

THOMAS JESSOP, (1804-1887) Steel manufacturer

This portrait originally hung in his home, Endcliffe Grange, and was given to the Jessop Hospital by his grandson, Thomas Jessop, in 1920. The Arts & Artefacts Team, Jessop Hospital in Sheffield, loaned this painting, and the one of Mrs Jessop, to the Cutlers' Company in 2001.

Thomas Jessop was born in 1804. He went to work for the family company of Mitchell, Raikes & Jessop, where his father was a steel smelter and a partner in the firm. Thomas worked his way up through the family business and when his brother died in 1872, Thomas became the owner.

The Jessop works at Brightside became one of the biggest steelworks in the country and in 1875, the firm became a limited company with a share capital of £400,000. Jessop's specialised in crucible steel for cutlery, edge tools, and engineering and also gained a reputation in America, particularly for cutlery steel.

He was an extensive landowner in Sheffield. He became Master Cutler in 1863. He died in 1887.

Other Public Positions

Sheffield's Jessop Hospital for Women, built in 1864, was named after Thomas Jessop who contributed considerably to the £30,000 building costs.

He held many important civic posts, becoming a member of Sheffield's first town council when the town became a corporate borough in 1843.

He was also a Town Trustee (1862), JP (1863), Mayor (1863-4), Alderman (1864).

As Mayor in 1864, he had to deal with the aftermath of the Great Sheffield Flood, when he became treasurer of the compensation fund of around £50,000

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, including Masters Cutler William Bragge and Charles Atkinson.