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Number 30

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Advertisement (1911) for Merrill's Dental Surgeries, 56 Claremont Terrace, North Church Street, Fleetwood and 69 Lytham Road, Blackpool, Lancashire.

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REPRESENTATIONS OF ST APOLLONIA IN BRITISH CHURCHES

John F. Beal *

Abstract:

St Apollonia is the patron saint of sufferers from toothache. Many medieval churches contain pictures of saints. Fifty-five representations of St Apollonia in British churches are listed. A large number of these are in the West Country and East Anglia. The majority are on rood screens or stained glass windows.

St Apollonia was martyred in Alexandria in 249 AD. The heathen populace of the city were running riot, attacking and putting to death those Christians who refused to renounce their faith and worship idols.¹ Apollonia, an aged virgin, was seized. She received repeated blows to her jaw and all her teeth were knocked out. A fire was then lit and Apollonia told that if she did not recite certain blasphemous words she would be cast into it. Asking for a brief delay, she broke free, leaped into the flames and was consumed.

Although venerated by many, the legitimacy of throwing herself into the fire was much discussed by theologians, for suicide was regarded by the Church as a sin.² However, it was finally concluded that she had been led into this action by God and could therefore be accepted as a saint. St Apollonia soon became the patron saint of those who suffer from toothache and, especially in mediaeval times, people would pray to her for a cure.

Her feast day is celebrated on 9th February.³ Dedications of churches

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1 A.Butler, *The Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs and other Principal Saints*, ed. by F.C. Husenbeth (London: Virtue & Co., 1926), pp. 202-04.

2 D.H.Farmer, *The Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, 2nd edn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 24.

3 A.Butler, *The Lives of the Saints*, ed. by H.Thurston (London: Burns Oates & Washbourne, 1930), II, pp. 138-39; Farmer, p. 24.

and altars to St Apollonia are found in many parts of the Western Church but, even though she lived in Alexandria, there seems to have been no veneration of her in the East. She is traditionally depicted holding a pair of forceps or pincers containing an extracted tooth. Although she was old when she was martyred, most representations have transformed her into a beautiful young woman.

Boléo contributed much to the literature on St Apollonia, concentrating on specific aspects such as paintings of her martyrdom⁴ and representations of her on sacred ecclesiastical vestments⁵ and bookplates,⁶ one example of the latter being the bookplate of the British Dental Association.

There have been a number of books devoted to St Apollonia, including that by Bulk which provides a detailed list of paintings of the saint which can be seen in art galleries and museums in many parts of the world.⁷ More recently Bleyer and Debuire have described various aspects of the cult of Sainte Apolline (St Apollonia) in France.⁸ This even includes a wine from the Alsace bearing the label 'Clos Sainte Apolline'. De Maar reproduces 78 representations of St Apollonia, from medieval to modern times, in the Netherlands and Flanders.⁹

Whilst the majority of publications describing the cult and representation of St Apollonia have been published in West European languages other than English, there are nevertheless a number of notable contributions in the English language.¹⁰

A number of churches have claimed to contain relics of St Apollonia.¹¹

- 4 J. de P. Boléo, 'O martírio de Santa Apolónia', *Reg.Etnografia*, 10(1968), 140.
- 5 J. de P. Boléo, 'Santa Apolónia nos ornamentos sagrados', *Acc.Méd.(Lisboa)* (Jan-Jun, 1968), 64.
- 6 J. de P. Boléo, 'Santa Apolónia nos ex-libris', *Bol.Ass.Port.Ex-libris* (1964), 7.
- 7 G.Bulk, *St Apollonia* (Münster: Bielefeld, 1967).
- 8 H.Bleyer and M.Debuire, *Du Nord de l'Egypte au Sud de l'Alsace. Sainte Apolline, patronne des chirurgiens-dentistes* (Montsûrs: Editions Résiac, 1988).
- 9 F.E.R. De Maar, *De heilige Apollonia in Nederland en Vlaanderen* (Nijmegen: STI, 1991).
- 10 L.Kanner, *Folklore of the Teeth* (New York: MacMillan, 1928), pp. 167-78; L.Lindsay, 'The Sun, the Toothdrawer and the Saint', *Proc.Roy.Soc.Med.*, 26(1933), 1377-88; B.R.Townend, 'Oral Magic, Folklore and Tradition, Part 6', *Dent.mag.oral topics* (1938), 38-44.
- 11 S.Baring-Gould, *The Lives of the Saints* (London: John Hodges, 1878), II, pp. 231-33;

These have been credited with the power to heal diseases of the teeth. Not all of them could have been genuine for the number of teeth kept as her relics exceeds thirty-two and several jaw bones have been attributed to her. One of the jaw bones was formerly in the possession of the Benedictine Priory of St Michael on St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, but this relic is no longer in existence as far as is known. Cohen and Down described two other relics in England.¹² One of these is in the museum of the British Dental Association; the other belongs to the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham but was at that time (1989) on loan to the Church of St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, Liverpool. This latter relic has subsequently been returned to Walsingham, where it may be seen by prior appointment with the Administrator.

There are a number of churches dedicated to St Apollonia in Western Europe. There are none dedicated to her in Britain, although there is a Chapel of St Apolline in Guernsey.¹³ There is no definitive list of representations of her in British churches.

Searches of the extensive literature on church art and architecture have identified over 50 recorded representations of the saint. All these churches have been visited by the author and the depiction of St Apollonia photographed. Whilst the saint is normally shown holding a pair of pincers, it is not always easy to make a certain identification. St Agatha, who had her breasts cut off before being martyred, is often represented holding a pair of pincers containing a breast. Sometimes either of these saints may be shown holding an empty pair of pincers.

To date, a total of 55 representations likely to be of St Apollonia have been examined by the author. These come from 53 churches, although three are now in museums and one in private ownership. In addition there is a further example now overseas, and three mentioned in the literature which no longer survive. Two churches, at Fairford (Gloucestershire) and Gresford (Clwydd), each have two stained glass windows depicting St Apollonia.

Twenty-four of the representations are paintings on rood screen panels, plus a further one on a door panel. Twenty-two, in twenty churches, are stained glass windows. There are three stone carvings, one wall painting, one tapestry and one bell (which bears her name but does not depict her).

With one exception, all the rood screen paintings are in the South West

Kanner, pp. 175-76; C.D.O'Malley and J.B.de C.M.Saunders, 'St Apollonia', *J.Amer. Coll.Dent.*, 12(1945), 101-15.

12 R.A.Cohen and K.Down, 'St Apollonia in Britain', *Brit.dent.J.*, 167(1989), 181-82.

13 R.A.Cohen, 'Chapel of St Apolline, Guernsey', *Proc.XXIII Congress of Hist.Med.London 1972* (1974), 939-41.

or East Anglia. This is not unexpected as these two areas are where the majority of painted rood screens may be found. Almost all the Devon screens are within about 25 miles of Exeter. The quality of the paintings in the Norfolk and Suffolk screens differs greatly from that in the Devon screens, the former group being unquestionably superior as works of art. The Devon screens are in comparison crude and coarse in their execution.

There is a curious and unexplained association between St Apollonia and St Lawrence. These two saints are found on adjacent panels in Somerleyton (Suffolk) and on 7 Devon screens.¹⁴

The concentration of stained glass representations is probably because much medieval glass was made locally and the Somerset and Norwich schools of glass-making may have had particular 'favourite' saints whom they illustrated more frequently.

CHURCHES IN WHICH ST APOLLONIA IS DEPICTED (by county)

BERKSHIRE

*Eton: Wall painting, 15th century*¹⁵

Part of a beautiful 'grisaille' wall painting in Eton College Chapel dating from c1479-88. James and Tristram describe how in 1560 the college accounts show payment 'for wpyng oute the imagery work vpon the walles in the church'. This was in response to the injunction, issued in the first year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, to do away with popish objects in churches. The covering layer of whitewash protected the paintings from the later attacks of the puritans in the seventeenth century. In 1847 the paintings were uncovered during the remodelling of the chapel interior and, in the absence of any instructions, the Clerk of Works ordered his men to scrape the walls clean. Fortunately, Rev. John Wilder, a Fellow of the College, went into the chapel and stopped the further destruction of the paintings. However, some of the subject matter was not thought 'suited to public exhibition in a Protestant place of worship'. At the suggestion of Prince Albert, they were covered with removable

14 A. Vallance, *English Church Screens* (London: Batsford, 1936), p. 60.

15 M.R. James and E.W. Tristram, 'The wall paintings in Eton College Chapel and in the Lady Chapel of Winchester Cathedral', *Walpole Soc.*, 17(1929), 1-43; C.E. Keyser, *A List of Buildings in Great Britain and Ireland having Mural and other Painted Decorations of dates prior to the latter part of the sixteenth century* (London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1883).

canopies which enabled them to be viewed by 'artists and others who may feel an interest in the examination of these rare and singular productions of the olden times'. In 1881 further damage was inflicted on the paintings by the building of an organ screen into part of the wall. In 1923 the paintings were fully exposed and cleaned. St Apollonia may be seen on the lower part of the south wall on which a number of female saints are depicted. She is shown 'with long hair bounded by a fillet, holding a book under her r. arm and a pair of forceps in her l. hand containing a tooth'.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

*Cambridge: Bell, 15th century*¹⁶

A treble bell in the church of St Botolph, Cambridge, is dedicated to St Apoline. The inscription reads '+ Sancte Apoline Ora Pro Nobis J.D' (O Blessed Apoline pray for us).

*Ely: Needlework panel*¹⁷

A Spanish needlework panel hanging in the South Transept chapel in Ely Cathedral. This tapestry shows St Apollonia and St Margaret kneeling before two angels which are holding between them the Blessed Sacrament Monstrance. In her right hand St Apollonia holds both the palm of martyrdom and a huge pair of pincers gripping a tooth.

CHESHIRE

*Bunbury: Rood screen, 16th century*¹⁸

The painted screen panels, dating from 1527, are the only remaining examples of painted timber screen panels in the county, and indeed in the north west of England. Torn down during the 1865 'restoration' in the church, their whereabouts were unknown until early this century when they were discovered in the cellar of Haughton Hall. Claimed as church property, they were removed to the vicarage, later to be found in the vicarage cellar supporting potato trays. In 1930 they were displayed in an exhibition of 'Primitives' at

16 Cohen; J.J. Raven, *The Bells of England* (London: Methuen, 1906), p. 126; Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *City of Cambridge. Part II* (London: HMSO, 1959), p. 268.

17 J.A.R. Lisney, Personal communication, 1988.

18 Keyser 1883; M.H. Ridgway, 'The Medieval Parclose Screens from Bunbury Parish Church', *J. Architect. Archaeol. & Hist. Soc. for Chester*, 51(1964), 23-29; [n.a.], 'Apollonia lives again', *Brit. dent. J.*, 161(1986), 159.

South Kensington. Following a public appeal money was raised to clean and restore the panels. They are now mounted on the south wall of the nave and were rededicated by Canon Ridgway in June 1988.

CORNWALL

Poundstock: Rood screen, 15th century¹⁹

Panels bearing representations of St Apollonia and other saints are mounted on the wall of this church. The panels have become very dark over the centuries. However, St Apollonia's forceps and tooth can be clearly seen.

DEVON

Alphington: Rood screen, 16th century²⁰

Bond and Camm describe these screen paintings in 1909. One of the panels on the north aisle door is listed as 'new' and identified as 'St Apollonia (?)'. Keyser, however, who also describes the panels as 'new', has no such doubt about the identification of St Apollonia [*sic*]. This panel is no longer in existence.

Ashton: Rood screen, 15th century²¹

Perhaps one of the best known rood screens in Devon. St Apollonia, like the other saints represented on this screen, is a squat figure. She holds pincers containing a tooth in her right hand.

Combe Martin: Rood Screen²²

A very dark screen in which St Apollonia can be identified only with difficulty.

Exeter: Door panel, 15th century²³

Painted on the panel of the door into St Gabriel's chapel.

19 F.B.Bond and B.Camm, *Roodscreens and Roodlofts* (London: Pitman & Sons, 1909), p. 394.

20 Bond and Camm, p. 288; C.E.Keyser, 'On the Panel Paintings of Saints on the Devonshire Screens', *Archaeologia*, 56(1899), 206.

21 M.D.Anderson, *Looking for History in British Churches* (London: John Murray, 1951), p. 16; Bond and Camm, pp. 289-90; B.Camm, *Some Devonshire Screens* (York: Ampleforth Abbey, 1906) pp. 30-31; Keyser 1883; Keyser 1899, 207; Vallance, p. 60.

22 Bond and Camm, p. 308; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1899, 211.

23 Bond and Camm, pp. 312-13; Keyser 1899, 212; Camm, pp. 30-31.

Holne: Rood screen, 16th century²⁴

Identified in several texts as 'St Apollonia', the saint is elsewhere described as 'St Apollonia or St Agatha'. In the 1980s a trial area of this panel was cleaned by an expert in art restoration. However, after the face of St Apollonia had been cleaned, it was decided not to proceed with further restoration.

Kenn: Rood screen, 15th century²⁵

This is thought to be the only screen in England in which male saints are grouped together at the north end and female saints at the south end. St Apollonia is depicted on the main chancel screen.

