

# Sir Rafe Sadleir 1507–87

## Tudor Statesman

*A most extraordinary survivor who kept his head while all around were losing theirs!*



Portrait by Hans Holbein  
The Royal Collection © 2006 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Join us to celebrate the  
500th anniversary  
of his birth



23rd & 24th June 2007  
Sutton House  
2&4 Homerton High Street  
London E9 6JQ

## Sir Rafe Sadleir

*[He] saw the interest of the state altered six times, and died an honest man; the crown was put upon four heads, yet he continued a faithful subject; religion changed five times, yet he kept his faith.*

*He was a most exquisite writer, and a most valiant soldier, qualifications that seldom meet, so great is the distance between the sword and the pen.*

[DAVID LLOYD, 17th C. historian]

Sadleir was born in Warwickshire in 1507 but moved to the village of Hackney, near London, in 1521. He was educated in the household of Thomas Cromwell, Principal Secretary to Henry VIII. As a young man he rose progressively through the ranks of the Court and after the execution of his former master Cromwell he became the Principal Secretary of State. He was also Henry's chief emissary to Scotland where in 1542 he reported to Henry that the newly born Princess Mary was a 'goodly child'. Later he was appointed by Queen Elizabeth to be custodian of Mary and in the last year of his life was one of the judges who passed the death sentence on Mary, by then 'Queen of Scots'. He died on 30th March 1587 and was buried in Standon Church in Hertfordshire.

## The House that Rafe Built



Reconstruction c. 1535  
by Richard Bond

*A unique architectural and historical survival in London* [ENGLISH HERITAGE]

In 1521 Henry, father of Rafe, bought a house in Hackney. It may have been the one later described as a brew house. If so, his son Rafe demolished it in 1535 and built the Bryk Place, which we now call Sutton House. It was a compact, H-plan house of red brick with burnt-brick patterning. Although altered over the centuries it still retains many Tudor features. By 1550 Sadleir had sold the house to a wealthy London merchant and moved to Standon in Hertfordshire where he built a substantial mansion befitting his enhanced status.

The National Trust has owned Sutton House since 1939; for 50 years it was used as offices. After extensive restoration it was opened for visitors, education, arts and community purposes in 1992. Sutton House has received several awards for this restoration and its educational work and most recently won a prestigious award for the monograph, published by English Heritage, on the architectural history of the building and the lives of its occupants over the past 450 years.



THE NATIONAL TRUST



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# Sir Rafe Sadleir and the Tudor Court

*A talk by Dr. David Starkey*

**5 pm Saturday 23rd June 2007**



David Starkey, fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, is an historian, commentator and broadcaster. Editor of *Henry VIII – A European Court in England*, which accompanied the celebrated exhibition to mark Henry's quincentenary in 1991, his books *Elizabeth* and *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* have been widely acclaimed and were the basis of a television series devised, written and presented by Starkey himself. Some scenes in these programmes were filmed in Sutton House.



## The Sadleir 500th Celebration Programme includes

### Saturday 23rd June 2007

**12 noon – 4 pm (free entry for *Sadleir Weekend* ticketholders)**

- Guided tours of Sutton House.
- Children's performance in honour of 'Sir Rafe and Lady Sadleir of Hacknaie' with the early-music group Passamezzo.

**5 pm *Sir Rafe Sadleir and the Tudor Court***

Sutton House Society Annual Lecture 2007, to be given by Dr. David Starkey.  
*Tickets, £10*

**7 pm *Midsummer Feast***

with readings from Sadleir's State Letters and musical interludes by the Homerton Consort.  
*Tickets, £25*

### To book and get more information

*email* sadleir500@suttonhousesociety.org.uk

*post* The Secretary, Sutton House Society,  
High View, 44b Woodbury Park Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9NG

*website* www.suttonhousesociety.org.uk

Due to limited places for some events, it is essential to book with payment by 1st June.

**20% discount if you book with payment by 1st March for full weekend of events.**

Directions to Sutton House and other background information will be sent with your tickets.

The small café-bar at Sutton House will be open for lunches and teas.

### Sunday 24th June 2007

**12 noon – 4 pm *National Trust Family Day at Sutton House* (free entry)**

**11:30 am – 1 pm 'Glimpses of Tudor Hacknaie'**

A walking tour with Mike Gray to include:

- St. Augustine's Tower, the surviving part of Sadleir's parish church;
- St. John-at-Hackney church (1797), containing Tudor memorials;
- The recently restored churchyard, part of Sadleir's former estate.

*Tickets, £5*

**2 pm *Visit by coach to***

- St. Mary's church, Standon, Hertfordshire, containing memorials to Sir Rafe and his son Thomas;
- Grounds of Standon Lordship, Sadleir's second and last home — by kind permission of Viscount Trenchard.

Rob Street will be our guide.

*Tickets, £20*

This weekend of celebratory events has been arranged by the Sutton House Society, a voluntary organisation which worked for the restoration of Sutton House and continues to promote and support its ongoing activities.

SUTTON  
HOUSE

Registered Charity Number 1045200