



A Literary Entrepreneur: William Meyler of Bath (1755-1821)

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Eighteenth century Bath was a centre of entrepreneurial spirit. The rise of the city as a leisure resort and centre of fashion resulted in the growth of many service industries, not least those that satiated the hunger for the written word. Not only did William Meyler seek to cater for the reading public, but he also involved himself in the social and civic life of the city for over fifty years. In his journey from apprentice bookbinder to Justice of the Peace, he earned the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens as well as visitors to Bath. His life provides an example of social mobility through commercial success in Bath during the period, and the various institutions, both formal and informal, which made this possible.

William Meyler was born on December 13th 1755 into a respectable family living in Newburg on the Isle of Anglesey. At the age of nine he was sent to receive a formal education with his uncle, the Rev. Thomas Meyler, who was then master of the Free-Grammar School at Marlborough. According to the biography written by his friend, Joseph Hunter, who was minister at the Unitarian chapel on Trim Street in Bath, he set forth 'mounted on a Welch poney [sic...] escorted by a relative.' In spite of only being fluent in his native tongue, Meyler was a quick learner, showing a talent for both the classics and those subjects more suited to a commercial life. Consequently, when time came to choose a profession for young William, the decision was made that he should take an apprenticeship with Andrew

Tennent at his bookshop in Bath.¹ Another contemporary of Meyler's, John Britton, wrote of William's disappointment at not being able to spend his days reading the books that filled the shelves of the shop - 'no crime could be greater, in the opinion of his austere employer, than to suffer his eyes to wander over the leaves of a book, while his hands ought to have been active in adorning its covers'.²

With his apprenticeship complete, Meyler went into partnership with the artist and teacher of drawing, Joseph Sheldon. In 1776, they acquired Tucker's Circulating Library in the

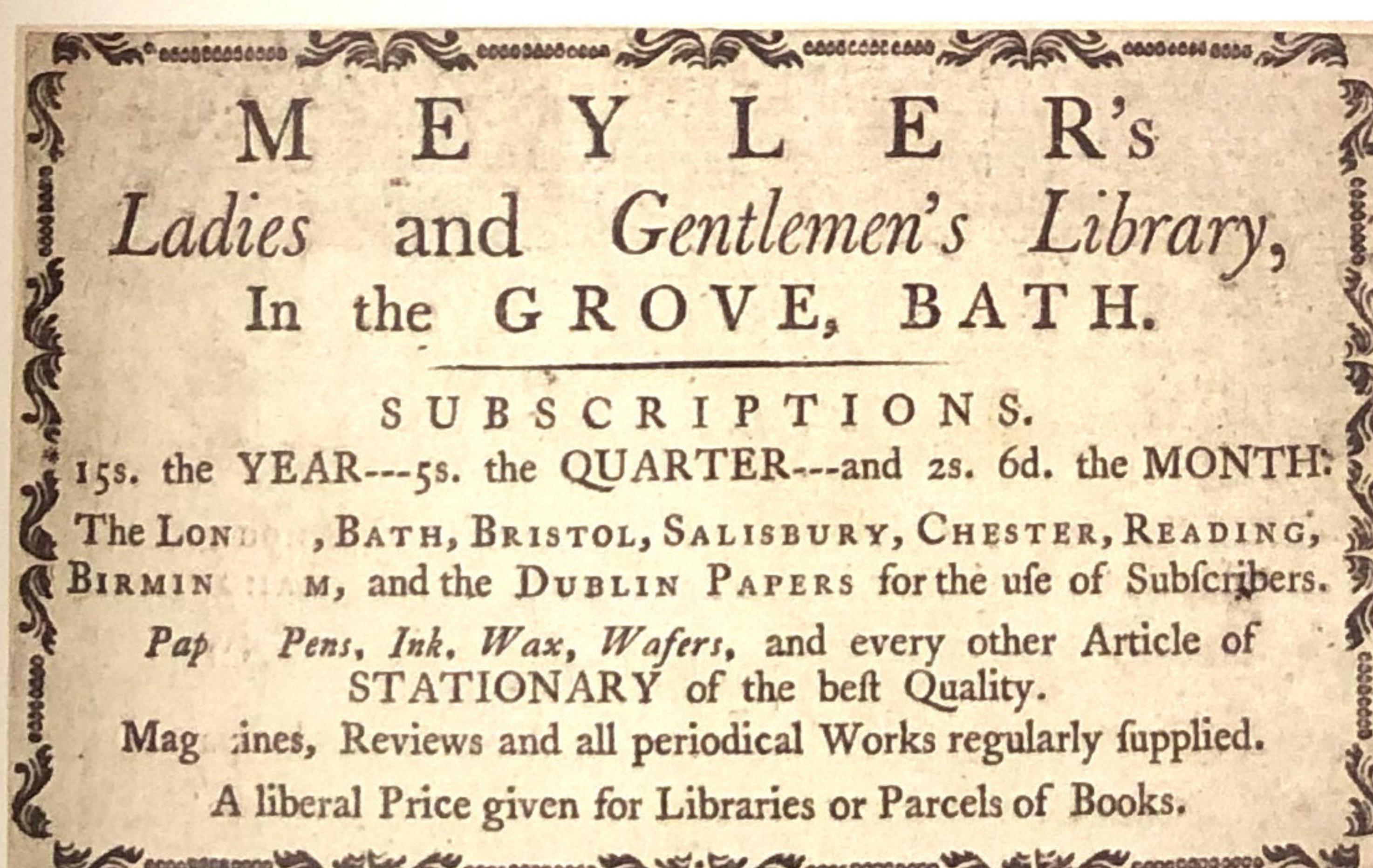


fig 1: Trade card for Meyler's Ladies and Gentlemen's Library, in the Grove, Bath, c.1781

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Orange Grove [fig. 1], which had been owned until 1770 by the bookseller William Frederick.³ The library included upwards of ten thousand items including newspapers from London, Bath, Bristol, and Salisbury, as well as stationery of all kinds for sale. In 1780, the subscriptions were

