



Jesse Ramsden: London's Leading Scientific Instrument Maker — Why?

An illustrated talk by

Dr Anita McConnell

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**Institute of Historical Research,
Senate House, Malet Street,
London WC1E 7HU**

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Jesse Ramsden's largest and most prestigious instruments were designed and built for observatories in Europe, and he enjoyed a higher reputation there than among his countrymen. At home he designed and made equipment for measuring the baseline, and the first two great geodetic theodolites, for the triangulation between Paris and Greenwich in 1784–87, an operation which developed into the Ordnance Survey. Though he was occasionally guilty of poor design or bad management, and notorious for his failure to deliver on time, his customers were prepared to wait, convinced that no other London maker could match Ramsden's quality.

For her forthcoming monograph, *Jesse Ramsden (1735–1800): London's Leading Scientific Instrument Maker* (Ashgate 2007), Anita McConnell has explored Ramsden's family origins, his education and his craft training, his premises, workmen and manufacturing practice.

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**All welcome
Admission free**



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