

Abel, Dr Clarke MD FRS (1789 – 1826), British medical officer and naturalist, founding member of the RAS in 1823, and President of the Phrenological Society of Calcutta in 1825, was born on 5 November 1789, in Bungay, Suffolk. In 1816 he joined Lord Amherst's embassy to China as chief medical officer and naturalist on the recommendation of Sir Joseph Banks. During this voyage he collected seeds and plant specimens from across China, including the *Abelia chinensis* which carries his name.

Abel returned to England on the H.M.S. *Alceste* in 1817 where he met Thomas Manning, Amherst's Chinese interpreter and future RAS honorary Chinese librarian. Curiously, several future members of the RAS were associated with the *Alceste*. They include John Francis Davis and Sir Henry Ellis.

Abel lost all of his specimens when the *Alceste* was attacked by pirates and shipwrecked. Fortunately he had left other specimens with Sir George Staunton in Canton, which were later transported safely back to England.

In 1818 he documented his time as part of Amherst's embassy in *Narrative of a Journey in the Interior of China*; which contains an account of meeting Napoleon in exile on St Helena as well as an excursion to Sumatra where he was the first Western scientist to record the existence of the orangutan.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1819. On 16 January 1823 he was present at the second meeting of the RAS, held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, at which the membership of the Asiatic Society, founded the week before, was discussed. In 1825 he was made President of the Phrenological Society of Calcutta.

When Lord Amherst became Governor-General of India in 1823 he took Abel as his physician. During this time he would record a description of the Tibetan antelope, or chiru, making him the first scientist to do so. Abel held this position until his death in Cawnpore, India, on 24 November 1826.

Address: Calcutta



Clarke Abel, lithograph by Gauci, after Wilkins;
Welcome Trust

Aberdeen, The Right Honourable Earl of (1784 - 1860), British politician, diplomat and landowner, was born George Hamilton-Gordon on 28 January 1784 in Edinburgh.

He lost his father in 1791 and his mother in 1795 and was brought up by Viscount Melville and William Pitt the Younger. He became Earl of Aberdeen following his grandfather's death in 1801. He was educated at Harrow and subsequently travelled all over Europe, during which time he developed a serious interest in classical civilisations and their archaeology.

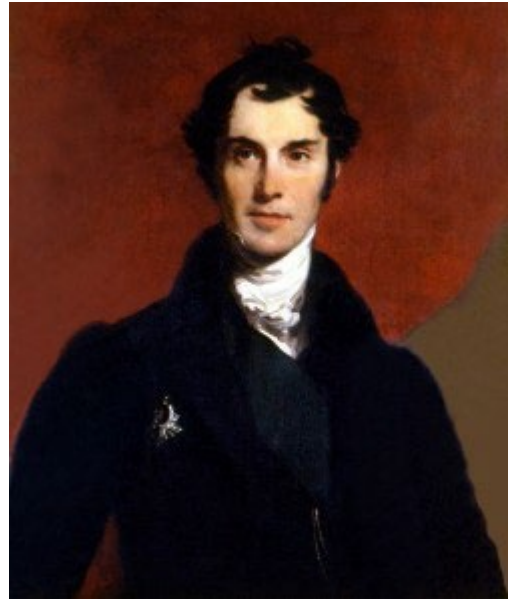
On his return to England he founded the Athenian Society and continued his studies at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating MA in 1804. During his travels in Europe he collected a large number of French and Italian Renaissance paintings, which he brought back to display in Haddo Hall, his Palladian mansion near Aberdeen. These include a recently attributed Raphael "Madonna".

In 1805 he married Lady Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of the Marquess of Abercorn. She died in 1812. He became a diplomat almost immediately after her death, being given the important embassy to Vienna while still in his twenties. He signed the Treaty of Toplitz between Britain and Austria in Vienna in October 1813. He was an observer at the decisive Battle of Leipzig in October 1813, alongside Austrian Emperor Franz II, and had met Napoleon in his earlier travels. Aberdeen became one of the central diplomatic figures in European diplomacy at this time; he was one of the British representatives at the Chatillon Congress in February 1814 and at the negotiations which led to the Treaty of Paris later that year. He was made a Privy Councillor in the same year.