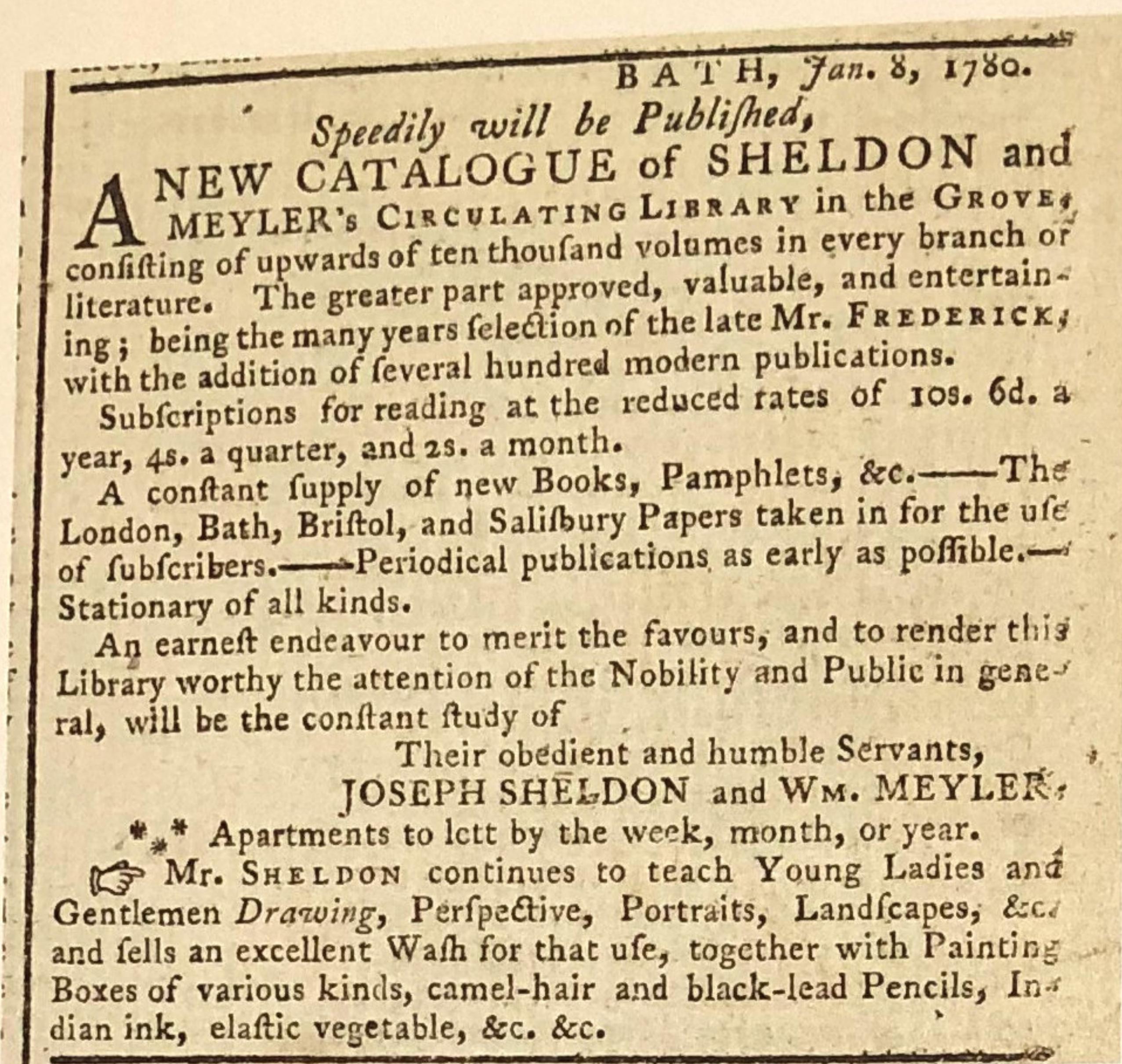


fig 2: A new Catalogue of Sheldon and Meyler's Circulating Library at the Orange Grove, 1780
Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

Morning Post and *Daily Advertiser*, as did his subsequent marriage to Mary Hyatt at Minchinhampton in the following August - a sure sign that Meyler was known beyond the city, at least among those engaged in the printing trade.⁷

Like many in the print trade, Meyler also sold medicines in his shop. He was also an agent for the state lottery from 1790 until 1803.⁸ At that time, the government authorised these schemes by annual statute, in which they fixed the number of tickets and prizes before putting them out to competitive tender to raise revenue.⁹ Meyler also involved himself in another revenue-raising scheme, acting as secretary for the Bath Five Years Tontine Society. Subscribers to the tontine received an annuity during their lifetime, and as each member died the annuity for the remaining subscribers increased until the last remaining subscriber received the whole income. The Bath scheme targeted those with modest incomes: 'Assistants in Shops, Servants of all Denominations, and young Women without Fortunes, may look forward with pleasing Hope, that by a few Years frugality they may settle in reputable Business themselves.'¹⁰ Meyler's shop was more than simply a place of business; it was a social space that served the community, like so many other shops of the time. He took in charitable subscriptions, such as was the case for one William Read, released from debtors' prison in 1782.¹¹ That same year, he also received subscriptions for the Militia Society, each member of which paid up to one guinea. Should he then be chosen to serve in the militia, he received up to ten guineas remuneration.¹² Also, many newspaper advertisements directed those who wished to make enquiries about items for sale, situations vacant, properties for let, and even the recovery of lost property to contact Mr. Meyler in his bookshop.¹³

At that time two newspapers served Bath, Cruttwell's *Bath Chronicle* and Hooper and Keene's *Bath Journal*. Yet, in 1792 following a period of housing development in the city and an increasing interest in news, particularly news of the revolution in France, two publishers thought that the time was ripe for a third Bath newspaper: J. Johnson created the *Bath Register and General*

10s. 6d. per annum, 4s. per quarter, and 2s. per month [fig. 2]. They supplemented this income by taking in lodgers, as did many other businesses in Bath at that time. *The New Bath Guide* of 1790 listed over a dozen lodging houses on the Orange Grove alone.⁵ Meyler continued to take in lodgers after he moved to number 5, Abbey Church Yard [fig. 3] in 1808. It was there that the poet Shelley and his future wife Mary Godwin stayed for the winter of 1816-7, during which time Mary completed work on *Frankenstein*.⁶ In 1781, Meyler became sole proprietor of the lending library and bookshop, possibly by investing the dowry from his recent marriage to Elizabeth Salway. In January 1786, Elizabeth died. News of the sad event appeared in several London newspapers, including *The Times*, the *General Evening Post*, and the



THE PUMP ROOM BATH.

fig 3: The Pump Room showing the premises of Meyler's to the left, 1820 by David Cox
Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

Advertiser, and Meyler founded the *Bath Herald and General Advertiser*, printed by the recently arrived Mr. Paddock on Green Street. Whether by strange coincidence or by intent both decided to publish the first copies of their new ventures on the same day, March 3rd. The first issue of the *Bath Herald and General Advertiser* contained the following address to its readers:

It was presumed the great increase in the buildings and inhabitants of this city rendered a third paper necessary. We were, it seems, not singular in this opinion; for a numerous co-partnership have figured a fourth at least expedient. To this measure, which will serve to augment our industry, though it may lessen the fruits of it, we cannot object. The road to public favour is open to every man who has the ability to merit it. It is to be hoped, however, that the competition in the present case, will proceed with equal spirit and liberality, and that the sole contest between rival prints will be which shall be made most useful and entertaining to the public.¹⁴

While the 'equal spirit and liberality' may have continued in public, in private Meyler displayed his contempt for the rival journal: Joseph Hunter recalled an epigram written by Meyler:

If a story you'd wish to be spread the town round,
Go tell it to Blab as a secret profound;
But if 'tis a secret you'd hush every word of,
Let the Register print it — 'twill never be heard of.¹⁵

As it was, eighteen months after their inception, the two newest Bath newspapers merged to form the *Bath Herald and Register*, the first edition of which appeared on October 5th 1793.¹⁶ In June 1795, Meyler bought out the other shareholders in the Register, who had been sleeping partners in the business, and set up his own press in Kingston Buildings, not far from his Orange Grove bookshop [fig. 4], Paddock having given up printing to become an innkeeper in Taunton.¹⁷ As well as producing the *Herald*, Meyler undertook printing jobs and published a few books every year, including the best-selling *Advice to the Young Whist Player* (1808). His development as a printer was not without problems. The antiquary Rev. Richard Warner recalled the troubled publication of his dissertation on the Roman antiquities discovered in Bath. The Corporation agreed to fund the publication on the proviso that Meyler would print it - indicating that Meyler had developed a good relationship with that civic body. Unfortunately, Meyler's compositor was not up to the task. The compositor's apparent taste for gin resulted in a multitude of imperfections. Subsequently, when it came to future publications, Warner availed himself of the services of another Bath printer, Richard Cruttwell.¹⁸ Despite this

