

OUT OF STORES

**EXPLORE OUR
SHIPYARD
COLLECTION**



INTRODUCTION

Titanic Foundation is the charity responsible for preserving Belfast's maritime heritage and this is the contents of our store. Everything you see here is related to the Harland & Wolff shipyard and the people who worked there. Many came into Titanic Foundation's collection through donations from former employees and their families. Others are connected to projects that the Foundation has worked on, such as the development of Titanic Belfast, the restoration of the Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and preservation of SS Nomadic.

Our collection has everything from a 1912 penny to huge steam cranes! We hold these items in care until they can be displayed and/or are used to inform research and restoration projects. We hope you enjoy exploring our shipyard collection.



I. THOMPSON WORKS THEODOLITE

This theodolite was donated anonymously and was used in the Shipyard Fitting Departments in the Thompson Works section of the H&W shipyard.

A theodolite is a surveying instrument with a telescope for measuring horizontal and vertical angles. These indicate the orientation of the telescope, and are used to relate the first point sighted through the telescope to subsequent sightings of other points from the same theodolite position.

2. SHIPWRIGHT'S ADZE

The Adze was donated by Paul McMaster, a shipwright who worked in the shipyard, following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather as well as uncles and cousins.

An adze was a highly versatile tool used for smoothing or carving wood.



3. JOINERS SAW

The saw was donated by the granddaughters of Harry Streight, a joiner who was given the saw by his chargehand Mr Thompson, who had used it when he worked on RMS Titanic for Harland & Wolff.

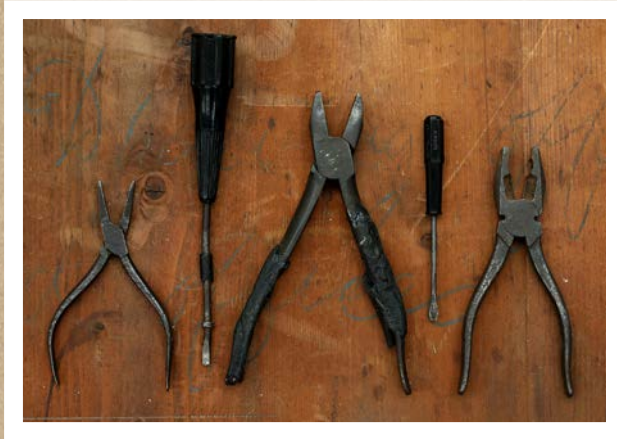
4. DRAUGHTSMAN'S TOOLS

These delicate tools were donated by Eddie Kirk, who started in H&W as a young apprentice draughtsman in 1971, before moving to the Pipe Drawing Office, working on bulk carriers and oil & gas carriers.



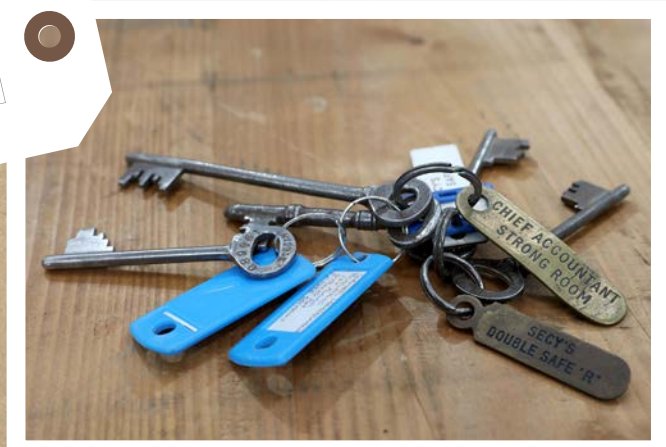
5. CAULKER'S TOOLS

The caulker's tools were donated by the grandchildren of James McNeill. Born in 1874, he became an apprentice at Harland & Wolff and trained as a caulker. RMS Titanic was one of the ships he worked on during his career and it is likely he used some of these tools.