In July 1815 he married his former sister-in-law Harriet, widow of Viscount Hamilton. The marriage would turn out to be much less happy than his first.

Aberdeen maintained his scholarly interest in classical civilisation alongside his political career and in 1822 published *An Inquiry into the Principles of Beauty in Grecian Architecture*. He was a founding council member of RAS in 1823. Aberdeen was also a founding committee member of The Athenaeum in 1824.

During the following thirteen years Aberdeen took a less prominent part in public affairs but in 1828, on Canning's death, he became Foreign Secretary under the Duke of Wellington (founding member of RAS) despite "an almost ludicrous lack of official experience" – he had been a minister for less than six months. After holding the position for two years, followed by another cabinet role, his experience led to his appointment as Foreign Secretary again under Peel (also a founding member of RAS) for a longer term (1841 – 1846). This was in spite of his reputation as a "notoriously bad speaker" and as having a "dour, awkward,



Lord Aberdeen, by Edwin Landseer, after Sir Thomas Lawrence

occasionally sarcastic exterior". It was during his second stint as Foreign Secretary, that he had the harbour settlement of 'Little Hong Kong', on the south side of Hong Kong Island, named after him. He worked successfully to improve relationships with France and enjoyed the trust of Queen Victoria, which was very important for a Foreign Secretary. He resigned with Peel over the issue of the Corn Laws.

After Peel's death in 1850, Aberdeen was made leader of the Peelites. In December 1852, the Tory minority government, which had been formed in the wake of a hung parliament, was defeated in a vote of no confidence. Aberdeen was asked to form a new government as leader of a Whig/Peelite coalition.

His cabinet contained both Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, who differed on questions of foreign policy; in particular, the question of the relationship that Britain should have with France and especially France's new ruler, Louis Bonaparte. The question became widely contentious after Bonaparte declared himself Emperor Napoleon III of France following his coup against the Republic in December 1851. Aberdeen struggled to reconcile the two opposing voices within the coalition and the rivalry between Palmerston and Russell caused trouble in his administration. Aberdeen himself feared that Louis Bonaparte would follow in his uncle Napoleon's footsteps causing Britain to, once again, become entangled in a series of wars with France. However, others were beginning to worry more about the rising political dominance of Russia in Eastern Europe and the corresponding decline of the Ottoman Empire elsewhere. It was the latter view that came to shape British foreign policy, particularly after Lord Palmerston emerged from his rivalry with Lord Russell as the Whig heir apparent.

Palmerston, who was in favour of a more aggressive policy against perceived Russian expansion, exerted political pressure on Aberdeen. Despite Aberdeen's sympathy towards Russia's interests, he led Britain to war in 1854 on the side of the French and Ottomans against the Russian Empire.

The Crimean War proved to be the downfall of the Aberdeen government. After reports of mismanagement and heavy losses at Sevastopol, Balaklava and Inkerman amongst others, dissatisfaction with the course of the war grew in England. On 29 January 1855, a motion for the appointment of a select committee to enquire into the conduct of the war was carried by the large majority of 305 in favour and 148 against. Treating this as a vote of no confidence in his government, Aberdeen resigned, and retired from active politics, speaking for the last time in the House of Lords in 1858.

He died on 14 December 1860, in St James' London.

Address: Argyll House, 9 Argyll Street (his London house, which was demolished in 1860 (his house was opposite no. 32 H.T. Colebrooke's where the founding meetings of the RAS took place). He also lived latterly at Rangers Lodge in Greenwich Park, as well as Haddo Hall near Aberdeen.

Agnew, John Vans, of Barnbarroch (1780 – 1825), son of Colonel Patrick Vans Agnew (DNB), was unmarried but had three children by Catherine Robertson: John Vans Agnew Bruce (who emigrated to Australia), Robert Vaux, and Florence Vans. He worked as a civil servant in Madras, India and was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

In 1848, his brother Patrick Alexander Vans Agnew (member of the RAS in 1834), Director of the East India Company, was murdered at Mooltan in India (Gentleman's Magazine 1848 & DNB).

Address: 4 King Street, St James's



The original design by Loudon for Barnbarroch House. 1780 Oak Spring Garden Library.

