

## Dyche: A new Artefact

Balsall Heath history society has a new and wonderful Dyche artefact and it comes complete with its own mysteries. In the July edition of the Gazette we were able to announce the donation of a postcard sized portrait of a girl, Jean Harris, which was donated to the history society by Andrea Fitter. Our new acquisition has also been donated. It is a portrait of a young girl, but it comes in a completely different format. That of metal.

First of the mysteries surrounding this piece is that it had been posted to Dyche at No. 356 Moseley Road, giving the appearance that this work never reached his studios.



The package, with sender and delivery addresses clearly seen. It would seem that Dyche offered an extra service which he then ordered through a third party on behalf of his clients. That

service is explained by the sender's pre-printed postage label. P.I.R.I.M Portraits In Relief In Metal.



Inside the Package a portrait with a difference in a presentation case. This is not simply a photo, but a three-dimensional 'sculpture'. The girl is without doubt 'beautiful' and it follows that must have been her family's view for them to embark on the course of action to order something like this with the ensuing costs.

## Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette

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Telephone: 07565 194822

Email:

[info@balsallheathhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@balsallheathhistory.co.uk)

Web:

[www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk](http://www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk) &

[www.thelostchildren.uk](http://www.thelostchildren.uk)

Facebook: Balsall Heath Local  
History Society

### Next meeting.

The committee has decided to suspend meetings. We hope to start meetings again in January 2021.

Membership of the Society costs  
£10 a year.

So, who is the girl presented in relief? Did they ever see this work? Perhaps in got lost in the post? J.F.

# The Lost Children - The Voyage to Canada in 1885

The following is an account from the Annual Report of the Children's Emigration Homes.

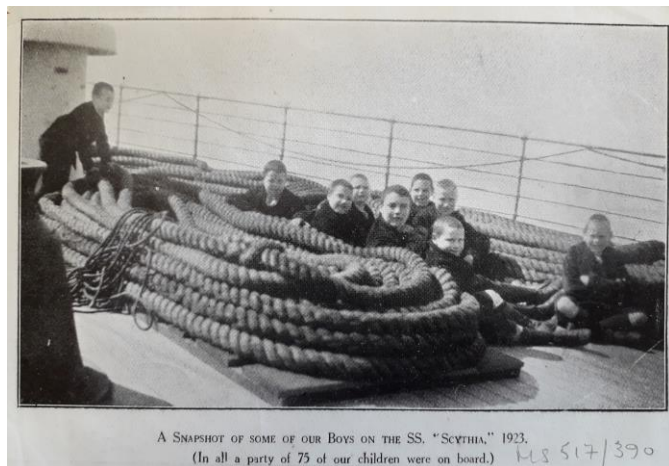
We left Liverpool on Thursday, June 18th in the Canadian Steamship Company's Winnipeg. Our party consisted of 117 children- that is, 78 boys and 37 girls. As is usual, the more sensitive of the children showed by their subdued and clinging manner that they began their voyage with that sinking of heart which doubtless comes from leaving all they care for at a time when they are tired and overwrought, and which is in striking contrast to the buoyancy of spirit with which they usually complete their journey.

We got away from the Irish coast on Friday afternoon and began at once to experience the miseries of rough weather. As the ship plunged and almost jumped out of the water...it was nearly impossible for either attendants or children to keep their footing. The latter were with much difficulty got to bed, where they all remained for some days.

As they became fit to come on deck, we had to guard our older boys from association with the cattle drovers. ...many of whom live an irregular and half buccaneering life. As the voyage progressed, the children amused themselves with swings, which the sailors

attached to the booms, with skipping ropes, with round games, with the old familiar Birmingham "Stagaloney" and one or two with reading.

In the course of another



week we approached the Arctic track and crept along in dense fog, while our hoarse, shrieking whistle sounded every minute or two...

We entered the St Lawrence River...and before we left the deck that night the air became fragrant with the scent of pines, bass wood and Balm of Gilead trees which clothe the south bank.

The ship arrived in Quebec on July 1st after a trip of 14 days and 2817 miles.V.H.

## Open Studios

The society had a stall and exhibition at the recent open studios event at the Old Print Works. The exhibition included material from the Journeys and the Lost Children exhibits. The stall sold various of the society's books including the new Lost Children book. Nearly £50 was raised in sales and donations. Thanks to Jim and Patrick for manning the stall, Haqi and Judith for helping and all those who came to visit.

## Black History Month

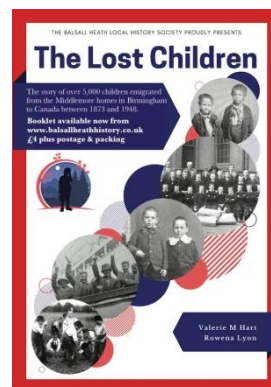
October is black history month and there are several events scheduled in Birmingham. The only history event is "The Black Past" a 9 part workshop to take place on Mondays from the 5<sup>th</sup> October Details of this and other events are available at <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/listings/region/west-midlands/birmingham/>

## Birmingham Museum

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery has now opened exhibitions to the public although you need to book timed tickets at their website. Two exhibitions that may be of interest are "Birmingham Revolutions – Power to the people" and "Webster & Horsfall – 300 years of innovation". Details and booking can be found at <https://www.birminghammuseum.org.uk/whats-on>

## Making History

The city council is already collecting memories of the COVID outbreak and lockdown. To read what they have so far and to add your own contributions see <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/blog/memories/post/440/birmingham-memories-of-covid-19/comment>



Remember – The lost children book is now available at £4 plus post and packing through

our website.