

Oxford DNB: August 2021

Welcome to the seventy-seventh update of the *Oxford DNB*, which adds twelve new articles accompanied by two portrait likenesses, with nine new lives, ranging from women family members of William Shakespeare to founders of the British Red Cross and the St John Ambulance Association, and economic thinkers who promoted free market liberalism in Britain in the second half of the twentieth century.

From August 2021, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (*Oxford DNB*) offers biographies of 64,138 men and women who have shaped the British past, contained in 61,807 articles. 11,805 biographies include a portrait image of the subject – researched in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Most public libraries across the UK subscribe to the *Oxford DNB*, which means that you can access the complete dictionary for free via your local library. Libraries offer 'remote access' that enables you to log in at any time at home (or anywhere you have internet access). Elsewhere, the *Oxford DNB* is available online in schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions worldwide. Full details of participating British public libraries, and how to gain access to the complete dictionary, are available [here](#).

August 2021: summary of newly-added content

As with every aspect of the life of poet and playwright William Shakespeare, the surviving records of his family and their domestic life have been endlessly analyzed and speculated upon. However, what is it possible to say of their biographies as historical people? This release features three lives of the Shakespeare women. **Anne Hathaway [married name Shakespeare]** (c.1555/56-1623), was the daughter of a yeoman farmer from the village of Shottery just outside of Stratford-upon-Avon. Her marriage to William in November 1582 came in the context of a close and long-standing relationship between their two families. In 1597, Shakespeare purchased New Place, the second largest house in Stratford, where Anne lived until her death in 1623. All aspects of her life have provided material for conjectures about her relationship with William from the conception of her first daughter Susanna out of wedlock to the bequest of the 'second best bed' in Shakespeare's will. However, all these facts are open to debate and interpretation – an ambiguity which has ensured Anne has enjoyed a vigorous afterlife in the imaginations of authors and readers worldwide. Her family home, 'Anne Hathaway's Cottage', still exists in much the same manner as it did in her lifetime. **Susanna Shakespeare [married name Hall]**, (1583-1649), was the first child of William and Anne, born in Stratford-upon-Avon, and baptized on 26 May 1583 in Holy Trinity Church. Shakespeare reduced the age of Juliet in the source story for *Romeo and Juliet* to make her thirteen, a

notably similar age to that of his daughter when he wrote the play. She married the physician John Hall (c.1575-1635), in 1607, and as a physician's wife had an elevated social standing locally. In 1616 she inherited the bulk of her father's estate including New Place where she lived until the 1640s. Buried on 16 July 1649 in the chancel of Holy Trinity Church, her poetic epitaph (first recorded by William Dugdale) was removed when her grave was cleared in 1707 for the burial of Richard Watts but remade in 1844. **Judith Shakespeare [married name Quiney]** (1585-1662), was Anne and William's second daughter and the twin sister of Hamnet (1585-1596). On 10 February 1616, at the age of 31, Judith married Thomas Quiney (b.1589), who then was 27. They had three sons Shakespeare, Richard, and Thomas, and lived on the corner of High Street and Bridge Street in Stratford-upon-Avon, in a large property called The Cage, where Thomas was a tobacco seller and vintner. Again, aspects of Judith's life have provided much cause for speculation. Thomas was forced to pay for sexual indiscretion prior to their wedding, Shakespeare changed his will to ensure that Quiney would provide her with £150 of land, and for unknown reasons she is not buried with the other members of the Shakespeare family. Consequently Judith's life has inspired a great number of fictional portrayals including in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* (1929).

Also included in this update is a new appraisal of the life and work of the painter, jeweller, and goldsmith, **Hans Eworth [Jan Eewouts] (d. 1578/9)**, a member of the Antwerp painters' guild, who in the late

1540s came to London where he produced a series of magnificent portraits of important Tudor figures, including Queen Mary I.

Two lives in this update shared a concern to promote relief for the sick and wounded in war and first aid among civilians in peacetime.

Sir John Furley (1836–1919), became a knight of justice of the order of St John in England at a time when the grand master of the order set about enrolling members who would further the order's charitable and humanitarian aims. In 1870 Furley helped to establish the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, which became the British Red Cross. His interests extended to casualties in civil life, founding in 1877 the St John Ambulance Association, training citizens in first aid and developing the precursor to the first aid kit (the ambulance hamper) and other equipment for managing casualties. A decade later, in 1887, he instigated the St John Ambulance Brigade of trained uniformed volunteers. **Sir Herbert Charles Perrott, sixth baronet (1849–1922)** had family connections with the order of St John through his father, and held executive positions in the order, notably as chief secretary of the St John Ambulance Association. The association's work in training civilians in first aid considerably expanded during his period of office. His wife **Ethel Lucy Perrott [née Hare], Lady Perrott (1875–1939)** became in 1911 the first female superior officer of the St John Ambulance Brigade, and as commandant-in-chief of the brigade's Voluntary Aid companies she organized the nursing divisions.

In June 1918 Furley and Perrott were made Companions of Honour.

This update includes a list of members of the **Order of Companions of Honour**, which was instituted in 1917 for those 'as may have rendered conspicuous service of national importance'. ODNB includes the lives of 263 people who were admitted to the order.

Four lives in this release shared a concern with economic policy and the problems of the British economy in the mid twentieth century.

(Arthur Leslie Noel) Douglas Houghton, Baron Houghton of Sowerby

(1898–1996) started his working life as a clerk in a tax office, and became general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, the trade union for tax office employees. He was noted for promoting what became the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system, introduced in 1944 to collect income tax from an extended range of taxpayers to help pay for the war effort. After the war, as a Labour MP from 1949 to 1974, he promoted the idea that the tax system could help deliver social services. In 1964, as a member of the cabinet in Harold Wilson's government, he was associated with the 'income guarantee' for pensioners which, however, was abandoned in the following year.

He was dropped from the cabinet in 1967 but made a Companion of Honour. The economics professor **William Harold [Bill] Hutt (1899–1988)**, who came from a trade union background, took a degree in commerce at the London School of Economics. He embraced economic liberalism, making trade unions, which he regarded as monopolizing the labour supply, the subject of his early writings, and he went on to develop a critique of Keynesian economic policies. He coined the term 'the sovereignty of the consumer'. Another product

of the London School of Economics in the 1920s, the journalist and economist, **(David) Graham Hutton (1904–1988)** promoted a libertarian critique of the corporatism favoured by British governments after the Second World War. The financial journalist **Harold Edward Wincott (1906–1969)** worked his way up the newspaper industry to become editor of the *Investors Chronicle*. He contributed a column for eighteen years to the *Financial Times* between 1950 and 1968, which addressed the weaknesses of the British economy and championed competition and free markets. These lives shared an involvement, to various degrees, with the **Institute of Economic Affairs (act. 1955-)**, which is the subject of a Reference Group article added in this month's update, linking over thirty ODNB lives. The IEA was founded in 1955 as a research organization to promote public policies based on market liberalism, and brought together exponents of the British classical liberal tradition in economics with those who saw Britain's weak economic performance after 1945 as the result of the policies of economic planning, high taxation, and powerful trade unions. By the 1970s and 1980s the IEA became a central reference point in political debate.