

Presentation of the GrEco Project



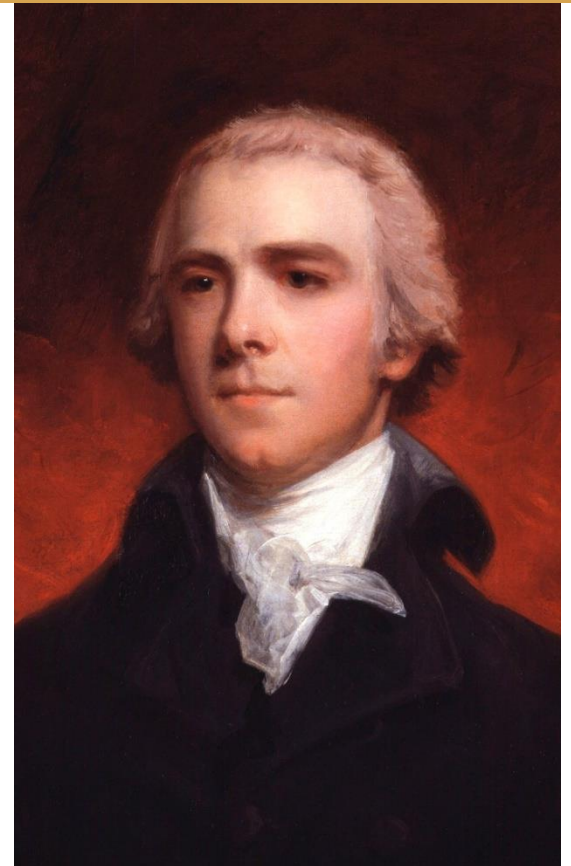
Christophe Depoortère
(CEMOI - University of Reunion Island)
December 2nd 2021



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

“GrEco Project” for Grenville’s Economics

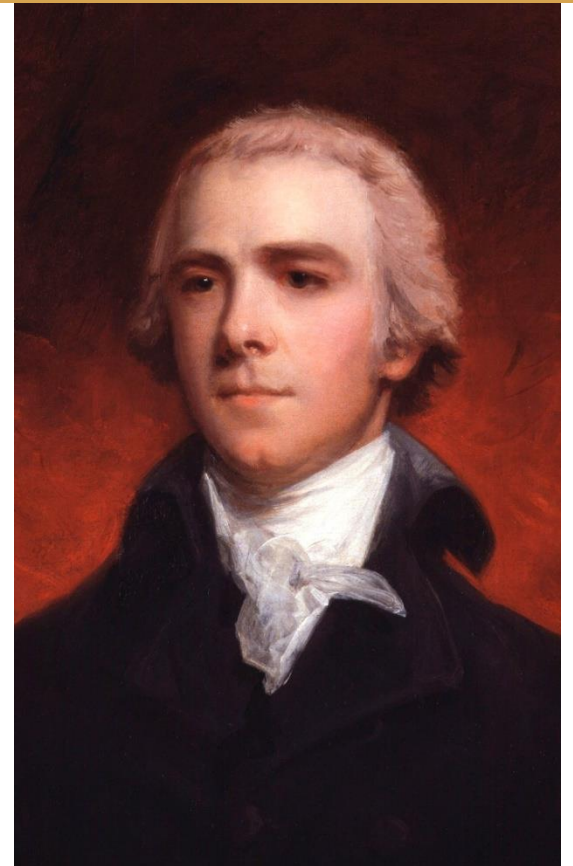
Aims at developing an academic research on the economics of Lord William Wyndham Grenville (1759-1834)



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

This program raises two questions:

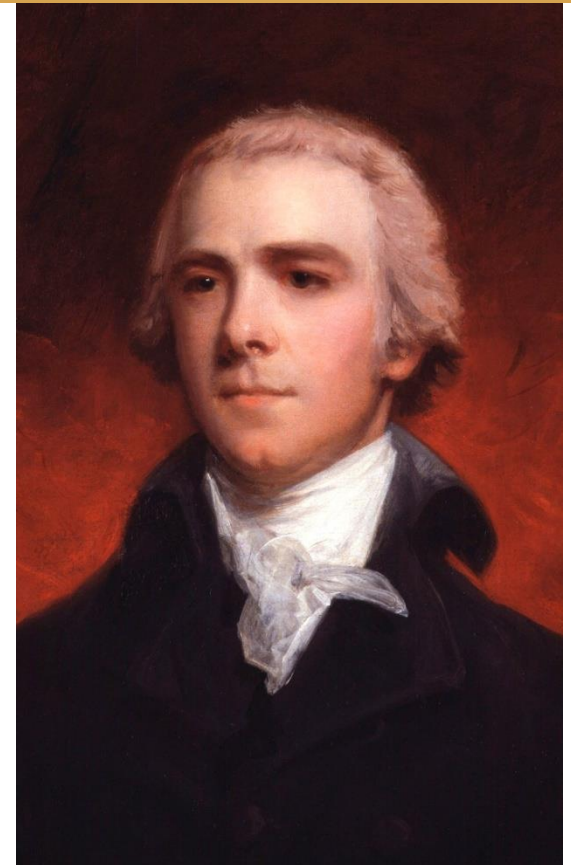
1. Who was Lord Grenville ?
2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter ?



