

Collections in the Parliamentary Archives relating to the Palace of Westminster

- **The Architectural Archive (ARC)** - The architectural archive is a centralised source of documents relating to the building and fabric of the Palace of Westminster. It contains copies of original documents (plans, drawings, reports and other papers) held at various institutions in England. Institutions from which the copies were taken from include: The Public Record Office; The British Library; Birmingham City Archives; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; the Museum of London; the Royal Academy of Arts; RIBA; the Society of Antiquaries; the Sir John Soane Museum; the Victoria and Albert Museum and Westminster City Library. There are also copies of some documents held in other departments of Parliament, such as the House of Commons Library and the Works of Art department.
- **The Ballantine Drawings (BAD)** - Designs for the windows of the House of Lords Chamber by Messrs. Ballantine & Allen, submitted to the Royal Commission of Fine Arts in 1844. These drawings were created as a result of a desire to have stained glass designs in the windows of the new House of Lords. The designers hoped '...with strict attention to character and costume, it might be practicable in the windows of the House of Lords to give an abridged pictorial history of Great Britain, wherein might be traced the progress of the national mind, through all its various stages, from the earliest period of which we have authentic record, until the present time. With this view, the History of Britain has been divided into twelve great cycles. The Kings, Queens and leading personages connected with the principal events in each distinct period are represented...' Ballantine and Allen were stained glass manufacturers based in Edinburgh. They founded their firm in 1837 and were part of the gothic revival in architecture and design in the nineteenth century. James Ballantine (1808-1877) was recommended by the Fine Arts Commission to design and make the windows. These designs were, however, subsequently re-designed by A W N Pugin, but, with the exception of a specimen window by J Hardman & Co, Birmingham, were made by Ballantine & Allan.
- **Papers of Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860), Architect (BAR)** - This collection contains plans, drawings and letters relating to Barry's work on the Palace of Westminster. There are architectural drawings of the Palace of Westminster made in Charles Barry's office c1841-c1845 and six working drawings, which are almost certainly in A W N Pugin's hand. There is also: a first floor plan of the New Palace of Westminster, by Barry; photographic copies of his designs for the House of Lords Throne; a receipt for work done by Barry in relation to the Palace of Westminster; photographic copies of two other plans made by Barry and various other documents, including his family tree, and the diary of his eldest son, Charles Barry Junior, kept while he worked in his father's office. Some of the papers relate to Edward Middleton Barry and the work he did to complete the New Palace of Westminster after his father's death.
- **Designs and working drawings for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament (BIR)** - These tracings (mainly of decorative details), were discovered in late 1985 in outbuildings at an old house of medieval origin, now in the centre of Milton Keynes conservation area. The house had been occupied by the Bird family from 1789 and during the nineteenth century the Birds built up a building firm specialising in carpentry, which did extensive work in the locality. Though proof is lacking, it seems

most probable that a young member of the family came to work as a carpenter at the Houses of Parliament during the 1840s. When he left Westminster he must have taken with him a selection of tracings which he felt would be useful in his future business.

- **Photographs of drawings of the New Houses of Parliament by William Hayward Brakspear (BRK)** – Photographic copies of two early designs (possibly the first contract drawings) for the external elevations of the new Houses of Parliament.
- **Records of the Department of the Environment, 1970-1972 (DOE)** - This collection is predominantly of plans and other accompanying papers relating to the Palace of Westminster between 1970 and 1972, when the building was the responsibility of the Department of the Environment. These include: Plans relating to accommodation above Commons Court Tea Rooms, 1970-1972; Records of the Parliamentary Building Competition held in 1971; Photographs of the Terrace before it was raised in 1971; Plans of Peers' Court, Peers' Lobby, State Officers' Court, 1972; Plans relating to Commons Inner Court, River Front Centre Block, Peers Inner Court, Boiler House Court and Whips Area, 1974; Papers relating to Archaeological investigations of the fountain in New Palace Yard during the construction of the underground car park, 1975; Photographs of work in progress during the restoration of the ceiling and throne in the House of Lords Chamber, 1980-1986.
- **"Parliament Past and Present", Photographs Collection (FAR)** - Photographs of the Palace of Westminster produced for publication in "Parliament Past and Present - A popular and picturesque account of a thousand years in the Palace of Westminster, the home of the Mother of Parliaments".
- **Designs of John Hardman Studios, Birmingham (HAR)** - This collection consists of two files of working drawings and cartoons prepared in the studios of Messrs. John Hardman, relating to the provision of stained glass and other ornamentation for the new Houses of Parliament. John Hardman Powell was Pugin's only assistant and later became his son-in-law. Messrs. John Hardman Studios, of which John Hardman Powell was part, made all of the stained glass (from designs often by AWN Pugin) for the New Houses of Parliament, with the exception of that in the House of Lords.
- **Benjamin Stone: Photographs (HC/LB/1/111)** - 415 photographs of the interior and exterior of the Houses of Parliament taken by Sir Benjamin Stone MP (1838-1914) between 1897 and 1910. These splendid photographs form the first comprehensive photographic survey of the building, and thus are of considerable historical importance.
- **The Library Westminster Collection (HC/LB/1/114)** - This collection consists of plans, drawings, engravings, volumes and photographs mostly relating to the buildings of the Palace of Westminster in the 19th and 20th centuries. Of particular interest in this collection are a volume of measured drawings of the Star Chamber made in Dec 1835 and Jan 1836 and plans of the temporary Houses of Parliament, 1835, 1843, 1845-1847 and 1853, showing how the building was being used during reconstruction. Of outstanding importance, however, is the volume of 38 measured drawings made in 1914 in connection with the restoration of the hammer beam roof of Westminster Hall by the Office of Works under the supervision of Sir Frank Baines. These architectural drawings are magnificent in themselves and full of detailed

