

Banking and financial institutions—three portrait collections in London

Thursday 7 July 2016, 9.30 — 16.30 www.britishportraits.org.uk/events

Programme

9.30 *promptly* Meet for registration and refreshments at **Coutts & Co., 440 Strand, WC2R 0QS**

🚶 Charing Cross

10.00—11.20 The Scotsman John Campbell of Lundie established the company now known as Coutts on Strand, London, in 1692. As well as banking services, he supplied plate and jewellery, garnering the royal commission to make the collars and badges for the Order of the Thistle from Queen Anne in 1704. With a markedly Scottish clientele, Campbell took as his business partner the goldsmith George Middleton who established the bank premises on Strand in 1739 where it continues today. Slightly later Scottish partners to join the bank were the brothers James and Thomas Coutts, after whom the company was named in 1761. Under the long management of Thomas (1738—1822), the company flourished, and - given its proximity to Covent Garden - counted many leading artists among its customers. The company's portrait collection features depictions of key figures such as Thomas Coutts and his granddaughter the philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts (1814—1906), and examples of their patronage. As well as Coutts family members, the sitters include chairmen, secretaries, and business partners up to the present day. Some of the artists represented are Ramsay, Beechey, John Smart, John Raphael Smith, Francis Chantrey, William Brodie, John Partridge, and Henry William Pickersgill.

Tour leader: Tracey Earl, Archivist

11.20—12.00 No.15 bus to Ludgate Hill, to visit **Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, EC2V 6BN**

12.00—13.00 The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London and received its first royal charter in 1327. Founded to regulate the craft or trade of the goldsmith, the Goldsmiths' Company has been responsible since 1300 for testing the quality of gold, silver and, from 1975, platinum articles. The Company also fulfils its statutory function of regulating hallmarks through the operations of the Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office. The Company's portrait collection spans the period from the sixteenth century to 2016. Sitters are principally members of the Company such as Prime Wardens, and significant contemporaries including monarchs and politicians. One of the key works in the collection is Thomas Hudson's group portrait of members of Benn's Club (1752), showing six London Aldermen with Jacobite sympathies receiving a letter informing them it was safe to return to the capital. The Company is also home to a significant collection of portrait medals by leading British and European artists.

Tour leaders: Eleni Bide, Librarian, and Georgia Powell, Curatorial Project Officer

13.00—14.00 Light lunch provided for delegates

[programme continued overleaf]

14.00—16.00 N M Rothschild & Sons, New Court, St Swithin's Lane, EC4N 8AL

The Rothschild portrait collection begins, as such, with portraits of the five sons of Mayer Amschel Rothschild who, encouraged by their father, left the confines of the Frankfurt ghetto between 1798 and 1820 to establish the Rothschild banks in London, Paris, Vienna, Naples, and continue the business in Frankfurt. A group of portraits known as the 'Crowned Heads' represent early clients of the London bank, founded by Nathan Mayer Rothschild (1777—1836), all heads of state to whom the bank provided government loans in the two decades after the Napoleonic Wars; they are Empress Catherine the Great, King William of the Netherlands, Emperor Francis of Austria, King Frederick William of Prussia, and King John of Portugal. Among the portraits of family members are *Hannah Rothschild neé Barent-Cohen* by William Beechey (1823), *Rozsika Rothschild* by de László (c.1910), and Victor, 3rd Lord Rothschild (1910-90) by Man Ray. Another key work is the group portrait entitled *Lionel Nathan de Rothschild (1808-79) introduced in the House of Commons on 26 July 1858 by Lord John Russell and Mr Abel Smith* by Henry Barraud (1872), commemorating the first admission of a Jewish MP to the Commons.

Tour leaders: Justin Cavernelis-Frost, Archivist, and Fiona McGarel-Groves, Archive Associate

16.00—16.30 Refreshments in The Rothschild Archive, and close

Applications for tickets, and travel funding (deadline 31 May 2016)

Places for this event are limited. Because of this, tickets will be allocated in a way which allows delegates from as many different collections as possible, as well as academics, independent scholars, conservators, etc, to attend. Please contact Caroline Pegum (cpegum@npg.org.uk) by the end of **Tuesday 31 May** to register your interest in attending, providing a couple of lines on how these collections relate to your research interests or collection.

We will contact all applicants with the outcome of their application for tickets and funding support before Monday 6 June.

Tickets will cost delegates £20 (incl. vat), and a small number of complimentary places are also available.

Some funds are available to assist delegates with their travel costs. When applying for a place at this event, please state whether you require support, and provide the sum requested (this must be on the basis of the most cost-effective travel option). Where support is confirmed, delegates will make their own travel bookings and reimbursement of the agreed sum will be made after the event via BACS payment.



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