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

1. Who was Lord Grenville ?

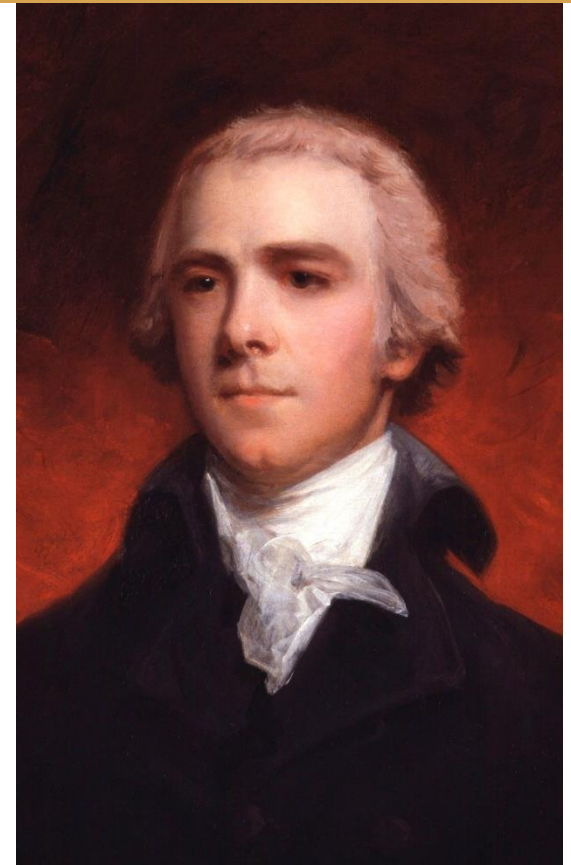
- One of the most important politician of his age
- Son of George Grenville, cousin of William Pitt the younger
- MP from 1782 till 1823
- 1789-1791 Home Secretary
- 1791-1801 Foreign Secretary



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

1. Who was Lord Grenville

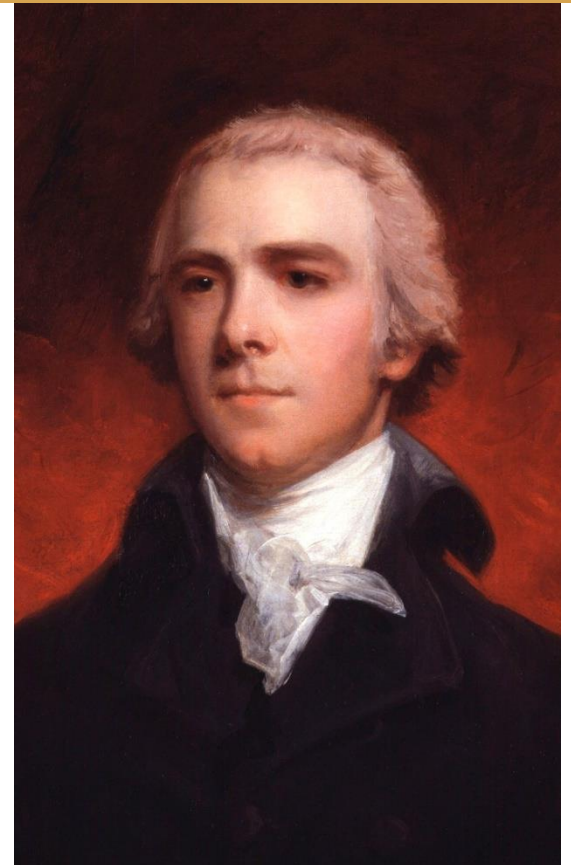
- One of the most important politician of his age
- 1806-1807 Prime Minister
- 1807-1817 Leader of the opposition in the House of Lords
- 1823 Retired from public life



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

1. Who was Lord Grenville

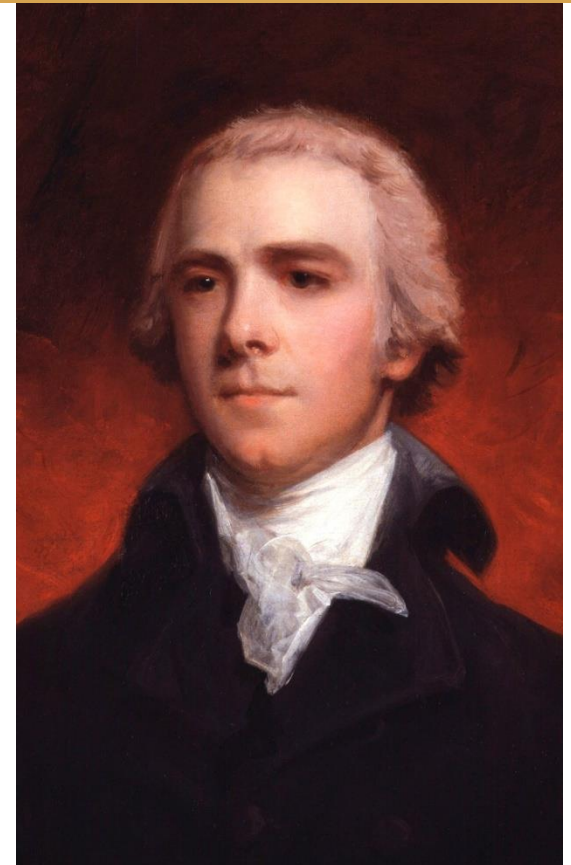
- Chancellor of the University of Oxford (1810-1834)
- Supported by Edward Copleston
- Vindicated the University of Oxford from the charge of having expelled Locke: *Oxford and Locke* (1834)



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter?

