

**L DFH**

**Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes  
(1890-1978) of Hull**

**1913-1975**

**Biographical Background:** Frederick Holmes was born in Hull in 1890. He was educated at Lincoln Street Council School, Central Higher Grade School and Ruskin College, Oxford. A life-long member of the Labour Party, he was elected to Hull City Council in November 1920 became an Alderman in 1935. He sat on many of the council's committees and served as Lord Mayor of Hull for the year 1936-1937.

In his early life he worked as an engineer, but later he set up as an advertising and publicity consultant. Known as "Mr Humber Bridge", he began his personal crusade in the 1920s for the bridge when the idea of a bridge was not taken seriously. He sustained his campaign for more than 30 years before the Humber Bridge Act went through Parliament in 1958, and he personally took charge of the scheme as chairman of the Bridge Board the following year.

Alderman Holmes took a special interest in welfare work and during his years as Lord Mayor he sponsored the building of a new home for older people, which was named after his mother, the Ada Holmes Circle. He was a member of the Yorkshire Fishery Board, the Court of Governors of University College Hull and the Management Board of Castle Howard School as well as becoming a Governor of Hymers College. Holmes would later become an advertising and publishing contractor with "Frederick Holmes Publications" and was President of the Hull Publicity Club. When the city's school for children with physical disabilities moved from Park Avenue to a site on Inglemire Lane in 1963, it was renamed the Frederick Holmes School in recognition of his contribution to the education of children in the city.

He was a member of Hull New Theatre's management board, which he had helped purchase for the council and saved it from being turned into a bingo hall in 1961. He was awarded the OBE in 1957 and made an honorary freeman in 1968. Unfortunately Frederick Holmes did not live to see his dream of a bridge crossing the Humber fulfilled, as he died on 5 November 1978 aged 88, less than 3 years before the bridge was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 17 July 1981. His wife, Lily, a former teacher in Hull died in 1975.

**Custodial history:** Deposited with the Hull Local Studies Library sometime before 2010

**Description:** Correspondence, invoices, essays, papers and reports, news cuttings, press reports and photographs

**Language:** English, apart from L DFH/4/12 which is in Dutch

**Arrangement :**

L DFH/1	Correspondence and invoices	1929-1977
L DFH/2	Essay and lecture notes	1913-1914
L DFH/3	Essays	1956-1968
L DFH/4	Papers and reports	1936-1937
L DFH	Photographs	c.1920s-1967

**Extent:** 4 boxes

Hull History Centre: Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes (1890-1978) of Hull

**Related material:** Hull City Council's minutes and the search room name index will give details of Alderman Holmes's work with the council. Articles relating to his life and work will be found within the local press, copies of which are available on microfilm at the History Centre. There is a brief biographical entry in Tadman, "Who's Who in Hull" (1935). During World War II, Frederick Holmes served in the Fire Guard Section of the Civil Defence Service and his personnel card can be located at C TYR/4/1/19284. In addition, Hull City Archives holds the TR Ferens Humber Crossing Papers (Ref C DMF).

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

<b>L DFH/1</b>	<b>Correspondence and invoices</b>	<b>1929-1977</b>
	8 bundles	
L DFH/1/1	General correspondence file 1 bundle	1929-1939
L DFH/1/2	General correspondence file File 1 of 2, alphabetical, A-G. Also see L DFH/1/4. Includes an artists impression of the Humber (suspension) Bridge. 1 bundle	1936-1947
L DFH/1/3	General correspondence file File 2 of 2, alphabetical, H-Z. Also see L DFH/1/3. . 1 bundle	1936-1947
L DFH/1/4	Invoices and related correspondence relating to the Hull Guild of Building Review 1 bundle	1936-1939
L DFH/1/5	Invoices and related correspondence Alphabetical, A-H 1 bundle	1940-1954
L DFH/1/6	Invoices and related correspondence Alphabetical, I-Z 1 bundle	1940-1954
L DFH/1/7	Invoices and related correspondence Alphabetical, A-H 1 bundle	1946-1951
L DFH/1/8	Invoices and related correspondence Alphabetical, I-Z 1 bundle	1946-1951
L DFH/1/9	Invoices and related correspondence File 1 of 3, alphabetical, A-G. Also see L DFH/1/10-11. 1 bundle	1955-1977

