

Guide to the John Bastin archive

MSS 55



YCBA Library Court. Photograph by Richard Caspole, YCBA, 2016.

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Center for British Art, Institutional Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MSS 55

CREATOR: Bastin, John, 1813 or 1814-1851

TITLE: John Bastin archive

DATES: circa 1840-1851

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection comprises proofs for book illustrations engraved on wood by John Bastin.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0055>

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is unprocessed and may not be available for immediate access.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright Undetermined

The collection is the physical property of the Yale Center for British Art. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Archives Department.

Preferred Citation

John Bastin Archive, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises proofs for book illustrations engraved on wood by John Bastin. Most of the engravings are India paper proofs, some with manuscript notes, signatures and corrections. The contents include works after the original designs by the foremost book illustrators of the 1840s and 1850s, including Edward Lear (13 prints), John Tenniel (23), J. Bridges, J. Naysmith, F. Pollard, C. Ward, and G.F. Sargent.

Also included in the group are a few proofs for De La Motte Fouqué's illustrated English edition of *Undine* after drawings by Tenniel. For this work, the Art Union (1847) described Bastin as "one of the best wood engravers of our time, whose productions comprise high finish with artistic skill and matured judgement." Of particular interest are the corrections and notes (in graphite) on some of the proofs. One wood engraving, for example, has the Alpine scenery partly highlighted in white and carries several annotations, such as "this rock is too formal." Other engravings include a number produced for a Great Exhibition publication illustrating glass, ceramic, and metal vases and ornaments.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Illustration of books
Wood-engravers
Wood-engraving

Genres / Formats

Proofs (printed matter)
Wood engravings

Names

Bastin, John, 1813 or 1814-1851

Corporate Body

Great Exhibition (1851) (London, England)

Contributors

Bastin, John, 1813 or 1814-1851
Lear, Edward, 1812-1888
Sargent, G. F.
Tenniel, John, 1820-1914