

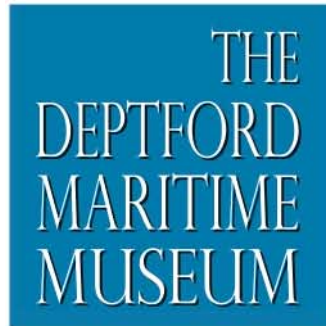
# THE DEPTFORD MARITIME MUSEUM

An exhibition by  
the MUSEUM CLAUSUM

## **Gallery Guidebook**

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*Collected by Klaus Wehner*



The *Deptford Maritime Museum* was first produced for the arts festival *Deptford X* in September 2009, which was held in close vicinity to the *National Maritime Museum* in Greenwich. Reflecting on its national big sibling, the *Deptford Maritime Museum* presents a selection of remarkable objects that memorise and celebrate Deptford's local historical link to England's maritime history. In contrast to the national institution in Greenwich, the *Deptford Maritime Museum* also shows relics that tell surprising stories of very private and personal rather than national significance.

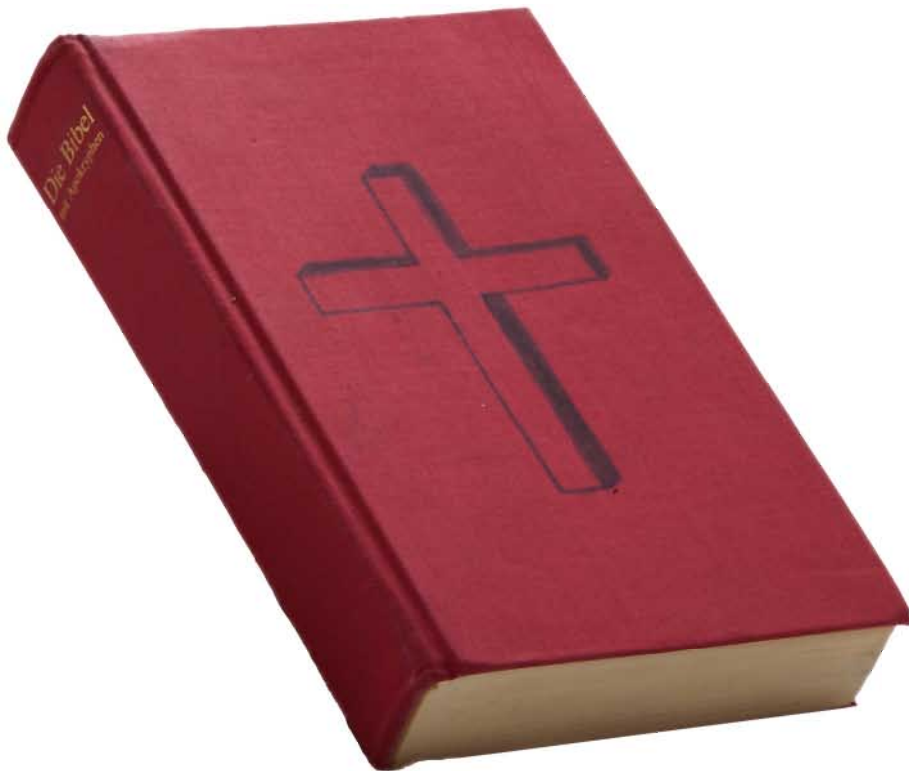


**Cameras of the 20th Century:** The Nettar series by Zeiss Ikon was a successful range of folding cameras for 120 roll film. The Nettar II 517/16 has a Novar Anastigmat 1:6.3/75mm lens. The camera was released in 1949 and makes 6×6 cm exposures. The aperture ranges from f6.3 to f22 and the camera has an optical direct vision viewfinder below the flash shoe.



**Sailing the world:** This camera belonged to Vincent Hill. The camera was handed down to Vincent by his father, Karl, who loved photography all his life. It was well known in the family that he made not only the most beautiful family portraits but he also took wonderful pictures of his frequent travels to far away places, which Vincent sometimes lovingly called his father's 'photo-cruises'. When Karl became older, his health no longer allowed travelling and on his 75th Birthday, Karl gave the camera to Vincent together with a large sum of money from his savings. He asked Vincent to use the money to go travelling and take the camera with him, so he can bring back more beautiful pictures from distant lands for Karl's collection. Because Vincent was afraid of flying, he made altogether a dozen long ship cruises around the world over the next few years. He became a passionate photographer during these travels and Karl was delighted that his camera continued to 'sail the world', feverishly awaiting the next series of images of far away places that his son would bring back to his house in Deptford.

