



Rec. 2/3/82

City of Birmingham

PUBLIC LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

Reference Library,
Birmingham B3 3HQ
Telex 337655

B. H. Baumfield, FLA, FRSA, MBIM
City Librarian

your ref
our ref LS/PT
date 24 February 1982
Telephone calls to
Direct line 021-235 4220

AIR MAIL

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry of 10 January, a little information on the Bilston family is available in this library. Regarding Thomas Bilston's trial, the following extract appeared in the Warwick Advertiser of 19 April 1823: "William Dolman, Thomas Bilston, James Yates and Joseph White, for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of George Hewitt, at Birmingham, and stealing thereout, one cloth coat and other articles, his property".

The Mormon Church's microfiche index to parish registers was consulted, but no record of baptism could be found for Thomas Bilston c.1807. Directories of Birmingham did not include any references to his parents, Robert and Charlotte Bilston. However, a Thomas Bilston, ironmonger, of Stafford Street, was listed from 1815-1818, and a Sarah Bilston in the same business at the same address from 1828-1831. There would seem to be a family connection here, since the occupation was that of Thomas's mother. It was not possible to trace any advertisements in directories etc. The Birmingham Rate books were also consulted for Stafford Street; the name Bilston appeared there from 1805-1820, but no Christian names were given. Their property had a rateable value of £6 per annum, and a rate of 2/- was levied.

The Bilston enamelling company was founded before 1749, according to the Penguin Dictionary of Decorative Arts, but its name is derived from the town rather than the family who started the business. There were several factories in the Bilston and Wednesbury area. The present address is as follows:-

Bilston & Battersea Enamels,
Registered Office,
Barton Park,
Mount Pleasant,
Bilston,
West Midlands.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Baird

Patrick Baird,
Librarian of the
Local Studies Department.

Mrs. G. K. Gourlay,
34 Dunn Street,
Bridgewater, 5155,
South Australia,
Australia.