Hull History Centre: Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes (1890-1978) of Hull

L DFH/1/10	Invoices and related correspondence File 2 of 3, alphabetical, H-L. Also see L DFH/1/9 and L DFH/1/11. 1 bundle	1952-1975
L DFH/1/11	Invoices and related correspondence File 3 of 3, alphabetical, M-Z. Also see L DFH/1/9- 10. 1 bundle	1952-1975
L DFH/1/12	Invoices and related correspondence relating to the journal of the Hull Association of Engineers 1 bundle	1966-1970
<b>L DFH/2</b>	<b>Essays and lecture notes by Frederick Holmes</b> 9 items	<b>1913-1914</b>
L DFH/2/1	Essay entitled The Citizen – His Rights and his Responsibilities Based on the work by Oscar Browning 1 item	c.1910s
L DFH/2/2	Essay entitled Carlyle on sovereignty 1 item	1913
L DFH/2/3	Essay entitled Aristotle and his politics 1 item	1913
L DFH/2/4	Essay entitled Property 1 item	1913
L DFH/2/5	Essay entitled Distinction of forms 1 item	1913
L DFH/2/6	Essay entitled Hegel's philosophy of right Based on the thoughts of Bernard Bosanquet 1 item	1913
L DFH/2/7	Essay entitled Leacock's elements of political science 1 item	c.1913
L DFH/2/8	Essay entitled continuation of slavery 1 item	1913
L DFH/2/9	Essay entitled theory of rights 1 item	1914

Hull History Centre: Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes (1890-1978) of Hull

L DFH/2/10	Lecture notes entitled Political Thought in Modern Times Regarding [Thomas] Hobbes 1 bundle	c.1910s
<b>L DFH/3</b>	<b>Papers and reports of Frederick Holmes</b> 5 volumes	<b>1956-1968</b>
L DFH/3/1	Memorandum of the meeting with the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, The Rt. Hon. Harold Watkinson, MP, regarding the Humber crossing Made in the House of Commons and for the City and County of Kingston Upon Hull 1 volume	6 Jun 1956
L DFH/3/2	Proposed Humber Bridge Report on Traffic For the Humber Bridge Board, by Freeman, Fox & Partners 1 volume	Jun 1962
L DFH/3/3	Comparative study entitled A Regional Airport for Yorkshire and the North East? By Alan H. Stratford and sponsored by the Yorkshire Airport Development Association Ltd. 1 volume	Feb 1964
L DFH/3/4	Project Report entitled Kingston Upon Hull and Nearby Areas – Proposed Land Use/Transportation Study By Freeman, Fox, Wilbur Smith and Associates 1 volume	Oct 1966
L DFH/3/5	Statement in connection with the visit of Mr. G. Darling, M.P, Minister of State for the Board of Trade For the City and County of Kingston Upon Hull regarding the Humberside Feasibility Study, regional road plans 1 volume	15 Mar 1968
<b>L DFH/4</b>	<b>Press reports and news cuttings relating to the Mayoralty of Frederick Holmes</b> 16 bundles	<b>1936-1937</b>
L DFH/4/1	Press reports and news cuttings 47 cuttings 1 bundle	Nov 1936

Hull History Centre: Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes (1890-1978) of Hull

