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Cover picture

Mania of Vanity (1854–5) by William Bartholomew (1819–1881)

This striking portrait represents Mary Lawrie, a patient at the Southern Counties' Asylum, the pauper section of Crichton Royal Hospital in Dumfries. The wife of a shepherd, she was admitted in February 1840; the cause of her 'mania of vanity' was given as the birth of a child. Often violent, but by nature good-humoured and 'correct', she died in February



1873. It is one of eleven surviving patient drawings commissioned by Crichton's Medical Superintendent, Dr W. A. F. Browne (1805–1885), to illustrate his 1854–5 series of lectures on 'the physiognomy of different forms of insanity'. The artist was his patient William Bartholomew, an Edinburgh hatter and engraver who came to Crichton in September 1853 suffering from 'acute mania'. This drawing is included in the new exhibition 'A Hidden Gem': Dr W. A. F. Browne's Collection of Patient Art at Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries, 18 July to 22 August 2015.

Picture and text submitted by Dr Maureen Park, Senior Lecturer in History of Art, Centre for Open Studies, University of Glasgow.

Image courtesy of The University of Edinburgh Art Collection.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the *Journal* and would welcome suggestions or pictures, which should be sent to Dr Allan Beveridge, British Journal of Psychiatry, 21 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB, UK or bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk.