

# **The Molteno Family**

## **Italian Origins and English Roots**

**Collected by P. A. Molteno and compiled by R.F.M. Immelman**

### **Introduction**

The following account of the early history of the Molteno family is, sadly, only a fragment. It is based on research done in the 1890s by Percy Molteno, Sir John Charles Molteno's second son. But it was drafted only in the 1960s by Dr R.F.M. Immelman, former Chief Librarian at the University of Cape Town. How Dr Immelman came to be involved in writing up the story of our family, and why none of his work ever saw the light of day, is told in my Introduction to his draft biography of Sir John Charles Molteno.

Several caveats about this brief draft history of the origins of our family must be made. First, Dr Immelman's typed manuscript ends abruptly in mid-sentence. I don't know whether or not substantially more exists; a further search of the University of Cape Town Archives is needed. Secondly, the typescript is only a draft. Dr Immelman has made many handwritten corrections and additions, which I have put on the version that appears below. But whether he wanted to make further corrections is not known. Thirdly, it would be valuable to do more research of archival sources in Milan, but of course this can only be done by an Italian-speaker. It might discover details of the Molteno family in Milan in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. More specifically, it might uncover whether the Molteno, Colnaghi, Torre and Bartolozzi families knew each other in Milan before they all landed up in London, and indeed why they emigrated. Lastly, my own research into the christening and marriage records that have survived from the handful of Catholic ambassadorial chapels that existed in London during the time of the suppression of Catholicism in England has provided tantalising fragments of additional detail about the earliest existence of the family in London from the early 1780s. I have also been able to find out a considerable amount about Sir John Charles's uncle, James Anthony Molteno, and his family and descendants. They did not emigrate in their turn, in the way John, and his brothers Frederick and Frank, and their sister, Alicia, all did. The sons and daughters of James Anthony (confusingly called Anthony, like his father, Anthony Molteno, before him) are therefore the oldest branch of Moltenos with a more or less continuous existence in England. I intend, in due course, to write up their history and put it on this website.

Little more need be said about what the text that follows. It gives us a fascinating glimpse, even if inevitably fragmentary and not totally reliable, into the early origins of the family.

**Robert Molteno**

April 2013

## How these Biographical Sketches came to be written

### A Tribute to their author, Dr R. F. M. Immelman

The late Dr R. F. M. Immelman was the well-regarded Chief Librarian of the University of Cape Town (UCT) Library in the 1950s and '60s. He was also something of a scholar and wrote, compiled or edited a number of books relating to the history of South Africa. They included his *George McCall Theal: A Biographical Sketch* (Cape Town: Struik, 1964), Theal being an early historian of South Africa.

Dr Immelman also very nearly wrote a history of the Molteno and its related families! What actually exists are three pieces that are reproduced on this website. They are *The Molteno Family: Italian Origins and English Roots* (collected by P. A. Molteno and compiled by R.F.M. Immelman); *Sir John C. Molteno, 1814-1886: A Biographical Sketch*; and *Hercules Crosse Jarvis, 1803-1889: A Biography* (from material collected by P. A. Molteno). Sadly, none these pieces nor his other work on the history of the family ever saw the light of day. The drafts and all the work that went into them remain buried in six box files in Collection BC601 in the UCT Archives.

What happened, very briefly – and the details are now largely lost to sight – was this. Many members of the family were prolific letter, diary and reminiscence writers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>. One of our relatives in particular, Percy Molteno M.P., who was Sir John Charles Molteno's second son, went much further. He commissioned an Italian archivist in the 1890s to dredge up from the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan what he could find about the earliest origins and history of the Molteno family going back to medieval times. Percy also wrote a lengthy, two-volume work on his father's political life at the Cape, *The Life and Times of Sir J. C. Molteno K.C.M.G., First Premier of Cape Colony*. This was published in two volumes in 1900.

But the main work of collecting and looking after the wealth of written and visual material in the family was done by Sir John's granddaughter, Kathleen Murray. She had become a successful fruit farmer in Elgin during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years she assiduously collected everything relating to the family she could lay her hands on. And when she died in 1984 at the age of 92, she donated the entire collection to the UCT Library where it now rests, carefully sorted and preserved, across several shelves of box files. At the same time, she left the Library a sum of R4,000 which was intended 'to prepare and publish her history of the Murray/Molteno family'. The University refused the bequest on the grounds of its being wholly insufficient for the scale of the task requested.

Cousin Kathleen, as I knew her (she was my father's first cousin), wanted very much for the history of the family to be properly written up, as this abortive bequest shows. In fact, some 30 years before her death, she had in the 1950s made a more serious attempt to get the job done. She had approached Dr Immelman and asked him to do it, using her huge personal archive. The project, as sketched by Dr Immelman, was extremely ambitious. There were to be three volumes:

1. Caroline Molteno's *Journals* (1868-76) and *Reminiscences*. Caroline was Sir John's second eldest daughter and Kathleen Murray's mother, and a significant figure in her own right;
2. A Biography of Hercules Jarvis. He had lived in Cape Town almost from when the Cape first became a British colony in the early 1800s. He became first Mayor of Cape Town. And he was Sir John Molteno's political colleague and father-in-law – and hence the ancestor of the whole South African branch of our family.

