

University of Lancaster Special Collections and Archives  
Austin, Langshaw & Paley collection  
Box List

## Description

### Extent

5 boxes and oversized materials

### Dates

c.1820-c.1993

### Scope of content

Papers related to the Lancaster based architects, Sharpe, Paley and Austin as well as their families. The bulk of the materials are family papers collected by the daughters of Hubert James Austin, c.1820-1960s, including records related to the Langshaw family. There are a few original records relating to the architects, but most of the plans are facsimiles of records held elsewhere.

The collection is currently arranged by accession:

- [ACC/2007/1: Materials given by James W A Price 2007](#)
- [ACC/2008/1: The Austin family Archive](#)
- [ACC/2010/1: Materials donated by James W A Price, 2010](#)

### Conditions of Access

The collection can be accessed by appointment in the Archives Research Centre. Request for access must be made at least one week in advance to ensure we are able to book your place and retrieve the requested material ahead of your visit. Please contact us on [library@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:library@lancaster.ac.uk). Alternatively, you can write to: Special Collections and Archives, Lancaster University Library, Bailrigg, Lancaster, Lancashire. LA1 4YH.

### History

The collection comprises three accessions which were sourced from James W A Price. The 2007 and 2010 accessions are records, both original and facsimiles, which were collected by Price during his research on the architects for a publication. The second accession was sourced directly from the descendants of Hubert James Austin and were transferred to the University via James Price.

Sharpe, Paley and Austin were architects who practiced in Lancaster between 1834-1946 either alone or in partnership. The principal architects included: Edmund Sharpe (1809-1877); Edward Graham Paley (1823-1895) [known as E.G Paley]; Hubert James Austin (1841-1915); Henry Anderson Paley (1859-1946) [son of EG Paley known as Harry Paley]; and Geoffrey Langshaw Austin (1884-1971) [son of Hubert James Austin]. The architects mainly worked in Lancashire & Cumbria, but also carried out commissions in Yorkshire, Cheshire, West Midlands, North Wales and Hertfordshire. They specialised in restoring and designing churches but also carried out work in country houses and residential buildings.

Edmund Sharpe was born in Knutsford, Cheshire. His family moved to Lancaster after the death of his father in 1823. Sharpe had three sisters: Mary Anne [later Deane] (1811-1842); Emily [later Langshaw] (1813-1893); and Frances [later Paley] (1814-1903). Although he had no formal training, Sharpe set up an

architecture firm in 1835 after completing a traveling bursary from St John College, Cambridge. Sharpe married Elizabeth Fletcher and they had four children: Edmund (1847 – 1925); Emily (1849-1923); Catherine, (1850-1928); Alfred Sharpe (1853-1935) and Francis (1845-1899).

Sharpe took on Edward Graham Paley as a pupil in 1838. Paley was born in Easingwold, North Yorkshire, and was the fourth son of the Reverend Edmund Paley and grandson to Archdeacon William Paley of Carlisle. In 1845 Paley became a partner in the firm now known as Sharpe and Paley, later becoming the principal partner in 1847. Sharpe retired in 1851. In the same year as Paley married Frances, Sharpe's youngest sister. The couple had four children: Emily Frances (1852-1918); Margaret (1854-1939); Edmund Graham (1857-1888); and Henry (Harry) Anderson (1859-1946).

In 1867, Hubert James Austin (1841-1915) became a partner of EG Paley, and operated as Austin and Paley. Austin was born in Redmarshall, County Durham. He was educated at Richmond Grammar School and in 1860 became articled to his brother and architect Thomas Austin in Newcastle. Between 1846-1867, Austin worked in London in the offices of Gibert Scott. In 1870 Austin married Fanny Langshaw, who was the daughter of Frances Paley's sister Emily. The couple had six children together: Mabel (1871-1874); Bernard Tate (1873-1955); Ethel Brougham (1875-1936); Sybil (later Stewart) (1876-1968); Hilda Margaret (1879-1968); and Geoffrey Langshaw (1884-1971).

