

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**SIR EVERARD HOME**

**Address, 1822-25**

**Reel M604**

**Royal College of Surgeons of England  
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London WC2A 3PE**

**National Library of Australia  
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**Filmed: 1951?**

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sir Everard Home (1756-1832), 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet, was born at Hull, Yorkshire, the son of a former army surgeon. After attending Westminster School, he became a pupil of his brother-in-law, the eminent surgeon John Hunter, at St George's Hospital, London. He qualified as a surgeon in 1778, was a staff surgeon in the Army for a few years, and then re-joined Hunter as his assistant in teaching, research and clinical practice. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1787. Following Hunter's death in 1793, Home became surgeon at St George's Hospital, a position that he held until 1827.

In 1799 the Government purchased Hunter's collection of anatomical and pathological specimens and it was presented to the College of Surgeons. When the Hunterian Museum opened in Lincoln's Inn Fields 1806, Home was appointed chief curator. He gave the first Hunterian Oration in 1814 and again in 1822. Many of Home's books and papers, generally published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, were based heavily on Hunter's unpublished writings.

Home was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1814 and he was president of the College in 1821-22. He became surgeon to the Royal Chelsea Hospital in 1821. He was a friend of the Prince Regent, who made him a baronet in 1813.

Home's son, Sir James Everard Home (1793-1853) joined the Royal Navy in 1810. He became a captain in 1837. In 1850 he was given command of HMS *Calliope*, thereby becoming the senior officer on the Australian Station. He died following an accident and was buried in Sydney.

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*The Hunterian Oration in honour of surgery ... instituted in honour of John Hunter, delivered in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons in London by Sir Everard Home, London, 1822. (printed, 36pp)*

The subject of Home's oration was Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), the President of the Royal Society from 1778 to 1820. The oration refers to Banks's early life, the origins of his interest in natural history, his time at Oxford University, James Cook's voyage to the Pacific, incidents at Tahiti and the Great Barrier Reef not recorded in the published voyage, Banks's withdrawal from Cook's second voyage, his abandonment of hopes of being an author following the death of Daniel Solander, his interest in the Royal College of Surgeons, and his public services. Home called Banks 'the greatest patron of science in Europe'.

A one page typescript accompanying the oration is based on notes collected by the Oxford astronomer Stephen P. Rigaud in conversation with Everard Home on 10 October 1825. The original notes are in volume 45 of the Rigaud Papers in the Bodleian Library (MS 26245). In one of his references to the Oration, Home apparently claimed that in 1772 he had planned to accompany Banks on Cook's second voyage to the Pacific. Following a major disagreement between Cook and Banks concerning the fitting out of HMS *Resolution*, the latter withdrew from the expedition.