

The Hispanic-Anglosphere from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century

An Introduction

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Biographies

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Gallery in London and can be seen in its online catalogue <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw01403/Cuthbert-Collingwood-Baron-Collingwood>, accessed 18 August 2020.

Conroy, Thomas (c.1806–85)

JOSÉ BROWNRIGG-GLEESON MARTÍNEZ

Irish merchant in Callao, Peru, not much is known about Conroy's early years: born in Wexford in 1806 or 1807 to a father originally from Rathdowny, it seems that he arrived in Lima around 1820 after a short stint in the United States. What is certain is that Conroy was already settled in Peru by December 1827, when he married Petronila Enderica Talamantes (d. 1862), with whom he would go on to father fourteen children.

He was involved in numerous mercantile activities in Peru. According to the German merchant Heinrich Witt, he operated as the agent of the house of *Antony Gibbs & Co.* in Callao in the early 1840s. Together with being the port agent in Callao and for some time the Consul General for Costa Rica in that town as well, Conroy held business interests in copper and guano and may have also been the proprietor of a mine. His presence in Callao, conspicuously marked by a large residence and office purposefully built for himself in 1855 (see detailed entry later in this section) prompted the arrival in Peru of two of his younger brothers: Peter, 'Pedro', later a partner of the Lima firm of *Naylors, Conroy & Co.*, and George, who committed suicide in 1846. Additionally, Thomas Conroy is credited with having been one of the main promoters of the horse races at Bellavista, near Callao.

Thomas Conroy died in Callao on 17 August 1885. The death notice published in Lima's *El Comercio* referred to him as 'one of the first Europeans who settled amongst us during the days of our (struggle for) independence' and spoke of a merchant known throughout his 65 years of residence in Peru for his 'hard work, honesty and love towards his fellow men, which had made him deserving of everyone's esteem' (transl. *El Comercio*, 17 August 1885). In the opinion of Heinrich Witt – who had known Conroy from the time of his own arrival in Lima in 1827 – the Irish merchant was 'a really good man but rather extravagant' (Mücke, 2016, vol. 3, 523). Witt estimated in 1875 that at the peak of his business ventures in the 1840s–50s, the Irishman's income could have amounted 'to as much as \$40,000 annually, but he, like his brother Peter, was ostentatious, and thus his money went out as fast as it came in' (Mücke, 2016, vol. 5, 191).

Sources and Suggested Reading: Ulrich Mücke, ed., *The Diary of Heinrich Witt* (10 vols., Leiden & Boston, MA: Brill, 2016), esp. vols. 2, 3, 5; [Manuel Ortiz de Zavallos], *Memoria de los Ramos de Hacienda y Comercio que presenta el ministro encargado de su despacho al Congreso Oficial*,

convocado extraordinariamente para el mes de octubre de 1858 (Lima: Imprenta de J. M. Masias, 1858), xviii; *El Comercio*, 17 August 1885; Teodoro Hampe Martínez, 'Apuntes documentales sobre inmigrantes europeos y norteamericanos en Lima (Siglo XIX)', *Revista de Indias* 53, 198 (1993): 459–91; Gabriela McEvoy, *La experiencia invisible. Inmigrantes irlandeses en el Perú* (Lima: Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, 2018).

Huth, Frederick (1777–1864)

MANUEL LLORCA-JAÑA

Leading London merchant banker, founder of *Huth & Co.*, was born in Hanover in 1777. In 1791, he was admitted as an apprentice to a Basque merchant house in Hamburg, *Brentano Urbietta & Co.* Hamburg was at the time one of the primary ports in continental Europe, an important *entrepôt* of global produce, in particular with regard to the British and Hispanic worlds. After four years working for these Basque merchants, Frederick Huth was promoted to senior clerk. Two years later, Juan Antonio Urbietta (head of the house) decided that he was of better use in Corunna, where they had a branch house.

The links between Hamburg and Corunna were important on account of the re-export trade of Spanish global produce, but also because of the re-export of Silesian linens from Hamburg to Corunna and from Galicia into the rest of Spain and Spanish America. The Corunna house was headed by a brother of Juan Antonio, who increasingly left much of the running of the house in Huth's hands. His arrival at Corunna roughly coincided with the end of the monopoly of Seville-Cadiz with Spanish America. This is important because it was in Galicia that Huth became familiar with Ibero-American trade. Indeed, he was sent to South America several times acting as supercargo. During these trips he landed in Rio de Janeiro, Callao, Valparaiso and Buenos Aires, gaining valuable experience for his future operations from London. Overall, Huth's appointment in Galicia is crucial to understanding his later connections with Spain after moving back to London in 1809 where he established himself as a commission merchant.

Sources and Suggested Reading: Manuel Llorca-Jaña, 'Connections and Networks in Spain of a London Merchant-Banker, 1800–1850', *Revista de Historia Económica/Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History* 31, no. 3 (2013): 423–58; Charles Jones, 'Huth, (John) Frederick Andrew [formerly (Johann) Friedrich Andreas] (1777–1864), Merchant and Merchant Banker', *ODNB*, 23 September 2004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:ODNB/48245>, accessed 19 August 2019; Charles Jones, *International Business in the Nineteenth Century* (Brighton: Wheatsheaf Books, 1987), 37; A. Murray, *Home From the Hill. A Biography of Frederick Huth, 'Napoleon*