

EAST INDIA COMPANY AT
HOME, 1757-1857



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DOMESTIC SUBJECTS: THE EAST INDIA COMPANY AT HOME, 1757-1857

Margot Finn, Helen Clifford, Kate Smith and
Ellen Filor

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/eastindiacompanyathome



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Maxine Berg and Helen Clifford, (eds), *Consumers and Luxury: Consumer Culture in Europe 1650-1850* (Manchester University Press, 1999).

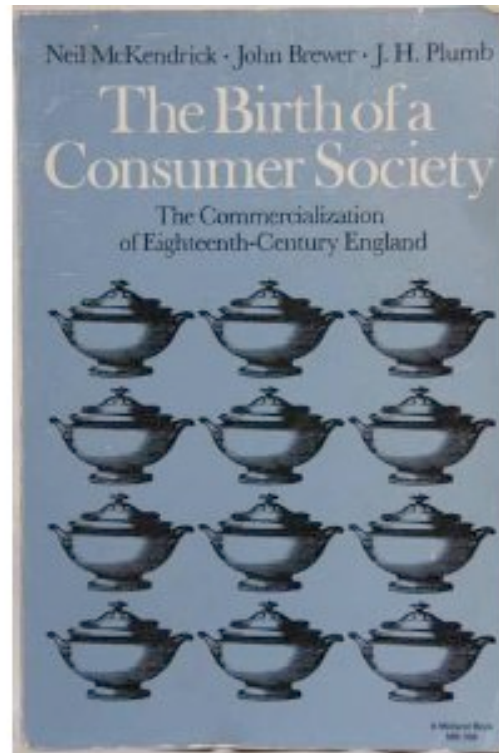


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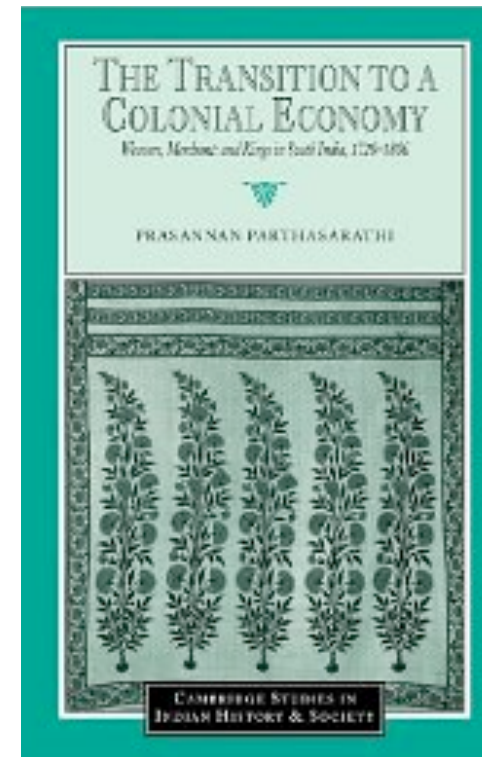


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John Brewer, Neil McKendrick and J.H. Plumb, *The Birth of Consumer Society: The Commercialization of Eighteenth-Century England* (1982).

Prasannan Parthasarathi, *The Transition to a Colonial Economy: Weavers, Merchants and Kings in South India, 1720-1800* (2001).



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www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ghcc



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Swallowfield Park, Berkshire



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The screenshot shows the FIBIS website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays <http://www.new.fibis.org/>. The page header includes the FIBIS logo and the text "FAMILIES IN BRITISH INDIA SOCIETY" with the tagline "... Your brick wall is in India!". A navigation menu contains links for home, fibis social network, fibis database, fibiwiki, fibis shop, library, blog, and faq / help. The main content area features a search bar, a date stamp "January 3, 2011 By admin", and a central heading "Welcome to the world of family history in British India" accompanied by a photograph of the Gateway of India. A sidebar on the left lists "PAGES" such as about, membership, research, dna project, journal, links, volunteer, contact, accessibility, and disclaimer. A right sidebar includes "NETWORK WITH FIBIS" with social media icons and "FIBIS NEWS BY EMAIL" with an email subscription form.

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Welcome to the FIBIS database website!

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The data presented here have been contributed by a number of hardworking and enthusiastic individuals and a small army of 'FIBIS Volunteers'. The data are very largely taken from sources within the British Library's India Office Records Section (IOR) to whom thanks are also due for authority to publish them here.

It is a firm FIBIS policy that these data be provided free to 'all-comers' and we hope that they prove to be of significant help in your research. A small number of files relate directly to members. These, plus other data provided by some members on the understanding that that they are made available to fellow members only, are only accessible by entering a membership username and password in the 'member login' area.