- Lord Grenville can be considered as a political economist
- Grenville did not adopt a pre-existing system but developed his “own” principles
- His economic ideas were held in high regard by many recognised economists of his age

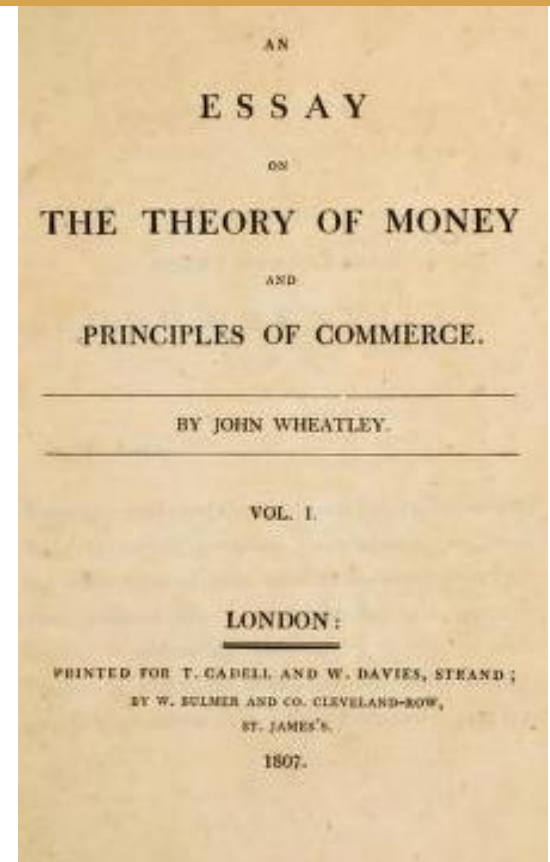


I. Aim of the GrEco Project

2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter?

John Wheatley (1772-1830)

“the deep and **extensive knowledge**, which [Lord Grenville] displayed **of the principles of public economy** [...] was a sufficient promise to the world, that the resources committed to his charge would be more ably administered than by his great, though less competent, predecessor” (1807:347)



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter?

David Ricardo (1772-1823)

“[Lord Grenville] has given many proofs of his **persevering attention** to [the science of Political Economy], and on all great discussions, of the **correctness of his opinions**” (1951-73, 7:259)

“I should like to have such a Lord amongst my disciples” (1951-73, 7:189)



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Thomas Tooke (1774-1858)

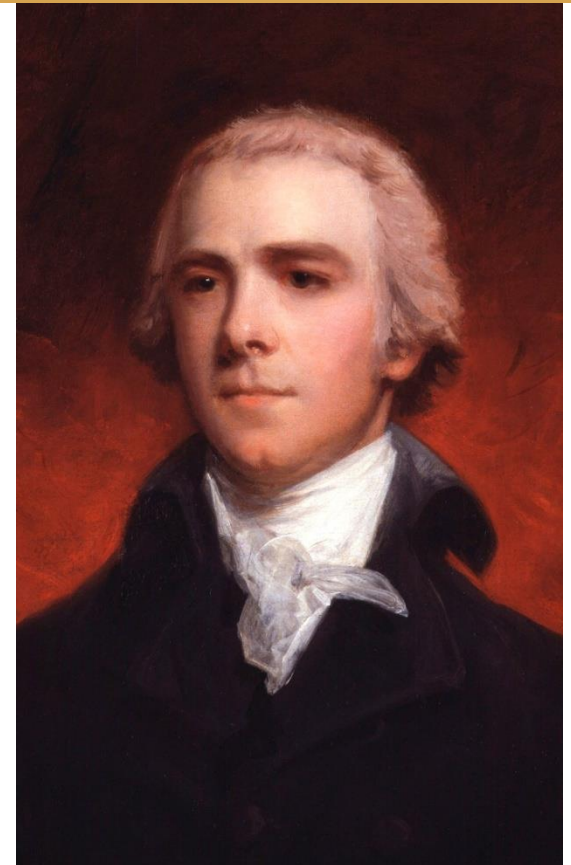
“there is no one who has taken a more distinguished part in the discussion which occurred on the great question of the Restriction and Resumption of Cash Payments, and no one who, from personal experience, **as well as from extensive research**, can bring more various information to bear upon the subject, or who can better appreciate the arguments brought forward by others” (1829: 1)



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter?

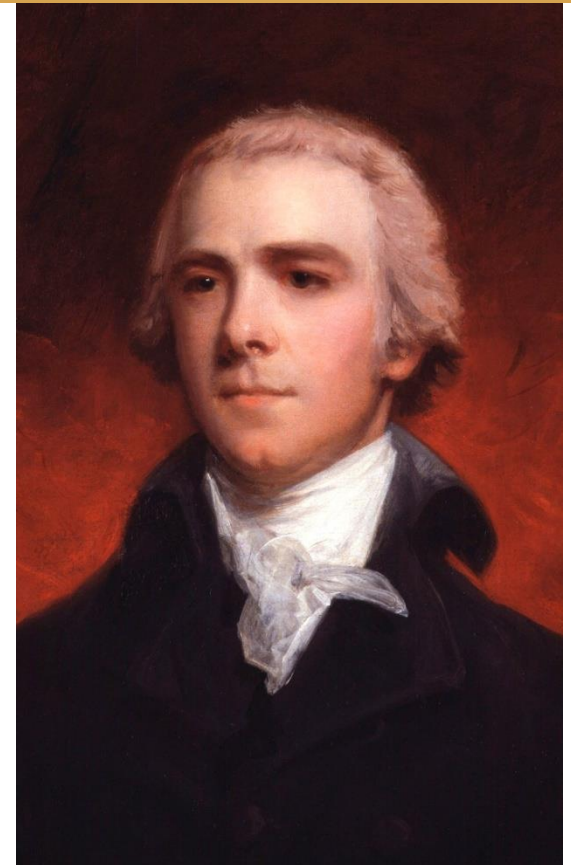
- Grenville's economic ideas had political repercussions
- The "Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation" (1794)
- American Intercourse bill (1806)
- Free trade in grain between England and Ireland (1806)



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter?