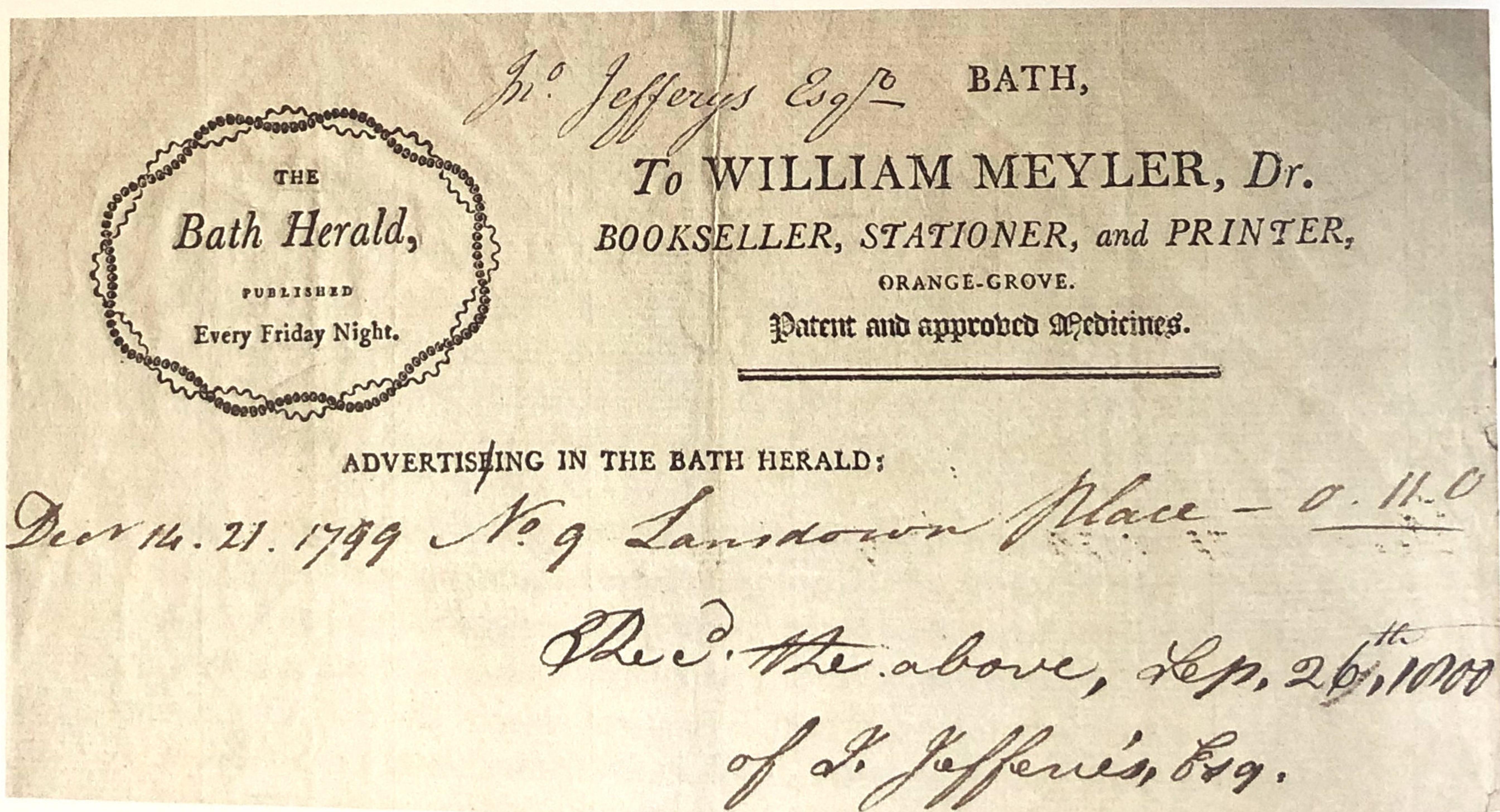


fig 4: Bill from William Meyler and Son, Printers, Booksellers, Stationers and Proprietors of The Bath Herald, Orange Grove, Dec 21st 1799
Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