Coming and Going to India

NEWS

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TIMES OF INDIA BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS 1904
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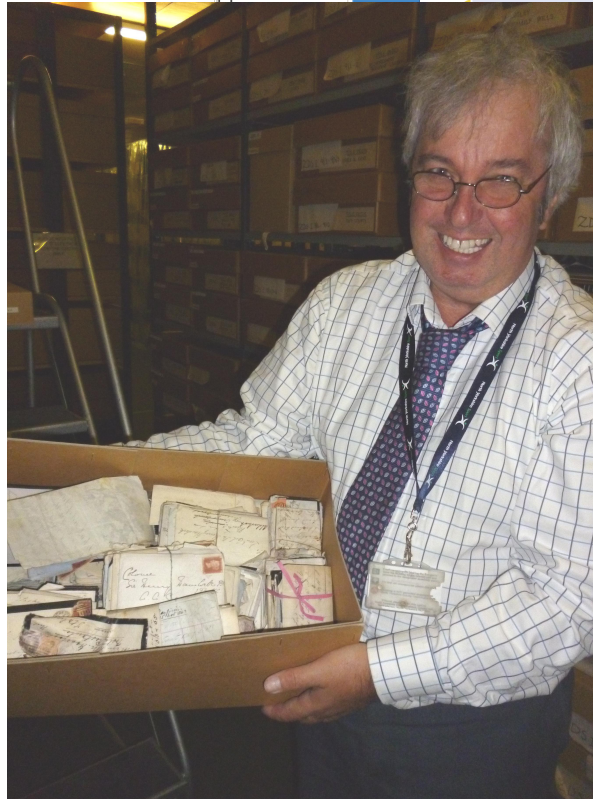
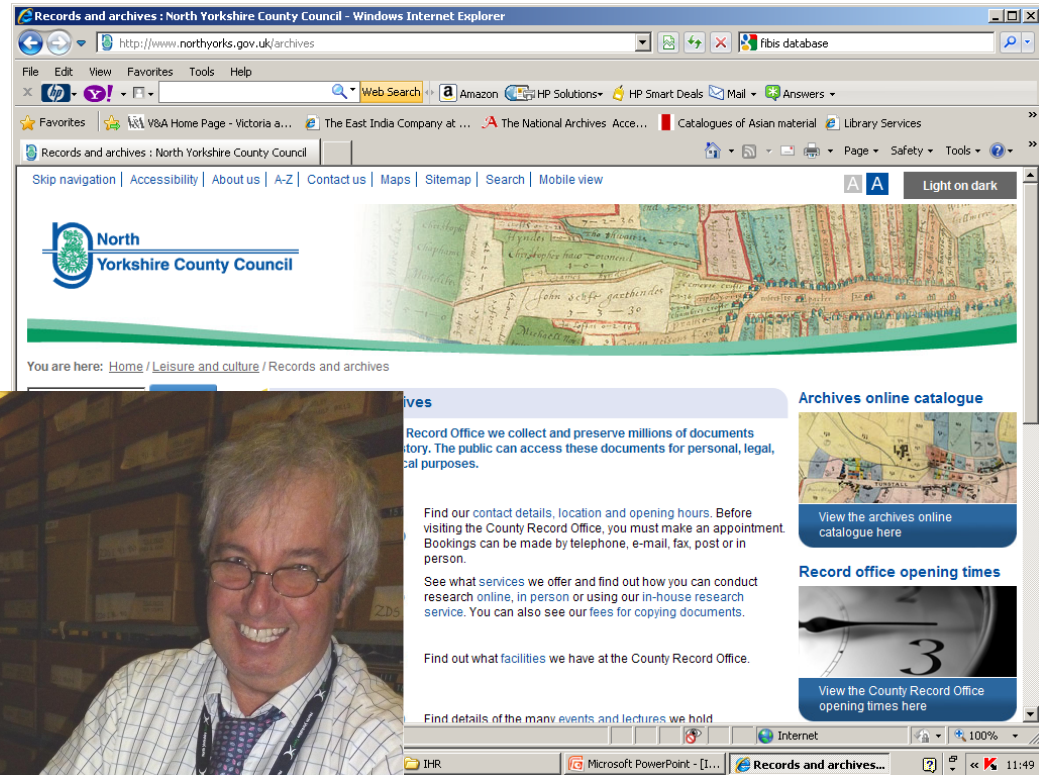
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Keith Sweetmore
Archives Development Manager, North
Yorkshire County Record Office



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30 January 2012

Suicide pact of bookbinder's family

The recent financial crisis has seen the collapse of many businesses, but similar tragedies are very common in history. In 18th century London, neither the Poor Laws nor the parish workhouses were of any use to failing bookbinder Richard Smith who found himself confined for debt in the King's Bench in 1732 together with his wife, Bridget, and their two year old child.

The binder "had been always industrious and frugal, invincibly honest, and remarkable for conjugal affection" but had been afflicted by what he described as "a train of unlucky accidents". Unable to escape their situation, the husband and wife committed suicide after having killed their daughter to prevent her from remaining "friendless in the world, exposed to ignorance and misery". The letters they left behind can be read in the Library's copy of *The Gentleman's magazine* (Volume 2 p.722). A later

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/untoldlives/>

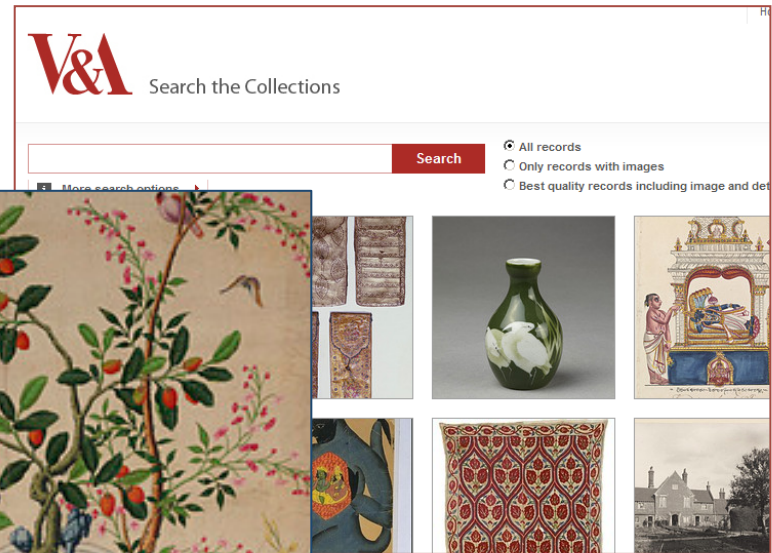


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Wallpaper
Guangzhou, China, ca.1810-1830
Painted paper
E.2853-1913
Victoria and Albert Museum, London



