

Sir Michael Thomas Bass 1799-1884



The statue by Sir J E Boehm of Michael Thomas Bass MP originally stood in the Market Place, but in 1925 was removed to the Derby Museum Square. This was due to the widening of the Market Place and Cornmarket.

Sir Michael Thomas Bass represented Derby at Westminster for 31 years. He was the person who made it possible for Derby to have a library freely accessible to all townspeople. The building was opened on June 28, 1879, by Mr Bass himself – then 80 years of age.

His other benefactions to the town included a recreation ground, tree open-air swimming baths and he had donated generously to the Children's Hospital in North Street (now demolished), whose foundation stone he laid.

The School of Art was another institution he helped with at its inception. Indeed, every deserving charity in the town was at some time helped on its way by the benevolent Sir Michael Bass.

