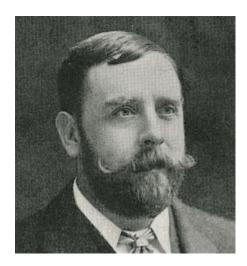
Matcham, Frank 1854 - 1920



Frank Matcham was born in Newton Abbot, Devon, England on 22 November 1854. From c.1868 he trained with George Soudon Bridgman (1839-1925), an architect with a practice in Torquay, Devon. In c.1875 he moved to London and began working in the office of Jethro Thomas Robinson (1829-1878), an architect who specialised in theatre design. Following the death of Robinson in 1878 Matcham took over his practice and subsequently renamed the business Matcham & Co. Over the next three decades, Matcham and his firm were responsible for the design, redesign and refurbishment of over 150 theatres and entertainment venues throughout Britain. Much of this work was undertaken between the years 1892 and 1912 when he was closely associated with the Edinburgh-based theatre chain Moss Empires.

Shortly before World War One, Matcham retired to Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex where he died on 18 May 1920.

A biographical file on Frank Matcham is available on request from the Enquiry Desk, Royal Institute of British Architects Library, London

Worked in UK Works

Notable among Matcham's works were the Grand Theatre in Islington (1882); The Paragon in Mile End, East London (1882); Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham (1891); Redecoration of the interior of The Tivoli, Strand, London (1891); Empire Palace Music Hall, Leeds, Yorkshire (1892); Empire Palace, Edinburgh (1894); Grand Opera House in Belfast (1894); Grand Theatre in Blackpool, (1894); Opera House

in Wakefield (1894); Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (1895); Empire, Langton (1895); Tivoli, Aberdeen (1896 and 1909); Richmond Theatre, Surrey (1899); London Hippodrome, (1899-1900); Gaiety, Douglas, Isle of Man (1900); Hackney Empire, London (1901); Hippodrome in Brighton (1901); Auditorium of The Empire, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1901); Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire (1903); Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne (1903); Shepherd's Bush Empire, London (1903); Royal Hall in Harrogate (1903); King's Theatre, Glasgow (1904); the London Coliseum (1904); Olympia Theatre, Liverpool (1905); King's, Southsea (1907); His Majesty's in Aberdeen (1909); Olympia in Liverpool (1909); London Palladium (1910); the Victoria Palace, London (1911); Wood Green Empire in Wood Green, Haringey, London (1912); and Hippodrome, Bristol (1912)

See also:

Historic England

British Listed Buildings

ArthurLloyd.co.uk

Wikipedia - Theatres designed by Frank Matcham

Architects of Greater Manchester 1800-1940

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'Who was Frank Matcham?' RIBA Journal vol. 111, no. 2, February 2004 p. 9

Links

- Historic England details of buildings designed by Frank Matcham https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?searchType=site&search=Frank%20Matcham
- British Listed Buildings- details of listed buildings by Frank Matcham https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=Frank%20Matchan
- ArthurLloyd.co.uk Frank Matcham's Theatres
 http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/TheatreArchitects.htm#matcham
- Frank Matcham Society http://www.frankmatchamsociety.org.uk/
- The Victorian Web https://victorianweb.org/art/architecture/matcham/
- National Art Library Catalogue https://nal-

vam.on.worldcat.org/search?databaseList=&queryString=frank%20matcham

- Theatres built by Frank Matcham https://web.archive.org/web/20170103171915/http://www.andreas-praefcke.de/carthalia/list_matcham.html
- Archives Hub. Frank Matcham and Company, theatre architects: records https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/ecdd54eb-9e47-35d4-a49d-7d20b126b3e9
- The Second Website of Bob Speel http://www.speel.me.uk/arch/matcham.htm

- Priscilla Metcalf. Frank Matcham. Oxford Grove Art Online [Subscription service] https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T055915
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- archiseek https://www.archiseek.com/tag/frank-matcham/
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- ArthurLloyd.co.uk Profile of Frank Matcham http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/Matcham.htm
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- https://www.theguardian.com/stage/gallery/2020/may/17/mr-theatre-the-marvellous-playhouses-of-frank-matcham-in-pictures
- Phil Penfold. This is the legacy of Frank Matcham, the architect behind some of Yorkshire's most recognisable theatres and buildings The Yorkshire Post 31 May 2020 https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/this-is-the-legacy-of-frank-matcham-the-architect-behind-some-of-yorkshires-most-recognisable-theatres-and-buildings-2869320