

Silk, Works on

Examples of engravings printed on silk include:

- 1 Cornelis Cort after Giulio Clovio, Christ on the Cross, hand-coloured (see the 1986 catalogue of Florentine XVIIc. Drawings under no. 97).
- 2 John Spilsbury (engraver), A new and most accurate map of the roads of England and Wales 1921-8-18-1.
- 3 The Ceremonies to be observed at the Royal Coronation of Queen Victoria. 1902-10-11-8776 (placed with English History 1838).

A portrait of Edward Ellice MP (1787-1863) is woven out of silk thread. 1921-4-11-112. An impression of *England at one view. The statistical pocket handkerchief*, a mid-Victorian wood-engraving by M. U. Sears, is printed on linen (1952-8-1-1). Other items printed on silk are some admission tickets in the Banks collection: C.2. 183 to 199, and 1661 to 1673.

Skating

There are two collections of skating prints and drawings in the Department:

Fowler collection

Given by Dr G. H. Fowler in 1924, with a supplementary gift in 1938 (1924-7-12-1 to 183; 1938-1-3-1 to 13). The collection is mounted in a large album of 97 pp. in the following order: Netherlands (xv-xixc.), England (xviii-xixc.), France (xviii-xixc.), Germany and Austria (xviii-c.). Several minor unregistered items are in a separate portfolio. The collection contains reproductions of paintings and prints as well as original prints, and was put together by J. van Buttingha-Wichers.

Cannan collection

Presented by Miss F. L. Cannan in 1931 (1931-11-14-57 to 668). The collection includes reproductions and photographs, as well as original works, to illustrate skating and events on ice, including topography, caricature, historical and other scenes, from the XVI-xxc., some being in colour. It is registered in the following order: drawings (57-160), prints (161-619), books (620-646), glass prints (647-668). The single items are mounted on 147 mounts in six solarider boxes. The mounts are arranged as follows: English (1-77), Netherlandish (78-124), others (125-147). A few of the best drawings have been extracted and mounted with the main collection. The most interesting of the books are two albums labelled 'Skating Scraps' (188* b.1,2) which contain a miscellany of reproductions.

There is a finding list which serves as a catalogue to both the Fowler and Cannan collections. See also Frost Fairs, Sporting Prints and Drawings.

Sketching Club

The Club was founded in 1799, and members spent evenings together drawing a chosen subject from literature or the imagination. The Department possesses a group portrait of members of the Sketching Club of 1836 by John Partridge (1887-11-16-2). Examples of works produced at the evening sessions include John Sell Cotman's *Weird Scene* of 1803 (1902-5-14-39), and illustrations to *A Difficult Passage* by John James Chalon (1956-12-19-1) and Clarkson Stanfield (1956-12-19-2).

Slade, Felix (1790-1868)

A wealthy amateur, and founder of the Slade professorships at Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities. The greatest of his bequests to the British Museum was his collection of glass, but he also bequeathed his very choice collection of prints. He was renowned for his extreme fussiness for perfection of impression. They were registered as 1868-8-22-12 to 8853 (list). The main sections are as follows: single-sheet prints 12-2163, portraits 2164-2497, and illustrations taken from periodicals and books 2871-7102. Eleven books occupy the numbers 7903-8853. There were only 23 drawings, all connected with book illustration (7588-7611). See the exhibition guide of 1869 to the prints from the bequest exhibited in the King's Library, and the pamphlet for the 1968 exhibition in the same location: *Felix Slade, Collector and Benefactor*.