Aikin, Arthur (1773 – 1854), chemist and prolific scientific author, Aikin was born to a distinguished literary family of prominent Unitarians in Warrington, Lancashire. Aikin studied chemistry under Joseph Priestly at the New College in Hackney. Following a tour of North Wales he studied mineralogy and botany. He lectured in London on chemistry in 1799. He edited a literary periodical, the “Annual Review,” from 1803 to 1808. In 1807 he played a leading role in founding the Geological Society, and became its secretary. He resigned from that post when he was appointed Secretary of the Society of Arts in 1817. Later in life he became treasurer of the Chemical Society (now the Royal Society of Chemistry).



He was a founding member RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826 and 1827.

He died in London on 15 April 1854.

Among his published works are:

Dictionary of Chemistry and Mineralogy, 1807-1814.

Manual of Mineralogy, 1814.

An Account of the most recent discoveries in Chemistry and Mineralogy, 1814.

Address: Society of Arts, 19, John Street, Adelphi (Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

Arthur Aikin, engraved portrait by J. Thompson after S. Drummond, Geological Society Picture Library

Ainslie, Dr Sir Whitelaw KB, MD (1767 – 1837), British surgeon and writer best known for his work in India, was born in Duns, Berwickshire.

He became assistant surgeon in the East India Company's service on 17 June 1788, and on his arrival in India was appointed garrison surgeon of Chingleput. On 17 October 1794 he was promoted to the grade of surgeon, having been two years previously transferred to Ganjam. In 1810 he was appointed superintending surgeon, the court of directors having approved his motives in drawing up a scheme to improve the health of the troops in India. He was named superintending surgeon of the southern division of the army (Madras) in 1814, and two years later the sum of six hundred guineas was awarded to him as a mark of the esteem in which his services were held by the court of directors.

During his residence in India he published a 'Treatise upon Edible Vegetables,' and the 'Materia Medica of Hindoostan.' In 1815 he resigned, having served twenty-seven years apparently without any furlough, and returned to England in the autumn of that year. He became a founding member of RAS in 1823, with yearly subscriptions paid from 1823 -27, and of The Athenaeum in 1824 as well as publishing on a wide variety of subjects.

In December 1823 he made a donation to the Society of three of his medical books, the *Materia Medica*, the *Report on Fever in Coimbatore* and the *Observations on Cholera*, and two manuscripts: one of Tamil verse and a Persian manuscript of Mahomedan Festivals.

His daughter, Jane Catherine Ainslie, married Captain Robert Grant Duff who was a member of RAS in 1825. He was knighted in 1835, the year he published a *Materia Medica* for the sub-continent.

He died 29 April 1837 in London.

Address: 1823: Bath; 1824: 39, York Street, Portman Square; in 1834 he lived at Eden, near Banff. In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 Dr Ainslie's address was 25, Dover-street.

The RAS Library has:

Materia Indica: or, Some account of those articles which are employed by the Hindoos, and other eastern nations in their medicine, arts, and agriculture ; comprising also formulæ with practical observations, names of diseases in various eastern languages, and a copious list of oriental books immediately connected with general science, &c. &c. / by Whitelaw Ainslie.
... (1826)

Alexander, Du Pré

See

Caledon

Alexander, Henry (1787 - 1861), English politician, writer and Director of the East India Company, was born in April 1787 in Dublin to Robert Alexander. His brothers James and Josias Du Pré Alexander, MPs for Old Sarum, were also members of RAS.

He was the nephew of James Alexander, who had established the merchant bank of Gardner, Mosscrop & Alexander, and with it his family's East Indian and parliamentary fortunes. James Alexander represented Londonderry in the Dublin Parliament from 1775, and was created successively baron (1790), viscount (1797) and earl of Caledon.

In 1802 Henry Alexander joined the East India Company as a Writer in Bengal, rising to the position of Deputy Appraiser of piece goods at the Custom House, Calcutta in 1806. He left the company in 1807 and worked as a private merchant in India until 1818, when he returned to England.