Kenton: Rood screen, 15th century²⁶

Described by Bond and Camm as 'one of the premier screens in Devon' which 'seems the prototype of numerous others'. There is a good deal of Flemish handiwork on it, but much of the ornament in the smaller enrichments is by an inferior, and probably local, executant. The screen has recently been restored. Examination of the object in the pincers held by the saint in question, must give some doubt as to whether it is not the breast of St Agatha rather than the tooth of St Apollonia.

Kingskerswell: Stained glass, 15th century²⁷

A window depicting St Apollonia is described by Rev. G.H.F. Fagan (vicar, 1884-1924) in the Kingskerswell Parish Magazine. There is now no window in this church that can be identified as depicting St Apollonia. It is thought by some that it may have been removed during the 1939-45 World War and not replaced.

Manaton: Rood screen, 15th century²⁸

A fine rood screen, but the faces of the saints were totally obliterated by the puritans. The screen was cleaned in 1980/81.

Payhembury: Stained glass, 14th/15th century²⁹

The only example of St Apollonia in a church window in Devon.

24 Bond and Camm, p. 321; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1883; Keyser 1899, 213-14; Vallance, p. 60.

25 Bond and Camm, p. 324; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1899, 215; Vallance, p. 60.

26 Bond & Camm, pp. 325-27; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1883; Keyser 1899, 215; Vallance, p. 60.

27 M.Drake and W.Drake, *Saints and their Emblems* (London: T. Werner Laurie, 1916), p. 12.

28 Bond and Camm, p. 332; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1899, 216-17; Vallance, p. 60.

29 P. Cowen, *A Guide to Stained Glass in Britain* (London: Michael Joseph, 1985), pp. 96-97.

Described by Cowen as 'a delightful figure'.

South Milton: Rood screen, 15th century³⁰

A beautiful little screen in the perpendicular style. The paintings of the saints are unusual in that they are all clothed in white. The screen has recently been cleaned and the old brown varnish removed.

Stoke in Teignhead: Capital

The capital has carvings of angels at the four corners. Between them are niches containing saints; one is St Apollonia holding pincers and a tooth.

Ugborough: Rood screen, 15th century³¹

This panel has been renovated and may have been repainted at some time.

Whimble: Rood screen, 16th century³²

Two portions of the ancient rood screen were found turned upside down and used as steps for the Jacobean pulpit. They have now been fixed to the piers of the west tower.

Widcome-on-the-Moor: Rood screen, 16th century³³

Only the lower part of the screen remains. The upper part was removed in 1822 as the wood was too rotten for repair. Much of the paintwork has worn away but St Apollonia can still be easily identified.

Wolborough: Rood screen, 16th century³⁴

A late perpendicular screen. Many of the figures, including that identified as St Apollonia, were repainted in 1866. Keyser, however, describes this panel as an unidentified 'female saint'.

ESSEX

Clavering: Stained glass, 15th century³⁵

This tracery light bears an inscription to 'Appolonia'.

Foxearth: Rood screen³⁶

Only the dado remains, with over-restored painted figures of saints.

30 Bond and Camm, pp. 334-35; Camm, p. 30-31; Keyser 1899, 217.

31 Bond and Camm, pp. 358-59; Camm, p. 30-31; Keyser 1883; Keyser 1899, 220.

32 Bond and Camm, p. 360; Camm, pp. 36-37; Keyser 1899, 221.

33 Bond and Camm, p. 361; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1899, 221; Valance, p. 60.

34 Bond and Camm, pp. 362-64; Camm, pp. 30-31; Keyser 1883; Keyser 1899, 221-22.

35 Cowen, p. 104.

36 L.G.Folkland, Personal communication, 1988.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Fairford: Stained glass (2), 15th century³⁷

St Mary's Church, Fairford, is one of only two churches in Britain with two windows depicting St Apollonia. Like much other stained glass which survived the 17th century iconoclasts, the saints at Fairford are out of easy reach. This church is much visited on account of its mediaeval glass.

Rendcome: Stained glass, 16th century³⁸

Bearing an inscription to 'Apolonia'.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Long Sutton: Stained glass, 14th century³⁹

LONDON

Westminster Abbey: Stone carving, 16th century⁴⁰

Originally 107 stone images adorned the interior of the Henry VII Chapel; 95 of these remain. St Apollonia is situated high up in the S.E. Chapel.

NORFOLK

Babingley: Rood screen, 14th century⁴¹

This church is now in ruins and stands in the middle of farm land. No painted panels remain. Allison quotes Blomefield's *Norfolk* stating that the church was already partially ruined in 1805.

37 H.Wayment, *The Stained Glass of the Church of St Mary, Fairford, Gloucestershire* (London: Society of Antiquaries, 1984), pp. 19-53.

38 Cowen, p. 110.

39 Cowen, p. 136.

40 J.T.Micklethwaite, 'Notes on the Imagery of Henry the Seventh's Chapel, Westminster', *Archaeologia*, 47(1883), 361-80.

41 Keyser 1883; C.E.Keyser, 'Notes on some Ancient Stained Glass in Sandringham Church, Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeol.*, 19(1917), 122-32.

Barton Turf: Rood screen, 15th century⁴²

One of the most beautiful rood screens in England, judged by many to be second only to that at Ranworth. This screen had a very narrow escape when in 1793 the vicar, Rev. William Gunn, embarked on a continental tour leaving his church to be restored. When he returned he scarcely recognised it. He was, however, just in time to save the rood screen for 'the paint was just mixed, and the first dab was laid upon the left arm of the 'Potestates' when he arrested the work of destruction and saved the only remnant of all that was beautiful in the Church'.

Binham: Rood screen

The remains of the rood screen are now at the back of the nave in the Priory Church of St Mary and the Holy Cross. The pictures of saints were whitewashed over after the Reformation and inscribed with black-letter texts from Cranmer's Bible of 1539. The original saints, including St Apollonia, are now showing through.

Cley: Stained glass, 15th century⁴³**Dersingham: Rood screen**⁴⁴

Described by Williamson as 'a female figure in turban, holding possibly pincers with tooth; if so S. Apollonia'. The church guide, however, identifies the painting as 'St Agatha with pincers or inverted sword', as does Mortlock.

Docking: Font, 15th century⁴⁵

Bond makes the surprising statement in his book on fonts that this saint is 'St Dorothea with pincers'. The normal emblem for St Dorothy is a basket of flowers or fruit. This saint is identified as St Apollonia by James.

Horsham St Faith: Rood screen, 16th century⁴⁶

42 B. Camm, 'Some Norfolk Rood-screens', in a supplement to *Blomefield's Norfolk*, Parts VII and VIII (London: Clement Ingleby, 1929); M.R. James, *Suffolk and Norfolk* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1930), pp. 150-51; Keyser 1883; D.P. Mortlock and C.V. Roberts, *The Popular Guide to Norfolk Churches. No. 1 North East Norfolk* (Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1981), p. 7; C. Tracey, *English Medieval Furniture and Woodwork* (London: Victoria & Albert Museum, 1988), p. 79; W.W. Williamson, 'Saints on Norfolk Rood-screens and Pulpits', *Norfolk Archaeol.*, 31(1956), 319.

43 Cowen, p. 154; C. Woodforde, *The Norwich School of Glass-painting in the fifteenth century* (Oxford: University Press, 1950), p. 177.

44 Williamson, 325; D.P. Mortlock and C.V. Roberts, *The Popular Guide to Norfolk Churches. No. 3 West and South-West Norfolk* (Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1985), p. 29.

45 F. Bond, *Fonts and Font Covers* (Oxford: University Press, 1908), p. 249; James, p. 205.

46 James, p. 160; Keyser 1883; Williamson, 329.

Lessingham: Rood screen, 15th/16th century⁴⁷

Removed; on permanent loan to St Peter Hungate Museum, Norwich.

Ludham: Rood screen, 15th century⁴⁸

St Apollonia, a book in her left hand, pincers with tooth in her right. As elsewhere, the roots are between the claws with the crown protruding.

Norwich, St Augustine: Rood screen⁴⁹

A single panel depicting St Apollonia is framed and hangs on the west wall. The church has recently been declared redundant.

Norwich, St John, Maddermarket: Rood screen, 15th century⁵⁰

Originally in the Chapel of St Mary, two of the panels, including that of St Apollonia, are now in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Norwich, St Peter Hungate Church Museum

This museum contains a small glass roundel of 16th century Flemish glass depicting St Apollonia.

Norwich, St Stephen: Stained glass, 15th century⁵¹

Fortunate to survive an explosion in the 17th century when a nearby gunpowder factory blew up.

Sandringham: Stained glass, 16th century⁵²

Keyser points out that a number of the saints depicted in this church, including St Apollonia, were also found in the neighbouring church of Babingley, now ruined.

OXFORDSHIRE

Minster Lovell: Stained glass⁵³

The glass depicting St Apollonia has been lost some time since the 18th

47 James, p. 152; Keyser 1883; Williamson, 331.

48 Anderson, p. 16; James, p. 146; Keyser 1883; Mortlock and Roberts 1981, p. 65; Vallance, p. 60; Williamson, 332-33.

49 D.P. Mortlock and C.V. Roberts, *The Popular Guide to Norfolk Churches. No. 2 Norwich, Central and South Norfolk* (Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1985), p. 95; Williamson, 334.

50 Keyser 1883; Tracey, p. 79.

51 Anderson, p. 16.

52 C.E. Keyser 1917; Mortlock and Roberts 1985 (as note 44 above), pp. 107-08.

53 P.A. Newton, *The County of Oxford. A catalogue of medieval stained glass. Corpus vitrearum medii aevi. Great Britain volume 1* (London: Oxford University Press, 1979), p. 154.

century. A window portraying saints Cosmas and Damian, however, survives. These two saints have become patron saints of physicians because of their alleged skill in healing. St Damian, holding a scalpel, appears on the left side of the Arms of the British Dental Association, opposite St Apollonia, who stands on the right.

SHROPSHIRE

Ludlow: Stained glass, 15th century⁵⁴

The glass is original but much restored in the 19th century. This is the largest parish church in Shropshire.

SOMERSET

Charlynych: Stained glass, 15th century⁵⁵

This church is now redundant and the mediaeval glass, including that depicting St Apollonia, in private ownership.

Mells: Stained glass, 15th Century⁵⁶**North Cadbury: Stained glass, 15th century**⁵⁷**Norton-sub-Hamdon: Stained glass, 15th century**⁵⁸**Taunton, St Mary Magdalene: Stained glass**⁵⁹

Inscribed 'S' appolina'.

SUFFOLK

Chilton (or Chilton Street): Stained glass, 15th century⁶⁰

54 Anderson, p. 16; Cowen, pp. 176-77.

55 Cowen, p. 178; C. Woodforde, *Stained Glass in Somerset 1250-1830* (London: Oxford University Press, 1946), p. 57.

56 Anderson, p. 16; Cowen, p. 181; Woodforde 1946, p. 59.

57 Woodforde 1946, p. 178.

58 Cowen, p. 185; D.P. Mortlock, *The Popular Guide to Suffolk Churches. No. 2 Central Suffolk* (Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1990), pp. 49-50.

59 D.P. Mortlock, *The Popular Guide to Suffolk Churches. No. 1 West Suffolk* (Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1988), p. 50.

60 Cowen, p. 181; Woodforde 1946, p. 61.

Coney Weston: Rood screen panel, 15th century⁶¹

The rood screen was dismantled in May 1787 and the painted panels stored in the church for over one hundred years. Early in the 20th century the panels were restored and used for making an altar. This was first used on Easter Sunday 1909. St Apollonia is found on the south side of the altar.

Gazeley: Stained glass, 16th century⁶²**Leiston: Stained glass, 19th century**⁶³

A remarkable church rebuilt in 1853 by the eccentric Victorian architect E.B. Lamb. The east window, dating from 1898, is by C.E. Kempe, one of the finest stained glassmakers at the turn of the century. It shows Christ in majesty surrounded by female saints. St Apollonia is at the top left. The window forms a memorial to Anne Garrett, a member of a well known local family. The faces of the female saints are based upon portraits of Mrs Garrett at different stages of her life. Such a recent representation is most unusual.

Long Melford: Stained glass, 15th century⁶⁴

This church is well known for its mediaeval glass from the Norwich school of glass-painting.

Somerleyton: Rood screen, 15th century⁶⁵

This unusual representation of St Apollonia shows her holding a hammer and a clasped book with teeth lying on it; it is identified as St William of Norwich by James.

Westhall: Rood screen, 15th/16th century⁶⁶

SURREY

Stoke D'Abernon: Stained glass⁶⁷

This window on the south of the sanctuary is of the Norwich School of

61 Cowen, p. 181; Woodforde 1946, pp. 87-88.

62 Cowen, p. 185; Mortlock 1988, pp. 76-78.

63 D.P. Mortlock, *The Popular Guide to Suffolk Churches. No. 3 East Suffolk* (Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1992), pp. 114-15.

