BOOKS
FROM THE
LIBRARY
OF
SIR ROBERT TAYLOR
Sir Robert Taylor and his books.

Sir Robert Taylor, sculptor and architect, was born in 1714 and died on 27 September 1788 leaving the residue of his estate to the Chancellor and Scholars of the University of Oxford 'for establishing a foundation for the teaching and improving the European languages'. Sir Robert's will was contested by his son Michael Angelo Taylor, with the result that the bequest did not come to the University until after the latter's death in 1834. The University accepted £25,000 from Michael Angelo's executor John Vane, and the Taylor Institution was built in the early 1840s from designs by Charles Robert Cockerell.

Above the fireplace in the Main Reading Room of the Taylorian hangs a half-length portrait in oils of Sir Robert Taylor, presented by Vane in 1835. The sitter's furled robe suggests that the painting was executed in about 1782, when Sir Robert acquired both his knighthood and the office of Sherriff of the City of London. Another version of the portrait, in different dress, belongs to the Royal Institute of British Architects; both versions are unsigned, but may be attributed to one W. Miller (a painter of whom little is known), on the evidence of an engraving in the British Museum.

Apart from the portrait of its founder, the Taylorian also has a small collection of books of architecture and design from his library, of which a checklist is appended.

Sir Robert Taylor began his career as a sculptor, being apprenticed to Henry Cheere, and first made his name in this field (represented here by the first item in the checklist, a volume of original designs for funerary monuments). In the early 1750s he abandoned sculpture for architecture, his first buildings including Harleyford Manor in Berks (1755) and the Stone Buildings in Lincoln's Inn Fields (1756). Mr. Howard Colvin (A biographical dictionary of English architects, 1660-1840, London 1954, p. 602) notes that 'in the interiors of his early buildings he showed a fondness for features of a roccoco character' (cf. item No. 2 in the checklist). Taylor's later work included additions to the Bank of England, and other buildings in London (notably the Oxford University Press's London headquarters, Elly House in Dover Street); he also designed country houses large and small. His major large country house is Haveringham Hall in Suffolk (of which the interior however is the masterpiece of James Wyatt); more interesting are his smaller houses of the villa type (cf. Marcus Binney, 'The villas of Sir Robert Taylor', Country Life, Vol. 142, Nos. 3670 and 3671, 6 and 13 July 1967), of which one of the most attractive is Aigill House, Richmond, Surrey (built for Taylor's friend the banker Sir Charles Ingil in 1756-67, and shown here in an engraving from Vitruvius Britannicus, Vol. 4, 1761).
plate 74, item No. 6 in the checklist). Thirty-two aquatint plates of Sir Robert's buildings, by Thomas Malton, were published in 1790-92; the Taylorian unfortunately does not possess these (though several of the original drawings are in the Ashmolean). Malton's drawing of Taylor's Court Room at the Bank of England is reproduced in James Lees-Milne, The age of Adam, London: Bateford, 1947, fig. 140; Ralph Dutton, The English interior, 1600 to 1900, London: Bateford, 1948, reproduces (fig. 5, 7) Malton's aquatints of the Assembly Rooms at Belfast and of the entrance hall at Kennington as intended by Taylor.

The publication in 1972 of Vol. 4 of Architectes de Dr. A. N. L. Huxley's reprint series Sale catalogues of libraries of eminent persons has made it possible to compare the books owned by Sir Robert Taylor with those in the libraries of other architects, some being his contemporaries, and the entries in the checklist are annotated accordingly. The standard English, French and Italian works are common to most of the libraries, but Sir Robert's collection includes a number of works (particularly French) not apparently owned by his colleagues (for example Nos. 32, Desvres, 29, Le Brun, 27, Moran, 28, Maizionier, 31 and 32, Oppenort). The long series of the publications of Piranesi is notable, and, apart from Taylor, only Sir William Chambers seems to have owned a copy of Rubens' book on the palaces of Genoa. It is not surprising to find in Taylor's collection numerous volumes of engravings of Italian (and particularly Roman) buildings (Nos. 72, 18, 20, 62, 64); somewhat less usual are the several volumes on drawing and perspective (Nos. 29, 23, 30, 60, 61 and 66, and also No. 3). Sir Robert seems not to have had a bookplate, the only evidence of his ownership of these volumes being an early Taylorian bookplate inscribed with the words "Ex legato Roberti Taylor, Militis, Fundatione" (misleading in the case of No. 9, since the volume in question was published three years after Sir Robert's death, and must have been added to the collection by his son). The generally contemporary bindings are not notable, and of the earlier books only two (Nos. 17 and 24) bear any indication of previous ownership.

