

THS Meeting: 20 April 2023

In June 2022 THS Members visited **Sezincote House near Moreton-in-Marsh** to see for ourselves a property inspired by an interest in Indian architecture and built with money earned in that **"Jewel in the Crown"** of the British Empire.



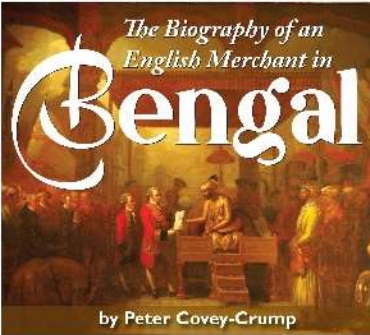
The house was the whim of a grandson of the Samuel Pepys, who returned to England having amassed a fortune in the **East India Company**. The owner died in 1798, three years after his return, and the estate passed to a brother, who had also worked for the company. He commissioned another brother, an architect, to design and build an **Indian house in the Mogul style of Rajasthan**.

The owner was involved with **Warren Hastings** whose descendants lived in Twynning. Hey loved and respected Indian culture but their wealth won by such **'Nabobs'** became mistrusted, and Hastings was controversially impeached by Parliament.

This visit inspired me to book this talk so that we can learn more about The English and India

English 'Nabob' amasses a fortune from salt in Bengal.

TEWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~



The Biography of an English Merchant in Bengal
by Peter Covey-Crump

Thursday April 20th, 7.45pm
at the Methodist Church
The Cross, Tewkesbury GL20 5BB (Members £2.50 Visitors £4.00)

All most welcome!

Concessions: please be notified if you are unable to attend. Please call 01273 834111.

Enjoy refreshments that will be served after the meeting.

Following Writing on Thursday May 18th -
Sunday 22nd (Returns by Mother Abbey - Holy Blood and Holy Manna) or Don't Ask!

32nd Meeting

Anselm Beaumont, an apothecary, travelled from London to Calcutta in 1753 as a Free Merchant at the age of 38; he was not an employee of the East India Company but sold red Mediterranean coral beads to the Indians. Following the Siege of Calcutta, he became a company employee. The talk is based on his letter books which contain drafts of 217 business letters written between 1763 and his death in 1776. These are a very rare survival as the British Library only holds one similar document of this period. The letters describe how he amassed a large fortune in Bengal and the problems that he had in transferring his assets to London after his return to England in the summer of 1765. He was a close friend of Robert Clive who asked the artist Benjamin West to include Beaumont in his painting "Lord Clive receiving the Grant of the Diwani" [the poster] which is now on display in Powis Castle. Beaumont accompanied Clive on his six-month Grand Tour to Italy in 1773/74 to help him to purchase items for his new house at Claremont. The talk is illustrated with contemporary etchings and paintings.

Our speaker, **Peter Covey Crump** is a retired Senior Civil Servant living in Cheltenham. The talk **"How to make a fortune in the 18th century"** is based on his research into family history and is based on business letters; the British Library asked him to write a short article and hence this talk.

We hope, this time, to post a recording which will be available for a short time on our website.