L DFH/4/2	Press reports and news cuttings 40 cuttings 1 bundle	Dec 1936
L DFH/4/3	Press reports and news cuttings 69 cuttings 1 bundle	Jan 1937
L DFH/4/4	Press reports and news cuttings 39 cuttings 1 bundle	Feb 1937
L DFH/4/5	Press reports and news cuttings 52 cuttings 1 bundle	Mar 1937
L DFH/4/6	Press reports and news cuttings 38 cuttings 1 bundle	Apr 1937
L DFH/4/7	Press reports and news cuttings 41 cuttings 1 bundle	May 1937
L DFH/4/8	Press reports and news cuttings 40 cuttings 1 bundle	Jun 1937
L DFH/4/9	Press reports and news cuttings 31 cuttings 1 bundle	Jul 1937
L DFH/4/10	Press reports and news cuttings 26 cuttings 1 bundle	Aug 1937
L DFH/4/11	Press reports and news cuttings 50 cuttings 1 bundle	Sep 1937
L DFH/4/12	Press reports and news cuttings 64 cuttings from Dutch newspapers 1 bundle	Sep 1937
L DFH/4/13	Press reports and news cuttings Bundle 1 of 3, 215 cuttings for the month of October 1937 1 bundle	Oct 1937

Hull History Centre: Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes (1890-1978) of Hull

L DFH/4/14	Press reports and news cuttings Bundle 2 of 3, 215 cuttings for the month of October 1937 1 bundle	Oct 1937
L DFH/4/15	Press reports and news cuttings Bundle 3 of 3, 215 cuttings for the month of October 1937 1 bundle	Oct 1937
L DFH/4/16	Press reports and news cuttings of 25 cuttings 1 bundle	Nov 1937
<b>L DFH/5</b>	<b>Photographs of Frederick Holmes</b> 6 items and 7 bundles	<b>c.1920s-1967</b>
L DFH/5/1	Studio photographic portrait of Frederick Holmes Black and white image, 8" x 11" 1 item	c.1920s
L DFH/5/2	Frederick and Lily Holmes in Rotterdam Attending a civic reception and meeting the Burgomaster Pieter Droogleever Fortuyn. 2 images 9 ½" x 7" black and white images, produced by J. Klaver and C Kramer, both of Rotterdam. 1 bundle	1937
L DFH/5/3	Frederick Holmes speaking an outdoor civic event 2 black and white images, duplicates, 8" x 6 ½". 1 bundle	c.1930s-1940s
L DFH/5/4	Photographs of Frederick Holmes as mayor attending events Includes 2 images with H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth, wife of King George VI on a royal visit. 5 black and white images, 4 at 8"x 6 ½" and 1 at 10" x 7 ½. Hull Daily Mail. 1 bundle	c.1936-1937
L DFH/5/5	Hull Guildhall Black and white image 8" x 6 ½" 1 item	c.1930s
L DFH/5/6	Frederick Holmes and other civic dignitaries and civil defence personnel with a collection of toys Black and white image, 8" x 6 ½" 1 item	c.1940s

Hull History Centre: Papers of Alderman Frederick Holmes (1890-1978) of Hull

- L DFH/5/7 Frederick Holmes participating in the Hull World War II victory parade 1945  
He was a member of the Fire Guard section of the Civil Defence Service. Black and white image, 8" x 6 ½".  
1 item
- L DFH/5/8 Frederick Holmes attending a civic event at Blackburn's Aircraft factory site, Brough 1954  
4 black and white images, Blackburn's Publicity Department 8" x 6 ½".  
1 bundle
- L DFH/5/9 Frederick Holmes attending the signing of the Hull Kingston Rovers Trust agreement c.1952  
2 black and white images, Hull Daily Mail 9 ½" x 6 ½" and 9 ½" x 10 ½".  
1 bundle
- L DFH/5/10 Members of the Council in the council chamber c.1950s  
11 ½" x 9 ½" black and white image, Studio City, Hull.  
1 item
- L DFH/5/11 Frederick Holmes and the Humber Bridge 1967  
6 black and white images; 4 at the site of the Humber Bridge, another with Peter Shore, the Minister of Transport and another of Holmes at a desk. Images produced by Donald Innes of Hessele, Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post.  
1 bundle
- L DFH/5/12 Frederick Holmes and two engineers with a single seater helicopter G-ARZB, (Wallis WA-116 Agile) c.1960s  
2 black and white images, 6" x 4 ½" by Walter Fussey of Hessele  
1 bundle
- L DFH/5/13 Frederick Holmes attending a civic event at a new council house estate c.1960s  
Black and white image, 6" x 4 ½" by Walter Fussey of Hessele  
1 item