

**Raban, Colonel Sir George Higgins CB** (1765 -1829), soldier with the Bengal Establishment of the East India Company, was born in 1765.

He arrived in India in May 1782 to join the Bengal Army as a cadet. In 1783 he was appointed Lieutenant Fireworker – the equivalent of a second lieutenant. He was sent to Prince of Wales Island (modern Penang) in 1786 with a garrison and fought two actions against Malay forces. He served under Lord Lake during the Mahratta war, at the battle of Delhi, the capture of Agra, etc. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1813 and then to KCB in June 1815. He retired from the East India Company's service in 1817.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and served on committee in 1827. He was also a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

He died on 8 July 1829 at Beauchamp Lodge, Somerset.

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) 18 King Street, St James's; he lived at 5 Savile Row from 1825 to 1829; 5 Savile Street (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829)

**Raffles, Sir Thomas Stamford FRS FAS**

(1781 - 1826), British statesman, Lieutenant-Governor of the Dutch East Indies and Bencoolen and founder of modern Singapore, was born on a ship off the coast of Jamaica on 6 July 1781.

His father was Captain Benjamin Raffles who had traded successfully in the West Indies until he was ruined by the American Revolution. Raffles was sent to school in England but left at the age of 14 to start work as a clerk in the London offices of the East India Company. Ten years later, in 1805, he was sent to Prince of Wales Island (now Penang) as assistant secretary to the Governor. He married on the eve of his departure for the colony. In Penang, he met Thomas Otho Travers, who was to be his military companion and aide-de-camp for the next twenty years.



Sir Stamford Raffles by George Francis Joseph, 1817  
National Portrait Gallery

Lord Minto, then Governor-General of India, chose him to go to Malacca (then a Dutch colony) as an EIC official in order to gather intelligence to use against the Dutch. He had to leave in 1811 when Malacca fell to the French forces. He organised an attack by British forces against the combined Dutch and French forces holding Java; this was a surprisingly rapid success and he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the British-occupied Java. He proceeded to attack some of the native rulers, whose headquarters were at Yogyakarta, which caused much hostility towards the British. However, he was in some ways an effective governor: he tried to reduce slavery, in spite of owning many slaves himself, and surveyed the ancient monuments including Borobodur.

His wife died in Java, in 1814, and he returned to England having been dismissed by the EIC in 1815 for financial irregularities. In England he wrote his *History of Java* in 1817. In late 1817 he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Bencoolen, a British possession in Sumatra where the previous Resident had been murdered, and left England immediately. He set about reforming the administration in Bencoolen in spite of the difficult terrain and lack of possibilities for trade. He abolished slavery and spent his time searching for a more suitable place to set up a British garrison. This led him to found Singapore.

William Farquhar, the Resident of Malacca, had been trying to set up a trading post south of Malacca and had signed a treaty to this effect with the local Rajah. Raffles was sent to command this post in 1818, and founded the town of Singapore. He secured the transfer of the area to the EIC, and appointed Farquhar as Resident there. Raffles planned the town of Singapore, constructed the infrastructure with roads, schools and churches, and invited

missionaries and traders to settle. He also tried, with the help of the leading local merchant John Palmer and then Resident in Penang John Monckton Coombs (also a future RAS member), to deal with problems in the north of territory at Achin where a treaty was signed with the local Rajah in 1819.

He was appointed Governor-General of Bencoolen again from 1820 to 1822; during this time he struggled to deal with the Chinese farming population. These years marked a turn in his fortunes: the Company was not satisfied with the financial results of his administration and he suffered family tragedy when his son and daughter both died of dysentery. He returned to Singapore, where he drafted a new constitution after the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824 established the Dutch in Sumatra and the British in Malaysia and Singapore.

He returned to England, where Farquhar made unsuccessful attempts to discredit him.

He helped to found the Zoological Society of London and became its first president. He also founded the London Zoo together with (among others) Sir Robert Peel and Joseph Sabine, both members of the RAS.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid composition subscription as a non-resident member. He was also a member of the Literary Society of Bombay in the same year.

He died on 5 July 1826 in his property in Mill Hill, north of London, but was refused burial in the parish church by the vicar who came from a family of slave-traders; eventually he was buried in a mausoleum in the churchyard. When the church was renovated in 1914, his body was located in a vault and he was reinterred inside the building. A large sculpture of him was placed in Westminster Abbey in 1832. His statue, erected in Singapore to celebrate Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1885, was removed by the Japanese during their occupation of Singapore, but re-erected after the war.

The RAS library has:

Memoir of the life and public services of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles: particularly in the government of Java, 1811-1816, Bencoolen and its dependencies, 1817-1824, with details of the commerce and resources of the Eastern Archipelago, and selections from his correspondence / by his Widow. (1835)

Raffles' ark redrawn: natural history drawings from the collection of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles / H.J. Noltie. (2009)

Substance of a minute recorded by the Honourable Thomas Stamford Raffles ... on the 11th February 1814: on the introduction of an improved system of internal management and the establishment of a land rental on the island of Java: to which are added several of the most interesting documents therein referred to. / Raffles, Thomas Stamford & Staunton, George Thomas (1814)

Hikayat Dalang Penguda Asmara, vol i (cf. Raffles Malay 20) / Raffles, Thomas Stamford  
Hikayat Dalang Penguda Asmara vol. ii (cf. Raffles Malay 19) / Raffles, Thomas Stamford

Code of provisional regulations, for the judicial and police departments, at Batavai, Samarang, and Sourabaya : containing rules for the practice, and mode of proceeding, in civil and criminal cases, in the several courts of justice : police regulations ... in the different districts throughout the island of Java, made and passed by ... Thomas Stamford Raffles ... : in pursuance, and under the authority of the proclamation, of ... Gilbert Lord Minto, dated the 11th September 1811, 1812. / Raffles, Thomas Stamford, Sir, 1781-1826 (1812.)

