

Guide to the Negatives of Scott and Wilkinson in the Cambridgeshire Collection

1. Introduction

This Guide relates to a collection of around 200 mainly glass negatives and 20 prints deposited in the Cambridgeshire Collection, Central Library Cambridge.

2. History of the studio / photographer/s

According to local directories Scott and Wilkinson were professional photographers at 24 St Andrews Street Cambridge in 1885 and 47 St Andrews Street Cambridge 1885 onwards. (Were these two different addresses, or the result of a re-numbering of St Andrews St?) Their address was also shown as The Camden Studio, Theatre Buildings, Cambridge c. 1905, 38 St Barnabas Road, Cambridge 1909 and briefly at 59 Regent Street 1933. Working dates for the firm are approximately 1885-1933. The postcard below dates from around 1911 (Cambridgeshire Collection) and shows the firm's Camden Studio in St Andrews Street, Cambridge, opposite the old Police Station



The "Scott" side of the partnership was **David James Scott** b:12/5/1857 Cambridge. In 1891 David James Scott's family were living at 123 Hills Road Cambridge, but David was not listed with them. He was visiting William Cole Norman b:1855 Cambridge, his wife Sarah Ann Norman b:1845 London and aunt Caroline Burgess b:1819 St Pancras at Madeira Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. David was described as an artist and sculptor. In 1901 David James Scott was living with his family at 16 Mawson Road Cambridge, his family comprising his wife Bessie Burgess Scott b:1863 Cambridge and sons James W Scott b:1890 Cambridge and Cyril J Scott b:1898 Cambridge. In 1911 David James Scott was living with his family at 38 St Barnabas Road, Cambridge. He was described as a photographer and an employer. His family comprised his wife Bessie Burgess Scott b:1865 Cambridge and sons James William Scott b:1890 Cambridge, photographer's assistant and Cyril Lud Scott b:1898 Cambridge.

In the 1939 Register David was listed as a retired photographer living with his wife Bessie at The Alms Houses, Hills Road, Cambridge.

The "Wilkinson" part of the partnership was **Edgar Wilkinson** b:1863 Huddersfield Yorks. In 1881 Edgar was an apprentice photographer in Huddersfield. By 1891 he had been to Cambridge and moved on. He was living at Broughton, Salford, with his wife Caroline Hannah b:1865 Cambridge and son Reginald b:1889 Cambridge. In 1901 he had moved to

31 Trinity Street Norwich where he was described as a photographer and an employer. His family then comprised his wife Caroline, son Reginald, son Stanley b:1894 Manchester and daughter Dorothy b:1898 Norwich. In 1911 the family had moved to Drayton, Norfolk where Edgar was a photographer and an employer. It seems that the Scott and Wilkinson partnership was relatively short lived, but the firm retained the joint names.

Scott and Wilkinson exhibited at the annual exhibition of the Photographic Society of Great Britain in 1888, and David James Scott exhibited in 1891 and 1894. Scott was a keen member of the Cambridge and District Photographic Society. He was present at the meeting at Llandaff Chambers, Regent-Street, Cambridge in September 1902 to discuss the advisability of forming a camera club in Cambridge. (Cambridge Daily News 25 Sept 1902 p4). He was a prize winner at the Club's Annual Exhibition in 1905 (Cambridge Independent Press, 3 Nov 1905 p 5). He was elected to the Society's Council in 1906 and served again in 1913, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1919 and 1920. (Cambridge Independent Press 22 June 1906 p2, Cambridge Independent Press 27 June 1913 p10, minutes Cambridge and District Photographic Society 30 June 1915, 27 June 1916, 26 June 1917, 7 Oct 1919, Cambridge Daily News 6 Oct 1920).

In 1889 the firm were advertising 15 cartes two positions for 6/6d and 15 cabinets two positions 16/6d. In December 1889 the firm advertised extensively that they were severing connections with Mr Gilbert, who appeared to have been canvassing for business on their behalf.

