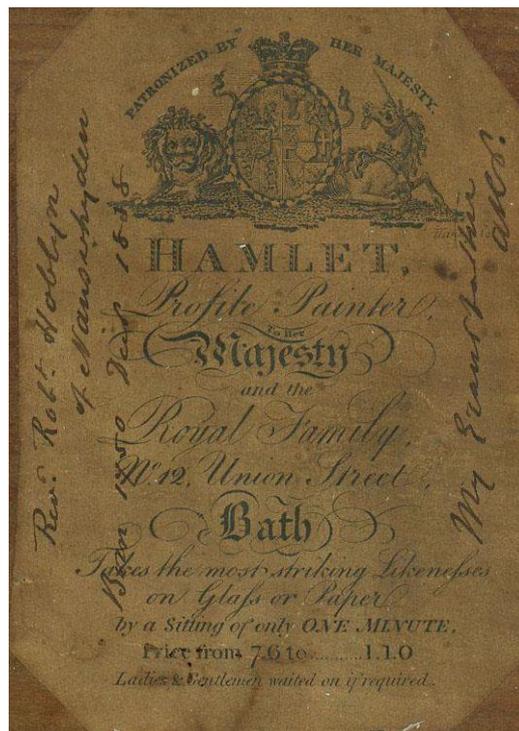


### William Hamlet, the Elder and Younger

Although some details about William Hamlet's early life are guess work, it is possible that he came to England in around 1772 aged 24 or 25 as there is a baptism record for a William Hamlet at Bath Abbey in 1772. He became well-established as a profile-painter of silhouettes and by the early 1800s had received a Royal patronage. After having travelled the country, he settled in Bath and raised a family; his son William, the Younger, also becoming a profile painter. Hamlet, the Elder invented two devices when in Bath including a 'profile reflector' using mirrors. By 1815 the Hamlets were renting studio space in high-profile locations in Bath such as Union Street and Old Bond Street. Both father and son are buried in Bath.



Trade card for Hamlet – Profile Painter, c.1815