3. A composite volume comprising a history of the Molteno family; a life of Sir John Charles Molteno; a short account of George Bower's family; a selection of annotated family letters; and the family trees of the Molteno, Murray, Bower, Bristow and Anderson families.

Dr Immelman did a huge amount of work. He sifted through and selected the most relevant of the materials Kathleen had gathered. He got Caroline Molteno's entire journal typed up (some 200 pages), as well as quite a number of family letters. He developed a card index system (comprising several hundred cards) referring to each person in the family, and even significant places and topics. This systematised all the information he had garnered from Caroline's *Journal*. And he began to draft some of the text for Volumes 2 and 3, as well as a Foreword to Volume 3, dated August 1958.

But something went wrong. The conception of the volumes does not seem to have been well thought through. The work looked set to omit much of importance. To give just three examples, it did not intend to tell the story of the political role played by Sir James Molteno (one of John Charles Molteno's sons) in the run up to, and during, the Boer War (James later became Speaker of the Cape Parliament and, after 1910 of the first Union of South Africa Parliament). The project also overlooked the extraordinary life, political and personal, of John Molteno's eldest daughter, Betty Molteno. Nor, apparently, did it intend to cover the career of Percy Molteno who settled in England and Scotland following his marriage to Bessie Currie and became a Director of the Union-Castle Company and a Liberal Member of the British Parliament (1906-22). Nor, it seems, did the three projected volumes intend to give a picture of the many farmers in the family who pioneered progressive farming in the Western Cape, the Karoo and East Griqualand.

There seems also to have been considerable ambiguity as to who precisely would be the author(s) of the work. At one stage it was provisionally entitled '*Chronicles of the Molteno Family*, edited by Kathleen Murray and R.F.M. Immelman'. Clearly, however, Dr Immelman was doing all the hard graft. Yet in 1966 (in a letter dated 14 February) Kathleen writes: 'I have written a short, more personal life of Sir John Molteno to go with the family history I am writing.' There is no trace of either of these texts by Kathleen in the UCT Archives.

What is certain is that she and Dr Immelman eventually fell out. One member of the Library staff vividly recalls an occasion when Kathleen spoke quite rudely to him in front of his colleagues. The long and the short of it is that no book was ever fully drafted, let alone saw the light of day.

We must, however, be very grateful to the Dr Immelman for the work he put into the project. In particular, for his accounts of the lives of our two ancestors, Hercules Jarvis and John Charles Molteno. They are short, exist only in draft, and are merely parts of the much more ambitious work that was contemplated. What is more, they could not be described as significant works of biography – after all, he only had a limited number of personal letters available to him and no time to examine the official archives. But his accounts do give us a real sense of the lives and characters of both Hercules Jarvis and John Molteno.