Henry Alexander 1836, by William Drummond. Athenaeum Portrait No 21 British Museum

In 1823 he was a founding member of RAS, donating 10 guineas to the Society. He paid his subscriptions from 1823 - 27, apparently paying twice in 1823

As a stockholder in the East India Company, he was elected a director of the Company in 1826, and remained on the board for over 25 years. He cultivated the rotten borough of Barnstaple, and stood there at the general election of 1826. He inherited £5000 when his father died in 1827. He was elected, together with Frederick Hodgson (also member of the RAS), and remained MP for Barnstaple until 1830 after which he spent the rest of his life as a Director of the East India Company. In 1844 he was a director of Globe Insurance Ltd of Pall Mall together with RAS members Sir Walter Stirling and John Hodgson, as well as W.H.C. Plowden whose father, R. C. Plowden, was also a RAS member.

He died on 14 January 1861 at Belmont Lodge, East Barnet, leaving his estate to his eldest son Henry Robert Alexander (1811-69), of the Bengal Civil Service.

Address: 32, Upper Harley Street; in the RAS Journal of 1835, his address was East India House. In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was 6 Cork-street.

Alexander, James MP (1769 - 1848), officer of the East India Company and politician, brother of Henry and Josias Dupré Alexander, nephew of James Alexander, Earl of Caledon, was born in Ireland in 1769.

He followed his uncle to India in 1784 and likewise made a fortune as a partner in the merchant bank of Gardner, Mosscrop & Alexander and later in the Bank of Hindustan. He returned to England in 1812 and together with his brother Josias bought the rotten borough of Old Sarum from their cousin, the Earl of Caledon (also a member of the RAS), both serving as MPs for the borough. James served as MP for twenty years from 1812 to 1832.

In 1823 he was a founding member, and treasurer, of RAS, donating £50 to the Society. He was also a founding member of The Athenaeum in 1824. He died on 12 September 1848.

A watercolour portrait of him by George Richmond (1831) is in the Victoria and Albert museum, but no image is available online.

Address: 12, Devonshire Street, Portland Place; 9 Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street; in 1834 he lived at 6 Carlton Terrace. In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was 12, Devonshire-street.

Alexander, General Sir James Edward (1803 - 1885), author, traveller and soldier in the British Army was born on 16 October 1803 in Stirling, Scotland, as eldest son of Edward Alexander of Powis, Clackmannanshire.

He was educated at Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He joined the EIC Madras army as a cadet in 1820.

He served in the First Anglo-Burmese war, and left the company's service in 1825. He then joined the regular army in the 13th Light Dragoons and became aide-de-camp to Colonel Kinneir, envoy to Persia. He served in the Russo-Persian war of 1826 and the Russo-Turkish wars of 1829. Between service he became a member of RAS in 1827 and donated a copy of his *Travels from India to England* to the Society. He also co-founded the Royal Geographical Society in 1830.

His service then took him to South Africa, and finally to the Crimea. He was made a Knight Bachelor for his services in 1838. He was partly responsible for saving Cleopatra's Needle and bringing it to London in 1877, the same year that he retired from active service. He was given the honorary rank of General in 1881.

He died 2 April 1885 at Ryde, Isle of Wight.



James Edward Alexander, lithograph 1827 by Richard James Lane, National Portrait Gallery

Alexander, Josias Dupré MP (1771 - 1839), brother of Henry and James Alexander, J.D. Alexander joined the East India Company as a writer in Madras in 1796, and later became a private merchant in Calcutta. His time in India gained him huge wealth. He returned to the United Kingdom in 1818, and bought an estate in Hampshire. In 1820 he and his brother James jointly purchased the rotten borough of Old Sarum from their cousin the Earl of Caledon (also a member of the RAS) and both entered Parliament as MPs for Old Sarum in 1820.



Portrait of Josias Dupré Alexander,
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and he donated £20 to the Society. In 1825 he made a donation to the Society's library of a "Splendid manuscript in the Kumuva character."

With the support of the Chancellor, the 1st Baron Bexley (also a member of the RAS), Josias Dupré Alexander was elected as a director of East India Company in August 1820, a post he held until 1838. In 1828 he gave evidence in the Court of the King's Bench in the trial of various employees of the East India Company accused of selling patronage.

He died on 20 August 1839 at Stone House, Broadstairs, Kent. He and his wife Mary, who died in 1867, are buried in St Peter in Thanet church, Thanet, where there is an elaborate marble memorial to them

Address: 18, Hanover Square; in 1834 he lived at 7 Grosvenor Square. In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 the address of J.D. Alexander was 18, Hanover-square.

