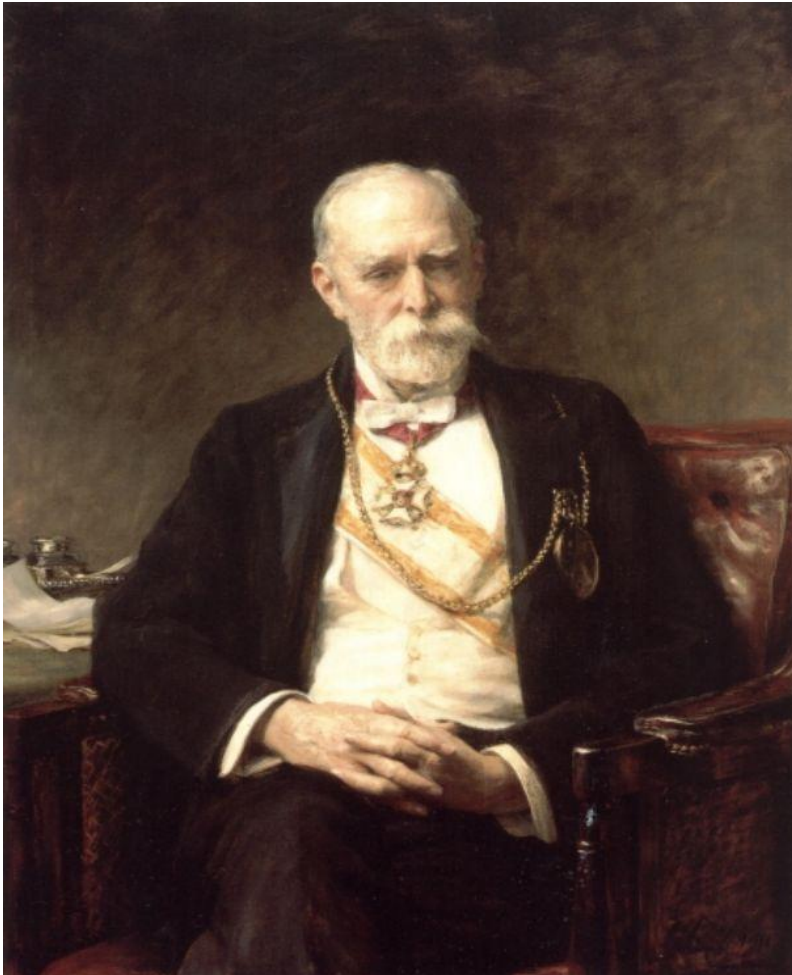
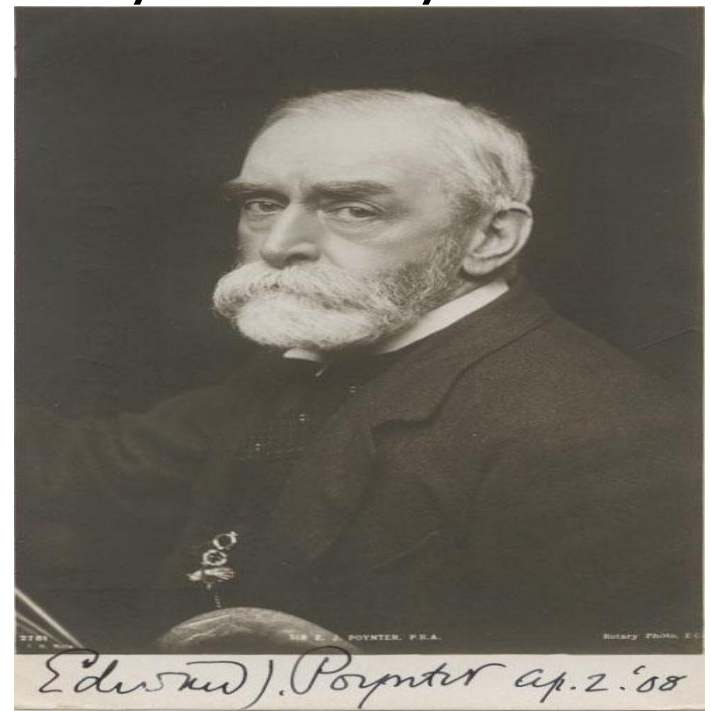



