

Industry moves on

1800 to 1900

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1 - Creamware jug

About 1800

Made at the Indeo Pottery, Bovey Tracey, Devon

Production began at the Indeo Pottery in 1766, but the works were closed by 1841. When Josiah Wedgwood visited in 1775 he was unimpressed by this “poor trifling concern” which was “conducted in a wretched slovenly manner”. Nevertheless the pottery made a range of high quality, cream-coloured earthenware. The inscription on this jug reads: ‘Bovey’ and ‘1800’.

2 - Creamware jug with moulded otter head spout

About 1778

Made at the Indeo Pottery, Bovey Tracey, Devon

This jug is decorated in overglaze enamels with flowers and insects. It is inscribed: ‘John Hiern Torrington 1778’.

3 - Waste from the Devon Art Pottery

1897-1935

Excavated from Tan Lane, Exeter

The Exeter-based Devon Art Pottery was in operation from 1897 to about 1935. William Hart and Alfred Moist founded the business in St Thomas. Wares were similar to those from the Torquay potteries, using brown clay from the Monks Road pit and white clays from Bovey Tracey.

These fragments were unearthed by archaeologists in a rubbish pit containing waste from the pottery. They come from broken vessels that were not good enough to sell. Included are some undecorated sherds, some decorated with slip but unglazed, and others with their final glaze.

4 - Earthenware puzzle jug

About 1900-1910

Made by the Devon Art Pottery, Exeter

The 'puzzle' with this jug is created by a hollow handle through which the liquid passes. It has a pierced neck and is painted with slips. The inscription sets a challenge to the drinker: 'Within this jug there is good liquor Tis fit for parson or for vicar But how to drink and not to spill Will try the utmost of your skill'.

5 - Earthenware vase

About 1900-1910

Made by the Devon Art Pottery, Exeter

Decorated with painted slips on a black ground.

6 - Earthenware mug

About 1910

Made by the Devon Art Pottery, Exeter

Later Devon Art Pottery wares were inscribed with popular mottos in direct competition with the Torquay potteries. This mug has an incised inscription in Devonshire dialect: 'If ye cant be aisy Be as aisy as ye can 1821'.

7 - Earthenware vase

About 1900-1910

Made by the Devon Art Pottery, Exeter

Decorated with a leaf scroll pattern of painted slips.

8-12 - Wooden patterns for iron machinery parts

Around 1850-1900s

From Bodley's iron foundry, Exeter

Bodley's iron foundry was one of the most successful industries in Exeter, trading for over 170 years. The company made an array of cast iron parts for intricate industrial machinery. These mahogany and teak patterns were used to make sand moulds in which to cast iron cogs. The wooden forms are accurate to within 100th of an inch (about 0.25 mm).

13 - Garton & King Ltd catalogue

Early 20th century

Printed by W.V. Cole and Sons, Exeter

Trade catalogues showcased the items available from Garton & King's iron foundry and shop in Exeter. A wide array of products were available from drain covers to domestic ranges.

14 - Halfpenny trade token

1792

Made for Samuel Kingdon, Exeter

Trade tokens were made and issued at times of shortage of small coinage. This token was made for the iron founder S. Kingdon of Exeter.

15 - Cast iron oven door

Early 19th century

Made by Samuel Kingdon, Exeter

This oven door was made at a successful iron foundry owned by Samuel Kingdon, who was also known as 'Iron Sam'. Iron Sam was a liberal employer who treated his employees to occasional "well-supplied and substantial dinners".

16 - Silver old English pattern tablespoon

1805-1806

Made by Joseph Hicks, Exeter

17 - Silver fiddle pattern teaspoon

1847-1848

Made by Robert, James and Josiah Williams, Bristol

Though made in Bristol, this was assayed and marked in Exeter.

18 - Silver fiddle pattern tablespoon

1836-1837

Made by John Osment, Exeter

The inscription tells us this was made from shoe buckles of William III.

19 - Silver fiddle pattern mustard spoon

1849-1850

Made by Henry Ellis, Exeter

20 - Silver king's pattern salt spoon

1881-1882

Made by Josiah Williams, Bristol but assayed in Exeter

By the early 1880s most 'Exeter silver' was actually made in Bristol.

21 - Silver fiddle pattern spoon

1857-1858

Made by James and Josiah Williams, Bristol

Assayed and marked in Exeter and engraved with 'WJE'.

22 - Silver cellerman's badge

1823-1824

Made by Joseph Hicks, Exeter

Engraved with the Exeter City coat of arms and motto: 'SEMPER FIDELIS'. It was worn by the officially appointed cellerman on Exeter quay.