This checklist was prepared to mark the occasion of the visit to the Taylor Institution Library of the Oxford Bibliographical Society, Saturday 1 December 1973.

Two hundred copies only printed.
This is copy no. 40

CHECKLIST OF SIR ROBERT TAYLOR'S BOOKS

Abbreviations:


Sale catalogues of the libraries of Sir Christopher Wren, 1740/49; Nicholas Hawksmoor, 1763; Sir William Chambers, 1763; Robert Adam, 1828; George Dance, 1837; Robert Smirke, 1866 and Augustus Welby Pugin, 1853.)
A: Original drawings

1. A large 4to volume of 178 leaves of blue/grey laid paper, foliated in pencil, in old calf rebound, spine label reading SIR B. TAYLOR'S DESIGNS. The volume contains 54 mounted drawings, the majority highly finished, in pen, ink and wash, with a few sketches in pencil and two in red chalk; all are for funerary monuments, except those on folios 112 and 120 which appear to be for mausoleums. On the verso of fol. 2 is an MS note of the dimensions of a pillar in 'Tufte church' to which a monument was to be affixed. On the verso of fol. 90 is an MS draft of an inscription, while on fol. 91 is mounted what seems to be an advice note to Sir Robert, dated from Hull, 24 January 1753, regarding the shipment of 8 pieces of marble. Loosely inserted are some scraps of paper bearing suggested identifications, by Mrs. K. A. Endale.

Cf. K. A. Endale, 'Sir Robert Taylor as sculptor', Architectural Review 103 (1948), 63-66; Mrs. Endale reproduces 9 drawings from this volume, including that on fol. 59 identified as an alternative design for the monument to Captain Cormanell, d. 1743, formerly in Westminster Abbey, and that on fol. 88 described as related to a group of executed monuments including the Townshend monument at Hanington, Warwickshire. The latter drawing, described as representing a 'hydrocephalic cupid', is also reproduced by Sacheverell Sitwell in his Truffle hunt (London: Robert Hale, 1953), facing p. 24 (and referred to in the text, pp. 208, 209).

2. An 8vo volume of 38 leaves of blue/grey laid paper, in old calf and marbled boards, bearing on the upper board a leather label lettered in gilt SIR B. R. TAYLOR'S DESIGNS. Mounted on leaves 2-13 is a series of twelve highly finished designs for rococo chimneypieces, in pen and ink and wash, three bearing pencilled indications of their destination: 'front Parlour', 'Library', 'Parlour'. The 6th design (see wrapper of this checklist) was executed in white marble and pink scagliola (without the overmantel mirror and floral swags) for the West Room at Barlaston Hall, Staffs, (a house, built in 1796/98, whose design is attributed to Sir Robert Taylor), where it still exists; cf. Ander Gonne, 'The architecture of Barlaston Hall', Country Life 18 April 1968, 975-978. Mrs. Endale's article mentioned above reproduces the 4th and 9th design in this volume.

3. A folio volume of 195 leaves, in old reversed calf, containing manuscript problems in geometry and mensuration, in red and black ink with occasional use of colour wash.

B: Printed books


Thick paper, wholly uncut, half calf & marbled boards. Berlin Cat. 1893; Fowler 2. Chambers sale, lot 77, £13.12s.6d. Dance sale, lot 127, 13s.

5. Avillier, Augustin Charles d'. Cours d'architecture qui comprend les ordres de Vignole, revu & augmenté. 2 t. Paris: Jean Mariette, 1740, 4to.