The native policies of Sir Stamford Raffles in Java and Sumatra: an economic interpretation / by John Bastin. (1957)

Raffles / by Maurice Collis. (1966)

The first printing of Sir Stamford Raffles' Minute on the Establishment of A Malay College at Singapore / John Bastin. (1999)

Raffles: 1781-1826 / by R. Coupland. (1926)

East-Indian economic problems of the Age of Cornwallis & Raffles / by H.R.C. Wright. (1961)

Raffles' Ideas on the Land Rent System in Java and the Mackenzie Land Tenure Commission. / by John Bastin (1954)

The RAS collections also have various manuscripts presented to the society by Raffles, and an engraving of *Rafflesia arnoldii*, which he presented to the society in January 1826.

*Address:* (1823, 1824) Bencoolen, Sumatra and 23 Lower Grosvenor Street; (1825) 23 Lower Grosvenor Street (only Lady Raffles was living there in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829)

**Raine, Crosier** (ca. 1773 - 1839), was born around 1773. He was a descendant of Robert Surtees, the historian of Durham. He was, like several members of his family, on the committee of the Surtees Society when it was established in 1834. He was the brother of the Rev. William Raine of Halford Warwickshire and of Thomas Surtees Raine of Foster Place Dublin (Durham Record Office).

He was a member of RAS in 1825 and paid fee and subscription in 1825. He was also a member of the Inner Temple and of the RSA in 1831.

The Durham Record Office has a mass of material about the Raine family: some samples of his correspondence are given below:

He wrote to James Raine in 1830 regarding his application for membership of the Athenaeum.

In 1826 he was in Rome and wrote from there on 3 January to his niece Elisabeth Raine describing his visit; he wrote again to her in July 1832, sending her silk for a dress; he wrote again 15 June 1836 before leaving for the continent.

He died on 21 November 1839 in Maddox Street. His will, dated 19 December 1838, is in the National Archives. He left the property he owned in Grimsby Yorkshire to his brother William of Widford Gloucestershire.

*Address:* (1825) Batsford, near Moreton in the Marsh, Gloucestershire; Hanover Square; his will of 1838 gives his address as 22 Maddox Street, Hanover Square; in 1834 his address was 24 Argyll Street; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 he is listed jointly with H. North and John Smart at 11 King's Bench Walk, Temple

**Ranken, John** (1780 - 1845), British merchant, was born in 1780. He was presumably the brother of Colonel William Ranken, as they lived at the same address.

He is listed in the List of Carthusians as being a student at Charterhouse from 1801 to 1808. In 1815 he was a member of the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies, and in 1824-5 he was a subscriber to the Society for the Conversion of the Negro Slaves in the British West India Islands.

He became a partner with William Beckford, a “landed proprietor, Jamaica proprietor and West Indies merchant” in the firm Beckford & Ranken, which traded in slaves from Africa to Jamaica. In 1833 he collected compensation for several former slave-owners in Hampshire. Beckford and Ranken arranged to send four vessels from London to Sierra Leone to bring immigrant labour to the West Indies (Jamaica Almanac 1842). The partnership of William Beckford and John Ranken was dissolved on 30 July 1843.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid 3 years’ subscription in 1827.

He died on 19 April 1845, leaving an estate of £50,000. Ranken’s will includes this sentence about his former partner, William Beckford: “I further earnestly pray God in his infinite mercy may change the sordid and avaricious disposition in all things the more particularly where any self-interest is in any degree concerned of my late partner William Beckford and instil in him a more just and correct idea of what is right and what is wrong.” Later, the Times identified him as “a West Indian merchant who continued to carry on his business until a very late period of his life”. His will was contested by his niece whom he had “disinherited while deranged”.

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) 52 Charles Street, Bedford Square; in the 1828 list of subscribers to the Society for the Conversion of Negro Slaves, his address is 6 Copthall-Court. In 1822 he subscribed to the “History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County of York”, with his address given as 35 Abchurch Lane, Lombard Street

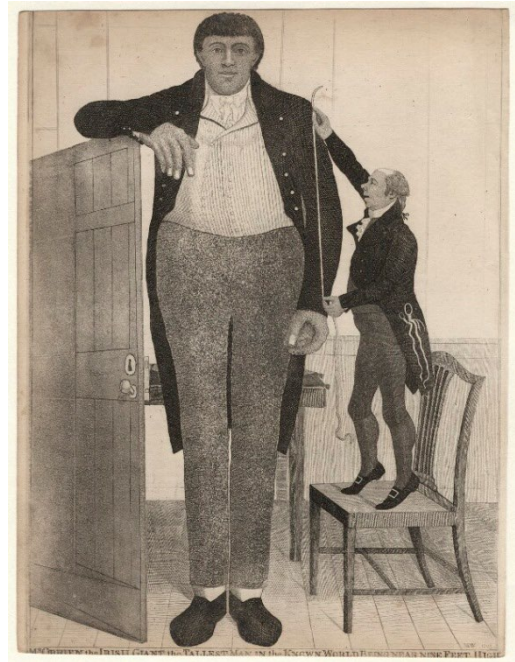
**Ranken, Colonel William** (DOB unknown - 1831), soldier with the East India Company, was born in Armagh. He was presumably the brother of John Ranken, as they lived at the same address.

He served for many years in Bengal, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and in April 1824 donated his copy of *The hedáaya, or guide: a commentary on the Mussulman laws / translated by order of the Governor-General and council of Bengal by Charles Hamilton*. (MDCCXCI [1791]).

He was also a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

He died on 20 October 1831 at Charles Street, Berkeley Square. A stone memorial to Lieutenant-Colonel William Ranken 1831 is in Dulwich Old Burial Ground.



**William Ranken measuring Patrick Cotter, by John Kay 1803; National Portrait Gallery**

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) 52 Charles Street, Bedford Square (51 Charles Street Berkeley Square in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821, 1824 and 1829); Berkeley Square RAS Journal 1827)

**Raper, Lieutenant-Colonel Felix Vincent** (1778 - 1849), soldier in the East India Service, was born in 1778 in Macao, China. The Raper family were a Buckinghamshire Huguenot family who were often linked to, and some directors of, the Bank of England, as well as being silk merchants in China.

He was naturalised in 1795, at the age of 17, following a petition to the House of Lords by his guardian Matthew Raper.

He entered the army of the Bengal Presidency in 1797 as an ensign and rose through the ranks; he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1798, to Captain in 1809, to Major in 1819, to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1824 and to Colonel in 1829. As Colonel, in 1835 he moved from the 42<sup>nd</sup> to the 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Native Infantry (National Archives of India).

