



SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY

University of London

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference:	MS155
Title:	John Urpeth Rastrick technical notebooks
Dates:	1819 December-1833
Level:	fonds
Extent and Medium:	4 volumes
Name of Creator:	Rastrick, John Urpeth (1780-1856) civil engineer

CONTEXT

Biographical/Administrative History: John Urpeth Rastrick was born at Morpeth in Northumberland on 26 January 1780, the son of John Rastrick, an engineer to whom he became articled in 1795. In about 1801, he was working at the Ketley Iron Works in Shropshire and, in or after 1805, he joined in partnership with John Hazledine (soon succeeded by Robert Hazledine) of Bridgenorth, Shropshire. During this time, Rastrick assisted in the construction of the locomotive 'Catch me who Can' for Richard Trevithick in 1808, and in 1814, he took out a patent for a steam engine and soon started experimenting with steam traction on railways. His first major work was the cast iron road bridge over the Wye at Chepstow (1815-1816). In 1817 Rastrick left that partnership, to join with James Foster, in about 1819, at the iron works which then became known as Foster, Rastrick & Co., at Stourbridge, Worcestershire. His association with railway engineering began in 1822 when he became an engineer for the Stratford and Moreton Railway. Rastrick became an active supporter of railway proposals put before Parliament, an adviser to railway companies, and a designer and builder of locomotives - the 'Agenoria' and 'Stourbridge Lion' for example. He acted as surveyor or engineer to parts of a large number of lines, among them the Liverpool & Manchester (1829 onwards), the Manchester & Cheshire Junction (1835 onwards), and the series of lines later known as the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway (1836 onwards). About 1847, he retired from engineering work, although he continued to occupy himself with railway business, and was active in a number of arbitrations concerning railway disputes. He retired to Sayes Court, Chertsey, Surrey and died on 1 November 1856.

CONTENT

Scope and Content:

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts: English

System of Arrangement:

Conditions of Access: Open for research. At least 24 hours notice should be given before a research visit.

Period Closed In Years:

Closed Until:

Conditions of Reproduction: Copies may be made, subject to the condition of the original. Copying must be undertaken by the Special Collections Reading Room staff, who will need a minimum of 24 hours to process requests.

- MS155/I John Urpeth Rastrick notebook** **1822-1825**
 Various memoranda, calculations and diagrams, including estimates for iron arch for Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Bridge; for a roof for William Foster; gasworks at Kidderminster; recipe for brass lacquer. Partly written using Rastrick's private cipher. With 11 enclosed items.
 1 volume (173 pages)
- MS155/II John Urpeth Rastrick notebook** **1819
December**
 Lists of materials of six-horse Boulton & Watts engine, and of the contents of packing boxes, with diagrams of each item entered.
 1 volume (64 pages)
- MS155/III John Urpeth Rastrick notebook** **1821-1833**
 Including notes, specifications and sketches for the Stratford and Moreton Railway. Partly written in Rastrick's private cipher.
 1 volume (132 pages)
- MS155/IV John Urpeth Rastrick notebook** **1829
January 13-
November
22**
 Detailed descriptions, statistics and sketches of bridges, railways and engines.
 Enclosing the following items: (i-ii) 2 sheets of rough calculations. (iii) Card bearing printed statistics of the Burnton and Shields Railway; annotated in MS and signed by Benjamin Thompson (23 January 1829). (iv) Printed wrapper sent from the Office of Ordnance to Messrs J Bradley & Co, [?at] Foster, Rastrick & Co Ironworks, Stourbridge; used for rough calculations and draft accounts in MS.
 1 volume (150 pages)