**Bible:** This German Bible is a revised text from 1975. It has no jacket sleeve and on the cover is a hand-drawn cross. Bibles are often used as objects of protection and for centuries, across the Christian world, it has been a custom to have at least one Bible aboard any ship.



**Challenge:** This bible accompanied Frank Neumann on his 30,000-mile journey to sail around the world, alone. The youngest person to complete this journey was 17-year old Mike Perham from England in 2008 and in the same year, in Holland a 13-year old girl has been prevented by social services to undertake this journey. Across all ages, humans have measured their strength by facing challenges of the oceans. The 'English Channel Challenge', to swim from England to continental Europe, continues to attract candidates. The British 'swimming sensation' Lewis Gordon Pugh became the first person to complete a long-distance swim in all five oceans of the world on 27 January 2006. "Swimming in the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic and Southern Oceans is a feat considered to be the Holy Grail of long distance open water swimming: The challenge of swimming in all 5 oceans is rooted in the limitations of human physiology. There are very few swimmers in the world that can complete a long-distance swim in the Arctic Ocean or Southern Ocean in just a Speedo. Most swimmers would be disabled within seconds of diving into the freezing water".

Deep sea diving without a diving suit or oxygen supply, as made famous by the 1988 film, 'The Big Blue' is another such challenge that tests the limits of the human body.

**Engraved Champagne Flutes:** Flutes of this kind are industrially produced and engraved. The two glasses on display here would once have belonged to a larger set, probably of 6 or 12. Each glass can hold up to 200ml of liquid. The engraved pattern shows vine leaves and grapes. Estimated time of production is 1980s. The maker is: Luminarc, France.



**Champagne :** These two flutes were used many times by Martha Jones and her husband Steve, usually on occasion of saying goodbye, or celebrating a reunion. Both Martha and Steve worked at sea most of their working lives. Martha was a geologist and spent long stretches of time on oilrigs around the world, often being called to assignments at very short notice. Steve was an engineer working on cargo vessels. The two often promised themselves to change this type of life that would only allow them to see each other for a few weeks in a year. One day in 1996, Martha received a message whilst on an oilrig in the North Sea, that her husband had been found dead in the red light district of the harbour of Aberdeen. When Martha returned to their home she saw the two used glasses standing on the table just as they were when she left the house 7 weeks previously, even though Steve had remained home for 8 more days after her departure.

**Underwater Goggles:** A pair of black rubber underwater goggles from the early 1970s. These goggles are made to be used with a snorkel, which enables the user to watch underwater sea life.



**Seaside Holidays:** These goggles belonged to Marianne West who used them to watch underwater marine life on several seaside holidays during her childhood in the 1970s. Marianne's parents loved beach holidays and took their daughter to different beach destinations around Europe every year. Marianne loved building sand castles and she adored swimming and observing fish. Because Marianne always hugely enjoyed these summers by the beach, where the family spent relaxing and harmonious times together, she kept the goggles as a keepsake for many years into her adult life, having become a successful businesswoman. Once teased about her "over-sentimental" attachment to this piece of plastic by a close friend, she replied: "Darling, what is wrong with you? Sentimentality really is hugely underrated".

**The Titanic:** The famous drama that was the sinking of the Titanic in 1911, featuring a captivating tension between social glamour and poverty and its evocation of a total downfall of social and technological human hubris, continues to capture people's fascination. Numerous film versions have been made over the years, and artefacts rescued from the wreck are kept and exhibited in many different collections around the world.



