

## Conway Hall artworks

### Library



#### **[Ellen Dana Conway \(1833-1897\)](#)**

Toned bromide photo-print, 1897

Ellen Dana Conway was the wife of [Moncure Conway](#), the leader of the South Place Ethical Society. She was known for helping to foster the warm and open atmosphere of the Society, and for being a loving and loyal friend.



#### **[George Jacob Holyoake \(1817-1906\)](#)**

By Albert Toft, plaster bust, 1907

George Jacob Holyoake was a writer and social reformer. He came up with the word 'secularism' to describe a humanist philosophy of living well in the one life we know we have, and working to make a fairer world for everyone.



#### **[Thomas Paine \(1737-1809\)](#)**

By C.H. Jarvis, oil on canvas, 1809

Presented by [Moncure Conway](#) on his final departure in June 1897.

Thomas Paine was a writer and freethinker, who spoke and wrote about the importance of reason and human rights. He famously wrote: 'My country is the world, and my religion is to do good'.

You can learn more about Thomas Paine in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **Epicurus (341 BCE-270 BCE)**

Terracotta mask, 20th century

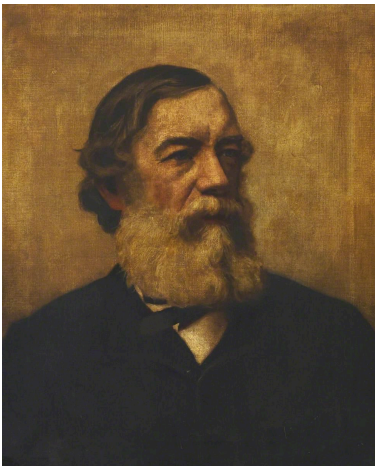
Epicurus was a Greek philosopher whose ideas emphasised the pursuit of happiness in the one life we know. Rather than worrying about gods, he thought that the ingredients of happiness could be found in seeking pleasure, friendship, and fulfilment.



### **Hector Hawton (1901-1975)**

Photograph

Hector Hawton was a writer and editor, who played a big part in popularising humanism in the 20th century. In 1956, while Hawton was editor, *The Literary Guide*, published by the Rationalist Press Association, became *The Humanist*.



### **Moncure Daniel Conway (1832-1907)**

By Rowland Holyoake, oil on canvas, 1880s-1890s

Moncure Conway was the leader of the South Place Ethical Society between 1864-1884 and 1892-1897. He campaigned for an end to slavery, promoted women's rights, and believed that people should be guided by reason, kindness, and a sense of responsibility for others.

You can learn more about Moncure Conway in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **Ernestine L. Rose (1810-1892)**

Drawing, 1857

Ernestine Rose was a Polish-born campaigner and reformer, who fought for human rights of all kinds. This included working for an end to slavery, for the right of women to vote, and for the equal treatment of everyone no matter their religion or belief. She was a proud atheist.

You can learn more about Ernestine Rose in [Doers, Dreamers, Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)**

Plaster bust, English, 19th century

Ralph Waldo Emerson was an American poet and writer, who inspired some of the most important people in the early humanist movement. One of these was the leader of the West London Ethical Society Stanton Coit, who probably had this bust made. He wrote that Emerson was a true 'ethicist', who believed that people did not need to be religious – or believe in an afterlife – to live good and moral lives.



### **Sarah Flower Adams (1805-1848)**

Gelatine bromide enlargement photo-print of a drawing by Margaret Gillies

Sarah Flower Adams was a poet and songwriter, who was a member of the South Place Ethical Society when it was still at South Place Chapel. She was a freethinker and a radical, and her ideas and discussions encouraged others to explore their own beliefs. She and her sister, Eliza, were extremely close and collaborated on lots of music and songs.





### **[William Johnson Fox \(1786-1864\)](#)**

By John Robert Wildman, oil on canvas, 1825

William Johnson Fox was a Minister at South Place Chapel (the home of the South Place Ethical Society before Conway Hall) between 1817-1852, when the group were Unitarian. Unitarians believe in following your conscience, rather than a strict set of rules, and William Johnson Fox promoted lots of ideas which seemed radical to others at the time, like freedom of the press and the right for couples to get divorced.



