



Talking Statues

Find out more about the iconic public
statues across the city at
Leeds Central Library

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Art
Fund



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The Black Prince, City Square

Written by: Kelly O'Reilly
Performed by: Vic Reeves
Sponsored by Leeds Art Fund

Artist: Thomas Brock

Depicting Edward, Prince of Wales and son of Edward III, this is the famous central figure of the City Square statuary. Mounted in 1903, the Black Prince was a gift to the City from Colonel Thomas Harding, a prominent manufacturer and politician of the time.

September 1903. View of the Black Prince Statue just after construction was completed.

Further reading

Edward the Black Prince: City Square Souvenir Published in Connection with the Formal Opening of City Square, Leeds, September 16th (1903)

LQ 388.1 EDW

'Colonel Harding and the Black Prince,' in L.M.S. Tate ed., *Aspects of Leeds 2: Discovering Local History* (1999) **L 942.819 ASP**

Thomas Brock : Forgotten Sculptor of the Victoria Memorial (2012) - Frederick Brock **730.92 BRO**



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The Drury Dame, City Square

Written by: Elizabeth Dearnley

Performed by: Gemma Whelan

Artist: Alfred Drury

Also known as the 'Four Pairs of Figure Lamps: Morn and Even', these lamps were inspired by female figures which stand beside lamp standards around Paris Opera House.



20th July 1925. View showing part of City Square looking towards Mill Hill Chapel.

Further reading

Leeds Statue Trail (1995) – Melanie Hall **LP 731.7 HAL**

'City Square and Colonel Harding' – George Black, in *Publications of the Thoresby Society, Miscellany, Volume 16, part 2* (1975) **L 906 THO**



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James Watt, City Square

Written by: Ben Tagoe

Performed by: Drew Cain

Produced in partnership with West Yorkshire Playhouse

Artist: Henry Charles Fehr

Scottish engineer, whose contribution to Leeds' industrial wealth was marked by his inclusion in the new City Square development alongside statues of such prominent Leeds figures as John Harrison, Walter Farquhar Hook and Joseph Priestley. Watt's work improving the steam engine was a leading factor in the development of the Industrial Revolution and his engines powered many Leeds mills.



Further reading

James Watt: Craftsman and Engineer (1936) – H.W. Dickinson **B WAT**

'Industrial Development, 1780-1914' – E.J. Connell and M. Ward, in Derek Fraser ed., *A History of Modern Leeds* (1980) **L 942.819 HIS**

View of the statue of James Watt in City Square, paid for by Councillor Richard Wainwright in 1898 and erected in 1903 for the opening of City Square.



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The Petanque Player, Bond Court

Written by: Ian McMillan
Performed by: Ian McMillan

Artist: Roger Burnett

Commissioned to mark the annual Boules tournament in Bond Court, this “depiction of aimless entertainment encourages one to take some time out of one’s busy working day, or lunch break, to enjoy oneself and relax.”

Further reading

‘Leeds Nostalgia: Boules statues in Leeds City Centre,’ retrieved from <http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/your-leeds/nostalgia/leeds-nostalgia-boules-statues-in-leeds-city-centre-1-7794984> (article dated 15.03.2016)

‘The Boules Player’ – Georgina Collins, retrieved from <http://www.leedsartgallery.co.uk/review/listings/l0010.php> (article dated 30.03.2011)

‘French to Bowl Us Over: New Boules Court Could Prove Big Success in Leeds,’ in *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 9th June, 1995, p.9.



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Town Hall Lion, Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow

Written by: Brian Blessed
Performed by: Brian Blessed

Artist: William Day Keyworth Jr

These formidable beasts were added to the Town Hall in 1867, eight years after its opening in 1858. Guarding the entrance to the Town Hall, these symbols of Victorian civic pride are said to leap off their pedestals and explore the City when the Town Hall clock strikes midnight!



The Town Hall in 1949.