Contemporary calf, spine gilt, red lettering piece. Fowler 42 (including the portrait of Fossassin, present in Sir Robert Taylor's copy).

7. Campbell, Colin. Vitruvius Britannicus, or The British architect, containing the plans, elevations and sections of the regular buildings, both publick and private, in Great Britain. 5 vols. n.p.l., n.d. [London]: for the authors, 1767, fol.

Smooth calf, gilt Greek key border. Berlin Cat. 2339; Fowler 76 (probably a late issue; Fowler remarks 'as the later volumes were published, the earlier ones were re-issued from the original plates, the imprints of the original titlepages being changed or completely erased.').

— Vol. 4, 5, by John Wolfe and James Gandon. n.pl. [London]: 1769, 1771, fol. Text in English and French in parallel columns. Vol. 4, plate 74 shows Sir Robert Taylor's design for Angli House, Higham, Surrey. Wren sale (3 vols.), lot 570, 6s.; Haweis sale (3 vols.), lot 134, £2.10s., now Soane Museum; Adam sale (3 vols.), lot 44, 39.19s.6d.; Dance sale (5 vols.), lot 150, 8s.16s.; Christie sale (5 vols.), lot 134, £2.6s.


Half calf and marbled boards, uncut. First published in 1759 (Fowler 86); 2nd ed. 1768 (Berliner Cat. 2286). Chambers sale, lot 107, £3.15.6d.; Adam sale (1st ed.), lot 46 (with a copy of Chambers' Chinese buildings, 1797), £2.6s.

Note. This volume was published three years after Sir Robert Taylor's death, and must have been added to the collection by his son.


Calf. Berlin Cat. 1904. Chambers sale, lot 79, £1.11s.6d. (bought by the architect Gandon); Adam sale, lot 101, £1.15s.; Smirke sale (1804 ed.), lot 146, 72.6s.


Old calf rebacked. No text, engraved throughout (including titlepage and two leaves of coats of arms of subscribers). Pagin sale, lot 186 (3 vols.), £3.11s.


Old half calf and marbled boards, lacking plates 27 and 29. Two further parts were published. Berlin Cat. 1990; Fowler 97; Gullard p. 419/420.


Panelled calf rebacked. Also in Sir Robert Taylor's collection is a second copy of Parte secondo, libro primo [only]; the Taylordian has a further copy of the complete work, acquired from another source in 1878, in an elaborate neo-classical binding. Berlin Cat. 2681. Hawkinsale, lot 125; Chambers sale, lot 125, £1.5s.; Adam sale, two copies, lots 50, £1.15s. and 55, £1.11s.6d., the latter copy bought by Soane.


Quarter calf and marbled boards. No text, 50 engraved plates. Berlin Cat. 2673. Hawkinsale (1902 ed.), lot 120.


Old calf rebacked. Berlin Cat. 1654. Wren sale, lot 551, £1.3s.; Hawkinsale, lot 177; Adam sale, two copies, lots 119, £1.17s. and 148, £1.17s. (both bought by Soane).


Old calf rebacked. 5 parts in one.


Old calf. Bookplate of Thomas Strode, London (not in France). Berlin Cat. 1855; Fowler 102; Gullard p. 132. Wren sale (1697 ed.), lot 547, £2.13s.; Hawkinsale, lot 109; Chambers sale (with another work), lot 121, £1.15s.


Mottled calf. French and English texts on facing pages. Fowler 903. Chambers sale, lot 102, £1.11s.6d.


20. Ferrero, Pietro & Falda, Giovanni Battista. Palazzi di Roma de
21. Fréart, Roland. *A parallel of the ancient architecture with the modern, in a collection of ten principal authors who have written upon the five orders.* 2nd ed. London: for B. Brown [& others], 1797, fol.

Old panelled calf rebucked, with the engraved title-page mounted as frontispiece. Translated by John Evelyn. Fowler 130; Sir Geoffrey Keynes, John Evelyn: *A study in bibliography with a bibliography of his writings,* 2nd ed., 1968, 76. The French text was published in 1696, and the first edition of Evelyn's translation in 1694. Wren sale, lot 567 (the second part of the work is dedicated to Wren); Hawkins sale, lot 108; Dance sale (1752 ed.), lot 166, 166d.


