

164 FISHER, GEORGE

Bookbinder

Williamsburg

Bookbinder in the Williamsburg office of Joseph Royle (368) in 1764-65.

Fisher is a fleeting presence in the American print-trade record. He appears initially in the business records of the Williamsburg Printing Office when conducted by Joseph Royle. He was also a creditor to Royle's estate following his master's death, being owed his salary.

That unpaid balance was likely never paid as it had resulted from Fisher's flight from Royle's employ, as reported in a notice he posted in the *Maryland Gazette* in May 1765:

"Ran away from the Printing Office, on Saturday Night [20 April 1765], a Servant Man *George Fisher*, by Trade a Book Binder, between 25 and 26 Years of Age, about 5 feet 5 Inches high, very thick, stoops much, and has a down Look; he is a little Pock-pitted, has a Scar on one of his temples, is much addicted to Licquor, very talkative when drunk, and remarkably stupid."

County records indicate that Fisher was a transported convict who Royle had engaged. A 1950s history of the binding trade suggests that Fisher was an experienced tradesman when transported, as the reward that Royle offered (£5-10) was unusually generous. Fisher was apprehended as a result of that offer and returned to the Williamsburg Gaol, but escaped in July 1765, six months before Royle's death, never to be seen or heard of again.

No Personal Data yet discovered.

Born: ca. 1740 Great Britain?

No other information yet discovered.

Sources: MESDA Index no. 12989; *Virginia Gazette* Daybooks (Royle); York County Project files, Research Dept., CWF; *Bookbinder in Eighteenth Century Williamsburg*.