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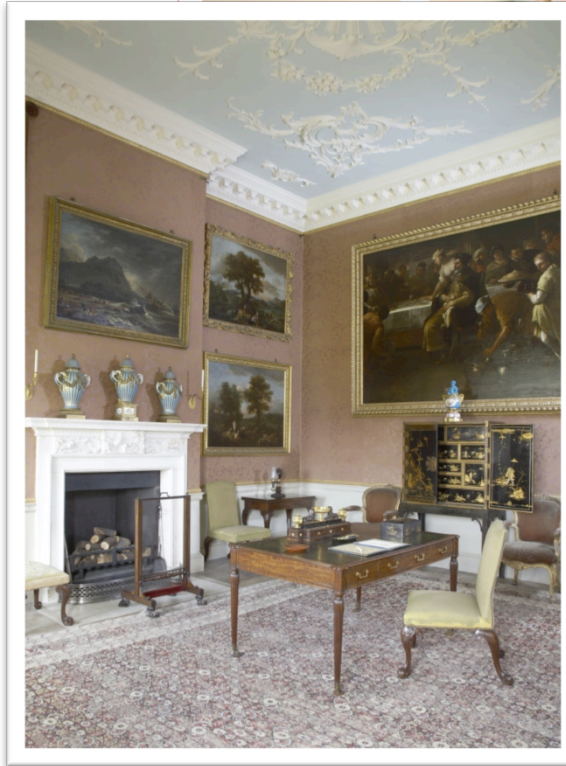
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The Little Drawing Room at Uppark, West Sussex
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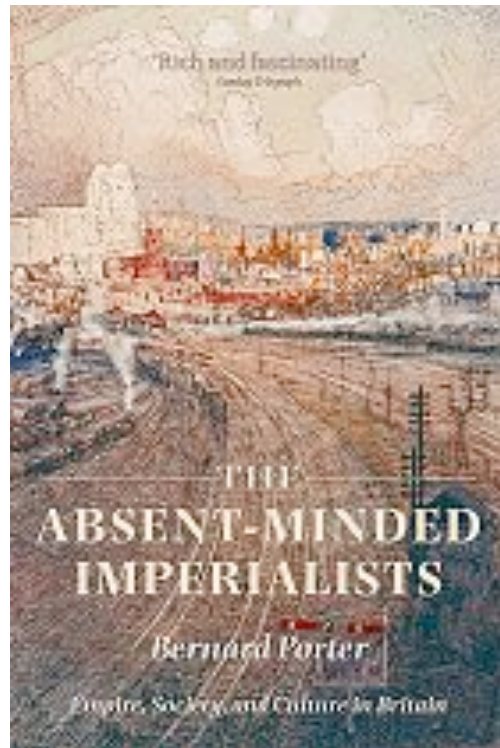


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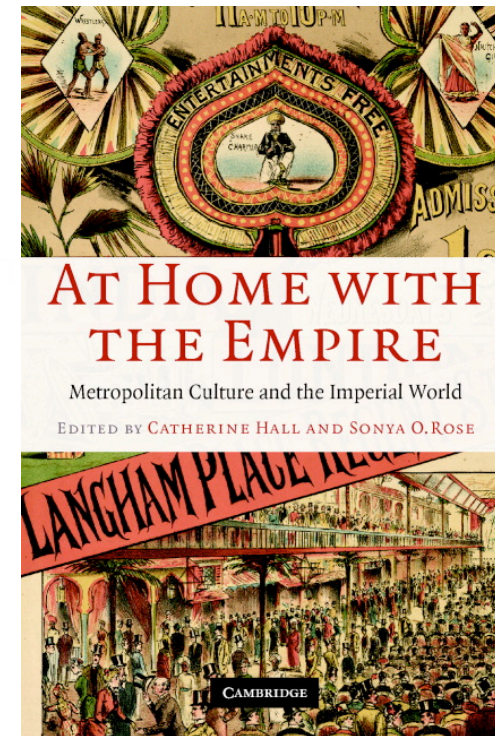


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Bernard Porter, *The Absent-Minded Imperialists: Empire, Society and Culture in Britain* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Catherine Hall and Sonya Rose, (eds), *At Home with the Empire: Metropolitan Culture and the Imperial World* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