The Langshaw family had been in Lancaster since the 1770s. Born in Wigan in 1725, John Langshaw was an organist and organ builder who worked in London from the 1840s. He returned to Lancashire in 1770 to become the organist at Wigan parish church, before moving to Lancaster Priory in 1772. After his death, Langshaw's son, John (1763-1832), moved from London to Lancaster to replace his father as the organist of Lancaster Priory. In 1800, he married Sarah Grundy (1744-1865). They had nine children: Elizabeth [later Mackereth] (1800-1870); John (1802-1833); Sarah (1804-1816); George, (1806-1843); Edmund (1808-1868); Jane (1809-1817); Frances (1812-1824); James Pearson (1814-1896); and Catherine (1817-1906).

On his death, John's youngest son, James Pearson briefly became the organist of the Priory before he went to study medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. While in London, JP Langshaw made friends with the notable surgeon, James Paget (1814-1899). He was also a close friend of Richard Owen (1804-1892) who had also been born in Lancaster. Pearson worked as the surgeon at Lancaster Castle for many years. In 1843, he married Emily Sharpe, the sister of Edmund Sharpe and Frances Paley. Emily was also a close friend of Elizabeth Gaskell. The couple had four children: Fanny (1844-1915) [who married H J Austin]; John (1845-1866); George (1849-1901); and Pearson Charles (1851-1892).

E G Paley's son, Henry (or Harry) Anderson Paley was articled to the firm in 1877. After completing his articles, he was sent to T. E. Collcutt's offices in London. He returned to Lancaster in 1886 as a partner in the firm which now became Paley, Austin, and Paley. The firm was renamed Austin and Paley after the death of E G Paley in 1895.

Austin's eldest son, Bernard studied architecture with the firm but left in 1902 to work for Lever Brothers. Austin's second son, Geoffery began to work at the firm in 1907. The firm was briefly renamed Austin, Paley and Austin when Geoffery was made a junior partner in 1914. However, Geoffery did not return to the practice after World War I. After HJ Austin's death in 1915, the firm remained Austin and Paley until Harry Paley's death in 1946.

In 1900, HJ Austin has purchased Heversham House, Cumbria as his family home. After the death of their parents in 1915, Ethel, Sybil, and Hilda continued to live at the house until 1968. Sybil married Charles James Stewart (1858-1937) but she returned to the family home after his death.

Hilda started to gather her family papers and began researching history of her family. She was known as the family archivist, and on her death in 1968, her research was passed onto her niece, Kate Sudgen (1901-1983), who was the daughter of Bernard Tate Austin. After her death, the papers came into the possession of Cedric Brown, who was the executor of the Austin sisters and Kate Sudgen. In 2008, the family permanently loaned the papers to Lancaster University, via James W A Price.

## **Sources**

Wainwright, A. (2009). [Langshaw, John \(bap. 1725, d. 1798\), organist and organ builder](#). Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Retrieved 2003/09/04

Royal College of Surgeon's England, [Langshaw, James Pearson \( - 1896\)](#). Retrieved 2023/09/04.

Pearce, D (2006), '[The Development of the Ecclesiastical Architecture of Sharpe, Paley and Austin](#)', Architectural Association School of Architecture Diploma in Conservation of Historic Buildings. Retrieved 2023/09/04.

## Contents

### ACC/2007/1: Materials given by James W A Price 2007

#### Description

**Extent:** 1 box; 1 frames photo and a roll

**Dates:** c.1820-1988

**History:** Materials donated by James W A Price in 2007. Other materials which were originally listed as part of this accession appeared to have been removed and returned to the University as part of the 2010 accession.