Further reading

‘Lions for the Town Hall,’ in *Yorkshire Post*, February 16th, 1867

‘The Town Hall Lions,’ in *Yorkshire Evening Post*, June 8th, 1867

‘Building of Leeds Town Hall’ – Asa Briggs, in *Publications of the Thoresby Society*, Volume XLVI (1963) **L 906 THO**

Two Leeds Architects: Cuthbert Brodrick and George Corson (1937) - T. Butler Wilson **SR 720.92 BRO**

Architecture of Cuthbert Brodrick (1967) - Derek Linstrum
SR 720.92 BRO



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The Golden Owl, Leeds Civic Hall

Written by: Khadijah Ibrahim

Performed by: Claire Benedict

Produced in partnership with West Yorkshire Playhouse

These familiar sights landed in a redeveloped Millennium Square at the turn of the 21st-century. Sitting resplendent on their 12-foot high obelisks, the Owls are just two of many such figures to be seen around the City centre. The birds became a part of Leeds' civic life after Sir John Saville, whose family Coat of Arms featured owls, became the first Alderman (council leader) of the town in 1626.

Further reading

'Aldermen of Leeds: 1626-1700' – J.W. Kirby, in *Publications of the Thoresby Society*, Volume LXIV (2008) **L 906 THO**

'Arms of Leeds' – G.D. Lumb, *Publications of the Thoresby Society*, Volume XV (1909) **L 906 THO**

'Millennium Square,' in *Leeds: An A-Z of Local History* – John Gilleghan (2001) **L 942.819 GIL**



One of the Portland stone twin towers of the Civic Hall, built in 1933 to designs by E. Vincent Harris.

'Owl, I look then?,' in *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 12th April 2001, p.5.



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If statues could talk, what stories would they tell?

TALKINGSTATUESLEEDS.CO.UK



THE PETANQUE PLAYER



JAMES WATT



JOHN HARRISON

COMPETITION STATUE
City Square, LS1 2AN

City Square, LS1 2AN
Written by: Ben Tago
Performed by: Drew Cain
Produced in partnership with
West Yorkshire Playhouse



TOWN HALL LION

Bond Court, LS1 2JZ
Written by: Ian McMillan
Performed by: Ian McMillan

Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow
LS1 3AD

Written by: Brian Blessed
Performed by: Brian Blessed

City Square
Written by: Elizabeth
Performed by: G

Wellington St



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

WEST YORKSHIRE
PLAYHOUSE

ic Hall, Millennium Square,
alverley St, LS1 1UR
en by: Khadijah Ibrahiim
med by: Claire Benedict
d in partnership with West
orkshire Playhouse



GOLDEN OWL

LET'S TALK



MARY DAME

e, LS1 2AN
beth Dearnley
emma Whelan



EQUUS ALTUS

Eastgate Roundabout, LS2 7JL
Written by: Daniel Bye
Performed by: Lee Toomes
Produced in partnership with West
Yorkshire Playhouse

COMPETITION STATUE
Trinity Leeds shopping
centre, Albion Street, LS1 5AT



THE BLACK PRINCE

City Square, LS1 2AN
Written by: Kelly O'Reilly
Performed by: Vic Reeves
Sponsored by Leeds Art Fund

TALBOT HOUND

YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMPETITION STATUE
Trevelyan Square, LS1 6ET

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TALKING
STATUES

Arthur Aaron, Eastgate Roundabout, Eastgate

Written by: Daniel Bye

Performed by: Lee Toomes

Produced in partnership with West Yorkshire Playhouse

Artist: Graham Ibbeson

Statue commemorating the valour of Arthur Aaron, a Royal Air Force pilot who was killed during World War II. He was born in Gledhow and went on to study architecture at Leeds College of Art before joining the RAF volunteer reserve in 1941. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery and the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Further Reading

Great Leeds Stories (2005) – David Thornton **L 942.819 THO**

Graham Ibbeson : The People's Sculptor : Bronze, Clay and Life (2011) - Graham Ibbeson **730.92 IBB**

Image shows detail on the bronze statue of Arthur Aaron VC .



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Talbot Hound, Trevelyan Square

YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMPETITION STATUE

An imposing 19th-century fountain: first found in the grounds of Castle Carr, an enormous Gothic mansion built in the 1860s by Captain Joseph Edwards and located a few miles outside Leeds. Possibly the last-surviving relic of that estate, the fountain found its current home in 1992 after Trevelyan Square – itself home to several buildings with significant heritage interest – underwent a £12million redevelopment.



16th November 1999. View of the fountain in Trevelyan Square.

