

Mrs. Malin couldn't read or write. We know this because she signs her paychecks with an X. In her stead Agostino Carlini, the Keeper of London's Royal Academy of Arts at the time, would draw up Mrs. Malin's bills. Although Mrs. Malin was the housekeeper for the RA for decades, we only have her bills (and her paychecks) from 1788 because they were in a particular trunk which stayed watertight during a basement flood.

On January 26, 1788, Mrs. Malin accounted for: Bread (which the students used to erase their drawings), Beer and Shrub (for the life models to drink), Sope (Soap- to wash the floor), Wood (Maybe for a fire to keep the life models and students warm?), Postage for 2 Letters, and payment for 3 life models: James Dyer, Chris Crammer, and a Woman. Both Dyer and Crammer were named because they were men and because they were Red Coats for the RA's galleries (a combination security guard/ invigilator chosen for their physique and demeanor most likely indicating having served in the military). The woman was not named because she was a women and female models were cycled in and out; sometimes they were found at the start of the week, and sometimes they were the muse of the particular Royal Academician who had been chosen to teach that month.

In the United States artists call their workspaces studios. In Austria artists call their studios ateliers and a studio is where sex workers work. You can still tell where the studios are in Soho, the neighborhood adjacent to Mayfair where the Royal Academy is located, because there are signs in the windows that read Models Upstairs.

There have been feminist scholars and archivists looking through Mrs. Malin's bills at the Royal Academy attempting to identify these unnamed women. These unnamed models who Royal Academy students drew and who subsequently appeared in paintings which have been widely exhibited and now permanently reside in major museum collections around the world.

This bill is a recipe. A recipe for how you write women and poor people out of history.

January 26 1788
 Mrs Malin's Bill
 Bread - 0:4:1
 Beer and Shrub 0:1:0 1/2
 Sope - 0:0:8 -
 Wood - 0:0:6
 2 Letters - 0:0:2
0:6:5 1/2
 Woman 1:11:6
 James Dyer 0:7:6
 Chris Crammer 5:9
2:10:5 1/2
 N°-3

April 1, 2009
 Ms. Lloyd's Bill

Rocks - 0:4:1
 Dirt 0:1:0:12
 Chalk 0:0:8-
 Maroon Lint 0:0:6
 Charcoal Gray Lint 0:0:2
 Woman's Hair 1:11:6
 Ice 0:7:6

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