

351. **Ye Dolphin Coffee House, King Street, Westminster.** Kept by Edward Barnard. See No. 82.

352. **Don Saltero's Coffee House, Chelsea.**

The history of this house is written by Timbs (1872): Wheatley (1891): Blunt in 'The Lure of Old Chelsea' (1922); Woodall in 'Country Life' (Jan. 28, 1954) and others. Discrepancies are to be found in these works.

'The Spanish Don'—Don Saltero, keeper of a Coffee House in Chelsea is listed in Evans Catalogue of Portraits, No. 21039.

Thornbury gives 1690 as the date of opening Salter's Coffee-house.

- 1695 James Salter was for a time servant to Sir Hans Sloane. He is believed to have been of Irish descent and came to Chelsea about 1673-75. Two of his children were baptised at Chelsea in 1682 and 1687. Although the date is uncertain, Mr. Blunt considers that Salter first opened his coffee-house at the corner of Lawrence Street about 1695, and a few years later removed to a house on the west side of Danvers Street, near the river end of the Ferry where he remained until about 1717. He then removed to a house on the site of what is now No. 18, Cheyne Walk, and which was then the westernmost house of the row forming the Walk east of the Manor House. Caulfield's *Memoirs of Remarkable Persons*, vol. II, p. 134, mentions 'Salter, who kept a coffee-house on the banks of the Thames, Paradise-row, Chelsea . . .'

Salter's first ventures appear to have combined a coffee-house and barber's-shop: famous for his punch, he entertained on the fiddle, shaved his customers, bled them, and drew their teeth for nothing. Sir Hans Sloane contributed unwanted items from his collection of curiosities to Salter, for the miscellaneous collection the latter was forming as an attraction to his coffee-house, and by the time Steele gave welcome publicity to the house by mention in the 'Tatler' 1709-10, the coffeehouse was almost absorbed by the museum. Steele is believed to have named him Don Saltero.

- 1709-10 According to Blunt, Salter removed his house about 1717 to the site of the later known as No. 18 Cheyne Walk.

- 1717 In 1723, Don Saltero, as he was then commonly known, issued a curious rhyming advertisement of his curiosities, headed 'Chelsea Knackatory' in which he mentions 'My Museum Coffee-house'.

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- 1728-60 James Salter died about 1728, when his daughter Mrs. Hall and her husband carried on the business till 1760. Between 1734 and 1760 a large number of Catalogues of the exhibits were printed. One for 1760 is described by Timbs, by which time it seems Mrs. Hall had converted the coffee-house into a show-place.

- 1778 'Saltero's Coffee House' is mentioned in Fanny Burney's first novel 'Evelina' published in 1778.

- 1786-1808 As Don Saltero's Cheyne Walk, is listed in use for masonic lodge meetings by St. Luke's Lodge 1786-1808.

- 1799 The house proved to be a great attraction and drew crowds until August 1799, when the collection of curiosities was sold, or dispersed. A copy of the Sale Catalogue is in the Chelsea Museum, and a

- description of Don Saltero's exhibits is to be found in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' for February, 1799. From 1799, the house continued as a Tavern, 'still bearing a green and gilt sign "Don Saltero's 1695".' Timbs mentions that 'the Museum lacked the guiding imagination of its founder . . . and was dispersed by auction about the year 1807 . . . and the quiet tavern remains'.
- 1807
- 1809-38 The house is listed in directories 1809 to 1838. In 1809-11 as Don Saltero's Coffee-house & Tavern. Proprietor—A. New. From 1833 to 1838 as Don Saltero's No. 18 Cheyne Walk. Proprietor—James Waldie. In 1855 described by Timbs as 'the quiet tavern', and 1867 Woodall mentions the house was rebuilt in 1867 and 'became No. 18, Cheyne Walk'.
- 1855
- 1867
353. **Douglass's, Dowglass's, or Duglace's Coffee House, St. Martin's Lane.**
Although variously named as above, appears to be one and the same house.
- 1702-14 In Ashton's list as Dowglass's, or Duglace's, St. Martin's Lane.
1728-29 Mentioned in an advertisement in the 'London Evening Post' Numb. 192, Mar. 1-4, 1729: 'This Day is publish'd AN IMPARTIAL REVIEW of a MISCELLANEOUS TREATISE (lately publish'd) entitled, a friendly Admonition to Gentlemen in the Commiffion of the Peace. . . . Printed for J. Lacy at the Ship between the two Temple Gates, J. Debarry againft Douglafs's Coffee-House in St. Martin's Lane. . . .'
354. **Dover Coffee House, Hammersmith.**
There appears to be great confusion where in Hammersmith, c. 1740s Thomson wrote part of his 'Winter'. Timbs mentions The Dane Coffee-house; Thornbury, The Doves, and Emerson 1862 in his 'London': ' . . . in the last century the Malls were favourite places of resort for the literary celebrities of the time, who met at the Dover Coffee-house, where Thomson wrote the greater portion of "Winter" . . .'
All three houses are mentioned here in case the house changed its name!
355. **Dover Coffee House, St. James's Street.**
1801-14 Described as offering 'the usual accommodation'—'Picture of London'.
356. **The Doves Coffee House, Hammersmith.**
Thornbury—"The Doves coffee-house, just over the High Bridge and at the commencement of the Upper Mall, was one of the favourite resting-places of James Thomson in his long walks between London and his cottage at Richmond; and according to the local tradition, it was here that he caught some of his wintry aspirations when he was meditating his poem on "The Seasons". The Doves is still in existence' says Mr. Robert Bell, in 1860 'between the upper and Lower Malls. . . .'
1860
1951 In English Inn Signs (1951) named as Doves at Hammersmith, with 'a very attractive painted sign and is known to public-house connoisseurs for a variety of literary reasons with writers ranging from Thomson of the 'Seasons' to Sir A. P. Herbert'.