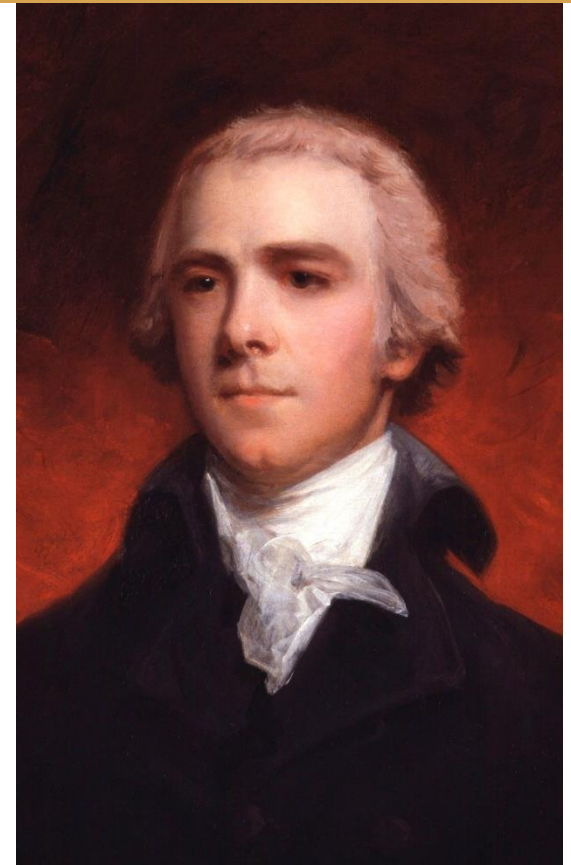
- Grenville's economic ideas had political repercussions
 - Sinking fund (1786 & 1807)
 - Restriction and resumption of cash payments (1797 & 1819)



I. Aim of the GrEco Project

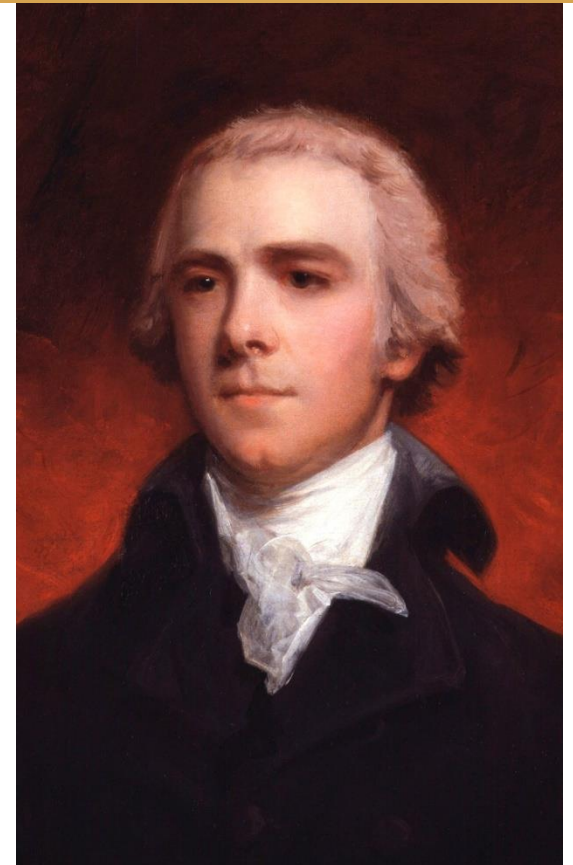
2. Did Grenville's economic ideas matter?

- Grenville's economic ideas had academical repercussions
- Grenville recalled Richard Whately (Copleston's former pupil), as the new principal of St. Alban hall (1825)
- Whately used his influence to have Nassau Senior appointed to the Drummond professorship of political economy (1825)



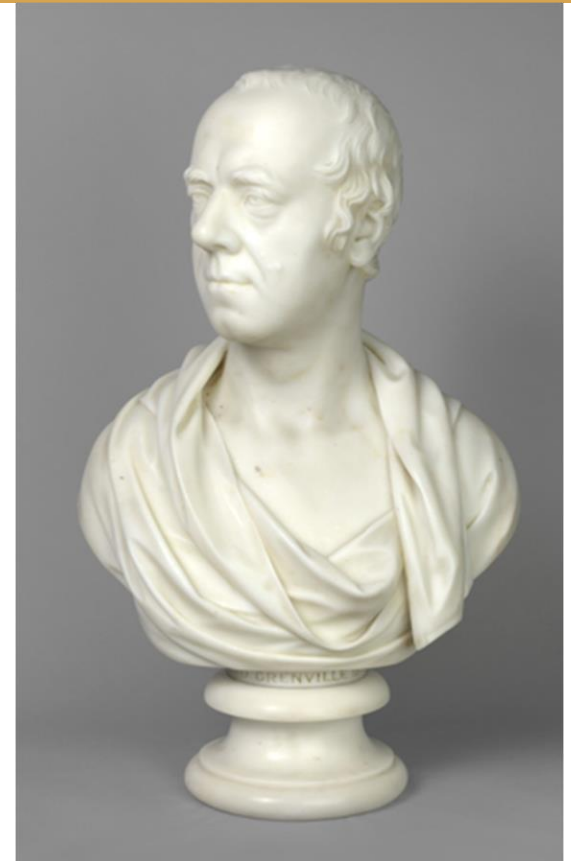
I. Aim of the GrEco Project

- Grenville must be considered as a political economist (among the other positions he held)
- His economic ideas mattered on a scientific, political and academical point of view