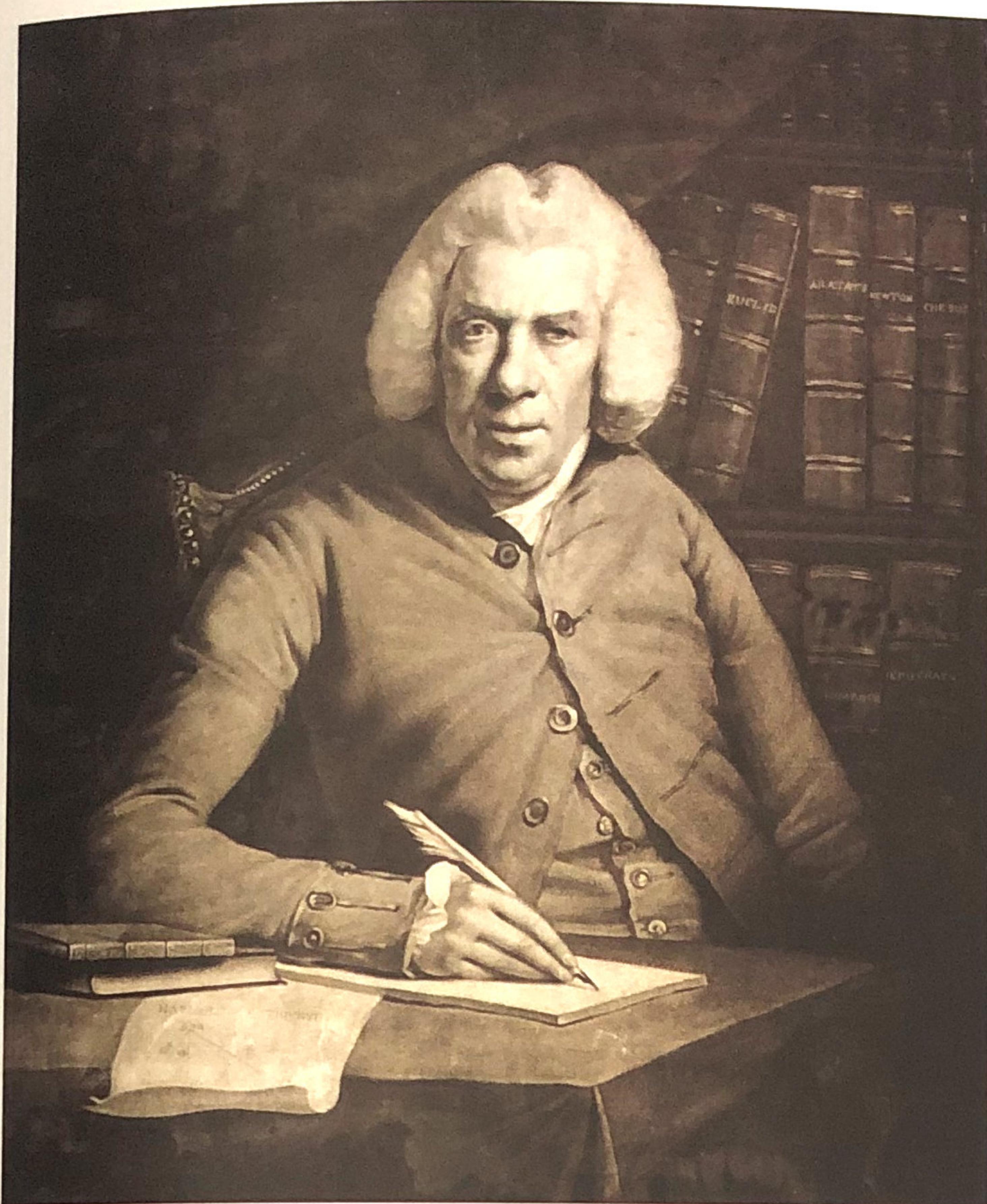


fig 5: Henry Harington MD, 1799 after Thomas Beach
(1738-1806)

Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

occurrence for the quarrelsome Thickness. An enraged Thickness declared that he would never enter the premises again and neither would any of his friends. Meyler responded with the following verse:

"Affront me!" cries Phil, "all my friends you shall lose,
Then mark the decay of your trade!"
"Oh Sir! if in lieu I've the tythe of your foes,
By heaven my fortune is made."

Nevertheless, the episode did have a happy ending, as Hunter recounted:

Thickness did quit the shop, and, while he remained in Bath, never entered it again; but the day before he left the city on his continental tour, (in which this eccentric character met the fate of all mortals) he called Mr. Meyler into the Grove, said he could not bear to part in enmity with him, - shook his hand heartily, and placed a ring on his finger, as a mark of his esteem.²²

As well as writing many poetic prologues, epilogues and addresses that were performed in the theatre in Bath and widely published, Meyler also apparently had some talent as an

setback, Meyler's business flourished and in the summer of 1808, he took on his 26 year old son, Thomas Salway Meyler, as his partner and moved to new premises in the Abbey Churchyard, next to the Pump Room, the Corporation having previously rejected his application to set up a printing office east of the King's Bath.²⁰

Even while still learning his trade, Meyler attracted the attention of a number of his master's customers through his poetry. He became a regular attendee of Lady Anna Miller's literary salon, known as the Batheaston Circle. There he became acquainted with such literary figures as William Mason, David Garrick, Fanny Burney, Anna Seward, Richard Graves, and Christopher Anstey, developing lasting friendships with the last two.²¹ However, Meyler's relationships with literary figures did not always run smoothly. Hunter recalled one occasion when the travel writer Philip Thickness took offence at Meyler while in his bookshop - hardly a rare

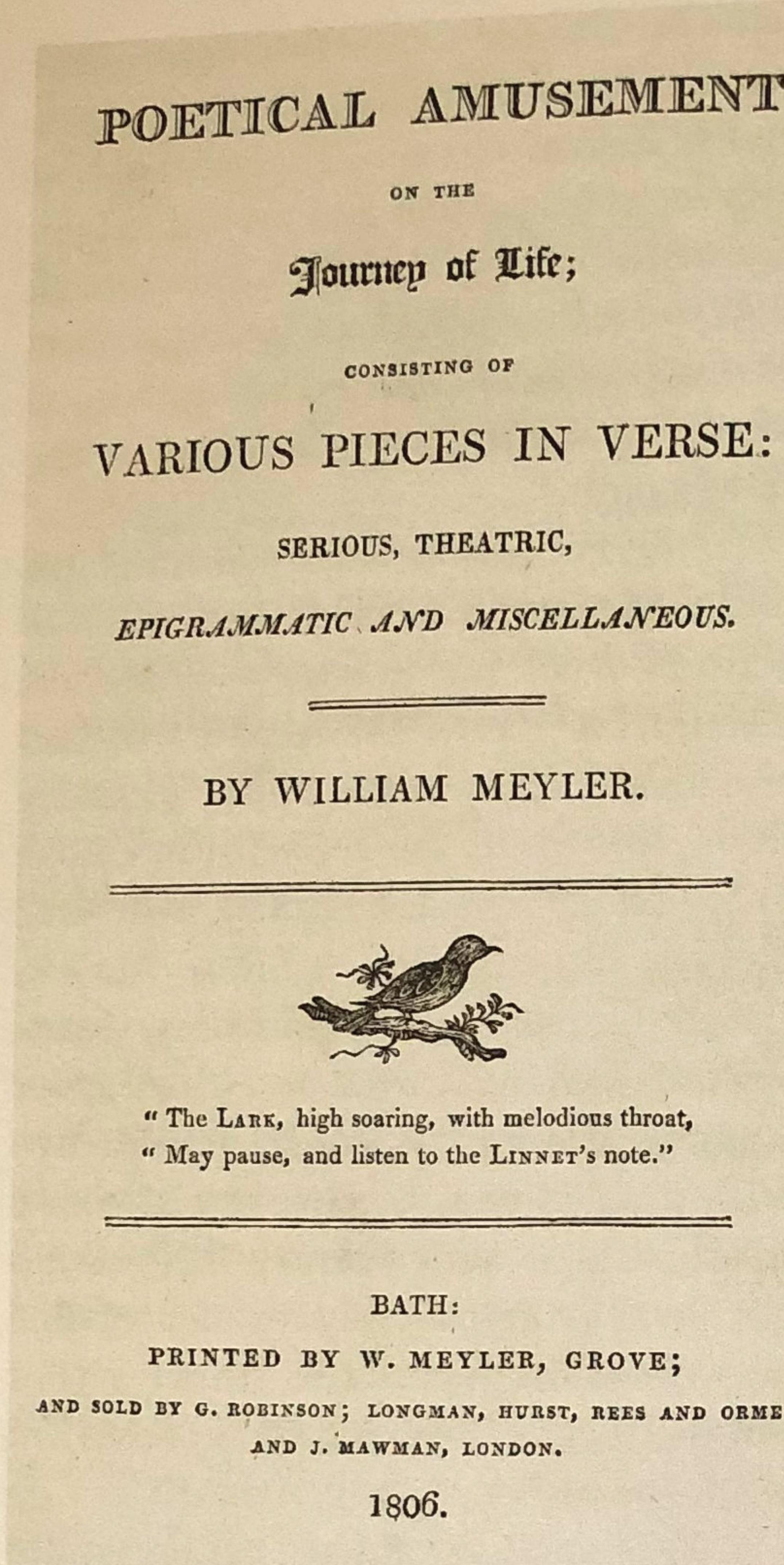


fig 6: Title page to *Poetical Amusement etc.* by William Meyler, 1806
Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

Colonel Leigh, an intimate friend of Mr. Meyler, and Equerry to his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, having mentioned the forthcoming volume, his Royal Highness, who had seen and admired the author, directed Colonel M'Mahon to state that a dedication to him would be an acceptable compliment.

