"Cocky" Hunter's – a little history

My father Jimmy Penny told me, probably over 50 years ago, that the gramophone his father bought on return from the Great War came from a shop called Cocky Hunter's. When looking today at the old gramophone, I "Googled" the words Cocky Hunter. To my amazement lots of information – here is a selection.

Through the years the words Cocky Hunter's have referred to a shop, a bar and a current store. Thomas 'Cocky' Hunter was the founder of a chain of popular antique and second hand shops in the city. Another Googled item refers to "…..King of Junk, Thomas "Cocky" Hunter, Aberdeen's most famous general merchant.

From photographs the location of which Hunter owned which shop is difficult to decipher between 6 – 8 Castle Terrace and Castlehill.
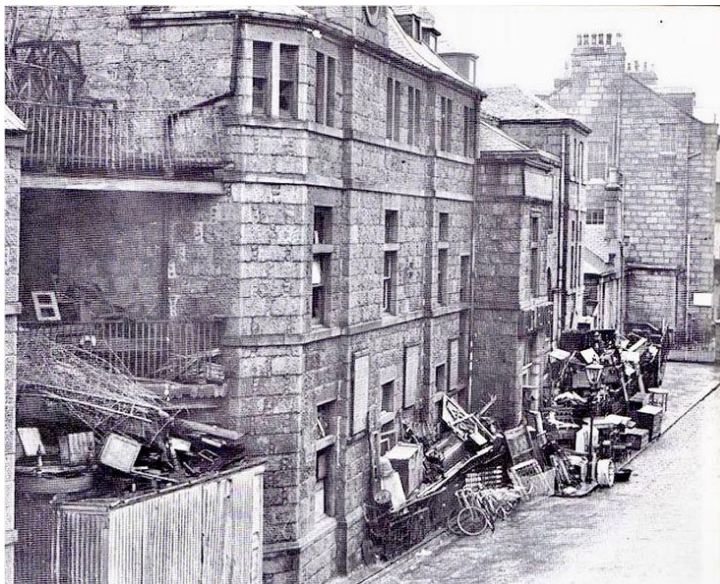

Photo courtesy of Pinterest.

One source states "The old Castlehill hospital was sold to Councillor Donald of Donald's Cinemas and for some years was used to store cinematic equipment. It was bought in 1938 by Alexander W Hunter – the eldest son of Thomas "Cocky" Hunter - and would become known to generations of Aberdeen bargain-hunters as Cocky Hunters, surviving until 1973 when it was closed and demolished to make way for the new ring road."

The current Cocky Hunter store with a Tavistock, Devon address describes itself as "our store is named after our great grandfather, Thomas 'Cocky' Hunter, a legendary figure in Aberdeen. Known for his emporium on Castle Terrace, he was famous for turning house clearances into a treasure trove of antique furniture, art, and bric-a-brac. His shop was an ever-changing jumble sale, much like we'll be adding to our marketplace soon! This is from the TCH website which has two links relevant to the original Cocky Hunter – interesting reads.

cockyhunter.com/pages/about-cocky-hunter

cockyhunter.com/pages/what-was-life-like-for-cocky-hunter

Certainly the gramophone that Thomas "Cocky" Hunter sold to my grandfather has proved it was not "junk". Over 100 years later it is still working!

Compiled by Norman Penny 22 Nov 24