### **[Eliza Flower \(1803-1846\)](#)**

Tinted lithograph of a drawing by Mrs E. Bridell Fox

Eliza Flower, the sister of Sarah Flower Adams, was a radical and composer. Eliza was a talented musician, and helped to make South Place well-known for its music. She also used her compositions to express her radical ideas, like the rights of workers to better conditions.

You can learn more about Eliza Flower in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **[Stanton Coit \(1857-1944\)](#)**

Bronze bust on marble base, English school

Stanton Coit was one of the founders of the Union of Ethical Societies, which became Humanists UK. Before this, he was the leader of South Place Ethical Society 1888-1892. Stanton Coit was inspired by the Ethical Culture movement in the US, where he was born, and helped to spread these humanist ideas in the UK. The ethical societies believed in bringing people together to do good, without needing to agree on whether gods or an afterlife existed.





**[William Morris \(1834-1896\)](#)**

Bronze plaque

William Morris was a designer, writer, humanist, and socialist, who used his art and his political activism to try to create a better world.



**[H.G. Wells \(1866-1946\)](#)**

Photograph

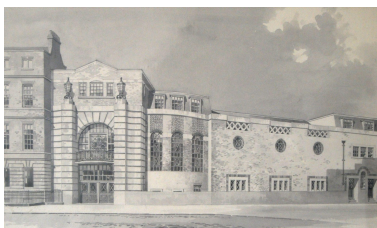
Herbert George Wells was a writer, and a pioneer of what came to be called science fiction. Many of his works explored what a better society could look like. In 1940, he wrote *The Rights of Man*, which laid out a set of rights which all people should be entitled to. This formed the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



**[Peter Cadogan \(1921-2007\)](#)**

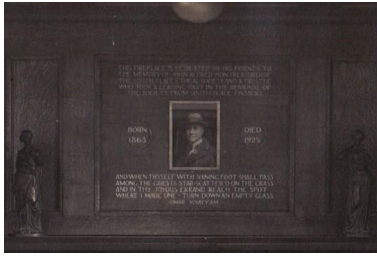
By Alfred Head, watercolour, 1977

Peter Cadogan was a campaigner, and chairman of the [South Place Ethical Society](#) 1970–1981. He campaigned against nuclear weapons, and wrote many books and pamphlets exploring the idea of democracy.



**[Conway Hall](#)**

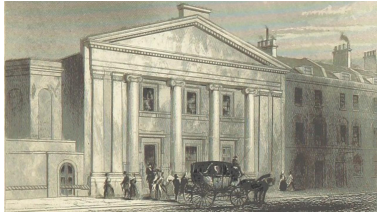
Perspective view prior to construction, assumed to be by F. Herbert Mansford (1871-1946), architect of Conway Hall, c. 1926



### **John Aldred (1863-1925)**

Photograph

John Aldred was an active member of the South Place Ethical Society, who helped with the selling of South Place Chapel and buying the land in Red Lion Square.



### **South Place Chapel**

Drawing

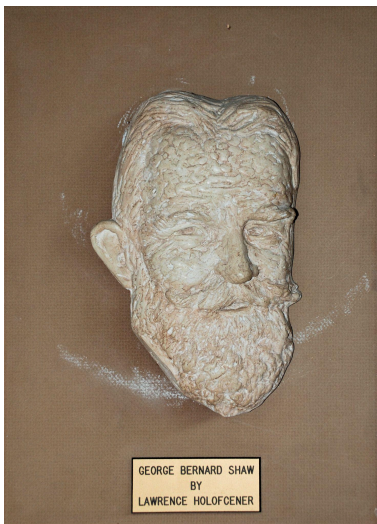
South Place Chapel was the home of the South Place Ethical Society before Conway Hall was built in 1929.



### **George William Foote (1850-1915)**

Photograph

G.W. Foote was a radical journalist and secularist, who founded *The Freethinker* magazine and was President of the National Secular Society.