The prince may not have been so flattered had he been aware of the varied quality of Meyler's compositions. As Hunter noted:

Serious poetry was not Mr. Meyler's forte - there was feeling in it, and elegant expression, but it will not bear comparison with his lighter style. Perhaps his Prologues, Epilogues, and Theatrical Addresses, equal if not excel those of any other writer.²⁵

One reviewer, writing for *The Monthly Review*, echoed these sentiments, albeit in less diplomatic language. He wrote:

amateur actor himself. On one occasion he played the part of Richard III in a charity production. Hunter claimed that, 'it was the general opinion of a crowded audience, that had he adopted the stage as a profession, the highest walk both in tragedy and comedy would have been open to his talents.'²³ He was also a member of the Bath Harmonic Society, founded by his friend, Dr. Harington [fig. 5], in 1795 for the 'promotion of harmony in its general signification. In order to preserve which no political discussion shall be suffered to take place; nor shall any indecent song or sentiment be permitted to be sung or spoken on any account whatever.' The annual subscription of one guinea and the rules of the society demonstrate its exclusivity: 'No person whatsoever shall be eligible into the society but noblemen, gentlemen, and professional men, who reside in Bath or its vicinity, or who may occasionally visit it.' The membership included many prominent Bath figures, as well as the Duke of York, and the marquises of Bath and Lansdown.²⁴ As such, the Harmonic Society offered networking opportunities through which men such as Meyler might further their ambitions to rise in society.

Another friendship gave Meyler an opportunity to increase his social standing. In 1806, Meyler published a collection of his poems, entitled *Poetical Amusement on the Journey of Life* [fig. 6]. According to Hunter:

We have derived little amusement from the first sextion of these fugitive compositions. [...] Mr Meyler's expansion is cold and lifeless - The 'Sorrows of a favourite Spaniel' are vented with disgusting coarseness: but the 'Monody on the death of Garrick' possesses some poetical merit, and conveys us, by an easy and natural transition, to the second part, in which the author appears to much greater advantage.²⁶

A review of the collection in the *Literary Journal* was less scathing about his poems on serious subjects, noting that while these poems are not 'by any means without merit', they are 'less interesting and less finished both in point of sentiment and expression than many of those that follow.' Again, the reviewer went on to praise the dramatic poems which 'surpassed our expectations' and the epigrammatic in which 'the success of the author is by no means small.'²⁷

Not only did Meyler find a place in Bath's business and artistic communities, but he also became involved in civic affairs. On March 31st 1783, a group of 'gentlemen and tradesmen' met at the Bear Inn [fig. 7] to found the Bath Society of

Guardians for the Protection of Persons and Property from Felons, Forgers, Cheats, Receivers of Stolen Goods, Swindlers, Highwaymen, &c. Meyler became the secretary for the Society, taking in the five shilling subscriptions at his shop.²⁸ If a crime was committed against a subscriber, the Society offered a reward. As was the case in March 1785 when Meyler placed a notice in the *Bath Chronicle*, on behalf of the Society, offering a five guinea reward for information resulting in the conviction of those responsible



fig 7: Artist's impression of Bear Inn, Union Street, Bath drawn by R.W.M. Wright in 1925

Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

for the thefts of a lady's beaver great coat taken from the house of William Cottell, a coachman's great coat stolen from John Salmon, or a pair of shoes formerly belonging to Charles Davis. In the same notice Meyler cautioned the residents of Bath 'against leaving their doors open in the evening' to halt the crime spree [fig. 8].²⁹ The Guardians also paid the expenses of witnesses to travel to the assizes at Taunton and rewarded watchmen and other law enforcement officials should their vigilance prevent any criminal activity.³⁰

The Society appears to have been such a success that in its April 1785 meeting, which was convened in the grander setting of the Guildhall, it not only decided to offer subscriptions, at a slightly higher rate, to residents outside the city as far as the turnpikes on the major roads, but also 'to act against offenders who may commit depredations on the property of poor persons, in every case which to them shall appear expedient'.³¹ By that time the Society had 292 subscribers; a number that rose to 414 in 1789, although only seven of these resided outside the city. In recognition of the extra work required by the larger membership, the Society granted Meyler a stipend of twenty guineas.³² In a notice placed on behalf of the Society in the *Bath Chronicle* that