**Robert Molteno**  
May 2013

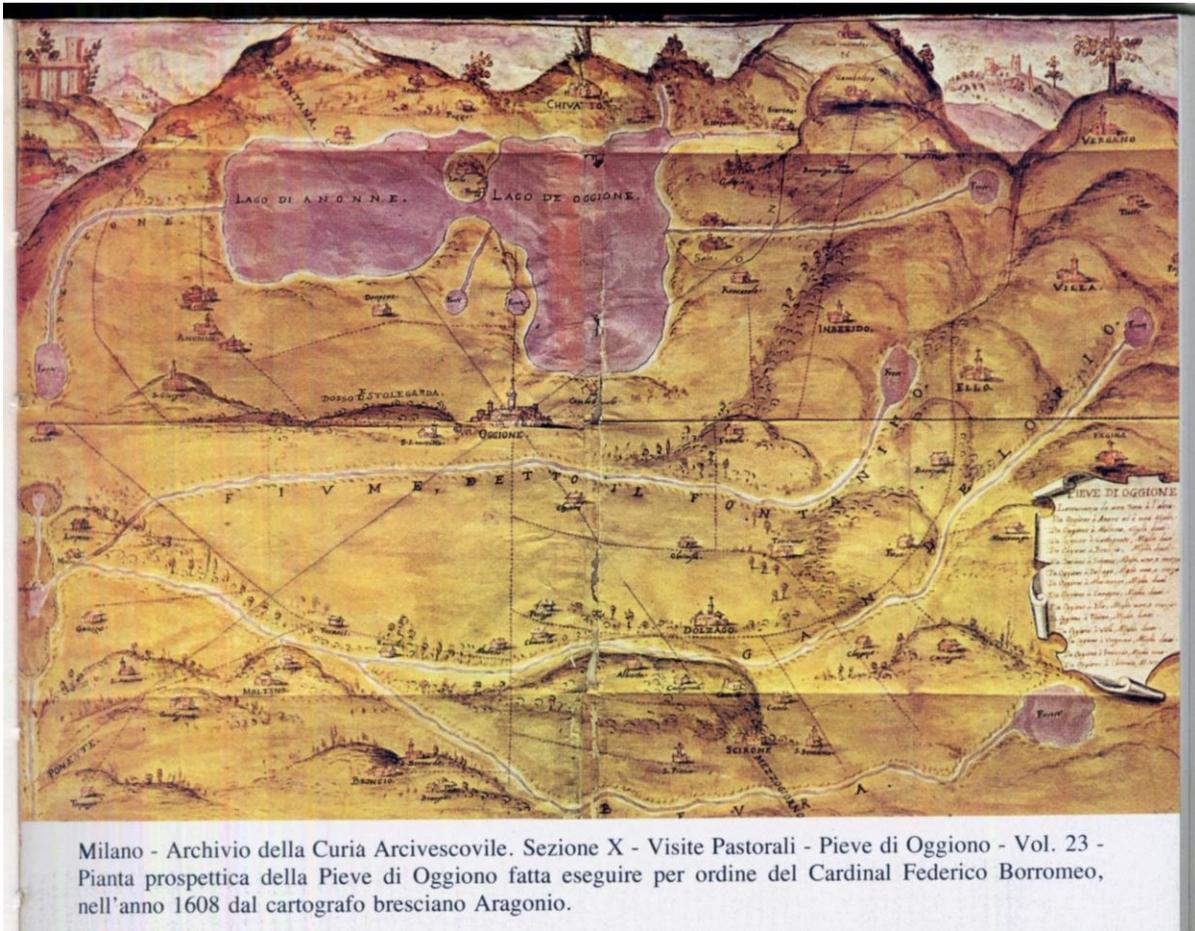
## 1. Their mediaeval origins

The family takes its name from the small town of Molteno in the Northern Italian country, south of the lakes of Como and Lecco, and 9 miles from Milan. This part of Lombardy is called the Brianza, famed for its beauty and known as "Il Bel Paese" or "the beautiful country". Where the mountains descend towards the Milanese plain, there are various lakes such as those of Anone and Pusiano near Molteno, and isolated hills very suitable as positions for strongholds, particularly at a time when the country was very unsettled. Milan was the great centre upon which all this territory depended. It had been a great city from the earliest times when Cisalpine Gaul was incorporated into the Roman Empire. It was wealthy and populous and remained so even after Rome itself had begun to decay.



**The village of Molteno in 'Il Bel Paese'**

At the time of the incursions of the Goths into Northern Italy during the reign of Emperor Justinian (527-565), a family (afterwards called Molteno) was living at Molteno. Uraja, son of Vitiges, King of the Visigoths, captured Milan and slaughtered thousands of its inhabitants. This terrible event alarmed the families living so far from Milan as Molteno and other neighbouring places.



### Map of the region (village of Molteno in bottom left-hand quadrant), 1608

In their dire distress under the Goths, the unfortunate inhabitants of all this area appealed to Justinian for help. He sent his famous generals Narses and Belisarius to assist the people in their efforts to drive off the Goths. Under Belisarius the Goths were defeated and Alaric, their King, was driven into Ravenna. Belisarius besieged him there and eventually in 539 secured his surrender and terminated the power of the Goths. After these stirring and disastrous events, when peace was restored, the families living in the surrounding country determined to come for defence into Milan and have a foothold there for safety. In this way, says an old chronicler of Milan, did the families of Milan, in order to distinguish themselves family from family, take the names of the places from which they had come, and mentions the family of Molteno as one of these families who then acquired their name.

The family did not abandon their possessions at Molteno. They had a castle there and founded the church, of which they held the patronage for a very long period. They were mentioned frequently in the history of the Brianza from the ninth century onwards. Subsequently they played an important part in the life of Milan when the ruthless Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Frederick Barbarossa (1152-1190) was fighting the Pope. Milan and other Lombard towns sided with the Pope as they had a quarrel of their own with the Emperor. The old Imperial Regalian duties to the Emperor, on the part of the towns, were exacted with great vigour. Milan therefore headed a revolt against the Emperor, who was furious at the opposition to his demands. He led great armies into Italy to subdue the towns. Eventually he besieged Milan with an army of 100,000 for three years (1158-61), wasting their territory and cutting

off their food supplies. Famine compelled their surrender. Thirty-one commissioners were appointed in 1162 to treat with the Emperor, one of whom was Menaduxius di Molteno.<sup>1</sup> Milan was destroyed by the Emperor and its inhabitants dispersed. But nothing daunted, they rebuilt their city.



