

Economists' Walk No. 6: Kensington, Mayfair and Marylebone

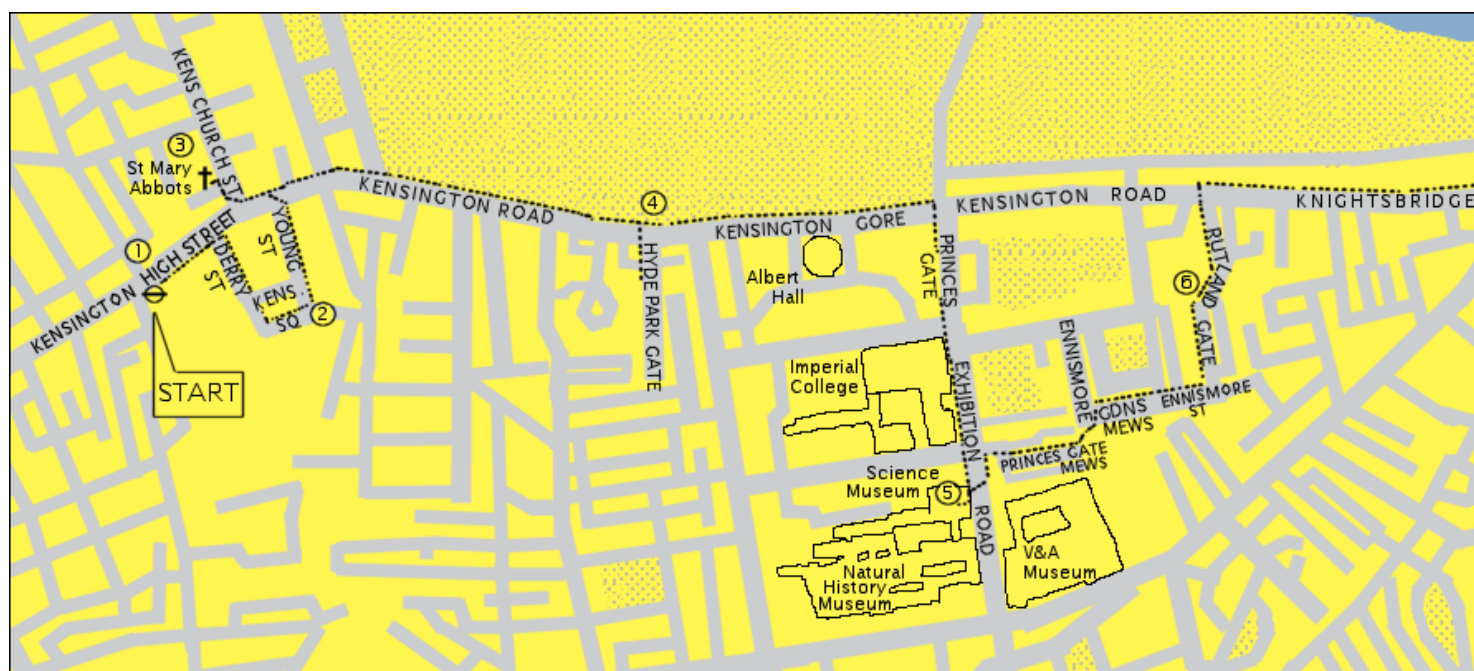
The walk begins in the centre of Kensington at High St Kensington tube station (1). Turn right as you exit, then take the first turn right into Derry St which brings you to Kensington Square (2). Two famous nineteenth century economists of opposing views lived here. Unmarked at No 32 is a residence in the 1820s of **Nassau William Senior**, influential critic of Ricardian orthodoxy and proponent, for example, of utility-based theories of demand. Further around the square at No 18 and marked by a green plaque is a later home of **John Stuart Mill**, social and moral philosopher and exponent of Ricardian economics.

Continue around the square and return to Kensington High St along Young St. Cross the road and turn left, proceeding to the junction with Kensington Church St where you will find the church of St Mary Abbots (3). **James Mill**, father of John Stuart, died in Kensington Church St and is buried in the grounds of the church. Friend and supporter of Ricardo and Bentham, he was influential in encouraging Ricardo to publish his ideas and also wrote himself on economic issues. There is a

memorial plaque to him at the rear of the church.

Return to Kensington High St and retrace your steps, crossing the road and continuing eastwards until you reach Hyde Park Gate (4). **Nassau William Senior** died here at No 13.

Continue eastwards along Kensington Road past the Albert Hall, turning right when you reach Prince's Gate. The surrounding buildings are those of Imperial College, another part of the University of London, founded in 1907 with a predominant focus on the physical sciences. Ahead of you is an area of several museums including the Victoria and Albert Museum (of decorative arts), the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum (all of them free to enter). The first one of these that you encounter is the Science Museum (5) and this has an exhibit of particular interest. In the 2nd floor exhibition on the history of mathematics and computing you will find one of **Bill Phillips'** hydraulic models of the macroeconomy, constructed at LSE in the mid twentieth century.



As you exit the Science Museum, cross the road and proceed along Prince's Gate Mews into Ennismore Garden Mews until you come to Rutland Gate (6) on your left. **Francis Galton**, eugenicist, polymath and early student of linear regression, lived for over fifty years at No 42 Rutland Gate where a plaque commemorates his residence.

Continue along Rutland Gate until you return to Kensington Road. Turn right and follow Knightsbridge to Hyde Park Corner. Follow signs taking you left to Park Lane and then turn right into Hertford St (7) (next to the Hilton). **James Joseph Sylvester**, developer of matrix algebra, lived at No 5 from 1892 onwards.

At the end of Hertford St turn left into Curzon St then turn right when you reach South Audley St. Eventually this takes you to South St (8). At No 10 there is a plaque to the memory of **Florence Nightingale**, who lived here in her later years. Best known for her contribution to nursing practice during the Crimean War, she is held in high regard by statisticians for her role in the development of epidemiological statistics and statistical education.

Continuing along South Audley St, you will eventually reach Grosvenor Square where is located the US Embassy. The northern wing of the embassy (9) occupies the spot which used to be 56 Upper Brook Street, the London residence in later years of **David Ricardo**.

This house was demolished after sustaining bomb damage in the war. Follow Upper Brook St, turn right into Park St and continue to Oxford St. Cross the road and continue along Portman St until you reach Seymour St (10) on your left. In this street, then called Upper Seymour St, was born **Charles Spearman** at No 39. Professor of psychology at UCL, Spearman made important statistical contributions including the early development of

factor analysis and nonparametric measures of correlation.

Cross Portman Square and proceed eastward along Wigmore St, turning left when you reach Mandeville Place which leads on to Thayer St and Marylebone High St (11). Marylebone is the birthplace of **Edward West**, codiscoverer with Ricardo, Malthus and Torrens, of the idea of diminishing returns in production. West was baptised and married in the church of St Marylebone, then located towards the north end of this street.

