**British canvas, stretcher and panel marks. Part 14, Restorers, liners and mounters**

This guide surveys marks and labels of picture restorers and liners on the reverse of pictures. It also includes a few mounters of drawings and prints. These marks range in date from the 1810s to the 1960s. For the individuals whose marks are given here, see [British picture restorers, 1600-1950](#) on the National Portrait Gallery website. Links are given to institutional websites where the details of works can be found. Square brackets are used to indicate indistinct or missing lettering in transcripts, with readings sometimes based on other examples.

Compiled by Jacob Simon, January 2019, updated February 2020. With thanks to Dr Joyce Townsend for providing information on paintings in Tate, to Nicola Costaras at the Victoria and Albert Museum and to Cathy Proudlove.

The following practitioners appear in this resource (active in London, unless otherwise stated):

**Picture restorers:** Thomas Charles Bale, R.T. & G.F. Buttery (Leeds), C.E. Clifford, Freeth-Smith & Chard (Bath), F. Haines & Sons, Henry Wharrey Holder (Hull and Scarborough), William Holder, William Holder & Sons, Reuben Webster King (Yarmouth, Norwich and Greenwich), Henry Nicholl (Belfast), Henry Rawling (Manchester), J. & H. Reeve, John Rising, Robert Rose, John Lewis Rutley, E. & H. Smart, George A. Stubbs (Warwick), Mr Tarn (Kings Lynn), Joseph Robert Taylor (Manchester), Charles Ward (Derby)

**Picture liners and panel workers:** Frank Walter Creffield (panel worker), Hill (Bath), Henry Wharrey Holder (Hull and Scarborough), John Jones, Reuben Webster King (Yarmouth, Norwich and Greenwich), Francis Leedham, George Morrill, William Morrill, Henry Nicholl (Belfast), C. Nixon (Birmingham), John Peel, Henry Rawling (Manchester), J. & H. Reeve, James Spender.