**The Holy Roman Emperor,  
Frederick Barbarossa – a 13<sup>th</sup>  
century painting**

There was another episode of note in the relations between the Moltenos and the Emperor. He was at loggerheads with the Counts of Angleria, a powerful feudal family in Northern Lombardy. The Moltenos were also opposed to them and assisted the Emperor against them.<sup>2</sup> As a result he bestowed upon them a barony of the Empire and granted them the right to display, in their coat of arms, the imperial eagle on a field of gold – which remains the principal bearing on their coat of arms,<sup>3</sup> as it has been handed down in the family unaltered to the present day. Because the Moltenos left Italy before Napoleon established his Kingdom of Italy, they still show an eagle with outspread arms in their coat of arms, as he caused the wings of the eagle in the case of all private families bearing it for arms to be... [text lost]

In 1377 the family of Molteno also appears in the "List of families in the domain of Milan noted for their fiefs, their jurisdictions and titles".<sup>4</sup> Their name appears too among "The Patrician entries of the College of Notaries", where are enumerated "the names and surnames of the illustrious families of the equestrian and collegiate nobility" from the year 1337 to 1600. The records of the College of Advocates and Notaries of Milan is said to contain the names of

"families from whom the advocates proceeded, from the earliest institution of the college down to the present day, being a list arranged in alphabetical order of the names and dignities in which they flourished",<sup>5</sup> according to the extracts from the "ancient and present manuscripts of the said College".<sup>6</sup> Among the heads of this College the name occurs of Georgius di Molteno for the years 1403, 1414, 1419, 1423, 1427, 1431 and 1435. He therefore in the early 15th century seems to have been a very prominent leader of the legal fraternity for over 30 years. In 1408, the name appears on the role of the "nobles, attendants and officials" of the Ducal Court of Milan, "the inferior servitors being excluded", of M. Filipus de Molteno.<sup>7</sup>

Fagnani,<sup>8</sup> an authority on the nobility of Milan, writing at the beginning of the 17th century, devoted three pages to the Moltenos, and stated:

"We have gathered from many ancient writings that the family of Molteno is a very ancient and noble family."

Then he proceeded to enumerate various members of the family who had played an important part at different times in the history of the city. In 1448 "Phillipus di Molteno was one of 36 men who were added to the 12 'leaders of liberty' of the Republic of Milan after the death of the Duke Philip Maria Visconti, when the citizens, hating the rule of one man, ruled themselves in freedom." In 1447 moreover "when the Milanese were enjoying liberty on the death of Philip Maria Visconti, Duke of Milan", among the names of the councillors who were "returned to the General Council of the Republic

of Milan, and as the best, wealthiest and most useful citizens, and as loving the peaceful condition of that country".

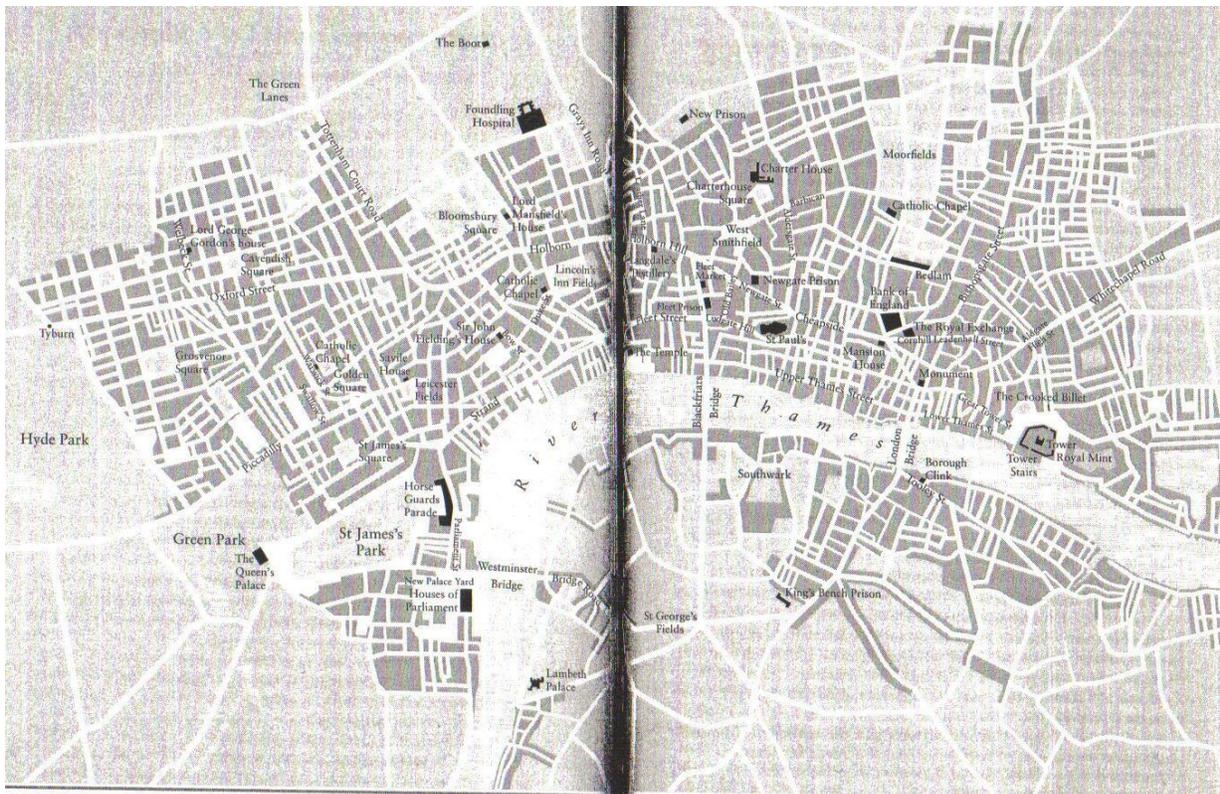
Appears also that of Petrolus di Molteno. In 1470 Benedictus Petrus di Molteno is found described "among 150 nobles elected for the Gates" (ie. quarters or wards of the city) for preferring the oath of fidelity to the eldest son of Galeas Maria Sforza, Duke of Milan", and the names occur of the following Moltenos (as representatives of their various sections of the city) – Petrus, Antoninus, Joannes, Christopher, Henricus and Ambrosius. In 1498 a Molteno is recorded as being in charge of the works for building the Cathedral of Milan.

