Nichols family collection on the Palace of Westminster

Processed by Sara Stilley, 2010.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Nichols family collection on the Palace of Westminster

Date (inclusive): circa 1650-1905, undated.

Date (bulk): 1800-1840

Collection Number: MS 203

Extent: 1.5 Linear Feet (1 flat storage box, 1 phase box)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection is comprised of items found within The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster : Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber, by Edward Wedlake Brayley, and John Britton. Material includes correspondences, documents and illustrated plates from circa 1650 to 1905. The original book that contained these items is also housed within the collection. All of the plates feature views of Westminster from different publications and years. The correspondence includes items addressed to historically significant individuals or persons related to the history of the Westminster or the production of the book. Highlights include correspondences to John Bowyer Nichols, the printer of the book; from Charles Barry, the son of the architect who rebuilt the Parliament and Westminster; to Dr. Reverend Kippis, a noted British Historian and author; from Sir John Cam Hobhouse, British Member of Parliament and friend of the poet Lord Byron.

Languages: The collection is in English and French.

Access

This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright Unknown: Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction, and/or commercial use, of some materials may be restricted by gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing agreement(s), and/or trademark rights. Distribution or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. To the extent other restrictions apply, permission for distribution or reproduction from the applicable rights holder is also required. Responsibility for obtaining permissions, and for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [date if possible]. Nichols family collection on the Palace of Westminster (MS 203). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information

The book, which contained the items in this collection, The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster : Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber, by Edward Wedlake Brayley, and John Britton was purchased in 1995.

Processing History

Processed by Sara Stilley, 2010.

Items were removed from the book, The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster : Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber, by Edward Wedlake Brayley, and John Britton, with their original location (page numbers) noted. They were then processed by preservation standards and housed in mylar enclosures. A custom clam shell box was made to house the book because of its damaged state. Damage to the book includes: broken leather spine, lost head caps, first two signatures detached from the text block, and extensive swelling of the text block due to the inserted items. Some slight damage also occurred from removing items as they were attached in the book.

All items removed from the book have been digitized.

Custodial History

The book, which contained the items in this collection, The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster : Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber, by Edward Wedlake Brayley, and John Britton, was purchased by Henry Snyder in London in the 1960's and was subsequently sold to the University of California, Riverside in 1995.

At some point before Henry Snyder purchased the item it was owned by Robert Washington Oates, a noted collector and antiquarian bookseller. It is unknown how the book came into Oates' possession or how it went up for sale in London but
much of the Nichols family library was sold at Sotheby's auctions.

Biography

John Nichols (1745-1826): John Nichols was apprenticed to printer William Bowyer in 1757 and took over that business in 1777. Among his noteworthy accomplishments was being editor of Gentleman's Magazine and some of the most lengthy and complete antiquarian county histories. Additionally, he worked with Abraham Farley in on the 300th anniversary edition of the Domesday Book. Nichols created a special font for the edition, which was unfortunately destroyed in a workshop fire in 1808. Also, he held the office of Master of the Stationer's Company in 1804. Nichols' son, John Bowyer Nichols, and grandson, John Gough Nichols, continued the printing business which is considered today to be one of the best documented printing houses of its time in England.

John Bowyer Nichols (1779-1863): J.B. Nichols was apprenticed to his father and when freed became a partner in the family business. He continued the family tradition of printing county histories and was the official printer of British parliamentary publications. Along with being a printer, J.B. Nichols was, like his father, editor of the Gentleman’s Magazine, a poet and an author of many works on antiquarian subjects. He was Master of the Stationer's Company in 1850.

John Gough Nichols (1806-1873): J.G. Nichols joined the family business in 1824 and was a natural historian and perfect successor to his grandfather’s tradition of studying and printing antiquarian histories. He also carried on the editorial leadership of the Gentleman's Magazine until its sale in 1856. He was a founding member of many historical societies such as Camden Society, Surtees Society and Shakespeare Society and publisher of their publications.

John Britton (1771-1857): Co-author of the book in which the items were found. A well-known English author and historian of his time, he created, along with his friend Edward Wedlake Brayley a new form of literature in the of important monuments throughout Britain. He was a frequent contributor to Gentleman’s Magazine.

Edward Wedlake Brayley (1733-1854): Co-author of the book in which the items were found. A noted English author, historian and topographer, he wrote several works with John Britton his life long friend.