64 Cowen, p. 189; Mortlock 1988, pp. 146-51; Woodforde 1950, pp. 122-23.

65 Drake and Drake, p. 12; James, p. 111; Mortlock 1992, pp. 169-71; Vallance, p. 60.

66 Anderson, p. 16; James, pp. 108-09; Keyser 1883; Mortlock 1992, pp. 216-18.

67 Cowen, p. 192; J. Waterson, *Windows of Stoke D'Abernon* (the author, 1988).

glass-painters. It came originally from a village church near Norwich.

CLWYDD

Gresford: Stained glass (2), 15th century⁶⁸

Cowen describes the windows at Gresford as having 'the finest ancient glass in North Wales'. It is thought that Gresford church had a 'wonder-working image to which pilgrimages were made'. Lewis considers that as St Apollonia occupies a prominent and important position next to the Evangelists in both the Lady Chapel and Trevor Chapel, it is probable that pilgrimage was made to an image of St Apollonia in the hope of being cured of toothache. Others believe that St Mary was a more likely image for pilgrimage to this church.

OTHER REFERENCES TO ST APOLLONIA IN BRITISH CHURCHES

The literature makes further references to representations of St Apollonia. These have not been corroborated by the author, who considers that such identifications are erroneous.

AVON

Bristol, St Mary Redcliffe: Stained glass, 15th century⁶⁹

The window is identified by Cowen as St Dorothy or St Apollonia. The designation as St Apollonia has been confirmed to be an error by G.A.K. Robinson of Joseph Bell & Son Stained Glass. The window is positively identified as St Dorothy.

DEVON

Torbryan: Rood screen, 15th century & stained glass, 19th century⁷⁰

There is considerable confusion about the identification of the saint

68 Cowen, p. 220; M. Lewis, *Stained Glass in North Wales up to 1850* (Altrincham: John Sherratt, 1970), pp. 5-6.

69 Cowen, p. 71.

70 Bond and Camm, p. 355; Camm, p. 44; Keyser 1883; Keyser 1899, pp. 219-20; Vallance, p. 60.

represented on the third panel from the south wall. Keyser in one text suggests that it is 'St Lucia'. The same author elsewhere lists the painting as 'St Apollonia'. Camm, however, states that it is St Apollonia, 'not St Lucy as Mr Keyser says'.

Close examination of the rood screen panel shows that the object in the pincers held by the saint is much more likely to be a breast than a tooth. It is therefore considered by the author to be a representation of St Agatha.

A panel of the East window is also described, in the church guide, as depicting St Apollonia. This panel illustrates a saint holding an empty pair of pincers. Viewed through binoculars, however, the inscription 'St Agatha' may be seen under the picture. In January 1990 this was confirmed from a close examination of the window by the author in the workshop of Joseph Bell & Son Stained Glass where it was being restored.

It must, however, be stressed that identification remains conjectural in the final analysis. The rood screen panel could have been badly restored or changed at some time in its history. The inscription on the window may have originated from a lost panel and been incorrectly placed, although this explanation is unlikely as both the picture and inscription have been confirmed to date only from Victorian times.

NORFOLK

South Creak: Stained glass⁷¹

Dr James describes the window as 'Agatha or Apollonia'. It is more likely to be St Agatha holding pincers containing a breast.

SUFFOLK

Darsham: Bell, 15th century⁷²

Raven claims the inscription to be to 'Sancte Oponia' and suggests that this may be a dedication to St Apoline (Apollonia). Although 'Sancte' is the masculine form, this error was indeed made on the bell in St Botolph, Cambridge. However, closer examination suggests that the inscription is probably to 'Sancte Thoma' (St Thomas).

Fressingfield: Bench end⁷¹

It has been suggested that one of the carvings on the pew bench ends is

71 James, p. 207.

72 Raven, p. 127.

of St Apollonia. However positive identification could not be made by the author and no mention of this saint in Fressingfield church is made elsewhere. *Norton: Stained glass, 14th/15th century*⁷³

Identified by Anderson and Mortlock as St Apollonia and by James as St Agatha or St Apollonia. It is almost certainly St Agatha holding pincers with a breast between the claws.

There is one further British church window representing St Apollonia known to be in existence but this is now overseas and has not been seen by the author. This originates from Abergavenny in Gwent.⁷⁴ It is a stained glass window considered by some to date from the 12th century. The window had remained undisturbed at the Priory Church of St Mary until Cromwell's iconoclasts devastated the peaceful valleys of Wales. Fearing destruction of their treasures, the monks coated the stained glass with a white composition. In the early 1800s a Dr Gwynne Bird discovered, by chance, that the glass under the white substance was coloured. He obtained the window and working with strong acids revealed the picture of St Apollonia. Emigrating shortly afterwards, Dr Bird took the window with him, in spite of local opposition to its removal from Wales. It is still in the possession of Dr Bird's descendants and is reported to be stored in a Toronto bank vault.

OTHER REPRESENTATIONS

There are, in addition, other representations of St Apollonia in Britain which are not in churches but on public display. These include a late 15th century tapestry in St Mary's Hall, Coventry,⁷⁵ and paintings in the National Gallery, London and in Falkland Palace, Scotland.

CONCLUSION

It is doubtful whether a definitive list of representations of St Apollonia can ever be produced. Having not added to the list for some time, the author visited Binham Priory Church in Norfolk recently and found a rood screen panel with a picture and caption 'St Apollonia'. No reference has been found to this panel in any published work. Only by visiting every church in the

country could one ever be sure that no further representations remain awaiting discovery. This therefore should be regarded as an interim list.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to Mr R.A. Cohen for providing me with his list of representations of St Apollonia which provided the basis for the further study of this subject. I would also like to thank the many incumbents and church members who gave me access to their churches to photograph depictions of St Apollonia.

73 Anderson, p. 16; James, p. 67; Mortlock 1988, pp. 162-64.

74 R.M. Armstrong, 'Mystery of the Dentists' Saint', *The Star Weekly, Toronto*, 3 December 1960; A. Jackson, 'Mystery Window', *Brit. Nylon Spinners Mag.* (1962), 37-39.

75 Lindsay, 1387.

DENTAL PRACTICE IN RENNES AT THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY †

Xavier Deltombe *

From 1699 onwards, dentists were recognised in France as part of the medical profession. In September 1730, by royal edict, specific legislation (Article 18) was passed which legalised 'dental experts', those who specialised in treatment of the teeth.¹ The title 'dental expert' was awarded to candidates who had successfully undergone theoretical and practical examinations set by the guild of surgeons of the town in which they wished to practise. In order to practise dentistry in another town, they had to be recognised [*agrégé*] by the guild of this second town; they were obliged to provide certificates from the lieutenant of the King's First Surgeon, from the provosts, from the Lieutenant General and from the Royal Procurator of the original town in which they had qualified, stating that 'they had been in competent and *bona fide* practice for no less than a total of ten complete and consecutive years'. An examination then followed. It was only gradually that this new category of practitioner appeared on the scene in the provincial towns, boasting diplomas and theoretical and technical knowledge commensurate with scientific learning of the times. These practitioners achieved not only professional but also social recognition, which differentiated them from the non-expert operators and the mere sellers of dental products.

Such an 'expert' was Vincent Ristorini, born in 1742 in the parish of St John the Baptist in Florence, Italy, to Jean Baptiste Maximilien Ristorini and Marie Alexandra Stagi.² Nothing is known of his youth but one may suppose

that he received his training from a surgeon or a practising dentist (most likely for the period), or maybe even in a hospital, in the army or navy.

Vincent Ristorini practised two professions, those of truss-maker and dentist, in different towns in France, in particular in Chinon and Niort in Poitou, between 1781 and 1785.³ The practice of two professions was not uncommon, either to get a new, second, profession off the ground or, more prosaically, to supplement a meagre income.

On 18 December 1784, at the age of forty-two, Ristorini lost his wife Delumine-Marguerite Cognel; she was buried in the parish of St Peter in Saumur, Poitou. There were two children of this marriage, Marie Alexandrine and Maximilien, later to become a surgeon.⁴

In 1786 he was living in one of the ten parishes of Rennes, that of St Germain. This was also the location of the seat of the Parlement charged with putting into operation in the province royal edicts, in particular those concerning the practice of the different branches of medicine and surgery. On 26 December 1786, Ristorini applied to be admitted by the Guild of Surgeons of Rennes, that is, he submitted a 'petition'.⁵ He then underwent, before the assembled master surgeons, two examinations, one on the theory of operations on the teeth and the other on practical dentistry.⁶ Thus, Vincent Ristorini was admitted as a 'master dental expert'. Not, of course, that the 35,000 inhabitants of Rennes had had no access to dental care or at least relief of toothache before this date. However, a complete search of the *ancien régime* archives of Rennes reveal that Ristorini's was the only instance of a dental expert being admitted to the Guild of Surgeons there throughout the whole of the eighteenth century (the guilds disappeared under the law of Le Chapelier of June 1791).⁷ In

3 BMR, 4081. Unfortunately, the archives of the guild of surgeons in Chinon have not survived, those for Deux-Sèvres were destroyed by fire in 1805 and those for Loire-Atlantique are virtually non-existent. Hence it is difficult to elaborate on these basic details.

4 Archives municipales de Rennes (AMR), *Registres des mariages, paroisse de Saint-Germain*, 21 November 1814.

5 BMR, 4089.

6 as note 3 above.

7 BMR, 4069-4093, *Registres de la Communauté des Chirurgiens de Rennes*. Citizen Jean-Louis Chauvel, curiously enough, was admitted as a 'dental expert' at the age of 31 on 3 Ventôse of Year 9 by the members of the former College of Surgeons of Rennes 'in accordance with the ancient statutes', even though these statutes had by then been abolished. The document is officially signed by Even, the Secretary of the Département, with the consent of Borie, the Prefect of Ille and Vilaine (Archives départementales d'Ille et Vilaine,

† based on a paper delivered to the Liverpool meeting of *Dental practice in Europe at the end of the eighteenth century*, October 1993.

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1 Bibliothèque municipale de Rennes (BMR), 10506, *Receuil d'édits, déclarations du Roi, arrêts et règlements concernant les hôpitaux, les médecins, les chirurgiens, les apothicaires, les sages-femmes, 1627-1781*.

2 Archives départementales d'Ille et Vilaine (ADIV), 2 B 707.

contrast, dental experts were first admitted in Lyons in 1728 (Antoine Dutroncy) and 1729 (Jean-Baptiste Duval de Fontville).⁸ It is interesting to note that these last two, like Ristorini, were also 'dentists and herniotomists'. In Dijon Corsary and Morel were admitted in 1760;⁹ it should be noted that the latter had already been admitted to the Besançon guild.¹⁰ In Toulouse, Sieur Comon was the first dental expert to be admitted to the local Guild of Surgeons in 1747.¹¹

On 18 June 1788, at the age of forty-six, Ristorini took a second wife, Andrée Tardivel; she had been born in the parish of St Germain in Rennes on 21 January 1735 to René Tardivel (d. 31 March 1743) and Louise Boetard (d. 21 February 1782). Her mother had been a resident of the parish and was buried there. The witnesses to the marriage were Dulattay (a doctor), Maugé (a surgeon), de la Croix de La Thébaudais (a doctor) and Leprince (a surgeon).¹² This was social and professional integration indeed for an 'incomer' in the space of only two years. Here we have a man of Italian origin, coming to Rennes at the beginning of 1786, admitted at the end of 1786 to a guild of surgeons who were choosy in those they admitted (as can be deduced from an examination of their registers), remarrying at the beginning of 1788 and proving by the status of his witnesses that he was very much part of the local medical community.

Vincent Ristorini, as has been seen, practised the two professions of dentist and truss-maker. On 24 February 1788, four months before his remarriage, he had an inventory of his effects drawn up by lawyers so that they might be divided between his two children Maximilien and Marie Alexandrine.¹³ The part relating to his professional life may be summarised as follows:

5FJ1 and 5M17, *Liste des anciens médecins et chirurgiens, des docteurs reçus suivant les formes prescrites par la loi du 19 Ventôse an II, des officiers de santé, des pharmaciens et des sages-femmes du département d'Ille et Vilaine, publié par le préfet*.

8 Archives municipales de Lyon, HH 51, *Livre pour les actes de la légère expérience*.

9 L.P. Cosme, 'La formation des maîtres en chirurgie pour la ville de Dijon et son baillage dans la seconde moitié du 18^{ème} siècle' (Mémoire de DEA, Paris 7, Sorbonne, 1992).

10 Archives départementales de la Côte d'Or, E 3382-3383.

11 Archives départementales du Var, E 1152.

12 AMR, *État civil de la paroisse de Saint Germain du 18 juin 1788*; BMR, 4081.

13 ADIV, 5F.

1. truss-making equipment: a large glass-fronted cupboard containing seven hundred trusses of thirty different types.
2. pharmaceutical equipment: a glass-fronted cupboard containing drugs and phials, two pairs of scales, an iron mortar, two filters for drugs and 'other implements'.
3. dental prosthetics laboratory: a laboratory bench, several vices of different sizes. Files, hammers, gold 'prepared for teeth' valued at 200 livres, and other 'tools'.
4. dental instruments: four varieties of instrument for 'dental practice' partly mounted in silver, valued at 600 livres or 13% of the total value of the inventory. [Unfortunately the inventory was not compiled by someone with medical knowledge and does not give a description of these instruments. Nevertheless, it is possible to get a good idea of what they were from an examination of dental instrument cases of the period, such as those in the Pierre Fauchard Museum in Paris].
5. a bookcase containing several books on medicine and surgery, valued at 80 livres. [Unfortunately, no details are given].

