



PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and happening things. And especially for those who just like looking at pictures.

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The Story Behind the Pictures:
STREET ART THAT LASTS - MORE ROUNDELS OF SPITALFIELDS, LONDON

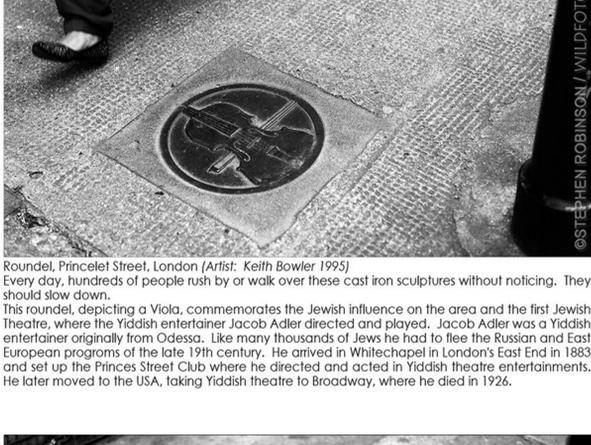
In this PhotoMail, a return to London to complete a small photo project on some street art that lasts.

A previous PhotoMail (PhotoMail No2-2013 - a direct link to this is above), showed some unique street art sculpture installed in the pavements of the Spitalfields area of London's East End.

In 1995, local artist Keith Bowler was commissioned to make a set of 25 of these cast iron plates or 'roundels' as a permanent record of the diverse history, culture & peoples of the district.

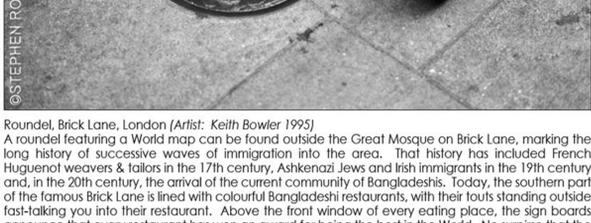
Since doing the previous PhotoMail on this subject, I had the opportunity to return to find more of these roundels and try to complete the story. Here are the others found, each with a tale to tell.

Leica M Summitaz 50mm F1.4 ASPH (all shots)



Roundel, Princes Street, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)
 Every day, hundreds of people rush by or walk over these cast iron sculptures without noticing. They should slow down.

This roundel, depicting a Viola, commemorates the Jewish influence on the area and the first Jewish Theatre, where the Yiddish entertainer Jacob Adler directed and played. Jacob Adler was a Yiddish entertainer originally from Odessa. Like many thousands of Jews he had to flee the Russian and East European programs of the late 19th century. He arrived in Whitechapel in London's East End in 1883 and set up the Princes Street Club where he directed and acted in Yiddish theatre entertainments. He later moved to the USA, taking Yiddish theatre to Broadway, where he died in 1926.



Roundel, Brick Lane, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

A roundel featuring a World map can be found outside the Great Mosque on Brick Lane, marking the long history of successive waves of immigration into the area. That history has included French Huguenot weavers & tailors in the 17th century, Ashkenazi Jews and Irish immigrants in the 19th century and, in the 20th century, the arrival of the current community of Bangladeshis. Today, the southern part of the famous Brick Lane is lined with colourful Bangladeshi restaurants, with their louts standing outside fast-talking you into their restaurant. Above the front window of every eating place, the sign boards announce that every restaurant has won an award for being the best in the World. No surprise that the area is now referred to as "Banglatoon".



Roundel, Fournier Street, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

A plaque marks the contribution that the silk design and weaving industry made to the area as from the 17th century. This plaque commemorates the former home and workplace of the prominent silk designer of the time, Anna Maria Garthwaite (1690-1763) and commemorating the silk weaving industry of the Spitalfields area.



Spitalfields Silk Industry

A plaque marks the contribution that the silk design and weaving industry made to the area as from the 17th century. This plaque commemorates the former home and workplace of the prominent silk designer of the time, Anna Maria Garthwaite (1690-1763) and commemorating the silk weaving industry of the Spitalfields area. In the background, Spitalfields' elegant landmark, Christ Church (built 1729), overlooks the area.



Roundel, Folgate Street, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

A roundel cast from a shuttle and bobbins marking the site of the local weaving trade.



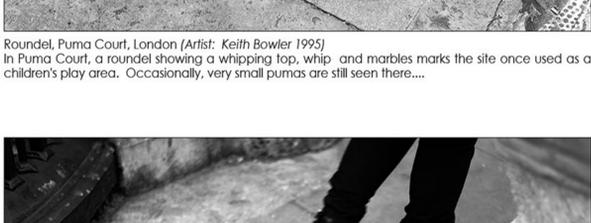
Roundel, Puma Court, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

In Puma Court, a roundel showing a whipping top, whip and marbles marks the site once used as a children's play area. Occasionally, very small pumas are still seen there....



Roundel, Brick Lane, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

A roundel of two children, dressed in 18th century garb, and shown as an illustration in a school book. This marks the site of Christ Church School.



Roundel, Brick Lane, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

A henna-stencilled hand outside the Health Centre in Brick Lane.



Roundel, Commercial Street, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

A roundel featuring door keys and door bell buttons. It marks the first of the Peabody tenements - the Peabody Trust was founded in 1862 and was dedicated to the improvement of housing for the working class.



Roundel, Elder Street, London (Artist: Keith Bowler 1995)

This roundel of figures on a Merry-Go-Round, was taken from Mark Gertler's 1916 futuristic painting "Merry-Go-Round" and commemorates the site of his birthplace in Elder Street. He was born in 1891, the son of poor Polish Jewish immigrants. The original painting (below) is part of the Tate Museum's collection.

More of Keith Bowler's work can be seen at www.keithbowler.co.uk



Merry-Go-Round (1916) by Mark Gertler

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 This Signed Limited Edition Fine Art panoramic print is available now in two sizes, as detailed below, supplied ready for matting & framing, and packed for export.
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Print size: 67cm x 44cm (27" x 18")
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