### **George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)**

By Lawrence Holofcener, plaster plaque

George Bernard Shaw was a writer, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925. He believed that art should have an educational purpose and explore social issues.



### **[Annie Besant \(1847-1933\)](#)**

By Hayman Selig Mendelssohn, photograph

Annie Besant was an activist, who worked hard to make society more free and equal – especially for women. She wrote and lectured across the country, including for the National Secular Society, and was known as a brilliant speaker.



### **[E.M. Forster \(1879-1970\)](#)**

By Philip Whichelo, oil on paper and card

Edward Morgan Forster was a writer and activist, who worked for civil liberties and championed humanist ideas. This painting, by Forster's cousin, was given to [LGBT Humanists](#), who in turn gifted it to Conway Hall in gratitude for hosting their meetings over many years.

You can learn more about E.M. Forster in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **[Chapman Cohen \(1868-1954\)](#)**

By John Henry Amshewitz, oil on canvas, 1933

Chapman Cohen was a writer, lecturer, and editor of *The Freethinker* magazine. He was admired as a great writer on humanist subjects, and was President of the National Secular Society.





### **Frederick Charles Chater Watts (1896-1953)**

Charcoal drawing

F.C.C. Watts was the son of Charles Albert Watts, who founded the [Rationalist Press Association](#). Fred Watts was its chairman and Managing Director, and he introduced a series of books called the Thinker's Library, which aimed to make important humanist and scientific texts more affordable and widely read.



### **Ellen Dana Conway (1833-1897)**

By Arthur Hughes, oil on panel, 1873

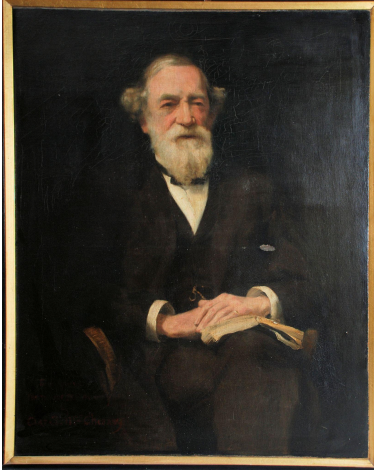
Ellen Dana Conway was the wife of [Moncure Conway](#), the leader of the South Place Ethical Society. She was known for helping to foster the warm and open atmosphere of the Society, and for being a loving and loyal friend.



### **Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895)**

From the painting by Alphonse Legros

Thomas Henry Huxley was a scientist and teacher, who was given the nickname 'Darwin's bulldog' for his support of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. He also invented the word 'agnostic' to describe the position of not being sure, especially about the existence of a god.



**[Moncure Daniel Conway \(1832-1907\)](#)**

By Clara MacChesney, oil on canvas

Moncure Conway was the leader of the South Place Ethical Society between 1864-1884 and 1892-1897. He campaigned for an end to slavery, promoted women's rights, and believed that people should be guided by reason, kindness, and a sense of responsibility for others.

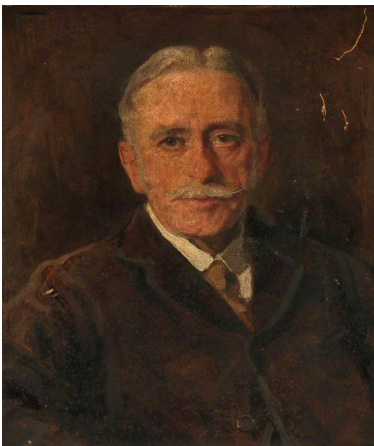
You can learn more about Moncure Conway in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



**[Dr Bernard Hollander \(1864-1934\)](#)**

By Walter Herbert Roe, oil on canvas, 1903

Bernard Hollander was born in Vienna, Austria. He was a psychiatrist, writer, lecturer, and an Honorary Associate of the Rationalist Press Association. He was described by the people who knew him as 'one of the friendliest and most sociable of men'.