The Moltenos had a family vault in the Ducal Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie – near the second column at the top of the larger aisle on the right approaching the high altar – on which the inscription stated that it was erected in 1514 by Helena Molteno in memory of her husband and son.<sup>9</sup> In 1586, Hieronymus Molteno, a physician belonging to the College of Physicians in Milan, and Stephen, his brother, built a tomb in the Basilican Church of St Eustorgio, "for their most pious mother Clara da Somma, wife of Giovanni Giacomo Molteno.... and to themselves and their descendants".<sup>10</sup> About the year 1600, Abbot Don Giovanni Battista Molteno held the post of Canon of the Cathedral of Monza. He had written a large work on "the discipline of the canons of Monza and its decadence",<sup>11</sup> and died in approximately 1622.

The Moltenos therefore throughout the Middle Ages appear to have been a leading family in Milan. In 1500 the French captured the city, then the Emperor Charles V annexed it in 1525 and it remained in the hands of his Spanish successors until 1714, when Austria in turn gained and kept control until 1796. The Spaniards had suppressed the liberties of Milan during the 16th and 17th centuries, with the result that the fortunes of the old families decayed. There were no openings for their sons, who were therefore forced to emigrate to other countries.

## 2. Bartolozzi, Colnaghi and Molteno in England

Towards the middle of the 18th century, about 1750, a certain Giovanni Battista Torre<sup>12</sup> of Milan came to Paris, working as a pyrotechnist. He was a very clever man and had many irons in the fire, and in 1760 started a shop in Paris for the sale of barometers and other scientific instruments. A few years later he opened a branch in London, which he eventually handed over to his son, Anthony Torre, while he remained in Paris and became quite famous as the founder of the first "Vauxhall Gardens" there, on the English model. Meanwhile the shop in London had changed its character and taken on the business of print selling and publishing. During the same period, too, Francesco Bartolozzi, 1728-1813, an Italian engraver (from Milan?), arrived in 1764 in London to become engraver to George III. He was, in 1769, a foundation member of the Royal Academy and executed the document for the Academy's diploma which today is still in use. He it was who gave the vogue to stipple engraving. It is interesting to note that on some of the first Bartolozzi stipple prints the name of Anthony Torre appeared.



**London, in 1780, as George Anthony Molteno would have known it when opening his first printselling shop**

Another link in the chain was forged when in 1783 Paul Colnaghi, who was already known to the Torres, left Milan and came to Paris, where he became Anthony Torre's agent for selling prints at a shop in the Palais Royal. Two years later he proceeded to England, where he later married the sister of Torre's English wife, and shortly afterwards Molteno and Colnaghi took over the business which ever after bore his name and which today as P. & D. Colnaghi & Co. Ltd. (established 1760) still carries on business at 14 Old Bond Street, London W1.

Nothing definite however it is known as to the exact date when the Moltenos left Milan for England, but the first reliable fact we have is that Anthony Torre, Colnaghi's predecessor in the business, acted as witness at the marriage in 1782 of Anthony Molteno and Mary Lewis at St Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. One branch of the family can be traced back to George Anthony Molteno, who was born in 1751, and died in October 1816. He was a well-known print dealer and lived in London at 20 Pall Mall.<sup>13</sup> Many births and other entries relative to the Molteno family from about 1780 or earlier until well into the 19th century are to be found in the records of the Catholic Church at Golden Square, Regent Street, London W. This church was the former Bavarian Ambassador's Chapel. Before 1829 – in that year the Emancipation of the Catholics Act was passed – Catholics could not have a place of worship in England, so they were driven to make use of the Bavarian Ambassador's Chapel and the Sardinian Ambassador's Chapel (near Lincoln's Inn Fields).<sup>14</sup>



**Pall Mall East where Anthony Molteno's premises were, looking towards St Martin's in the Fields, late 18<sup>th</sup> century**

Torre & Co., of which a copy exists in the British Museum Print Room. As a matter of fact, the most significant aspect of the life of Anthony Molteno, which has been definitely established, is that he and Paul Colnaghi went into partnership and carried on business as the firm of Molteno, Colnaghi & Co. From 1788 till 1792 they became known as printsellers and publishers operating at 132 Pall Mall. In 1791 a Molteno, presumably a sister or niece of Anthony, married G. Testolini, the engraver.

