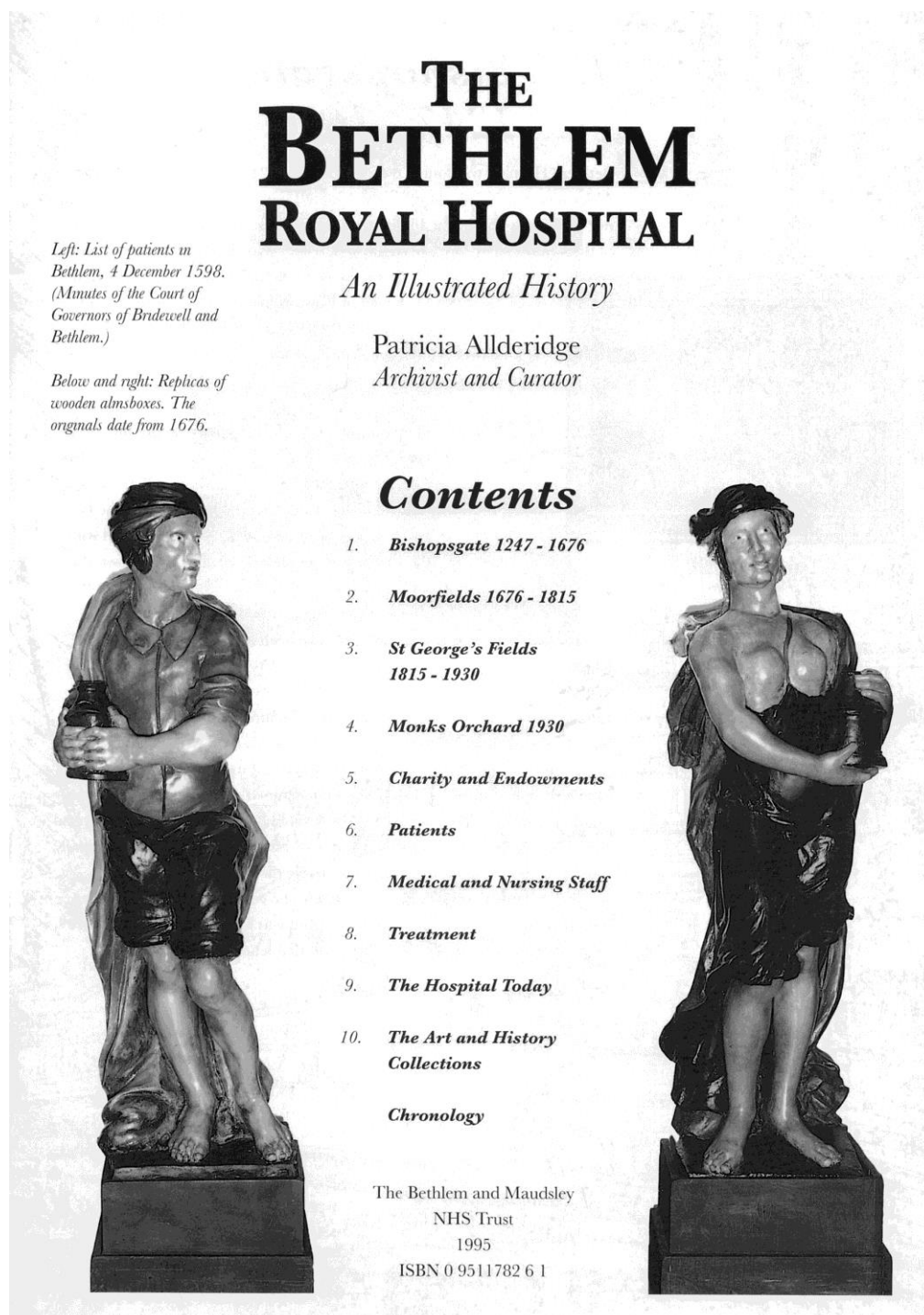


## Patricia Allderidge

From 1967 until c. 2005 Patricia was the archivist of the Royal Bethlem Hospital in Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham.

A new building had been built on the 270 acre site to house Archives that trace the Hospital's history back to 1247. To improve the public's appreciation of the fact that mentally unwell people could achieve greatness, Patricia used one of the rooms within the archives building to open what was possibly the UK's smallest museum. She gave it the telling title of the Museum of the Mind.

In 1995 Patricia wrote an illustrated History of what by then had become the 'The Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust. The contents page is shown below:



## 10. *The Art and History Collections*

Over the centuries Bethlem has accumulated an exceptionally rich archive of written and pictorial records, which continues to grow. In 1967 the Board of Governors set up an archives department to ensure that this invaluable source material would be preserved for the future and be accessible for historical research.

A new building was put up, to house both the archives and a small museum in which to exhibit the hospital's collection of historical objects and works of art. The latter include many fine watercolours by Bethlem's most famous patient, the 19th century painter Richard Dadd. The museum has been open to the public since 1970. It now also holds the Guttman-Maclay picture collection (formerly at the Institute of Psychiatry), comprising paintings and drawings by artists who have suffered from mental disorder. The museum collections also continue to grow.

Together the art and history collections offer unique insights into the historical and cultural background against which this ancient hospital now meets the challenges of late 20th century psychiatry.



*Richard Dadd, 'Portrait of Sir Thomas Phillips in Arab Costume'. (Acquired with grants from the MGC/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the National Art Collections Fund, and the Pilgrim Trust).*



*Books and documents from the archives.*

*Louis Wain, Cat Pattern.*



Some 20 years later a greatly expanded collection is maintained by the Bethlem Art and History Collections trust. For more information, go to:

[www.bethlemheritage.org.uk](http://www.bethlemheritage.org.uk)

[http://www.bethlemheritage.org.uk/gallery\\_collection.asp](http://www.bethlemheritage.org.uk/gallery_collection.asp)