#### Contents

##### Box 1

Number	Description	Date
1	Book: <i>A treatise on the rise and progress of decorated window tracery in England</i> by Edmund Sharpe. ([S.l.] : Van Voorst, 1849)	1849
2-11	10 Volumes of the <i>Ecclesiologist</i> produced by the Ecclesiological Society. They were formerly owned by E G Paley and purchased at the sale of Miss Paley's house contents by Mrs Wishart-Hodgson. Vol. XX 1859; XXI 1860; XXII 1861; XXIII 1862; XXIV 1863; XXV 1864; XXVI 1865; XXVII 1866; XXVIII 1867; XXIX 1868.	1859-1868
12	A sketchbook containing small pencil drawings of ecclesiastical detailing. They have been cut out of a larger drawing book and stuck into this sketchbook. Thought to have been created by E G Paley. Many of these small sketches are from Whitby, Bridlington and other places in East Yorkshire.	[c. 1950s]

##### Oversized materials

Number	Description	Date
13	A photograph of an unknown church formerly in the ownership of Miss K Paley and before that by E G Paley.	ND
14-16	1Plates from John O'Gaunt sketch book [written by EG Paley & HJ Austin under the pseudonym of John O'Gaunt c.1874 or c.1879]: a.) Two sketches of St Mary's Lancaster b.) Two sketches of the Castle Gate.	[c1870s]

## ACC/2008/1: The Austin family Archive

### Description

**Extent:** 4 boxes and 1 oversized folder.

**Dates:** c.1820-1988

**Scope and Content:** Family papers mostly collated and created by Hilda Austin, who acted as the Austin family archivist. As well as general correspondence and other papers about the history of her family, the accession also includes records collected by her grandparents: James Pearson Langshaw (1814-1896) and his wife Emily (nee Sharpe) (1813-1893); records collected by her parents: Hubert James Austin and Fanny Austin (nee Langshaw); records related to Charles James Stewart (husband of her sister, Sybil); and records related to Heversham House, Cumbria. The papers include letters from notable figures who were friends of the family, including Sir Richard Owen, (1804 – 1892), Sir James Paget 1814-1899) and Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865).

### Contents

Number	Description	Date
1	Keys belonging to the Reverend Alexander Stewart [father of Charles James Stewart?]	ND
2	Photocopy of pages from an unknown book [family bible?] showing births/marriages/deaths of members of the Langshaw family.	ND
3	Documents relating to Richard Owen, comprising: a) Portrait dated 17 <sup>th</sup> December 1890 b) Family portrait at Sheen, ND c) Press cutting of the obituary of Richard Owen from the Lancaster Observer, 1892.	[1890s]
4	Letters from Sir Richard Owen and his family sent to members of the Langshaw family. Arranged into the following envelopes: a) 40 letters to James Pearson Langshaw, 1834-1893, plus newspaper cutting about Sir Thomas Storey. b) 5 letters from James Paget to James Pearson Langshaw, 1843-c1894 – most letters are undated and incomplete. c) 8 letters from Sir Richard Owen to George Langshaw d) Letter to Fanny Langshaw from Mrs [Lydia?] Paget e) 10 letters to Emily Langshaw from the Owen family including 2 from Cicely Owen after the death of Sir Richard Owen and 1 from Lady Owen in 1844 f) 5 letters to Fanny Austin from the Owen family including a letter of sympathy from Richard Owen's daughter on the death of her father James Pearson Langshaw.	[1830s-1890s]