He was part of the group mapping the Himalaya in 1808-10 and trying to locate the source of the Ganges under the direction of Robert Colebrooke, Surveyor General of Bengal. He is referred to as Captain Raper in Elphinstone's *Account of the Kingdom of Caubul* (London 1819) where he was assistant to Lieutenant Macartney in supervising the geography of the area. He was said to be "already known to the public by his Account of a Journey to the Sources of the Ganges".

When Richard Strachey (also a member of RAS) resigned as Resident in Lucknow in 1817, Felix Raper became Acting Resident at a salary of 1,500 rupees a month from January 1817 to April 1818; he became Resident proper in 1820 and served until 1823. On 13 February 1824 he was appointed Political Agent at Jyepoor.

He became a member of RAS in 1825.

His guardian, Matthew Raper, died in 1826. He had held the Manor of Clopton Suffolk which devolved to Felix Vincent Raper. He held court for the manor in 1830, 1835, 1839 and finally on 31 May 1849.

In 1841, the Supreme Court at Fort William Calcutta ruled that Major-General Raper, then Government Agent at Moorshedabad, should pay 4,500 rupees to the Sheriff of Calcutta, W.C. Braddon, being money in his hands from the estate of Nawab Zoolphacar, who had died earlier that year. The case was contested by the General.

He died on 14 November 1849 at 2 Norfolk Crescent, Hyde Park. His will, which he wrote whilst living in Richmond, Surrey, is in the National Archives.

*Address:* (1825) Nil. In the RAS Journal for 1834, he is listed as living in Richmond, Surrey.



**Raper, Matthew FRS FAS** (1742 - 1826), Sinologist, civil servant in the East India Company and director of the Bank of England, was born on 24 September 1742. He was the grandson of Matthew Raper FRS, (1725 – 1778), the antiquarian, who was author of many learned articles published in the Transactions of the Royal Society. The Rapers were a Buckinghamshire Huguenot family who were often linked to the Bank of England and were silk merchants in China.

Raper was a junior supercargo with the East India Company in Canton in 1779. He was a member of the Council of the EIC in Canton from 1767 until he returned to England in 1781.

He was interested in many things Chinese, especially Chinese music, and was a skilled amateur musician. He collected Chinese musical instruments and sent a chest of them back to Charles Burney (also a member of the RAS) in England in 1777. Burney later mentions in his will “my two gongs and oriental instruments sent from Canton by Mr Matthew Raper and two of inferior quality brought by Lord Macartney when he returned from his Chinese embassy”.

Raper was also interested in the weather in China: “he kept careful records from 1771 to 1774, noting the temperature and barometric pressure three times a day. His manuscript records are still preserved by the Royal Society” (*Notes on export paintings of Chinese musical instruments* by Patrick Conner of Martyn Gregory Gallery, in the catalogue of Chinese Export Fine Art at the Guandong Museum).

In the preface to his book on “The Characteristic Merits of the Chinese Language” (1801) Antonio Montucci thanks Matthew Raper of Stratford Place “my most strenuous patron, who has resided at Canton, China, for upwards of thirty years and who has deposited in my hands such inestimable treasures of Chinese literature”.

In 1795 Raper petitioned Parliament to allow his ward, Felix Vincent Raper, to be naturalized. There is no suggestion of what the relationship was between Matthew Raper, guardian, and his ward, Felix Vincent Raper. Felix was born in Macao, China in 1778 when Matthew Raper was working as a supercargo in Canton.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and in June 1824 donated eleven Chinese books (285 volumes in all) to the Society, together with a Chinese abacus which he had made himself. He was also a member (later, Vice-President) of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and a member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

In February 1826, John Williams, aged 18, was indicted for stealing five spoons and a pair of sugar tongs, from the house of Matthew Raper in Wimpole Street; evidence against him was provided by Raper’s butler, William Evans. Williams was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months’ imprisonment.

Matthew Raper died in 1826.

The RAS library has:

An account of the Rosetta stone, in three languages, which was brought to England in the year 1802. / by order of the president and council of the Society of Antiquaries of London.. (MDCCCXI [1811]) (author: Matthew Raper)

Dissertation on the gipsies : being an historical enquiry, concerning the manner of life, economy, customs and conditions of these people in Europe, and their origin / written in German, by Heinrich Moritz Gottlieb Grellmann ; translated into English by Matthew Raper, Esq. F.R.S. & A.S. (1787)

This volume was in the collection of Sir William Jones of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) 13 Wimpole Street (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); earlier his address was Stratford Place

**Ravenshaw, John Goldsborough** (1777 - 1840), civil servant in the East India Company, was born on 14 November 1777.

He joined the EIC as a writer in 1796. He was Collector in various districts, including Arcot and Pondicherry. He retired from India in 1813 and joined the board of the company in London in 1819.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823. He was also a member of the Literary Society of Bombay in the same year.

He became Chairman of the East India Company in 1832. As chairman he devoted much of his time to the company's college at Haileybury. He also supervised the settlement of the Company's charter in 1833.

He died on 6 June 1840 in Crawley, Sussex and was buried at All Saints Church, Fulham. His will, dated 5 July 1840, is in the National Archives.

The Nottingham University Archive has letters from him to Lord William Bentinck (a member of the RAS); the West Sussex record Office has letters from him to the Duke of Richmond.

*Address:* (1823) Nil; later he lived in Harley Street, with his family of six sons and six daughters; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 he is listed at 9 Lower Berkeley Street; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 he is at 27 Edwards Street, Portman Square

**Rawlinson, William Henry** – Was a member of RAS in 1825.

It has not been possible to identify this member conclusively.

