

Edwin Lutyens, Charles Bressesey and my mother

by Marty Bax – The Netherlands

In one of my previous articles I mentioned the suffragist Lady Emily Lutyens. Emily was the daughter of Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton, the Viceroy of India and the wife of one of the most prominent architects of her time, Edwin Lutyens. Edwin became famous as a country-house architect, but even more so as the architect of New Delhi, a job which he got through his father-in-law of course. Emily became a member of the Theosophical Society in 1910. As an upper-class lady she became a pillar in the financial and social support of the Society.

Theosophical connections or influence are not the focus at this time, however. The focus will be on the architect Edwin himself and his connections, because these eventually, in a wide arch and only indirectly, come back to my own family more precisely, my mother. It is too amusing a story not to tell, with an unusual twist, interesting historical dimensions, and even a connection with art! It also serves to tell how someone can strike a deep note within someone else, without ever hearing how effective the strike had been.