492. Great Turnstile Coffee House, High Holborn.

1702-14 Listed by Ashton.

493. Grecian Coffee House, King Street, Covent Garden.

1673 Cunningham and Wheatley, both refer to this house as earlier than the Grecian Coffee-house, Devereux Court. They quote as authority, the Churchwardens' Accounts of St. Paul's, Covent Garden. Under the heading of 'Monies received for Defaults on the Lord's Day' appears 'December 7, 1673. The Grecian Coffee-house, King Street, 2s. 6d.'

See Constantine's Coffee House. No. 294.

494. Grecian Coffee House, Devereux Court Strand. 'Devereux Court leading to the Temple'; Essex Court, Essex Street, Strand, (1834); No. 19, Devereux Court, (1839).

It appears to be generally accepted by early writers that this house derived its name from one 'Constantine' variously mentioned as 'Constantine the Greek', 'Constantine Jennings' or 'George Constantine', but there is a great divergence of opinion regarding the early movements of Constantine, and the date he established the coffee-house later known as the Grecian.

It is true that one Constantine advertised coffee and other items in the 'Intelligencer' 23 January, 1664-65, and that 'Constantine's in Essex Buildings by the Temple' is known in 1681, but I find no contemporary mention to connect either of these with the Grecian Coffee House.

1702-14 The Grecian, Devereux Court, Temple, appears in Ashton's list of coffee-houses in the reign of Queen Anne, when contemporary support is to be found in the 'Tatler' between 7 April 1709, and 31 December 1710, and at least fourteen items therein published are dated from the Grecian Coffee-house. Thereafter, an abundance of dated and documented records are to be found until 1843, when the house ended its existence. Anecdotes concerning the Grecian and its frequenters during the period of 134 years are too numerous to mention here in full.

1710 Thomas Smith, the self-styled 'first Master Corn-cutter of England' advertised a daily call at 'The Grecian' and attention is drawn to him in the 'The Tatler' 7 July 1710, dated from the Grecian Coffee House: 'I have given positive orders to Don Saltero of Chelsea the tooth-drawer and Doctor Thomas Smith the corn-cutter of King Street, Westminster, who have the modesty to confine their pretensions to manual operation, to bring me in, with all convenient speed, complete lists of all who are but equal learning with yourselves, and yet administer physick beyond the feet and gums.'

1710-29 The 'Evening Post' No. 69, Jan. 19-21, 1710, advertises, the paper can be bought at the Grecian in Devereux Court. The ledgers of Thomas Twining, the famous Tea Merchants, dating between 1710 and 1729, detail goods supplied to his neighbour 'George Constantine of the Grecian'.

1710-14 The Grecian is mentioned in the 'Spectator' from 1710-11 to 1714. Also in Thoresby's Diary, 12 June, 1712, when the President of the