The total value of the inventory came to 6,481 livres.

The Ristorinis might be said to have enjoyed a comfortable standard of living; Vincent paid 24 livres business tax in 1788.¹⁴ They lived in the main street, Rue de Bourbon, which formed part of Place du Parlement. It was there that the 'best' lawyers, working for the Parlement, were in practice, along with certain medical men. It was at the top of this street that would be installed the revolutionary scaffold between October 1793 and July 1794 where 400 heads would roll. It was in this street that a bloody brawl took place between gentlemen and students on 27 January 1789, which leads some historians to consider this to be the very spot on which the French Revolution started.

The Ristorinis employed one servant girl who was to be accused of theft of the following household goods: 14 bed sheets, 9 shirts, 2 petticoats, 7 muslin neckerchiefs, 3 nightcaps, 2 trimmed linen aprons, 2 round bonnets, 1 bombasine camisole and 2 bombasine petticoats. She was fined 240 livres and sentenced to six hours at the pillory and eight years imprisonment.¹⁵

To keep himself in the public eye, Ristorini regularly placed advertisements in the local newspaper, the *Affiches de Rennes*.¹⁶ He also distributed handbills and a 13 page pamphlet or 'Avis'.¹⁷ These advertisements reveal

14 AMR, *Registre de capitation. Paroisse de Saint Germain. Année 1788*.

15 ADIV, *Registres de procédures pénales. Année 1811*.

16 BMR, 18036 & 39387, mf. 2Mi; ADIV, 5 FJ3 & 5 FJ4.

17 ADIV, 5FJ4, *Prospectus de dentistes*.

that he changed his address twice and remained in practice until 1816 when he left for the colonies.

During his early days in Rennes, Ristorini was not without his competitors, some of whom were also experts. There was Beausoleil, resident in Tours, who paid a fifteen day visit, practising from Monsieur Chantrel's in Rue St Georges and distributing his eight page publicity leaflet. In November 1786 Garriot was staying at the 'Silver Tower' Hotel at the foot of the Lists and advertising in the *Affiches de Rennes*.¹⁸

M. Garriot, master surgeon dentist, admitted to the Guild at Poitiers and presently in Rennes, ... offers his services to the public. He acquits himself with skill in all aspects of extraction, replacing, cleaning and preserving the teeth. He fills them, guarantees them free from decay and restores the enamel; he has an antiscorbutic opiate which whitens the teeth and strengthens them; he sells an Elixir which nourishes and firms the gums, cures decay and quickly banished toothache in a short time; he sells the true virgin's milk which beautifies the complexion, removes freckles, sores, pimples etc ...

On a three week visit in his capacity as dentist and oculist in July 1787 was De Cuvillier. One of his advertisements in the local paper reads:

Chevalier de Cuvillier, former dentist to the King's armies, admitted to the Colleges of Surgery of Bordeaux and Nantes, gives notice that in the first days of the present month of July, he will arrive in this town to practise his profession; he will remain for three weeks and will then leave for Nantes, his place of residence. He also treats every malady of the eyes: the knowledge he has acquired of the structure of the eye enables him to offer the public effective aid in this area. He has all the remedies necessary for the maladies of this organ. He performs the operation for the extraction of cataracts. He will lodge in Rennes with Monsieur Loppé, at the 'Stag's Head'. The poor treated gratis.

De Munault, a pupil of Bourdet, surgeon dentist to the King, also paid a visit to the town at this period.

Not all Ristorini's rivals were experts, nor were they all visitors. Practising alongside him from 1789 was Gondrain, 'surgeon dentist', who

recently returned from America, offers his services to the public: a practice of twenty-six years and continuous application to his profession may render him worthy of the confidence of the public. He cleans the teeth, fills them, regularises them and puts them in a better state without destroying the enamel; he draws the most difficult teeth with the greatest dexterity; he places artificial teeth, which acquire all the firmness desirable; he sells an excellent elixir which immediately

¹⁸ BMR, 18036 & 39387, mf 2Mi. All the Rennes advertisements quoted below are from this source.

takes away the toothache. He lodges with Widow Gondrain, his mother, at the foot of the Lists, on the first floor.

Then there was Prudent Duchêne, certified by the Mayor of Rennes on 24 Vendémiaire of Year 12 as having been in dental practice before and after 1798.¹⁹ A further name, that of Lecluziat, is discovered in the lists of the medical professions compiled in accordance with article 26 of the law of 29 Ventôse of Year 2.²⁰ A visiting non-expert from Paris, Morel, also tried his luck in the town.

Of more immediate relevance to most of the population of Rennes, perhaps, were the toothache remedies widely on sale from such as the Belloste brothers (whose pills were available from Robiquet's, the stationer), Buis the apothecary and Greslier, whose advertisement in the *Affiches de Rennes* for 2 May 1785 reads:

Monsieur Greslier, presently residing with Mercier, The Moat, Nantes, advises the public that he has just received a quantity of the remedies most generally esteemed in England, namely ... Greenough's Essence for toothache, which cleans, preserves and whitens them and strengthens the gums ...²¹

Mme de la Faudiguère, the daughter of a Paris surgeon dentist, sold her elixirs and dental opiates by post, while

Monsieur de Raimont, the sole possessor of the secret of curing the toothache in the space of half an hour, by means of a liquid, informs the public that he sells this liquid for three livres a bottle: he has cured more than sixty persons in Rennes. He lodges in Rue Baudrairie, near the theatre.

It is clear from this study of Rennes (based on searches of newspapers published between 1786 and 1789 and the census of the medical profession carried out in accordance with article 26 of the law of 19 Ventôse of Year 11 and with article 28 of that of 21 Germinal of the same year, 1803), that there existed different categories of practitioner in some kind of dental practice or other towards the end of the century. The nature of their professional training is not always spelled out, but one can identify those who were trained at the

¹⁹ ADIV, 5FJ1 & 5M17, as note 7 above.

²⁰ as note 19 above.

²¹ This essence was invented in 1744 by the London chemist and druggist Greenough. He later patented his 'stomack Lozenges' and an embrocation called 'Samaritan water' ('Proprietaries of other days', *Chemist and Druggist* (1927), 837).

College of Surgeons in Paris (Saint-Côme), those who were trained 'in the army', those who learned what they knew from apprenticeship and a number whose only diploma was the fact that they were officially 'recognised'. The case of Rennes, provincial yet urban (it is the capital of Brittany) shows that even before the Revolution the Guilds of Surgeons no longer exercised that control over dental practice in the towns²² which had given rise to prosecutions in France for much of the eighteenth century.²³ Lack of surviving documents for other towns in Brittany, including Nantes, precludes studies of the kind made of Rennes, but it would appear that in Angers, capital of Anjou, the situation was comparable; only one 'dental expert' was admitted to the guild of surgeons of Angers in the whole of the eighteenth century: Joseph Turlur on 21 September 1772.²⁴

The period 1790-97 brought to a sudden end a long and sustained period of economic growth; it was characterised by a fall in production and a rise in prices and taxes, with irremediable social consequences. The history of this period is essentially social. During the closing years of the eighteenth century, dental surgery in France was evolving within a social, economic and political context in which the year 1789 was more of a staging-post in a process (albeit an important one) rather than a revolution.

The liberty proclaimed in the first article of the Declaration of the Rights of Man is also the liberty to economic activity, free of all constraints. Freedom of enterprise, of production and of work, the touchstones of economic liberalism, and a climate of free profit, required the abolition of monopoly and of the guilds. An edict of 4 August 1789 ran: 'All the special privileges of provinces, towns, corporations and guilds are permanently abolished, and remain vested in the common right of all Frenchmen'; by 11 August 1789 this had been changed to 'special privileges of the provinces, regions, cantons, towns and guilds, be they pecuniary or of any other kind' — the corporations had disappeared from the list but not the guilds.

Largely *laissez faire* principles governed the work of the Constituent Assembly; it was a further eighteen months before the Allarde motion of 2 March 1791 suppressed altogether the guilds, their jurés and masters. This firm step led the Municipality of Paris, in its proclamation of 26 April 1791, to assimilate the workers' associations with the wardens and masters, and then

declare them illegal: 'The Law has abolished the guilds which preserved monopoly; why should it authorise associations which, by replacing them, would establish another kind of monopoly?'

The suppression of the guilds and of the medical faculties in August 1792 only made official the position which increasing numbers of practitioners already occupied before 1789, that of professional practice outside corporate structures, even in the towns, and gave it the legitimacy of the law.

Thus began an era of capitalist free enterprise which was to result, at least in the short term, in great disparities in theoretical and practical knowledge and in the standard of treatment.

22 X.Deltombe, 'La communauté des chirurgiens de Rennes au 18ème siècle' (Mémoire DEA, Paris 7, Sorbonne, 1991); Cosme.

23 Archives départementales du Gard, 4E168, 'Condamnation du Sieur Pellerin à acquérir la maîtrise pour exercer la chirurgie dentaire, 26 novembre 1760'.

24 Archives départementales de Maine et Loire, series E, register 4403.

SPA DENTISTRY: PRACTITIONERS IN 18th CENTURY BATH

Trevor Fawcett *

Considering the reluctance of Georgian dentists to risk setting up permanent practices outside London, the evidence of one settled at Bath by 1744 might seem impressive. From a broader medical perspective it is not. Endowed with its miraculous hot springs, Bath was after all an ancient centre of healing, deliberately promoted from Elizabethan times onwards as a national spa. For much of the seventeenth century it boasted several resident physicians and apothecaries who ran lodging-houses for patients and were reckoned expert in bathing therapies and (after c.1670) the new water-drinking cure. During the main summer visiting season their numbers were regularly swollen by medical faculty from London and Oxford, so much so that by the early 1700s the annual descent of outside physicians on the spa had become almost a national joke. Yet until the 1740s, in all the abundant Bath literature on practitioners, treatments and individual medical cases, virtually no mention is made of dental problems. One rare exception concerns a patient seen by Dr Robert Peirce in 1654, a local farmer with symptoms thought to be of general scurvy — loose joints, painful lower limbs, flaccid gums, erupting teeth, and foetid breath — for which Peirce prescribed antiscorbutic preparations and, for the victim's teeth and gums, 'Gargarisms' or mouth gargles.¹ Here, though, we have a physician treating dental disease (which might have been periodontal disease rather than an actual vitamin-deficiency condition) as part of a disorder he believed was affecting the whole patient. It seems improbable he would have taken on anything more specific in dentistry, and would surely have left any surgical and other procedures to others, perhaps surgeon-apothecaries or even cruder operators.

In view of the overall silence on dental practice at Bath in the earlier eighteenth century, the laconic statement in the accounts of a Scottish family

who visited the resort in August 1716 assumes special, if tantalising, significance: 'For cleaning all our teeth at Bath £1.14s.'² The sum paid was not negligible for what at the time may have been done primarily for cosmetic reasons, and clearly it must have been carried out not by a common tooth-drawer but by some dental specialist whom we cannot, alas, identify. In all likelihood this would be a short-stay, metropolitan practitioner trying his luck among the increasing numbers of wealthy visitors frequenting Bath each high season. Time was not yet ripe for a *permanent* presence. The spa had hardly begun its spectacular physical growth which would take it from a small West Country town to one of the dozen largest cities in the kingdom. The active visiting season, moreover, lasted as yet little more than two or three months. For the rest of the year, even given an extensive riding practice to surrounding towns and country houses, demand would hardly have sufficed to support a resident spa dentist. It took another quarter century to make it possible.

By the mid-1740s, however, with Queen Square, Orange Grove and most of the Parades already completed, Bath had a rising population of well-to-do residents on top of its tourist trade. Thanks to turnpiked roads and improved all-year access, its former summer season had evolved into a double season, the principal one in autumn and a second one peaking in spring. In the meantime a summer season had evolved at the neighbouring Bristol spa of Clifton Hotwells, where some of Bath's fashion traders found good business during what had now become the slackest months at home. All this held promise for any enterprising dentist who might risk the move to Bath and who stood to capitalise too on a latent demand from the spa's ordinary citizens, always ready to ape the gentry they had so much contact with and just as much at risk of tooth decay from their acquired taste in sugared delicacies. In the 1760s a Cornish parson up in Bath noticed that even butchers drank chocolate and that a dressmaker had gone in for prosthetic dentistry: 'Mem[o]: the Mantua-maker, Mrs. Williams, has artificial fore-teeth, half a guinea apiece price, which are not distinguishable from pure Nature'.³

Exactly when John Goldstone, 'Operator for the Teeth', settled in Bath remains uncertain, for he used the formula 'from London' for some years after his arrival. The earliest Bath newspaper, the *Bath Journal*, dates from late March 1744; Goldstone was quick to use its columns, advertising on 9 April⁴

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¹ Robert Peirce, *The History and Memoirs of the Bath* (London: 1713, first pub. 1697 as *Bath Memoirs*), pp. 6-8, Observation 3.

