

## Statement of significance: J. F. Lloyd Photographs Collection

Museum	Carmarthenshire County Museum
Assessor	Ann Dorsett
Date of the assessment	20/01/2011
Object/collection name	J. F. Lloyd Photograph collection
Object Accession no:	1989: 0008 (1-757)
Current location	Photo store: Carmarthenshire County Museum
Normal location	As above
Description	757 glass, dry collodion photographic plates
Materials	Glass: photographic emulsion
Dimensions	Half plate; 6½ x 4¾ inch 916.5 x 12 cms) Quarter plate; 4¼ x 3¼ inch (10.7 x 8cms) ¾ inch square (8.3 x 8.3 cms)
Condition	Mostly good, some fair and some poor
Completeness	Almost all plates are complete but parts of some images have deteriorated

### Detailed object description:

A large collection of glass photographic plates. They were all taken between 1895 and 1905. The photographs are of family scenes, portraits of individual family members and friends and events. Many of the sitters have been identified but some have not. J. F. Lloyd also photographed Carmarthen's streets and the surrounding countryside. Events such as cycle races, hot air ascents, circuses and other social events were also recorded, as well as boats and paddle steamers on the Tywi river.

### Condition Assessment

Most of the plates are in good condition but some had been damaged by poor environmental conditions before their arrival in the museum. They are currently stored in a store with environmental monitoring and humidity control. Each negative is stored in either a melanex pocket or in a polythene bag. The whole collection is stored within acid free boxes within a metal cabinet.

### Object research and background

The collection was partially researched for an exhibition that took place in 1989. This mainly took the form of identifying places and sitters. An article on the collection was published by Chris Delaney, *John Francis Lloyd, A Carmarthen Photographer in Carmarthenshire & Beyond: Studies in History and Archaeology in Memory of Terry James*, published by the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, 2009. In addition, in a lecture on the subject *Painting in Carmarthenshire in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, given in 2002 to the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, Ann Dorsett included a brief assessment of J. F. Lloyd's artistic significance. (handwritten lecture notes currently available).

A number of photographs were also included in Carmarthen and the Lower Towy Valley in old photographs, published by Alan Sutton in 1989.

The photographs provide a lyrical snapshot of Carmarthen's middle class life. They also

capture a town enjoying a late flurry of artistic creativity and a vibrant social and public life – soon to be brought to a halt by the Great War and decline in the town’s wealth.

**Compare: related places and items**

A number of books have been published of photographs of towns and villages throughout Wales. There are also a number of significant collections of photographs by other regional photographers. The photographs of D. C. Harris of the Llandeilo area are held in the National Library of Wales collection; those of Tom Matthias are held by the Pembrokeshire Museums Service. These photographers were roughly contemporary with J. F. Lloyd but continued to photograph after 1905 – when Lloyd apparently stopped photographing. Their photographs are of the highest quality and recorded the social and agricultural life of their communities more fully. However, their photographs do not have the painterly quality of Lloyd’s. Indeed the only comparison that could be made is with the work of C. S. Allen, working some 20 – 30 years earlier, whose albums of local gentry houses and their families can be compared for their artistic composition as well as technical quality.

Assigning significance: tick as many boxes as apply based on the evidence as detailed above.

Historic	Social or Spiritual	Aesthetic or Artistic	Scientific, research or technical
x		x	

Comparative Criteria: use the comparative criteria to SUPPORT AND CLARIFY the degree of Significance.

Provenance	Rarity or Representativeness	Condition or completeness	Interpretive capacity
x	x		

**Statement of Significance**

- Using the evidence base as collated above, define how and why the object/collection is significant and what this means fro the object/collection?
- Summarise the key points in the box below
- Sign and date the assessment
- List references
- List and acknowledge contributors

**Statement of significance**

This collection of photographs is significant because of their exceptional quality and unique content. It is a large collection which provides a snapshot of a particularly interesting time in the social life of a declining county town and port. The photographic plates are excellent technically. However, it is the artistic composition of the photographs and the ability of the photographer to capture moments of public excitement, bustle and calm which makes them truly significant.

Chris Delaney, *John Francis Lloyd, A Carmarthen Photographer in Carmarthenshire & Beyond: Studies in History and Archaeology in Memory of Terry James*, published by the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, 2009