

(Royal) Doulton



In 1815 John Doulton invested his life savings of £100 in a small pottery in Vauxhall Walk. In 1820 he and John Watts took over ownership of the Vauxhall Walk pottery making utilitarian salt glazed stoneware.

Royal Doulton Showrooms and pottery works premises along Albert Embankment, 1953

By 1826 the company now trading as Doulton & Watts moved to larger premises in Lambeth Walk which had potential for expansion which was quickly needed. Awareness of public health increased in the 1830s and 1840s and the demand for glazed pipes, to replace the porous brick lined sewers, grow at a dramatic rate. Doulton saw the opportunity and in 1846 built a pipe factory on what was to become the Albert Embankment.



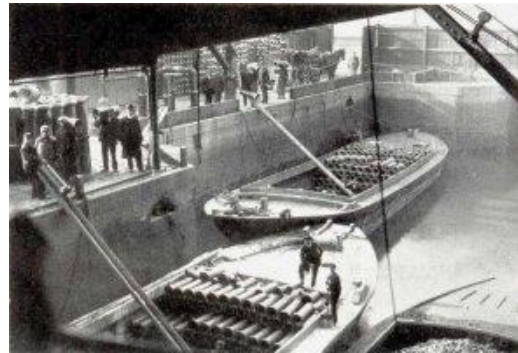
Pottery, including delft glass and stoneware fragments together with the clay pipes



During this time the demand for electrical insulators could only be met by the Lambeth Works which had great technical skill. Doulton was soon providing products to the Railways, the Post Office Telegraphic service. These technical skills enabled Doulton to make statues of all sorts and terracotta vases.

The ornate exterior of Doulton Headquarters on the corner of Black Prince Road and Lambeth High Street, 1876.

Doulton Potteries were the largest concern in the industry in Lambeth by the late 1800s. They had their own dock on the Lambeth side of the Thames to deal with their growing international export market, particularly their stoneware conduits, drainage pipes, electrical, plumbing and sanitaryware goods, which won them acclaim and awards from places like Cape Town, Melbourne and Calcutta to name but a few.

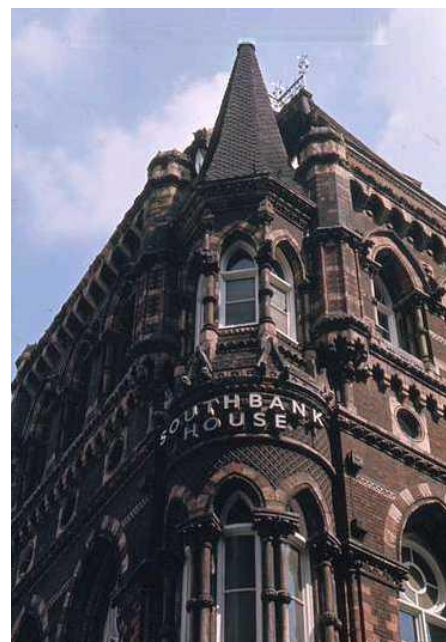


Loading for export at Lambeth Dock c1870



View showing the construction work for the temporary footbridge built prior to the demolition of the Lambeth suspension bridge 30th May 1929. The Doulton Pottery building can be seen across the Thames to the right.

The Lambeth Works were closed in 1956 as the company established new premises in Kent, Tamworth and Whieldon near Stoke on Trent. South Bank House, built in 1876-8. The former premises of Doulton Pottery until 1956. This Gothic-style structure was built as a permanent advertisement for Doulton architectural ceramics. This building is all that remain of the Doulton Pottery complex that once dominated the Lambeth Embankment. The premises is now occupied by various office units.



South Bank House on Black Prince Road, Lambeth