**Heart of the Ocean:** This Necklace was worn by Kate Winslet in the 1997 feature film 'Titanic'. The 'Heart of the Ocean' was an engagement present for Winslet's character, Rose DeWitt Bukater, from her snobbish wealthy heir fiancée. Yet, during the fateful voyage Rose fell in love with poor steerage passenger Jack Dawson (played by Leonardo diCaprio) ensuing a romance that defied their class divide. Having seen Jack drown in front of her eyes, Rose survives the sinking. In a scene set many decades later, aboard a treasure hunting ship to find the 'Heart of the Ocean' in the wreck of Titanic, we see her fondling the valuable diamond, which she had kept hidden all her life, before dropping it into the ocean whilst she utters to herself:  
*"A woman's heart is a deep ocean of secrecy. Jack exists nowhere now, except in my memory."*

A few months after the release of Titanic, Jewellers Asprey & Garrard made a real Heart of the Ocean diamond necklace, which was sold at a charity auction for \$2.2 million, and is now on display at the 'Charlestown Shipwreck and Heritage Centre' in Cornwall, England. Thousands of glass or crystal replicas are on sale in shops around the world.

**Stingray Skin:** The stingrays are a family (Dasyatidae) of rays, cartilaginous fishes related to sharks. They are common in coastal tropical marine waters throughout the world, and several species are known to enter fresh water. Stingrays are not usually aggressive but can sting humans if disturbed. Stings are painful and in rare cases can be fatal as in the famous case of the Australian wildlife expert Steve Irvin who, died of a sting during a dive in 2008.



**Hunt's Marine Wunderkammer:**

This skin was part of the collection of Marine specimens of Professor Nicholas Hunt. A marine biologist himself, Hunt was a life long obsessive collector of all things to do with the sea and many rooms in his house in Deptford were used to display his collection, which his friends sometimes jokingly called the 'Hunt Maritime Museum'. The stingray skin was part of his 'Marine Wunderkammer', which at some point contained many hundreds of objects from preserved biological specimens to other oddities. After Hunt retired from his working life, he suddenly felt overwhelmed and alienated by the collection and started to dissolve it. The Museum Clausum managed to secure large parts of his collection, which now form the nucleus of the collection of the Deptford Maritime Museum. The bulk of the collection is currently in storage whilst being catalogued.

**Crystal Glasses:** Two lead-crystal water glasses, decoratively etched, 15cm tall and 7cm in diameter from the manufacturer Schott Ziesel, made in the 1990s. The glasses have not been cleaned and show lip stains and residue of fruit juice.



**The Iraq War in 2003:** These two glasses were smuggled out of the White House in Washington DC, on the 31 January 2003, by Ben Othman, a caterer to the White House, on duty that day. They were used by George Bush, President of the United States of America, and Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Great Britain, during a visit of Mr. Blair's to the White House. During this meeting the two state leaders agreed on their pact to invade Iraq, regardless of approval or disapproval by the UN or international community. Throughout the war, US and English war ships remained crucial for the military operations in the occupied region. The body count of this war is estimated to be in the tens of thousands but only Western dead are reliably counted. Weapons of mass destruction, claimed to be the reason for this 'pre-emptive' war were never found and it is widely accepted that the war is purely fuelled by the economic interests of petrochemical corporations. The anti petroleum watchdog 'Oil Change International' published a study that estimates that the amount of greenhouse gases released by the Iraq war equals the pollution from adding 25 million cars to the worlds roads for one year. In 2006, the US spent more money on the war in Iraq than the whole world spent on investment in renewable energy. There is no mention of this military marine enterprise in the National Maritime Museum at present.

**The Iraq War, 2003:** Iraq is the country with the third largest oil reserves in the world. As revealed by the report 'Crude Designs', post-war Iraqi oil policy has allocated the development of more than 60% of Iraq's reserves to foreign oil companies. Before moving to the White House, US Vice President Dick Cheney, who was one of the main initiators of the war, was CEO of 'Haliburton' an oil-services company that also provides construction and military support services. The estimated cost to Iraq over the life of these new oil contracts is \$74 to \$194 billion, compared with leaving oil development in Iraq's public hands. These sums represent between two and seven times the current Iraqi state budget.



**Bullet Hole:** This is a standard cotton vest in size M, from the H&M line 'Divided'. What makes it unique is that it was worn by Royal Marine, Roy Hewitt from Deptford, who was 22 years old when he was hit by an enemy bullet during fights in Basra 3 April 2003 and died of the gunshot wound. There is a bullet hole visible in the centre area of the chest. The garment has been washed and contains no bloodstains. The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich has a similar object on display, which is the bloodstained coat that Admiral Nelson wore when he received the fatal gunshot wound during the famous battle of Trafalgar, nearly two hundred years earlier, on 21 October 1805.

