

Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners: Photographs, Archives and Artefacts

1. Bigger and McDonald Collection of Photographs

14,000 original glass negatives of photographs of Derry dating from April 1927 which appeared in the *Derry Standard* newspaper were salvaged by David Bigger and Terence McDonald. This collection of photographs can now be examined at Central Library, Foyle Street, Derry.

This collection includes about 300 photographs relating to shipping and the port in the inter-war years. It follows all port activity with photographs of the quays, loading and unloading of ships, tug-tenders plying between Derry and Moville, transatlantic liners, the Scotch Boat, and of emigrants and passengers on board the tenders, liners and cross-channel steamers. Key images include:

Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners

Catalogue Number	Description
POR 1-4	Bucket dredger ' <i>Hercules</i> ', purchased by Harbour Commissioners in 1887 to cut a deep-water channel through Lough Foyle and Rosses Bay, berthed at Rock Jetty by Rock Mills.
POR 2-13	' <i>Hercules</i> ' in Graving Dock. Built in 1862 the Graving Dock was 345 feet long and 50 feet wide.
POR 5-14	Boat in Graving Dock, adjacent to former Shipyard of North of Ireland Shipbuilding Company which opened in 1912 and closed 1924. Shirt factory of Bryce and Weston on Strand Road can be seen in the distance.
POR 6-5, 6-15 and 7-13	Harbour Commissioners' diver at work
POR 8-3 and 8-5	The derelict shipyard of North of Ireland Shipbuilding Company which closed in 1924. In the early 1920s this shipyard, which opened in 1912, employed 2,600.
POR 8-6	Workman carry out repair work to wooden quay
POR 17-6, 17-7	Well-dressed party of men on board ' <i>T. F. Cooke</i> '. This is perhaps the annual inspection of the harbour by board members of the Harbour Commissioners.
POR 17-8	Harbour Commissioners launch ' <i>T. F. Cooke Londonderry</i> ', purchased c. 1910. This small tug was used for light load duties on the Foyle, it was not powerful enough to tow ships.

Royal Navy

Catalogue Number	Description
POR 9-1, 9-3, 9-7, 9-8, 9-9, 9-11 and 10-2	Visit of Royal Navy to Derry provides an opportunity for a large crowd gathered at Queen's Quay to inspect the ships and their armaments.
POR 9-5	Reception for Royal Navy commanders at Harbour Office by Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners

2. Harbour Museum Exhibits

The Harbour Museum is located in the former Harbour Commissioners Offices, built 1882, at Harbour Square, Derry. Among the exhibits in the Harbour Museum are a number of items relating to the Port and Harbour Commissioners and to their shipyard at Pennyburn:

Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners

- Framed Notice, dated 30 December 1870, to elect 5 commissioners to Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners.
- Framed Notice, dated 5 February 1867, to tender for oil, wick and tow by Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners.
- Framed Notice, dated 19 April 1871, warning public not to meddle with tramway by Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners.
- Framed Notice, dated 5 February 1867, to tender for road metal by Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners.
- ‘Bell from dredger used on the River Foyle to keep the channel navigable’
- Cabinet S/C 5: ‘Harbour Police tunic, cap and baton pad’
- Diving Helmet. This piece of equipment used by Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners in maintaining the port and dredging the channel.
- Diving Pump. This piece of equipment used by Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners in maintaining the port and dredging the channel.

Shipbuilding at Pennyburn

- Builders Model of ‘Steel Ship Foyledale’ ‘Built 1890 by Charles J. Bigger Foyle Shipyard Londonderry’
- Builders Model of ‘Steel Barque Maiden City’ ‘Builder Charles J. Bigger Londonderry’ ‘Owners Thomson Dickie & Co Glasgow 1888-244’
- Builders Model of ‘Steel Barque No 16 Built 1889 by Charles J. Bigger Foyle Shipyard Londonderry’
- Builders Model of ‘Iron Barque Cupica’ ‘Builder Charles J. Bigger Londonderry’ ‘Owners W H Ross & Co Liverpool 1888-245’
- Builders Model of ‘S.S. Glendun built by the Londonderry Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd Londonderry’
- Framed Photograph ‘Riveters North of Ireland Shipbuilding Yard Londonderry’ in 1914
- Framed Photograph of ‘Limnea entering Mersey built by The North of Ireland Shipbuilding Co Ltd Londonderry’ ‘Photo Stewart Bale Liverpool’
- Framed ‘Plan of Store of Graving Dock’ ‘L.D.P.H’ dated 10 December 1888
- Framed ‘Plan of Cottage at Graving Dock’ ‘L.D.P.H’ dated 10 December 1888

3. Derry Maritime Records in Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

PRONI Ref:	Date	Description
CUS/2/6	1834-1987	Registry of Shipping of Londonderry registered vessels and other shipping records
CUS/2/6/1	1834-1895	Register of Shipping
CUS/2/6/1/1	1834-1849	1 Volume of shipping registers
CUS/2/6/1/3	1856-1895	1 Volume of shipping registers
HAR/2	1854-1969	Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners
MIC501	1854-1985	Minute Books of Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners
LOND/7/6/1	1920-1965	Accounts of Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners
D2892/2/1	1837-1847	Copy out-letter book of J & J Cooke
D2892/1/1-3	1847-1867	Three volumes of passenger lists, February 1847-1849, February 1850-August 1857, March 1858-July 1867, of J & J Cooke, shipping agents, Londonderry. (Also MIC13/1-3)
D2892/2/2	1826-1834	Copy out-letter book of William McCorkell & Co
T3218/1	Sep. 1833 to Sep. 1834	Issues of Londonderry Shipping List published weekly by John Evans of the Custom House