² *The Household Book of Lady Grisell Baillie, 1692-1733*, ed. by R.Scott-Moncrieff (Edinburgh: Scottish Hist.Soc.Pub., n.s.1, 1911), p. xl.

³ *John Penrose, Letters from Bath, 1766-1767*, ed. by B.Mitchell and H.Penrose (Gloucester: 1983), p. 178.

⁴ P.S.Brown, 'Dentists advertising in 18th century Bath newspapers', *Somerset & Dorset*

from his lodgings at a busy grocer's and tea-merchant's shop on Stall Street, Bath's central spine. Yet Abbey parish registers suggest his arrival with his wife Joan at least a month before that, the baptism of their son Richard being recorded on 10 March.⁵ Two further baptisms appear in January 1745 and February 1747, when Goldstone lived on the west side of the Marketplace in Noah's Ark Court, but the following ten children in the considerable Goldstone family (not all surviving infancy however) are entered in the registers of St Michael's. They had by then removed to Green Street, a commercial thoroughfare on the expanding northern side of town, where the practice would continue until 1773.

During his first ten years John Goldstone rarely advertised in the press, and then only to say that he extracted and cleaned teeth, cut corns, and sold a dentifrice powder and a tincture 'which effectually cures the Scurvey' — the basic services offered by many such operators of the time.⁶ Nor did he respond obviously to the arrival of two touring practitioners from London in October 1751, both making brief, perhaps exploratory, stays, the younger Peter Hemet (the Queen's dentist) and L. Lombardy. The latter, who had recently visited Bristol, offered, over and above the customary treatments, the fitting of false teeth and, at this relatively early date, possibly reimplantations too, if so much can be adduced from the statement: 'He will give a reasonable Price to any Person that is willing to have the two Fore-Teeth in the Upper Jaw drawn by him'.⁷ After this no more is heard of rivals in Bath for another five years, nor of Goldstone himself until 1754 when he suddenly began to market himself and his dental preparations with some vigour. In April his press notice mentioned his sidelines in chiropody (treating corns and in-growing toenails) and in certain areas of 'Physick and Surgery' (including blood-letting); he also puffed his special products — an antiscorbutic tincture, a powdered dentifrice opiate, and dragon-root (*Arisaema tuber*) 'for Cleaning the Teeth'.⁸ In autumn 1754 his advertisements went further, with references to scaling teeth and fitting false ones, but by next spring all mention of false teeth had been dropped. On the other hand he was keen to extend his custom and would 'wait upon Gentlemen

Notes & Queries, 30(1977), 278-82. (Issue of *Bath Journal* (hereafter BJ) 9 Apr 1744 is no longer extant at Bath Central Library).

⁵ Bath Record Office holds transcripts of Bath parish registers.

⁶ BJ 16 Jul 1744; 6 Oct 1746.

⁷ BJ 14 and 21 Oct 1751 for Hemet; BJ 21 and 28 Oct 1751 for Lombardy.

⁸ BJ 15 Apr 1754.

and Ladies at their Country Seats, in any part of England, upon reasonable Terms'.⁹ At least by 1755 he was attending patients at Bristol one day a week during the season.¹⁰ There in 1756 he encountered Dr Giovanni on tour from London, who also turned up at Bath that autumn with his expensive antiscorbutic, half-a-guinea a pot, sealed with his cypher.¹¹ Goldstone's own remedies came cheaper. His dentifrice opiate and his tincture, both costing a shilling and guaranteed not to damage the enamel, were to be applied in succession with a piece of sponge or dragon-root, 'and whoever does this Morning and Night for one Month, and thinks it not worth their Money, he will give it them [back] again'.¹² Such individual remedies were of course up against well-known national brands available from printing offices, shops and other sources. At Bath in the 1740s and 1750s, Greenough's two preservative and painkilling tinctures, with their distinctive red or black seals, were heavily, if sporadically, promoted by the *Bath Journal* and carried by its newsmen, as were nostrums such as Dr Radcliffe's tincture, 'Bristol Tooth-Water', Warren's 'British Powder', and Southward's 'Chymical Preparation for the Teeth'. These sometimes warned against corrosive rival products that would wear away enamel and gums and 'destroy even the Brush itself, with which they are used'.¹³

Into this scene in April 1758 stepped the 30 year old Bartholomew Ruspini. He lodged in smart Queen Square, would wait on the nobility and gentry at the shortest notice, expected 'no Reward until the Cure is entirely perform'd', and had for sale pots of a tooth-whitening, antiscorbutic dentifrice (with proper brushes) famous throughout most of Europe.¹⁴ The tone was confident and elevated. With his foreign training and some years experience in Britain, Ruspini now seemed bent on fostering his career, maybe envisaging Bath as the

⁹ BJ 28 Oct 1754; 14 Apr and 20 Oct 1755.

¹⁰ BJ 3 May 1756; 25 Apr 1757.

¹¹ BJ 11 Oct 1756.

¹² BJ 25 Apr 1757.

¹³ BJ 30 Sep 1754.

¹⁴ BJ 24 Apr 1758. For Ruspini in general see J. Menzies Campbell, 'Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini, 1728-1813, surgeon, philanthropist, surgeon-dentist', *Dental Mag & Oral Topics*, 70 (1953), 402-22; C. Gysel, 'The Ruspinis: a late eighteenth century family of dentists', *Dental practice in Europe at the end of the eighteenth century* (hereafter DPEEC) Trans. of the Liverpool Meeting, Oct 1993, ed. by C. Hillam (Res Group on Dentistry in Europe), pp. 90-98.

social as well as professional springboard to a prestigious practice in the capital. He remained in the Bath-Bristol area until at least mid-June, and was back in Bath from London by early September (which shows he was highly unlikely to have been at Bergamo that summer when admitted to membership of the surgical faculty of the College there).¹⁵ His Bath publicity described some of his procedures. To deal with 'Scurvy' — diseased gums — he first 'cleans the Teeth from that corrosive tartarous gritty Substance that hinders the Gums from growing (and infect[s] the Breath) which is one of the greatest Causes of the Scurvy'; this done, his proprietary dentifrice apparently completed the cure. Decayed and missing teeth were also within his scope:

He fills up with proper Lead or Gold those that are hollow, so as to render them useful, and prevents the Air getting into them, which generally aggravates the Pain. He makes and fixes in Artificial Teeth, which cannot be distinguished from natural Ones, with the greatest Ease and Facility. He expects no Reward if they do not prove natural and useful.

He would attend patients living outside Bath if required and in traditional manner could even supply corn-plasters.¹⁶ Among the five Bath shops appointed to sell his dentifrice were three milliners, other outlets being the Ladies' Tea-Room at Bristol Hotwells and a London West End coffee-house. For the next few years, until 1762-63, he appears to have divided his time among these three centres with the lengthening Bath seasons conceivably getting the lion's share. Back from his metropolitan clients in early April 1759, and again returning (from Bristol?) in October the same year, he spoke of 'being now settled at Bath'. Eventually Ruspini moved from his old Queen Square lodging to a house in the jumble of old streets near the Cross Bath.¹⁷ His pots of dentifrice were sealed against possible fraud with his coat-of-arms and motto. Around this time Ruspini was seeking entry into masonic circles and after being rejected by one of the Bath lodges was finally initiated in Bristol in April 1762.¹⁸ This success must have eased the levers of patronage in London too, and though he had returned from the capital to his Bath house by Christmas 1762 it is currently uncertain how much longer he prosecuted his West Country career. His later partners, James Mills and Matthew Paris, and his own son,

15 *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 10 Jun 1758; Campbell.

16 BJ 4 Sept and 13 Nov 1758.

17 BJ 2 Apr and 29 Oct 1759; *Bath Chronicle* (hereafter BC) 23 Dec 1762.

18 G. Norman, 'The Masonic Lodges of Bath', *Trans. Somerset Masters Lodge No. 3746*, 2(3)(1921), 297-99. Ruspini went on to enjoy a distinguished masonic career in London.

J.B. Ruspini, would in due course descend on Bath themselves.

Another dentist, Foy, had now discovered the advantages of the London-Bath-Bristol triangle. In 1763 he claimed to have been practising in all three centres for many years, but placed no advertisements in Bath newspapers before January 1761 when he was lodging 'at the French Cook's', Abbey Green.¹⁹ Foy's first name is unknown, but he probably came from Huguenot stock and may well have been a freemason.²⁰ Initially styling himself 'Operator for the Teeth' but soon adopting the title of 'Surgeon-Dentist', he prided himself on his expertise:

He ... fastens those Teeth that are loose (which the unskilful commonly draw out) so as to make them useful and of Duration. He fills hollow Teeth and prevents them from aching any more, by destroying the sensible Nerves... He displaces painful rotten Stumps of Teeth, not perceivable in the Gums, in a Method preferable to any Man in this Kingdom, without fixing or fastening any Kind of Instrument. He fixes artificial ones which cannot be distinguished from natural, without any Kind of Pain.²¹

If requested he would operate in the presence of a physician and claimed to have many patients at Bath glad to recommend his services. Unlike the itinerant quack operator whose spiel was often unverifiable, Foy made claims over the years that were at least open to scrutiny, undertaking, for instance, to cure gum disease and mouth ulcers, to provide problem-free gold or lead fillings, and to replace missing teeth 'in a manner so elegant, that every one who has experienc'd them admits his Excellence'.²² By the mid-1770s he had also adopted the modish, but dubious, procedure of transplantation. Above all, it was his skill in extraction that he most emphasised, presumably managing it without resort to such severe devices as the key or the pelican:

He ... draws teeth in a manner which occasions very little pain, and requires but a slight exertion of strength; and in the extraction of stumps, which often elude the forcible instruments of other artists, he engages to remove them without giving any

19 BC 10 Nov 1763; BJ 28 Jan 1761.

20 Around 1740 a Foy had been a steward of the First Grand Lodge (R.D. Gwynn, *Huguenot Heritage* (London: 1985), p. 90). Earlier, calling himself 'Surgeon Dentist to the University of Oxford', Foy had worked in the Midlands (*Aris's Birmingham Gazette* 26 Dec 1757 and 12 Feb 1759). In Sept-Oct 1773 he advertised at Norwich: e.g. *Norwich Mercury* 4 Sept 1773.

21 BJ 28 Jan 1761.

22 BC 10 Nov 1763.

pain worth notice.

Mr. Foy's method of operating in these two last cases obviates the disrepute and danger which have affected all, and induced some of the Surgeon-Dentists to decline this most useful part of the business, under the ridiculous pretence of its being beneath their dignity.²³

Until around 1776 Foy limited his attendance at Bath to annual winter visits and used several different addresses over the years. He was still based in London, first at 72, New Bond Street, then in Lower Grosvenor Street, and to that extent resembled other touring dentists who visited Bath from the capital and elsewhere, except that he was more assiduous than the rest in building a regular practice. Others who are known to have paid professional visits to the spa at this period included William Howells in 1768 and 1771,²⁴ James Mills (Ruspini's partner and former assistant) who made a long stay in 1770 with a summer interlude at Bristol,²⁵ Trunel (a surgeon dentist from Paris) also in 1770,²⁶ and the better-known M.F.J. Talma, another Paris-trained surgeon dentist, who signalled his arrival in 1775.²⁷ Besides these came three itinerant German practitioners, mere empirics in comparison with the French, and all claiming to have the infallible recipe for making the blackest teeth as white as alabaster (always this same simile) and to perform other cures within minutes: Mrs Bernard of Berlin in 1771,²⁸ Samuel Crawcour of Hanover (but of Polish origin) in 1774,²⁹ and a woman dentist, Miss Curris of Aachen, in winter 1778-89:

To the NOBILITY, GENTRY, &c.

MISS CURRIS, Dentist, from Aix-la-Chapelle, at Mr Dunkerton's, cheese-monger, at the upper-end of Cheap-street, Bath, (being the first time of her coming to this

23 BC 4 Dec 1775.

24 BC 17 Nov 1768; 19 Dec 1771.

25 BC 4 Jan, 26 Apr, 5 Jul and 18 Oct 1770.

26 BC 4 and 18 Jan 1770.

27 BC 4 Dec 1775. For M.F.J. Talma and his sons see R.A. Cohen, 'The Talma family', *Br. dent. J.*, 126 (1969) 319-26.

28 BC 21 Nov 1771.

29 BC 20 Oct 1774, giving his forename as Samuel. For the Crawcour family see A.S. Hargreaves, 'Dentistry in north-east England', *DPEEC Trans. of the Liverpool Meeting*, p. 86.

city) is possessed of an infallible Secret for cleaning the TEETH, and rendering them as white as alabaster, though they are as black as coal, done in a remarkable manner, without the use of an instrument; also fastens Teeth by virtue of a Water, & causes the Gums to grow up to them, though ever so much decayed; likewise prevents the Teeth from rotting. She infallibly cures the Scurvy, and in a short time removes the most offensive breath. The Tooth-Ach cured in half a minute, without drawing.

Miss Curris begs leave to mention a truth, but too well known, that the frequent use of instruments and powders, particularly brushes, entirely ruins the teeth, as the infection remains in the brush; whereas her Liquid cleans them without any injury from the use of it, strengthens them, and also sweetens the breath by using it three times a week; a tea-spoonful each time.