Sloane, Sir Hans (1660-1753)

The foundation collection of Sir Hans Sloane purchased by Parliament in 1753 included both printed books and manuscripts. Among them were large numbers of prints and drawings mounted into albums, whose arrangement seems to have been largely but not entirely by subject-matter rather than artist. The albums of prints seem to have passed via the Department of Printed Books to the new Department of Prints and Drawings, and there is no record of their arrangement before the inventory of 1837 by which time they had been reorganised and incorporated with the prints from the Fawceter and Cracherode collections. The albums of drawings, on the other hand, came via the Department of

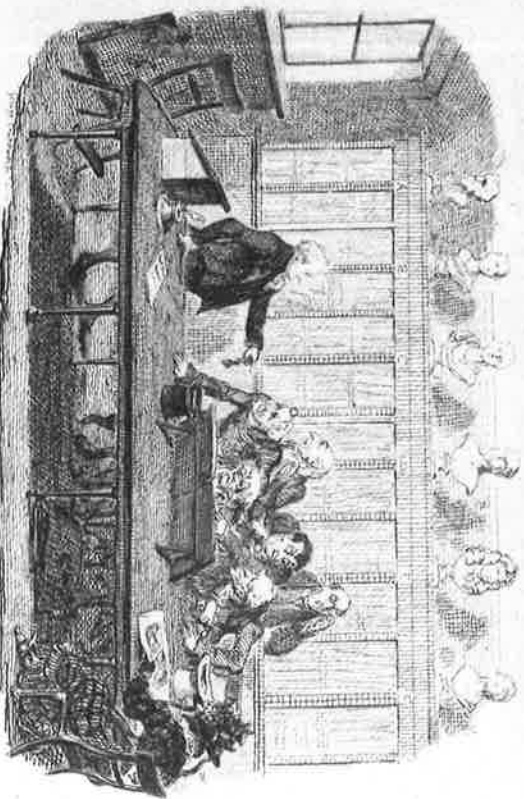
Manuscripts, and can be reconstructed almost in their entirety, since most of them were described in a manuscript catalogue made by Carpenter in 1845 (cf pp. 8-9) before they were broken up. There were seven main albums which contained the collection of drawings of primarily artistic interest, these were nos 5214, 5223, 5224, 5226, 5227, 5236 and 5237 of the following list, which were numbered by Carpenter from 1 to 7. In addition to these (and certainly of a different format) were the Boten and Dürer albums (5217, 5218) and the two van Huysum albums (5284, 5285).

The Sloane manuscripts were allocated the numbers 1-4100; the series of additional manuscripts then begins at 4101. But for some reason the albums of Sloane drawings were omitted, and only subsequently given the numbers 5018-27 and 5214-5308. Most of these albums have remained in the Department of Manuscripts. The following are the ones which are now in this Department, ignoring those which have been transferred back to Manuscripts. See also Popham's article on Sloane material in the Print Room in the *British Museum Quarterly*, XVIII 1953, pp. 10-14.

3981 'Officium Beatae Mariae Virginis'. Manuscript containing 12 engravings by Isabel van Meckem. Transferred in 1897. 158 b.1*, 1897-1-3-1 to 12.
5214 301 miscellaneous drawings, mostly Dutch and Flemish of the xviii, including Hollar's Tanager panoramas and shipping drawings by the van de Veldes. Inventory T 10; now broken up.
5217 'Boten van Swol Teekeninge 1637' on cover. Inventory li 6; the album containing 424 drawings survives in c.152. See Popham (Catalogue of Dutch and Flemish Drawings) V, pp. 96-136.