Other facts are known which help to throw further light on the early days of the Molteno in England, such as that Anthony Molteno commenced collecting drawings about 1777 and that John Molteno was a print seller in Fleet Street in 1783. Then there is a portrait of James Anthony Molteno as a child, playing with a dog, drawn and etched by P. Bettelini, published by

In 1792 the Molteno-Colnaghi partnership ended and Molteno went into business on his own, having a shop in St James's Street. In the crypt of St Martin's-in-the-Fields there is a monument (No. 37) to:

Mrs Mary Molteno, wife of  
Mr Anthony Molteno of Pall Mall.  
Died 12.2.1810, aged 52.



**Mary Lewis, wife of George Anthony Molteno,  
c. 1780s**

This must therefore be that of Mary Lewis who married Anthony Molteno in 1782. In the journals of Mrs. Paul Colnaghi, and the letters of her daughter, Francesca, written to her sister in London while they were abroad, there are many affectionate references to the Moltenos, though nothing of special importance. In nearly every letter Francesca sends "love to the Moltenos" or "love to all in Pall Mall West" (presumably the Anthony Moltenos who were at No. 29 in 1801 and after).<sup>15</sup> The *London Directory* for 1814 makes mention of "A. Molteno, ancient and modern print seller, 29 Pall Mall". Another link is provided by a note on the back of a watercolour portrait of three Molteno children which reads:

Miniature by S. Shelley about 1799 is a fancy portrait of Charles, John and Rose Molteno, who posed for the same."<sup>16</sup>

These are the children of Anthony and Mary Molteno – Charles Dominic,<sup>17</sup> born 1789 and died in 1874 (see Chapter 3); John, born 11.2.1788 and died in 1828 (father of Sir John); and Rose, born 3.6.1798.

In 1813 Bartolozzi sent his last plates to Molteno and Colnaghi from Portugal (where he had been director of a school of engraving in Lisbon since 1802). He died there on 7 March 1815, aged 88, his works at his death totalling 700 in number. In 1816 the death of Anthony Molteno occurred.<sup>18</sup> Molteno sales were held annually until 1824. "The diploma granted to Bartolozzi himself may now be in existence: the last heard of it was at the sale of Mr Anthony Molteno, the well-known print-publisher, when on 26 April 1824 it was put up to auction and figures in the catalogue as *Lot 485: Mr. Bartolozzi's own diploma when elected R.A.* – a print of singular curiosity! But what it fetched, who was the purchaser, or what became of it is not known."<sup>19</sup>

Anthony's portrait occurs in an anonymous engraving of "Printsellers at Rare Print Sales".<sup>20</sup> In 1835 the Molteno partnership with Graves ended, and a sale of their stock was held. In this connection it may be



**James  
'Anthony'  
Molteno,  
son of  
George  
Anthony  
Molteno –  
early 19<sup>th</sup>  
century  
sketch**

of interest to note the following reference in Hazlett's *Picture Galleries of England* (1824) to the shops of Anthony Molteno and Paul Colnaghi:

"A capital printshop (Molteno's<sup>21</sup> or Colnaghi's) is a point to aim at in a morning's walk – a relief and satisfaction in the motley confusion."

The puzzle here is the George Anthony died in 1816, but that the business continued to exist for some years until 1835 carried on by one of his sons, James Anthony Molteno.... In Hirst's biography of P. A. Molteno,<sup>22</sup> it is stated:

"It has been discovered quite recently that John Molteno's brother, named James Anthony, lived in London, where he was a collector and dealer in pictures, prints and curios. A sale catalogue of 1825 has been found containing a relic of Bartolozzi which belonged to Anthony.... three brothers had come over from Italy with their friends, the Colnaghi's, the founders of the well-known firm of printers and lithographers in Pall Mall."



**One of James Anthony Molteno's  
daughters, from period 1822-1850, so it is  
ascribed**

Whether three brothers had come to England, or only one, remains uncertain, as there is nothing but vague family rumours concerning the matter. It is also not known whether the English ancestor left Milan for political or for economic reasons, and whether the Colnaghis followed the Moltenos or arrived together in London. The family thought they came together, but this hardly seems borne out by the facts:

"I have seen an account of Paul Colnaghi's journey to England (via Paris), from which it is clear that he left Milan by himself – but he seems soon to become associated with Molteno after he reached London. My guess is that they were friends in early youth at Milan, but that Moltenos came to London first – since Anthony was married at St Martin's-in-the-Fields in 1782, whereas Colnaghi did not reach London until 1785." <sup>23</sup>

It seems reasonable to suppose that the Torre, Molteno and Colnaghi immigrants knew each other in their youth in Milan, or that the families were acquainted with each other, or that Torre and Molteno may have known each other and Colnaghi came with a letter of introduction from a mutual friend. Or alternatively, that they all had mutual acquaintances in Italy and because of their training and experience in the same field, sought each other out on first arrival in England and so immediately established contact with each other,

and similarly with Bartolozzi. Whatever the facts of the case may be, they all shared similar origins and established early contact with each other in England. The most probable explanation for their departure in every case was possibly the lack of economic opportunity in Lombardy under Austrian rule for a young man to make his way. Therefore they migrated to England, which was undeniably, after the Seven Years War (1756-63), generally known to be the most prosperous and powerful nation in Europe.