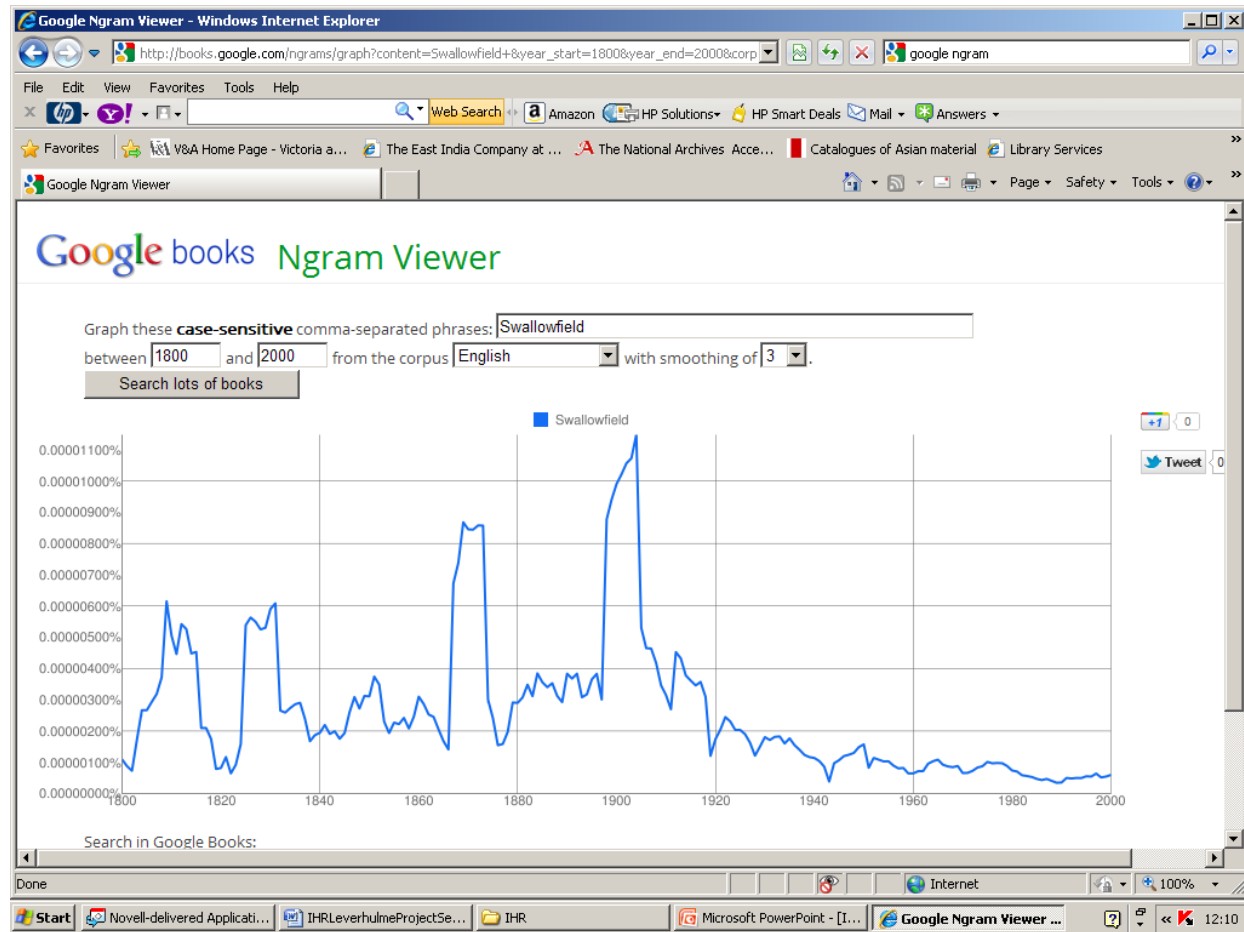


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Swallowfield, All Saints. A poor church, without aisles, with a wooden bell-cot at the west end. It seems all P., except the north doorway, now blocked up, which is N., with zigzag and scalloped caps. The south porch is modern, ...
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Bibliographies Online Resources

Resources for Researchers

Welcome to the resources page. Below you will find a list of the research aids that we have compiled. Each aid can be downloaded in either Word or PDF format from the list below. If you would like to browse the lists on the website please click on the appropriate tab to on the left of the screen. We will be adding additional bibliographies as the project develops--work is currently under way on bibliographies on British domestic interiors and on the East India Company.

Online Resources

List of online resources - [Word](#) or [PDF](#)

Bibliographies

Country House Bibliography - [Word](#) or [PDF](#)

Interiors and Interior Decoration Bibliography - [Word](#) or [PDF](#)

Comments, additions and corrections from Project Associates warmly welcomed - please email us at EastIndiaCompany@warwick.ac.uk with your suggestions. If you would like to become a Project Associate, please go to the 'Joining the Project' page.



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Swallowfield Park, Berkshire

Swallowfield Park, Berkshire is an archetypal English country house. Yet the evolving biography of this family seat, like the history of so many quintessentially 'English' country houses, was also fundamentally shaped by its entanglement with a wider British colonial world.

In what follows, we situate Swallowfield within this broad imperial context by tracing the estate's acquisition and transformation in the late Georgian and early Victorian periods. Purchased by Sir Henry Russell, first baronet (1751-1836) in the 1820s, Swallowfield was recreated in the following decades by its new proprietor's eldest son, Henry (later the second baronet; 1783-1852). Both father and son derived their great wealth from fortunes made in India. The Russells purchase and refurbishment of Swallowfield attests to the crucial role

of Britain's empire in country house history.

[Download PDF of complete case study>>](#)

Click on the links below to explore Swallowfield's 'Background', who 'The Russells' were, how purchasing the house was a 'Collaborative Endeavour' for the family, how they began 'Learning to Furnish', and how Swallowfield constituted 'The Making of an English Country House'...

BACKGROUND

Swallowfield Park began life as a Tudor mansion, but in 1689-91 Henry Hyde, second Earl of Clarendon transformed it. In the eighteenth century, Thomas 'Diamond' Pitt purchased the house and Swallowfield began its long relationship with the East India Company. Over a century later the Russell family bought the estate, renovating and



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The East India Company at Home 1757-1857

Welcome to the Project Website

The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857 is a 3-year research project (beginning in September 2011 and ending in August 2014) funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The project is one of the many externally-funded research programmes developed under the aegis of Warwick University's Global History & Culture Centre (<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/ac/arts/history/gchc/>).

This new project is led by Margot Finn, a professor of modern British History at Warwick. Dr Helen Clifford will play a leading role in orchestrating the project's engagement with local and family historians, working together with the project's full-time postdoctoral research fellow, Dr Kate Smith. We Eleni Pflor will be funded by the grant to complete a doctoral dissertation on East India Company family networks and identities in Roxburghshire, Scotland (c. 1780-1857) as an integral part of the larger research team.

The project seeks to enhance historical understanding of the form and function of British country house culture by situating changes in elite domestic interiors within wider global contexts. Specifically, it explores the regional, national and imperial routes by which Asian luxury goods – ceramics, textiles, metal-ware, furniture, fine art and the like – found their way into the homes of Britain's governing elite in the Georgian and early Victorian periods, and examines what these exotic objects meant in these domestic settings and in wider national and international contexts. The project builds upon recent developments in the study of consumer culture, gender studies, globalisation, and material culture.

The project also capitalises upon the recent explosion of historical research conducted by community-based family historians. The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857 seeks to integrate the findings produced by family and local historians, curators, academics and other researchers into a wider collaborative research project that illuminates Britain's global material culture from the eighteenth century to the present.

Yellow Ground Bowl
(China, c. 1821-50, Porcelain)

The East India Company at Home project asks questions such as – in what part of a country house would a bowl such as this have been placed and what did it mean to those who viewed it?