Number	Description	Date
5	Papers relating to Heversham House during its ownership by the Misses Austin (1916): including a) Plan of a retaining wall b) Details of road changes i.e. by pass c) Details of a proposed playing field d) Details of death duties in 1916 on the Heversham properties Details of drainage scheme.	[c1916-1960s]
6	Drawings and details of alterations to Heversham House in 1899 a) Some of the drawings are on tracing paper while others on drawing paper were obviously done for the craftsmen carrying out the work. There are 19 drawings in total. b) Details of the payments made to Mr Gradwell for the work.	1899
7	Papers relating to the sale of a piece of land at Heversham House to allow the widening of the London – Carlisle Trunk Road 1924.	1924
8	Programmes for The Balliol Players. The covers were designed by JL Austin [possible John Langshaw Austin (1911-1960), son of Geoffrey Langshaw Austin]: a) The Frogs 1931 b) The Birds 1932	1931-1932
9	Accounts relating to 124 Crescent Road London	ND
10	Papers related to Charles James Stewart (husband of Sibyl Austin) a) Poetry (handwritten) by C J Stewart b) Other papers relating to his practice of law. c) Translations from Cortullus by Stewart 2.	[1920s-1930s]
11	Water Rates: for Heversham House	1932-1959
12	Details of transactions in stocks and shares by Hubert James Austin (sorted in 2023 into folders representing bundles & by date): a. From bundle 'Samuel James 1887' b. From bundle 'McClean 1887' c. Correspondence from 1882-1887 d. Correspondence, 1888 e. Correspondence 1899-1890	1882-1890
13	Correspondence between Sibyl Stewart and Arnold Rust, solicitor, regarding the settlement of the estate of Charles James Stewart.	1938
14	A book containing poetry. Some of it is original but much is copied extracts from the Classics and other poets. [Probably Charles James Stewart but no name is given]	[1920s]
15	A book written by Emily Sharpe containing poetry and prose.	[1831]

Number	Description	Date
16	3 small blue notebooks. They appear to be part diary and part commonplace book by Jane Mary Austin [relation unknown]	1808-1809
17	Letters to James Pearson Langshaw on his retirement; and miscellaneous correspondence chiefly with Julia Ripley (re. Ripley hospital [now Ripley St Thomas School]); 1 letter from Sir James Paget to Emily Austin after Langshaw's death in 1896.	[1890s]
18	A set of correspondence regarding the disturbances in April and May 1829. This relates to Peterloo and alerting the Lancashire and Bolton Yeomanry. [appear copies and originals]	[1829]
19	<p>Details of various wills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will of Rev. Thomas Austin, 1856 [father of Hubert James Austin]</li> <li>b. Will of Jane Margret Austin [mother of Hubert James Austin], 1866</li> <li>c. Correspondence and probate information relating to the death of John Langshaw, 1883 [check date]</li> <li>d. Correspondence regarding the death and probate of Grace Lindsay Austin, 1887-1888 [sister of Hubert James Austin].</li> <li>e. Extract from the Manchester Probate division re. The death of Elizabeth Wright of Chadderton, 1908</li> <li>f. Documents regarding the probate of Ada Backhouse, 1941</li> </ul>	[1856-1941]
20	Letters to the Langshaw family from the family of Elizabeth Gaskell, mainly between Elizabeth Gaskell and Emily Langshaw. Also includes a letter from Fanny Langshaw re. visit to Mrs Gaskell, and letter to Fanny from Florence Gaskell. C. 1850s (only one letter is dated). Also includes 1906 article about Elizabeth Gaskell.	[1850s-1906]
21	Correspondence related to trusts managed by Charles Dudley Austin and Hubert James Austin (collected by HJ Austin), including the estate of Henry and Grace Austin; trustees of the will of Jane Margaret Austin (especially the children of George B H Austin residing in Melbourne, Australia); and the estate of their sister Grace Lindsey Austin.	[1860s-1915]
22	<p>Materials relating to Heversham House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Correspondence and misc papers of Sybil Stewart and Hilda Austin, c.1906-1960s</li> <li>b) Materials on restoration of Heversham Church, c.1944</li> <li>c) Papers relating to leases of buildings in Heversham owned by the Austin sisters.</li> </ul>	[1906-1960s]

