

WILLIAM BRAGGE, (1823 1884), Steel manufacturer

The portrait was presented to William Bragge when he left Sheffield for his hometown, Birmingham, in 1878. It was placed in the Cutlers' Hall and bequeathed to the Company by him in 1884.

In 1859, William Bragge, an industrialist from Birmingham, became of a partner of John Brown, together with JD Ellis. He joined the Cutlers' Company in 1864 and became Master Cutler in 1870.

He was a well-known art lover and bibliophile, which probably explains his choice of position in his portrait. In 1874, Bragge privately published '*Bibliotheca nicotiana; a first catalogue of books about tobacco*', possibly about the books in his own collection.

In 1877, in response to a plea for books from the Sheffield School of Art, he donated 'a complete and unusually fine set of Piranesi's great work on Roman and other architecture and antiquities. He also allowed the School's Library to purchase a further 68 volumes from his own collection with a government grant of £90. When he died, Sotheby's auctioned some of his books, including a 14th century Book of Hours.

**Artist - Richard Smith (1818-1890)**

Richard Smith was born in Sheffield and was a descendent of George Smith, who was Master Cutler in 1749. Smith exhibited at the Royal Academy when he was only twenty years old. He painted a number of well-known Sheffield figures and several can be seen in the Cutlers' Hall (Charles Atkinson, Thomas Jessop and Sir John Brown.)