Two wills of people named Rawlinson are listed in the City of London Archives:

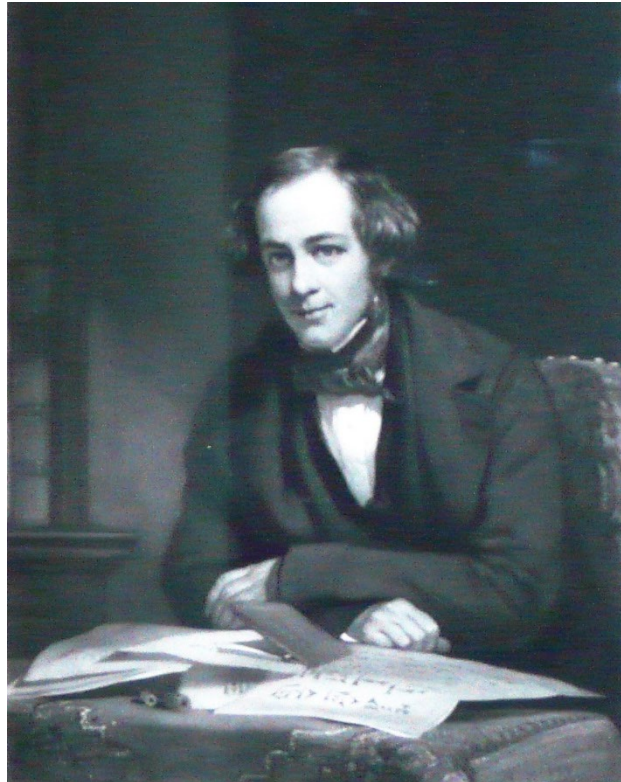
- (1) Henry Rawlinson, Bachelor, January 1791, Holy Trinity Minorities, London
- (2) William Rawlinson of 3 Regents Terrace, White Conduit Fields, died in July 1838.

The following may be related to our member:

Henry Rawlinson (b. 1813), the Brother of William Edward Rawlinson, and Rector of Symondsburry (List of Carthusians).

William Edward Rawlinson, brother of Henry Rawlinson and Sir Christopher Rawlinson, born 1808 went to school at Charterhouse in 1819; he was a Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Regiment of the Indian Army and Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Bombay Army; he died in 1850.

Sir Henry Rawlinson 1810 – 1895 was an officer in the East India Company army and noted Assyrian scholar. He was a member of the Numismatic Society of London in 1861, when his address was 39 Hill Street, Berkeley Square. He was the person who discovered cuneiform inscriptions at the rock of Behistun in 1835.



Sir Henry Rawlinson, by Samuel Cozens, 1860 RAS Collection

**Redhead, Thomas** (dates unknown), was a civil servant with the East India Company and merchant.

Redhead went to Calcutta originally as a writer with the EIC and became the secretary to the Governor of Madras. He was dismissed when Sir Thomas Rumbold (also a member of the RAS) became governor in 1778 as he had no confidence in Redhead. There were allegations that Redhead had received bribes from a notable Indian prince.

A merchant in Madras, he was a principal founder of the Carnatic Bank in 1788, along with John Chamier, Josias du Pré Porcher, Thomas Cockburn, Nathaniel Kindersley, and others.

In 1802 a partnership was formed in London called Redhead and Co. The partners were John Forbes and Thomas Wilkinson, late of Bombay, Henry Redhead, late of Calcutta, and Thomas Redhead, late of Madras. The aims of the partnership were: "They undertake not to involve themselves as principals in ship-owning or trade and offer their Agency service in London to export-import companies in India". In March 1803, Josias du Pré Porcher joined the partnership which was then called "Porcher, Redhead & Co"; it was based in Devonshire Square. Thomas Redhead resigned from the partnership in 1805 due to ill-health. From 1809 the firm was called "Porcher & Co." In 1823 he held \$15,500 of state loans of Pennsylvania.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscription as a resident member. In 1825 he was a member of the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies. Unfortunately he was owed £243.14.5 in the crash of the bank Marsh, Sibbald and Co. in 1824.

*Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 18 Nottingham Place (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)*

**Reeves, John FRS FSA** (1774 - 1856), English naturalist, was born on 1 May 1774 in London.

He studied at Christ's Hospital but left school at 15 and joined the firm of a London tea broker, Richard Pinchback, as an apprentice. He moved to the East India Company's London offices as a tea inspector.

He left London after his wife died and moved to Canton in 1811/12 as assistant tea inspector. He would work as a tea merchant for the East India Company in Canton until 1831. He was an enthusiastic naturalist and, before leaving for China, had met Sir Joseph Banks who appointed him one of his botanist correspondents.

Reeves was also interested in art and he selected Chinese artists to prepare drawings of plants, which he sent back to Banks and the RHS. Reeves, who was fluent in Chinese, kept a careful eye on the artists, whose drawings "were executed in his own house, under his own superintendence, in order to secure himself against the deceptions practised by the native draughtsmen" (Obituary of Reeves, March 1856, in the *Gardener's Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette*).

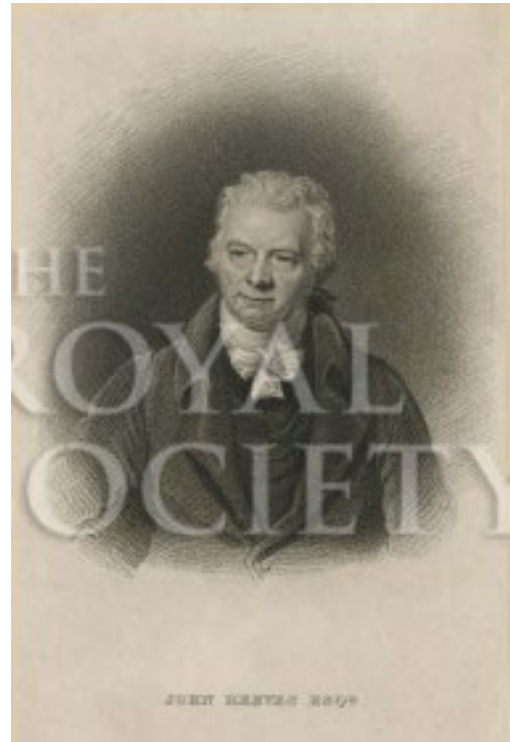
He also collected specimens of plants, including the *Wisteria sinensis* which he had propagated from cuttings taken from an old plant growing in the garden of his Chinese colleague, Conseequa, in Canton. Two of these he rooted and sent back to London, where they were immediately put into commercial nurseries for propagation and distribution.

In China, the government restricted the movements of foreigners, in particular regarding the cultivation and preparation of tea, but Reeves was able to get information from his Chinese employees to enable him to study the cultivation of this precious crop.