Panelled calf. First published in 1728 (Berlin Cat. 2270; Fowler 135). Hawkins sale (1728 ed.), lot 156; Adam sale, lot 39, £13.£5. (with lot 38, a 3rd ed. of Gibbs' *Rules for drawing*, 1753; £13£5.; Dance sale (1728 ed.), lot 169, 12a.

23. Gibbs, James. *Rules for drawing the several parts of architecture, in a more exact and easy manner than has been heretofore practised.* London: by W. Bever, for the author, 1732, fol.


Old calf rebucked. Bookplate of Charles [Pinch] Earl of Winchel...


Calf, two vols. in one. Berlin Cat. 2477, 3380; Guilmard pp. 77, 76. The designs in the first work are for the twelve subordinate pavilions at Louis XIV's chateau of Marly (cf. J. & A. Marié, *Marly, Paris, 1947*, illustrating figs. 44 & 45, drawings for the Pavillon de Mercure and the Pavillon de Jupiter which agree with the engravings in this volume; J. Houtevoort, *Histoire de l'architecture classique en France,* t. 2, Paris, 1940, illustrating, fig. 147, Le Brun's drawing for the Pavillon d'Hercule, which agrees again with the fifth engraving in this volume). Guilmard states that the designs in the second work are for the fontaines at Versailles.


Old panelled calf rebucked. Berlin Cat. 2392; Fowler 172; Guilmard p. 96.


Old calf, lacking general title-page. Berlin Cat. 356; Guilmard pp. 103-105.


Half calf and marbled boards. Engraved title, portrait, and engraved plates numbered 1 to 108, not arranged in numerical order, lacking nos. 27, 36, 105 and 117, and with two plates numbered 38 and 105; watermark 1742 as Metropolitan Museum copy (considered by Dorothea Nyberg, *Oeuvre de J. A. Neizsconnier, 1599*, p. 34, as a very early issue). Berlin Cat. 378; Cohen & Sicioli col. 590/597; Guilmard pp. 155-158. A copy also lacking plates 27, 108 and 117, and with 105 repeated, was item 310 in Masear's Qaritch's Catalogue 377, 1936 (225).


Old calf rebacked. A second edition was published in 1759 (Berlin Cat. 2273).

31. Oppenort, Gilles Marie. Livre de fragments d'architecture recueillis et dessinés à Rome d'après les plus beaux monuments [etc.]. Paris: Nogier, n.d. [1765-1766], oblong 4\(^{\circ}\).

Quarter calf and drab paper boards. Fourteen sections, each with separate title-page, lacking Nos. 8 & 12; there are additional copies of the first two sections, on thicker paper, an additional section lacking title-page (comprising six designs for pulpits, signed 'I.I.O.O.del.' and another inserted section lacking title-page (comprising thirteen engravings published by Mariette, Paris, being designs for fireplaces, panelling &c. by various artists, chiefly Finson, for the Hôtel d'Evreux, the Palais Bourbon &c.). Berlin Cat. 382; Cohen/De Ricci col. 764/765; Guilmard p. 142. The so-called 'Petit Oppenort'.


Half calf and marbled boards, before the portrait, early issue. Berlin Cat. 384; Cohen/De Ricci col. 764/765; Guilmard pp. 142, 143. The so-called 'Grand Oppenort'. Lot 208 in the Dance sale was Oppenord, Chandeliers, lutrines et girandoles, Paris, n.d., fol. 2. This is section EE of the present work, plates 28-33 on three leaves.


Tree calf. Berlin Cat. 2359; Fowler 207. Chambers sale, lot 112, £3.6s.; Adam sale, lot 43, £1.16s. 8d. 34. Palladio, Andrea. Fabbriche' antiche' disegnate' da Andrea Palladio vicentino a date in lucu' da Roccoardo Conte' di Bur-lington. London: 1730, fol.