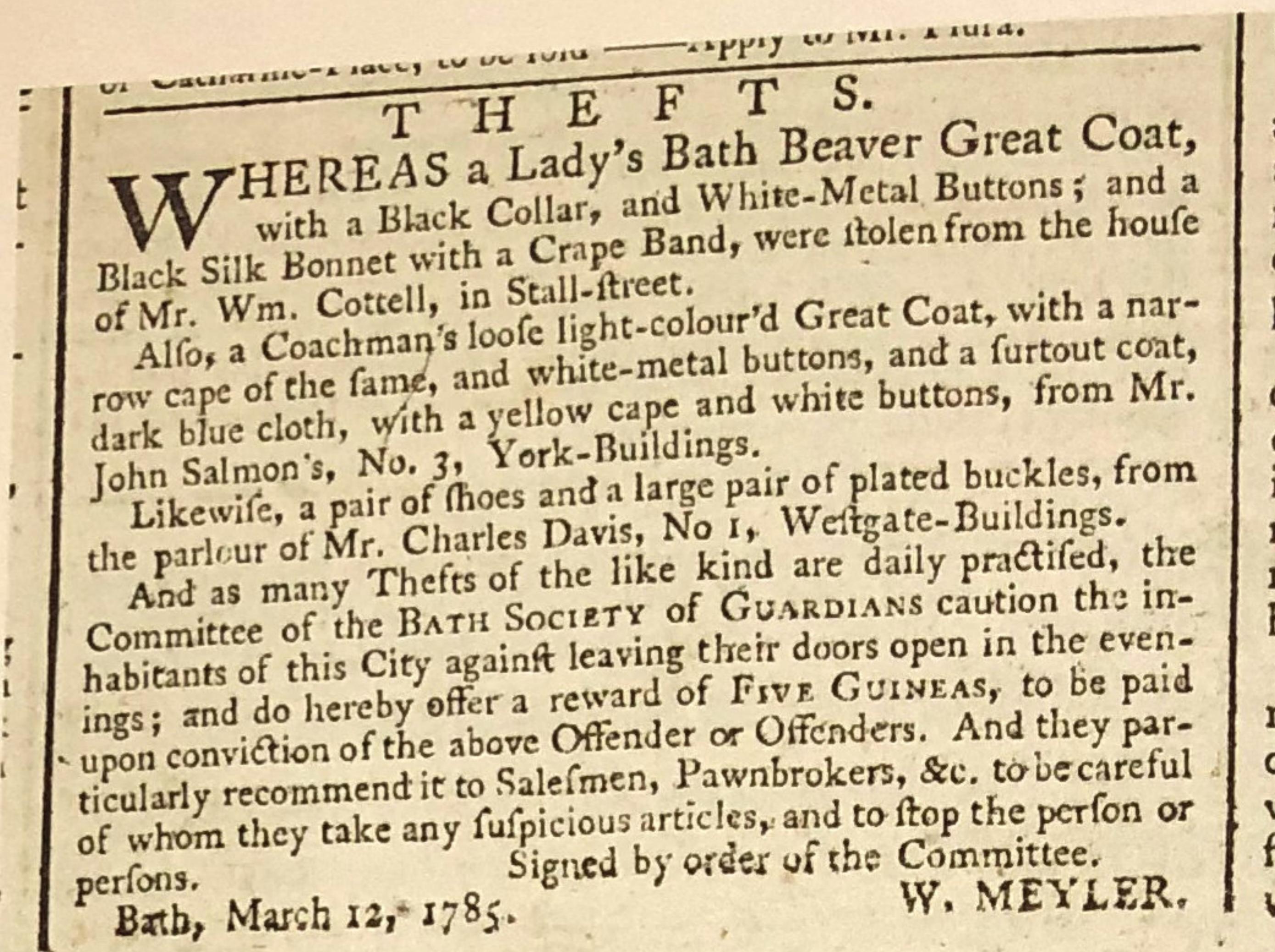


fig 8: Notification of the theft of a Ladies Beaver Coat from Stall Street, 1785

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his social standing. He achieved the lofty position of Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Somerset sometime before 1805.³⁴ Again, Hunter was fulsome in his praise of his friend, noting, 'that in all the points which constitute a good mason, he was pre-eminently excellent'.³⁵

While there is no evidence that Meyler supported a particular political party, his activities do provide an insight into his political opinions. It comes as no surprise that as a retailer he opposed the Shop Tax that Pitt introduced in 1785. He was a member of the Bath committee, which was part of the national campaign for the repeal of the tax, taking names on a petition to the House of Commons in his shop. When the campaign proved successful in 1789, the Bath Committee extended congratulations to the petitioners and offered thanks to the prominent Whig, Charles James Fox, for his role in the repeal of the tax.³⁶ Meyler may have been thankful to Fox for the repeal of the Shop Tax, but he took an opposing view when it came to the increasingly violent French Revolution. Meyler acted as secretary of the Bath branch of the Association for Preserving Liberty, Property, and the Constitution of Great Britain, which first convened in December 1792, less than a month after John Reeves founded the Association in London to counter the perceived threat of radical societies inspired by the success of those in France. Again, Meyler received subscriptions in his shop, but unlike with the Society of Guardians, subscriptions to the Association were voluntary, ensuring that it could attract members from all ranks of society.³⁷ Nevertheless, the membership of the Association included many of the same important Bathonians as the Society of Guardians not least its chairman, Dr. Abel Moysey, who was then Mayor. To further underline official approval, the Association met in the Guildhall and received funds from the Corporation.³⁸ Following the outbreak of war with Revolutionary France,

same year, Meyler claimed that since the institution of the Society the number of offenders committed from Bath to the Somerset Assizes had steadily decreased due to 'the certainty of punishment operating as a powerful preventative.' The Society also took credit for the transportation of two notorious offenders called Dyer and Wood.³³ The Society of Guardians remained active into the nineteenth century, with Meyler continuing as secretary. As Meyler involved himself with so many associations, societies and circles it is unsurprising that he also joined the Freemasons, which would have enabled him to make new contacts and improve

his social standing. He achieved the lofty position of Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Somerset sometime before 1805.³⁴ Again, Hunter was fulsome in his praise of his friend, noting, 'that in all the points which constitute a good mason, he was pre-eminently excellent'.³⁵

<p>A BOOK is opened at MEYLER's LIBRARY, in the GROVE, to receive Subscriptions for the Purposes agreed on by the Resolution of the County Meeting at Wells, on Wednesday the 9th inst:</p>	
Henry White, esq;	St. James's-Square £.20 0
John Palmer, esq; 50 0

fig 9: Announcement of a book being opened at Meyler's Library in the Orange Grove to receive subscriptions, 1794

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Meyler also opened a book in his shop in April 1794 to receive subscriptions to pay for a volunteer defence force to protect the county as had been agreed at a meeting in Wells earlier that month [fig. 9].³⁹ Later that same year, he opened yet another book to receive subscriptions to purchase warm clothing for British troops then serving in Flanders.⁴⁰

Meyler was also keen to show his loyalty to King and constitution in other ways. When George III recovered from his illness in March 1789, Meyler announced that he would join in with the celebrations by decorating his shop with 'a small transparency, representing a Medallion of the King, with a Plume of Feathers supported by a wreath of oak, on one side, and a Harp on palm leaves on the other.' The inscription to read:

That George again the sceptre sways,
Be every antient Briton's praise,
Whilst Cambria's hoary hills shall ring
With these glad sounds - *Long live the King!*

The reference to Cambria suggests that he saw himself as a spokesperson for his countrymen in Bath.⁴¹ As well as decorating his shop, he also penned an ode entitled 'Genius of Britain', sung at the Bath Theatre on March 3rd by Charles Incledon to music by Venanzio Rauzzini [fig. 10], with whom Meyler often collaborated.⁴²