Historical Background

Palace at Westminster: The Palace at Westminster began as a royal palace in the eleventh century and was the primary residence in London for the Kings of England and for Parliament until a fire in 1512 that destroyed much of the residential area and the King Henry VIII moved the royal family to Whitehall Palace. After, it served only as the meeting space for the Parliament, and various other judicial courts and various other functions. In 1834 much of the medieval building burned in a devastating fire. Sir Charles Barry won the competition to rebuild the site in the popular Perpendicular Gothic style. The replacement was much larger, including over 8 acres of reclaimed land along the Thames River, and incorporated those areas not destroyed in the fire. This reconstruction began in 1840 and lasted for 30 years. Since then there has been considerable restoration of the soft sandstone used to build the structure due to the effects of London’s pollution. The House of Commons had to be rebuilt after it was destroyed in a 1941 German bombing of London. Areas of note in the structure are those that survived the 1834 fire: Westminster Hall, the Cloisters of St. Stephen’s, the Chapel of St. Mary Undercroft and the Jewel Tower.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection is comprised of items found within The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster : Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber, by Edward Wedlake Brayley, and John Britton. Material includes correspondences, documents and illustrated plates from circa 1650 to 1905. The original book that contained these items is also housed within the collection. All of the plates feature views of Westminster from different publications and years. The correspondences includes items addressed to historically significant individuals or persons related to the history of the Westminster or the production of the book. Highlights include correspondences to John Bowyer Nichols, the printer of the book; from Charles Barry, the son of the architect who rebuilt the Parliament and Westminster; to Dr. Reverend Kippis, a noted British Historian and author; from Sir John Cam Hobhouse, British Member of Parliament and friend of the poet Lord Byron.

All items removed from the book have been digitized and are available online.

https://calisphere.org/collections/15797/

Collection Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series. The series arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Correspondence and other material, 1650-1905, undated.
Series 2. Plates (illustrations), 1747-1875, undated.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

**Subjects**
- Brayley, Edward Wedlake
- Britton, John
- Nichols, John
- Nichols, John Bowyer
- Nichols, John Gough

**Genres and Forms of Materials**
- Correspondence
- Plates (illustrations)
- Publications

**Series 1. Correspondence and other material. 1650-1905, undated.**

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
This series contains correspondences and other material found within the published book titled *The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster: Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its Cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber* by Edward Wedlake Brayley and John Britton (1836).

This series has been digitized and is available online.

[https://calisphere.org/collections/15797/?type_ss=text](https://calisphere.org/collections/15797/?type_ss=text)

**Series Arrangement**
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number (the original order that the individual items were located in the book has been maintained).

- Box 1, Folder 1
  - Correspondence to J.B. Nichols, Esquire. from J. C. Buckler. September 9, 1819.
  - Notes regarding rebuilt areas of St. Stephen's Chapel and House of Lords [architectural drawing attached in lower left corner]. undated.
  - Notes regarding rebuilt areas of St. Stephen's Chapel and House of Lords [architectural drawing attached in lower left corner]. undated
  - Correspondence to Wilki Collins from John Britton. December 4, 1848.
  - Correspondence to unknown from unknown [signature removed; in pencil above "My dear sir," is written "W. Safford"] undated.
  - Correspondence to G. James Ache from Champion Dymoke. undated.
  - Correspondence to J.B. Nichols, Esquire from E. W. Brayley. January 26, 1839.
  - Correspondence to unknown from Charles Barry, Jr. May 24, 1881.
  - Correspondence to Pickersgile Esquire RA from D. Maclise. undated.
  - Correspondence to unknown from Ar. Onslow. November 16, 1800.
  - Correspondence to unknown from Ar. Onslow. August 6, 1801.
  - Correspondence to The Rev’d Dr Kippis from John Rayner. April 7, 1783.
  - Correspondence to unknown from Earl of Dundonald. July 14, 1830.
  - Correspondence to unknown from George Dance. October 27, 1811.
  - Correspondence to unknown from Edward W. Brayley. August 12, 1837.
  - Correspondence to Sir John Cam Hobhouse from WG and to WG from Sir John Cam Hobhouse. September 19, 1857.
  - Financial records regarding Sir Thomas Lenthall. circa 1650.
  - Admit card to House of Lords. February 14, 1905.
  - Correspondence to J.B. Nichols, Esquire from J. C. Buckler. November 24, 1819.

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series consists of the plates (illustrations) found in the published book titled The History of the Ancient Palace and Late Houses of Parliament at Westminster: Embracing Accounts and Illustrations of St. Stephen's Chapel, and its Cloisters, - Westminster Hall, - The Court of Requests, - The Painted Chamber by Edward Wedlake Brayley and John Britton (1836). This series has been digitized and is available online.

https://calisphere.org/collections/15797/?type_ss=image

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number (the original order that the individual items were located in the book has been maintained).