Courtesy of Tennants, Leyburn, North Yorkshire

Please click here to download a short leaflet: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/ac/arts/history/gchc/research/leaflet>

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The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857

East India Company at Home, 1757-1857

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The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857 is a 3-year research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. Led by Prof. Margot Finn, in the Department of History at Warwick, the project examines the British country house in an imperial and global context. The project seeks to work in collaboration with family and local historians, curators, academics and other researchers to illuminate Britain's global material culture from the eighteenth century to the present.

Download the project leaflet

Learn about the project

Join the project

Who's involved?

News and events

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/eastindiacompanyathome

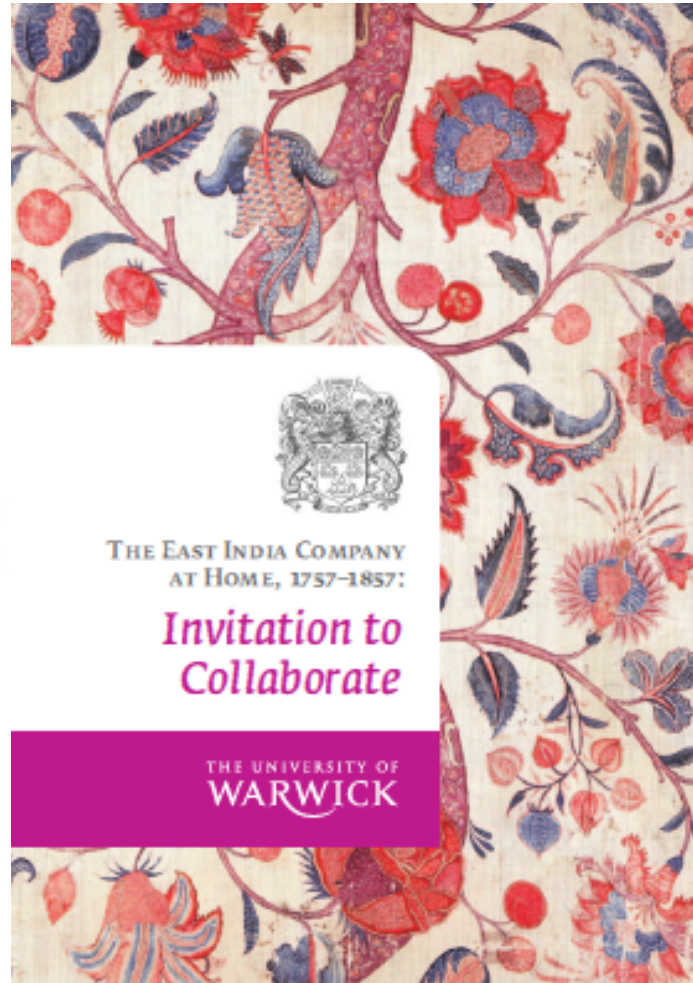


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THE EAST INDIA COMPANY
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Project Associates

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Project Associates

The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857 project currently has over 130 Project Associates. You can find details about some of our Associates below. If you are an existing Project Associate and would like to be included on this page, please contact East.India.Company@warwick.ac.uk. If you would like to become a Project Associate please go to the 'Joining the Project' page of our website.



Emile de Bruijn works as Registrar for the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org.uk), specialising in the facilitation and documentation of acquisitions. He also researches examples of chinoiserie in the country house collections owned and managed by the National Trust, which include garden pavilions, wallpaper, textiles, ceramics, lacquer and japanning. He is particularly interested in how the significance of chinoiserie changed over time and from one place to another. Emile has published a number of articles on chinoiserie and he posts about National Trust collections (including chinoiserie) on his blog *Treasure Hunt* (<http://nttreasurehunt.wordpress.com/>). Contact Emile on emile.debruijn@nationaltrust.org.uk.



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APPROACHES TO COUNTRY HOUSE HISTORIES

