

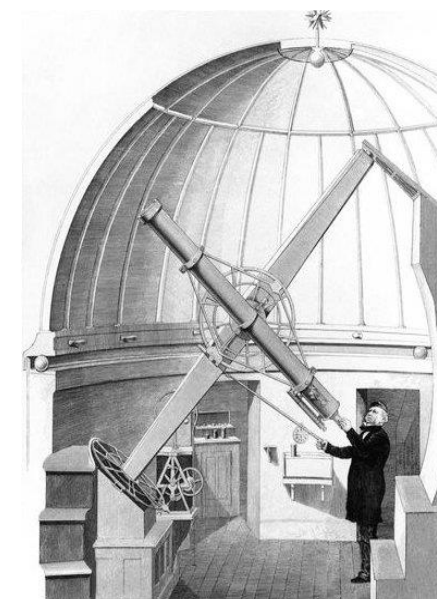
Smyth, William Henry

Admiral

(1788-1865)



1838 ©NPG 2515(85)



1851

William and his wife Annarella cataloguing the Duke of Northumberland's collection, published 1856. Oil painting in NPG lost during the Blitz.

Biographical and Other Notes

He began his naval career as a seaman and rose to Admiral by the age of 25. He was a very careful observer and cartographer and became a keen astronomer, building his own observatory in Bedford after he retired in 1828. He published pioneering maps of the stars and was a founder member of the Numismatic Society of London, publishing an article on Bedford town tokens in Vol. 1 of its proceedings. He donated several Bedford tokens to the BM. He was the grandfather of Robert Baden Powell.

Sources and References

HEM Encyclopædia 4 – Biographical.
Simplicitas. A few notes on Admiral Smyth. SCMB, 1958, pp149-50.
F.W. Kuhlicke. Admiral William Henry Smyth. Bedfordshire Magazine. v.10 n.73, pp25-29, Summer 1965.
D.J. Gaunt and G.M. Oddie. Bedfordshire Seventeenth Century Tokens. Galata, 2011.