

## 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.**

IWCMS.2002.159



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

IWCMS.2002.125

*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