Scott and Wilkinson submitted twelve photographs between 1885 and 1892 to Stationers' Hall to preserve copyright. In the first instance the photographer was F Visetelli (presumably an employee as he had the same address?), in the next nine the photographer was Edgar Wilkinson, and in the final two was David James Scott. The submissions were:

- Photograph of Mr Rowell, the pedestrian, and friend in American buggy, with trotter. Copyright owner of work: Scott & Wilkinson, 24 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Copyright author of work: F Visetelli, 24 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Form Completed 24 October 1885. TNA COPY 1/374/137
- Photograph of iron railing for tomb of the late Professor Fawcett with man seated on top. Copyright owner of work: Scott & Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Copyright author of work: Edgar Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Form Completed 12 November 1885. TNA COPY 1/374/293
- Photograph of R U Penrose Fitzgerald. Copyright owner of work: Scott & Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Copyright author of work: Edgar Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Form Completed 17 July 1886. TNA COPY 1/377/74
- Photograph of mastiff and child on ground, the child's arm round dog's neck. Copyright owner of work: Scott & Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Copyright author of work: Edgar Wilkinson, 37 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Form Completed 28 September 1886. TNA COPY 1/377/296
- Photograph of the Mayor and Corporation of Cambridge 1887, with arms and maces of the town sketched on. Copyright owner of work: Scott and Wilkinson, 47 St Andrew's St, Cambridge. Author of work: Edgar Wilkinson, 47 St Andrew's St, Cambridge. Form completed 23 May 1887. TNA COPY 1/380/336
- Five different submissions described as "Photograph bird's-eye view of Cambridge." Copyright owner of work: David James Scott & Edgar Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Copyright author of work: Edgar Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Forms completed 29 July 1889. TNA COPY 1/397/168 - 173
- Two different submissions which were photographs of Mr J H Blackburne, the noted chess player, Copyright owner of work: David James Scott & Edgar Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews St, Cambridge, trading as Scott & Wilkinson. Copyright author of work:

David James Scott, 47 St Andrews St, Cambridge. Forms Completed 1 February 1892. Registration stamp: 3 February 1892. TNA COPY 1/407/96 and 97

- Two different submissions of photographs of R N Penrose Fitzgerald Esq, newly elected Conservative Member for Cambridge Borough, Copyright owner of work: David James Scott, Trading as Scott & Wilkinson, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Copyright author of work: David James Scott, 47 St Andrews Street, Cambridge. Forms completed 5 July 1892. TNA COPY 1/409/110 and 111

Later David James Scott submitted a further four photographs as copyright owner and author between 1905 and 1909 from the Camden Studio address.

- Two submissions of photographs of the retiring Bishop of Ely, Lord Alwyn Compton, Form completed: 11 August 1905. TNA COPY 1/488/253 and 254
- Photograph of Captain Cook's Memorial in St Andrew's Church, Cambridge. Form completed: 27 May 1909. TNA COPY 1/534/9
- Photograph [of] man with long hair, bare arms & shoulders, holding club across one shoulder and fur round his figure.

In 1929 James William Scott took over the management of the Cambridge Daily News photographic and engraving department, as well as undertaking occasional work as a police photographer for the Cambridge Borough Police. In 1933 the Camden Studio premises were taken over by the Cambridge Daily News who were expanding with new presses to produce a 24 page newspaper. (Cambridge Daily News 14 Feb 1933, 4 June 1940). In the 1939 Register James William Scott was living with his wife Doris at 21 Haig Road Cambridge and described his occupation as "*manager engineering department Cambridge Daily News*".

Other photographers known to have worked for Scott and Wilkinson were James Henry Kidd and Harriet Louisa Baker, who later formed their own firm, Kidd and Baker.

3. Provenance – how these negatives came into the Cambridgeshire Collection

These Negatives were donated to the Cambridgeshire Collection in 2011 by Mrs Margaret Scott, 95 Abingdon Road, Dorchester on Thames, OX10 7LB. Mrs Scott was a descendant of David James Scott.

4. How stored

The collection is stored in two large boxes. Within these are 19 boxes or envelopes in which they were donated. The smaller card boxes are those used to supply ready prepared glass plates to photographers. Boxes/envelopes have been assigned a letter, A – S. Negatives are of different sizes. A few are on acetate, the majority on glass.

