**Adolphus Edward Mansel Bayly, 1830–1883**

Variously a bankers’s clerk, sculptor and dealer in statuary, boarding-house keeper, printing- machinery inventor and hotelier, Bayly was born on 6 November 1830 at 46 Great Portland Street, Marylebone, London. His father was Philip Edward Bayly (1783–1855) whose family had moved from Yorkshire to Ireland in the mid-17th century. His Irish mother was Jane Bready, originally from either Co. Dublin or Co.Wicklow, and they married in Dublin in 1826.

Philip Bayly was a clothing merchant with premises at 117 Grafton Street, Dublin, until the firm wound up in 1847/48, although he had by then long moved to London. From at least 1832 to 1848, the family lived at 76 Norton Street, Fitzroy Square, but left there before Jane Bayly died on 18 September 1849. The 1841 census shows Adolphus boarding at Morden Hall Academy, a private college for the sons of gentlemen but there is no trace of him in the 1851 census, when his widowed father (as ‘Edward Bayly’) and two sisters, Frances and Caroline, were living at 8 Union Crescent, Margate. Their father died at 24 Roxburgh Terrace, Haverstock Hill, and was buried at St James’s Cemetery Highgate on 29 September 1855, which may indicate where Adolphus was also then living.

By 1857 he had moved to Norwood, Surrey, and was noted as a ‘Banker’s Clerk’ when he married Emily Sophia Reeve, daughter of a Pimlico dairyman, at St Peter’s, Pimlico, on 10 April that year. The couple also do not appear in the 1861 census but that of 1871 shows them working as a husband and wife partnership of boarding-house keepers at Belle Vue Mansions, 41 King’s Road, Brighton.

They had lived in Brighton since about 1862 when Bayly is listed as a sculptor at 2 Bedford Place, but had moved to Belle Vue Mansions before 1868, since this is the address from which his sole sculptural exhibit, ‘The death of Marmion’ (presumably from Scott) appeared at the Royal Academy in that year. His name is given in the catalogue ‘M. Bayly’ and it was as Mansel Bayley that on 1 February 1872 his mechanical talents became manifest, when he took out a patent (1872, no. 319) for a ‘New or Improved Combined Machine for Printing with or without Self-Inking Apparatus, Perforating, Stamping, Copying and Embossing’. It is not apparent whether it was solely a paper design or if he had built a prototype, or if the matter got further. The 1874 Brighton Post Office directory again lists him as a sculptor and only his wife as a boarding-house keeper, still at 41 King’s Road (which was the address for his patent application). They had eight children, four boys and four girls, of whom only one boy died young. The eldest child (Harry) was born in London in 1858, then a daughter (Ella) in Hammersmith in about 1859: the others, from 1862 to 1877/8 were all born in Brighton.

Bayly subsequently became a licensed victualler and landlord of the Swan Hotel in Pulborough, West Sussex. He is noted there as ‘Mansell Bayly’ in the 1881 census but his wife and family were living separately at 1 West Street, Horsham, 13 miles away. She was noted there as ‘Hotel keeper’s wife’ with six servants also in the house, including two nurses, an ostler and a barmaid, which suggests she may have been partly running it as lodgings. As became clear in an 1883 inquest report (*West Sussex County Times*, 21 April), Bayly had by then become depressed and worried about money and was using chloral to help him sleep. On Friday 13 April he locked himself in his room at the hotel, took a deliberate overdose and – though discovered on the Saturday and medically helped – died on Sunday 15th. A verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned.

The few (small-scale) pieces of Bayly’s sculpture so far seen show professional skill but how he trained and how much he did is unknown. The only hint so far is in the ‘Bazaar’ section of *Exchange and Mart* for 4 October 1871 (p.365) where he placed two sale adverts for statues including a life-size ‘Fighting Gladiator’ as a conservatory piece (£10), ‘The Dancing Faun’ and other subjects and busts, along with brackets, drawing models and sculptors’ equipment. The entry includes small ‘groups’ still paper-wrapped as received which suggests his stock was not all his own work. How much was is not clear. Apart from his single RA appearance the only other place he has been noted as exhibiting was at the second autumn paintings show at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in 1875. It included three unnamed pieces of sculpture and since he appears as ‘Mansel Bayly’ in a list of the artists involved, one or more seems to have been his (*London Evening Standard*, 11 September 1875).

*Summarised from Art UK discussion on Bayly’s ‘Kneeling Man’ signed and dated 1861 in Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery*

PvdM 12.2.22