**Mounters of prints and drawings:** Robert Guéraut, William Holland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier, work details</th>
<th>Supplier dates, mark transcripts</th>
<th>Illustrations (not to uniform scale)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thomas Charles Bale,</strong> London. Picture restorer.</td>
<td>Active 2nd half 19th century See <a href="#">British picture restorers - B</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Label on paper on stretcher" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illustrated:</strong> Lemuel Francis Abbott, Joseph Hurlock (The Trustees of the Sir John Edmund Cradock-Hartopp Will Trust)</td>
<td>Label on paper on stretcher: T.C. BALE, ARTIST, Cleaner, Liner &amp; Restorer of Ancient &amp; Modern Pictures Paintings Cleaned, Lined, and Repaired, FRAMED, REFRAAMED, AND OLD FRAMES CLEANED AND REGILT, Drawings of every description Cleaned, Mounted, and Restored, HOURS 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. [CAB]NET GALLERY [25, LIS]LE STREET, LEICESTER SQUARE.</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Illustration" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R.T. &amp; G.F. Buttery,</strong> Leeds. Picture restorer.</td>
<td>Robert Thomas and George(?) Buttery, in Leeds 1832, active 1820s-1840s See <a href="#">British picture restorers - B</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Illustration" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illustrated:</strong> Peter Casteels, Flowerpiece (Private coll., information from Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins, 2013).</td>
<td>Inscribed in ink on the lining: R..T.. &amp; G..F. Buttery Artist Cleaners Liners &amp; 1832</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Illustration" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **C.E. Clifford,** London. Picture restorer, etc. | In business 1849-87  
See [British artists' suppliers - C](#) | From 1877 Clifford worked as a picture restorer. For his stamps and labels as an artists’ colourman, see Part 2 of this guide. |
|---|---|---|
| **Illustrated:** George Harlow, Richard Becher (Heckscher Museum of Art, New York) Source: The Archives of Alexander Katlan, now housed in the Winterthur Museum and Libraries, repr. from Katlan 1992, p.458, see Acknowledgments. | **Label on stretcher:**  
C. E. CLIFFORD,  
Picture restorer,  
Successor to Mr. E FAÇON WATSON.  
-----  
CARVER, GILDER, PRINTSELLER, & ARTISTS’ COLOURMAN,  
TO THE ROYAL IMPERIAL FAMILIES OF England, France, Germany, Austria, Spain and Brazil. | |
See [British picture restorers - C](#) | |
| **Illustrated:** Attributed to Hugh Douglas Hamilton, *1st Marquess of Hastings* (National Portrait Gallery) | **Impressed on inserted sliding batten:**  
F.W.C  
**Dated in ink:**  
JAN 1953 | |
| **Freeth-Smith & Chard,** Bath. Picture restorers. | Active 1896-99  
See [British picture restorers - F](#) | Active later as Freeth Smith & Co |
| **Illustrated:** Unspecified work (Private coll.) | **Stamped on stretcher and turned over canvas:**  
FREETH-SMITH & CH[ARD]  
(LATE HILL)  
PICTURE REST[ORERS AND] LINERS[?]..... | |
| **Robert Guéraut,** London. Mounter and restorer. | Active c.1877-1911  
See [British picture restorers - G](#) | |
| **Illustrated:** An old mount removed from a drawing (Christ Church, Oxford) | **Stamp, shaped linear border, on old mount:**  
. MOUNTED BY .  
R. GUERAUT | |
See [British picture restorers - H](#) | Previously and subsequently in business in other partnerships. |
|---|---|---|
| **Illustrated:**  
John Constable,  