5. How classified

In some cases there is information written on the box in which the negatives are stored, in a few cases information is written on the actual negative. In a few instances negatives are in individual envelopes with information written thereon.

6. Index

At the time of writing these negatives await listing in the main illustrations catalogue in the Cambridgeshire Collection. . Prints from some of these negatives were already in the Cambridgeshire Collection and are listed in the main illustrations index.

Negatives have been listed on a spreadsheet and are assigned a number such as Scott and Wilkinson C6 which would be the 6th negative within box C. The spreadsheet is linked from the Scott and Wilkinson entry at <http://www.fadingimages.uk/photoSc.asp>

Only a few of the negatives have numbers assigned to them by the studio, and of those which do, none can be dated precisely in order to produce a studio dating guide based on negative numbers.

Where dates have been found for individual negatives these are between 1898 and 1937

7. What you might hope to find in this collection

The collection illustrates the range of work undertaken by the studio. These include studio and on-location portraits, scenic work, particularly river scenes and mills and a few Grantchester, Trumpington and Cambridge views, Cambridge college artefacts such as paintings and silverware, property photographs for estate agents, and the occasional local event. There is a good set of images of the construction of the University Library in West Road Cambridge. Downing and Emmanuel (the closest colleges to the firm's studio) are the Colleges most featured.

Names of individuals featured among these negatives are: Bidder, Dr Butler, Emerson, Impey, Jeomans, Kenny, Leinard, Miller and Scott.

8. Other information gleaned from this collection

1. One negative, L3, depicts a posed group of Cambridge Borough Police Officers (the whole force). The uniforms, frock coats and stove pipe hats, appear earlier than 1885, and are therefore likely to be by a different photographer.
2. Two negatives H1 and H2 are portraits of a young man in WW1 Royal Army Medical Corps uniform and are labelled as C Scott. These may be images of David Scott's son Cyril, although to date no evidence has been found of his military career.
3. There are two printed envelopes from "*R and W Farren at the Queen Anne 14 Kings Parade*". Also in Box H is an envelope (no contents) with "*Mr Scotts neg 1 cdv 1 cabt for Miss Farren*". Indicating relationship between S and W and the Farrens (another Cambridge Photographic firm and dynasty). In fact, David James Scott's wife Bessie b:1864 was the daughter of William Farren. (Another Scott / Farren marriage involved Harriet Emma Scott b:1860 marrying Alfred William Farren b:1866)
4. Negative G2 gives an interesting insight – on the envelope containing this negative is written "*From Scott and Wilkinson CB for coloured enlargement as before 10" circle classique sitting on grassy bank with tree in background*". Clearly the processors were intended to adapt this studio portrait not just by colouring the print but by giving it a different background.

9. Handling negatives

Negatives are very delicate and glass negatives have sharp edges. They need to be handled with care, touching only the edges of the negative rather than the image area.

Cambridgeshire Collection staff will give you guidance on this and will provide you with an A4 plastic sleeve which will enable you to handle a negative without leaving your finger marks on it. Ideally, if you know you will be handling a lot of negatives, you might wish to go equipped, taking along some white cotton or powder free vinyl gloves to wear (gloves are not provided by the Cambridgeshire Collection).

10. Ordering copies of images

Photographic and scanning charges and processing times are available on the Cambridgeshire Collection's website:

http://www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20011/archives_archaeology_and_museums/177/archives_and_local_studies/6

11. Use of images from this collection of negatives

If you intend to use the image you are ordering in a publication or on a website or for other purposes than private personal use, then you should discuss this with staff when ordering copies. Generally, for smaller less commercial purposes, the Cambridgeshire Collection will waive reproduction charges in return for an appropriate acknowledgement and a copy of the final publication for their collection.

12. Feedback

Staff would welcome any suggestions for improvement of this guide

13. Notes and References:

Mike Petty, "*Memories*", Cambridge News 3 Oct 2011 reports on this find and the deposit of the negatives with the Cambridgeshire collection.

Fading Images website <http://www.fadingimages.uk/photoSc.asp>

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