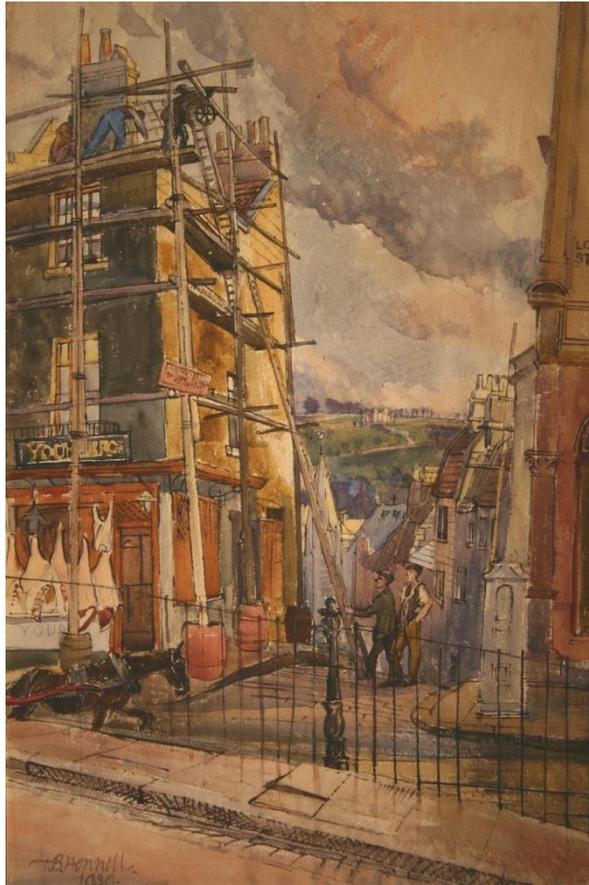


## THOMAS BARCLAY HENNELL



Roof repairers. Watercolour on paper. (46.5 X 30.5cms.). 1930.

This watercolour with detail in pen, ink and pencil is wonderfully observed.

The building under repair is on the corner of Nelson Place East, across the lane from TR Hayes furniture shop.

The butcher's shop has meat hanging outside even with the dirt of roofing and leadwork repairs going on above. Refrigeration, although available, only came into widespread use after WWII and it was common practice to hang meat outside. Great displays of huge joints of meat and of poultry were a feature of the streets at Christmas.

The scaffolding is exactly as used to build the Georgian city; wooden poles lashed together with rope and set into barrels of sand and stones. The ladder is of enormous height and anchored by nothing more than a man's foot. Metal scaffolding was introduced in 1922.

The cottages running down the lane are still there and some are pre Georgian. There are extensive Roman remains under much of that side of Walcot. Sham Castle is now obscured.

Thomas Hennell (1903-1945) taught art at Kingswood and Bruton schools and volunteered as an official war artist. He replaced Eric Ravilious in Iceland and then was transferred to Asia. He was captured in 1945 by Indonesian nationalists and disappeared, presumed killed.

His work can be seen at The Imperial War Museum, The Ministry of Defence and in other national collections.

This and another picture were bought with help from the Friends of the Victoria Art Gallery.