

## Charles Harrison Townsend, architect and designer: papers, 1806 - ca. 2003

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### Introduction and summary description

**Creator:** Charles Harrison Townsend  
**Reference:** AAD/2003/14  
**Extent:** 14 files

### Context

Charles Harrison Townsend (1851-1928) was born in Birkenhead, attended Birkenhead School and trained in the offices of Liverpool architect Walter Scott from the late 1860s until 1872. He also worked for Charles Barry jun. from 1873-1875 and E. R. Robson from 1875-1877. After moving to London in 1880, he worked with Thomas Lewis Banks for a time, before setting up his own practice in 1887.

Charles Harrison Townsend designed in the Arts and Crafts tradition and mainly produced designs for domestic and church work. In 1892 he won the competition to design the Bishopsgate Institute, and this, along with his design of the Whitechapel Art Gallery and the Horniman Museum, made his name.

### Scope and content

Correspondence from Charles Harrison Townsend (1872-1925); correspondence relating to Charles Harrison Townsend (1963-1983); photographs (undated); artwork (undated); family papers (1806-ca. 2003); notebooks (1820s-1927); published material (1823-1963).

### Provenance

Given by Jennifer Hilton, Baroness Hilton, 2003.

### Access

This archive is available for consultation in the V&A Archive and Library Study Room, which is located at Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, Olympia, London, W14 0QX. The Study Room is open Tuesday to Friday between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm, by appointment only. To request an appointment please email [archive@vam.ac.uk](mailto:archive@vam.ac.uk) or telephone 020 7603 7493. Access to some files may be restricted; these are identified individually with the catalogue.

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## Detailed catalogue

### Correspondence, 1872 - 1983

**Reference:** AAD/2003/14/1 to 2

**Extent:** 2 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2003/14/1	Correspondence, consisting mainly of letters from Charles Harrison Townsend to his mother and sister 1 file	1872 - 1925 (bulk 1872 - 1892)
AAD/2003/14/2	Correspondence relating to Charles Harrison Townsend 1 file	Jan 1963 - Sept 1983

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### Photographs, Undated

**Reference:** AAD/2003/14/3

**Extent:** 1 file

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2003/14/3/1	Photographs of Charles Harrison Townsend and members of his family 3 folders Includes silhouettes	Undated

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### Artwork, Undated

**Reference:** AAD/2003/14/4 to 5

**Extent:** 2 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2003/14/4	Sketches and paintings, mainly by Charles Harrison Townsend 1 file	Undated
AAD/2003/14/5	Designs 1 file	Undated

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### Family papers, 1806 - ca. 2003

**Reference:** AAD/2003/14/6 to 7

**Extent:** 2 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2003/14/6	Legal documents 1 file	1806 - 1833
AAD/2003/14/7	Townsend family tree 1 file	ca. 1900 - 2003

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## **Notebooks, ca. 1820 - 1927**

**Reference:** AAD/2003/14/8 to 11

**Extent:** 4 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/2003/14/8	Scrapbook of Felicia Janiewicz, Charles Harrison Townsend's maternal aunt	1820s - ca.1862
AAD/2003/14/9	Notebook containing poems by Charles Harrison Townsend	Undated
AAD/2003/14/10	Inventory of pictures, books and other items belonging to Charles Harrison Townsend	Sept 1925
AAD/2003/14/11	Account of Jackson Townsend's life  Includes photograph of Jackson Townsend	ca. 1923 - ca. 1927

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## **Published material, ca. 1823 - ca. 1963**

**Reference:** AAD/2003/14/12 to 14

**Extent:** 3 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/2003/14/12	Two miniature books belonging to Charles Harrison Townsend's mother, Pauline Francis Janiewicz	ca. 1823 - 1827
AAD/2003/14/13	Charles Harrison Townsend (1851-1928): thesis by Peter Wentworth-Shields	1963
AAD/2003/14/14	Miscellaneous printed material	Undated

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