

## **AN EXPLANATION OF MARDEN INVENTORIES**


Inventories are the past equivalent of today's probate – a list of the deceased's property. However what they possessed and thought of importance is not what we consider today. A present day wife would hardly be over-thrilled for her husband to leave her their bed. Ecclesiastical law required these inventories to be made from 1342 onwards, but most of them came after 1529 when it became a statute. We have inventories dating from 1612 until 1752. Some of these have been transcribed already and may be purchased but are free to members. If you would like one in particular transcribed then we are willing to do that.

All these inventories can be found in the main catalogue by searching under name or the term inventory.

To view the Inventories click on CATALOGUE and search for INVENTORIES.



The database will appear as a series of records. An asterisk in each of the green column headings denote whether that field is searchable, and clicking on each one arranges contents ascending or descending - signified by an upward or downward pointing triangle respectively.

The Search Bar will accept any names, dates or terms and has options for entering multiple terms. The page selection buttons will move through pages of batched records - one page up or down, or to the beginning and end of the whole database or selection. There are also options to export data to Word or Excel files.


To view an individual record, click the magnifying glass button on the extreme right hand side of each one. 


The column names of a record's table are:


- Column 1 - **ref No (\*)** - our catalogue reference number in order of recording. Inventories are held in the main body of the catalogue and not in a separate table.

- Column 2 – **Type (\*)** - exactly what the item is; these are all documents.
- Column 3 – **Status (\*)** - these are all copies; mostly taken from microfilm at the Kent History and Library Centre. However some have been acquired in various other ways, such as donations.
- Column 4 – **Author (\*)** - this gives the original holder of the document.
- Column 5 – **Subject/Title (\*)** - this will give the name of the deceased or the place where the inventory was made.
- Column 6 – **Date/Period (\*)** - the period had been mainly catalogued in 50 year periods. The actual date will be stated under the description.
- Column 7 – **Description (\*)** - here is the status of the person or their occupation. It may mention other people's names, possibly the appraisers; the 2 local people who made the inventory or connected to the deceased. Also given is the National Archive reference number. E.g. PRC = Prerogative Rochester Court. Copies were made in a negative or positive image. It will show if there is a transcription already made.
- Column 8 – **Location Physical (\*)** - where in the Heritage Centre it is stored.
- Column 9 – **File Name (\*)** - if there is a blue underlined number then this document can be viewed as a modern transcription.
- Column 10 –  - clicking on this will show you the individual record.
- Column 11 –  - for editors only.

➤ Column 12 -  - for editors only.

 Clicking on this symbol at the top of the page enables you to print the information as an Excel file.

 Clicking on this symbol at the top of the page enables you to print the information as a Word file.

 Clicking on this symbol at the top of the page enables you to print the information as an Excel CSV file (comma separated values).

We have made up a glossary of terms which might be unfamiliar, as far as possible. This work is ongoing as new oddities are discovered. This can be sent to you if requested.