

Inscription of fountain by Gilbert Bayes?

Edmundo Murray

Query: Author of inscription of fountain by Gilbert Bayes in Geneva?

I have a query regarding a statue and fountain by UK artist Gilbert Bayes (1872-1953) which decorates the internal courtyard of the Centre William Rappard in Geneva.

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/cwr_e/cwr_art_e.htm
(at the bottom of the page).

This fountain was first exhibited at the Paris Exhibition, 1925 in the British Pavillion with the title "Child with fish" or "The blue robed bambino". Another version was presented in 1926 by the The National Sailors' and Firemen's Union of Great Britain to the International Labour Office (original occupants of the building). The statue includes the "Royal Doulton - England" mark with lion of the manufacturer, and an inscription carved on its base: "O stream of life run you slow or fast / all streams come to the sea at last" (author unknown).

Interestingly, another fountain in the school of philosophy at the University of Southern California has the same inscription, though with a slight change in the second stanza ("all streams reach the sea at last") (<http://www.publicartinla.com/USCArt/Mudd/fountain.html>).

We have not been able to locate the author of this verse, and I wonder if anyone can help me with direct or contextual information.

Thanks in advance for your kind co-operation.

Edmundo Murray
WTO Publications
Information and Media Relations Division
World Trade Organization
Rue de Lausanne 154
CH-1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland
+41 22 739 50 49
edmundo.murray@wto.org

Reference:

Q: Inscription of fountain by Gilbert Bayes?. In: ArtHist.net, Feb 4, 2008 (accessed Jul 14, 2025),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/30168>>.