

Old wallpaper: Vine Cottage, Draycott, Shepton Mallet part 1

The National Trust has a blog about its collections written by [Emile de Bruijn](#). One of his articles [discussed layers of old wallpaper](#) found in some houses in Birmingham. The photographs of some of the examples reminded me of some scraps I had saved years ago when we lived in Shepton Mallet. I still have these scraps. Emile has encouraged me to publish them. Here are some scans of them [I think they should be called “papyropsies” since some of them were almost surgically extracted from behind Victorian woodwork; cf “biopsies”.]

All of the samples are now in the collection of the [Somerset Archives](#).

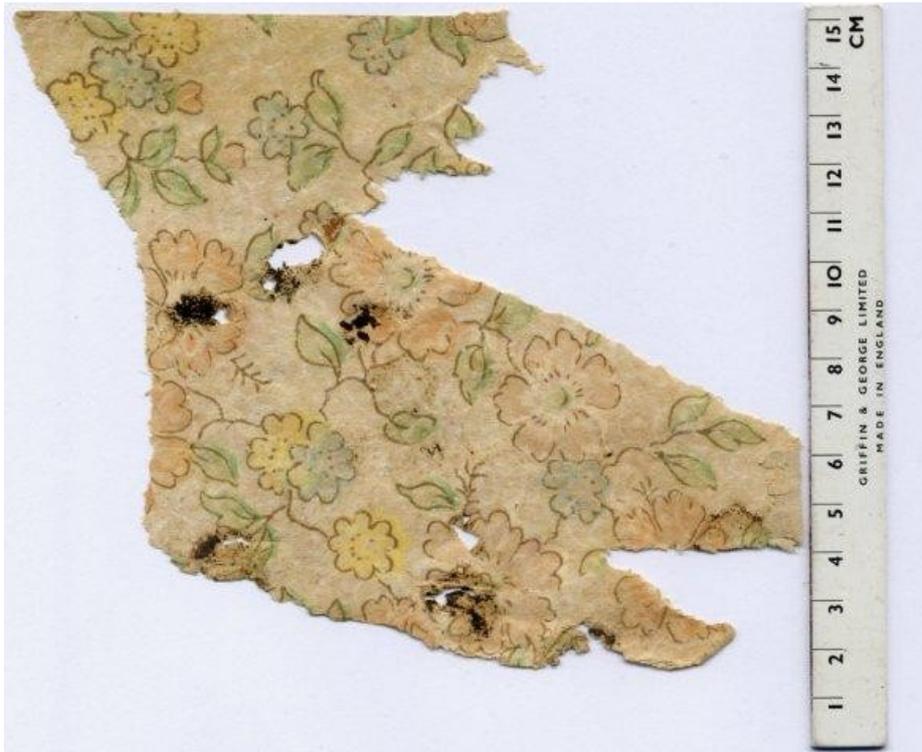
Bedroom

The first set came from a bedroom which had probably been used as a box room for many decades before it was rejuvenated as a bedroom in the autumn of 1968. Prior to Victorian renovations, this room included a staircase, a landing, and a smaller bedroom.



The top layer of paper was flowery. I am not certain which way is “up” on any of the images.

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A brighter but more damaged sample of the top layer



The back of the first piece picked up an image of the layer beneath it.

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This pattern appears in its own right as another “papyropsy”.



Another piece of the top layer with an image of the second on its reverse. Remember that these reverse images are mirror images.

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Some brown flowers and blue leaves were behind the old light switch

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Brown seems to have been a popular colour.

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Another layer was patterned with red shapes.

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Beneath the left-hand example of the layer patterned with red shapes is a dark brown pattern on an even darker ground.

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A few scraps are small and in rather poor condition. However, they are included for the sake of completeness.

[Part 2](#) includes paper from the room below this bedroom.