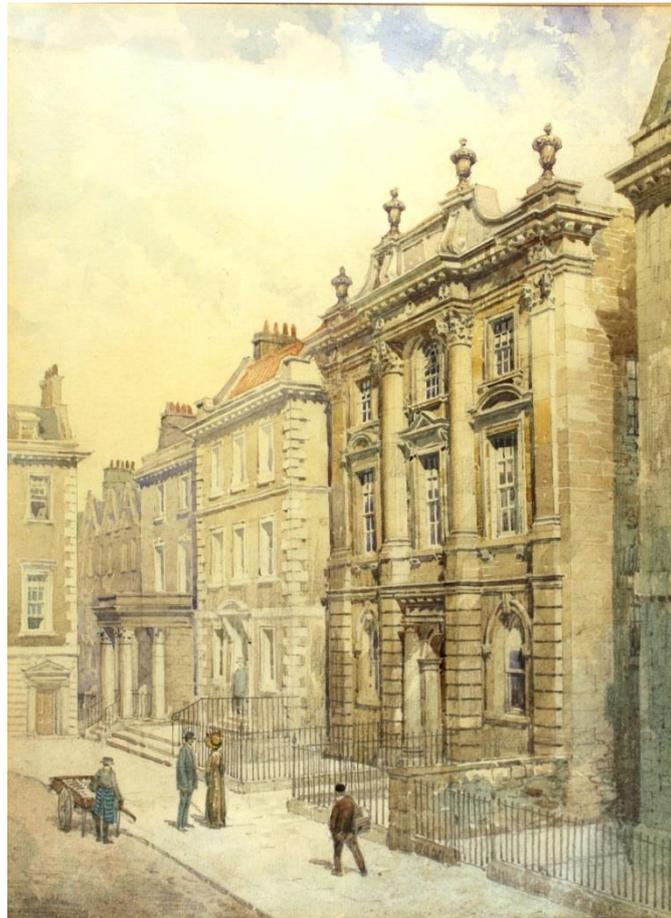


ARTHUR CECIL FARE



Nassau House. Water colour on paper. (33.5 x 24.7 cms) Undated.

Arthur Cecil Fare, RWA, (1876-1958), was a Bath born artist who trained as an architect, moved to Bristol when still young but returned to Bath to make paintings of the city almost to the end of his life. He travelled widely in Europe and was prolific in his output, exhibiting 106 pictures at the RWA between 1922 and 1956. Fare was a member of the Bristol 'Savages', a private club of artists who meet at The Wigwam.

The Victoria Art Gallery has a number of his works and the Friends helped buy this and another piece depicting lost Bath buildings.

This is an image of the North East corner of Orange Grove where the Empire now stands. The prominent building on the right is Nassau House. Built in the late 17th or early 18th century, it was one of Bath's best Baroque buildings. Its builder is obscure but the land on which it stood it believed to have been owned by a Bath apothecary. The Orange Grove, the obelisk and the house are named for the Prince of Orange, whose family name is Nassau and who visited in 1734. He may have stayed in the house. By the nineteenth century, Nassau House had become a lodging house then, ignominiously, Heathcote's Dying and Scouring Works.

The building beyond it, with a portico, is the long forgotten Bath Athenaeum, a private members intellectual club and reading room, separate from the Bath Institution (BRSLI) until 1899.

In the right hand corner is the way into Lot Lane which ran beside the mediaeval city wall and parts of both of which remain in the undercroft of the Empire.

These fine houses were all cleared away by 1912 for the building of the hotel and the re alignment of Grand Parade.