering wonders of the age, the bridge appeared frequently on ceramics and glass at the beginning of the 1800s.

## 42 - Creamware jug with moulded relief and painted decoration

About 1810-1820 Probably made in Staffordshire

The decoration includes figures against a coastal scene. Pottery in this style is sometimes known as Prattware after its inventor, William Pratt of Lane Delph and Middle Fenton, Staffordshire.

# 43 - Earthenware candelabra with applied vine decoration

1930-1950

Made by William Fishley Holland (1889-1969)

The grandson of Edwin Beer Fishley, and the last in a long dynasty of North Devon potters, William managed a pottery at Braunton from 1912. After the First World War he moved to Somerset.

# 44 - Stoneware bottle painted with iron oxide glazes

1970

Made by David Leach (1911-2005)

David Leach moved to Bovey Tracey in Devon in 1955. Until 1961 he made slipware pottery, decorated with liquid clay, but later turned to porcelain and stoneware. Most of his work was thrown on the wheel. His father was the famous potter Bernard Leach.

#### 45 - Stoneware pitcher, ash glazed and wood fired

1977

Made by Takeshi Yasuda

Born in Tokyo, Takeshi came to Britain in 1973 and worked for a time in Devon. His wheel-thrown stonewares are inspired by Japanese rural ceramics and decorated with slips, coloured glazes and impressed patterns.

# 46 - Earthenware harvest jug with sgraffito decoration

1977

Made by Harry Juniper

The inscriptions read: 'Ceres, goddess of the harvest' and 'Harvest is come and all is busy in the making of the barley'. Harry lives in North Devon and makes *sgraffito* decorated slipwares inspired by traditional North Devon harvest jugs. The word *sgraffito* comes from the Italian 'to scratch' and is used when designs are scratched through a covering of liquid clay or slip.

#### 47 - Bracket clock

About 1820-1830
Made by Desbois and Wheeler of Grays Inn Passage, London

This high quality clock has an oak case with mahogany veneer. The moving parts are of brass. It has a verge escapement, which controls the rate of the clock, and a short pendulum. It strikes the hours and the quarters, although the striking mechanism can be silenced.

#### 48 - South American turtle shell

Podocnemis expansa
From the Amazon Basin

The interlocking bony plates of a turtle's shell are formed as expansions of the animal's spine and ribs. The enclosing shell is rigid, so turtles need special muscles to breathe in and out.

# 49 - Sea sponge

In the *phylum Porifera*Probably from the Mediterranean Sea

Sponges are the simplest multicellular animals. The Latin name *porifera* refers to the many tiny openings, or pores, that can be seen on its surface. Their 'skeletons' consist of tiny spine-like structures called spicules which are made from protein, silica or sometimes both.

#### 50 - Stony coral

Acropora species
From the Persian Gulf

When this coral was collected the Persian Gulf's coral reefs were in fairly good condition. Now nearly one-third have died and many others are threatened. The increasing saltiness and rising temperature of seawater are thought to be the main causes.

#### 51 - Set of 'Winchester' measures

1799

Used at the Guildhall, Exeter

Until the 1970s these containers were used at the Guildhall as a standard measure for dry goods such as grain and coal. The term 'Winchester' goes back over 1,000 years to when Winchester was the Anglo-Saxon capital of England and the place where standard measures were kept.

#### 52 - Set of wine measures

1797

**Used** in Exeter

These metal measures were used to regulate the sale of wine. Each holds a standard volume of liquid – gill, half pint, pint, quart and gallon.

#### 53 - Drawer of swallowtail butterflies

Papilio machaon
Collected by Derrick Worton.

The swallowtail is the UK's largest butterfly and a protected species. It is found almost exclusively on the Norfolk Broads. The black specimen was bred in captivity and is a very rare mutation. Derrick bought it from a dealer for £150. His collection includes over 7,000 butterflies of more than 70 different species. Many were found locally and are now rare or extinct in the UK.

#### 54 - Coins

Between 60 and 1,900 years old Made of gold, silver and bronze

There are over 4,000 coins in RAMM's collection. Here are just a few of them. The collection focuses on coins made in Devon, but includes other British coins as well as ones from Greece and Rome.

#### 55 - Tokens

Between 50 and 400 years old Issued in Devon

Tokens have been used alongside official coinage in Devon for nearly 400 years. There are over 1,200 in the museum's collection. Trade tokens were issued by businesses to advertise their services and to provide a source of low denomination coinage during periods of shortage. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century many Devon merchants issued these low value tokens. They now provide fascinating details about local businesses and their owners.

#### 56 - Medals

Awarded between 1789 and 1954 Issued in Devon

Medals are awarded as prizes, to commemorate important people, or to mark historic events. RAMM has over 600 in its collection. The Victorian era (1837-1901) was the heyday of medal-making. They were cast for subjects as varied as Exeter's Meat and Corn Market, Bible Christian Society total abstinence and the Champion Wrestler of Devon "on account of his wonderful skills as musician, bone-player and clog-dancer".

