

**WILLIAM HENRY ELLIS, (1860-1945) Steel manufacturer**  
Unknown provenance

William Ellis was Chairman of John Brown & Co during an important period in the development of steel manufacture. He was Master Cutler in 1914 and throughout the First World War and as such, played a part in the country's response to the War effort.

Prior to War, Britain had been forced to import tungsten (used to produce shells, guns and armour plate) from Germany, because they had developed a technique of extracting it from wolfram imported from the mines in China and Burma. However, during the early part of 1914, Brown's had imported large quantities of wolfram and had set up an establishment to discover the techniques of extracting tungsten, which they did. Ellis was knighted in 1918 in recognition of his War Work and was also awarded the Order of the Crown of Italy and given an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering by Sheffield University.

At leisure, he was a keen mountaineer. He bequeathed his home, Weetwood, to the City of Sheffield 'for the use of the people' and it became Ecclesall Library, but this has now been demolished.

**Other Public positions**

He was President of the Iron & Steel Institute; President of the Institute of Civil Engineers and a governor of Imperial College, London.

**Artist – Sir Robert Hacker, (1858-1919) RA**

Arthur Hacker was the son of a line engraver called Edward Hacker. He studied at the Royal Academy Schools from 1876 and in Paris 1880-81. Hacker became interested in realism, however he changed his style several times. Finally, he turned to atmospheric studies of London streets.

He was a portraitist and exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1878 and was elected ARA in 1894, becoming a full RA in 1910. His Diploma Picture was one of his London paintings - *A Wet Night in Piccadilly Circus*

A portrait of William Ellis in a similar pose, was painted by Ernest Moore in c.1910s, and is in the National Portrait Gallery.