

461 WORRALL, THOMAS

Bookseller, Bookbinder

Williamsburg

Bookbinder in Williamsburg (1766-67) in partnership with William Siddall (385).

Worrall is a fleeting figure in the American print trade, a London-based bookseller who apparently never actually lived in North America. Rather, he was the financial figure behind an effort to build a trans-Atlantic network between London and Williamsburg.

Thomas Worrall was a London bookseller, brother of the celebrated bookseller John Worrall who conducted a large store in Bell Yard near the Temple Bar in the imperial capital; but as Thomas "labored under a mental derangement," it appears that he never came to Virginia, serving instead as the financier and supplier for the Williamsburg firm of Siddall & Worrall.

In July 1766, William Siddall established a bindery and retail store opposite the Raleigh Tavern on Duke of Gloucester Street. His advertising in the *Virginia Gazette* of William Rind (358) suggests that he saw an opportunity in the colonial capital with the expansion of press offices there after the death of Joseph Royle (368) that January, and that he hoped to take advantage of the customers now employing Rind's press. He also offered his services as a paper-hanger, as many binders then did as well. The pairing of Siddall & Worrall suggests that Siddall had been a part of John Worrall's London office and that this Virginia venture was a way for Worrall to provide for an invalid relative. However, the alliance came to an abrupt end in the fall of 1767 with Thomas Worrall's death in September of that year. At that time, Siddall disappears from Virginia records, suggesting that he returned to England to settle up with the Worrall family.

Personal Data

Died: Sept. 17 1767 Temple Bar, London, England.

No other personal data yet discovered.

Sources: Williamsburg People file for Worrall, Research Dept., Colonial Williamsburg; Timperley, *Dictionary of Printers and Printing* (1839); notices in Rind's *Virginia Gazette* (1766).