

= Broder Knudtzon =

Broder Lysholm Knudtzon (5 October 1788 ? 20 March 1864) was a Norwegian merchant , politician and benefactor . Born into one of Trondheim 's wealthiest mercantile families , he travelled to England where he developed a great admiration of English language and literature . Despite his commercial background he was more drawn towards the fields of politics , culture and art . He nevertheless administrated his father 's family firm , acting as foreign correspondent with little interest in the everyday business . In England he befriended Lord Byron and came under the influence of the English national liberal movement . Prior to his death , he bequeathed his entire library and several artworks to the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters .

= = Early years = =

Knudtzon was born in Trondheim in Sør @-@ Trøndelag ; he was the sixth and youngest child of Hans Carl Knudtzon (1751 ? 1823) , a merchant and burgomaster , and Karen Knudtzon (née Müller , 1752 ? 1818) . Knudtzon 's father was of German origin and had moved to Norway to further his career as a merchant . His firm was flourishing financially , and the Knudtzon family became a rallying point for Trondheim 's artists and authors . Having spent his childhood in Trondheim , Broder Knudtzon moved to Flensburg , Germany in 1796 to live in the house of his father 's uncle . Upon his confirmation , Knudtzon travelled back to Trondheim where he was apprenticed to his father . He subsequently travelled around in France in search of a mercantile education ; in Paris he met the Danish poet and playwright Adam Oehlenschläger . After a brief visit to his sister in Nantes , he relocated to England , where he came in contact with poet Lord Byron and other leading figures in the national liberal movement . During his stay in England , he acquired a great fondness and knowledge of the English language , literature and culture . In a later trip to Italy he met the Danish @-@ Icelandic sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen , who made portrait busts of him and other persons in his family .

= = Mercantile and political engagement = =

In the spring of 1814 , Broder and his brother Jørgen assisted Carsten Anker in his endeavour to gain English supporters of an independent Norway . As a member of the Storting 's deputation to Sweden , Knudtzon travelled with his father to Stockholm in the autumn of the same year . On his return from Stockholm , he became foreign correspondent of his father 's firm Hans Knudtzon & Co , which he owned together with his brother Christian and his brother @-@ in @-@ law Lorentz Johannsen . He maintained that his own duties in the firm 's office were a displeasure , and was once quoted as saying : " Business I hate , and for reading there is not leisure " .

A supplementary member of the Storting , he met in the parliament once , acting as secretary for the constitution committee . During 1839 ? 57 , he was a member of the supervisory board of Norges Bank . He became a member of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters in 1821 , and was its secretary from 1825 to 1831 . Having a profound wish to spread erudition in Norway , he used his acquaintances in England to supply the society with enlightenment books and journals . Knudtzon eventually bequeathed his entire book collection and five of Thorvaldsen 's sculptures to the society , with the condition that they not move to Christiania .

= = Death and legacy = =

Knudtzon died unmarried on 20 March 1864 in Trondheim . He was buried in Vår Frue Church , where he also had been christened . Prior to his death , he had burned all his letters and notes , including his correspondences with Lord Byron . Little remains therefore of his written production , aside from a few translations and periodical articles . A biographer once wrote of him :

Mr. Knudtzon is a banker of eminence at Trondheim . He resided some years in England ; hence , to the hospitable kindness of a native of the north and the acquirements of a literary man he unites

the polish and refinement of an English gentleman .