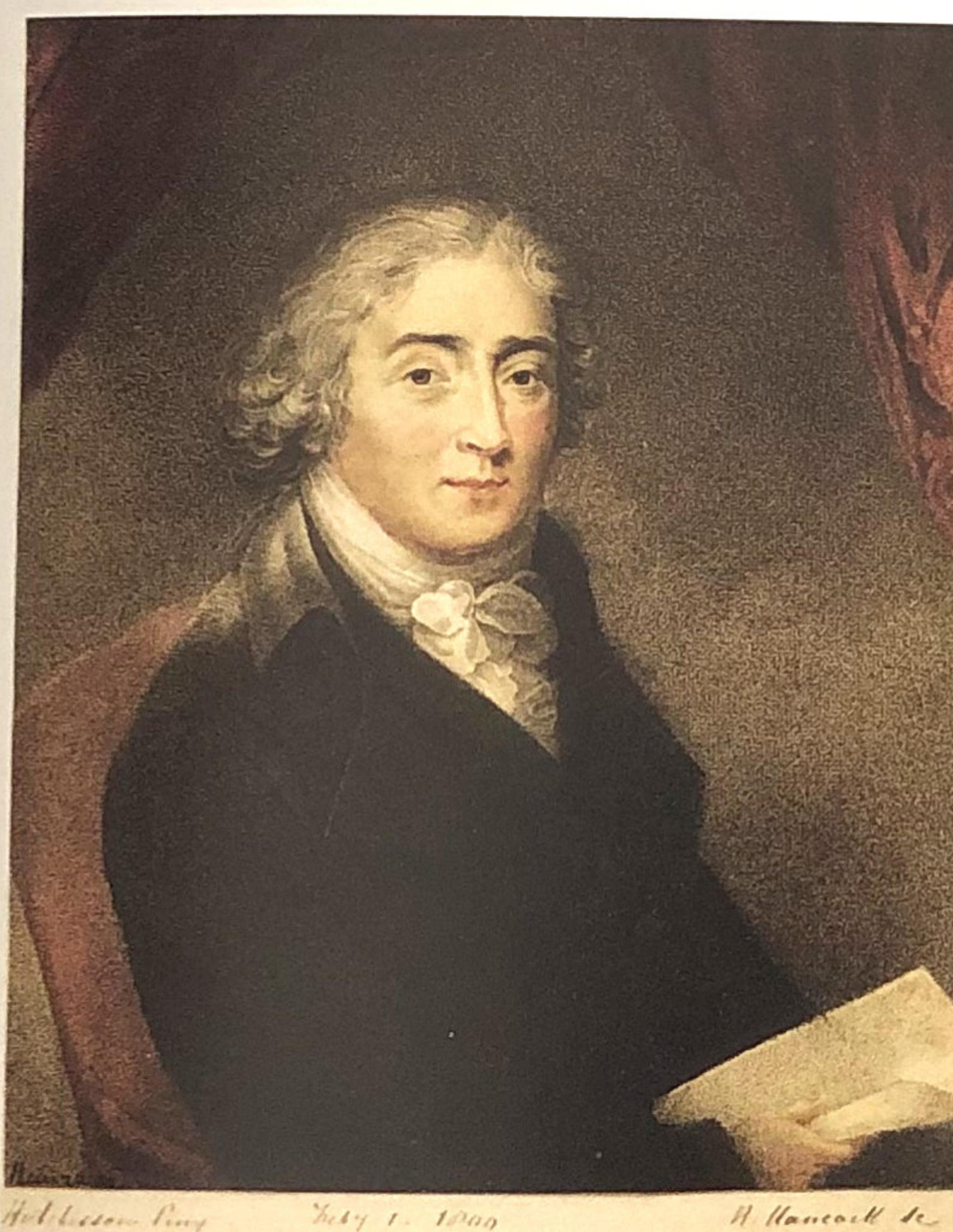


fig 10: Portrait of Venanzio Rauzzini (1746-1810), 1800
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the lease on the provisions market and the twice yearly fairs, which they also supervised. When his term as Constable ended, Meyler was duly elected to be one of the two Bailiffs in 1803.⁴⁶ He also served on a number of Council committees, including one created in February 1804 to again consider the Bath freemen's request to build on the Commons.⁴⁷

On January 2nd 1801, Meyler's involvement in civic affairs and social networking bore fruit, when the Bath Corporation elected him as a member of the Common Council, whereupon he took the Oath of Office and the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy.⁴³ As a councilman he became one of the electors for the city's two members of Parliament, and as such on June 1st 1802 he voted along with a majority of the Council for the former mayor and postal innovator, John Palmer. The other candidate was John Berkeley Burland who later represented Totnes.⁴⁴ On September 28th that year, the Council elected Meyler as one of the city's two Constables, who were in charge of the local peacekeeping force and were responsible for maintenance of the city's lock-up, pillory and stocks for a period of one year.⁴⁵ While the role of Constable was unpaid, those that took on the onerous task could expect the reward of being elected as Bailiffs in subsequent years. These court functionaries were responsible for the custody and transportation of prisoners and also enjoyed the lucrative right to hold

Meyler was again elected as Constable in September 1806, and two years later he served a second term as Bailiff.⁴⁸ To honour the fiftieth year of the reign of George III, in October 1809, the Council resolved to address the King, giving Meyler the task of composing the address under the seal of the city, which the Recorder of Bath, Lord Camden, presented to his majesty.⁴⁹ In August 1816, the Meyler family's rise in Bath society was further enhanced when Thomas Salway Meyler joined his father as a member of the Corporation, which soon gave civic responsibility to him. They elected Thomas to be a Constable in 1817, and then Bailiff in 1819.⁵⁰ Meanwhile, on September 28th 1818, the Council elected William Meyler to serve as a Justice of the Peace, under the revised charter of 1792, which increased the number of Justices in the city from two to eleven and also permitted non-alderman to be elected to that position. This increase in justices may have been a reaction to fears of revolution spreading across the Channel.⁵¹

For much of his life, Meyler had suffered with gout. Towards the end he became chair-bound; yet, his sharp wit had not dulled, as illustrated by this passage taken from Hunter's account of his life:

[I]n the year 1817, during the Queen's visit to Bath, she also honoured Mr. Meyler with her particular notice. When she visited the Guildhall, her Majesty stood beside his wheel-chair, in the Banqueting-room. and conversed with him a considerable time, nor could his respect for her rank, check the continual flow of his humour. The Queen appeared highly amused with his sallies, and afterwards, having made a sarcastic remark on the size of one of the gentlemen of the Common-Council, she expressed her regret to Sir G. Gibbes, remarking that "I conversed so long with that merry friend of yours, Mr. Meyler, that I caught some of his spirit, and could not have checked myself for the world."⁵²

Even when it came to his ailments, Meyler continued to engage in literary endeavours. Between 1816 and 1820, Meyler wrote a series of letters to Dr. Charles Wilson of Yoxford, Suffolk, who published them in his *Observations on Gout and Rheumatism* (1823). In these correspondences, Meyler extolled the curative qualities of the doctor's Gout Tincture when taken by him and a number of his friends. In his final published letter of October 1820, Meyler detailed his failing health:

