

## **Acquisitions report 1 January - 7 May 2020**

It has been fairly quiet so far this year, partly due to the lockdown. This report will be incomplete because Ian Hilder recently purchased various small items on eBay on our behalf, but these are unrecorded because he has been unable to deliver. They include photographs of Eastbourne, Hastings and Northiam.

The antiquarian collection of LM Bearman of Rye was picked up at Heathfield Auction and sold to us at the price paid. It included material relating to his house, 20 Church Square, Rye which was previously The Jolly Sailor.

We had already purchased diaries of Joan Maynard under her maiden name last year, and when more came up on eBay (as is often the case) we made the link that it was the same person and decided to go for the rest, which cover the WW2 period (ACC 13616).

We were offered a volume of copy contracts for the extension to the Lewes House of Correction in 1833 free of charge, but it seemed fair to reimburse the postage. This accession adds to our knowledge of the building, which was erected in 1793 but soon proved inadequate. The planned alterations of 1833 included 65 new cells, together with a chapel, wash-house and laundry (ACC 13622 now AMS 7370).

FoTKA committee members may remember the rather unfortunate background to our purchase of four ledgers of Edward Hilder of Rye, ironmonger (ACC 13630). The auction house was unwilling to take a telephone bid and the ESCC computer system does not allow staff to participate in online auctions. We therefore had to put in a reserve bid which was unsuccessful. Days later the volumes appeared on eBay at a greatly increased price. Ian Hilder was able to negotiate a reduced price on our behalf, but the volumes did not come cheap.

We were fortunate to receive a tip-off from a colleague at another record office who spotted an artist's impression of proposed offices at Hollingbury which dates from 1933 (ACC 13636). It was drawn by W G Phillips and Partners for Henry Clark and Sons. We purchased it for a hammer price of £220 just before lockdown, so have not received it yet.

It is still business as usual despite the lockdown. We were notified of the sale of a 1560 Brightling deed by both The National Archives, and a vigilant FoTKA member. Christopher Whittick negotiated its successful purchase for £130 plus £39 buyer's premium on 7 May. This was so recent that we do not yet have the document to hand, but a copy is attached (ACC 13634).

*Anna Manthorpe*

*Andrew Bennett*

*May 2020*