**Hampstead Heath, Branch Hill Pond** (Victoria and Albert Museum, FA.35) | **Label in pen on stretcher:**  
35. The surface of this painting has been cleaned by sponging by Messrs. F. Haines & Sons  
14th December, 1893  
Lined also on the 20th December.  
[labelled by a member of museum staff in 1893, rather than the restorer. Of a kind found on South Kensington Museum pictures restored at the time (information from Nicola Costaras)] | ![Label Image] |
| **Hill, Bath. Picture liner.** | Active as restorers c.1850-96  
See [British picture restorers - H](#) | ![Hill Image] |
| **Not illustrated:**  
G.B. Piazzetta circle,  
**The Death of St Andrea Avellino** (Holburne Museum, Bath, information from Helen White, 2018) | **Stamp impressed on stretcher:**  
HILL LINER BATH | ![Stamp Image] |
| **Henry Wharrey Holder,**  
Hull and Scarborough. Picture liner and restorer. | In business 1854-80; at 355 Oxford St, 1843-53  
See [British picture restorers - H](#) | ![Holder Image] |
| **Illustrated:**  
Early 18th century,  
**Portrait of a man** (Private coll., information from James Mulraine, 2015) | **Label, ornamental border, on stretcher:**  
LINED &c.  
BY  
H. W. HOLDER,  
355, Oxford St., London.  
*added in pen:*  
& Old Cliff Scarborough | ![Holder Label Image] |
| **Illustrated:**  
Early 18th century,  
unspecified work (Private coll., information from Christine Easton, 2015) | **Label, ornamental border, on stretcher:**  
H. W. HOLDER,  
LINER, CLEANER AND RESTORER OF  
OLD AND DAMAGED PAINTINGS  
[struck through in pen:]  
20, PORTLAND PLACE, HULL  
[added in pen:]  
Huntriss Row Scarbro.  
A.D. 1859. – Upwards of Fifteen Years’ Experience. | ![Holder Label Image] |
| William Holder, London. Picture restorer. | At this address 1850-57  
See [British picture restorers - H](#) | Restorer’s painted inscription, reverse of former lining canvas:  
Cleaned &c by Wm. Holder  
6 Gt. Queen St'  
Lincoln’s Inn  
London  
Aug' 1850  
Illustrated:  
Godfrey Kneller, James Vernon (National Portrait Gallery) |
|---|---|---|
| William Holder & Sons, London. Picture restorer. | At this address 1886-1912  
See [British picture restorers - H](#) | Label, perhaps from headed paper, on stretcher, with additional address in bottom example:  
W. Holder & Sons,  
Picture Restorers,  
33, Brewer Street, Golden Square, W.  
AND  
30, Orchard Street, Portman Square  
Illustrated (top):  
Francis Grant, 1st Earl Russell (National Portrait Gallery)  
Illustrated (bottom):  
Peter De Wint, Landscape with Waggon (Victoria and Albert Museum, P.56-1921) |
| William Holland, London. Mounter and framemaker. | At this address 1896-1914  
See [British picture restorers - H](#) | Engravings Cleaned, Drawings Mounted.  
Illustrated:  
Adriaen de Gryef, A Peacock, Cockerels, Mallards and other birds in a river landscape (Christie's King St, Linley Hall, Salop, 9 March 2016 lot 43)  
Label:  
W. HOLLAND, Frame Maker & Mount Cutter,  
12, SHERWOOD ST.  
Golden Square, W.  
----------  
Engravings Cleaned, Drawings Mounted. |
| **John Jones, London.** Liner. | In business 1880-1900  
See [British picture restorers - J](#) | Earlier liner of same name active 1849-65 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| **Illustrated:** Attrib. James Seymour,  
*Pointer Bitch* (Tate) | **Stamp impressed on stretcher:**  
J. JONES  
LINER | ![Image](image1.png) |
| **Reuben Webster King,**  
Yarmouth and Norwich.  
Picture liner and restorer. | Active 1836-57  
See [British picture restorers - K](#) |
| **Illustrated:** Francis Hayman,  
*Jonathan Tyers and his family* (National Portrait Gallery) | **Stamped twice, line 3 indistinct and uncertain, on canvas:**  
R.W. KING.  
Picture Liner, &c  
[?NORWICH]CH | ![Image](image2.png) |
