

The Strickland Family collection

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The Strickland Family collection. – approx. 1808-1945.

Physical description:

Biographical sketches: The Strickland sisters, Catharine Parr, Susanna, Sara, Elizabeth, Agnes and Jane were English gentlewomen who spent most of their childhood in Reydon Hall, Suffolk. The daughters of Thomas Strickland, a businessman, the girls had a literary bent from an early age, writing stories and plays to amuse themselves. Agnes became a popular author in London, writing *The Lives of the Queens of England* and other titles; Catharine (Traill) and Susanna (Moodie) both emigrated to Canada and became well-known authors in their new country, building on their early successes as writers for periodicals in England.

Scope and content: The fonds contains a scrapbook containing watercolour and pencil drawings, lithographs, prints, and photographs. Also included are a series of letters written by Catharine, Agnes, Susanna, Jane and Elizabeth to Frederic Shoberl, the editor of “Forget-Me-Not”, a periodical containing stories and verse.

Series 1: Scrapbook (Box 1)

Page	Title	Contents	Dates of Creation
1	Watercolour – Madonna?	Grisaille (12.7 x 13.8 cm) with the Madonna in a roudel, surrounded by lettering: S.CLOTILDE.I.R.C.D.E.F. Signed l.r. J.E. Stirling	
2	Watercolour – girl writing a letter	12.7 x 9 cm painting in colour, unsigned. Initial on inkwell: ‘FAS’?	
3	Hand-coloured plate	Etched plate after Rubens “The Descent from the Cross” removed from a book and coloured by hand.	
4	Photograph of Reydon Hall	Snapshot of the Strickland family home, with a note on the back signed by T.R. McCloy.	1945
5	Sketch of a child	Pencil drawing with white highlights, 22 x 19 cm, signed l.r.: ‘R. Fenton’.	
6	Portrait of a cleric	Watercolour portrait of a Church of England cleric, 16.5 x 15 cm, unsigned	
7	Geneology	Watercolour drawing of the arms of Thomas Strickland Esq of Reydon House, Suffolk, and a descriptive paragraph relating to him and his family.	
8	Melaleuca Leucadendron	Hand-coloured plate from a book, with pencil notation	
9	Pencil drawing and embossed card	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pencil drawing of a country lane with two houses, 8.5 x 18.5 cm. 2. Embossed card titled ‘Wellington’s Funeral Car’, bordered in black. 	
10	Portrait of a woman holding a white rose	Watercolour portrait, possibly a copy, 15 x 10 cm, unsigned.	
11	Catharine of Arragon	Etching after C.R.Leslie, 8.5 x 7 cm	
12	Catherine Parr	Portrait card, one of ‘Bruckmann’s Collection’ of historical figures.	
13	Prince Imperial	Photograph mounted on card and titled in pencil.	
14	Memorial card	Mounted photograph of a young woman surrounded by a hand-coloured floral border with the inscription ‘At rest with Jesus.’	
15	Prince Louis Napoleon	Photograph mounted on card, with printed title.	
16	Tivoli	Watercolour of two peasant girls in a landscape, 17.5 x 21.5 cm.	

Page	Title	Contents	Dates of Creation
17	On the Thames	Grey wash, ink and brush, 9 x 11.5 cm.	
18	3 wash drawings	Small grey wash drawings, similar to the above, 6 x 10.5, 6.3 x 11.2, and 8 x 11.3 cm.	
19	Langdale Peakes	Watercolour landscape painting, 11 x 16 cm.	
20	Untitled landscape	Watercolour, similar to the above, 11 x 16 cm.	
21	2 pencil drawings	Nautical scenes, lacking one in the center of the page, 7.5 x 11.5 and 8 x 11.5. The lower sketch is initialed 'HA' l.r.	
22	Horace Walpole	Lithograph removed from a book(?), after a painting at Strawberry Hill by Eckhardt.	
23	Byron	Portrait card, one of 'Bruckmann's Collection'.	
24	Tennyson	Portrait card, one of 'Bruckmann's Collection'.	
25	Scott	Portrait card, one of 'Bruckmann's Collection'.	
26	Felicia Hemans	Portrait card, one of 'Bruckmann's Collection'.	
27	Philippine Welser	Portrait card, one of 'Bruckmann's Collection'.	
28	Artemisia Absinthium	Hand-coloured plate, removed from a book (herbal?)	1820
29	Scenes from Richard II's campaign in Ireland	Page from a book, reproducing 2 illustrations from a manuscript.	
30	Violets	Colour print after a watercolour painting, 19.5 x 22.5 cm	
31	Flower print	Colour print of a flower, 21 x 17.5 cm	
32	Shakespeare	Etched portrait, removed from a book?	1822
33	Apple blossoms	Watercolour drawing, 12.5 x 10.5 cm	
34	Portrait	Watercolour portrait, possibly a copy of a painting portraying a wife of Henry VIII?, 15.5 x 13 cm	
35	Butterfly and flowers	Watercolour painted on a card with embossed border, 15.5 x 11.5 cm.	
36	Butterfly	Watercolour? with gilt highlights, 11 x 16 cm.	[19--?]
37	Butterfly	Hand printed? with gilt highlights, 12.5 x 17 cm.	[19--?]
38	Card	Floral spray (lithograph?) within an embossed border, 14.5 x 20 cm.	