### 3. Colnaghis, Glass relatives and Moltenos

These Italian printdealers, engravers and art collectors who came to Britain in the late 18th century not only all knew each other before arrival in England, or became acquainted – and firm friends – shortly after reaching London, but their descendants continued the long-standing friendship. In a later generation the Colnaghis and Moltenos were again connected in a curious way.



**Charles Dominic Molteno, a son of George Anthony Molteno, c. 1861**

Charles Dominic Molteno, who has been mentioned as one of the three children in the Shelley miniature, was the younger brother of John and the uncle whose family seems to have maintained contact with Sir John [in the Cape Colony] and his children over the years. The name of Uncle Charles occurs in this volume from time to time. Born in 1789, he married Mrs. Margaret Scott Glass (1786-1873) in 1851(?). She was the widow of the Rev. Lawrence Glass of Aberdeen, Scotland, by whom she had two daughters, Margaret Scott Glass (died 8 October 1888) and Catherine Glass (died 17 April 1901, aged 90 years). Mrs. Glass owned the property of Newton in Perthshire. There Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Molteno lived for many years.... [illegible].

Mrs. Molteno was an aunt of Dr John Brown (1810-1882), the well-known author of *Rab and His Friends* (1859) and of *Horae Subsecivae* (in three volumes, 1858-1861). She was also a sister of John Scott (n.d. - 1821) who, as editor of the *Champion* and the *London Magazine*, was brought into contact with the most distinguished men of letters of the time. It was in the latter magazine that the *Essays of Elia* made their appearance. Two of his works, *A Visit to Paris in 1814* and *Paris Revisited*, were published in 1815 and 1816 respectively. Hazlett was his intimate friend and Byron his schoolfellow, both of whom had a high respect for his talents. He was just becoming known in the literary world when he was involved in a

dispute with Lockhart, Sir Walter Scott's son-in-law, concerning the merits of Keats's poetry. The result was a duel which ended tragically in his death (1821).<sup>24</sup>

Concerning the further link with the Colnaghis, Margaret Scott Glass, writing in 1876 to Caroline Molteno,<sup>25</sup> refers to Dominic Colnaghi and his brother as "connections of ours – my uncle Mr. Scott having married a Miss Colnaghi and they have been live relatives to us". The occurrence of Dominic as a Christian name in the Colnaghi family, as well as in the Molteno, is indicative of their close friendship. Catherine Glass indicates a further link:<sup>26</sup>

"My aunt, Mrs John Scott, when a widow, was married to... Mr Ellis Ellis.... He was godfather to Sir Dominic Ellis Colnaghi, Mrs E. Ellis<sup>27</sup> being his aunt."

It is therefore clear that John Scott married [illegible] Colnaghi and his sister, Mrs. Glass, married a Molteno. Probably Mrs. Glass had met her second husband, Charles Dominic Molteno, through her widowed sister-in-law, a Colnaghi who knew the Moltenos. Subsequently her nephew, Dr. John Brown, brought Percy A. Molteno into the world at Edinburgh in September 1861.

#### 4. The Later Moltenos in England

Anthony and Mary Molteno had, as far as is known, four sons and four daughters, born between 1784 and 1802. The second son, John Molteno, was born on 11 February 1788. Although baptised a Catholic, he entered the Civil Service at Somerset House, but had also qualified to practise as an attorney of the King's Bench. He had risen to be Deputy Controller of Legacy Duty, when he died at an early age in 1828. His wife was Caroline Bower, a daughter of George Bower, whose family was connected for nearly a century and a half with the Bank of England (see Section V, Appendix A).

They appear to have had four sons, of whom John Charles, the eldest, was born on 5 June 1814, his birth being registered in the Bavarian Ambassador's Chapel.<sup>28</sup> The widow of John Molteno was left to bring up her four sons and two daughters alone, but fortunately was a person of strong character. She was described as a beautiful woman, who carried herself well and who dressed with a dainty taste. She loved children with all her heart and soul to the end of her days. She survived her husband by nearly 40 years and was still alive to welcome her son and his family on their visit to England in 1861, as related in Caroline Molteno's *Journal* in this publication. She died on 28 March 1866, aged 75 years.



**John Molteno, second son of George  
Anthony Molteno, 1790s – a  
miniature kept at Glen Lyon**



**Caroline Bower, wife of John  
Molteno, London, c. 1820s**

John Charles Molteno, born in 1814 and called Charles by his family, was said to have been named after Marshal Charles John Bernadotte, one of Napoleon's generals (who had been adopted as his heir in 1810 by the aged and childless King of Sweden), and who was very much in the news in 1814 when he joined the Allied Powers in opposing Napoleon. This boy it was who rose to become first Prime Minister of Cape Colony, 1872-1878, and who is the forefather of the South African branch of the family.

