

Charles Ginner (1878-1952)
THE LOCK GATES, CHESTER, 1933

Oil on canvas 68.6 x 50.8 cm

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This bridge carries South View Road over the Shropshire Union Canal. In the foreground is the Dee Basin, which leads to the River Dee. Beyond the lock is the Tower Wharf Basin, where the canal to Ellesmere Port begins. The two chimneys in the distance, now demolished, belonged to a steam saw mill which supplied timber for the boatbuilding yard beside the canal. The Chester Canal was inaugurated in 1772 and became part of the Shropshire Union in 1842. Chester was a thriving canal port in the 19th century, and the canal traffic continued between the Wars, with oil products and metal forming the main cargoes. Since the 1960s the canal has been almost exclusively used by pleasure craft.

Charles Ginner was a painter of townscapes and landscapes. He was born at Cannes and studied in Paris. He first exhibited in England in 1908, settled in London in 1909, and became a founder-member of the Camden Town Group in 1911. He joined the New English Art Club in 1920 and continued to paint in the style and techniques which he evolved from the dual influences of the Continental Post-Impressionists and his contemporaries in the Camden Town Group.