Box 1, Folder 3
Physical Description: 22.5cm x 13.5cm
Captions:
"A. Pugin, direxit - T.T. Bury. Del.t B. Winkles. Sculp.t"

Box 1, Folder 3
Physical Description: 22.5cm x 13.5cm
Captions:
"Pt. 2, A. Pugin; direxit J. Willis. Del.t, G. Gladwin. Sculp.t; John Weale, Architecutural Library 59 High Holborn"

Box 1, Folder 3
Physical Description: 18cm x 15.5cm
Captions:
"Pag: 848"

Box 1, Folder 3
Physical Description: 28cm x 21cm
Captions:
"Engraved for the Lady's Magazine"; "London Publishd as the Act directs No. 1 1806 by G. Robinson Paternoster Row"

Box 1, Folder 3
Plates (illustrations), "Interior of the New House of Lords". 1847.
Physical Description: 18.5cm x 22.5cm
Captions:
"Harris Brothers 8 Budge Row 1847"

Box 1, Folder 3
Plates (illustrations), "Vue de Westminster-Hall". undated.
Physical Description: 18cm x 15.5cm
Captions:
"Pag: 840"

Box 1, Folder 3
Plates (illustrations), "Westminster Hall, East Entrance". July 1815.
Physical Description: 13.5cm x 21.5cm
Captions:
"Engraved by Wallis from a drawing by J.P. Neale for the Beauties of England and Wales"; "London published by John Harris, St. Pauls Church Yard July 1815"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 3</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;The lower Lobby, House of Commons&quot;. September 1, 1815.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 13.5cm x 21.5cm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Captions:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;Engraved by Sands from drawing by J P Neale for the Beauties of England and Wales&quot;;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;London published by John Harris, St. Pauls Church Yard Sept 1 1815&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 3</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;A Perspective View of Westminster Abbey from the High Altar to the West End, shewing the manner of his Majesty's Crowning Sep.r 22 1761&quot;. September 22, 1761.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 22cm x 19cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;George III&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 3</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;Ground-Plan of Part of the City of Westminster as it appeared at the coronation of King George III - 1761&quot;. March 15, 1820.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 21.5cm x 21cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;London - Published 15th March 1820 by John Major 18 Skinner Street&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 3</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;A View of the House of Peers, The King sitting on the Throne, the Commons attending him.&quot; January 1769.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 21.5cm x 27cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Gent. Mag Jan.y 1769&quot;; &quot;J. Lodge delin et sculp.&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 3</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;Representation of the Court at the Trial of Lord Byron.&quot; undated.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 21cm x 27cm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;Part of Westminster Hall&quot;. September 3, 1805.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 9.5cm x 15cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Engraved by J. Grey for the Antiquarian &amp; Topographical cabinet from a drawing by W.m Deeble&quot;; &quot;Published for the proprietors by w. Clarke New Bond St. &amp; J. Carpenter Old Bond St. Sep 3 1805&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;Westminster Hall&quot;. 1875.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 14cm x 22cm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;G. Garielli scupt.&quot;; &quot;Eton: Williams &amp; son 1875&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;A View of the Infide of Westminster Hall&quot;. undated.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 26.5cm x 20cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;vol. 15 pg 89&quot;; &quot;This was formerly the chief palace of the Kings of England but none of them have resided in it since Henry 8 when great part of it was burnt...&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
<th>Plates (illustrations), &quot;A View of the Scaffolding in Westminster Hall&quot;. 1747.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 25cm x 21cm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Captions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;q. II 1747&quot;; &quot;The Plan&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "A View of the Court Sitting on the trial of Lord Mellville in Westminster Hall". July 1,1806.
   Physical Description: 18.5cm x 16.5cm
   Captions:
   "published as the Act directed July 1 1806, by G. Robinson Paternoster Row"; "T. Prattent sculpt.

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "House of Commons. House of Lords as they were before the Fire 16th Oct.r 1834". undated.
   Physical Description: 25cm x 20cm
   Captions:
   "drawn by Jn. Shury & Son"; "Printed by Day & Haghe Gates st."; "London, Published by John Shury & Son 16 Charterhouse St. Charterho Sqe."

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "A View of the Court Sitting on the trial of Warren Hastings Esqr. in Westminster Hall". 1788.
   Physical Description: 26.5cm x 21.5cm
   Captions:
   "Lady's magazine"; "Pubd Nat 1 1788, according to Act of Parliament by G. Robinson & Co. Patter Noster Row"

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "View of the choir, theatre and area" AND "The Homage in the Theatre", September 1831.
   Physical Description: 38cm x 22cm
   Captions:

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "The Houses of Lords & Commons on the Fire Oct.r 16th 1834". undated.
   Physical Description: 18.5cm x 16cm
   Captions:
   "London. Published by J & F Harwood, 26 Fenchurch St."

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "The Doors above the Porch and on the level with the Gallery...". undated.
   Physical Description: 22.5cm x 27cm
   Captions:
   "Arnolds magazine of the Fine Arts"; "Drawn on Stone by T Allon"; "Printed by C. Hullmandel"

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "A View of the Riot Dec.r 11th 1770". 1770.
   Physical Description: 13.5cm x 22cm
   Captions:
   "But that we are forbid, To tell the Secrets of the Upper House. We Could a Tale Unfold, Whose lightest Word Would harrow up the Reader's Soul - Shakes. alter'd"

Box 1, Folder 4  Plates (illustrations), "Vox Populi vox Dei." undated.
   Physical Description: 13.5cm x 22cm
   Captions:
   "Think what care, What vigilance, what toils, what bright contention...- Thomson"

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged by box number.

Box 2