- 5218 'AD Teeckening 1637', being Sloane's Dürer album. Almost all the 229 drawings have now been extracted, but the album survives in c.152. Inventory C 7.
- 5219 'Vischen, Vogelien, Dieren, Vruchten 1637'. Containing a miscellany of items, mostly Dutch xvrc., still in the album c.152. Inventory C 6; transferred in 1845 to Manuscripts, returned to Prints and Drawings 1886. See Popham V pp. 208-20.
- 5220 Still in Dept Manuscripts. Folios 12, 18, 19, 29 containing various monstrous animals extracted and transferred in 1928 (1928-3-10-96 to 99).
- 5221 Drawings by Frans Post dated 1645 of scenes from the expedition to Brazil of Maurice of Nassau in 1637-44. Being the original drawings for the book *G. Bartolæi rerum per octennium in Brasilia historia*, Amsterdam 1647. Transferred in 1928. 197* a.2; 1928-3-10-90(1 to 32).
- 5223 65 Italian drawings. Inventory A 20; now broken up.
- 5224 88 Italian drawings. Inventory A 17; now broken up.
- 5226 193 drawings, mostly Italian and German. Inventory A 7; now broken up.
- 5227 113 drawings, mostly of heads, and mostly Italian. Inventory A 6; now broken up.
- 5234 Still in Dept Manuscripts. Folio 89 (Jan Scorel, View of the ruins of Bethlehem) extracted and transferred 1928 (1928-3-10-100).
- 5236 186 Dutch, Italian, French drawings. Inventory A 21; now broken up.
- 5237 166 Dutch, Italian, French drawings. Inventory A 22; now broken up.
- 5239 Watercolours of church vessels and ecclesiastical ornaments by Adolphus Gaab, Joseph Grisoni, P. S. Bartoli and John Talman. Transferred in 1928. 197* d.3; 1928-3-10-91(1 to 48).
- 5249 Anonymous designs for ornament and flowers. Transferred in 1928. 197 b.17; 1928-3-10-92(1 to 52).
- 5251 Landscapes attributed to J. van der Vaart (1647-1721). Transferred in 1928. 197 a.7; 1928-3-10-93(1 to 12).
- 5259 Still in Dept Manuscripts. Folios 13 and 227 (mezzotint by J. C. Le Blon of male genitals and an anonymous English woodcut of 1552 of a monstrous child) extracted and transferred 1928 (1928-3-10-101,2).
- 5261 166 drawings of quadrupeds, including Dürer's Elk and Walrus and 32 drawings by George Edwards (1694-1773) (now taken out). Not in 1837 inventory; album survives in c.203.
- 5264 Still in Dept Manuscripts. Folios 23 (Jacopo de' Barbari, Dead partridge) extracted and transferred 1928 (1928-3-10-103).
- 5270 Early copies of John White's drawings of Virginia, etc. Transferred in 1893, but not registered. 199 a.3. Cf s.v. White.
- 5275-6 Two albums of flower drawings by Maria Sybilla Merian. Inventory N 1.2. 198* b.5,6.
- 5277 79 drawings by Nicolas Robert of plants, birds, shells etc. Inventory A 16; transferred in 1845 to Manuscripts, returned to Prints and Drawings 1886. Now c.203.
- 5278 65 drawings by Nicolas Robert of plants, birds, shells, etc. Inventory A 16; provenance as for 5277. Now c.203.
- 5279 40 drawings of animals, birds, plants, etc. by various artists. Inventory C 5; provenance as for 5277. Now 199* b.3.
- 5281 Heinrich Fullmaurer and Albrecht Meyer, drawings of plants for the woodcut illustrations in L. Fuchs *De Historia stirpium commentarii insignes*, Basle 1542. The album also contains drawings of surgical operations, and allegorical and other compositions. Transferred in 1928.