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

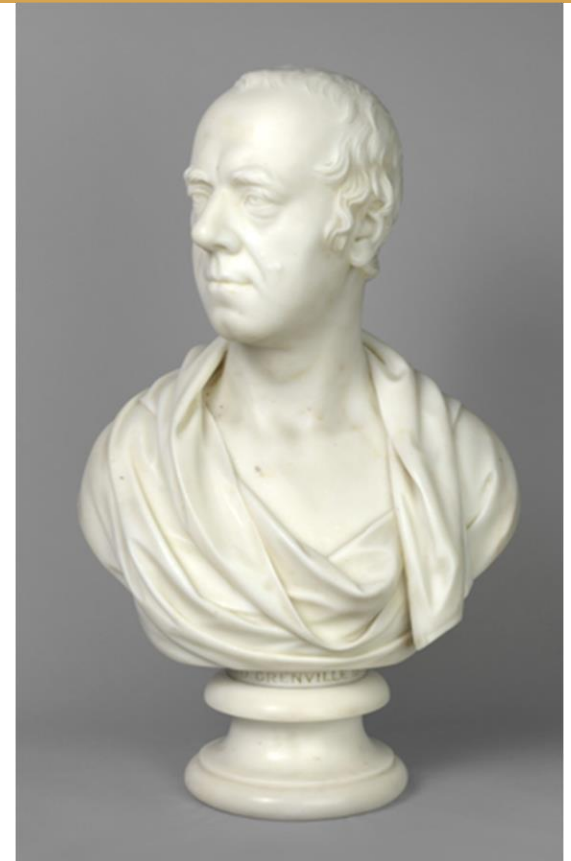
Why Grenville's economic thought remained almost unknown for two centuries?



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

Why Grenville's economic thought remained almost unknown for two centuries?

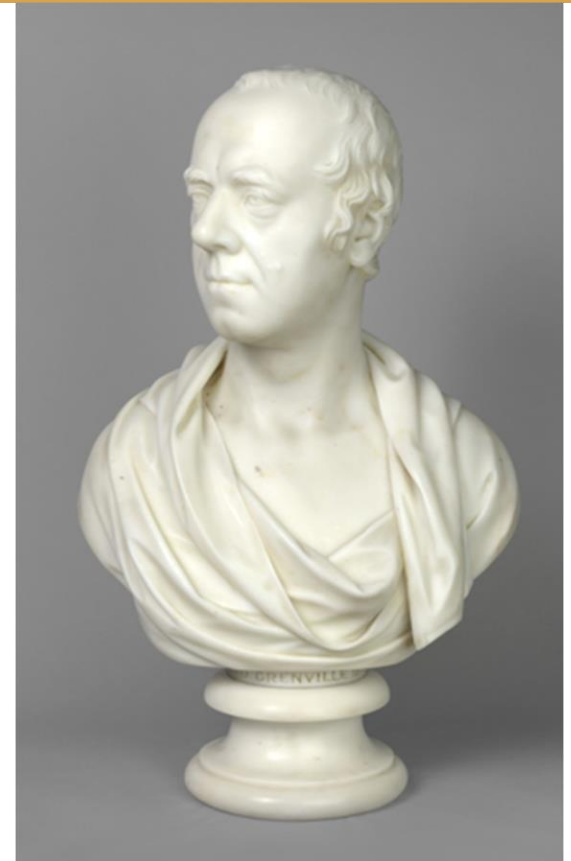
- Grenville published only a few tracts on political economy



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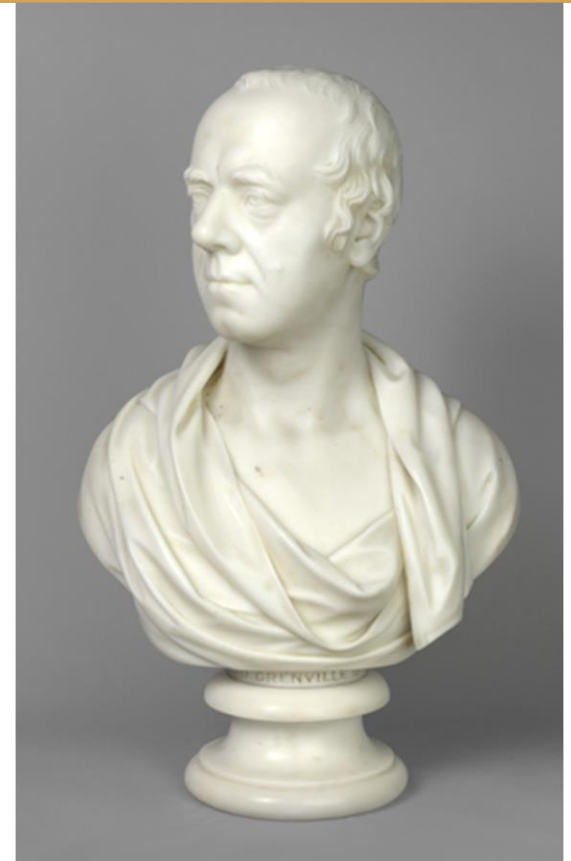
- (1817) "Preface" to Joseph Townsend *A Dissertation on the Poor Laws*
- (1828) *Essay on the supposed Advantages of a Sinking Fund*



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

Why Grenville's economic thought remained almost unknown for two centuries?

