
BEN READ (1945–2016)
MEMORIAL APPEAL
SIR GEORGE FRAMPTON'S
*MEMORIAL TO QUEEN
VICTORIA* (1903)



Ben Read was a well known scholar with a wide circle of colleagues, friends and admirers in London, Leeds and further afield. He had a long and productive association with the Leeds Art Fund where he was Chair between 2003 and 2012, remaining a trustee until his unexpected death in October 2016. The current trustees have therefore decided to launch an appeal in his memory.

Victorian public sculpture was Ben's passion and he was the leading scholar in this field - his book on the subject, *Victorian Sculpture* (1982), remains a key text. As a tribute to Ben the Leeds Art Fund invite contributions toward the restoration of the *Memorial to Queen Victoria*, something that we know was close to Ben's heart.



Queen Victoria Memorial. Photo Rebecca Wade.



Figure of Industry. Photo Rebecca Wade.

The *Memorial to Queen Victoria* by Sir George Frampton RA (1860-1928) was completed in 1903 and unveiled on 27 November 1905. It was relocated from its original site outside Leeds Town Hall to its present location on Woodhouse Moor in 1937. The monument was funded by voluntary public subscription in the year of Queen Victoria's death, 1901. Ben wrote about the monument in *Victorian Sculpture* describing the sculpture in the following terms:

'Rising in all over thirty feet, at the summit appeared the Queen, aged about fifty, enthroned and crowned, holding the Orb and Sceptre, wearing the richly brocaded and tasselled Coronation robes. Below, on the Portland Stone base, was an elaborately carved royal arms...The sides had luxuriant swags of the fruits of the Earth and Sea, symbolic of a plentiful reign and naval supremacy, and in large niches sat bronze figures of Peace, a woman holding the world in one hand and the palm branch of peace in the other, and Industry, an heroic, muscular male, stripped to the waist and surrounded by the implements of the industries of Leeds. Around the foot of the base was a bronze band, inscribed India, Canada, Africa and Australia, with their respective emblems, indicative of the great regions of British influence abroad.'

As a first step we hope to raise funds to conserve and re-install the missing figure of Industry which was damaged when it was dislodged from the monument some years ago.

If funds permit we hope to continue with the conservation of the rest of the monument to secure its long term future as one of the most important public sculptures in Leeds.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

If you would like to contribute toward this Memorial Appeal to Ben Read, please send a cheque payable to the Leeds Art Fund to:

Mark Westgarth (Chair, Leeds Art Fund)
School of Fine Art, History of Art
& Cultural Studies
University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

I enclose a cheque made out to the Leeds Art Fund for £

Name

Address

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..... Postcode

Email

I wish my contribution to be Giftaided

Your contribution, if you wish, will be acknowledged on the Leeds Art Fund website.