While in China he collected a vast number of paintings of flowers and fauna; he corresponded with the Royal Horticultural Society and sent specimens and illustrations back to them in London. His son continued the work and the Reeves collection of horticultural artwork is lodged in the Natural History Museum in London.

He became a member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscription as a non-resident member from 1823 to 1825. In January 1825 he donated a series of drawings and maps, together with his list "Names of the Stars in Chinese", to the Society.

He died on 22 March 1856 in Clapham, London.



Portrait of John Reeves in the collection of the Royal Society

*Address:* (1824, 1825) Canton, China; Peckham, Surrey; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address is Parliament Place; in 1834 his address was Clapham, Surrey

**Reid, Alexander** (dates unknown) was a member of RAS in 1825. There is very little information available on his life.

In 1832 he testified to the Parliamentary Committee investigating the work of the East India Company that he was a salt manufacturer in Cheshire, and exported salt worldwide from Liverpool.

His daughter, Eliza, wife of George Adam, died suddenly in Bayswater on 17 June 1836.

In 1844 Alexander Reid, of the Bengal establishment, was granted an extra six months' leave. In 1845, Alexander Reid, surgeon of the EIC, was at home on furlough.

Also to note:

Alexander Reid married Mary Veitch and they were the parents of Thomas Reid. They established the Govan Dye Works under the name of Alexander Reid and Co. in 1829. The Craigton Cemetery Company Glasgow was established in 1871, with Thomas Reid (1831-1900) of Alexander Reid & Co, Turkey Red dyers of Govan Dye Works as chairman. Thomas Reid was also chairman of the Nobel Explosives Co. Ltd and Nobel Dynamite Trust Co. . (Craigton Cemetery Heritage Trail)

There are several monuments in St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh to people called Reid, and one to Alexander Reid LLD, died 29 June 1860 aged 58.

*Address:* (1825) Nil; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 and 1824 an A. Reid is listed at 16 Russell-Square and Lionsdown Barnet, Herts., but he is not listed in 1829



**Reid, Nevile** (DOB unknown - 1839), was an English brewer. He was the eldest son of Andrew Reid, of Lionsdown, Herts. Andrew Reid was a director of the brewers Watney, Combe and Reid, who died in 1841.

Nevile Reid & Co. Ltd were proprietors of a Brewery in Windsor, Berks, in 1810; they were acquired by Nine Elms Brewery in 1918 and eventually amalgamated to form Watney, Combe & Reid.

In 1821 Nevile Reid was a Governor of the Asylum for the Support and Education of Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor. He married Hon Caroline Napier at Ewelme Oxfordshire on 5 April 1825.

He was a member of RAS in 1825 and paid admission fee and annual subscription in 1824 to 1826.

Nevile Reid & Co. traded mainly as a bank; it was acquired by Williams, Deacon in 1843, and then eventually became part of Barclays. Early banking records are held by the Berkshire Records Office; later material (after 1838) is in the National Archives.

He died in 1839.

*Address:* (1825) Great East Cheap; in 1837 he was living at 2 Suffolk Lane

**Reid, Sir George, Bart.** (1800 - 1855), was a member of RAS in 1825 and paid subscriptions from 1825 to 1827. There is very little information available on his life.

He was probably the brother of Sir John Rae Reid, MP, Bart. His grandfather, Thomas Reid, was Chairman of the East India Company in 1816 and again in 1821. A forceful businessman, he had developed the family firm of Reid, Irving and Company, based at Broad Street Buildings in the City of London. He also acquired estates in Surrey at Ewell and Woodmanstone. He died in 1823, just after having been awarded the baronetcy, and devised the Woodmanstone estate to his younger son, George.

The firm of Reid Irving failed in 1847, and Sir John Rae Reid was disqualified as an MP.

George Reid died in 1855.

*Address:* (1825) Broad Street, Ewell; 1829 George Reid, Esq., 8 Clarence Terrace and Woodmanstone, Surrey (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829)

**Remington, James George** (dates unknown), was the director of the London banking firm of Remington, Stephenson, Remington & Toulmin, which was based from 1824 to 1828 at 69 Lombard Street.

By 1828, the Remington family was no longer active in the bank, which was directed by another partner, Rowland Stephenson MP. That year the bank almost collapsed when it was discovered that Stephenson had absconded with large sums of money belonging to depositors in the bank, in order to pay his gambling debts. It transpired that he had envelopes with the names of depositors and the sums of exchequer bills enclosed written on the outside, which his partners assumed to indicate the contents of the envelopes, but which in fact were empty. He fled to Savannah, Georgia, and was allowed to stay in the USA. Many smaller country banks had funds in Remingtons, which almost precipitated a general banking crash. Remarkably, the failure of the bank had very little effect on the stock market.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid admission fee and subscription in 1824. He was also a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

*Address:* (1824, 1825) 71 Old Broad Street; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 James Remington is living at 19 Gloucester Place, Portman Square

**Rennell, Major James FRS** (1742 - 1830), English geographer, historian and a pioneer of oceanography, was born on 3 December 1742 in Chudleigh, Devon.

His father died shortly after he was born, and he was brought up by the local vicar. He entered the Navy in 1756 and saw service in the Channel. He was sent to the East India station in 1760 and served under Captain Hyde Parker. He became so proficient at nautical surveying that he was seconded to the East India Company, serving on one of their ships in the Philippines. He joined the company permanently when he saw there was little chance of promotion in the Royal Navy, and at the age of 21 was appointed Surveyor-General of Bengal, and commissioned in the Bengal Army.



Portrait bust of James Rennell, ca. 1820, by an unknown artist, National Portrait Gallery

He spent 13 years surveying in Bengal, but was wounded in a skirmish with tribesmen, and found it impossible to continue with his work. He married Jane Thackeray in Calcutta in October 1772: she was the great-aunt of William Makepeace Thackeray, the novelist (see entry at Becher).

He retired to England in 1777. The voyage from Calcutta took him to St Helena, where he was able to observe ocean currents; these were to interest him for the rest of his life, which he spent in his house on Suffolk Street in London, continuing his research using the archives of East India House. Known firstly for his work on mapping Bengal, in England he devoted himself to the study of ocean currents, in particular in the Atlantic; he produced a chart of Atlantic currents which was the beginning of the science of oceanography. A current found just south of the Isles of Scilly is called Rennell's Current, after him.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

He died on 29 March 1830.

