

Note on the bronze portrait head of George Lloyd.

In 1935, following the success of the opera *Iernin*, a London barrister, Mr Albert Ganz commissioned a young sculptor, Wilfred Dudeney to execute a bronze portrait head of the composer George Lloyd. It was his first commission since completing his degree at the Central School of Art. At that time Wilfred had a studio was in the village of Heathrow, before the airport was built. George Lloyd went there twice for sittings.



When Wilfred moved his studio from Heathrow to Knightsbridge, he carried the half-finished clay portrait head to the new studio, on his bicycle, wrapped in wet sacking, where it was completed and cast in plaster. War broke out before it could be cast in bronze, as had been intended. Albert Ganz kept the plaster head in his house, where it was damaged when the building was hit by a bomb. George's wife Nancy had previously agreed that Mr Ganz would give her the original plaster model when the bronze casting had been made. When the war ended and after Mr Ganz had died, Nancy asked his widow if she could have the broken pieces. She collected them and stored them in a cardboard box, first at 69 Priory Road, then at Ryewater, then at 199 Glentworth Street.

50 years later, George's nephew William Lloyd, who managed George Lloyd's record company, needed an image for the CD cover of the recording of '*Iernin*'. He traced Wilfred Dudeney, who was by then 80 years old, and living in retirement Lytham St Annes, with a small studio in a garden shed. Wilfred repaired the damaged plaster head ready for casting, and travelled with William to a London foundry, where it was cast in bronze. Wilfrid Dudeney died shortly afterwards. This portrait head of George Lloyd was therefore Wilfrid Dudeney's first, and his last, commission.

The bronze portrait head is now housed in the George Lloyd Music Library, in Kendal, Cumbria. The original plaster head, which survived the casting process, was loaned to the Wayside Museum at Bridge Cottage in Zennor, where George Lloyd lived and where he composed the opera *Iernin*, which had prompted the original commission. George's mother Constance was a founder of The Wayside Museum until that museum closed. After that museum closed, the plaster work and the mould for the bronze casting are stored at The George Lloyd Music Library.



**Portrait head of composer
George Lloyd (1935)**

Dudenev went on to teach sculpture at several art colleges including the National College of Art Dublin (1938-9) During the Second World War he served as an officer in the Royal Artillery. He was president of the Royal Society of British Sculptors between 1971-75.

Dudenev's best known work is *Three Printers* (1954) in which Dudenev represents aspects of newspaper making: a news boy, for sales; a printer, holding a 'stick' for carrying metal type the print floor; and an editor or proprietor.

The portrait head of George Lloyd was not only his first commission, but also his last. He carried out repairs to the plaster model and supervised the casting in bronze at a London Foundry shortly before his death.

WILFRED DUDENEV (1911-1996)

Wilfred Dudenev RBS was one of the key figures in the British revivalist sculpture movement of the post-war years. Born in Leicester. He was the son of Leonard Dudenev, a journalist. Wilfred was educated at St Paul's School and won a British Institution Scholarship to study sculpture at the Central School of Arts and Crafts (c.1932-4). His first commission after graduating was the portrait bust of composer George Lloyd (1913 – 1998).



Newspapermen (1956/1958)





Works by Wilfred Dudeney



A Figure of Youth (1955)



Boy and Ram (1963)