

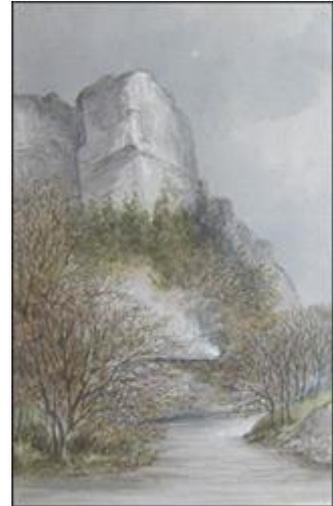
Enlightenment!

Acquisition News

A group of nine watercolours by an unidentified artist of Matlock and the surrounding area all dated Nov–Dec 1860. As well as the usual tourist views of High Tor and waterfalls in Lumsdale, there is



a view of Smedley's Hydropathic Hotel at Matlock, now the headquarters for Derbyshire county Council. This is one of the earliest dated views showing the newly built railway viaduct. These are probably drawn by a



tourist staying in Matlock

seeking out interesting views for their own sketchbook, recording mill buildings, cottages, the view from the bedroom window – what nowadays we as tourists would record in photographs.

Purchased for £900, with support from Derbyshire County Council

This group can be seen at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

- 'On the Derwent, Derbyshire', a watercolour painting by Joseph Clayton Bentley, dated 1842.

Joseph Clayton Bentley was born 1809 in Bradford. He travelled to London in 1832 where he worked as an engraver, including for Constable whose work he admired. His own paintings were exhibited at the both the Royal Academy and the British Society of Artists. Known to have travelled across the country, this is the first work with a Derbyshire provenance.

The painting shows the view from Matlock looking south down the River Derwent towards the Boat House public house, behind which lime is being burnt. While the landscape seems to be accurately drawn, there is some concern about the buildings and it is not clear whether in fact these were painted subsequently in the studio.

There have been significant changes to the landscape since, with the river banks being reinforced, the road realigned and a railway viaduct spanning the valley. Purchased for hammer price of £1600 with support from Derbyshire County Council

This picture can be seen at **Buxton Museum and Art Gallery**.

- Two pewter alms plates from King Street Methodist Chapel, Derby (1820). They may have been the former New Jerusalem Chapel established 1814, although a second congregation was gathered by James Robinson who apparently 'erected' it at his own expense and which

opened on 18th June 1820. Robinson was ordained that August.

These plates are on display at Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

- Over 7000 antique Chelsea and Derby figure parts and moulds from the Spode Museum Trust. The antique figure parts are made from clay, wax, plaster or porcelain. Some are casts from moulds and others have signs of working to them which suggest that they are either part of an original sculpture, or that they have been fettled up with a modelling tool to increase definition. The clay and porcelain parts have all been fired. These parts highlight the importance and influence of the 18th on Derby Porcelain. The collection is of national and regional significance and would be lost as the Spode Museum has gone into receivership. The collection is to be conserved, catalogued and displayed to the general public at **Derby Museum and Art Gallery** and other venues.
- Some of the treasures purchased as part of 'Enlightenment!' have been on display in Derby Museum and Art Gallery for the first time.

The project, which finished in spring 2013, helped to develop a better understanding of the Enlightenment period in Derbyshire and put the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site into context.