The public may be satisfied of the efficacy of her remedies, by most of the Nobility and Gentry that visit the German Spaw [i.e. Aix-la-Chapelle/Aachen], Scarborough, and in most of the principal towns in Great Britain. She offers her assistance to those who may require it, and desires no pay except the Cure proves to the satisfaction of the patients.

If required, Miss Curris will wait on Ladies or Gentlemen at their own houses. - To prevent counterfeits, every bottle is seal'd with her name. - She has the happiness of assuring the public, that her Liquid is of an innocent nature, and never fails of giving relief to all who use it. - She likewise sells a beautifying wash, which takes off all pimples, and freckles, and small pock pits, from the face and hands: Likewise, Almond wash-balls and Italian drops, which makes the skin as white as alabaster ... And all other kinds of perfumery wholesale and retail ...

Miss Curris fits Artificial Teeth, from one to an entire set.³⁰

It seems Miss Curris met with problems from some of her compatriots at the spa, for on 21 January 1779 she published the following vigorous counterblast:

... from a just spirit of resentment, [she] thinks it proper to acquaint such empty Coxcombs, that though they may go unpunished by defaming the reputation of their own country women, and as she is not of a litigious disposition, nor has any male champion in this country to defend her, Miss Curris *promises* any such unmanly Coxcomb thus offending on her account, and she to be acquainted with his proper direction, the just correction of a horse-whip, or choice of a brace of pistols, though the chance of the latter is by far a too honourable compliment for such dastardly cowards, who are ready to insult a woman ...

The Bath season now stretched from September round to June, with good pickings for reliable dentists and every inducement for permanent residence, especially in view of the many genteel families who were retiring to Bath and the resort's endless lure to streams of visitors, healthy and infirm alike. The spa's original resident dentist, John Goldstone, died in January 1773.³¹ In co-

30 BC 3 Dec 1778.

31 Bath Record Office, transcripts St Michael's registers.

operation with a son (Richard?) he had, by late 1764, returned to supplying false teeth, and then c.1771 joined forces with a fresh partner, Allen, who was a specialist in dentures.³² On his death the Green Street practice survived briefly under a younger son, William Goldstone, still in association with Allen.³³ However, the real beneficiary was the eldest son Richard, now 29, who had served an apprenticeship with a Bath apothecary³⁴ and who proceeded to establish himself as apothecary-dentist in nearby premises at 43, Broad Street. He was confident enough in 1773 to offer to replace not only missing and decayed but also 'irregular' teeth with 'handsome sound ones which will fix and become as useful as the best Natural Teeth', and in 1776, styling himself surgeon dentist alone, he asked to be judged on his results rather than his rhetoric.³⁵

Others too had spotted the burgeoning opportunities for dental services. Accepting his statement in 1792 that he had lived over sixteen years at Bath, Hemet Hart of Mannheim may have practised at the spa periodically from as early as 1776, well before the first definite evidence in 1779. Despite his forename, which suggests some past connection with the royal dentist, he seems not to have sold Hemet's much advertised Essence of Pearl and Pearl Dentifrice, touting his own 'Abstergent Lotion' and dentifrice instead.³⁶ Several other new proprietary brands were also on offer at local retailers, among them Dubois's tincture and tooth powder, 'so innocent it may be used to children of three years old', and Paul Jullion's tincture, dentifrice, sets of brushes and 'new-invented and highly-approved tooth-picks'.³⁷

The husband and wife team of Benjamin and Elinor Levis likewise sang the praises of their infallible tincture and powder which they had on sale in London as well as locally. While they later spoke of being Bath 'inhabitants' from around 1762,³⁸ this may imply no more than seasonal residence, since

32 BC 21 Nov 1771.

33 BC 4 Feb 1773, though the *Bath Guide and Directory* of that year both call William Goldstone simply an apothecary.

34 Richard Goldstone was apprenticed from 13 Dec 1757 to the Bath apothecary Daniel Morris (Bath Record Office, 'Enrolment of Apprentices, 1706-76').

35 BC 4 Feb 1773; 24 Oct 1776.

36 BC 11 Nov 1779; 27 Dec 1792.

37 BC 4 Dec 1777; 20 Jan 1780.

38 BC 19 Nov 1778.

they advertised from various addresses and certainly also practised at Bristol in the 1770s. Rather unusually, though they promised free advice on treatments, they were not shy about listing their fees. In 1777 each extraction cost 2s.6d., 'lining teeth 2s.0d.', 'fixing artificial teeth of the best sea-horse [i.e. hippopotamus] ... 10s.6d. each', 'reinstating a tooth 10s.6d.', 'human teeth with sockets or golden pivots £1.1s.', 'transplanting a tooth out of one head into another £3.3s.', 'a single upper or under jaw 5 guineas'; 12 guineas was charged for an entire set of dentures.³⁹ Elinor Levis specifically called herself 'Ladies-Dentist' and after Benjamin's decease in 1780 she remained in business for a time providing almost the complete range of services, from the removal of tartar, filing decayed teeth and crowning roots to supplying full dentures — all treatments guaranteed 'the utmost secrecy' should the patient desire it.⁴⁰ Only drawing teeth did she leave to her son, Abraham Levis, who by May 1780 had established a separate (but seemingly short-lived) practice in Bath's upper town at 2, Margaret Buildings. He too promised the 'strictest honour and profoundest secrecy if required',⁴¹ a phrase commonly used to cover treatment of venereal disease.

As the number of dentists frequenting Bath increased, emphasis on special treatments and appeals to niche clientèles grew more necessary. Robert Spence (senior?), visiting in early 1779, chose to highlight his skill in casing false teeth with gold enamel which, unlike the organic substance underneath, would not discolour over time.⁴² In May 1780 another distinguished Scottish practitioner based in London, William Rae, made a brief sortie to Bath, stayed in Queen Square, and pointedly advertised his status as member of the surgeons' societies of London and Edinburgh.⁴³ Later the same year, a German surgeon dentist over from Oxford, Samuel Moor, was at pains to stress 'his new-invented method for ingrafting human and artificial Teeth to the old stumps, which is impossible ever to come out'.⁴⁴ Even louder in his claims was the egregious self-publicist Matthew Patence in 1782, trading on his link with Ruspini, trumpeting his attendance on the famous, and asserting he had 'brought with

39 BC 16 Oct 1777.

40 BC 21 Sep 1780.

41 BC 4 May 1780.

42 BC 28 Jan and 11 Feb 1779.

43 BJ 8 May 1780; BC 11 May 1780.

44 BC 7 Dec 1780. Moor revisited Bath in 1788 (BC 21 Feb 1788).

him the most astounding operations ever performed by the hands of man'.⁴⁵ More practical-sounding and interesting were Mrs de St Raymond's remarks the following year about child orthodontics and fitting obturators in cases of (syphilitic) damage to the hard palate. This was perhaps a prospecting visit on her part, for she had a seasonal base at Southampton in addition to her London practice.⁴⁶

Newspaper advertisements necessarily understate the totality of dental practice in a locality. Resident dentists at Bath often had no need for regular self-promotion in the public sheets, while outsiders might rely on handbills. Even if they did use the press, their length of stay cannot always be estimated from the occasional notice. On the other hand the apparently resident practitioners might well be spending a proportion of their time out of town, either on their country practice or on tours and lucrative visits to other watering places such as Clifton Hotwells, Cheltenham and Weymouth. With these caveats, it seems that Bath in the later 1780s was being served by four resident (or at least regularly visiting) professionals — Richard Goldstone, Hemet Hart, Foy, and Charlton — with others making more sporadic appearances. Of Goldstone it need only be said that he was holding his own as an apothecary-cum-surgeon dentist at his Broad Street shop. Hart similarly lived unobtrusively, tackling chiropody as well as dental cases. Foy had in 1776-67 established himself more firmly at the spa by acquiring an upper-town house in Vineyards, but seems not to have finally relinquished his London practice (still in Lower Grosvenor Street) until about 1783. He then moved from Vineyards to a succession of other Bath addresses before his death in 1789, leaving his widow to perpetuate the Foy memory through the continued sale of tooth powders and tinctures made up by herself.⁴⁷ Charlton, also from London (Gt Titchfield Street), first ventured on Bath in March 1782 with supplies of his own three preparations, antiseptic, antiscorbutic, and anodyne. Used to contracts with boarding schools in the capital, he must have had hopes of custom from both rich parents and from the many girls' and boys' schools in and around Bath; indeed he announced as much in 1783: 'Attends and regulates Children's Teeth by the year or visits'. From this time until his death in May 1797 Charlton was more or less fixed at Bath (despite forever shifting his lodgings) and there developed

45 BC 29 Aug 1782. For Patence's advertising techniques see B.R.Townsend, 'Mr Patence, quack', *Dent.Mag.*, 59 (1942), 169-81.

46 BC 2 and 16 Jan 1783.

47 For Foy see BC 5 Jun and 4 Dec 1777; 22 Jan and 8 Oct 1778; 16 Dec 1779; 19 Apr 1781; 20 Jan 1783; 13 Oct 1785; 16 Apr 1789. In *Bath Herald* 19 Apr 1800 Foy's widow appeals for charity after making a bad investment.

what he professed to be a 'safe' procedure for transplanting teeth.⁴⁸

As always there were notable visitors during these years: Watson of Leicester Square in December 1784 and February 1786,⁴⁹ James Bladen Ruspini in autumn 1787 (joint holder with his father of the appointment of dentist to the Prince of Wales, and here at Bath hawking the Chevalier's new styptic),⁵⁰ Legge of Cavendish Square in December 1788,⁵¹ and in 1786 Safford who had been 'encouraged' to try Bath from neighbouring Bristol.⁵² A greater portent than any of these, Joseph Sigmond of Exeter arrived in December 1788 at the request, he said, of his West Country patients then visiting the spa who wanted to pursue their dental treatment during their stay.⁵³ Sigmond, another dentist of German origin, had launched his Devonshire and Cornish practice in 1786, but continued to enlarge it westwards into Somerset and Dorset from his Exeter base, where, 'finding the management of the teeth and gums very little understood', he published a pamphlet on the subject in 1790.⁵⁴ Having sufficiently tested the prospects at Bath, he finally settled there in 1793 with promises to revisit his patients in the Exeter region every summer and to give them interim advice by letter.⁵⁵ With this move he joined two more incomers, the apothecary and surgeon dentist Theodore Breuer, who features in local guidebooks from 1790,⁵⁶ and J.B.Ruspini, listed 1792-

48 For Charlton see BC 7 Mar and 7 Nov 1782; 20 Jan and 13 Feb 1783; 14 Sep 1786; 25 Oct 1787; 21 Mar 1788; 4 Nov 1790; 18 May 1797.

49 BC 9 Dec 1784; 23 Feb 1786.

50 BC 25 Oct and 1 Nov 1787.

51 BC 18 Dec 1788.

52 BC 9 Nov 1786.

53 BC 18 Dec 1788.

54 For Sigmond's 1786 Devon start and his 1790 pamphlet (*A Short Essay on the Teeth and Gums*) see his later publication, *A Practical and Domestic Treatise on the Diseases and Irregularities of the Teeth and Gums* Pt.1 (Bath: Wood & Cunningham, 1825), pp.v-vi. Sigmond - like Hemet Hart and the Levis family before him (and like Solomon Abraham Durlacher, dentist and chiropodist at Bath from 1808) was Jewish: see Malcolm Brown and Judith Samuel, 'The Jews of Bath', *Bath History*, 1(1986), 152-53, 157.

55 BC 21 Feb 1793.

56 Brown (note 4 above), notes that Messrs Breuer & Co. were chemists and apothecaries of Bath and Grosvenor Square, London.

98, who came to Bath most seasons from 1787.⁵⁷ In December 1793, however, it was the Chevalier's younger son, George Bartholomew Ruspini, who was selling the Ruspini dentifrice, tincture and balsamic styptic at Bath, so he rather than J.B. Ruspini may at times have been running the spa practice.⁵⁸

Recently expanding faster than ever and still attracting a huge annual influx of visitors, Bath found itself at one stage in the mid-1790s served by seven dentists, not necessarily for the whole year round but at least in the long season: Shew, Charlton, Sigmond, Breuer, Ruspini, Richard Goldstone, and Charles Goldstone (most probably Richard's brother), who had rooms near prestigious Lansdown Crescent. The new name, George Shew, first came to notice in March 1794: a visiting surgeon dentist with bold claims for 'enamelled ivory teeth', his own invention, odourless, guaranteed to retain their colour for twenty years, and absolutely natural in appearance 'even in the hand'.⁵⁹ A year later he had taken up residence, lamenting the general lack of attention people paid to dental care, especially the build-up of tartar and the resulting decay and other 'dreadful complaints we so often hear of in the mouth'.⁶⁰ With the assurance that he never prolonged his treatments in order to inflate his fee, Shew seems to have done good business both at Bath and on autumn forays to Weymouth; indeed in September 1798 he put off the Weymouth trip because of pressure of work at his Bath practice at 12, Belmont (where his hours were 10-3 and his charges for sets of dentures 16 to 30 guineas).⁶¹

Resident competition had still not deterred outside dentists from staking their claim on spa business, and the significant community of *émigrés* settled at Bath attracted French dentists in particular: Lemaire in December 1791, Dubois de Chémant on several occasions from 1795, and Jean-Joseph Talma on a 6 week visit from Chester in December-January 1792.⁶² The first of these,

57 See for instance BC 4 Nov 1790; 9 Jun 1791; 8 Nov 1792; 11 Apr 1793; 25 Dec 1794. A 'correspondent' in BC 25 Oct 1787 alludes to J.B. Ruspini's intention of living at Bath and adds that he had formerly worked with his father, studied under Catelan in Paris, and visited America.

