

BRYDGES, Sir HARFORD JONES (1764 - 1847), diplomatist and author

Name: Harford Jones Brydges

Date of birth: 1764

Date of death: 1847

Spouse: Sarah Brydges (née Gott)

Parent: Winifred Jones (née Hooper)

Parent: Harford Jones

Gender: Male

Occupation: diplomatist and author

Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Public and Social Service, Civil Administration

Author: William Llewelyn Davies

Born 12 January 1764, son of Harford Jones, Presteign, Radnorshire, and Winifred, daughter of Richard Hooper, The Whittern, Herefordshire. The son assumed, 4 May 1826, the additional surname of Brydges.

The career of Harford Jones (Brydges) is described in *D.N.B.*; only a brief mention is, therefore, necessary here. Early in life he entered the service of the East India Company. He became proficient in Oriental languages and was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the court of Persia; this post, that of the first British ambassador to Persia, he held from 1807 (in which year he was created a baronet) until 1811.

He published *The Dynasty of the Kajars, translated from the original Persian manuscript*, 1833; *An Account of His Majesty's Mission to Persia in the years 1807-11, to which is added a brief history of the Wahanby*, 1834; *Letter on the Present State of British Interests and Affairs in Persia*, 1838, etc. A deecided Whig, he showed much interest in the election contests of Radnorshire, where he founded 'The Grey Coat Club,' a political association; in 1841 he was appointed a deputy-lieutenant of Radnorshire. On 15 June 1831 he became D.C.L. (honorary) of Oxford, and in 1832 a privy councillor.

His wife was Sarah, daughter of Sir Henry Gott, Newland Park, Buckinghamshire. He died 17 March 1847 at Boultibrook, near Presteign, a house whence (in 1923) some Boultibrook manuscripts came to the National Library of Wales (now [NLW MSS 4901-12](#)), to be supplemented (in 1943) by a very large group of Harford Jones and Harford Jones Brydges papers which came from Kentchurch Court, Herefordshire. Included in the Kentchurch Court group are (a) Harford Jones estate and manorial documents, and (b) Harford Jones Brydges diplomatic and other papers, East India Company and Government papers and letters, and, particularly, papers relating to the mission to Persia - all in English, French, Persian, etc.

Author

Sir William Llewelyn Davies, (1887 - 1952)

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, and the sources named therein

Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, vii, 52-3

Annual Report of the National Library of Wales, 1942-3, 32-3

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Sir Harford Jones-Brydges](#)

Additional Links

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