**The North East Passage:** Also called the Northern Sea Route, the North East Passage is a shipping lane from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean along the Russian coast of the Far East and Siberia. The vast majority of the route lies in Arctic waters and parts are only free of ice for two months per year but were never freed enough for large commercial vessels to pass through safely.



**Global Warming:**

This breakfast set was used for crew meals aboard the cargo ship 'Beluga Fraternity' in September 2009, as it sailed a historic journey never before completed by a large commercial vessel. The unprecedented summer melt of Arctic ice caused by global warming has freed the fabled North East Passage, cutting thousands of sea miles from the usual southern cargo route.

**St Paul's in Deptford:** The parish church of St. Paul's, Deptford, was completed in 1730 and is regarded as one of the finest examples of English Baroque church architecture. Built by Thomas Archer, it is a handsome stone structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, and two aisles; supported by columns of the Corinthian order. The pews are of dark Dutch oak. At the west end is a taper spire. At the time of building St. Paul's, Deptford was one of the largest towns in England due to its thriving shipyards.



**Monument:** This photograph shows a memorial monument which can be found on the east wall, to the left of the altar, by Anglo-Dutch sculptor Joseph Nollekens, to the memory of James Sayer, Esq. Vice Admiral of the White, who died in 1776. The two stones on display have been collected from the churchyard of St Paul's. The monument's inscription reads:

In memory of James Sayer, Esq. Vice Admiral of the White, son of John Sayer, Esq. and Katherine his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Rear Admiral Robert Hughes, and Lydia his wife, who all lie buried in the old church of this town, with many of their issue. He was a man of the strictest honour and integrity; an active and diligent officer. In the war of 1739, he had the thanks of the Assembly of Barbadoes for his disinterested conduct in the protection of their trade; and he first planted the British standard in the island of Tobago. In the war of 1756, he led the attacks, both at the taking of Senegal and Goree; and was commander in chief off the French coast at Belle Isle, at the time of making the peace, in 1763. As his life was most exemplary, he met death with a becoming fortitude, after a tedious and most painful illness, on the 29 of Oct. 1776, aged 56 years.

**Relics:** The lock of hair is in remarkably good condition. The hair is dark blond with grey streaks, suggesting the victim was between 35-40 years old. Corresponding to the fashion of the time, long hair was often worn bound together at the back of the head.



**Hair:** This lock of hair is part of the Marine Wunderkammer of Dieter Hunt (see exhibit: 'Stingray Skin'). According to the information given by Hunt, the hair has been cut off the head of a French Royalist in 1793, prior to his beheading by guillotine on the West Indian island of Guadeloupe by French Republicans. The guillotine blade, which is said to have been used to decapitate more than 50 royalists, is on display at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. The blade was brought back to Britain in 1794 as a war trophy by Captain Matthew Scott of HMS 'Rose' as the British occupied Guadeloupe in that year.

**Mutiny:** The famous mutiny on the Bounty happened aboard a British Royal Navy ship on 28 April 1789. The story has led to several books, films, and popular songs, many of which take considerable liberties with the known facts. The mutiny was led by Fletcher Christian against the tyrannical commanding officer, William Bligh. Eighteen mutineers set Captain Bligh and those loyal to him afloat in a small boat. They then proceeded to settle, some in Tahiti in 1789, others in Pitcairn Island with some Tahitian people whom they abducted. The Bounty was then burned to avoid capture, and the island remains populated to this day by the descendants of some of the original mutineers and the people they abducted.



**Trophy:** This nail had been fitted into the 'Bounty', whilst the ship was refitted in a Deptford dock in June 1787, prior to its journey of no return. The remains of the ship, which was burned down on 23 January 1790 were found in 1957 by Luis Marden in the waters of the Bounty Bay off Pitcairn Island, where the mutineers settled. Luis Marden had two other nails from the Bounty made into cufflinks, which he wore often and with great pride.

A replica of the ship has been made for the 1962 film 'Mutiny on the Bounty', starring Marlon Brando. The ship was used again more recently for the filming of 'Pirates of the Caribbean', starring Johnny Depp. On 14 September 2009, "Clothing with the ship's insignia, a life ring, an American flag and a waterproof suit were stolen in the early hours of Saturday as 'HMS Bounty' was docked at Custom House Quay in Greenock, Inverclyde" according to Strathclyde Police.

