





Cover illustration:

Seven Dials, London, attributed to William Hodges, circa 1780, oil on canvas 39 in (99.5cm) by 49¼ in (125cm). Better known as a landscape artist, William Hodges (1744-1797) travelled to the south seas as a draughtsman with Captain Cook (1772-75) and later spent six years in India under the patronage of Warren Hastings. However, having been trained under Richard Wilson, whose studio was in Covent Garden, he would have been familiar with this part of London. The view looks northwards from Little White Lion Street, and is lively with street vendors and other people, including a craftsman mending a rush-seated chair while his client looks on. The painting was formerly in the stock of M. Bernard of Ryder Street, SW1 and was shown in his advertisement in the *Connoisseur* in March 1951. For many years it featured in his gallery window, but after he died in 1985 it was lost, presumed stolen. It reappeared in a Sotheby's sale in 2002, where it fetched £30,000 selling to the trade (again).