58 BC 18 Dec 1793, when George Ruspini, specifically called Bartholomew Ruspini's son, was in premises opposite the Pump Room. J.B. Ruspini announced his re-arrival at 2, Kingston Buildings, a different site, in BC 25 Dec 1794.

59 BC 13 Mar 1794.

60 BC 26 Mar 1795.

61 BC 20 Sep 1798.

62 *Bath Register* 8 Dec 1792 and 5 Jan 1793; also J.R. Davey, 'Dentistry in Chester, 1790-

Lemaire, surgeon dentist to the exiled duc d'Artois, was presumably either the father (J.M.A. Lemaire) or uncle of the great Paris dentist of the next generation, J.J.F. Lemaire.⁶³ In his press statement he underlined the importance of dental care. Bad teeth meant that food was poorly masticated and hence poorly digested, which in turn led to other preventable 'disorders and inconveniences'. But he warned against ignorant quacks and poor executants:

The unskilfulness of many Operators is the cause that so few people choose to have their teeth scaled; being free from present pain, they neglect the preservation of their teeth till they are cased over with a crust, which destroys the gums, and renders the breath offensive. Nothing is more neglected, yet nothing can be more useful, than the teeth. Nature, while she gives pain, seems to invite us to their preservation. We seldom bring any into the world, and, by their shameful neglect, we seldom carry any away. What is a beautiful woman without good teeth? are they not her greatest ornament? ⁶⁴

During his Bath stay Lemaire offered the usual range of treatments and free advice to the poor. By contrast the controversial Nicolas Dubois de Chémant was chiefly intent on publicising artificial porcelain teeth, for which he had a British patent, during a three-day visit in spring 1795 and was available for consultation only briefly.⁶⁵ His return visit in March 1798 was similarly largely to do with publicity, this time for the recently issued English translation of his book, *A Dissertation on Artificial Teeth in General*, in which of course he attacked the use of all organic substances in prosthetic dentistry, favouring instead the 'mineral and incorruptible' dentures made from fired porcelain paste that he had perfected over the previous decade.⁶⁶ Dubois de Chémant, now naturalised British, paid a further Bath visit from his London headquarters (1, Frith Street still) in March 1800.⁶⁷ The outcome of this trip was that the Bath dentist George Shew became Dubois de Chémant's accredited agent with the

1800', *Dent. Hist.*, 28(1995), 20-30.

63 X. Deltombe, 'The Lemaire family of surgeons', DPEEEC Trans of the Paris Meeting, Sep 1994, ed. by C. Hillam (Res. Group on Dentistry in Europe), pp. 35-37.

64 BC 8 Dec 1791.

65 BC 28 May 1795. For the background see P. Baron and B. Kurdyk, 'Nicolas Dubois de Chémant', DPEEEC Trans. of the Berlin Meeting, Sep 1992, ed. by C. Hillam (Res. Group on Dentistry in Europe), pp. 25-30.

66 BC 15 Mar 1798.

67 BC 27 Mar 1800.

right to fit patients with porcelain dentures. Having already experimented with an innovation of his own — enamelled ivory teeth — Shew was the obvious choice as local collaborator, though he had recently been ill and was being assisted by his son (Robert Shew?) who undertook any home visits that patients requested.⁶⁸ But others also sought the elusive prize of reliable dentures. Charlton, for example, paraded the success of his 'improved GOLD ELASTIC SPRINGS, for whole Sets of Teeth, [which] move in every direction with the jaw with the greatest ease' and which in some cases had already lasted nearly four years without repair.⁶⁹

By the end of the century competition had slackened somewhat. The Ruspini had given up their Bath practice; Charlton eventually died in May 1797, and Richard Goldstone in late December 1798,⁷⁰ to be succeeded apparently by a younger son, George Goldstone, so perpetuating the family concern with dentistry into the third generation.⁷¹ Non-resident dentists still appeared from time to time: Prince (an old-style German operator whose preparations included the 'real German Cake of Roses') visited on three occasions 1796-98,⁷² as did the established London dentist Parkinson with his son in late 1800, the ostensible reason for the trip being to treat their metropolitan patients staying at Bath.⁷³ Apart from the rather inexperienced George Goldstone and Robert Palmer (a druggist with some dental expertise), the spa's main practices at the turn of the century had been reduced to three: Breuer, Shew and Sigmond. While the Shew family would practise extensively in the West Country, Midlands and London over the next half century, Joseph Sigmond enjoyed perhaps the greatest immediate reputation. A great advocate of lancing for diseased gums and of training the public in dental hygiene, Sigmond later related several of his Bath cases, for example the occasion in 1796 when he was criticised for wanting to file (not *fill*) a schoolgirl's decayed teeth.⁷⁴ Verses

68 BC 17 Apr 1800.

69 BJ 11 Jan 1796.

70 Bath Record Office, transcripts St Michael's registers, show he was buried on 1 Jan 1799.

71 BC 11 Dec 1800, when he moved from the Broad Street site to 7, Northumberland Buildings where his brother Robert Goldstone, a surgeon apothecary, lived.

72 BC 31 Mar 1796; 7 Dec 1797; 18 Oct 1798.

73 BC 20 Nov and 25 Dec 1800.

74 J. Sigmond, *A Practical and Domestic Treatise* (note 54 above), pp. vii, 9, 46-50, 91-3. He advocated that children should begin to use a toothbrush from the age of three and that it

published in 1805, referring to Sigmond as a 'celebrated Dentist at Bath', show that he was an early user of forceps for extractions.⁷⁵ But plainly his whole life did not revolve around professional duties to judge from a contemporary's remark in 1809 that Sigmond had just married his mistress of fifteen years standing 'and they make more dash and live at more expense than almost anyone in Bath'.⁷⁶

From 1744 to 1800 around 35 different dentists are known to have worked in or visited Bath, surely making it the most significant centre of eighteenth-century British dental practice outside London. Just over half of them were Italian, French or German — not an unusual proportion perhaps for almost anywhere in the country at this time but especially appropriate to such a cosmopolitan resort. Considered in the wider medical context, the dentists touting for Bath custom were always vastly outnumbered by physicians, surgeons and apothecaries, whose social status and presence in corporate life was in any case so much greater. Most dental practitioners ranked with ordinary city tradesmen, even if the elder Ruspini, Dubois de Chémant, and the nationally known London visitors did something to raise the tone by their reputations. The range of treatment on the whole seem to have broadened throughout the period, and the example of Sigmond around 1800 suggests that dentistry in the hands of an astute operator could by then be a profitable business.

was the duty of parents to inculcate the supreme need for cleanliness (pp. 11 and 27).

75 S.J. Pratt, *Harvest-Home*, 3 vols (London: 1805), vol. 3, pp. 434-6, 'To Mr. Sigmond, on Drawing One of the Author's Teeth'.

76 Quoted by Brown (note 4 above).

NOTES AND QUERIES

Contributions should be sent to the editor, quoting the precise source, reference and location (where applicable). Quotations should be verbatim. If the communication is a paraphrase of other material, this should be clearly indicated.

007 MERRILL'S DENTAL SURGERIES (cover)

This advertisement appeared in a booklet of cooking recipes compiled for the Grand Coronation Bazaar of 1911 held at the Congregational Sunday Schoolroom, Fleetwood, Lancashire.

The proprietor of Merrill's Dental Surgeries was Harry Whitehead Merrill. He was, in 1911, unregistered and had been taught dentistry by his brother-in-law, Thurston Ireland, at that time also unregistered. Thurston Ireland's two sisters, Fanny and Nellie, were also dentists practising in Blackburn. All four were later admitted to the Dentists Register by virtue of the 1921 Dentists Act.

The Fleetwood practice was taken over by a Mr Lonsdale when Harry Merrill moved to Derby to start a new practice there. Harry went to Australia in the early 1920s, returning to Britain in 1926 and thereafter practising dentistry at Thornton, Lancashire. There, in the early 1930s, he started the Oralite Company, manufacturing Oralite blanks and later Thermolite and Superal Teeth. He died in 1956.

(source: family records)

Howard Merrill

008 HENRY HEATH COURBOLD: AN UNUSUAL CHILD

Henry Heath Courbold, of 9, Barnsbury Place, Islington, MRCS Eng 1843, LSA London 1847, twin with Alfred, b. 2 November 1821 [sixth child of Henry Courbold, FSA, painter of landscapes and miniatures]. His career was settled in the following manner:- His father on entering the nursery observed that he was playing with a file and a toothbrush, on the handle of which he had filed a longitudinal groove crossed by transverse ones along which he smeared his finger. He asked his son what he wanted to be, and was told, 'I should like to be a dentist.' His father went out, and whilst riding met

his doctor and explained to him his boy's desire to become a dentist and enquired what was the proper course for him to adopt. The doctor replied, 'Just send him to a medical school and if he fails in all his exams, you can make a dentist of him.' This course was adopted; but he became a general practitioner. He died 19 December 1861 at 5, Tynedale Place, Islington. Will proved 25 January 1862.

(source: G.C.B.Poulter, *The Courbold Genealogy* (Ipswich: W.E.Harrison & Sons, 1935), p. 25. Quotation).

David Cubitt

009 RUSPINI AND BERDMORE

[Book reviews]

44. *A Treatise on the Teeth. Wherein an accurate Idea of their Structure is given, the Cause of their Decay pointed out, and their various Diseases enumerated: To which is added, the most effectual Method of treating the Disorders of the Teeth and Gums, established by a long and successful Practice.* By Barth. Ruspini, Surgeon Dentist. Small 8vo. Pr. 2s. unbound. Bladon.

Notwithstanding our refinement in personal decoration, and the many obvious advantages, in respect both of ornament and utility, resulting from a proper attention to the care of the teeth, the profession of a surgeon-dentist has been hitherto so little cultivated in this country, that it has been regarded rather as a manual and empirical, than a rational and scientific art. To rescue so useful and important a branch of practice from obscurity, has been reserved for the ingenious author of the performance now under our cognizance. This little treatise is a compendium of all that is most useful on the subject: containing an account of the anatomical structure of the teeth, their history, the nature and cure of the various disorders of the teeth and gums, with the rational treatment of the dentition.

45. *A Treatise on the Disorders and Deformities of the Teeth and Gums. Containing the medical and surgical Treatment of each Case, the Care of Children in Dentition, and the various Methods which most effectually conduce to the Regularity, Beauty, and Duration of these Parts in every Stage of Life. Together with Observations on the Use and Abuse of Tinctures, Tooth-Powders, Brushes, &c. and Strictures on the present Practice, wherever it is found deceitful or pernicious. The whole illustrated with Cases and Experiments.* By Thomas Berdmore, of the Surgeons Company, and Surgeon-Dentist to his

Majesty. 8vo. Pr. 3s. Dodsley.

Though this treatise is somewhat later than the former in publication, and upwards of three times its size, we do not find that it is superior in any article of essential utility.

(source: *The Critical Review or Annals of Literature by A Society of Gentlemen*, April 1768, 316. Manchester Public Library. Quotation).

Christine Hillam

010 END OF THE CHEMISTS' DENTAL SOCIETY

The Chemists' Dental Society, founded in 1910, was dissolved at a meeting held in London on November 1 [1951]. At that meeting THE CHAIRMAN (Mr.G.C.C.Hinton) referred to the amalgamation with the British Dental Association of other dental organisations. It had, he said, been smoothly carried out. The Chemists' Dental Society had justified its existence, and fully discharged the objects for which it had been formed. At the meeting a resolution was passed donating out of the remaining bank balance the sum of £100 to the British Dental Association's Benevolent Fund, and the remainder to the Pharmaceutical Society's Benevolent Fund.

Founded at the C.and D. Office

It is of interest to recall that the Society was founded at the offices of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, then at 42 Cannon Street, London, EC3. In the year 1910 the British Dental Association drafted a Bill to amend the Dentists Act, 1878, whereby dental practice was to be reserved to certain specified persons. Among persons not to be allowed — under the Bill — to practise dentistry was 'anyone combining that practice with any other occupation or calling'. Prompt opposition by chemist-dentists to the proposed Bill came in a letter to the Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST in July 1910. Further letters followed. Editorial support came a few weeks later and suggestions that an association of interested persons should be formed were made in the correspondence columns in the same issue, and a large number of letters were published in support of the proposal. One lone voice was raised in opposition. A correspondent (Timorous Tyke) asked: 'Why all this shrieking? Surely no self-respecting pharmacist can object to another section of the community endeavouring to protect its interests by stopping extraneous opposition.' Timorous Tyke gained small support for his views and the following week a request to the Editor of the CHEMISTS AND DRUGGIST to allow a meeting of chemist-extractors to be held at 42 Cannon Street was readily complied with and the Chemists' Dental

Society was formed on September 8. Prior to the meeting letters were sent out by the Editor to all who were likely to be interested in the meeting. The Editor asked recipients of the letter who could not attend to communicate their views, which would be placed before the meeting. Some eighty replies were received, extracts of a number of them being read to the meeting.

