

Samuel Howitt (1756/7–1823)

The details of *Samuel Howitt's* birth and parentage are unknown; tradition maintains that he was a member of a wealthy old Quaker family from *Nottinghamshire*. He first enters the records in possession of a property at *Chigwell*, in *Essex*, and living as a gentleman of means - a keen sportsman, hunter, rider and angler.

Howitt began painting as a hobby, using his enthusiasm and knowledge as a sportsman to produce sporting and natural history illustrations. Although largely self-taught, he must have been helped by his companions *George Morland* and *Thomas Rowlandson*.

Howitt moved to *London*, turning professional when financial difficulties forced him to earn a living. He sometimes worked in oils but more usually in watercolours.



Southampton quay with colliers unloading.
IWCMS.2002.68



Netley Abbey, Hampshire.
IWCMS.2002.70

Samuel Howitt concentrated his considerable artistic talents on depicting scenes of hunting and horseracing in all their aspects. *Howitt's* watercolours capture the essence of the sport and have a delightful spontaneity.



Yarmouth from the harbour.
IWCMS.2002.95



Freshwater Gate.
IWCMS.2002.100

Howitt's earliest exhibits were three 'stained drawings' of hunting scenes, shown at the Incorporated *Society of Artists*, in 1783. He continued to exhibit at the *Royal Academy* and elsewhere until 1815.

As an artist he was prolific, with more than 150 of his designs being published in '*The Sporting Magazine*'. He also illustrated many sporting and zoological books.



The west front of Carisbrooke Church, with Carisbrooke village and Castle beyond.
IWCMS.2002.135

Samuel Howitt married *Thomas Rowlandson's* sister *Elizabeth* on 2 October 1779. Together they had three children, but had separated by the time that *Howitt* died. *Howitt* and *Rowlandson* were friends as well as brothers-in-law. During 1791 they toured the *Isle of Wight*.



The Castle and Village of Carisbrooke.
IWCMS.2002.127



Steephill.
IWCMS.2002.114

The collection of watercolour sketches acquired by the *Isle of Wight Council* in 2002 includes 23 watercolours by *Howitt*, painted during the 1791 tour.



View on the River Medina from West Cowes.

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Ryde, with the Grand Fleet at Spithead and Portsmouth in the distance.

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Howitt died between 9 February 1823, the date of his will, and his burial at *St Pancras Old Church* on 21 February 1823.



Newport.

IWCMS.2002.136