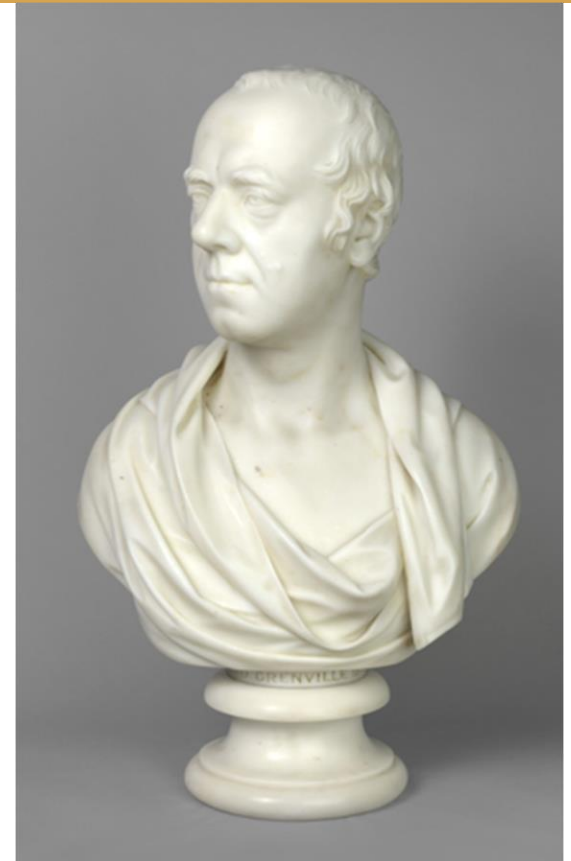
- (1813) *Speech on the motion made by the Marquis Wellesley on Indian Affairs*
- (1820) *Speech on Lord Lansdowne's Motion on the State of the Country*



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

Why Grenville's economic thought remained almost unknown for two centuries?

- The bulk of Grenville's papers remained at Dropmore till 1970 and 1984



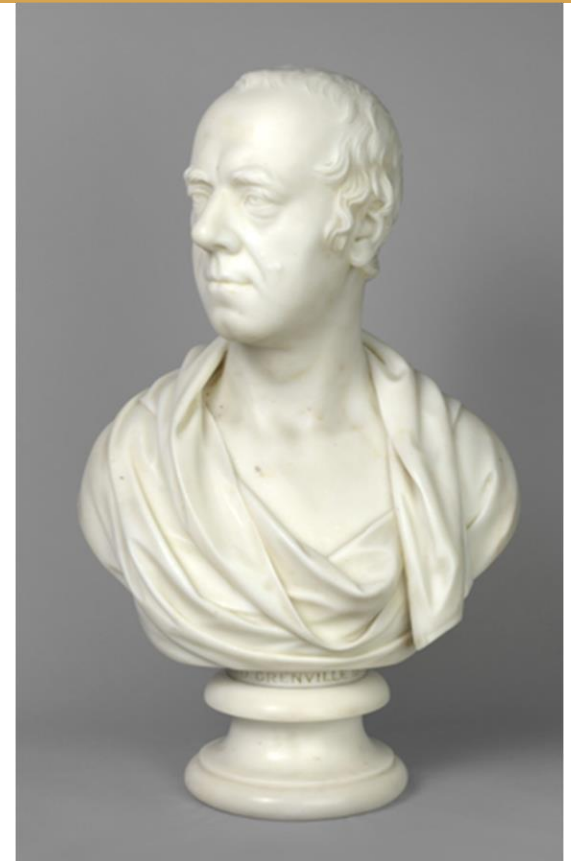
II. Scope of the GrEco Project

Why Grenville's economic thought remained almost unknown for two centuries?

Fitzpatrick (1892-1927) *The manuscripts of J.B. Fortescue, Esq., preserved at Dropmore*

“publishes the cream of the Dropmore Papers now in the British Library” (Harvey 1989: 33)

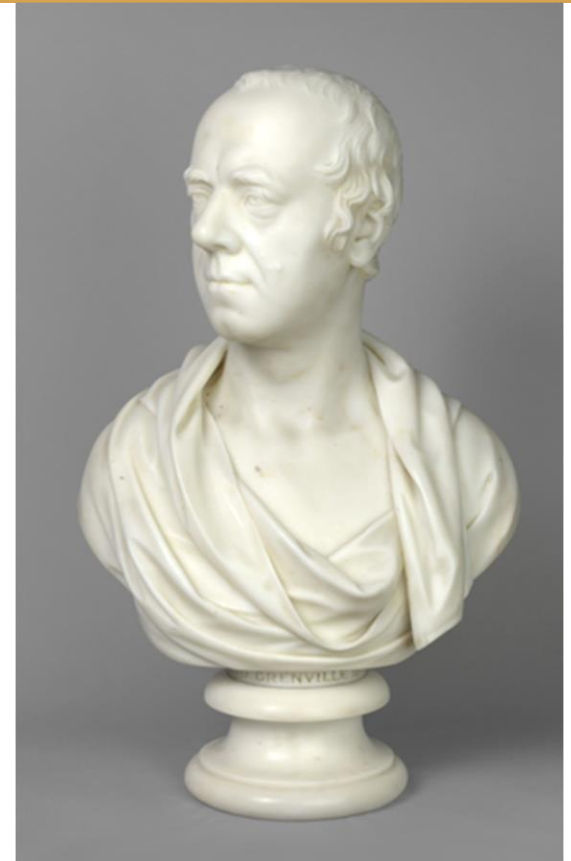
Grenville's economic papers not considered as “part of the cream”



