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Middlesbrough's Steel Magnates

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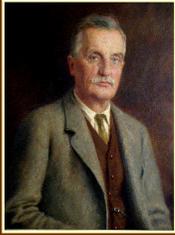
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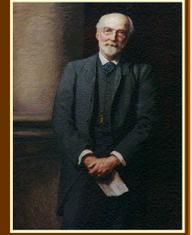
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Middlesbrough's Steel Magnates: Culture, Politics and Participation 1880-1934



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INTRODUCTION

Middlesbrough's steel industry undoubtedly played a crucial economic role in the life of the town and its people. The industry provided work to thousands of the town's inhabitants in both the works themselves and also in the numerous transport, building and retail industries that were reliant on the fortunes of the steel works.



Britannia Steel Works, Middlesbrough

The political, social, religious and cultural activities of Middlesbrough's steel magnates who owned and managed the likes of Bell Brothers, Britannia Works and the world-renowned Dorman Long has received limited attention from historians. By focusing on the industrial elites beyond, but not excluding, their economic interests, this research will highlight the various means by which they exercised power, authority and influence in the town.



METHODOLOGY & SOURCES

The project will be amongst the first to make use of the recently founded British Steel Collection based at Teesside Archives. The collection, consisting of thousands of business reports, private papers and images directly relating to Teesside's heavy industries, will shed new light on the lives of both the industries' employers and employees.

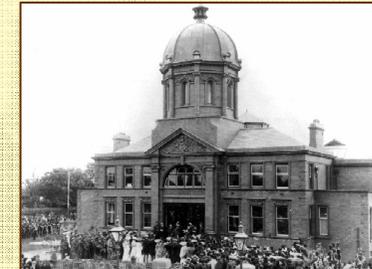


Opening Ceremony of (Tees) Newport Bridge, Middlesbrough

The research's focus beyond the formal political involvement of the industrialists in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Middlesbrough requires reference to a wide range of primary material drawn from a wide cross section of political and non political bodies. Material will include philanthropic institutions' minutes, church records, newspaper reports, business directories, local government records and museum collections

SIR ARTHUR DORMAN & SIR HUGH BELL

As well as highlighting the extent of the steel magnates role in the town, the research will assess the significance of differing political, economic, religious and cultural views in relations between Middlesbrough's industrialists.



Opening Ceremony of Dorman Memorial Museum, Middlesbrough

Informed by a case study of the lives of and relations between Sir Arthur Dorman (above top left), a first generation steel magnate, Conservative and Protectionist, and his business partner Sir (Thomas) Hugh Bell (above top right), a second generation ironmaster and Liberal free trader, the research will gauge how far polarised ideologies influenced relations between arguably the two chief figures in Middlesbrough's steel industry.