- 197* d.2; 1928-3-10-94(1 to 205).
- 5283 305 drawings of plants by various artists, including Dr Massey, Mr Catesby and Jan van Huysum (1682-1749). The Huysum drawings have been taken out and mounted. Inventory N 5; c.203.
- 5284-5 265 drawings of plants by Jacob van Huysum (c.1687-1740). See Binyon IV pp. 285-8. Inventory N 3,4 c.203.
- 5289 Still in Dept Manuscripts. Folios 245-7 (mezzotints of plants by E. Kirkaal) extracted and transferred in 1928 (1928-3-10-104 to 106).
- 5308 Jewellery designs by Hans Holbein II. Transferred in 1860, but not registered. Album broken up. See Croft-Murray pp. 558-70, nos. 4-184.
- Two other volumes in the Department seem never to have had Manuscript numbers, and perhaps came via Printed Books:
- Min 269 Jacques Le Moyné: *La Clef des Champs*, London 1586. 162 a.25; 1952-5-22-1(1 to 48).
- Min 273 Attributed to Ellen Power: 38 drawings of flowers, plants, birds. 198 a.18; 1975 U.1589(1 to 38); Croft-Murray I p.3. See also exhibitions 1960.
- Smith, William (1808-1876)**
- The outstanding print dealer of his age, and benefactor of the Department. He and his brother George took over their father's business in Lisle Street in 1835, and both retired in 1848. During his professional career he was the intermediary in the purchase of the Sheepshanks collection, of large sections of the Coningham collection (1843-5-13-1 to 504, 1845-8-9-1 to 1757, 1845-8-25-1 to 829), of items purchased at the Beckford sale (1848-11-25-1 to 562, 1849-5-12-1 to 200) and of many other single prints and groups of prints. After his retirement he presented a large collection of satires and sketches by Gillray and other artists (1851-9-1-1 to 1398) and in 1850 a collection of rare auction catalogues of the xviii-XIXc.
- Sporting Prints and Drawings**
- There is a separate series of mounted sporting prints. It is arranged in five royal solanders, eight imperial, three atlas, and one antiquarian plus one portfolio. The organisation is partly by engraver and partly by designer, but there is a card index which enables all the prints in this series to be traced, as well as the many other sporting prints kept in other series under the names of the artist or engraver. The collection is also marked off against the standard catalogue by Frank Siltzer, *The Story of British Sporting Prints*, 1929. There are a number of drawings of sporting subjects. The largest single group is by James Pollard (1933-10-14-105 to 256, presented by Arthur du Cave): 16 are mounted, the rest are in an album and a sketchbook (198 a.16**). There is also a group of five race horses by James Seymour (1940-10-12-3 to 7).
- The catalogue of the exhibition held in 1983, *Sporting Life, an Anthology of British Sporting Prints*, by Paul Goldmann, is arranged by categories and covers a very wide range of sports: archery, athletics, animal baiting, ballooning, bows and croquet, boxing and wrestling, coaching and trotting, cricket, fencing, fishing, football, golf, horse-racing, hunting, rowing and yachting, shooting and hawking, skating, tennis and rackets, and a miscellany. An appendix gives a checklist of the prints in the collection that are described by Siltzer. An earlier exhibition



An engraving by George Cruikshank of 1828 showing the first Print Room in the Townley Galleries.

The Department of
**PRINTS AND
DRAWINGS**
in the British Museum
User's Guide

Antony Griffiths and Reginald Williams

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1987

Even the keenest researchers and students become lost in the magnificent national collection of Western works of art on paper held in the British Museum. Now they can find their way round over two million drawings and prints covering a vast range of artists and subjects from Blake to Beatrix Potter and Raphael to Captain Cook.

The first part of this guide describes the chief areas of the collections, while the second is arranged as a topic index with information on artists, special collections, donors, types of prints and subject matter. There are such diverse headings as architecture, costume, fans, forgeries, London, military, postcards, religious images, skating and Sir Hans Sloane. The reader learns not only what is there but how to find a particular work.

The book will be invaluable for historical researchers and art historians, and of interest for all concerned with prints and drawings and the visual arts.

Antony Griffiths is Deputy Keeper and Reginald Williams is former Senior Research Assistant in the Department of Prints and Drawings.

Printed in Great Britain

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Sloane albums of Drawings in BM – full list of contents from 1845 MS catalogue in P&D (REG. A 57) – Green volume with spine lettered 'SLOANE BEQUEST 1753: INVENTORY1845'

5214

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5218

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NB Most of the drawings and prints have been located in the collection, identified as Sloane and entered on Merlin but needs to be checked – drawings still turn up in unexpected locations not yet on Merlin, eg Portrait series.