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

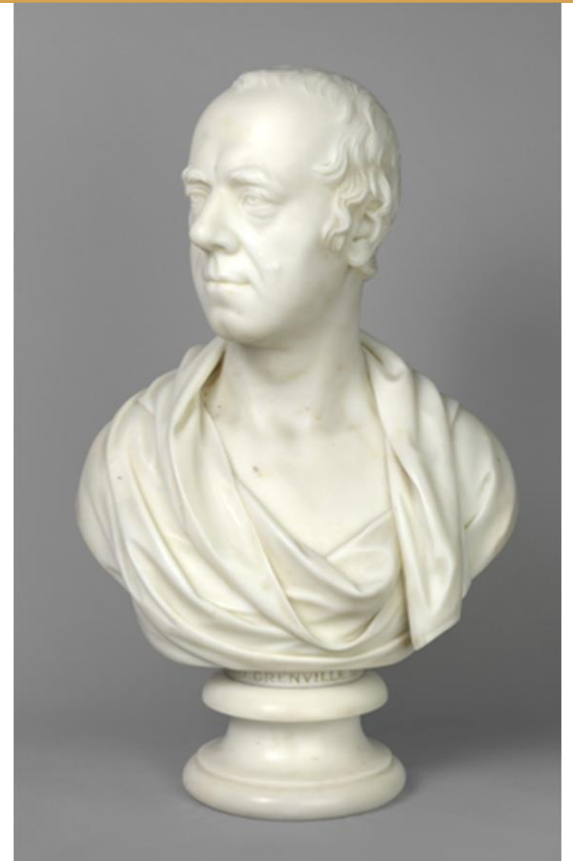
Why Grenville's economic thought remained almost unknown for two centuries?

- With a few rare exceptions, Grenville's economic writings remained unpublished



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

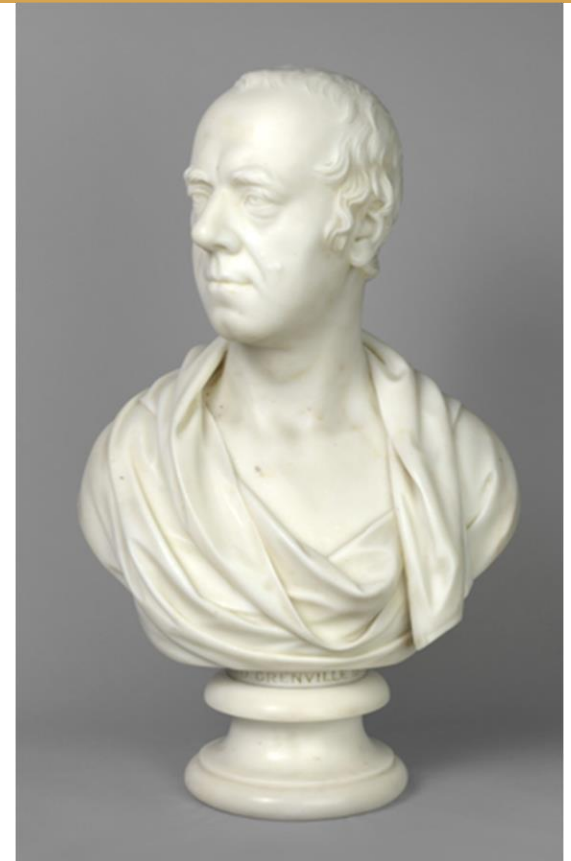
The scope of the project is twofold:



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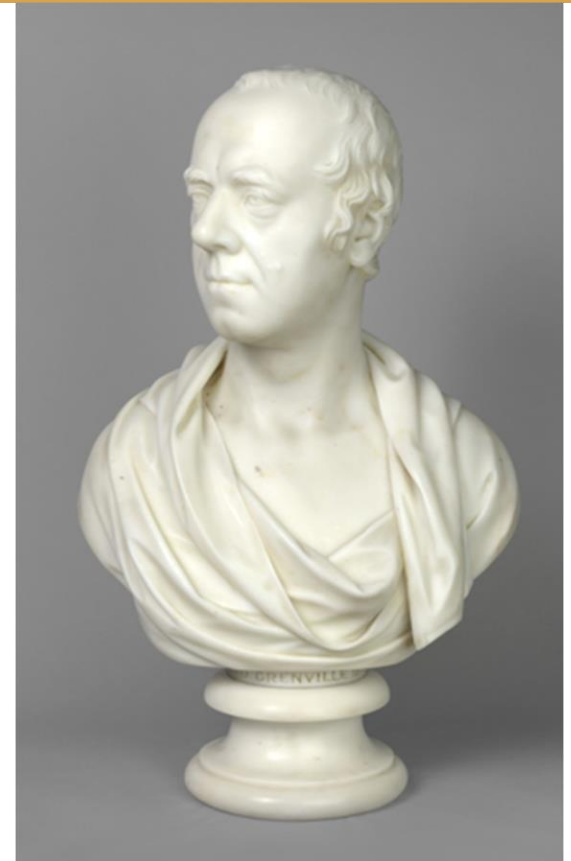
- Making Grenville's economic writings available to researchers