information about the roof, which is conveyed by coloured washes which identify the age and condition of the wood and by long labels and notes.

- **Volume of drawings and engravings relating to the Palace of Palace of Westminster before the fire of 1834, collected by John Britton (HC/LB/1/119)** - This volume of drawings and engravings was probably made up in c 1840 by John Britton and contains much of the information that he collected during his research for his book "Ancient Palace and Houses of Parliament at Westminster" by E W Brayley and J Britton, 1836, relating to the Palace before the fire of 1834 and published in 1836. He probably employed R W Billings and Thomas Clark to make most of the illustrations. The volume consists of 53 folios on which are mounted 89 drawings and engravings and includes several views of St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster Hall and The Painted Chamber, as well as other areas within and without the Palace.
- **Memorandum setting out the interior arrangement of the House of Lords Chamber (HL/PO/1/22/10)** - This small notebook, dated 1844, contains a memorandum on suggested internal arrangements of the Chamber. Barry did not follow these ideas, particularly with regard to the position of the Robing Room.
- **Copy of correspondence between the First Commissioner of Works and E M Barry, with colour plans relating to the new Palace of Westminster (HL/PO/1/81/5)** - HC Sessional Papers for 1869 with unexecuted colour plans by E M Barry of the ground floor and principal floor for a greatly enlarged Chamber of the House of Commons, proposing an enlarged House of Commons Dining Room on the River Front and new Conference Room and Lords Committee Rooms in the Peers Court. There are detailed descriptions of proposals, together with some printed copy correspondence between the First Commissioner of Works, one Alfred Austin, and E M Barry. The alterations would have entailed major changes to the original building.
- **Unexecuted plan of gallery floor of the House of Lords Chamber showing construction of 2 new reporters' galleries on East and West sides of gallery (HL/PO/1/81/5a)** – Dated 1880, with note that the former reporters' gallery was to be used by peeresses.
- **Houses of Parliament plans for Sovereign's Lift (HL/PO/1/337)** - Plans, elevations and sections pertaining to the planned extension of Sovereign's lift to the second floor and construction of a new staircase to the third floor. Created by the Ministry of Works in 1936.
- **Peers War Memorial (HL/PO/1/527)** – Thirty files of papers dating from 1914-1966.
- **Papers relating to the Restoration of the ceiling of the Lords Chamber (HL/PO/1/571)** – dated 15 Oct 1984.
- **Drawings of Sir Charles Barry of the throne in House of Lords (HL/PO/LB/1/11/2)** - This file is in the House of Lords Library collection and consists of twenty-two highly finished original drawings being Sir Charles Barry's designs for the throne in House of Lords, though not in Barry's hand (three of the

designs differ materially from those put into effect). The volume is bound in a red morocco album, bearing the book-plate of E M Barry.