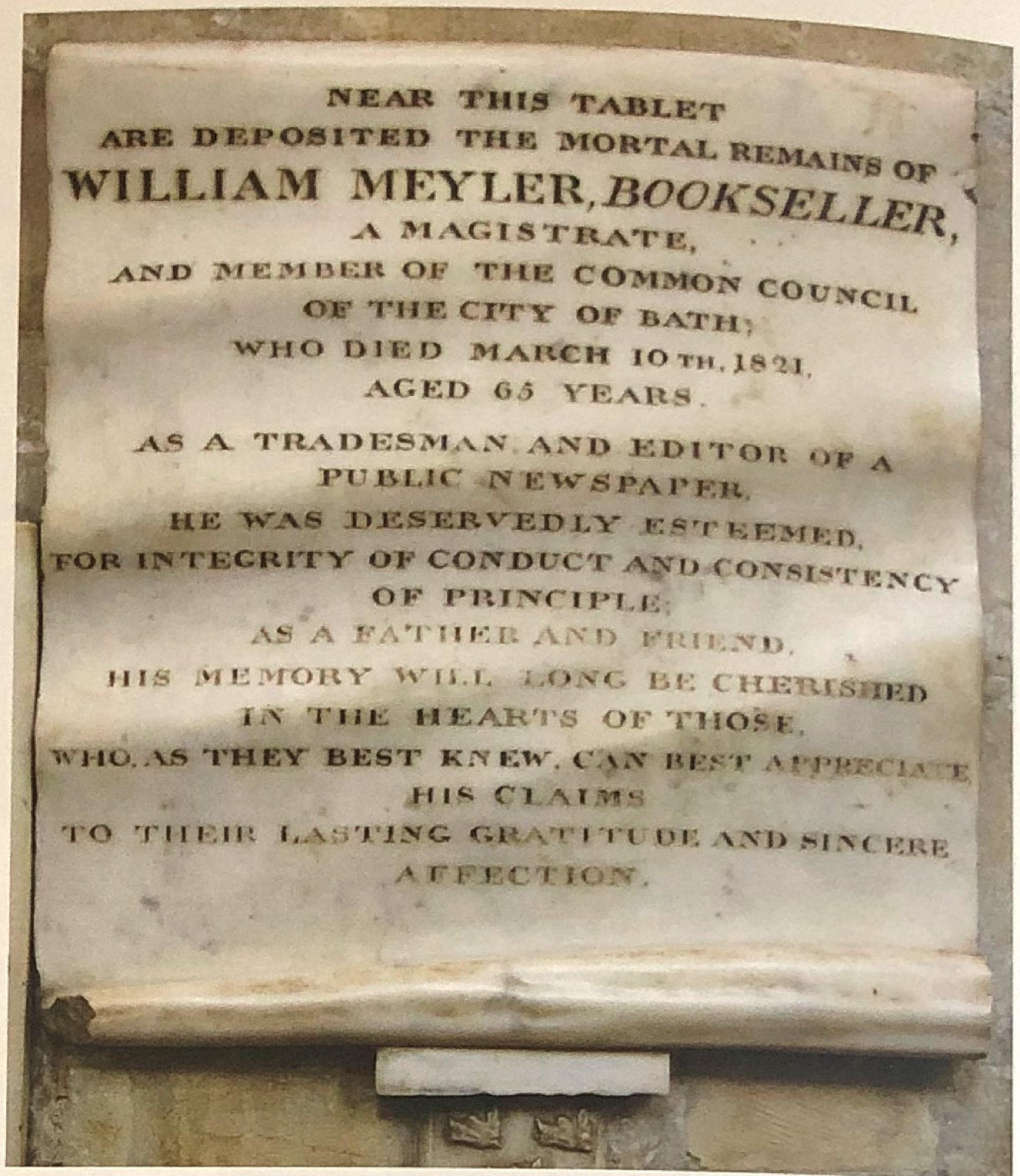


fig 11: William Meyler's memorial at Bath Abbey
Photograph - Dan Brown

A violent cough, which came on whilst attending some public business, on a very cold day, in our hall [the Guildhall], in the spring of 1819, afflicted me through the last tremendous winter; nor did it leave me till last May, when I found that I had exchanged my gout, and subsequent sound repose, for tormenting asthma and disturbed nights.⁵³

William Meyler died on March 10th 1821, and was buried in the Abbey Church [fig. 11]. Hunter recalled that while his family intended his funeral to be a private occasion,

the way through which the procession passed, was crowded by his fellow citizens, anxious to see the last of a man, who had occupied so large a portion of public attention, and who was never known but to be admired, esteemed, and revered.⁵⁴

The *Bath Chronicle* printed a generous eulogy to the publisher of its newspaper:

We have to record, with unaffected concern, the decease of Mr. Wm. Meyler, bookseller, joint proprietor and editor of the Bath Herald; who, after several years of infirmity, and much recent suffering, closed his earthly career on Saturday last, in composure, resignation, and peace, at the advanced age of 64. As the conductor of a weekly intelligencer, the editor of the Bath Herald may claim both the positive merit of having afforded, through more than a quarter of a century, much interesting information, and much innocent amusement to his townsmen; and the negative one (a still higher praise) of never having sought popularity by prostituting his publication to the circulation of local scandal, or calumnious gossiping. His paper, indeed, ever bore the stamp of his character which a wide circle of mourning friends will long remember and respect as cheerful, kind, candid, and truly honest.⁵⁵

Not only was his death widely reported in British newspapers and journals, but it also appeared in papers printed as far away as *The Calcutta Journal*.⁵⁶ Eulogies appeared long after his death, such as a poem entitled 'A Tribute to the Memory of the late Mr. William Meyler, of Bath', written by a fellow poet and newspaperman John Taylor, which highlighted Meyler's artistic skills and his Welsh heritage:

MEYLER, descended from the Bards of yore,
Whose genius he by sure transmission bore,
MONA in him, with pride, must fondly trace
The lineal offspring of her ancient race.
What though he soar'd not to the proud sublime,
Humour and energy enrich'd his rhyme;
Yet had he try'd to stretch his Muse's flight,
She might have reach'd some bold parnassian height,
But, better far, he urg'd her WORTH to hail,
Spread moral truth, and tell the pleasing tale.

Loyal and prompt to set the Patriot's part,
Humanity and honour rul'd his heart.
BATH holds his reliques as a sacred prize,
For there "in yonder cave a DRUID lies."⁵⁷

In his will, Meyler bequeathed to his wife and four children a fortune of over £4,000, much of which he had invested in Government Securities. He also made modest gifts to his brother, his nephew and his foreman.⁵⁸ Meyler's businesses passed into the hands of his eldest son, Thomas Salway Meyler, who died at the age of forty-two, only two years after his father's demise. From that point Thomas' widow, Mary, successfully managed the firm, which remained in the hands of the family until the 1870s.⁵⁹

From relatively humble beginnings, William Meyler went on to become a successful businessman and respected public figure. He did so by involving himself in both literary circles and civic associations, developing relationships with important people in the city of Bath and beyond. His life demonstrates how involvement in the provincial urban public sphere of late-eighteenth century and early-nineteenth century offered a means to social betterment for a person of talent and enterprise. Yet, judging by the tributes paid to him following his death, Meyler was best remembered as a kind and honest man, who used his quick wit to good effect.

Notes

1. J. Hunter, 'Memoir of the late William Meyler', *Weekly Entertainer and West of England Miscellany* (Sherborne, May 21st 1821), pp.381-85.
2. J. Britton, *The History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church* (London, 1825), p. 181.
3. H. M. Hamlyn, 'Eighteenth-century Circulating Libraries in England', *The Library, 5th Series* (1947), pp.197-222.
4. *Bath Chronicle* (January 27th 1780), p.3, col.d.
5. *The New Bath Guide; or, Useful Pocket Companion* (Bath, 1790), p.71.
6. J. Lees-Milne & D. Ford, *Images of Bath* (Richmond-upon-Thames, 1982), pp. 54-55.
7. *The Times* (January 20th 1786), p. 3, col. b ; *General Evening Post* (January 19th 1786); *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser* (January 20th 1786); *The Times* (August 4th 1786), p.3, col.b; *General Evening Post* (August 8th 1786); *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser* (August 9th 1786).
8. *London Gazette* (October 9th 1790) & (April 16th 1803).
9. J. Raven, 'The Abolition of the English State Lotteries', *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Jun., 1991), pp.371-389.
10. *The St. James Chronicle; or, British Evening-Post* (September 14th 1790).
11. *Bath Chronicle* (January 24th 1782), p.3, col.d.
12. *Bath Chronicle* (May 2nd 1782), p.2, col.b.
13. *Bath Chronicle* (various)
14. *Bath Herald and General Advertiser* (March 3rd 1792).
15. Hunter, 'Memoir of the late William Meyler'.
16. *The History of the Bath Herald From 1792 to its Centenary, 1892* (Bath, 1892), p.9.
17. T. Fawcett, *Georgian Imprints: Printing and Publishing at Bath, 1729-1815* (Bath, 2008), p.65.
18. Fawcett, *Georgian Imprints*, p.90.
19. R. Warner, *Literary Recollections*, Vol. 2 (London, 1830), pp.120-4.

20. Fawcett, *Georgian Imprints*, p.99.
21. Hunter, 'Memoir of the late William Meyler'.
22. Hunter, 'Memoir of the late William Meyler'.
23. Hunter, 'Memoir of the late William Meyler'.
24. Bath Harmonic Society, *A Selection of Favourite Catches, Glees, &c. as sung at the Harmonic Society in the City of Bath* (Bath, 1797), pp.13-24
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