

The 2008 Priestley lecture arranged by the Leeds Library, the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society and Mill Hill Chapel

Never met by moonlight

The curious case of –

Joseph Black and Joseph Priestley



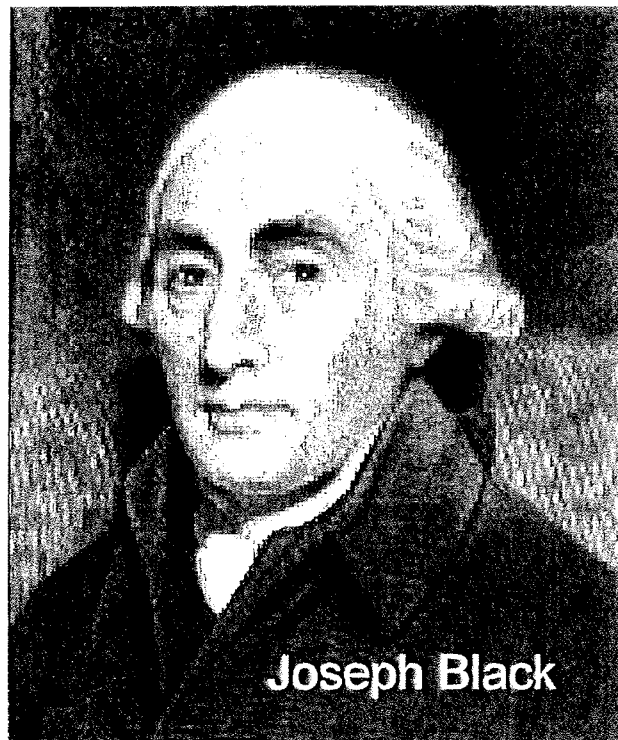
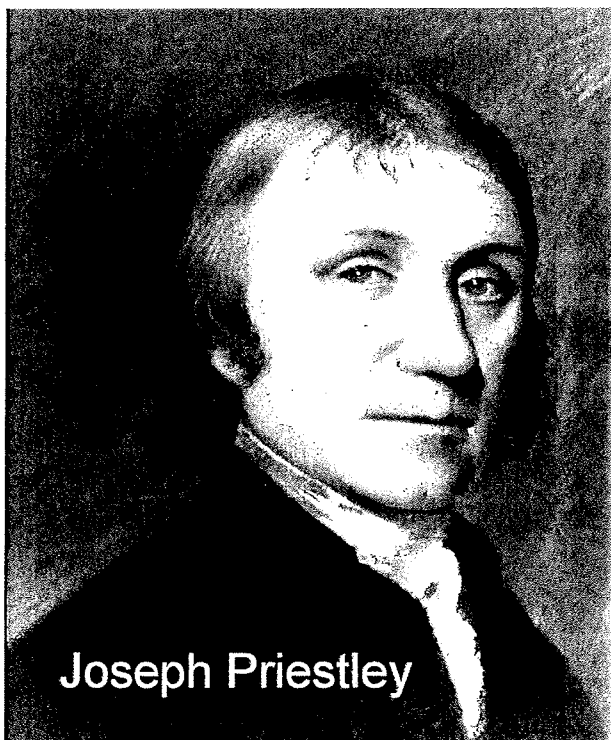
by **Robert Anderson**

(ex-Director of the British Museum)

7.00 p.m. Thursday 27 November 2008

(Tea and biscuits at 6:30)

At Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square



This lecture deals mainly with the life and work of the chemist and physician, Joseph Black. The title refers to the fact that the two men appear to have neither met nor corresponded, even though they were working in very similar fields for decades. Both were well known figures - men of prime importance in the scientific world of the day and they must have had many friends and acquaintances in common. Specifically, both men knew James Watt. Black stayed with James Watt in Birmingham in August 1788 on the night of the full moon, when there was a meeting of the Lunar Society. Priestley was living in Birmingham at the time and was a regular attender at these meetings. If Black had been at the meeting and met Priestley, he would surely have mentioned the fact in his letters. But he doesn't.

This lecture is free and you do not need a ticket – but it would be helpful if we had some idea of the numbers. If you intend to come, please contact the Leeds Library: Tel. 0113 2453071 or enquiries@theleedslibrary.org.uk.