

NATIONAL MUSEUMS LIVERPOOL

## UK Border Force National Museum

*Known as Seized! The Border & Customs Uncovered*

(MARITIME ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY INFORMATION SHEET 44)

### TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS WHO WERE IN THE HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE DEPARTMENT

The HM Customs & Excise National Museum opened in 1994 and is situated within the Merseyside Maritime Museum. Following government restructuring it is now the UK Border Force National Museum and is called *Seized! The Border & Customs Uncovered*. The Museum covers both the historical and contemporary work of HM Customs & Excise starting around 1700 to the present day. Key themes include the battle against smugglers and the role of this department in collecting revenue. A visit to the Museum may help with your research.

The UK Border Force National Museum does not hold any records on individual officers. All surviving records are kept at the:

#### **The National Archives (PRO)**

Ruskin Avenue

Kew, Richmond

Surrey TW9 4DU

Tel: 020 8392 5200

Fax: 020 8878 8905

Email: [enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Website: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

However, the following sources may also be useful to you. Directories for the area in which the person is thought to have worked through either their residential address or listed under the staff establishment of HM Customs & Excise. NB until 1909, HM Customs & Excise were separate establishments.

For Liverpool, you could look at the Gore's Directories, which are held on microfilm and a reader should be booked in advance. They are held at the following address:

#### **Liverpool Record Office and Local Studies Service**

Central Library

William Brown Street

Liverpool L3 8EW

Tel: 0151 233 3069

Email: [recoffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:recoffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk)

Website: [www.liverpool.gov.uk](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk)

For general background reading on HM Customs & Excise officers, the following books are recommended. Some of the books are now out of print and might be obtained through inter-library loans.

SMITH, Graham. *Something to Declare, 1000 years of Customs & Excise*. Harrap, 1980. ISBN 0245534725

SMITH, Graham. *King's Cutters, The Revenue Service and the War against Smuggling*. Conway: Conway Maritime Press, 1983.

CARSON, Edward. *The Ancient and Rightful Customs*. Faber & Faber, 1972. ISBN 0571091997

LEFTWICH, B.R. *A History of the Excise*. London, 1908.

McCOY, Charles. *McCoy's Dictionary of Customs & Excise*. London: Greaves, London, 1938.

### **Ham's Yearbooks**

These yearbooks are another source of information about HM Customs & Excise. They were published from 1876 to 1931 and list all staff, collections, districts and stations. They were divided into two formats: Customs and Inland Revenue.

Full sets are available for reference from the National Archives.

We hope this information is helpful. Please write to the following address if you have any further queries:

#### **UK Border Force National Museum**

Merseyside Maritime Museum

Albert Dock

Liverpool L3 4AQ

Tel: 0151 478 4507

Email: [seized@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:seized@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

Website: [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/seized](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/seized)