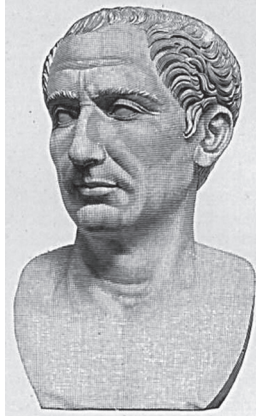
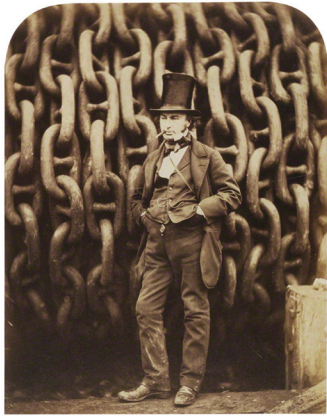




THE HISTORIAN

Twitter Historical Biography competition



Some readers of *The Historian* will be users of Twitter and may already follow the Historical Association's Twitter feed <https://twitter.com/histassoc> For those who are not, Twitter is an on-line social networking and micro blogging service that enables users to send and read **tweets**, which are text messages limited to 140 characters. Registered users can read and post **tweets** but unregistered users can only read them.

Some critics have argued that you can say nothing useful in so few characters,

but consider Cicero. If he had been a Twitter user he could have tweeted:

Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to continue always as a child.

instead of writing it and he'd still have had 54 characters to spare!

To complement the biography theme of this edition we are running a Twitter historical biography competition. This is open to all members of the HA.

All you have to do is write your Twitter biography, of whichever historical person you choose, and then tweet that biography on **9 May 2014** with the hash tag #HAbiog. This means that you will only have 132 characters to play with. However, using the hash tag will ensure that all your entries can easily be collected and read on the day by the judges and a winner chosen (it may be that we will even manage to be a trending topic for a short while). We will then contact the winner for the details of their membership and address.

To get you started here are some sample biographies. See if you can match them with their pictures. The answers can be found at the bottom of the page.

The winner will receive a £30 book token and an engraved Bath Aqua Glass paperweight as a permanent reminder of their success. The winner's entry and some of the other Twitter biographies will also be featured in the next edition of *The Historian*.



Biography 1: He came, he saw, he conquered but he failed to beware the Ides of March #HAbiog (Just 80 characters).



Biography 2: He built tunnels, bridges, railways and ships. An iconic visionary civil engineer to some and flawed dictatorial tyrant to others #HAbiog (138 characters)



Biography 3: 'The Lady with the lamp', she was a prominent Victorian social reformer, statistician (see pie charts) and founder of modern nursing #HAbiog (140 characters)



Biography 4: Arras lawyer rose from obscurity to terrifying heights when a falling blade ended his life. Was he 'more like a monster than a man'? #HAbiog (140 characters)



Biography 5: Great King's daughter, builder of burghs, victor over Vikings, popular with her people, forgotten heroine no more (see Michael Wood) #HAbiog (140 characters)

Answers 1 = Julius Caesar, 2 = Isambard Kingdom Brunel, 3 = Florence Nightingale, 4 = Maximilien Robespierre, 5 = Aethelflæd of Mercia