7. DRAWING OFFICE KEYS

The selection of keys from the H&W Drawing Offices shows how many keys were used in the building for the many offices and safes. Some even have their original brass stamped tags, similar to the key tags used on board H&W ships including RMS Titanic.



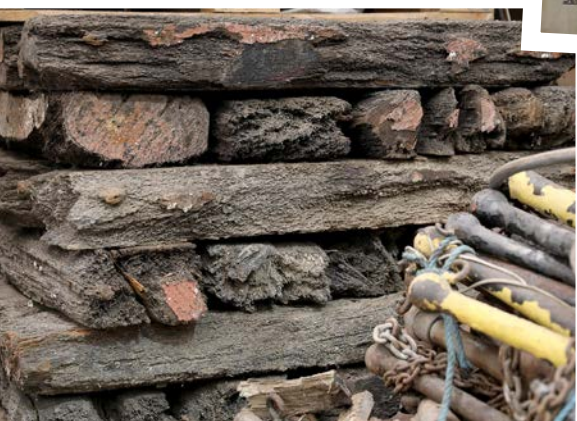
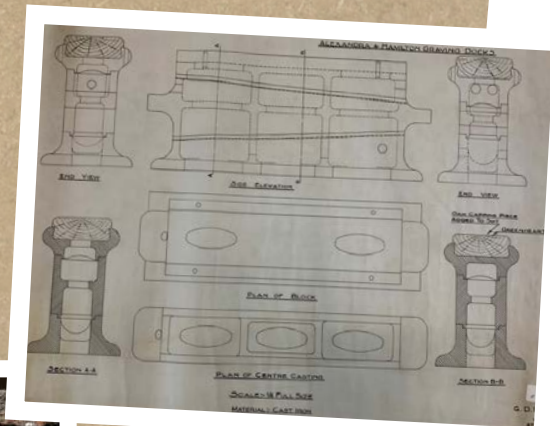
6. WELDER'S TOOLS

These tools were donated by the family of Jim Luke, a welder from North Belfast. Of all the tools in the collection, the welder had the most tools, everything from oil cans to files and wire brushes.



8. KEEL BLOCKS

These are extra keel blocks from the Hamilton Dock, home to the SS Nomadic. The keel blocks are stacked together to support the weight of a ship when it is brought into dry dock. Today, you can see the original layout of the keel blocks underneath SS Nomadic.



9. DRAWING OFFICE STOOL

Draughtsmen would have used these low stools to help lean over the tall drawing desks.

In the Drawing Offices they had "large stools to sit on but it was difficult to reach over the board from the stool, so most of the time we were standing on footstools. At times we would have to go to the other side of the board and draw upside down."

James Thompson H&W
employee 1977-1989



10. TRACING LINEN



These linen samples were produced by a tracer for Harland & Wolff in the 1930s. Tracers would make copies of plans in very fine linen. These samples are actually rejects that were donated by Rosemarie Graham (nee Howard), who started working for Harland & Wolff in 1939. Among the ships she worked on was HMS Belfast, ship no 1000.



11. DRAWINGS



These H&W drawings were abandoned in the Drawing Offices in 1989 when H&W were privatised in an employee/management buy out after a troubled financial history. A large part of the shipyard including the Drawing Offices was eventually sold off and redeveloped into Titanic Quarter. Titanic Foundation saved the drawings, which relate to areas of the shipyard and buildings long since demolished.

12. PORTHOLES

These are spare portholes for the *Nomadic*, copied from the originals and replaced on the ship where necessary.




13. SINGER SEWING MACHINE


The extra large industrial sewing machine was used in Harland & Wolff, possibly for making sails and other large fabric items.

Titanic Foundation would like to say a special thanks to the former Harland & Wolff employees and their families who donated artefacts into our collection and have shared their memories and stories from the shipyard. If you would like to see more of our collection, you can also visit Titanic Hotel Belfast and view a range of our artefacts on display in the original Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and heritage rooms.

Please get in touch if you have items which you would like to donate to the collection, or stories you would like to share.

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