II. Scope of the GrEco Project

The scope of the project is twofold:

- Making Grenville's economic writings available to researchers
- Create places where researches on Grenville's economics can be discussed



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

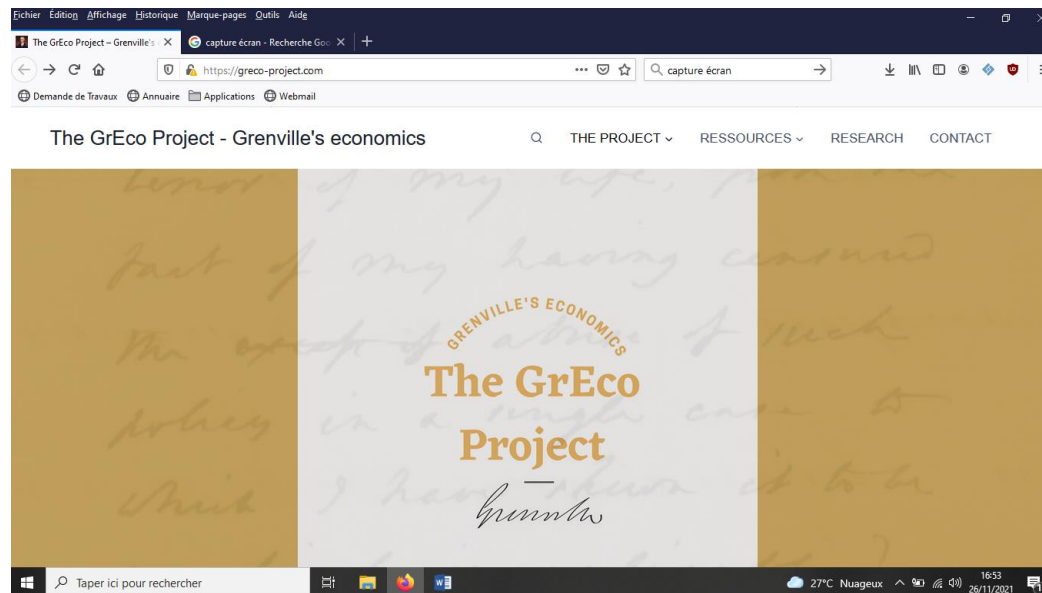
- The GrEco Project internet web-site
<https://greco-project.com>
- The GrEco Project online seminar session
<https://univ-reunion-fr.zoom.us/j/87389356250?pwd=Q0ZEMXF6SmpEbnhZM0p6SU9QaTY2QT09>



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project internet web-site

- Aims at making Grenville's economic writings available to researchers



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project internet web-site

- Presentation and Editorial procedures
- Resources
- Events
- Contact



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project internet web-site

Resources

- Published Writings
- Speeches in Parliament
- Published compilations of original papers
- Publications relating to Lord Grenville
- Correspondence with political economists
- Unpublished writings on political economy



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project internet web-site

Correspondence with political economists

- Edward Copleston (partly unpublished)
- Pascoe Grenfell (wholly unpublished)
- Francis Horner (partly unpublished)
- David Ricardo (partly unpublished)
- Nassau Senior (wholly unpublished)
- Simonde de Sismondi (wholly unpublished)
- Thomas Tooke (partly unpublished)



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project internet web-site

Unpublished writings on political economy

- Notes on various works on political economy by Smith, Malthus, Marcet, Senior, Godwin
- Draft of an Essay on Political Economy Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 9
- Drafts and notes on the sinking fund



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project online seminar series
Program on the website (Events)

- Take stock of the search for Grenville manuscripts, of their transcription and of their edition and publication
- Present academic researches on Grenville's economics



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project online seminar series

- 2nd Dec. 2021 C. Depoortère: Presentation of the GrEco Project
- 3rd Feb. 2022 C. Depoortère: Lord Grenville as a political economist
- 7th April 2022 V. Bianchini: Lord Grenville and the Continental Blockade
- 2nd June 2022 F. Sofia & C. Depoortère: Lord Grenville and Sismondi on slavery



III. The tools put in place as part of the GrEco Project

The GrEco Project online seminar series

Not sufficient

- Organisation of face to face events dedicated to Lord Grenville's economics
- 2021-2022 proposition of a session on Grenville's economics at the 19th Conference of the Charles Gide Society (Paris 7-9 July)



IV. How can I participate in the GrEco Project ?

Many things to do:

- Search for Grenville's unpublished manuscripts
- Go into libraries and shoot or transcribe manuscripts (British Library; National Library of Australia; Huntington Library)
- Transcribe from pictures of Grenville's manuscripts



IV. How can I participate in the GrEco Project ?

Many things to do:

- Try to arrange and edit unarranged drafts
- Format and edit Grenville's speeches in Parliament
- Produce and present a research on Grenville's economics
- Organize face-to-face events



IV. How can I participate in the GrEco Project ?

Many things to do:

**ALL SKILLS AND GOODWILL
ARE WELCOME**

