

**MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY**  
1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN

INFORMATION SHEET: 22

**LAMBETH'S LINKS WITH PHARMACY**

*ALTHOUGH THE ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY'S MOVE TO LAMBETH HIGH STREET IN 1976 WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY HISTORY, THE LOCAL AREA IS FULL OF LINKS TO PHARMACY'S PAST*

Evidence of these historic links to pharmacy can be seen in the collections of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on Lambeth High Street.

**Timeline of Lambeth Pharmacy Links in the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

Lambeth delftware 1650-1740	Singleton's Eye Ointment 1784-1975	J. Stiff & Sons Pottery 1800s to 1913	Doulton in Lambeth 1820-1956	RPSGB HQ built & recorded 1970s
-----------------------------------	--	---	---------------------------------	---------------------------------------

**Lambeth delftware**

The Museum has an extensive collection of Lambeth delftware ceramic jars made for storing pharmaceutical substances. Production of the decorative jars began in Lambeth in the early 1600s and by the 1650s the local ceramics had gained a tin glaze. The jars were decorated with distinctive Dutch-influenced blue and white designs and gained the name delftware.



**Singleton's Eye Ointment**

Singleton's Eye Ointment was produced at what is now 210 Lambeth Road from 1784 to 1975. The recipe was passed by marriage to the Singleton family and in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the preparation became well known. The distinctive shallow pots used to package the product can be seen in the Museum's collection and were used until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century when they were replaced by glass versions. Production of Singleton's Eye Ointment changed hands at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was discontinued in 1975.

**J. Stiff & Sons pottery**

J. Stiff & Sons was a Lambeth High Street based pottery that emerged in the 1800s. The pottery was responsible for manufacturing electrical and chemical stoneware, including a leech jar (circa

1890) in the Museum's collection. The business was taken over by Doulton in 1913, the last of the Lambeth-based potteries to be absorbed by their enormous neighbour.

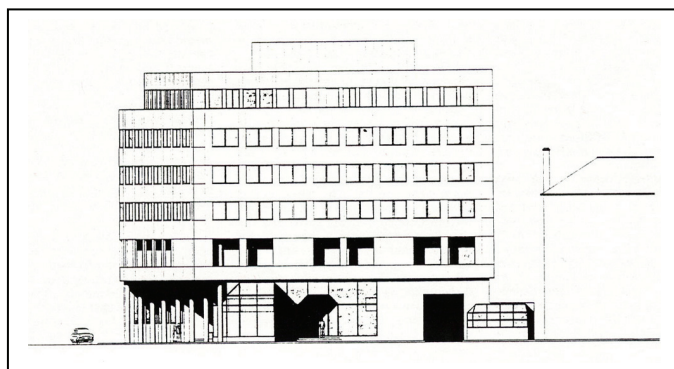
### **Doulton ceramics**

John Doulton and his partner John Watts first purchased a pottery in Lambeth High Street in 1820. When the firm broadened its product range, it incorporated jars for the growing chemical industry. The Museum collection contains Doulton foot warmers, (or hot water bottles) widely used until the 1920s, a miniature hot water bottle made for advertising, stoneware water filters and stoneware storage jars for medicines and perfume. Water filters grew in popularity in the late 1800s, as people became more aware of water borne disease. There is still part of the Doulton factory on Lambeth High Street today; it is decorated with Doulton tiles and features a carved tableau above the doorway of John Doulton and colleagues at work.



### **The construction of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Building**

The collection contains a photographic record of the construction of the Society's current headquarters in Lambeth. The building was designed by David Hodges of the Louis de Soisson Partnership in 1971 and was opened by the Queen Mother in February 1977. The Society's headquarters were previously located at 17 Bloomsbury Square from its inception in 1841 until the move to Lambeth in the 1970s.



The previous page shows a Lambeth delftware drug jar (1738) and Singleton's Eye Ointment packaging (1700s) both in the Museum's collection. This page shows a Doulton stoneware water filter from the 1880s in the Museum's collection and a drawing of the Society's headquarters on Lambeth High Street.

This information sheet is also available in a large font size. Please contact us on 020 7572 2210 or email [museum@rpharms.com](mailto:museum@rpharms.com)