More 'treasures' for Flagstaff Hill

What are thought to be dinner menus from the wrecked British clipper Schomberg have found their way to Warrnambool's Flagstaff Hill maritime village.

The two menus were presented to Flagstaff Hill by Melbourne stamp collector, Mr Max Watson. Mr Watson, who is shire secretary of Melton, came across the menus in a package he bought last year at a stamp auction in Tasmania.

He has holidayed with his family at Warrnambool for the past six years, and decided to give the menus to Flagstaff Hill during his trip this year.

The Schomberg went down on Boxing Day, 1855, when it ran aground off the coast near Peterborough on its maiden voyage from Liverpool. Her hell-raising captain James 'Bully' Taylor had run the ship onto a reef while in a drunken rage.

Rough weather broke up the Schomberg within a week, and its cargo was lost to the sea.

The menus - which are very well preserved - have the printed heading: 'Bill of fare, ship Schomberg, with a handwritten list of the day's meals underneath.

Flagstaff Hill curator Mr Peter Ronald said the handwritten dates on the menus are after the sinking of the Schomberg, but the stationery was genuine.

Mr Ronald said because it was the Schomberg's maiden voyage, much stationery would have been printed.

He said it was possible spare menus with the Schomberg title may have been used later on other ships.

One of the menus will be displayed in the tearooms at Flagstaff Hill and both will eventually form part of a special Schomberg display.

Flagstaff Hill already has a silver and gold communion set and other trinkets from the ill-fated Schomberg.