Rights of Chemists

More than a decade was to elapse before the legislation the Society had been founded to oppose reached the Statute Book in modified form. The Dentists Act, 1921, became law on July 28 of that year. Under it, chemists who could prove to the satisfaction of the specially created Dental Board that they had had, immediately prior to July 28, a substantial practice as a dentist were allowed to continue in practice. Chemists, moreover, were given the right to extract a tooth if the case were urgent and no dentist or doctor were available (general or local anæsthetics were not, however, to be used). A leading article in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST described that provision as 'inhuman'.

(source: *Chemist and Druggist*, 22 December 1951. Quotation).

J.G.L. Burnby

011 DUBOIS DE CHÉMANT, ENGLISHMAN

36° and 37° Geo III no.319

bill received royal assent 19 July 1797

Nicholas Dubois de Chémant, son of Maturin Dubois, by Clemence his wife, born at Garat in the province of Angoumois

(source: *Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalisation for Aliens in England and Ireland, 1701-1800*, ed. by W.A.Shaw (Manchester: 1923) [Index to HO-I], Public Record Office. Quotation. Also naturalised in the 18th century were Charles Francis Dumergue, dentist (28 March 1793), James Du Bisson, gentleman (15 Dec 1769) and Francis Damus Laudumiey (11 February 1772)).

Christine Hillam

012 LORD CHESTERFIELD ADVISES ON THE TEETH

Letters to his illegitimate son Philip Stanhope (1732-1768):

[30 July 1747; to his son on tour in Switzerland]

Do you take care to keep your teeth very clean, by washing them con-

stantly every morning, and after every meal? This is very necessary, both to preserve your teeth a great while, and to save you a great deal of pain. Mine have plagued me long, and are now falling out, merely for want of care when I was your age.

[15 May 1749, to his son on tour in Turin]

Pray send for the best operator for the teeth at Turin, where I suppose there is some famous one, and let him put yours in perfect order, and then take care to keep them so afterwards yourself. You had very good teeth, and I hope they are so still; but even those who have bad ones should keep them clean, for a dirty mouth is in my mind ill manners: in short, neglect nothing that can possible please.

[12 November 1750]

[The son is shortly to go to Paris] ... In your person you must be accurately clean, and your teeth, hands, and nails should be superlatively so. A dirty mouth has real ill consequences to the owner, for it infallibly causes decay, as well as the intolerable pain of the teeth; and it is very offensive to his acquaintance, for it will most inevitably stink. I insist therefore that you wash your teeth the first thing that you do every morning, with a soft sponge and warm water for four or five minutes, and then wash your mouth five or six times. Mouton, whom I desire you will send for upon your arrival at Paris, will give you an opiate, and a liquor to be used sometimes.

(source: *Lord Chesterfield's letters to his son and others*, ed. by R.K. Root (London: [Everyman], 1969), pp. 30-31, 101-02 and 199. Quotation).

David Cubitt

013 CHARLES ALLEN IN DUBLIN, 1686

March the 8th 5/6

A Book concerning the teeth and a discourse of the pulse was presented to the Soc: by the Authour Mr. Charles Allen, our thanks were ordered to be returned.

(source: Minutes of the Dublin Philosophical Society, 8 March 1686, f.177. Mercer Library, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin. Quotation).

Mary O'Doherty/Christine Hillam

014 NINETEENTH CENTURY FILLING MATERIALS

FLETCHER'S FILLING MATERIALS

PLATINUM AMALGAM. (*Platinum and Gold Alloy*.) — This is now clean to mix in the hand. This has less discoloration in the mouth than any known Amalgam, and is a reliable filling under all condition, wet or dry, if the instructions for use are followed.

EXTRA PLASTIC AMALGAM. — For contour plugs and cavities difficult of access in fragile teeth.

ARTIFICIAL DENTINE. — It will be found in practice one of the most satisfactory nerve cappings which has ever been introduced.

WHITE ENAMEL. — Has been recently improved, and not only sets extremely hard in the mouth, but is beyond comparison the most insoluble of any of the oxychlorides yet known.

INSTRUCTIONS. — Use the smallest possible quantity of Mercury; mould into thin cylinders with the small ivory mortar, and pack *thoroughly* with the round faced pluggers, finishing with a burnisher round the edges. A cavity absolutely dry, or varnished with thin solution of copal in ether, gives the best results, and the edges of the plug should also be varnished. The Amalgam must not be washed or mixed with excess of Mercury.

This Amalgam may be used with perfect safety entirely under water when necessary.

(source: 2 nineteenth century cuttings from the book of recipes and preparations begun in 1789 by Dr. William Pilkington of St Helens (father of William and Richard Pilkington of glassworks fame). In the possession of the contributor. Quotation).

Jean Hugh-Jones

015 TOOTHBRUSHES, 1910

SIR, — With reference to the letter by J.E. Malone (PJ, June 19, p.527), I have the following information from a cutting from the Gazette — a local Axminster or Devon paper dated March 17, 1910.

"The industry of brush-making was first brought to Devonshire in 1881 by the two Mr Bidwells and during the past 28 years Axminster has become a centre for this industry. Many hundreds of brushes are annually shipped to all parts of the world. Bidwells ship every week, their shipments sometimes amounting to 100 gross at a time."

It is stated that "tooth and nail brushes being made out of bone, only the

finest bristle is used. The bone is collected from the butchers by bone boilers, with other oddments which are frequently made into glue, and the tallow is boiled out into soap. The middle bone of the bullock's leg goes to the brush manufacturer. All together there are 72 different patterns of tooth brushes, of 12 different qualities, and four different stiffnesses. A tooth brush looks so easily made that it will come as a surprise when we state that it goes through some 70 different processes."

At one time Bidwell, Bidwell & Co employed close on 300 people, some in their factory, and others did work in their cottages filling the bristle into the "stocks" or brush handles. They also made hairbrushes and nail brushes. Unfortunately the firm closed down some years ago, with the advent of modern methods of manufacture.

(source: *Pharmaceutical Journal*, 31 July 1976. Quotation).

J.G.L. Burnby

016 NAPOLEON'S TOOTH

Napoleon's Tooth. — A Tooth of Napoleon extracted by Mr. O'Meara, was sold at the public sale of the effects of the latter, for £7.17s.6d., and the Instrument with which it was extracted, fetched £3.3s.

(source: *Forces* 2(1845), 15. Quotation).

Christine Hillam

017 NAPOLEON'S DENTAL REPAIR BOX

FRENCH ART SMASHES AUCTION ESTIMATES

The most exotic collectors' item on offer [at Christie's] was the *Nécessaire Dentaire* of the Emperor Napoleon I, otherwise known as Napoleon's dental repair box, complete with 16 gold scalpels and other scrapers and bleeding lancets, bistouries, pluggers and more. For this one-off art treasure, looted from his baggage train at the battle Waterloo and sold by a Rothschild, ardent bidding gave £62,000 (est. £20,000-£30,000). No teeth were included.

(source: *Daily Telegraph*, 10 June 1994. Quotation).

David Cubitt

BOOK REVIEW

R.A. Cohen *

Samuel S. White Catalogue of dental instruments and equipment with a new introduction ... by Audrey B. Davis. (San Francisco: Norman Publishing, 1995), pp. xxxviii, 408, ill., \$150.00 (0-930405-63-3). Edition limited to 300 copies. Available from Norman Publishing, 720, Market Street, 3rd floor, San Francisco, CA 94102-2502, USA (tel: 1-800-544-9359 USA & Canada, (415) 781-6402 international; fax: (415) 781-5507; e-mail: orders @jnorman.com).

This is a facsimile reprint of the third catalogue issued by the famous American firm of dental manufacturers, including an extremely valuable 33 page introduction by the exhibition curator of the National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore. It contains illustrations and prices of a vast number of instruments, filling materials and sundries for the dental surgery, together with every possible tool for the dental workroom. Strangely enough, although the catalogue states that porcelain artificial teeth comprise the largest and most important part of the business, no prices are quoted and the illustrations of them appear to have been taken from the 10th edition of Harris's *Principles and Practice of Dentistry*. The catalogue depicts American dentistry of the period, which is indeed one of its chief values, another being the identification and dating of unusual instruments; who has heard of the 'Howells' mirror combination with depressed [dental rubber] dam'? And who can fail to be astonished that the firm marketed 565 patterns of gold filling instruments for different types of gold foil in several thicknesses using hand pressure or a hand-held or automatic mallet?

In view of the present amusing worries regarding the toxicity of amalgam, it is interesting to note the instructions given regarding its preparation: 'Place in the palm of the left hand a small quantity of re-distilled mercury. To this add the requisite amount of the alloy and with the forefinger of the right hand work it into a soft paste ... press out the excess of mercury between the thumbs and forefingers of both hands'.

The introduction, which is fully annotated, states that the records of the company are deposited in the Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, thus providing a major primary source for the history of the White

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family and the firm founded by Samuel Stockton White (1822-1879). White, who began as a dentist, was a consummate craftsman, of boundless energy, and an astute and far-seeing businessman. He expanded the firm by active salesmanship, purchasing or amalgamating with other companies, buying patents and most importantly ensuring the excellent quality of its products. In addition he founded and supported the *Dental Cosmos*, one of the chief dental journals of the world, and vigorously campaigned against the patents associated with the use of vulcanised rubber for dentures.

Although the cost of this book is high, it must be remembered that copies of early dental catalogues are difficult to obtain and that the present volume benefits from an informative introduction. It will remain of permanent value to all who are interested in the history of dentistry, and should certainly be available in dental and major medical libraries.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Index to Dental Literature (and hence Medline) is currently very selective as regards the history of dentistry and there can also be a considerable time lag before articles are indexed. Contributions to the bibliography from readers are therefore welcomed in order to make it as up to date as possible.

published in 1995: additional items

World War II: the Army Dental Corps in the Far East.

Br-Dent-J. 1995 Aug 19; 179(4): 147-9

AB: August 15 is the anniversary of VJ Day--Victory in Japan. This article, the first of a 3-part series dedicated to remembering the efforts of the Army Dental Corps during the second world war, reproduces the personal experiences--some horrifying, some desperate, some funny--of those dentists who did their service in the Far East and who experienced VJ Day at first hand.

World War II: the Army Dental Corps in the Far East.

Br-Dent-J. 1995 Oct 7; 179(7): 267-9

AB: This final part of the series on The Army Dental Corps during the Second World War continues with the stories of dental personnel who were captured and incarcerated in the prisoner of war camps in the Far East. What is remarkable about all of these stories is the evident spirit to survive and determination to keep life, which was often hellish, as near to normality as was conceivably possible.

Remembrance and reminiscence.

Album-MM

ASDC-J-Dent-Child. 1995 May-Jun; 62(3): 169-71, 225

Sumner Smith Arnim, DDS, PhD (1904-1990): a pioneer in preventive dentistry.

Christen-AG

J-Dent-Res. 1995 Oct; 74(10): 1630-5

AB: This article reviews the life story and contributions of Sumner Smith Arnim (1904-1990), a noted author, lecturer, teacher, and researcher in preventive dentistry. Following in the footsteps of Levi Spear Parmly, MD, DDS (1790-1859), and Charles C. Bass, MD (1875-1975), Arnim developed and popularized a wide range of preventive concepts and practices, especially dental plaque control via mechanical means. Today, these innovative ideas and techniques continue to have an impact on oral health research, the practice of dentistry, and the teaching of oral hygiene to dental patients. This article traces both the development of these oral health concepts and Arnim's study of dental plaque ("microcosm"), which he characterized by means of phase-contrast microscopy and cinemicrography.

Fifty years on: Colin Davis interviews Eric Cooper (interview by Colin Davis)

Cooper-E

Br-Dent-J. 1995 Sep 9; 179(5): 157-9

AB: Just over 50 years ago, Eric Cooper was released from the gloomy fortress castle of Colditz after almost 4 years as a prisoner of war. He recently retired to a small village near Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight where his garden looks out over a great sweep of cornland with the long line of the chalk downs in the distance. It is impossible to imagine two more contrasted pictures and I was eager to find out about the old warrior's odyssey as we sat sipping sherry and looking out to that incomparable view.

History of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry. Part 3: Samuel D. Harris and some early pressures for international developments.

Gelbier-S

Int-J-Paediatr-Dent. 1995 Jun; 5(2): 123-5

Hersh's so-called life: from a (slightly) biased perspective.

Horowitz-AM

J-Public-Health-Dent. 1995 Spring; 55(2): 96-8

Principal articles in recent issues of *Bulletin of the History of Dentistry*, since 1996 *Journal of the History of Dentistry* (photocopies available from the editor of *Dental Historian*)

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