Page	Title	Contents	Dates of Creation
39	Telford Bridge	Watercolour, 2 x 12.3 cm, titled in pencil	
40	Tulip	Watercolour, 18.3 x 15.5 cm.	
41	Canadian Wild Violets	Watercolour or colour lithograph signed l.l.: Susanna Moodie	
42	Imaginary bird	Watercolour with gilt highlights, 13.5 x 17.5	
43	Landscape with palm tree	Watercolour paintings on both sides of a single sheet, 23.5 x 15 cm.	
44	Portrait silhouettes	2 silhouettes cut from white paper, female figure 17.5 x 11.5 cm, and male figure 14 x 8 cm.	
45	Ornithogallum – Star of Bethlehem	Colour plate from a book	1808
46	Cycas ruminiana	Colour plate from a book	
47	Poem – “Charade”	7-line poem, written by hand on a gilt-edged card, and signed ‘Agnes Strickland’	
48	“Answer to Charade by a Friend”.	4-line poem, “transcribed by Agnes Strickland”	
49	Poem – “Charade”	Another copy of the 7-line poem, signed ‘Agnes Strickland’	
50	Group of African Tree-Euphorbias	Lithographic plate removed from a book	
51 & 52	Silhouettes	Animals in landscapes, cut from black paper – 4 silhouettes on each sheet	

Series 2: Letters (Box 2)

From Susanna Strickland

Item 1.1

From: Susanna Strickland

To: [F. Shoberl]

Date of creation: Undated

Scope and content: Written from Pentonville, she forwards a poem as a submission to the Juvenile Forget Me Not, along with 2 poems and 2 stories for the Forget Me Not.

Item 1.2

From: Susanna Strickland

To: [F. Shoberl]

Date of creation: Undated

Scope and content: Presentation note accompanying a prose tale titled "The Royal Election", a poetical sketch, "Winter" and a poem written by Mr. Bird

Item 1.3

From: Susanna Strickland

To: [F. Shoberl]

Date of creation: June 3

Scope and content: Letter from Reydon Hall, written both sides, apologizing for the suggestion that she should be paid for her small poem in the *Forget Me Not*; references to Agnes and Catharine.

From Agnes Strickland

Item 2.1

From: Agnes Strickland

To: [F. Shoberl]

Date of creation: Jan. 24, 1829

Scope and content: Presentation of some original compositions for his consideration.

Item 2.2

From: Agnes Strickland

To: [F. Shoberl]

Date of creation: March 19, 1845

Scope and content: Incomplete letter written at Reydon Hall, discussing Mr. Colburn.

Item 2.3

From: Agnes Strickland

To: Mr. Savile

Date of creation: April 9, 1846

Scope and content: Presentation of compliments with the return of proofs with instructions for the printer

From Jane Strickland

Item 3.1

From: Jane Strickland

To: Mr. Shoberl

Date of creation: Dec. 10

Scope and content: Letter accompanying several literary works, including “The Soldier from Marathon”, “Blind Arthur and his sister Jane”, and 3 articles.

Item 3.2

From: Jane Strickland

To: Dear Sir

Date of creation: Sept. 14

Scope and content: Signed letter from Reydon Hall offering to send a volume of Historical tales for youth to the recipient by post.

From Elizabeth Strickland

Item 4.1

From: Elizabeth Strickland

To: Mr. Shoberl

Date of creation: “Sunday evening”

Scope and content: Note discussing an ‘agreement’ with Mr. Turner, Mr. Stephens, Mr. Colburn and Mr. Faulkner.

From Sir Sandford Fleming

Item 5.1

From: Sir Sandford Fleming

To: Catharine Parr Traill

Date of creation: March 6, 1894

Scope and content: Xerox of letter describing his recent travels (original----?)

From Catherine Parr Traill

Item 5.2

From: Catharine Parr Traill

To: Katie

Date of creation: October 15, 1895

Scope and content: Xerox of a letter to her granddaughter Katie on her birthday, with a copy of *Pearls and Pebbles*.

Series 3: Manuscripts

6. List of works written by Catharine Parr Strickland...

Dates of creation: [1896 or later]

Scope and content: File contains 4 sheets in Catharine Parr Traill's hand, including 2 sheets of her early works, and 2 sheets of books written in Canada.

7. "The Picnic"

Dates of creation: [1845]

Scope and content: File contains a 14-page manuscript written by Agnes Strickland, discussed in the 1845 letter, submitted to Mr. Shoberl and may have been published.

8. "The Swiss Herdboy and His Alpine Mouse"

Dates of creation: [1892]

Scope and content: File contains an 80-page unbound manuscript of a story by Catherine Parr Traill including prefatory notes, that identify it as a re-writing (in the hand of Mrs. Traill's daughter Mary) of her first literary effort at the age of 15, sold to the London bookseller Woodhouse. This publisher died before it appeared in print, and at the age of 90 she re-wrote and included it in *Cot and Cradle Stories*. Her preface recalls her childhood days at Reydon Hall and the circumstances of the story's creation.

9. "The Stolen Voyage, a tale of the sea"

Dates of creation: [1892?]

Scope and content: File contains a 54-page unbound manuscript of a story by Catherine Parr Traill, published in *Cot and Cradle Stories*. The first leaf is in the author's hand and the remaining leaves were written out by her daughter, Mary who acted as her mother's amanuensis.