Number	Description	Date
23	<p>Correspondence of Hubert James Austin, c.1887-1889. Also includes some later correspondence, 1906-1907, from Thomas B Langshaw; and a print of proposed bell tower at Coventry which was designed by Austin. A</p> <p>a) Correspondence of Emily Langshaw, 1822-1887, including letters from Emily Owen and her daughters. Also includes letters to James Pearson Langshaw from his father, John Langshaw, c.1857-1858.</p> <p>b) Correspondence from Fanny Langshaw to her family mostly regarding a tour of Europe in 1862.</p> <p>c) Fanny Langshaw's diary, 1856</p> <p>d) Bundle 'Letters from friends of Fanny Langshaw etc.' , correspondence mostly to Fanny Langshaw (later Austin), 1860s-1901. Also includes a letter to George Langshaw from his father James Pearson Langshaw, 1892-1893.</p>	[1887-1889]
24	<p>Hard backed notebook containing notes and transcriptions of letters by Hilda Austin regarding the Langshaw &amp; Austin families and extended relations. Includes details of the Pen and Brush Society.</p>	[20 <sup>th</sup> century]
25	<p>Miscellaneous Correspondence [possibly related to the Sharpe family]</p> <p>a) Letter to Edmund Sharpe 1832. No signature that is legible but may be one of his sisters.</p> <p>b) Copy of letter from George Heathcote, 1816, to 'my dear Charles' written on at the Battle of Algiers.</p> <p>c) Unaddressed letter from George Heathcote, 1826.</p>	1816-1832
26	<p>Letters to Hubert James Austin and Harry Austin mostly from their family in Redmarshall, 1849-1870. Includes a letter from the Headmaster of Richmond School awarding H J Austin a prize for the translation of Latin into English.</p>	1849-1870
27	<p>Letters to Hubert James Austin related to his architecture career, including:</p> <p>a. His salary from Sir George Scott (1)</p> <p>b. His partnership with E G Paley (3)</p> <p>c. From Somers Clarke (his best man) referring to the Austin's honeymoon in September 1870, including tour of France.</p> <p>d. Letters from RIBA including informing him that he had passed the Voluntary Architects Exams in 1864; 2 letters about his Pugin studentship; A letter referring to him becoming a RIBA member in 1872; A letter from Ashford Church 1867.</p>	[1864-1872]
28	<p>Various papers and correspondence relating to the history of the families of the Austin sisters, including a family tree and some material on the Austin family (with a family tree)</p>	[20 <sup>th</sup> century]



<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
29	Correspondence including a) Correspondence collected by Fanny Austin, including some letters sent to Emily Langshaw. b) Correspondence from James Pearson and Emily Langshaw to their children George, Fanny and Ethel. Also includes some letters to JP Langshaw.	[1800s-1900s]
30	Incomplete catalogue of the Austin family archive by Cedric Brown.	1988

## ACC/2010/1: Materials donated by James W APrice, 2010

### Contents

#### Oversized materials

Number	Description	Date
1	Photocopy of the Ground Plan of Flookburgh Church and Carpenters Specification (original at Chatsworth) of 1897.	[1897]
2	Photocopy of a Floor plan of the alterations to St. James Arnside 1912.	[1912]
3	Photocopy of alterations to Michaelsfield Grasmere for the Misses Paley in 1912.	[1912]
4	Photocopy of a plan of Holy Trinity, Blackburn in 1846 from Derek Ward of the Blackburn Diocesan Office.	[1846]
5	Print of a Drawing of St. Paul's Church, Scotforth by Matthew Leedal.	No Date
6	Copy of plans of the Royal Albert in 1939 (from Austin and Paley)	[1939]
7	Engraving of the Royal Albert Lancaster in 1879 upon its completion.	[1879]
8	Engraving of the Royal Albert pre 1867 as originally designed by E. G. Paley	[1867]
9	Drawings of 1993 showing the planned refurbishment of the Priory Church, Lancaster.	1993
10	Drawings of the extensions and alterations to the Storey Institute, Lancaster in 1925.	[1925]
11	Photocopies of additions to Ryelands, Skerton for Lord Ashton in 1883. Viz. Conservatory; Stables and Farm offices; Additions and alterations the House.	[1883]