Helen Clifford – Senior Research Fellow



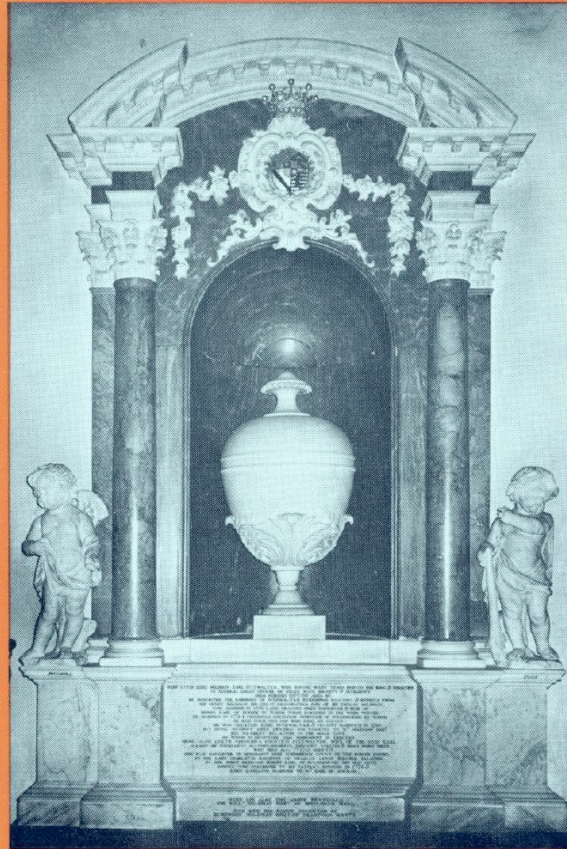
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The Account Books of
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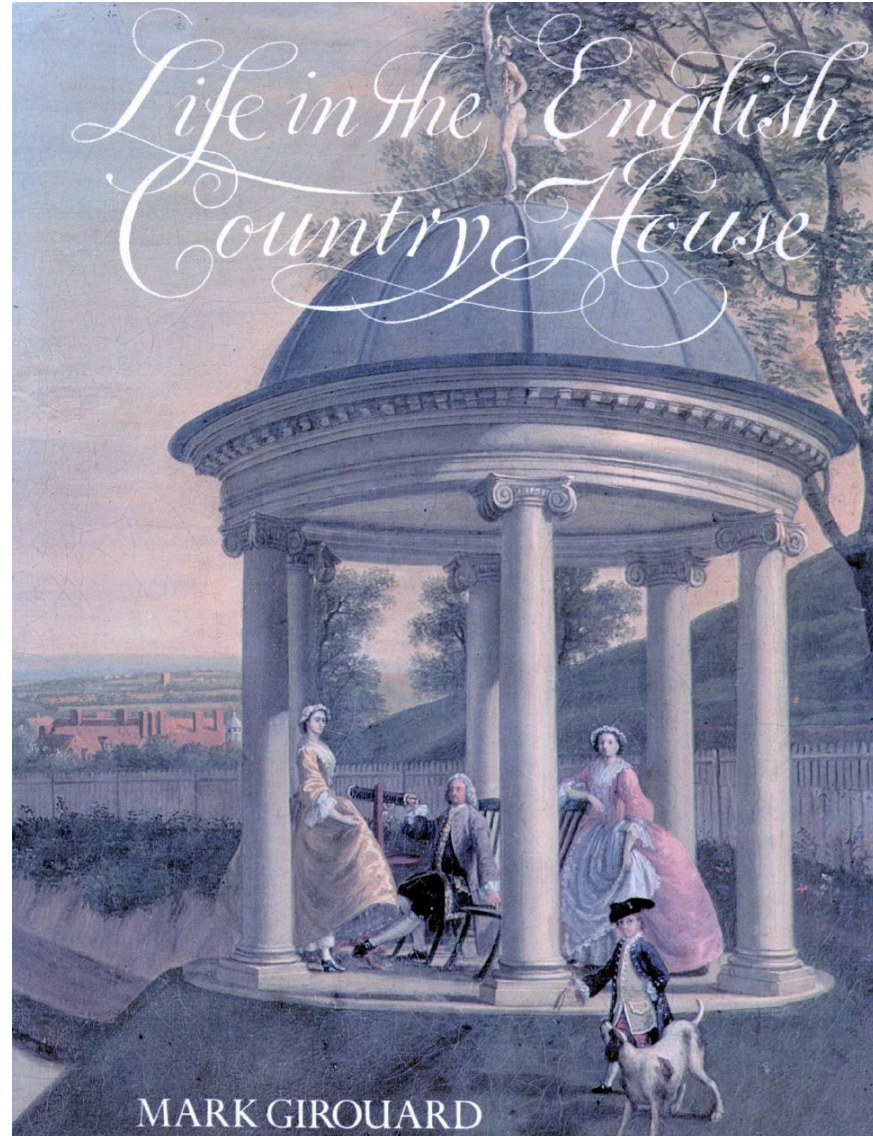


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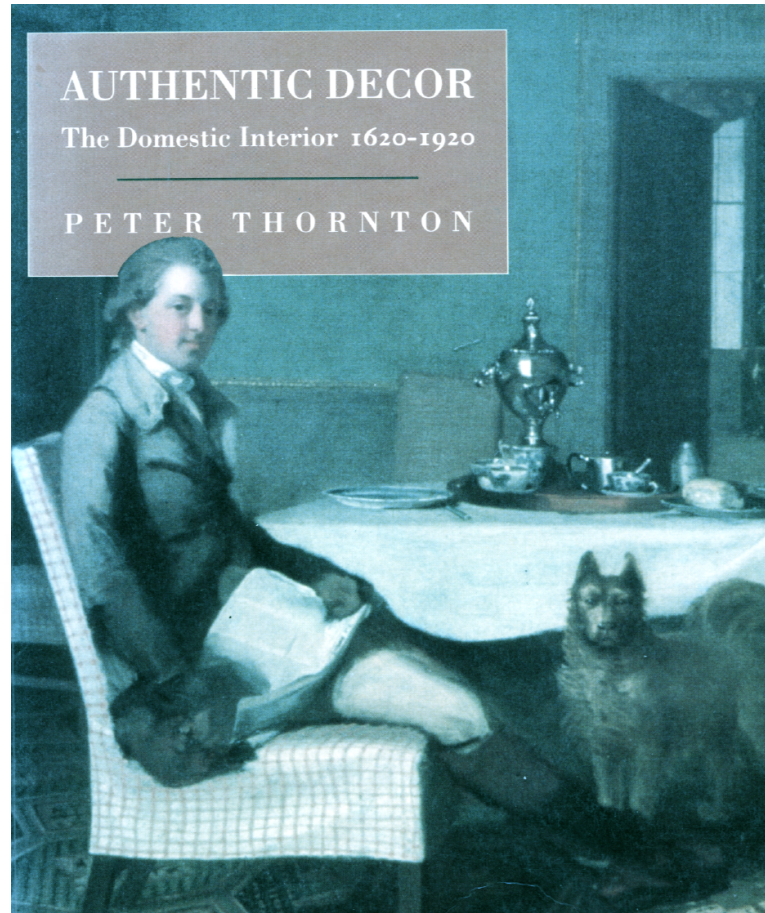


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EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DECORATION

Design and the Domestic Interior in England



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A FOREIGN PRESENCE?: IVORY CHAIRS AND THE CONCEPT OF HYBRIDITY

Kate Smith – Post-Doctoral Research Fellow



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The west front of Knole, Kent
NTPL 1829555
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Armchair and footstool
Vizagapatam, c.1800
Teak, ivory, lac
Sackville Collection



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Tray
Srinagar, India, c.1850
Papier-mâché, painted with colours and gold leaf
1620-1854
Copyright at Victoria and Albert Museum, London



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Dean and Leibsohn argue that ‘hybridity neither inheres within, nor describes, specific objects or activities’...‘Rather hybridity is produced and enacted when particular kinds of things and practices are brought together that in some way challenge presumptive norms.’