- **Letter from William Capon, Architect about the Palace of Westminster (HL/PO/RO/1/92)** – Written on 20 March 1824 and addressed to John Wilson Craker MP, Admiralty, relating to Craker's "important part ... in the debate" about "demolition of the ancient architecture of the old Royal Palace of Westminster" and offering to submit for his inspection, "draughts...preserved of the old Palace in plan and perspective views".
- **Observations on the Plans for the New Houses of Parliament (HL/PO/RO/1/154)** - Descriptive volume, with plans, detailing the "Observations on the Plans for the New Houses of Parliament by one of the Commissioners appointed by the Crown in the year 1835, to examine the Designs of the Architects competing for the Honour of Rebuilding them..." The commissioner in question, the author of this work was Charles Hanbury-Tracy, 1st Lord Sudeley of Toddington. Lord Sudeley was much perturbed by Barry's alterations to the Royal Route to the House of Lords, particularly the position of the Royal Staircase and Robing Room. He gave several plans suggesting alternatives.
- **Papers of James Atkinson (fl 1884-1928) (JAT)** - This collection consists of correspondence to and from James Atkinson, Supervisor of the restoration of the roof of Westminster Hall, concerning his career and other matters, as well as photographs; also included are a "Visitors Book" for the "Westminster Hall Roof" and two reports of works on the Hall (1916-1923) with drawings and plans.
- **Drawings from the Kennedy albums (KEN)** - Plans, elevations and drawings for the New Palace of Westminster from Sir Charles Barry's Drawing Office. The drawings listed below come from a volume entitled Scrapbook Volume I - Sketchbook Gothic Volume I. This and its companion volume, Scrapbook Volume II - Sketchbook Italian Volume II, were made up by George Penrose Kennedy (floruit mid-19th century) who worked in Charles Barry's office.
- **Photographs of the Palace of Westminster (MET)** - Two albums containing 206 colour photographs of the interior and exterior of the Palace of Westminster. These photographs were taken for security purposes by the Metropolitan Police in 1987.
- **Moulton Barrett Album (MOU)** - The drawings in this collection are for the buildings and furnishing of the new Palace of Westminster. They include a plan in pencil of Barry's design for the new Palace (this may be the earliest extant, since the Victoria Tower is marked 'King William's Tower'). Some drawings are by Augustus Welby Pugin, the majority are working drawings, many on tracing paper, by Moulton Barrett. Drawings for other buildings by Barry in the Gothic style, such as Hurstpierpoint church Sussex, are also included. Octavius Moulton-Barrett was the youngest brother of Elizabeth Barrett-Browning (1806-1861). He worked in Charles Barry's office, probably in the 1840s.
- **Records of the Ministry of Works, 1940-1970 (MOW)** - This collection is predominantly of plans and other accompanying papers relating to the Palace of Westminster between 1940 and 1970, when the building was the responsibility of the

Ministry of Works. The plans detail the state, layout and use of the building in this period. Many relate to damage done by bombing during the Second World War, and the subsequent rebuilding of parts of the Palace done in the late 1940s-1950s. There are also some plans from the 1960s and 1970s, detailing more recent developments, such as improved accommodation around Commons Court, the positions of annunciators, conduit and cable routes and accommodation for a General Post Office (GPO).

- **Records of the Office of Works, 1378-1940 (OOW)** - This collection is predominantly of plans and other accompanying papers relating to the Palace of Westminster between 1378 and 1940, when the building was the responsibility of the Office of Works. It includes: autograph album, including petitions regarding a proposal for an additional Members' Smoking Room (OOW/1), a list of furniture preserved from the fire of the Houses of Parliament (OOW/3); registers of temperature control and ventilation for the House of Lords and House of Commons (OOW/5); photographs of decayed stonework (OOW/11); general photographs of the Palace (OOW/12); a volume of 10 drawings of Westminster Abbey Annex prepared in anticipation of the Coronation of King Edward VIII (OOW/20) and various plans of the Palace showing detail of the state, layout and use of and work done to the building in this period.
- **'The Prize Cartoons' (PRC)** – A folio containing eleven lithographs of the winning Royal Commission of the Fine Arts competition designs for fresco decorations in the New Houses of Parliament by various artists, dated circa 1843.
- **Records of the Property Services Agency, 1972-1990 (PSA)** - This collection is predominantly of plans and other accompanying papers relating to the Palace of Westminster between circa 1972 and 1990, when the building was the responsibility of the Property Services Agency. This includes: records of the New Parliamentary Building Competition (1969-1992), plan and photographic surveys, records produced by a variety of companies who were contracted to work on the Palace and records of the Quadrennial Survey of the Palace of Westminster, (1989-1995).
- **Papers of AWN Pugin, (1812-1852); Architect (PUG)** - These papers consist largely of photocopies of correspondence, particularly between AWN Pugin and John Hardman, though also with the Earl of Shrewsbury, Helen Lunsden, AC Pugin, Catherine Welby Pugin and Jane Pugin. There are copies of the journals of Jane Pugin and EW Pugin, as well as designs of roof trusses, windows, metal gates, furniture, a brass clock made by John Hardman and fragments of patterned kamptulicon (an early form of linoleum), all by AWN Pugin and relating to his work on the New Palace of Westminster.
- **Photographic Survey of the Houses of Parliament (RCHM)** - Complete photographic survey, in colour and black and white, of all the stained glass surviving in the Palace of Westminster in 1985, as well as every part of the architecture, stained glass and major fittings of the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft. This survey was carried out by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments during the summer parliamentary recess of 1985 and all of the photographs are stamped 'Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)' on the reverse, with specific descriptions and dates.

- **Salvin Papers (SAL)** – Salvin drawing. Topographical view of the Cloisters looking south west after the fire of 1834 with the oratory in the foreground and the ruins of St Stephens Chapel in the background. Inscription: Back of Speaker's House 1834.
- **Vulliamy Clock Designs (VUL)** - A volume containing the rejected designs made by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy for the Clock (later "Big Ben") in the New Palace of Westminster. All of the drawings are signed by Vulliamy, and dated August 1846.