

TOP 10 ARTEFACTS

AT THE

TOWER MUSEUM

Thornhill Bead

Several Stone beads were found during the excavation of Thornhill, which is situated on the outskirts of the city. A highly skilled craft worker using only stone and wooden implements made it over 6000 years ago. The bead is the earliest identified piece of artistry in the city.



Shantallow Tomb - Effigy of a Knight

This effigy of a knight was discovered here in the city during the 19th century and then moved to the garden of Belmont house, Shantallow. He is wearing Alwyte plate armour characteristic of the latter Middle Ages, most likely from the late 1560 – 1570 based on the trunk-hose (breeches) he is wearing. Effigies like this are usually used to cover tombs within churches.



Ceremonial Mace

King William and Queen Mary presented the silver mace to the Londonderry Corporation in the 17th century. A ceremonial mace is a highly ornamented staff, carried before a sovereign or other officials in civic ceremonies by a mace-bearer, intended to represent the official's authority. The mace was originally used in official state and memorial ceremonies.



State Sword

The Honourable The Irish Society presented the 'State Sword' with its scabbard to the city in 1616. The name *LON*DON*DER*RE* is inscribed on the sword's pommel. The Irish Society was the company formed by the City of London to manage the development of the new city and county of Londonderry. The sword is now part of the city's regalia.



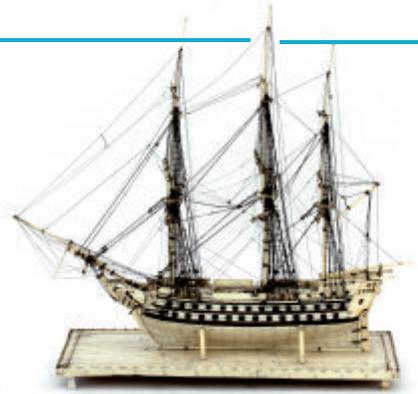
Prehen Coach

This type of coach is known as a 'travelling chariot' and was designed for long distance travel. In 1761, 15-year-old Mary Anne Knox was accidentally shot dead in the coach by John Naughton. After the accident, he was arrested and sentenced to be hanged. When Mc Naughton threw himself off the gallows the rope broke and he could have escaped death. However he did not want to be known as 'half-hanged Mc Naughton', so he was hanged a second time. Ironically Mc Naughton became infamous as 'half-hanged' after his death.



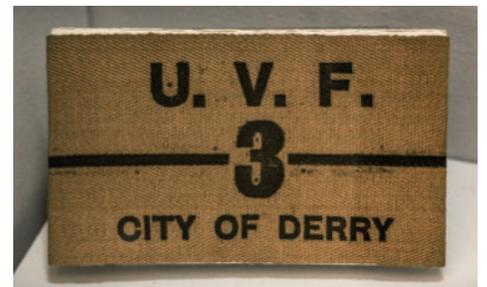
Bone Ship

The ship was made from the animal bones of meat eaten by French prisoners interned in Londonderry during the Napoleonic War. It was presented to the Corporation of Londonderry by Miss Digby Hamilton – niece of Solomont T Darcus Esq. on the 10th May 1916.



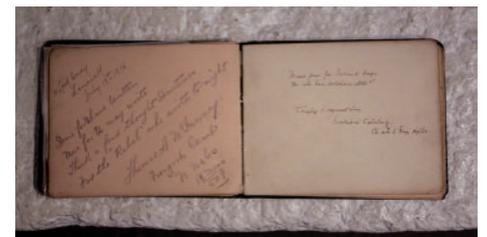
UVF City of Derry Armband

The Ulster Volunteer Force was a unionist militia founded in 1912 to block Home Rule for Ireland, which was then part of the United Kingdom. The Ulster Volunteer went on to form regiments that fought in the First World War. The City of Derry Regiment U.V.F. as it was known - the rest of the county's Regiments are referred to as Londonderry - had by August 1914 almost 3500 volunteers in its ranks.



Autograph book from Frongoch

Frongoch internment camp at Merionethshire, Wales was a makeshift place of imprisonment during the First World War. Until 1916 it housed German prisoners of war, but in the wake of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, the German prisoners were moved and it was used as a place of internment for approximately 1800 Irish prisoners, among them Michael Collins and Eamon Devalera.



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Suit of Armour

This suit of half armour would have similar to that worn by soldiers during the time of the Spanish armada in 1588. thousands of these pieces, known as a Flemish design, were assembled in Europe to defend against the threat of invasion in a time of great turmoil. Designed to stop slashing blades, they would have offered little resistance against muskets at close range.



Siege Gun

This large siege gun was discovered in the wreck of La Trinidad Valencera off Kinnago Bay on the 20th of February 1971 by the City of Derry Sub-Aqua Club. It was one of the largest transport ships in the Armada and was captained by Don Alonso de Luzon. The cannon bears the arms of King Phillipus Rex (Phillip II of Spain) and was designed by the famous Belgian gunsmith Remigy de Halut in 1556. The intended use of the cannon would have been siege warfare, particularly the destruction of fortified walls and gates.

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