- Royal Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Dr. Halley, and other members 'whose company we after enjoyed at the Grecian Coffee-house'. Again, 19 August 1714: 'At the meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and after a little to the Grecian Coffee House with Sir Isaac Newton and Dr. Sloane.' (Thoresby's Diary, II, 253.)
- 1720-26 'Virtuosoes at the Grecian' are mentioned in Southmele MS, about 1720. Letters of 1726 addressed to Sir Hans Sloane at the Grecian Coffee-house are extant; one from Lord Onslow, now in the British Museum, concerns the fraud of Mary Tofts 'the rabbit-breeding woman of Godalming, Surrey'. (Brayley's—History of Surrey.)
- 1730-36 The house is mentioned in the Stukeley Memoirs under date 1730; The 'Gentleman's Magazine', October 1736, records the female notoriety, Mrs. Sarah Mapp, the bonesetter, exhibiting her skill before Sloane at the Grecian. See also Caulfield's Remarkable Persons, IV, p. 75.
- 1750-74 Oliver Goldsmith often supped at the Grecian. Sundry writers refer to the Grecian as 'the Athenaeum' of its day.
- 1760s-70s A literary club of Booksellers is mentioned in Curwen's History of Booksellers (1875): 'that Mr. Longman, with the late Alderman Cadell, James Dodsley, Lockyer, Davies, Peter Elmsley, Honest Tom Payne of the Mew's Gate, and Thomas Evans of the Strand, were all members of this society. They met first at the "Devil's Tavern" Temple Bar, then moved to the "Grecian" and finally from a weekly gathering, became a monthly meeting at the "Shakspeare". Here was originated the germ of many a valuable production.'
- 1776-1802 Sundry documents and original letters in my collection dated from 1776 to 1802, are mainly addressed 'Grecian Coffee House, Temple'. Edmund Chalmer, Solicitor to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, regularly had his letters addressed here in the 1780s.
- 1796-99 The directories of 1796 to 1799 list the Grecian Coffee-house, either as Devereux Court, Strand, or as Devereux Court leading to the Temple.
- 1803 In 1803, the house is described as 'frequented by gentlemen of the law' advertising 'Tea, coffee, and other refreshments'.
- 1805-27 In 1805, the Proprietor is given as W. How, and he still appears in the directories from 1808 to 1827.
- 1807 'The Times' 3 August, 1807 reports: 'A considerable degree of alarm has been lately excited in the Temple and its vicinity. . . . Balls, supposed to have been discharged either from an airgun, or a cross-bow, have been shot into the apartments of Mr. Twining, Mr. Hammond, and on Thursday a bullet was shot into the Grecian coffee-house, which passed close to Mr. Gordon, a barrister.' (Twinings, 1706-1956.)
- 1809 Item No. 187 Portfolio XVII, Crace Collection, now in the British Museum, is a Drawing, 1809, of the Grecian Coffee House, Devereux Court.
- 1833-34 In 1833-34 the house is listed as Grecian Coffee-house & Hotel, with Chas. Barham as Proprietor. A letter in my collection dated 27 Jan. 1834 indicates a removal: 'It was a fixed thing on Saturday night between our friend Chas. & myself that we should Dine together today at the Grecian Coffee House Essex Court, Essex St.

seller considered it worth while to have a print engraved of the interior of Dolly's house, for sale with the verses.

It seems highly probable there was more than one 'Dolly'; Timbs gives an illustration of 'Dolly, Mistress of Dolly's Chop House', and Caulfield illustrates a much more formidable-looking 'Dolly of the Chop House'.

- 1855-83 The Crace Collection, Portfolio XXVII, No. 45, is a water-colour Drawing by T. H. Shepherd, 1855, entitled 'Dolly's Chop House, in Queen's Head Court, Paternoster Row.' Timbs writing in 1872 says Dolly's 'is still a well-appointed chop-house and tavern, and the coffee-room with its projecting fire-places, has an olden air . . .' Welch says the house was pulled down 1883.

1734. The Dolphin, in Tower Street.

1650 An ancient tavern. In 1650, a dated Token was issued here with the initials R.E.W. Listed by Boyne, No. 2684.

1660-66 Samuel Pepys frequented the Dolphin in Tower Street; his visits are recorded in his Diary from 1660 to 4th September, 1666, during the Fire, when he writes: 'I after supper walked in the darke down to Tower-streete, and there saw it all on fire, at the Trinity House on that side, and the Dolphin Taverne on this side, which was very near us; and the fire with extraordinary vehemence. . . .'

The Dolphin was evidently rebuilt, or at least its name survived.

1744 The 'Daily Advertiser' 13 Dec. 1744, advertises: 'To be Sold a pretty little Negro boy about nine years old and well limbd. If not disposed of is to be sent to the West Indies in six days time. He is to be seen at the Dolphin Tavern in Tower Street.'

1735. Drury's Coffee & Tea House, 'on Duck island' St. James's Park.

c. 1720s Frequented by Nathaniel Oldham, an intimate friend of Sir Hans Sloane, Mr. Mead 'and several other . . . collectors of the time' who frequented Don Saltero's Coffee-house at Chelsea. Mr. Oldham, says Caulfield 'found out a source of constant pleasure and amusement on Duck-island, St. James's-park where was built a large room . . . then kept by a man named Drury, who used to provide refreshments of tea, coffee, ham, &c., for the accommodation of visitors. . . . This room was likewise used by the gentlemen of Westminster-school, and where they often entertained their friends with a ball, by a subscription among themselves . . .' (Caulfield's Remarkable Persons, II, pp. 133-7.) See Webb's. No. 1495.

1736. Eagle Tavern & Coffee House Bath & Liverpool Hotel, near Somerset House, Strand.

See Spread Eagle. No. 1937.

1737. Eastman's Bagnio, Leicester Fields.

1740 Mentioned—Memoirs of Sir Thomas de Veil, 1748, p. 47. (de Castro MS—Guildhall Library.)

1738. Edwards's Coffee House, corner of Serjeants' Inn Gate, Fleet Street. Was formerly Harry's Coffee House.

1739 'London Evening Post' 16-18 Oct. 1739: This is to give Notice that Mrs. Edwards who lately kept Daniel's Coffee House by Temple Bar