



SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY

University of London

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference:	MS242
Title:	John Urpeth Rastrick diaries, notebooks, etc
Dates:	1805-1854
Level:	fonds
Extent and Medium:	24 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: Rastrick's surviving diaries and financial records, and other notebooks.

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts: English

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

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.

MS242/I Diaries**1805-1806**

Rastrick's diary notebooks, containing daily entries of between 1/2 page and 7 pages.

- (1) [Volume 1 is wanting].
- (2) 'Journal of my own Time. Vol. 2' (23 September-24 December 1805) (95 pages).
- (3) 'Journal of my own Time. Vol. 3' (25 December 1805-22 February 1806) (94 pages).
- (4) 'Journal of my own Time. Vol. 4' (23 February-6 May 1806) (94 pages).

3 volumes

MS242/II Diaries**1809, 1811**

Rastrick's diary notebooks, containing daily entries of between 2 lines and 3 pages.

- (1) 'Anno 1809' (1 January-14 May 1809) (48 pages).
- (2) 'Anno 1809' (15 May-13 July 1809) (44 pages).
- (3) '1809' (1 September-4 October 1809) (36 pages).
- (4) '13 Nov. 1809' (13 November-31 December 1809) (44 pages).
- (5) Photocopy of a 41-page notebook containing diary entries for 17 March-31 May 1811 (21 sheets).

5 volumes

MS242/III Diaries**1820, 1840-1853**

Rastrick's diary notebooks.

- (1) Entered into 'The Regent or Royal Tablet of Memory for 1820 ... embellished with Twelve Views of Gentlemens' Seats...'; daily entries of 1-5 lines (1820) (54 pages).
- (2) Entered into 'The Law and Commerical Daily Remembrancer for 1840 ...'; daily entries of a half to a full page, mainly concerned with the London and Brighton Railway (1840) (366 pages).
- (3) Entered into 'The Law and Commerical Daily Remembrancer for 1842 ...'; daily entries of a half to a full page (1842) (365 pages).
- (4) Entered into 'The Law and Commerical Daily Remembrancer for 1843 ...'; daily entries of a third to a full page; more of the content concerns non-business activities than in the earlier diaries (1843) (365 pages).
- (5) Entered into ' Lett's Diary or Bills due Book ... for

1849 ...'; daily entries of 1-10 lines (1849) (122 pages).

(6) Entered into ' Lett's Diary or Bills due Book ... for 1851 ...'; daily entries of 1-10 lines (1851) (122 pages).

(7) Entered into ' Lett's Diary or Bills due Book ... for 1853 ...'; daily entries of 1-10 lines. (1853) (122 pages).

7 volumes

MS242/IV Accounts

1829-1831

Rastrick's accounts, entered into 'Poole's Improved Travellers' Ledger'; includes an index to persons and railway companies included in the accounts. Inserted: loose list of 36 workmen and money owing to them.

1 volume (150 pages)

MS242/IX Bank passbook

**1848 May-
1850 June**

Messrs Hanbury & Co passbook. Periodically examined and signed by Rastrick.

1 volume (80 pages)

MS242/V Account books

**1827-1830,
1853-1854**

Incomplete set of Rastrick's account books, partly written using his private cipher.

(1) 24 August 1827-9 June 1828 (46 pages).

(2) 28 December 1829-16 May 1830 (23 pages).

(3) 16 May-1 October 1830 (58 pages).

(4) October 1853-December 1854 (122 pages).

4 volumes

MS242/VI Letter book

**1853 March
3-1854 May
16**

Recording the names and addresses only for the senders of letters received and the recipients of letters sent. Pages numbered by Rastrick in two sequences: 94-183 and 139-170.

1 volume (120 pages)

MS242/VII Notebook 1830-1831

Ground plans of rooms (possibly of a house in Waterloo Street, Birmingham), with notes.

1 volume (12 pages)

MS242/VIII Notebook 1833-1834

Miscellaneous notes, calculations, tables and sketches. One entry may be of a later date [?1843].

1 volume (60 pages)