Carolyn Dean and Dana Leibsohn, ‘Hybridity and its Discontents: Considering Visual Culture in Colonial Spanish America’, *Colonial Latin American Review*, 12:1 (2003), p. 6.



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1804 and the return of Sir Henry in 1813, Lady Anne gained a wide experience of the perils and joys of English country houses as a result of her constant movement between rental properties. From this experience she became a connoisseur of houses.

By spring 1806, assisted by her brother Whitworth, she had taken an extended lease on a house at Hookwood, Surrey, surrounded by several acres of garden.[2] A few months later, she and her family were residing in town, occupying a small rented house in Park Lane opposite the Grosvenor Gate and adjacent to the residence of a Whitworth aunt. The Park Lane house had been taken to allow the Russells' eldest daughter, Anne (d. 1808) to be presented at Court, an essential step in the family's campaign to secure their status within the upper gentry. Her younger sons' fortunes were cultivated by ensuring that they enjoyed privileged access to her brother Whitworth, by being placed in schools near his stately home in Kent, Knole.[3]

The west front of Knole, Kent ©
NTPL 182955
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Concern about Hookwood's healthiness as well as its expense encouraged Lady Anne to seek alternative quarters. Complaints from Sir Henry about the excessive cost of her peripatetic lifestyle in England were a leitmotif in the couple's correspondence. She wrote to Charles in 1809 about her chronic worry regarding 'money concerns: they so much vex and hurt me that at times I feel entirely wretched'.[4] A month later, she took her children to visit their uncle Whitworth at

Knole, Kent
National Trust



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Armchair and footstool
Vizagapatam, c.1800
Teak, ivory, lac
Sackville Collection



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Burgomaster Chair
Vizagapatam, 1760-70
Veneered with ivory, with caned seat
V&A Museum, London



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Armchair and footstool
Vizagapatam, c.1800
Teak, ivory, lac
Knole, National Trust



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‘The Spangled Dressing-Room’

‘This also is an elegant apartment. In the centre of it stand a beautifully wrought chair and footstool of ivory, (also presented by earl Amherst, who brought them from India), in which, surrounded by the fine creations of the pencil which grace the walls, we should presume that a lady might sit with tolerable satisfaction during her toilet.’

James Henry Brady, *The Visitor's Guide to Knole, in the County of Kent*
(London: James Payne, 1839), p. 123.



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Armchair and footstool
Vizagapatam, c.1800
Teak, ivory, lac
Sackville Collection



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HOME SICKNESS AND NOSTALGIA IN SCOTTISH LITERATURE

Ellen Filor – PhD Student

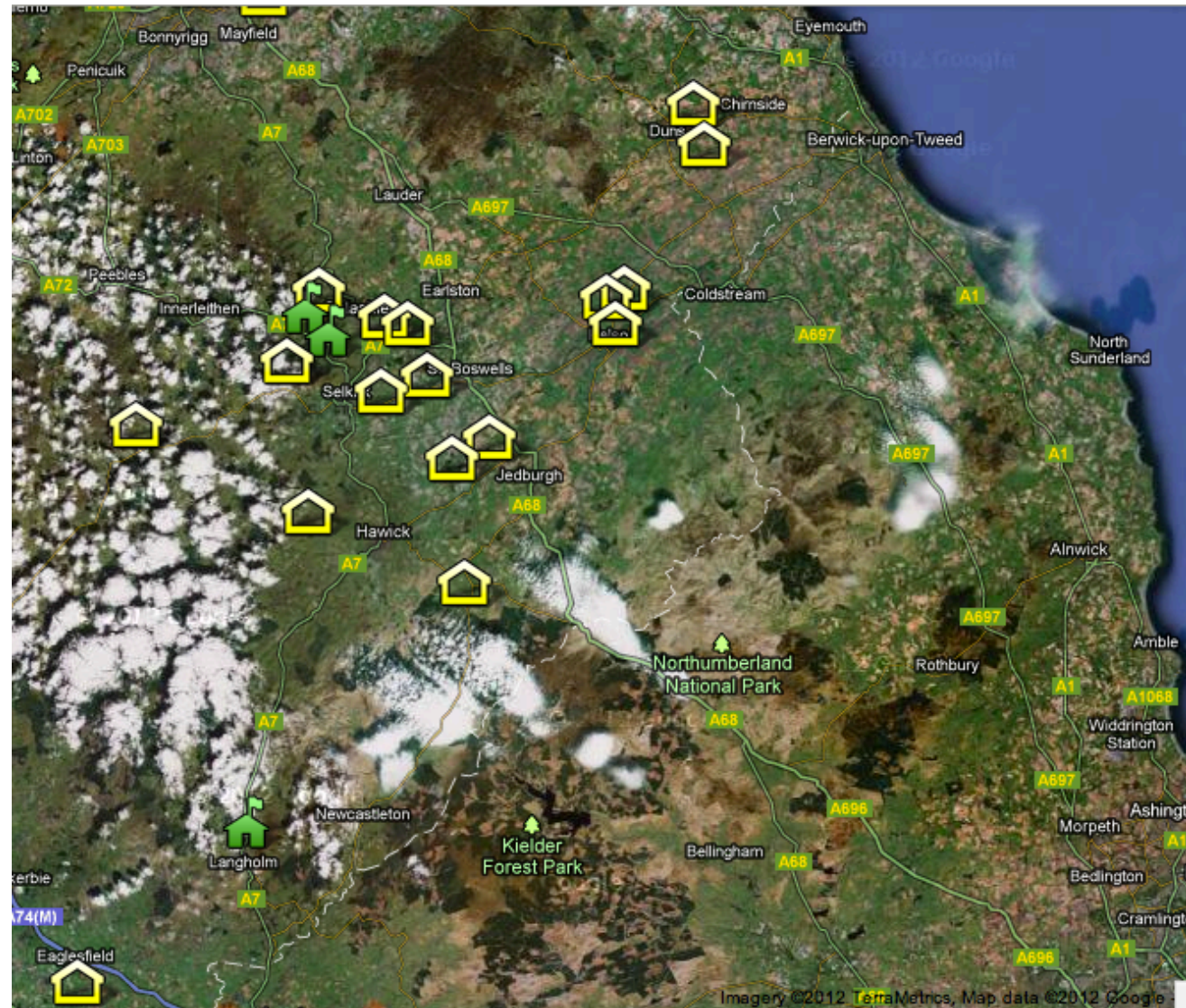


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Country Houses Owned by East Indian Company
Families, c. 1780-1857

