

# LEIGHTON & MONEY



Leighton had an account at Coutts Bank from 1858. Records still held by the bank provide some fascinating information about his income and expenditure.

Throughout his adult life, Leighton received an allowance from his father in addition to the considerable money he earned as an artist.

His income was also supplemented by extensive investments in railway stock and city bonds in the UK, Canada, the United States and Australia. He received financial advice from James Stewart Hodgson who was a partner in Barings Bank and a great collector of Leighton's work.

The published cost of the house when it was first built was £4,500. As an indication of how much money Leighton could generate through his work, in 1889, Manchester City Art Gallery bought his *Captive Andromache*, a single painting, for £6,000.

Leighton was generous in the support of his friends. His accounts reveal large payments to several fellow artists including Carlo Perugini, Giovanni Costa and George Heming Mason. Following Mason's death, Leighton established a Trust to support his widow and family.

Payments are also recorded to an 'F. Mason' and 'Mrs Mason'. These probably relate to one of Leighton's models called Lilly Mason and her husband, Frederick and form part of the case for suggesting Leighton had a son by Lilly Mason.

Payments of several hundred pounds were made for a number of years to Thomas Pullan the brother of Ada Alice Pullan who took Dorothy Dene as her stage name and was Leighton's principal model and muse for the last 15 years of his career. The press even speculated that they would marry. Following Leighton's death, Dorothy received £5,000 from his sisters, a very considerable sum and the Dene Trust set up to support her siblings was given a further £5,000.