# Sir Edward John Poynter



Edward Poynter was the son of the architect Ambrose Poynter. He was born in Paris, though his parents returned to Britain soon after. He was educated at Brighton College and Ipswich School, but left school early for reasons of ill health, spending winters in Madeira and Rome. In 1853 he met Frederick Leighton in Rome, who made a great impression on the 17-year-old Poynter. On his return to London he studied at Leigh's academy in Newman Street and the Royal Academy Schools, before going to Paris to study in the studio of the classicist painter Charles Gleyre where James McNeill Whistler and George du Maurier were fellow-students





He became best known for his large historical paintings such as *Israel in Egypt* (1867; Guildhall Art Gallery, London),

followed by *St George for England* (1869), a mosaic for the Central Lobby of the Palace of Westminster, depicting St George and the Dragon. *Visit of the Queen of Sheba* (1871–

75) and *King Solomon* (1890). He was admitted as an associate of the Royal Academy in 1869

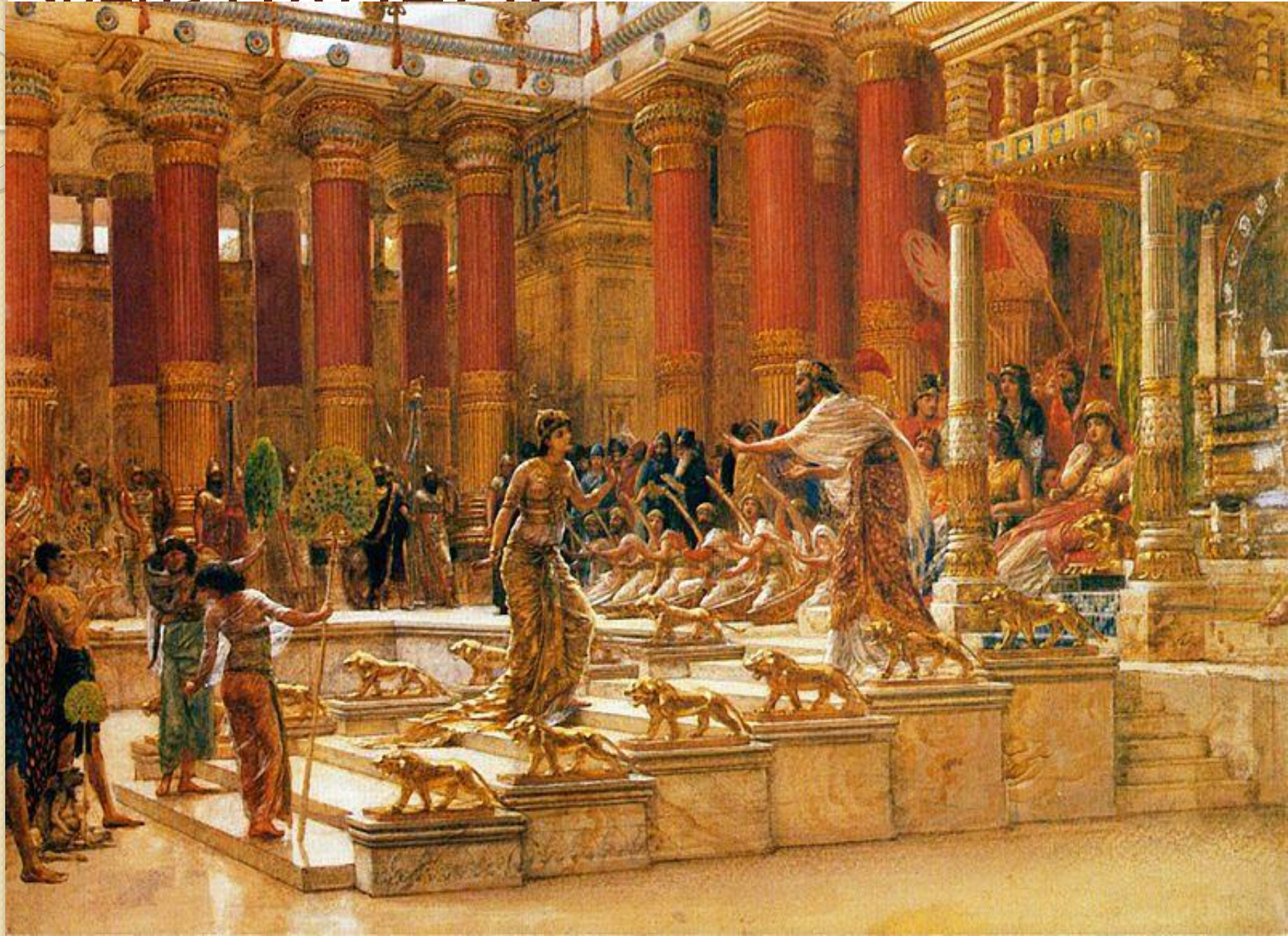


# *Israel in Egypt (1867)*





# *Visit of the Queen of Sheba (1871-75)*

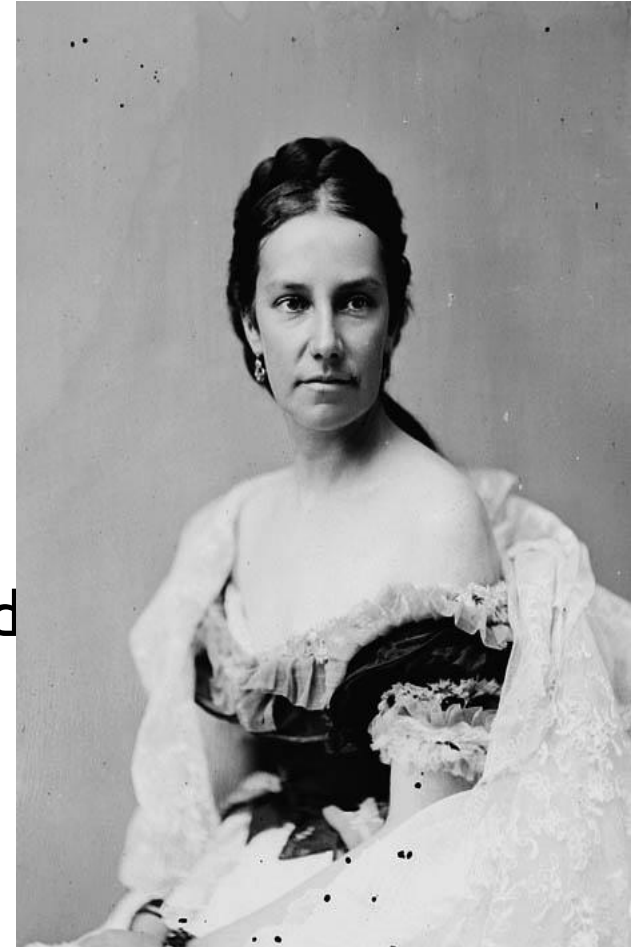





Poynter held a number of official posts: he was the first Slade Professor at University College London from 1871 to 1875, principal of the National Art Training School from 1875 to 1881 and director of the National Gallery from 1894 to 1904 (overseeing the opening of the Tate Gallery). He became a Royal Academician in 1876. In 1896, on the death of Sir John Millais, Poynter was elected President of the Royal Academy. He received a knighthood in the same year and an honorary degree from Cambridge University in 1898. He was made a baronet in 1902



In 1866 Poynter married the famous beauty Agnes MacDonald, daughter of the Rev G B MacDonald of Wolverhampton, and they had three children. Her sister Georgiana married the artist Edward Burne-Jones; her sister Alice was the mother of writer Rudyard Kipling; and her sister Louisa was the mother of three-times-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Stanley Baldwin



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- Poynter's old school, Brighton College held an exhibition of Poynter's paintings and drawings entitled 'Life at Arms Length' in its Burstow Gallery in November–December 1995
  - Sir Edward John Poynter died 26 July 1919 in London



# The Roman Boat Race (1889)



# On the Terrace





# Lesbia and her Sparrow



# A Corner of the Villa





# A Hot House Flower



# Erato Muse of Poetry





# The Return of the Prodigal Son