The RAS library has:

Memoir of a map of Hindoostan, or, the Mogul's empire: with an examination of some positions in the former system of Indian geography : and some illustrations of the present one : and a complete index of names to the map / by James Rennell F.R.S., Late Major of Engineers and Surveyor General in Bengal. (MDCCLXXXIII [1783].)

Memoir of a map of Hindoostan, or, The Mogul empire : with an introduction, illustrative of the geography and present division of that country: and a map of the countries situated between the head of the Indus, and the Caspian Sea / by James Rennell, F.R.S. late major of

engineers, and Surveyer General in Bengal. To which is added, an appendix, containing an account of the Ganges and Burrampooter rivers. (MDCCXCII [1792])

This edition was given to the society by George Staunton in 1824.

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) 23 Nassau Street, Middlesex Hospital

**Renouard, Reverend George Cecil BD** (1780 - 1867), English Classical and oriental scholar, was born in Stamford, Lincolnshire, on 7 December 1780.

He had a curiously varied educational life: he went to school at St Paul's London in 1793, and then in the same year moved to Charterhouse. He was at Trinity College Cambridge in 1798, and moved to Sidney Sussex College in 1800. He took his BA in 1802. He joined the British Embassy in Constantinople as Chaplain in 1804. He moved back to Cambridge as curate of Great St Mary's in 1806. From 1811 to 1814 he was chaplain to the British factory in Smyrna where he discovered a sculpture, on a rock near Nymphio, which he identified as that of the Pharaoh Sesostris which had been seen there by Herodotus. In 1815 he was appointed Professor of Arabic at Cambridge, and from 1818 was rector of Swanscombe in Kent.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid subscription for that year. He was a member of the Translation Committee of the RAS in 1824 and edited many of the texts submitted for publication.

He died on 15 February 1867 in Swanscombe, Kent. His correspondence is in the National Archives.

The RAS library has:

Encyklopädische Uebersicht der Wissenschaften des Orients, aus sieben arabischen, persischen und türkischen Werken übersetzt. / Hammer-Purgstall, Joseph & Renouard, George Cecil (1804)

This was presented to the society by Renouard in 1824, together with eight other books in Turkish.

*Address:* (1824, 1825) Swanscombe, Kent

**Robertson, Alexander MP** (1779 - 1856), English MP and ship owner, was born on 14 February 1779.

He was MP for the rotten borough of Grampound for eight years from 1818.

He was engaged in trade with China and visited Canton several times, which he stated whilst giving evidence to a House of Lords committee on foreign trade in June 1820. He attributed the enormous increase in trade with China to the growing popularity of tea drinking.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid annual subscriptions until 1827. He was also a member of the Literary Society of Bombay in 1823.

Robertson left Canton for good in 1839, after a huge farewell party for him and his friend William Jardine, who was leaving at the same time. It was rumoured that he left with a fortune of over \$200,000. In 1841 he was Managing Director of the London, Edinburgh and Dublin Guaranteed Mutual and Proprietary Life Assurance Company.

He died on 17 December 1856.

*Address:* (1824, 1825) 38 Broad Street Buildings; 2 Philpot Lane, Hoe Place, Surrey; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 he is listed at 6 Downing Street; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 he is listed at 2 Queen Square, Bloomsbury

**Robertson, Andrew** (1777 - 1845), Scottish miniaturist painter, was born in Aberdeen on 14 October 1777.

He was intended to be a doctor but, following the example of his elder brother, Archibald Robertson, decided to be a professional artist.

He came to London in 1801 and entered the Royal Academy schools. He exhibited at the Academy for the first time in 1802 and would continue to do so until 1842. He rapidly became one of the foremost miniaturists in London and in 1805 was appointed Miniature Painter to HRH the Duke of Sussex. He went to Windsor in 1807 and painted portraits of the Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family.

He was active in Scottish affairs in London; he joined the volunteer corps of North Britons and helped set up the Caledonian Asylum. In 1825 he subscribed to *Armstrong's New Gaelic Dictionary* (where his address is given as Gerrard Street, Soho).

In 1815 he visited Paris, recently open to tourists again after the fall of Napoleon, and at the Louvre saw "the first and greatest productions of human genius, and then the bare walls and frames where a number of the pictures had been taken away by the allies and the original proprietors".

He was a member of RAS in 1825 and paid admission fee and subscription for 1824.

He married Ann, the daughter of Samuel Boxill of Barbados, a prominent estate owner and slave owner. In 1831 (living in Berners Street) he claimed two slaves living in Barbados on behalf of his wife Ann Boxill who claimed to have been left them under a will; later in the same year he claimed for her 122 slaves on the Waterford Estate, Barbados, under the will of Samuel Boxill; both claims failed.

He died on 6 December 1845 in Devonshire Place, Hampstead.

*Address:* (1825) 22 Bedford Square; previously Gerrard Street, Soho; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 he is as 34 Gerrard Street, Soho; in 1842 he was living at Berners Street



Andrew Robertson, miniature self-portrait 1811, National Galleries of the Scotland



**Roche, Richard** (dates unknown), was a member of RAS in 1823. His name is given as 'Rocke' on the subscription list.

It has not been possible to trace down exact details about this member. There are several possibilities:

- 1) The Reverend Richard Roche, BA of Lincoln College, Oxford, and Rector of Lyndon in Rutland who died at his brother's house in Tenbury, July 27 1830, aged 80 (*Gentleman's Magazine* 1830). The Revd R. Roche of Albemarle Street married Miss M A Harrison of Bugbrooke, Warwickshire, in 1823 (*Monthly Magazine and British Register*, vol 55). The dates for these two entries seem odd: he would have been 75 when he married.
- 2) Richard Roche was a Bengal Magistrate; assistant magistrate at Jessore in 1781. A MS of Richard Roche of the Bengal Civil Service was cited as an authority in the *Geographical, Statistical and Historical Description of Hindostan and the adjacent countries* by Walter Hamilton, 1820.
- 3) Richard Rocke was senior member of the Board of Revenue, EIC Bengal Establishment in 1819, having been appointed in 1776.