**[Charles Turner Gorham \(1856-1933\)](#)**

By O. Kay Robertson, oil on paperboard

C.T. Gorham was one of the founders of the [Rationalist Press Association](#), as well as a writer and a poet. He was also involved with the Union of Ethical Societies (now Humanists UK).



### **Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)**

By A.E. Head, oil on canvas

Bertrand Russell was a philosopher, writer, and campaigner, who was one of the most famous humanists of his day. He became especially well-known for his activism for peace, taking part in protests well into his old age.

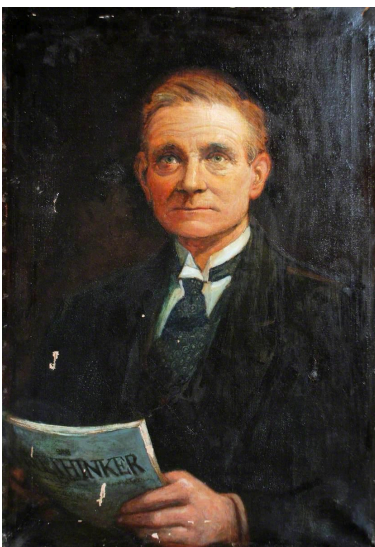
You can learn more about Bertrand Russell in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **Charles Bradlaugh (1833-1891)**

Carbon print photograph

Charles Bradlaugh was the founder of the National Secular Society, and an MP for Northampton. He successfully campaigned for the right to be able to solemnly affirm instead of swear an oath on the Bible, which was important for people who did not believe in a god but needed to vow to tell the truth in court.



### **The Unknown Freethinker**

English School, oil on canvas, early 20th century

A freethinker is someone who thinks for themselves, and uses evidence and reason to examine what they're told. This man is holding a copy of *The Freethinker*, a magazine founded more than 140 years ago to spread freethinking ideas.





**[Charles A. Watts \(1858-1946\)](#)**

By John Collier, oil on canvas, 1926

Charles Albert Watts was a rationalist and humanist, who founded *Watts's Literary Guide* (now *New Humanist* magazine). As an editor and publisher, he helped to spread humanist ideas, and to make them more affordable and accessible to the public.



**[Rose Bush \(1898-1977\)](#)**

Photograph

Rose Bush was a member of the South Place Ethical Society for many years, and a key figure in the [Humanist Housing Association](#).

You can learn more about Rose Bush in [Doers, Dreamers, Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



**[Col. Robert G. Ingersoll \(1833-1899\)](#)**

English School, oil on canvas, late 19th century

American lawyer Robert Ingersoll was one of the most famous atheists in the world, and became known as 'the Great Agnostic'. He campaigned for human rights including freedom of speech and the rights of women, and against slavery. The lines 'The time to be happy is now, the place to be happy is here, the way to be happy is to make others so' became known as his 'creed'.



### **Thomas Paine (1737-1809)**

Plaster bust, English, 19th century

Thomas Paine was a writer and freethinker, who spoke and wrote about the importance of reason and human rights. He famously wrote: 'My country is the world, and my religion is to do good'.

You can learn more about Thomas Paine in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **Charles Watts (1836-1906)**

By Rowland Holyoake, oil on canvas, 1904

Charles Watts was a secularist and journalist: the father of Charles Albert Watts and grandfather of Fred Watts. Watts was a well-known writer and speaker on secularism, which meant a humanist philosophy of doing the best we can in this life, without knowing whether there will be anything after.



### **Charles Bradlaugh (1833-1891)**

Plaster bust by C. Holding, 1894

Charles Bradlaugh was the founder of the National Secular Society, and an MP for Northampton. He successfully campaigned for the right to be able to solemnly affirm instead of swear an oath on the Bible, which was important for people who did not believe in a god but needed to vow to tell the truth in court.