#### 57 - Moulded creamware cat with marbled glazes

About 1790-1800 Made at the Indeo Pottery, Bovey Tracey, Devon

## 58 - Earthenware Toby jug

About 1770-1780
Probably made by Ralph Wood II, Staffordshire

The Toby jug was probably first made by Ralph Wood I in about 1750, but was later copied throughout England. It may have been named after Shakespeare's character Sir Toby Belch or modelled on a real person such as Harry Elwes. Nicknamed Toby Fillpot, he was the subject of a song called The Brown Jug and was a well-known heavy drinker.

## 59 - Earthenware squirrel

About 1770-1780
Possibly made by Ralph Wood II, Staffordshire

The moulded cream body has blotched coloured glazes covered with a clear lead glaze. Intermingled glazes of this type are sometimes called Whieldon, after Thomas Whieldon, a Staffordshire potter.

#### 60 - Silver Chinoiserie tea service

1819

Made by James Le Bass, Dublin

Chinoiserie, the fashion for imitations of Chinese art, reached its peak in Britain during the mid-1700s but continued into the next century. The Royal Pavilion in Brighton was completed for George IV at around the same date as this tea service and contains similar exotic decoration. The inscription, dated 1820, commemorates Charles Lewis, Secretary of the West of England Life & Fire Insurance Company of Exeter.

# 61 - Moulded creamware tea canister inscribed: 'Sarah Bronning'

Dated 1772
Made at the Indeo Pottery, Bovey Tracey, Devon

The Indeo Pottery operated from 1766-1841. When Josiah Wedgwood visited in 1775 he was not impressed: "It is a poor trifling concern, and conducted in a wretched slovenly manner." Nevertheless, the pottery made a wide range of high quality creamwares.

#### 62 - Stone capital with four faces

Around 900 years old Found in South Street, Exeter

These four faces decorated the top of a stone column. Although damaged from reuse they seem to show men with long beards wearing hats. It was found in 1873 in a wall on the site of the former house of the medieval Plympton Priory.

#### 63 - Pata-chitra

Modern Orissa, India

Pata-chitras, or paintings on cloth, belong to a very old tradition in the north-east of India and they depict a number of themes; this one depicts the Jagannath temple and its triad of deities. Within this temple in Puri there are wooden carvings that represent the triad: the white-faced Balabhadra (left), the yellow-faced Subhadra (centre) and the black-faced Jagannath (right). This painting depicts the carvings when they are elaborately dressed in silk cloth and flowers, called badasinghara vesha, which is performed towards the end of the day. The silk cloth is covered with the text of the Gita Govinda poem that celebrates the love of Krishna and Radha.

#### 64 - 'Penny-farthing' bicycle

About 1870-1890 Used in Crediton, Devon

These became popular in the 1880s. The nickname comes from their rather comical appearance. The large front wheel was compared to an old penny coin, which is similar in size to a two-pound coin, and the rear wheel to a farthing coin, which was about the size of a five-pence piece. These machines were the first ones to be called bicycles.

#### 65 - Turret clock

1741
Made by Richard Markes
From South Tawton church, Devon

The oldest clocks in Britain are called turret or tower clocks. Some have been in use for more than 600 years. This one is more recent but is of a traditional design with a wrought iron framework. On either side are the timekeeping and striking gears which were driven by weights from below. It would have been fitted with a pendulum, an invention of the 1600s, although this is now missing.

## 66 - Sharpitor Rocks

William Widgery (1826-1893) Oil on canvas

A self-taught artist, William Widgery was born in North Molton where his father was a farm labourer. He came to Exeter as a young man and at first worked as a builder. His early commissions were for portraits of animals such as prizewinning sheep or favourite horses or dogs — but by the early 1860s he was producing pure landscape paintings. Dartmoor was his lifelong inspiration, and in 1880 he built a house and studio at Lydford. In 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, he built a granite cross on Bray Tor, near Lydford, to celebrate the occasion.

# 67 - Exeter Quay with Shipping, taken from Haven Banks

Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) Watercolour over pencil, about 1790

Exeter Quay with Shipping, taken from Haven Banks is an important record of Exeter's quay in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Rowlandson's watercolour captures the hustle and bustle and serves as evidence of Exeter's development as an affluent city in the 18th century due to the wool trade. Rowlandson would have executed this watercolour on one of his many tours to Devon and Cornwall to visit his friend and patron Matthew Mitchell. This work is an important example of Rowlandson's topographical studies which are quiet and tender, a direct contrast to his humorous caricatures for which he quickly gained celebrity.

#### 68 - Sedan chair

About 1750-1770

Wood and brass frame with leather lined top, upholstered in glazed cotton Maker unidentified Sedan chairs were a common form of transport during the 18<sup>th</sup> century but only around 110 now survive in Britain. Typical of the George II era, this example has double size side windows. It is missing corner pieces and the windows have probably been replaced and pole brackets heightened. The gilt brass ornamentation has also been painted out. Conservation revealed three layers of textiles used at various periods for the upholstery. Along with other alterations, this suggests that a professional London maker may have undertaken the work to maintain a fashionable look.

#### 69 and 70 - Intentionally left blank