Diced Russia gilt, gilt edges. Engraved throughout, printed in bistre. Berlin Cat. 1026; Fowler 207. Chambers sale, lot 131 (with another work), £1.16s.; Adam sale, lot 28, 12s. (bought by the Earl of Blessington).

35. Palladio, Andrea. The four books of Andrea Palladio's architecture: wherein, after a short treatise of the five orders, those observations that are most necessary in building, private houses, streets, bridges, plazas, viats, and temples are treated of. London: Isaac Ware, 1758, fol.

Old calf rebacked. Fowler 299. Dance sale, lot 206, 11s.; Smirke sale, lots 112, 113 (two copies of the same edition), 7s. and 9s. (Ratford).


Hand p. 79. Note. Of the works by the Piranesie, Nos. 37, 44 & 45 are bound in one volume in old half calf and marbled boards; the remaining titles are bound in arbitrary order in 16 vols., full diced calf, lettered ORIZZOTI DI PIRANESI.


Hand, p. 76. With the later title, but with plates numbered as in the 1782 ed.


Hand, p. 86. Adams sale, lot 133, £5.


Hand, p. 85.
41. Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. La antichità romana. 4 t. Roma: Bouchard & Gravier, 1756, fol.
   Hind, pp. 83, 84. Chambers sale, lot 70; Adam sale, lot 152, £13.13s.; Dance sale, lot 209, £5.15s.

   Adam sale, lot 135 (the dedication copy, bound in red morocco elegant?), £6.6s.

   Hind, pp. 24ff. Plates bound out of order.

   Hind, p. 87.

45. Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. Colonna eretta in memoria dell’apoteosi di Antonino Pio e Faustina sua moglie. n.pl., n.d.
   [Roma: 1799], fol.
   Hind, p. 87.

   Roma: 1764, fol.
   Text in Latin and Italian on facing pages. Lacking the portrait of Pope Clement XIII. Hind, pp. 84, 85.
   Chambers sale, lot 72; Adam sale, lot 150, £5.

47. Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. Descrizione e disegno dell’erario del Lago Albano. n.pl., n.d. [Roma: after 1782], fol.
   Hind, p. 85. Adam sale, lot 131, £1.13s.

   Hind, p. 86.

49. Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. Différentes vues de quelques restes de trois grands édifices qui subsistent encore dans le milieu de l’ancienne ville de Pesto, autrement Bosnia, qui est située dans la Lucanie. n.pl., n.d. [Roma: 1778], fol.
   Hind, pp. 19 & 87. Dance sale, lot 210, £1.15s.

   Hind, p. 86. Chambers sale, lot 74; Adam sale, lot 134, £3.7s.

51. Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. Legiones Capitolinae, sive fasti consulares triumvirae Romanorum ab urbe condita usque ad Tibertius Caesarum. n.pl., n.d. [Roma: 1762], fol.
   Hind, p. 85.

   Hind, p. 79, with plates numbered as in the earlier issues.

   Hind, p. 86.

   Hind, p. 86. Frontispiece and three other plates etched by Piranesi, the majority of the remainder by Bartolozzi.

55. Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. Le rovine del castello dell’Acqua Claudia situate in Roma presso S. Donato e falamento detto dell’Acqua Marcia. n.pl., n.d. [Roma: 1761], fol.
   Hind, p. 85.

Hind, p. 83. The later title, but with all plates unnumbered as in the 1753 ed.


Hind, p. 86. Early state (plates after No. 8 not numbered).


Hind, p. 87.


Hind, pp. 31, 32 & 78. Chambers sale, lot 7; Adam sale, lot 127, £10.10s.; Dance sale, lot 211 (a selection of plates from the *Vedute di Roma*), 152.


Vellum, red & blue labels (errors in binding: the text of fig. 61 in Vol. 1 is followed by fig. 56-116 of Vol. 2, while the text of fig. 56 in Vol. 2 is followed by fig. 60-100 of Vol. 1). Text of Vol. 1 in Latin & Italian, text of Vol. 2 in Latin & French. Berlin Cat. 4725 (Latin, Italian & German); Fowler 251 (Latin & Italian); Guilmard pp. 320, 321. Hawkesmoor sale, lot 110; Adam sale, lot 35, £1.15s.


