

LONDON STONE and “SPECTACLE MAKERS”



A lump of stone is housed behind a glass panel within a recess in the wall of a building across the road from Cannon Street Station - it may have been part of a Roman milestone.

It was once located in the middle of Cannon Street on part of the site that is now the mainline station - it was moved in 1742. In the late 1800s it was incorporated into St Swithin's church which survived the blitz and was demolished in 1962.

Arguably it might actually date back to “Roman times”

not least as there was a Roman palace more-or-less where the station now stands, across the road was the London Mithraeum and nearby a Roman mosaic was found at Bucklersbury.

Alongside the stone is a “plaque” about its history.

More information at

www.londonstone.org.uk and at this

[Wikipedia page](#)

But what of the “spectacle makers” connection?

During the 17th century the [Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers](#) enforced standards for spectacle making with those not fit for sale broken in pieces on the London Stone with a hammer - quote below.



In 1671 two and twenty dozen of English spectacles, all very badd both in the glasse and frames not fitt to be put on sale...were seized and taken away by the Master and the Wardens by vertue of the Charter of this Company and the Lord Maior's Warrant and carryed to Guildhall and there in the Maior's Court by a jury were found badd and deceitful and by judgement of the Court condemned to be broken, defaced and spoyled both glasse and frame the which judgement was executed accordingly in Canning Street on the remaying parte of London Stone where the same were with a hammer broken all in pieces.