Alves, Captain Nathaniel (ca. 1788 - 1875), joined the East India Company in 1806 as a cadet in the Madras Army and later he was Captain in the Malwa Residency. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

He was appointed Political Agent in Bhopal in 1828 and in 1833 he arranged a settlement of the disputes within the family of Rajan Khan using the panchayat system of justice - documents relating to this are in the National Archives.

He became Lieutenant-Colonel in the East India Company, and was appointed agent to the Governor-general for the States of Rajputana 1834-1839. In 1838, as Lieutenant-Colonel and Agent he signed the treaty of Pergunnahs with Maha Rao Ram Sing of Kotah.

He married Emily Elizabeth Eleanor Greaves at Rondebosch, near Cape Town, South Africa, on 21 November 1839; she was the daughter of William Dodd Greaves, a surgeon in the Madras Army.

He retired to live in Peterley House, Bucks, then moved to St Helier, Jersey, but remained a JP for Bucks. He published two works: *India: Its Dangers considered*, in 1856 and *Thoughts on the Reconstruction of the Indian Army*, in 1861.

He died in 1875 in St Helier, Jersey.

Address: (1824/5) Madras; in 1834 he lived at Bhopal.

The RAS Library has

Journal of ship London, captain Walter Alves, along the north coast of Magindanao, October, 1764 by Alexander Dalrymple / Dalrymple, Alexander (1781) It is not known if this was a relative of our member, possibly no connection.

Amherst, The Right Honourable Lord (1773 - 1857), British diplomat and colonial administrator, was born 14 January 1773 in Bath as William Pitt Amherst. He was the grand-nephew of Jeffrey Amherst, 1st Baron Amherst, and succeeded to the title in 1797.

He was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, where he met George Canning (later a member of the RAS). He was, like John Chamier (also a RAS member), churchwarden at St. George's Hanover Square.

His diplomatic career began in 1809, when he was appointed ambassador to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in Naples. He left Naples in 1811 and in 1816 he was sent as ambassador extraordinary to the court of China with a view to establishing more satisfactory commercial relations. On arriving in China he was informed that he could only be admitted to the presence of the Emperor on condition of performing the kowtow, a ceremony which England considered degrading. Amherst, following the advice of Sir George Staunton (also a member of the RAS), who accompanied him as second commissioner, refused to consent, as Lord Macartney had done in 1793, unless the admission was made that his sovereign was entitled to the same show of reverence from a mandarin of his rank. In consequence of this he was not allowed to enter Peking and his mission was made impossible.

His ship, the *Alceste*, after a cruise along the coast of Korea and the Ryukyu Islands, was totally wrecked on the homeward voyage. Amherst and some of his shipwrecked companions escaped in the ship's boats to Batavia. The ship in which he eventually returned to England in 1817 stopped at St Helena and, as a consequence, he had several interviews with the emperor Napoleon (see Ellis's *Proceedings of the Late Embassy to China*, 1817; McLeod's *Narrative of a Voyage in H.M.S. Alceste*, 1817).

Curiously, several future members of the RAS were associated with the *Alceste*. They include Clarke Abel, John Francis Davis, Sir Henry Ellis and Thomas Manning. Also, Captain Basil Hall, who was in command of the naval sloop *Lyra* on the Amherst expedition, later became a member. See also Colin Campbell, who may also have been present on his brother's ship the *General Hewitt*.

Amherst was made Governor-General of India in August 1823, the same year in which he became a founding member of the RAS, and would maintain the position until February



Lord Amherst, by Sir Thomas Lawrence 1803, Toledo Museum of Art

1828. His appointment came on the heels of the removal of Governor-General Hastings in 1823. Hastings had clashed with London over the issue of lowering the pay of officers in the Bengal Army, and his refusal in the early 1820s to lower pay during peacetime resulted in Amherst's appointment.



Lord Amherst, frontispiece to "Journal of the Proceedings of the late Embassy to China" by Sir Henry Ellis, 1817

However, Amherst was an inexperienced governor who was, at least in the early days of his tenure in Calcutta, heavily influenced by senior military officers in Bengal such as Sir Edward Paget. Not willing to lose face when a territorial dispute involving the Anglo-Burmese border on the Naaf River spilled over into violence on 24 September 1823, he ordered the troops in.