23 - Silver Ulster Loyalist badge

1850-1851

Made by Robert, James and Josiah Williams, Bristol but marked in Exeter

Engraved with a hand symbol and inscribed with the Loyalist lodge name: 'COLEFORD LOYAL VICTORIA LODGE NO.17'.

24 - Silver wine funnel

1823-1824

Made by Simon Levy, Exeter

Wine funnels were fitted with strainers and used for decanting and removing sediment from the liquid.

25 - Silver brooches and shawl pins

About 1847-1850

Made by Henry Ellis, Exeter

The 'Patent Safety Chain Brooch' was patented by the firm of Ellis in 1847. They manufactured many using silver from the Combe Martin mines on Exmoor.

Some brooches were produced under licence by Clarks of Birmingham. This innovative brooch design was shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

26 - Silver pepper pot in the form of the Eddystone Lighthouse

1846-1847

Made by William Pope, Plymouth but marked in Exeter

John Smeaton's lighthouse was the third to be built on the Eddystone Reef at Plymouth. The first was destroyed by the Great Storm of 1703 and the second by fire in 1755. The new structure of Portland stone and granite was completed in 1759 and lasted until 1882 when it was replaced by another on an adjoining rock and re-erected on the Hoe.

27 - Silver Indian Elephant

1850-1851

Made by John Stone, Exeter

This would probably have been made initially as a wax model and then cast in silver.

28 - Silver masonic box in the form of a coffin

1827-1828

Made by John Osment, Exeter

The gilded cover panel has a skull and cross-bones, symbols of the Freemasons.

29 - Silver salt cellars

1879-1880

Made by Josiah Williams & Co. of Bristol but marked in Exeter

30 - Silver fish servers

1847-1848

Made by Robert, James and Josiah Williams of Bristol but marked in Exeter

The elaborate cast and engraved decoration includes Neptune, the sea and water god, marine creatures and running water.

31 - Silver teapot

1837-1838

Made by William Woodman, Exeter

The decoration, influenced by ancient Greek design, includes cast acanthus leaf and anthemion motifs.

32 - Silver travelling communion cup and cover

1842

Made by William Rawlings Sobey, Exeter

The inscription 'IHS' is an abbreviation of the Greek for Jesus. These small communion sets were probably used for administering communion to the sick.

33 - Silver milk jug in rococo revival style

1848-1849

Made by Robert, James and Josiah Williams, Bristol but marked in Exeter

'Retro' is nothing new. The Victorian era produced few original designs but instead a mingling of revivals. This jug imitates the elaborate French-influenced rococo style of the mid-1700s. The nearby chocolate pot made by William Parry of Exeter is a good example of original rococo design.

34 - Silver cream jug

1876-1877

Made by Josiah Williams and Co., Bristol but marked in Exeter

In rococo revival style similar to the nearby milk jug which was made in Bristol by the same firm.

35 - Silver goblet

1877-1878

Made by Robert, James and Josiah Williams of Bristol but marked in Exeter

The festoons of fruit and flowers have been cast and attached to the sides of the vessel.

36 - The Guildhall on Election Night

Artist unknown

About 1880, oil on canvas

An election held in Exeter in 1880 resulted in an unexpected victory for the Liberal candidate, Mr Edward Johnson. Following the announcement of this shock result there were spontaneous demonstrations with fire-lit processions, including magic lanterns.

37-38 - Newspaper seller's handbells

Victorian Newspapers were a popular method of spreading news and public announcements in Victorian Exeter. Handbells were used by street vendors to draw the attention of potential customers. These bells are marked with the names of two local papers, the Exeter Gazette and the Exeter Flying Post.

39 - Exeter bank notes

1809-1822

Like many merchant towns and cities, Exeter once had many independent banks which were owned by enterprising individuals. Each issued its own notes, like these, but these banks were unregulated and offered little security to their investors. Many of Exeter's poorest residents lost everything when banks closed suddenly.

40 - Sampler

1837

Exeter

This cross-stitch sampler was worked in silk thread on wool by Anna Maria Smale. The sampler, completed in June 1837, records the births and deaths of 11-year old Anna Maria's father and siblings.

The early 19th century was a period of high infant mortality with little to control the spread of infectious diseases like cholera. Five of Anna Maria's 12 brothers and sisters died between the ages of five months and four years.

41 - Receipt for water payment Christmas, 1819

Exeter

For hundreds of years only the wealthy could afford to pay for a piped water supply. This receipt records payment of a water bill by the Fire Office, which was probably part of a private fire insurance company. By the 1830s only 400 of 4,000 private houses in Exeter had their own water supply.