**Relics:** A piece of animal bone 5cm in length. It has not been possible to identify from which animal the bone originates. Known as 'King Henry's Bone', the object has been in various oddity collections for centuries, coming into possession of the Museum Clausum collection as part of Hunt's Marine Wunderkammer.



**Bone:** In 1513, King Henry VIII built the first shipbuilding dockyard in Deptford, to bring the site of the construction of warships close to London, where canons and other weapons were manufactured. Deptford was also conveniently near to his palace in Greenwich. This made it easy for him to watch the ship building progress and he often held festive banquets on board of finished ships before they sailed into service. The bone exhibited here was left on one of the King's plates during one such banquet in 1534, the year that the 'Act of Supremacy' declared that the King to be "the only Supreme Head in Earth of the Church of England" whereby the 'Treasons Act 1534' made it high treason, punishable by death, to refuse to acknowledge the King as such.

**The original *Musaeum Clausum*:** The original *Musaeum Clausum* was an extraordinary Wunderkammer, collated by Sir John Browne in the late 17th Century. The collection has since been dispersed but due to a detailed inventory left by Browne we know of all objects that were in the collection. The modern day Museum Clausum, having adopted the name in homage to Browne, has secured a few of these original objects such as the extract exhibited here.



“An extract of the Inck of Cuttle Fishes  
reviing the old remedy of Hippocrates in Hysterical Passions”

**Extract:** The extract has been in possession of the Middleton family since 1789. It is unknown how it came into the family's possession but it was always known to originate from Browne's *Musaeum Clausum*. It is, however, certain that the first wife of Jeremy Middleton (1779-1848) was treated with the extract in 1808 for her very severe bouts of hysteria, over the course of four months, after which she passed away in a horrible seizure. According to family legend her body was left in such a convulsed condition that she needed a coffin that allowed for her to be placed into the family vault in foetal position.

In 2001 the original glass container was shattered during play, by Phenula Middleton's 11-year-old daughter, Peggie, and gust of wind had blown most of the powder and glass fragments onto the floor. The debris was carefully swept up and placed it into the glass we see here today. Still, Phenula was so upset about the damage to the artefact that she suffered a near nervous breakdown during which she insisted on a painful home confinement for her daughter, lasting throughout her entire, long summer holidays, whilst she was subjected to weeks of nagging and screaming by her mother. Nothing is known about the whereabouts of the object between 1683 and 1789. It was donated to the *Museum Clausum* on occasion of Peggie's 18th birthday, as she gave away all objects that reminded her on her tyrannical mother.

**Evolution:** In 1859 Charles Darwin published the book: 'On the Origin Of Species', which has never been out of print since then. Darwin's main argument outlined in the book concerns the evolution of all biological species from a common ancestor, over periods of millions of years, through natural selection. This also implies that the state of any species is never static.



**Origin:** Before Darwin's theories the origin of fossils such as these ammonites posed a riddle to people. One explanation was that ammonites were the bones of sinners who drowned in the Great Flood. Others believed them to be simply an element of God's ornamentation of the Earth. Scientists today believe ammonites to be fossilised remains of a now extinct species of marine molluscs who thrived around 200 million years ago. Some Christians today believe the dating of fossils and other objects to be considered pre-historic to be false with some believing that dinosaur bones and fossils are the work of the Devil to make people disbelieve the Bible's version of creation. In England today, four out of ten people believe the theory of evolution to be false.

**Beasts of the Deep:** Most sharks are carnivorous predators with some species being so called apex predators, meaning that they are at the top of the underwater food chain. Some species are dangerous to humans and may attack swimmers and divers. Because of this, sharks hold a fascination in people's imagination as being fierce man-eating monsters.



**Bull Sharks:** Living mainly in shallow waters, bull sharks are responsible for most attacks on humans. Being able to tolerate fresh water, bull sharks can also swim up rivers. On display is the jaw and teeth of a bull shark that was caught in the River Thames near Deptford in 1986. It is now assumed that many attacks previously blamed on other species, for example a series of deaths around the Sydney harbour area, have been committed by bull sharks. The bull shark also swims up the Ganges River in India, where it has attacked and killed a large number of people and also eats the corpses that the local population float on the river.

**Reliquary Shrine:** The recently cleaned shrine is made of shells, coral, amethyst, pearl and amber and is of unknown origin. The object was also part of Hunt's Marine Wunderkammer.