The ensuing Anglo-Burmese war lasted two years, with 15,000 killed on the British side and cost 13 million pounds, contributing to an economic crisis in India. It was only due to the efforts of powerful friends such as George Canning and the Duke of Wellington (both also members of the RAS) that he was not recalled in disgrace at the end of the war. Amherst finally was replaced in 1828. On his return to England he lived in retirement till his death on 13 March 1857 at Knole House, Kent.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant, a striking black and white Asian species, was named for Amherst's first wife, Sarah Amherst (née Archer), whom he was married to from 1800 until her death in 1838.

Address: Calcutta; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was 66, Low. Grosvenor-street; in 1834 he lived at 66 Grosvenor Street.

The RAS library has:

Notes of proceedings and occurrences, during the British Embassy to Peking in 1816.

Staunton, Sir George Thomas, 1781-1859 (1824)

Anderson, The Reverend Robert (1785 - 1843), was a founding member of the RAS, clergyman and language scholar.

He studied at the Madras College upon joining the East India Company. He completed his studies in 1810 having won prize medals in Sanskrit, Persian and Bengali. After nine years of service in Madras, as Deputy Persian translator to the Government, he returned to Britain on grounds of ill-health and became a priest in the Church of England. He served as Assistant Professor of Oriental Languages in the East India Company's College, Haileybury, from 1820 to 1825. He was a friend of William Henry Babington of the East India Company's Baggage House (also a member of the RAS).

He was a founding member of the RAS in 1823 and in 1825 he made a donation to the Society of his *Rudiments of Tamul Grammar*.

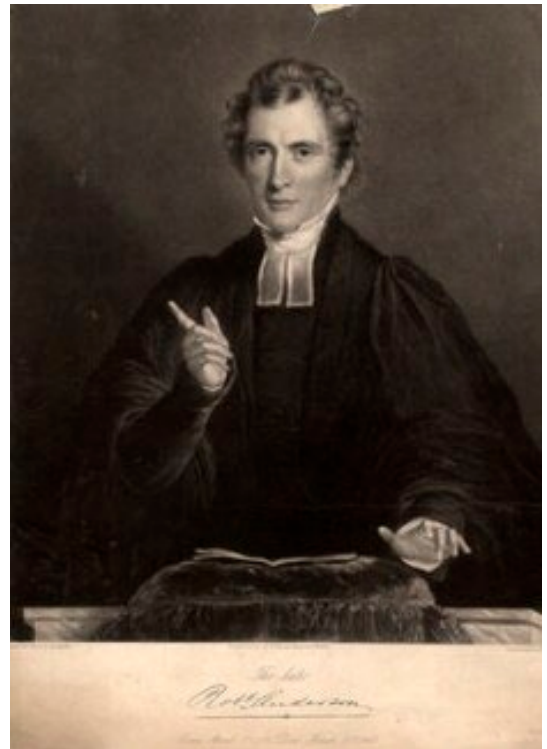
Recently ordained, Robert Anderson bought Holy Trinity Church in the centre of Brighton in 1825 and converted it into a private Anglican chapel. It was made very popular for some years by Anderson's sermons. He had two sons, both of whom went to Charterhouse School.

He died in 1843; his will, dated 25 April 1843, is in the National Archives.

The RAS Library has:

Rudiments of Tamul grammar: combining with the rules of kodun Tamul, or, the ordinary dialect : an introduction to shen Tamul, or, the elegant dialect of the language / by Robert Anderson (1821).

Address: East India College, Haileybury, Herts.; in 1834 he lived in Brighton.



Rev Robert Anderson, mezzotint 1843 by Henry Edward Dawe, National Portrait Gallery

Annesley, Sir James (1774 - 1847), member of the Madras medical establishment 1812 -1824, and of the Honourable East India Company's board until 1838, was born in County Down, Ireland around 1774 to the Honourable Marcus Annesley.

Annesley was educated at Trinity College and the College of Surgeons in Dublin, also at the Windmill Street School in London.