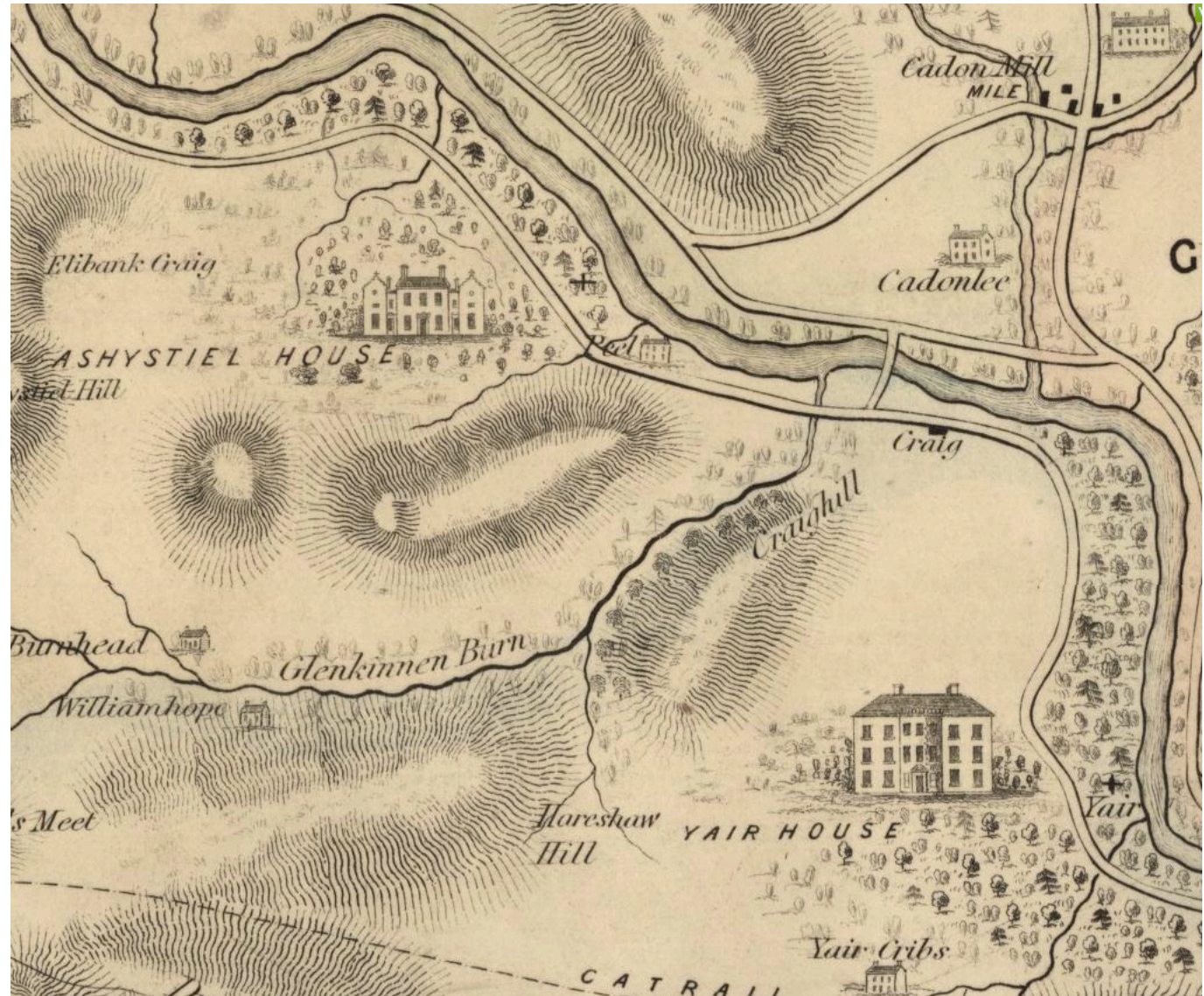


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Detail from 'Map of the County of Selkirk',
(Edinburgh, 1851)



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Marmion

Ah, happy boys! such feelings pure,
They will not, cannot long endure;
**Condemn'd to stem the world's rude tide,
You may not linger by the side;
For Fate shall thrust you from the shore,
And passion ply the sail and oar.**
Yet cherish the remembrance still,
Of the lone mountain, and the rill;
For trust, dear boys, the time will come,
When fiercer transport shall be dumb,
And you will think right frequently,
But, well I hope, without a sigh,
On the free hours that we have spent,
Together, on the brown hill's bent.

Walter Scott, *Marmion: A tale of Flodden Field* (Edinburgh, 1808), pp. 65-66.



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Albin go Bragh

Where India's green woodland in summer is smiling,
Where's Gunga's dun wave rolls crested with foam,
Each scene that is lovely, fond fancy beguiling,
I'll say it is Scotia, I'll think it is home.
How sweet the delusion; too soon it is over;
And far from thy lands must I long be a rover,
Ere the dim mist of time, rolling off, can discover,
Thy mountains, my Scotia, and show me my home.

John Alexander Pringle, *Select Remains of John Alexander Pringle* (London, 1841), p. 6.



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