Reliquary Shrine to St. Kiara, Patron Saint of the Sea and of the Tortured.

This shrine to St. Kiara, is believed to contain a real relic of the Saint. Abducted at sea by pagan warriors, St. Kiara was persecuted for her Christian faith but refused to renounce it. According to legend a terrible storm broke out after her capture. The pirates threw her into the stormy waters, which nearly sank the ship. When the storm calmed down Saint Kiara was still swimming by the ship. After that she was kept in a cage on deck of the ship and fed with poisonous sea creatures but this had no effect on her. When a bath of boiling seawater was prepared, as she was put in the bath, the fire went out and the water became cold. Then she was thrown into the sea, but the stone with which she was loaded floated. Then her skin was cut to bleed and she was thrown to hungry sharks but these fawned around her and could not be forced away until she had blessed them. She was bound to the bottom of the ship's keel for three hours but did not drown. An attempt was made to behead her, but the sword bent, and the executioners threw themselves into the sea. It was not until she herself desired it that it was finally possible to drown her in a cage made of whalebones that was sunk to the seabed.

**The Falklands Conflict in 1982:** The Falklands War started on Friday, 2 April 1982 with the Argentine invasion and occupation of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, and ended with the Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982. The Royal Navy played an integral part of the military operations with several ships destroyed and sunk. The war lasted 74 days. 255 British and 649 Argentine soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and three civilian Falklanders were killed.



This scarf was donated to the DMM by Mertha M. She knitted the scarf in Argentina in 1982 at the age of 11 and remembers:

“By those days I was 11 years old, and attending primary school. Living in Argentina was not easy; the Junta's propaganda campaign was quite heavy (in fact, people believed we were winning!) I remember that we wrote letters to the Argentinean soldiers in the islands: I wrote two myself, and also knitted this scarf, a very long green and brown scarf, full of hope. I didn't like war at all, but somehow, I hoped I could help someone. To tell you the truth, I wouldn't have minded if a British soldier had worn it...”

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This watch was in the possession of 'John', who grew up and continues to live in Deptford. In 1982 he served on the HMS Brilliant during the Falklands War. He has the following story to tell regarding the watch:

"I have read a few articles lately regarding mercenaries in the conflict, also American involvement. In the Falklands campaign, as a serving soldier during the Falklands war. I can tell you what I personally experienced and what I remember to be true at the time. I don't want to give to many particulars at this time as I don't want to implicate any other persons as it is my own account of an incident as I remember it. I was involved with the battle for Wireless Ridge on the 13/14 June, after a bit of a scrap we took the high ground, we couldn't move forward as we were being shelled quite heavily so we dug in for the night. At first light we were on the move again towards Port Stanley. Now that it was daylight we could see the damage that we had inflicted on the Argy position. Including the dead, one particular deceased soldier looked somewhat different to me. He was a large man, of Anglo-Saxon appearance and dressed in American cams. He had been armed with an American M60 machine gun and an M16 rifle, when I searched this man I found personal affects that verified that he was an American citizen. I can't remember the name on his ID - as you could understand, it was a long time ago. I have thought about this soldier almost every day since. That morning, I stole his watch and his identity, and I feel for his family who would have no idea what ever happened to this man."

**Taxonomy:** Apart from the gathering of personal souvenirs, objects of the sea continue to form countless scientific collections. In the case of Northern American Gladys Doy Archerd, a shell collection was created that contained about twenty thousand sea shells varying in size from miniatures to those over 14 inches in size – many of which rare, all taxonomically classified. Gladys loved the seashore and she began collecting shells as a young girl. Growin up, she became learned in zoological systematics, and continued building the collection throughout her life into her 80th year. Her collection was well-known in the region and it was given to Washington State University after her death.



**The Personal Pebble Collection:** This pebble collection was gathered by Jonathan Thornton. Apparently, each pebble was a souvenir from a specific holiday by the seaside but it is impossible to retrieve the knowledge, of individual pebble's origin.

As long as there existed travel to seaside beaches, people have gathered personal souvenir collections of shells, pebbles, corals, or dried sea creatures, with a focus on specifically recognisable or extraordinary shapes - to take home a part of the sea.