## Landing and staircase



### **And The Gods Laugh**

By Victor S. Rose, oil on canvas, 1969

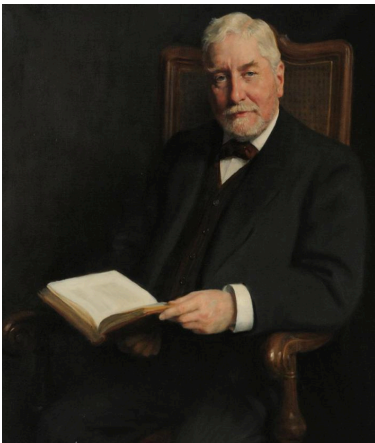
Victor Stanley Rose was a longtime member of the South Place Ethical Society.



### **John Saunders (1867-1919)**

By Arthur Jermy, oil on canvas, 1925

John Saunders was a musician who played in the South Place Concerts for 27 years – a total of 239 concerts! His friends and fellow musicians admired him so much that in 1916 they clubbed together to buy him a Stradivarius violin.

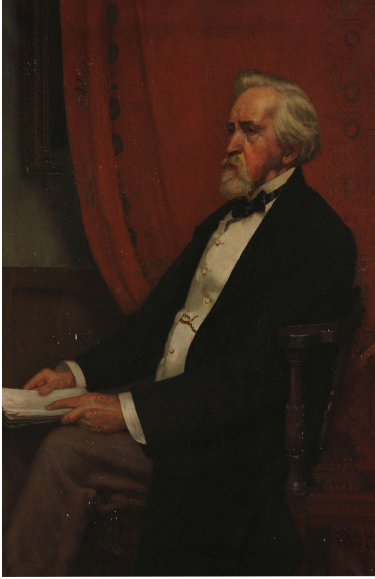


### **Edward Clodd (1840-1930)**

By John Collier, oil on canvas, 1914

Edward Clodd was a writer, banker, anthropologist, and rationalist, whose close friends included the famous writer and humanist Thomas Hardy, and many others. John Collier, who painted this portrait, was also a humanist. He wrote that morality – our sense of right and wrong – came from an ‘inherent impulse of kindness towards our fellow citizens’: a natural wish to be kind to others.





**[George Jacob Holyoake \(1817-1906\)](#)**

By Rowland Holyoake, oil on canvas, 1902

Given by [Lady Florence Dixie](#) for his lifelong devotion to the championship of justice for women.

George Jacob Holyoake was a writer and social reformer. He came up with the word 'secularism' to describe a humanist philosophy of living well in the one life we know we have, and working to make a fairer world for everyone.

Lady Florence Dixie was an explorer, writer, and journalist, who fought for the rights of women. You can learn more about Florence Dixie in [Think for yourself, act for everyone: stories of humanist women](#).

## Foyer and Main Hall

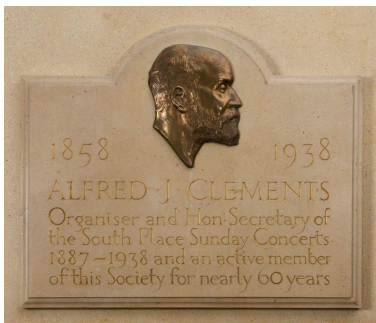


### **Moncure Daniel Conway (1832–1907)**

After Theodore Spicer-Simson, 3D-printed plastic, 2016

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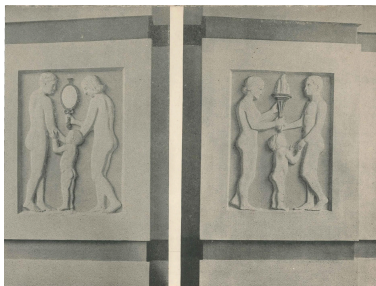
You can learn more about Moncure Conway in [Doers](#), [Dreamers](#), [Place Makers](#), stories of historic humanists.



### **Alfred J. Clements (1858–1938)**

By Richard Louis Garbe, bronze & stone, 1938

Alfred Clements was a member of the South Place Ethical Society for nearly 60 years, and organised the Sunday concerts for over 50 – from 1887 when they began, to 1938 when he died.



### **Symbolic Plaques**

By Violet Stuttig, plaster

Violet Stuttig was an artist and member of the [South Place Ethical Society](#). These plaques can be seen from the gallery in the Main Hall, high up on the wall above each side of the stage.