His two brothers – Frank [who] died in Honolulu in 1869 and Frederick [who] married Laura Sheridan, believed to be of the family of the playwright – are referred to a few times in these pages, but don't seem to have kept in close touch with their brother.

A few more scattered fragments of information about other Moltenos are included here for the sake of convenience ....

[**Editor's Note:** Most regrettably, Dr Immelman's text ends here although it appears that the typescript is likely to have gone on for at least a few pages.]

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Galvaneus Flamma, a celebrated historian born at Milan in 1283, wrote his chronicle about the year 1300.

<sup>2</sup> *Angleriae Chronicon ejusque Comitum ab Anno 606 ad 1280* (A Chronicle of Angleria and its counts). A MSS of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century in the Ambrosian Library at Milan.

<sup>3</sup> Gio. Pietro Crescenzio (1600-1640) published his work on the nobility of Milan about 1630-1640.

<sup>4</sup> Marcus de Ciochis, Latin MSS of 1377, in the Ambrosian Library, Milan.

<sup>5</sup> *Compendium Didinum Stilatinum et Aliarum Scripturarum...* Collegii D.D. Causidicorum et Notariorum Mediolani. Latin MSS G.D.VI 26, in the Ambrosian Library, Milan.

<sup>6</sup> John Baptist Blanchinus corroborated these particulars in a Latin MSS also preserved in the Ambrosian Library, Milan.

<sup>7</sup> *Patriziato Milanese* by Felice Calvi, partly in Latin and partly in Italian (1408).

<sup>8</sup> *Fagnani: Famiglie* MSS, in Latin, in the Ambrosian Library, Milan. p. 106, letter M.

<sup>9</sup> *Sepolcario Milanese*, by Perocchio Giovanni Antonio, circa 1700. S.III. Sup., in the Ambrosian Library, Milan.

<sup>10</sup> Placidis Puccinelli, a Milanese historian, who lived about 1650. Folios 89 & 90 of the Zodiac. Written in Italian, but inscriptions in Latin. In the Ambrosian Library, Milan.

<sup>11</sup> *Memories di Monza* (Historical Memorials of the City of Monza), by Frisi, written in 1790 in Italian.

<sup>12</sup> Grateful acknowledgement is made for the following information kindly supplied by Mrs. Elfrida Manning, librarian to P. & D. Colnaghi & Co., Ltd., in a series of letters between Nov. 1955 and Dec. 1957, written to Mr. D. J. Molteno of Fortingall, Perthshire, Scotland.

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- <sup>13</sup> Information supplied by Mr. K. R. Lee writing from Almeley, Bodenham Road, Hereford, in 1938 in a letter to Admiral Barkly Molteno.
- <sup>14</sup> Letter by Mr. P. A. Molteno to Charles T. Bristow on 29.8.1934 contains these particulars.
- <sup>15</sup> Information provided by Mrs. Elfrida Manning, librarian to P. & D. Colnaghi & Co. Ltd. In a letter to Mrs. D. J. Molteno in 1957; also *London Directory* (in Guildhall Library, London) for 1814.
- <sup>16</sup> The history of the portrait is further given in the note, which goes on: "It was presented to Mr. R. A. Bristow about 1883 by Miss Rose Molteno of Chelsea (his cousin). When the latter handed the portrait to Mr. Bristow's daughter, she was requested to take care of it as it cost £25. It came into my wife's hands (nee Mary Rose Bristow) about 1895." Then in the same handwriting: "Received from Mr. P. A. Molteno the sum of £20 for the above portrait, by cheque, 23 April 1907."
- <sup>17</sup> See correspondence with his wife, Margaret Molteno.
- <sup>18</sup> Mr. K. R. Lee gives his death as occurring in October 1816, but the firm of P. & D. Colnaghi gives 1817 (in their letter to 26 November 1956 to D. J. Molteno).
- <sup>19</sup> A. Tull, *Bartolozzi and his Work*, 1885.
- <sup>19</sup> In the possession of the British Museum Print Room.
- <sup>20</sup> In the possession of the British Museum Print Room.
- <sup>21</sup> Mr. K. R. Lee states that this was George Anthony Molteno (1751-Oct 1816) and that "he was a famous print dealer and lived at 20 Pall Mall."
- <sup>22</sup> In page proof form, unpublished, written circa 1940.
- <sup>23</sup> Letter from Mrs. E. Manning in 1957 to Mrs. D. J. Molteno.
- <sup>24</sup> *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, edited by his son, D.W. Forest.
- <sup>25</sup> Margaret Scott Glass to Caroline Molteno, 13 Nov. 1876.
- <sup>26</sup> Catherine Glass to P. A. Molteno, 28 Feb. 1899.
- <sup>27</sup> The widow of the previously mentioned John Scott who had been a Colnaghi.
- <sup>28</sup> Based on P. A. Molteno's *The Life and Times of Sir J. C. Molteno, K.C.M.G.*, "First Premier of Cape Colony, comprising a history of representative institutions and responsible government at the Cape and of Lord Carnarvon's confederation policy and of Sir Bartle Frere's High Commissionership of South Africa", London: Smith, Elder, 1900. 2 vols.