

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

ESOL Resources

Audio Transcripts – Lower Entry

1a **The Round Room**

When the Museum first opened 1885, the Round Room looked the same as it does now with red walls and lots of paintings. This was the first room visitors came to when they entered the Museum from Chamberlain Square.

In this room, you can see lots of pictures arranged in four different sections.

2a **Brighton and back for 3s, 6d**

This is the train from London to Brighton. The carriage is open to the weather. The passengers protect themselves from the smoke and dust with umbrellas, shawls, and rugs. The man to the left has put a handkerchief over his top hat! On the right there is a young man and a woman. Behind them is a young mother with her baby. On the left there is an older couple with their children.

The journey to London cost three shillings and sixpence, and took around two hours, but it was not very comfortable!

The picture was painted in 1859.

3a **Departure of the Fishing Fleet**

This is the port of Boulogne on the northwest coast of France. A group of women have met on the quayside to watch the fishing boats go out to sea. Some of the women are waving off the departing fishermen, probably their husbands. Others are sitting and chatting. In the foreground a fisherman tries to sell fish to two women.

The artist is called Alexander Chevallier Tayler.

4a **Cattle in the Stream**

This is a painting of a boy bringing four cows to drink water from a stream. The artist is called Thomas Sidney Cooper. He specialised in painting animals. He painted so many pictures of cows that he was given the nickname 'Cow Cooper'!

He became very successful. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert asked Cooper to paint the royal cows. Cooper had a very long career in painting. He exhibited his works at the Royal Academy of Arts in London every year for 69 years. The last time was when he was 98!

5a **A Widow's Mite**

In this painting you can see a young widow. She looks out into space, and her pale face stands out against the black of her dress and hat. She does not have much money but she is thinking of others. Look at her hand, and you can see she's putting money into a hospital charity box.

Sir John Everett Millais is the artist of this painting. He is one of the most famous artists of the nineteenth century.

6a **Never Morning Wore to Evening but Some Heart Did Break**

In this sad scene, we see life after a fishing disaster. An old woman comforts a younger woman who is crying over a fisherman who did not come home. The storm is over now. The sea is calm.

This picture was painted by Walter Langley. He came from Birmingham, but spent many years living in Cornwall. His work there was inspired by the lives of the fishing community, particularly the women.

This is his most famous painting. The title comes from the poem, *In Memoriam*, written by Tennyson.

7a **The Piazza of St Mark's**

This is Saint Mark's Square in Venice. All sorts of people are out enjoying the summer evening, walking, talking and enjoying drinks at a pavement café. Wherever you look in this painting, something is happening.

It was painted by William Logsdail. He included portraits of friends and other artists. He even included his dog, Chappie, on the right near the gondoliers.

This picture took Logsdail nearly a year to paint. When it was ready in 1883, it was a big success.