**Barbie:** Barbie dolls have been immensely popular in the Western world, both as toys and as collector's items for over 50 years. Since its inception, hundreds of different Barbie types were made by the original fabricator, Mattel, inc. and Barbie also inspired floods of imitation dolls like the one exhibited here. The exhibit has been thoroughly cleaned. The doll's body is made of plastic and despite having been in the ocean for a number of years, the plastic is undamaged.



**Pollution:** This doll torso was fished out of the Pacific Ocean in May 2009 in an area that many refer to as 'The World's Largest Rubbish Dump'. This floating plastic soup of waste is covering an area twice the size of the United States. It stretches from about 500 nautical miles off the Californian coast, across the northern Pacific, past Hawaii almost reaching Japan. The sea of plastic is held in place by swirling underwater currents and is believed to contain about 100 million tons of plastic rubbish. Plastic is believed to constitute 90 per cent of all rubbish floating in the oceans. The UN Environment Programme estimated in 2006 that every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of floating plastic. According to the UN Environment Programme, plastic debris is responsible for the deaths of more than a million seabirds as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals every year.

**Whales:** With some species being amongst the largest animals of the oceans, whales have been hunted for centuries as a source of meat and other raw materials. Since the middle of the 20th Century whaling has been stopped in all but a few countries across the world as most species are threatened by extinction. The Blue Whale is the largest animal ever to have lived on Earth.



**Swallowed by a whale:**

This box was in a prized possession of James Bartley who lived in Deptford until his death in 1909. The box contains a chunk of the stomach of a huge Sperm Whale that was killed by a whaler on which Bartley worked as seaman, in February 1891. Bartley kept it as a triumphal souvenir of an event that nearly killed him. When said whale was hunted and injured by a deadly harpoon, it jumped out of the water washing Bartley overboard, leaving no trace of him. After the Whale was eventually killed, 15 hours later, and the crew of the whaler cut up the animal, they suddenly noticed movement inside the whale's stomach. Cutting it open, they discovered Bartley alive but unconscious. It took several weeks for Bartley to regain his senses and as a result of the 15 hours inside the whale's stomach he lost all his body hair and he was bleached to an unnatural whiteness that gave the appearance of being bloodless. He remained blind for the rest of his life and never went back to sea. Later he recalled the moment he was swallowed: Swept overboard, he saw the huge mouth opening above him. Then he felt sharp stabbing pains as he was swept across the teeth and then slid, feet first, down a slimy tube that carried him into the dark whale's stomach. He could breathe, but the hot, fetid stench soon rendered him unconscious and the last thing he remembers was kicking as hard as he could at the inside of the soft, yielding stomach.

**Ship in a Bottle:** One way to put a ship into a bottle is to collapse the masts and raise them up when the ship is inside. Parts of the sails are attached afterwards. Bottles with minor distortions and soft tints are often used to hide the small details of the ship such as hinges on the masts. Building the ship in the bottle requires specialized long-handled tools, a keen eye, good coordination, and a lot of patience.



**Dementia:**

This ship in a bottle was given as a present by Jane Willaims to her father John. Jane chose the ship in the bottle because she knew that her father liked miniature models of all kinds and especially objects with a link to the sea. The present was meant as a goodwill gesture, as father and daughter had barely spoken with each other for several years. John felt unable to forgive his daughter that she had once criticised his distant ways and the strict upbringing he had subjected her to and continued to impose on Jane's much younger siblings. He accepted the ship but little changed in their relationship and the silence carried on for several more years. At the age of 86, John became extremely frail and it emerged that he had developed dementia. When Jane visited him in a care home, she saw her father's face lighting up with a smile, for the first time she could remember, as he set eyes upon her. He had forgotten the anger he carried for years and was happy to see his daughter.

**Miniature Crystal Skull:** The skull is made from quartz crystal and measures approximately 5 cm in height. Crystal skulls are often believed to have paranormal powers. The famous life-sized crystal skull in the British Museum, long thought to be of pre-Columbian origin has recently been proved to be a 19th-century fabrication. The skull exhibited here was probably made in the 1970s.



**Lucky Skull:** This skull belonged to Alexander Walker. He purchased it from a street trader as a souvenir during a life-changing South America Cruise in 1978. Alexander kept the skull as a talisman for the rest of his life, often carrying it in his pocket, clutching the smooth cold surface when luck was needed the most.