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Display cabinets in the Busby Library.

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## From the Archives

**Rita Boswell**  
*Consultant Archivist*

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### Cypriot Antiquities

A recent enquiry came from Dr Thomas Kiely, Cyprus Curator at The British Museum. Dr Kiely is researching the development of Cypriot archaeology in the late 19th century. In 1887 the Cyprus Exploration Fund (CEF) was set up to undertake long overdue excavations in Cyprus; the initial permit was given for the temple of Aphrodite at Paphos. Support for the CEF came from The British Museum, Cambridge and Oxford Universities as well as private subscribers which included many public schools; one of these was Westminster. In exchange for their subscription, finds from the excavations were shared between the schools and Dr Kiely was keen to know whether any of these items had survived. We do have a small collection of Greek pots

and figurines, currently displayed in the Busby Library, but it appeared that no-one remembered where they came from. However, during recent cataloguing documents surfaced which revealed that in 1988 this collection was a bequest from George F. P. Lea (OW 1914); unfortunately the documents do not tell us the origin of the items. This also leaves us with the question where did the Cyprus finds go? If they were stored in the Busby Library there is the possibility that they were destroyed during World War II bombing but until more evidence appears this is purely guesswork. Perhaps someday the answer will turn up via a different enquiry.

### Naval Disaster

Another started out as a typical enquiry for a photograph of an OW, Frederick Evan Wyatt (Queen's Scholar 1890–94) which was duly found and sent. In appreciation for the Archive's help a responding letter revealed a detailed account of Commander Wyatt's life. In short, the most eventful part was his career in the Royal Naval Reserve as Chief Examining Officer assigned to His >>



**Left:**  
Frederick Wyatt.

**Opposite page (top):**  
William Salusbury-Trelawny.

**Below:**  
Sir Harry Trelawny, 1777.

>> Majesty's Canadian Ship *Niobe* in Halifax, when he was blamed for the collision of two vessels in Halifax harbour in 1917. One of the ships was a French vessel carrying a large amount of explosives and the resulting fire on board caused a massive explosion that wiped out the Richmond District in the north end of the city and killed over 2,000 people. The Inquiry found the French ship to blame, though later both vessels were ruled as equally responsible. Meanwhile a scapegoat was needed and Wyatt was put on trial to answer charges of negligence. Although Wyatt was acquitted of the charges against him, in the court of public opinion he was far from vindicated and his reputation suffered tremendously.

The Canadian enquirer had set out to research a book on the disaster but, after consulting transcripts of the Inquiry and accounts of the Grand Jury hearing and subsequent trail, found himself taking the role as advocate for vindication of Commander Wyatt; I am pleased to say he has promised to send us a copy of the book.

### Early 19th Century Westminster School

Research into recently acquired transcripts of letters written by Owen W. Salusbury-Trelawny (adm. 1820) has proved very revealing. Several generations of Trelawnys attended Westminster, the first was Sir Jonathan Trelawny 3rd Bart. (King's Scholar 1663), Bishop of Bristol, Exeter and Winchester, and like his ancestors before him an ardent Royalist. Next came Vice-Admiral Sir William Trelawny 6th Bart. (adm. 1733), Master and Commander, then Governor of Jamaica 1767 and Owen's great grandfather. William was succeeded by his son Sir Harry Trelawny 7th Bart., a clergyman who changed his allegiance from the Church of England to the Roman Catholic Church in 1810. Then came his son and Owen's father, Sir William Lewis Salusbury-Trelawny 8th Bart., who was admitted as a King's Scholar in 1795. In the archive collection are images of Sir Harry in 1777 and his son William when at Westminster.

Shortly after his arrival at Westminster young Owen, aged 12, writes to his father to complain about the treatment he is receiving at his new school and when his

father answers asking for more detail Owen pens this reply: *"It is not one or two that lick or bully me but a great many, I cannot therefore name any one in particular. What they bully and lick me about is this. They say go and do such and such a thing for me such as going down stairs and going out for things, if I say I can't or won't then they lick me and call me all sorts of names as a stingy little fool or ape and what right have you to be in the Upper school and if you were a fag I'd lick you and half kill you. If on the contrary I do things for them willingly then I am bullied about it by boys in the form with me."* He can't win either way.

Owen survives and writes home regularly, revealing much local gossip. On 26th April 1821 he writes to his *"dear Mama.....It is generally believed by the boys that young Rowley did not fall out of window accidentally"*. What images this remark conjures up! Henry Joshua Rowley, a contemporary of Owen, was the son of Rev. Joshua Rowley of East Bergholt, Suffolk and had apparently died from the effects of falling from a window of Mrs Stelfox's boarding house in Dean's Yard on 10th April 1821. Another comment in the same letter *"You did not perhaps hear of Parry's feeding himself to death."* Love Jones-Parry, the only son of Sir Love Parry Jones-Parry admitted to Westminster on 14th January 1818 died while at the School on 20th March 1821. This leaves room for much speculation about what was going on in the School at that time.