*Address:* (1823) 37 Albemarle Street

**Rogers, Sir Frederick Leman, Bart.** (1782 - 1851), 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet Rogers, was born on 11 February 1782.

He was the younger son of Sir Frederick Rogers, 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet, and younger brother of Sir John Rogers, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet; he succeeded to the baronetcy when his brother died in 1847. He married Sophia Deare in 1810 and together they had eight children.

Portraits of Sir Frederick and Lady Sophia by George Richmond RA were sold at auction in 2015 at Lawrences Auctions, Crewkerne.

He was a member of RAS in 1826 and paid his admission fee and annual subscription in 1826.

He died on 13 December 1851 at Blachford, Cornwood, Devon.

*Address:* (1825) Nil; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 he is listed at 10 Baker Street; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 he is listed at 37 Woburn Place and 4 Inner Temple Lane



Portrait of Frederick Leman Rogers, by George Richmond RA; sold at Crewkerne, 2015

**Ross, James** (1759 - 1831), surgeon with the East India Company army and translator, was born in Aberdeen in 1759.

He studied at Marischal College, gaining his MA in 1777. He then studied medicine and joined the Royal Navy. He was appointed surgeon on the *Vesuvius* in 1782, then joined the medical section of the EIC and went to Fort St George, Calcutta, in 1783. He served in various garrisons in India, and returned to England on leave in 1797. On his return to India he became surgeon to the 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Native Infantry. He spent a total of twenty-one years (1783 to 1804) working as a doctor in India. While in India he learnt Persian and studied Persian literature. He returned to England in 1804 and settled in Exeter in 1810.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1825. In 1828 he donated a copy of Sa'di. *Gulistan or flower-garden; translated, with an essay, by James* to the RAS library.

He died on 22 July 1831 in Exeter.

The library has:

The Gulistan, or, Flower-garden / of Shaikh Sadī of Shiraz ; translated into English by James Ross, from the Persian text of Gentius, as used in the East-India Company's colleges, together with an essay on Sadī's life and genius. (1823)

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) Summerland Place, Exeter (more exactly: 2 Higher Summerland Place)

**Rowland, W. H.** (dates unknown), was a member of RAS in 1824.

The following details may pertain to our member.

W Rowland of the Bombay Medical establishment married Sarah, youngest daughter of the late J Taylor at Reading March 1826.

Lt Rowland of the Madras Army travelled to England from India in the *Sir Charles Forbes* 1824 (Oriental Herald Vol 8).

Mr Rowland and Lady travelled to India on the *Rose* 1826.

Colonel W H Rowland served with the 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (the Sherwood Foresters) in the Orange River Sovereignty, and presumably took part in the Battle of Boomplaats (1847) against the Boers. He was also with the 45<sup>th</sup> during the Kaffir War of 1851-53 when he took part in the capture of Dewaugiri (Hart's Army List).

Captain William Hodnett Rowland of the 55<sup>th</sup> Foot became Major on 1 April 1875 (London Gazette).

*Address:* (1824, 1825) Nil

**Roy, Ram Mohun** (1772 - 1833), one of the founders of the Brahmo Sabha, an Indian social-religious reform movement, was born in Radhanagar, Bengal, on 22 May 1772.

Born into a high caste Brahmin family, he studied at a small village school where he learnt Sanskrit and Persian. He took the side of the Christian missionaries, while at the same time being employed by the East India Company as a writer. He was chosen to work among the Moslem population.

A reformer, he tried to abolish certain practices such as *sati* and polygamy. He worked with the British administration to protect Hindu rights and Hinduism (a word he invented) itself within the new Indian society. He is regarded as one of the founders of modern India.



**Ram Mohun Roy, by an unknown artist, ca. 1820, Victoria and Albert Museum**

He became a member of RAS in 1824 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1825. In the General Meeting Minutes he is noted as "Brahmin". In 1827 Jeremy Bentham wrote to James Young (also a member of the RAS), then the head of Alexander & Co., agents, in Calcutta, asking him to get in touch with the new reforming Governor, Lord Bentinck (also a member of the RAS), on his behalf. Bentham also sent him a collection of books to be passed on to Rammohan Roy.

He travelled to England in 1830 as an unofficial ambassador of the Mughal King of Delhi. He was well received in British society, especially by the Unitarian movement. He died of meningitis on 27 September 1833 in Bristol and is buried in a mausoleum at Arnos Grove. There is a blue plaque to him at 49 Bedford Square to mark his stay in London.

The RAS library has:

Rammohun Roy and the making of Victorian Britain / by Lynn Zastoupil. (2010)

Translation of several principal books, passages and texts of the Veds, and of some controversial works on Brahmuncial theology / by Rajah Rammohun Roy. (1832)

The precepts of Jesus, the guide to peace and happiness : extracted from the books of the New Testament ascribed to the four evangelists : to which are added, the first, second, and final Appeal to the Christian public in reply to the observations of Dr. Marshman, of Serampore / by Rammohun Roy; from the London edition. (1828)

Les intellectuels bengalis et l'impérialisme britannique = Bengali intellectuals and British imperialism / France, Bhattacharya. (2010)

Biographical studies in modern Indian education / by H. V. Hampton. ([1947])

*Address:* (1824, 1825) Calcutta

**Ruddach, Robert Steuart** (1794 - 1860), soldier and merchant, was born in 1794. He was the son of Alexander Ruddach, commander in the Royal Navy, who died in 1812, and left most of his estate to his son; this included estates and slaves, in Tobago.

He joined the 27<sup>th</sup> Foot (The Inniskillings) as an ensign, and bought his lieutenancy in 1813. He fought in the Peninsular War (1808 -14) and was awarded the General Service Medal. His medal with eight clasps for the actions in which he took part, (Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthe, and Toulouse) was sold at auction on 2 March 2016 by Boseleys Military Auctioneers.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid admission fee and annual subscription in 1824.

In 1825 he was listed as a member of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

He was a Captain in the 19<sup>th</sup> Lancers, and married Jemima Hannah Hoffman at St Pancras 20 April 1828.

He died on 7 November 1860 at St Leonard's-on-sea.