Panelled calf, rebacked. Fowler 252. First English ed., translated from the 1693 Rome ed. of Part 1, but without the folding extra plate 100. Plates from the Italian ed., some printed in reverse, and with 200 initial letters newly engraved by John Sturt. Plates 84 & 85 are bound in reverse order. Loosely inserted is an engraving after François Mansart of the baldacchino over the altar of the Val-de-Grâce (cf. Pierre Lescot, *Le maître-autel de l’église du Val-de-Grâce*, Bulletin de la Société de l'histoire de l'art français, 1900, pp. 99-197, where this engraving is reproduced, facing p. 104). Hawkesmoor sale, lot 93; Wren sale, lot 542, £1; Dance sale, lot 206, 9s.


Quarter calf and marbled boards.


Panelled calf rebacked. First published 1622 (Berlin Cat. 2657). Chambers sale (1662 ed.), lot 122.


Old calf rebacked. Chambers sale, lot 130, £1.8s. (now Soame Museum); Adam sale, lot 54 (2 vols.), £1.5s.


Modern smooth speckled calf gilt. Berlin Cat. 2605; Fowler 252; Guilmard p. 295. Chambers sale (with two other works), lot 137, £7; Dance sale, lot 227, 3s.


Panelled calf rebacked, with engraved titlepage dated 1735. Fowler 257; translation of Book I only of the Italian original (1796: Berlin Cat. 4700). Hawkesmoor sale, lot 222.


Titlepage, 5-page list of subscribers, dedication, pp. 1-111 and first engraving only, disbound. Fowler 346. Chambers sale (Vol. 1), lot 89, £1.11s. 6d.; Adam sale (Vol. 1), lot 139, £3.12s. (red morocco, presentation copy from the author, bought by Soame) and lot 146 (another copy, in boards), £3; Dance sale.
(4 vols.), lot 223, £14.10s.; Smirke sale (later ed.), lot 127, £2.10s. and (original ed. of Vols. 1–3), lot 150, 15s. (Batsford).


Green reversed calf, red & green labels. Fowler 418. A second French edition was published in 1684 (Berlin Cat. 1818). Chambers sale (1684 ed.), lot 129 (with another work), £1.3s.; Wren sale, lot 545, £2.19s. (1684 ed.); Hawksmoor sale (no date), lot 111, English ed. 1708), lot 126; Adam sale (1673 ed.), lot 22 (with the autograph of David Hume), 1s., bought by the Earl of Bessington; Dance sale (1684 ed.), lot 234, 6s.; Pagin sale, lot 632, 2s.

69. Ware, Isaac. A complete body of architecture. Adorned with plans and elevations, from original designs. In which are interspersed some designs of Inigo Jones, never before published. London: for T. Osborn and J. Shipton & others, 1736, fol.

Panelled calf rebacked. Berlin Cat. 2853; Fowler 436.

70. Ware, Isaac. Designs of Inigo Jones and others. Published by J. Ware. n.pl., n.d. [London: ca. 1735], 8°.

Old calf rebacked. The designs are chiefly after Inigo Jones and William Kent, with one after Lord Burlington. Berlin Cat. 2274; Fowler 437.

71. Ware, Isaac. The plans, elevations, and sections; chimney-pieces, and ceilings of Houghton in Norfolk; the seat of the Rt Honorable Sir Robert Walpole. n.pl. [London]: T. Ware, 1755, fol.

Half calf and marbled boards. Berlin Cat. 2331, Chambers sale (1760 ed.), lot 116, 1s. 6d.; Adam sale (1762 ed.), lot 45, 14s.; Dance sale, lot 245, 2s.


Mottled calf. Plate 21 bound out of order between plates 8 and 9. Berlin Cat. 1899; Fowler 443. Chambers sale, lot 86, £2.9s.; Adam sale, lot 142, £3.16s.