Further Reading

‘Business Developments Bring History and Romance to the Heart of Leeds’ – John Bowers, in *Yorkshire Life* (February 1992)

‘Castle Carr’ – Kate Lycett, retrieved from <http://losthouses.katelycett.co.uk/castle-carr>

‘Trevelyan Square,’ in *Leeds: An A-Z of Local History* – John Gilleghan (2001) **L 942.819 GIL**



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John Harrison, City Square

COMPETITION STATUE

Artist: Henry Charles Fehr

One of the most important figures in Leeds' history, Harrison was nominally a cloth merchant - but is today best known as a benefactor: he was centrally involved in the campaign to purchase the Manor of Leeds in 1629; twice served as Alderman; and gifted the town a new thoroughfare (later to become New Briggate), a row of Almshouses for poor women, a replacement building for the free Leeds Grammar School and, most famously, St. John's Church in Briggate.

Further Reading

'John Harrison: The Leeds Benefactor and His Times' – M.A. Hornsey, in *Publications of the Thoresby Society, Miscellany, Volume 10 (1935)*

L 906 THO



An early view of City Square with the spires of Mill Hill Chapel beyond on the right. City Square was designed to commemorate Leeds receiving city status in 1893 and the statues seen here—including that of John Harrison—were chosen to celebrate this.



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Equus Altus, Trinity Leeds Shopping Centre

COMPETITION STATUE

Artist: Andy Scott

Designed to make reference to the packhorses that carried goods during Leeds' development as a centre for the wool textile industry, this spectacular equestrian sculpture in the Trinity Leeds shopping and entertainment complex brings together 'old' and 'new' versions of the City.

Further Reading

'Equus Altus' - Seán Gormally, retrieved from www.leedsartgallery.co.uk/review/listings/I0045.php (article dated 22.03.2013)

The Leeds Woollen Industry: 1780-1820 – ed., W.B. Crump, in *Publications of the Thoresby Society*, Volume XXXII (1931)

'No Horsing Around with this Two Tonnes,' in *Wharfe Valley Times*, 21st March, 2013, p.1.



March 2015. One of the focal points of Trinity Leeds is the huge sculpture of a packhorse representing the centuries old trade in woollen cloth, a major Leeds industry on which the city was founded.



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Even more to read at Leeds Central Library!

The Art Library, based on the 1st floor of Leeds Central Library, houses an extensive collection of books and journals on the subjects of sculpture and architecture as well as many other aspects of art.

These are some examples that we thought were particularly interesting.

Rules and Examples of Perspective Proper for Painters and Architects (1707) - Andrea Pozzo: SRF 742/STU

First English edition of the renowned work by Andrea Pozzo. A stunning volume with 100 copperplate engravings and a must view for anyone interested in architecture during this period.

Inigo Jones: A Life of the Architect. Remarks on Some of his Sketches For Masques and Dramas (1848): 822.3 CUN

Inigo Jones and Wren or, The rise and decline of modern architecture in England (1893) - W. J. Loftie Stack: 720.92 JON

Inigo Jones was an important early modern architect, who worked on the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral and created London's first 'square' in 1630.

Life and Works of Sir Christopher Wren from the Parentalia or Memoirs by his son Christopher (1903): SR 720.92 WRE

Limited 1903 edition of the Architecture biography English 17th century.



**Henry Moore Shelter Sketchbook 1940-42 : Catalogue of an Exhibition
Held at Marlborough Fine Art Ltd (1967): SR 741.942 MOO**

Henry Moore Sketchbook 1926 (1976): SR 741.942 MOO

This is a limited edition facsimile that demonstrates some of the thoughts and processes behind Moore's stunning sculptures.

The Builder (1843- 1966) - 720.5/BUI

The Builder was the foremost illustrated architectural journal of the Victorian era and interestingly for us contains the original plans for Leeds Town Hall and the Municipal Buildings that housed the Central Library. It has now been renamed Building and is one of the longest running publications of its kind.

Architect's Journal (1988-date): Q Periodical 720.5/ARC

A popular long running journal that aims to inspire architects and provide advice and opportunities.

Pevsner Architectural Guides: 720.942

Series of guide books to the architecture of Britain.

**The Artist's Guide to Public Art: How to Find and Win Commissions (2008)
- Lynn Basa: 706**

This book provides advice on how to build a career as a public artist and the best ways to achieve a commission.



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Extra Information

All photographs in this booklet are taken from our photographic archive

Leodis—<http://www.leodis.net/>

Leodis Collections is a new way of accessing the collection and you can view a range of curated photographs around different themes, such as shopping, parks and cinemas —<http://leodiscollections.net/>

Have a browse and see how Leeds has changed over the years.

Contact us:

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