| **Illustrated:** R.W. King,  
*Rev. Clement Chevalier.* Silhouette  
(Norwich Castle Museum)  
Not a label as a picture restorer; included here for reference. | **Label on reverse:**  
R. W. KING,  
Fancy and General  
STATIONER,  
PORTRAIT AND MINIATURE PAINTER AND  
PROFILIST,  
OLD BROAD ROW, YARMOUTH.  
-----  
An accurate Likeness taken by a Patent Machine, for  
One Shilling.  
Miniature and other Frames in great variety.  
Miniatures of all descriptions accurately cop.... | ![Image](image3.png) |
| **Francis Leedham,**  
London. Liner. | In business 1831-57  
See [British picture restorers - L](#) |
| **Illustrated:** Andrea Soldi,  
*Mary Delany* (Tim Knox & Todd Longstaffe-Gowan) | **Stamp impressed on stretcher:**  
FR³ LEEDHAM  
LINER | ![Image](image4.png) |
| **Illustrated:** William Beechey,  
*Mrs Siddons with the Emblems of Tragedy*  
(National Portrait Gallery) | **Stamp, 3.8 cm wide, impressed on stretcher:**  
F. Leedham  
Liner | ![Image](image5.png) |
| **George Morrill**, London. Liner. | Active 1857-65  
See [British picture restorers - M](#) |
|---|---|
| **Illustrated:**  
Joshua Reynolds, Frederick, 5th Earl of Carlisle (Tate, Castle Howard, information from Helen Brett, 2018) | **Stamps impressed on stretcher:**  
G. MORRILL  
LINER |
| **William Morrill**, London. Liner. | Active 1866-99  
See [British picture restorers - M](#) |
| **Illustrated:**  
English school, Beached Boats at Brighton, c.1830  
(Robert Genders) | **Stamps impressed on stretcher:**  
W. MO[RRI]LL  
LINER |
| **Henry Nicholl**, Belfast. Picture liner and restorer. | Not traced |
| **Illustrated:**  
Mulvany, Mrs Elizabeth Lewis (b.1769) (with Christopher Foley, 2015) | **Ink inscription on canvas:**  
Relined & Restored  
July 1909  
by  
H[=]. Nicholl  
Belfast |
| **Charles Nixon**, Birmingham. Liner. | Active until 1862 or later  
See [British picture restorers - N](#) |
| **Illustrated:**  
David Cox, Sketch from Nature, 1847 (Bonhams, 4 July 2017, lot 14) | **Stamp impressed on stretcher:**  
C. NIXON  
Second stamp, 2.8 cm wide, three impressions, other way up:  
PICTURE LINER |
| **John Peel**, London. Liner. | At this address 1832-58  
See [British picture restorers - P](#) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Illustrated:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Stamp impressed on stretcher:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unknown artist, <em>Christ, Madonna and St John the Baptist</em> (Private coll., information from Damien Kearney, 2018)</td>
<td>I PEEL LINER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[this example perhaps c.1832-5]</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Illustrated:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Stamp, oval format, impressed on stretcher:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Drummond, <em>Francis Place</em> (National Portrait Gallery)</td>
<td>I. PEEL LINER, 17. GOLDEN SQ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Henry A. Rawling,** Manchester. Picture restorer and liner. | At this address 1911-23 |
| See British picture restorers - R |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Illustrated:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Label, linear border:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
HENRY A. RAWLING, 22 ETRURIA STREET, STOCKPORT ROAD, MANCHESTER. EXPERT PICTURE RESTORER AND LINER. VALUABLE OLD MEZZOTINT ENGRAVINGS FINE LINE AND ETCHINGS CLEANED AND RE-FITTED ALL WORK DONE PERSONALLY ON YOUR OWN PREMISES IF DESIRED AND WHERE PRACTICAL. Hanging, Arranging and Alterations in Collections of Pictures, Water Colour Drawings and Engravings. |