*Address: (1825) Nil*

**Ruddell, Captain David** (1790 - 1835), was a soldier in the Bengal army.

He was appointed examiner at the College of Fort William on 21 July 1821 and later became secretary to the Council, College of Fort-William, Calcutta. He was allowed to remain in Persia on military duty.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscription as non-resident member from 1823 to 1825. He was also a member of the RAS Oriental Translation Committee in 1834.

He died at Shiraz on his return journey on 16 December 1835. His grave at Shiraz has the inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Captain David Ruddell, of the Bengal Army, who while proceeding from Tehran to Calcutta, with despatches from His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Court of Persia, was cut off by fever, in this city, on the 16 December 1835, in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of his age, deeply lamented by all who knew his eminent and varied acquirements, and his many public and private worth". His will, dated 22 July 1836, is in the National Archives.

*Address:* (1823, 1824, 1825) Nil; in 1834 his address was Castle Street, Regent Street; in the RAS Journal 1835, his address is 11 John Street, Adelphi; in his will of 1836 his address is given as Maddox Street, Hanover Square



**Rumbold, Charles Edmund MP** (1788 - 1857), Whig politician, was born on 11 August 1788.

Educated at both Oxford and Cambridge, he entered politics as a Whig, becoming MP for Great Yarmouth from 1818 to 1835. He was re-elected in 1837, and sat until 1845. He stood for Great Yarmouth again in a by-election in 1848 and remained MP for the town until his death.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid subscriptions in 1824 and 1825. He was also a member of the Zoological Society and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He died on 31 May 1857 in Great Yarmouth.



**Charles Edmund Rumbold, lithograph  
1832**

*Address: (1824, 1825) 48 Upper Harley Street (in Boyle's Court Guide 1829)*

**Rumbold, Sir William Bart.** (1787 - 1833), British merchant, was born on 22 May 1787.

The third Baronet, he was the son of Sir George Rumbold, who was in the diplomatic service; Sir George had been ambassador to the Hanse towns in Saxony, and suffered the indignity of being captured by French troops sent from Paris by Napoleon to arrest anyone conspiring against France. He was taken to Paris and imprisoned. This caused a huge diplomatic scandal. The King of Prussia intervened and he was released and taken to Cherbourg to return to England.

Sir William married Henrietta Parkyns whose sister Charlotte was Countess of Choiseul and then the second wife of Prince Jules de Polignac, French Ambassador to London 1823 to 1829 (also a foreign member of the RAS).

He went to India with Lord Hastings in 1821 with a view to making himself rich. He was a trader and unofficial peddler of influence in Hyderabad, where he attempted to exert his influence to enrich himself through Rajah Chundoo Loll, who governed Hyderabad on behalf of the Nizam.

His position with the East India Company was however, not secure, as is attested in numerous discussions held by the Court of Directors during which his dealings were exposed. In particular it was suggested that any dealing with William Palmer must be in some way fraudulent.

In 1825 at a meeting of the Court of the East India Company he stated that in 1814 he had been asked to join with William Palmer, Mr Currie and Samuel Russell to form a trading company, and that he had refused. However, he stated that the following year he had gone to Hyderabad and formed a partnership with William Palmer, H. Palmer, Dr Currie and Bunketty Doss, and that Mr Sotheby had a share in the business, but was not a partner.

In 1828, the question was discussed at the Court of Directors as to whether he should be permitted to return to Hyderabad. The matter was brought up by Sir C. Metcalfe, the Resident at Hyderabad, in connection with the affairs of William Palmer and company, and Metcalfe felt that Rumbold should not be allowed to return to India, and should not enter into any employment with the Nizam of Hyderabad or any other native prince, nor that he should be in such a position as to enable him to remove the Resident.

The questions were still being discussed in Parliament in the 1880s: in May 1880 the Secretary of State for India was asked about "the usurious interest charged by the houses of Rumbold, Palmer and Co., is well-known and the last claim on behalf of the heirs of Sir William Rumbold was rejected under the advice of the government of India"

In November 1820, Carlo Doyle (also a member of the RAS) wrote to Rumbold in Calcutta, concerning a certain Rush Moore, who had almost been sent to prison, and offered to carry out any commissions which Rumbold might have for him while in London (letter in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library of the University of Texas).

While serving in India, in 1831 he had a hotel built at Ootacamund which is now the Ootacamund Club. A very grand building, it was "standing proof that he had princely ideas,

& was the reverse of economical, as regards his building operations” (Ootacamund Club history).

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1827. The RAS collections have a half-length portrait of Lt. Col. William Lambton (1756-1823) by William Havell (1822), which was presented to the society by Sir William Rumbold in 1828.

He died on 24 August 1833 in Hyderabad.

*Address:* (1823) Hyderabad; (1824, 1825) Nil; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 listed at 28 Chapel Street, Grosvenor Place

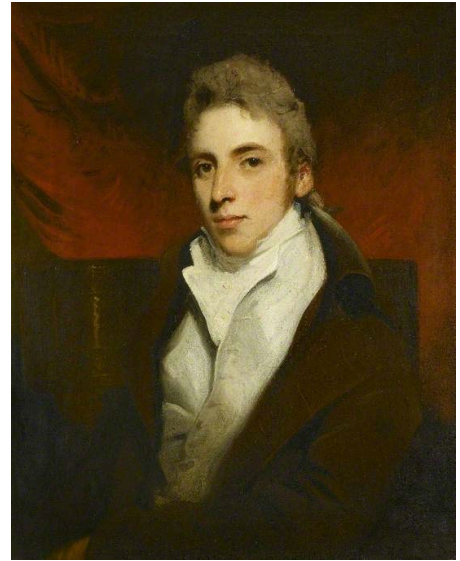
**Russell, Sir Robert Greenhill MP** (1763 - 1836), Baronet and Whig politician, was born on 12 December 1763.

His grandmother, Elizabeth Russell, was from the Russell family of Chequers and a descendant of Oliver Cromwell. He inherited the estate of Chequers from his father and was created Baronet in 1831. He was MP for Thirsk from 1806 to 1832.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1826.

He died on 12 December 1836.

*Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 4 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821 and 1829)*



**Sir Robert Greenhill Russell of Chequers, by William Beechey**