On 29 April 1799, he was nominated to the medical service of the Honourable East India Company in Madras by Sir Walter Farquhar. He arrived in India in December 1800. He was at once appointed to the Trichinopoly Corps in Southern India where he saw frontline action throughout 1801. He served with a battalion of native infantry at various stations from 1802 until he was invalided home in 1805.

Two years later he returned to India and was appointed Garrison Surgeon at Masulipatam where he made himself well acquainted with native diseases and their treatment. He took careful notes of every case which came under his care, recording the symptoms, the remedies used and the results.

Annesley was placed in medical charge of the 78th British Regiment during the Java expedition in 1811. He had the satisfaction of landing 1,070 men fit for duty out of a strength of 1,100, and since the field hospital was in an unsatisfactory condition, Annesley, although the junior officer, was ordered to take command. It is on record that in ten days he had the hospital in proper order with its 1,400 - 1,500 patients clothed, fed and treated.

He was soon ordered back to Madras to superintend a field hospital established by the Government for the native troops who had lost their health in the expedition to Java. His administration proved so successful that he was publicly thanked by the Commander-in-Chief for "the ability, exertion and humane attention displayed... equally honourable to his professional talents and public zeal, which His Excellency trusts will entitle him to the good opinion and favourable notice of government". Native troops had been employed on Foreign Service, and as a result of Annesley's treatment the Madras Sepoys were said to be willing to volunteer for any service in any part of the world.

In 1812 Annesley joined the Madras European Regiment, with which he remained until 1817, when the last Mahratta and Pindaree War began. Annesley was appointed Superintending Surgeon to the advanced divisions of the Army and served in the field until the end of 1818, being repeatedly mentioned in general orders for his zeal and ability. He was appointed Garrison Surgeon at Fort St George on his return to Madras and placed in charge of the General Hospital where he remained until he was invalided home in 1824. On leaving India on furlough, the Admiralty presented him with a piece of plate to the value of



James Annesley, engraving by J Cochran, Wellcome Trust

one hundred guineas “as a mark of the sense their Lordships entertained of his gratuitous medical attendance on the officers and men of His Majesty's ships in Madras Roads, 1823”.

He was elected to RAS membership at a General Meeting on 5 March 1825 and paid subscriptions for 1825 – 1827. In December 1825 he donated his *Sketches of the Diseases of India*, and in December 1828 he donated the two volumes of his *Researches into the Diseases of India* to the RAS.

Annesley returned to India in 1829 and was immediately appointed to examine the Medical Reports of former years with the view to selecting such cases as might tend to throw light on the diseases of India. He made a digest of the Reports from 1786 to 1829 and also reported upon the climate, healthiness, etc., of the hills in the Madras presidency. The digest occupied twelve volumes and was accompanied by four volumes of medical observations, all of the highest value. The digest had been made without cost to the Government but on its completion the Court of Directors of the HEIC voted Annesley an honorarium of 5000 rupees.

He was appointed a member of the Medical Board in 1833, and, in 1838, was permitted to retire from the Honourable Company's service with the pension of his rank, having served in India for thirty-seven years. In 1844 he was knighted upon his return to England.

During his later years he lived at 6 Albany, Piccadilly. He died at Florence on December 14 1847.

He published:

Sketches of the Most Prevalent Diseases of India, Comprising a Treatise on Epidemic Cholera of the East, London, 1825, 2nd ed., 1828.

Researches into the Causes, Nature and Treatment of the more Prevalent Diseases of India, and of Warm Climates Generally, 4to, 2 vols., with 40 coloured engravings, London, 1828.

The RAS Library has:

Voyages and travels to India, Ceylon, the Red Sea, Abyssinia, and Egypt in the years 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, and 1806 / In three volumes. Vol. I. [-III.]. / by George Viscount Valentia. (1809.)

(Viscount Valentia was the courtesy title of George Annesley until 1816, when he became Earl of Mountnorris)

Antrobus, Sir Edmund 1st Bart. FRS (1752 - 1826), bank clerk and first Baronet of Antrobus, was born around 1752.

The eldest of three brothers, he became a clerk in Thomas Coutts' bank and was taken into partnership in 1777. Along with Coutts and Farrers, the solicitors, he was personal mortgagee for the Duke of York and Albany's acquisition of the Albany in Piccadilly in 1792. William Farrer was a member of the RAS.

