



**Edith Cavell Archive, Swardeston England supported by
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**Edith Cavell statues in Norwich (1918) and London
(1920) and statuettes of them**

Abstract

A review of two statues unveiled in her honour of nurse Edith Cavell (who was executed in Brussels in 1915). These were reproduced as statuettes in subsequent years and sold with local corporate coats of arms appended. Four examples are shown for Norwich, the City of London, Dover and North Shields.

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A local friend has recently shared a set of 3 statuettes (1-3 below) of nurse Edith Cavell with the Swardeston Cavell Archive. These all belong to her relative who was a very senior nurse in her day. The Archive owns no. 4 and has purchased no 1 from the set.

Date and origin of the four items

They are all made in fine china with a high glaze and with a municipal coat of arms on the front. Statues 3 and 4 are marked as made by Willow Art of Longton

They are replicas of two statues of the nurse unveiled in 1918 and 1920.

The first statue (represented in statuettes 1 and 2) is located in Norwich and was created by Henry Pegram. It was unveiled on 12 October 1918, the 3rd anniversary of Edith's execution in 1915. Queen Alexandra came to Norwich to unveil the statue and formally open a nearby home for Norwich nurses in a property (adjacent to the current Maids Head Hotel). The statue is still in Tombland.

The second group (items 3 and 4 below) are based on the statue of Edith Cavell by Sir George Frampton, unveiled by Queen Alexandra in early 1920 in St Martins Place near Trafalgar Square in London. The quotation at its foot was added in 1923.



Henry Pegram Statue 1918
Tombland, Norwich shown in its 1918 place



Sir George Frampton statue
St Martin's Place, London

1. NORWICH

7" high

Based on Tombland Pegram statue, unveiled 1918

Marked underneath: 'Made for R Townsend Tombland House Norwich'

LHS - Edith Cavell Nurse Patriot and Martyr, RHS - Memorial Statue Norwich

On bottom marked with ARCADIAN, crest and an illegible word.

The link with Norwich is clear – Edith Cavell grew up in the village of Swardeston, 4 miles from the city. She often returned to Norfolk as an adult as her parents remained in Swardeston till 1909, before retiring to College Road in Norwich. Edith's family decided in 1919 to have her remains re-interred at Norwich Cathedral on May 15 1919, a short distance from the Pegram statue.



2. DOVER

6" high

Based on the Tombland Pegram statue unveiled in Norwich, 1918

£49 label on the side – but this was apparently not bought by its current owner for this sum!

The link with Dover is likely to have been the role of the municipality in receiving Edith Cavell's coffin on May 14th 1919 en route Westminster Abbey and Norwich Cathedral.



3. NORTH SHIELDS

Based on the Frampton statue at St Martins Place London

4 ½" high

SACRIFICE on RHS, HUMANITY on LHS, EDITH CAVELL BRUSSELS DAWN OCTOBER 12 1915 on reverse

The link to Edith Cavell from North Shields is not clear – the area was significant in WWI for air raids (as was Norfolk) and may have been a centre of manufacturing of materiel for the war. Any relevant information would be welcome at enquiry@edithcavell.org.uk



4. CITY OF LONDON

Statuette belonging to the Swardeston Cavell Archive.

The fourth statuette bears no maker identity or date. It is 7" high.

It, like no. 3, is based on the statue by Frampton near Trafalgar Square

The link between Edith Cavell and the City of London is clear: her first memorial service was held in St Pauls' Cathedral on October 29 1915, only two weeks after her execution. Her coffin passed through the City of London to Liverpool Street Station on May 15 1919 *en route* Norwich.

The workmanship on this statuette is the least impressive of the four – the face is very unlike that of nurse Cavell.



FURTHER EXAMPLES...

The 4 statuettes were displayed as a group at the Cavell Flower Festival at Swardeston 12-13 October 2019 as part of the Swardeston Cavell Archive exhibition. See below:



Pegram statuettes

2 Dover

1 Norwich

Frampton statuettes

4 City of London

3 North Shields

A visitor to the Festival indicated that she owned another example – made for **Matlock Bath in Derbyshire** and similar to **no. 1**. (7" high by Willow Art – no green on laurel wreaths). This suggests that copies were made from one maquette and then had the local coats of arms added as the purchase order required.

If readers are aware of other versions of these statuettes created for other locations in the UK around the same period please send details to:

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