

EBENEZER RHODES, (1763-1839) Cutlery manufacturer and author
Purchased by the Company in 1840.

From the Holmes in Rotherham, Ebenezer Rhodes was apprenticed in 1777 to Thomas Cousins, a Sheffield scissormith. He took out his Freedom in 1774 and registered the mark 'VILLE'. He became a prominent early nineteenth century cutlery manufacturer with the firm of Champion, Rhodes and Champion.

He became Master Cutler in 1808. Between 1818-24, he wrote his famous four-volume work '*Peak Scenery*' which was published with illustrations by, among others, Francis Chantrey and T C Hofland. The Company owns an original edition of this work. The portrait shows him holding, presumably, one of his books.

Rhodes had journalistic ambitions and wrote one part of the companion book '*Yorkshire Scenery*' in 1826 and in 1837 wrote '*The Derbyshire Tourist's guide and travelling companion*'. He was so keen on his writing that he neglected his business. He was helped financially by Sir Francis Chantrey, James Montgomery and Samuel Bailey. He died, in considerable debt, in 1839.

Artist - William Poole (1798-1888)

William Poole studied in Birmingham with his younger brother James. They both came to Sheffield in the 1820s. William Poole was a portrait painter, as well as painting interiors and landscapes. He was a member of the Sheffield Society of Artists. The Company owns three other portraits by William Poole: Hugh Parker, Thomas Hanby and Thomas Asline Ward.