



Engraved carte-de-visite, laid on card.

G IS FOR GUNSMITH

The Bishop of Bond Street

Author

BISHOP, William

Publication date

after 1827]

Publisher

Publication place

[London,

Physical description

Engraved carte-de-visite, laid on card.

Dimensions

37 by 75mm (1.5 by 3 inches).

Notes

The "Bishop of Bond Street", William Bishop (1797-1871), was the legendary agent of William Westley Richards, eponymous founder of Westley Richards, Gunsmith at 170 New Bond Street. Originally a jeweller, described as a "rough cut gem from Ealing". Teasdale-Buckell described him in more detail: "A large and roomy man, old Bishop, sitting in front of the old white mantelpiece ...his gouty leg up on a chair before him. Dressed from head to foot in the blackest of black, a huge white frill proceeding from his breast, and an enormous pair of shirt cuffs turned back over his coat sleeves, and a neatly brimmed hat, which no mortal eye had ever seen off his head. A truly right reverend and Episcopal figure, and worthy of the only Bishop who had ever passed an Act through

Parliament, as it was his wont to boast concerning the Dog Act, termed Bishop's Act" ('Experts on Guns and Shooting', 1900).

Bibliography

See BM Heal 69.53 for Westley Richards trade card

Provenance

Price: £1100

Inventory reference: 17707