| **J. & H. Reeve,** London. Restorers and liners. | Active 1900-19 |
| See British picture restorers - R |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Not illustrated:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Label, traditional format:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The business initially used this style for its labels (information from the late Anthony Reeve)</td>
<td>J. &amp; H. Reeve, Picture liners, cleaners &amp; restorers, 77, Cleveland St, Fitzroy Square, London, W. Gold frames regilt and made to order.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Illustrated:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Label, text largely contained within palette, on stretcher:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Godfrey Kneller, <em>Thomas Burnet</em> (Charterhouse, London), restored c.1911 (information from Ibby Lanfear)</td>
<td>PICTURES CAREFULLY LINED &amp; SKILFULLY CLEANED &amp; RESTORED BY J &amp; H REEVE, 77 CLEVELAND STREET, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON W. EST'ED. 1850. ESTIMATES FREE COLLECTIONS/ KEPT IN ORDER/ BY YEARLY/ ATTENTION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **John Rising**, London. | Active 1784-1817  
See [British picture restorers - R](#) | ![Image](image1.png)  
**Illustrated:**  
Joshua Reynolds, *Wang-y-Tong* (Knole, Kent, National Trust, information from Melanie Caldwell)  
**Pen on stretcher:**  
*J. Rising No 2*  
[Rising was at Knole in the 1810s] |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
See [British picture restorers - R](#) | ![Image](image2.png)  
**Illustrated:**  
William Beechey, *John Carr* (National Portrait Gallery)  
**Label on red paper on stretcher:**  
ROBERT ROSE  
Picture Cleaner & Restorer  
Every Description of  
Framing, Carving & Gilding  
19 OLD BROMPTON ROAD  
South Kensington Station, S.W.7  
KEN. 6466 |
| **John Lewis Rutley**, London. | Trading as the Reynolds' Galleries 1882-1908  
See [British picture restorers - R](#) | ![Image](image3.png)  
**Illustrated:**  
Thomas Hudson, *Mrs. Richard Ray*, 1771 (Brunk Auctions, Asheville, NC, 15 September 2018, lot 1252)  
Label of type often used by Rutley, usually as a restorer rather than a dealer.  
**Label in pen on stretcher:**  
1892 / Mar. 14th/ Captain W.W. Browne RN. / No 9  
1/2 length portrait of Elizabeth Ray/ in white dress & blue ribbons./ by Thos. Hudson. 1771  
*Stamped or printed:*  
THE REYNOLDS GALLERIES  
6, GREAT NEWPORT STREET, W.C. |
| **E. & H. Smart**, London. | Active 1829-50  
See [British picture restorers - S](#) | ![Image](image4.png)  
**Illustrated:**  
School of Holbein, *Henry VIII* (Old Schools, University of Cambridge, information from Christine Slottved Kimbriel, 2015)  
**Pen on stretcher:**  
Transferred from Pannel onto Canvass  1845.  
E & H Smart |
| James Spender,                     | In business 1843-73  
London. Liner.                                      |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illustrated:</td>
<td>Stamp impressed on stretcher:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| After Canaletto, Venice:           | J. SPENDER  
the Molo from the Bacino di S.Marco (The Wallace Collection, P514)  
LINER |
| George A. Stubbs, Warwick. Artist and picture restorer |
| In Warwick by 1871-1901            | See British picture restorers - S  
|                                    |  
Illustrated:                      | Printed label, final digit of 1877 in pen, decorative chain link border, on stretcher: |
| Unknown artist, Sir William Dugdale, Warwickshire antiquary (courtesy, Miles Wynn Cato).  
Found in conjunction with later typed label, dated 1978, of restorer, Denison Cockburn (1905-94). |
| Tarn, Kings Lynn. Picture restorer.  |
| Active c.1822-24 and presumably longer  
See British picture restorers - T  
| Not illustrated:                  | Label in pen on reverse:                          |
| Thomas Hudson, Sir William Browne (coll. Sir Robert Ffolkes, exh.1979)  
| At this address 1856-89             | Stamp, oval format, on lining canvas:  
(See British picture restorers - T  
Illustrated:                      |
| George Morland, The Recruiting Sergeant  
(Sotheby’s, Collections sale, 30 April 2013, lot 377)  
Also found on:  
Thomas Creswick, The Windmill (Sudley House, Liverpool), in conjunction with stretcher stamp of W. Morrill, suggesting that Taylor may have sent the picture to London for lining. | J R TAYLOR  
15 BRAZEN NOSE S'  
MANCHESTER. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Charles H. Ward, Derby.</strong> Picture restorer.</th>
<th>At this address 1935-67? See <a href="#">British picture restorers - W</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Illustrated:** Attrib. Percival Gordon Tweddell, Grace Tweddell (private coll., information from Alison Fitch, 2018) Possibly a framing label, included here for reference. | **Label with manuscript additions:**

CHARLES H. WARD
Expert in the Restoration of Old Pictures
Hand made Frames all periods
FINE ART DEALER
12 FRIAR GATE, DERBY
Phone Derby 42893

In pen:
Grace J. Tweddell 14.2.67
Percival Gordon Tweddell Artist |

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**Acknowledgments:** With thanks to Dr Joyce Townsend for providing information on paintings in Tate, collected by members of the Tate Conservation Department since the 1970s, Dr Tim Moreton, who for many years recorded canvas markings on the reverse of portraits at the National Portrait Gallery, and Nicola Costaras for access to conservation files at the Victoria and Albert Museum. See also Alexander W. Katlan, *American Artists’ Materials. Volume II A Guide to Stretchers, Panels, Millboards, and Stencil Marks*, 1992. With thanks also to the those individually named who provided information.

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