The Antrobus Baronetcy was created on 22 May 1815. Antrobus was a Fellow of the Royal Society as well as a founding member of the RAS in 1823 and The Athenaeum in 1824.

When he died he left a fortune estimated at £700,000 and newly-acquired estates in Wiltshire and Roxburghshire. The 5000-acre estate in Wiltshire which he acquired from the Duke of Queensbury in 1824 included Stonehenge. The family was proud to own "the premier relic of antiquity in the land".

He died unmarried on 6 February 1826.

Address: 146, Piccadilly (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821).



Edmund Antrobus, by Sir Thomas Lawrence, in the collection of Eton College

Arbuthnot, George (1802 - 1865), distinguished member of the permanent British civil service, was born 20 November 1802 in Surbiton to General Sir Robert Arbuthnot KCB.

He was appointed by Lord Liverpool to a junior clerkship in the Treasury on 18 July 1820 and served with that department until his death in 1865. By then, he was auditor of the civil list and also secretary to the ecclesiastical commissioners.

He worked in the Treasury at the Colonial Office in Hong Kong when the HSBC charter was first drawn up; Arbuthnot Road, Hong Kong, was named after him.

Arbuthnot was later private secretary to Sir Robert Peel.

In 1824 he was elected to membership of RAS at the General Meeting on the 3 April and was admitted 1 May; he paid his subscriptions for 1825 and 1826 in 1826, plus an extra payment for 1825

He was twice offered the appointment of financial member of the council of the Governor-General of India, first in 1860 and then again in 1865, but was obliged to turn down both offers on health grounds.

He wrote a retrospective economic analysis of Peel's 1844 act regulating the issue of banknotes entitled *Sir Robert Peel's Act of 1844, Regulating the Issue of Bank Notes, Vindicated*, Longman, 1857.

He died on 28 July 1865, in Surbiton, Surrey.

Address: 25, Upper Wimpole Street (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829).



Portrait of George Arbuthnot by Sir William Beechey

Arnold, John Roger (1769 - 1843), watchmaker of Old Bond Street and son of John Arnold (1736-1799) was born in London. He learnt the art of watchmaking from his father and the eminent watchmaker Abraham Louis Breguet. His father had designed the first "Chronometer," for which he received a posthumous award from the British Board of Longitude.

J.R. Arnold worked with his father under the company name Arnold & Son, and continued the business after his father's death in 1799. In 1817 he became Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. He continued making chronometers until about 1840, producing around 60 instruments a year.

He was elected member of RAS at the General Meeting 11 December 1824 and paid his subscriptions for 1824, 1825 and 1826.

A Major General John Arnold KCB is listed in the army list for 1819 but this is probably not the same man.

He died 1843.

Address: Nil (1824); in 1825, he lived at 25, Old Bond Street



Pocket watch by John Roger Arnold, 1835
Wikipedia

Auber, Peter (1770 - 1866), secretary to the East India Company and author, was born into a family of Huguenot descent in 1770. He was educated at Englefield Green, where he became friendly with poet Thomas Love Peacock. He would later help Peacock to become an employee of the East India Company where the poet was to serve in various important administrative posts.



East-India House, London, watercolour by George Malton, Yale Centre for British Art

As secretary to the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company he reported the

famous epigram on the Macartney mission to Peking: "It has just been observed that the Ambassador was received with the utmost politeness, treated with the utmost hospitality, watched with the utmost vigilance, and dismissed with the utmost civility."

In his 1837 work *Rise and Progress of the British power in India*, vol. 2, page 245, he uses the term "the Great Game" to refer to the struggle between Britain and Russia for dominance in Central Asia. The term had been used earlier but this work gave it more currency.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for the years 1823 through to 1827. In November 1826 he donated his *Analysis of the Constitution of the East-India Company* to the Society and in February 1829 donated the *Supplement to an Analysis of the Constitution of the East India Company, 1828*.

He also published: *China: an outline of its government, laws, and policy, and of the British and foreign embassies to, and intercourse with, that empire*, 1834.

He died in 1866.

The RAS Library has:

China: an outline of its government, laws and policy, and of the British and foreign embassies to, and intercourse with, that empire / by Peter Auber. (1834)

Rise and progress of the British power in India / by Peter Auber. (1837)

Address: East-India House