

Economists' Walk No. 3: Holborn and Westminster

The walk starts at the Hunterian Museum (entrance free, closed Mondays) inside the Royal College of Surgeons on the south side of Lincoln's Inn Fields (1). Here can be seen the preserved left hemisphere of **Charles Babbage's** brain (in Gallery 4 on the lower floor). Babbage, best known for his role in the history of computing, also wrote innovatively on the economics of production.

Leaving Lincoln's Inn Fields at the south west corner, follow Portsmouth St south to Portugal St (2). The buildings here are those of the London School of Economics and Political Science. Founded around the beginning of the twentieth century, the LSE has played a major role in economics in London since. Early figures were **Edwin Cannan, Arthur Bowley, Lionel Robbins, John Hicks, Abba Lerner, Roy Allen** and **Friedrich Hayek**.

Exiting LSE at Houghton St, turn left and follow the sweep of Aldwych until it joins the Strand. Ahead of you is Arundel St (3) where **Charles Babbage** was resident for a time after marriage.

Turn right and follow the Strand towards the West you come soon to the founding campus of Kings' College (4). Founded in 1829 by King George IV and the Duke of Wellington in response to the establishment of UCL and in order to provide a university education within the tradition of the Church of England, its past staff have included **Francis Ysidro Edgeworth, Arthur Cecil Pigou** and, briefly, **Nassau William Senior**.

Crossing the Strand, follow Aldwych in a clockwise direction, turn left into Drury Lane (5) and left again into Tavistock St. At No. 36 a blue plaque marks the composition there of **Thomas de Quincey's** *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*. De Quincey's memoir records his experiences of drug addiction and the contribution to his recovery made by his delight in the insights of Ricardian political economy, a subject to which he later contributed.

Follow Tavistock St to Wellington St, turn right then left into Exeter St. The Lyceum Theatre (6) occupies the site of the seventeenth century Exeter House where **John Locke** lived from 1667 to 1674 as physician and adviser to Lord Ashley. Locke wrote on economics, proposing for example an early version of the Quantity Theory of Money.

Follow the Strand west to Trafalgar Square (where the walk links to Walk No 2 if preferred) and continue, keeping left, into Whitehall. In this road you pass most of the main offices of state including the Treasury, the Foreign Office, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Prime Minister's residence in Downing St. As you reach Parliament Square turn left a little way along Bridge St and to the left is Canon Row (7), next to Westminster tube station. In the late seventeenth century **John Locke** spent the final years of his life in Dorset Court, Channel Row on this site.

Cross Bridge St and proceed clockwise around Parliament Square. Here you will see, on the south side, the Houses of Parliament where individuals such as **David Ricardo** and **John Stuart Mill** served as Members of Parliament. On the west side is Westminster Abbey (8), where are buried two of the country's greatest scientists, **Isaac Newton** and **Charles Darwin**, neither of them economists but each profoundly influential on the discipline through their discoveries, respectively, of the principles of calculus and of evolution.

From Westminster Abbey continue into Broad Sanctuary and on to Victoria St (9). After the death of his wife **John Stuart Mill** took up residence in a flat (at 10 Albert Mansions, now demolished) in this street where he lived until his death in 1873.

Turn right into Dean Farrar Street then left into Tothill St. and continue to Queen Anne's Gate. Here, on a site now occupied by the UK government Home Office (10), a green plaque marks the adult residence of **Jeremy Bentham**. Adjacent to Bentham's property **James**

Mill lived from 1814 to 1831 with his young son John Stuart Mill. David

Ricardo is said to have been a frequent visitor.

