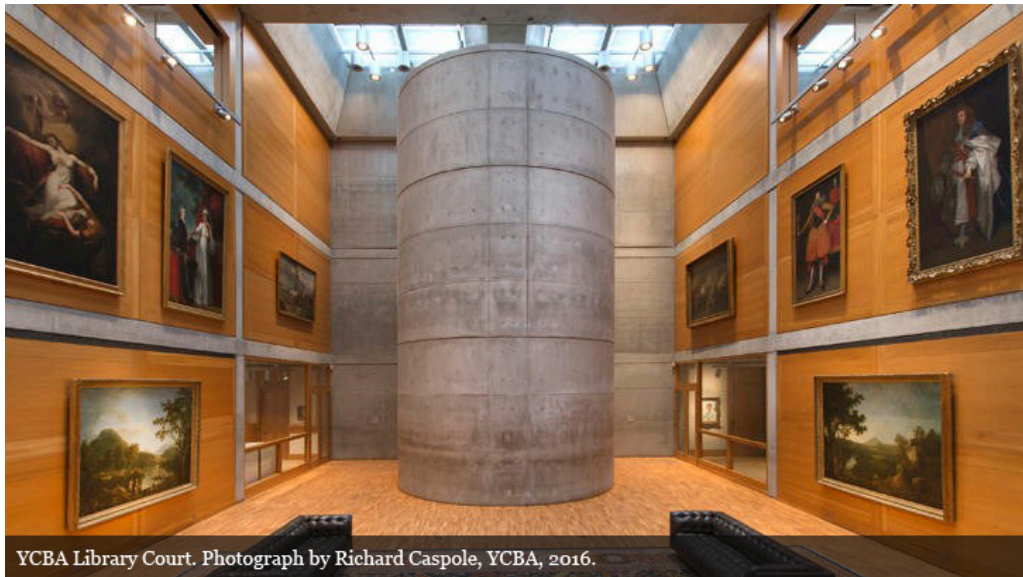


# Guide to the Matthew Shepperson archive

MSS 32



YCBA Library Court. Photograph by Richard Caspole, YCBA, 2016.

Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts  
1080 Chapel Street  
P. O. Box 208280  
New Haven, CT 06520-8280  
203-432-2814  
[ycba.rarebooks@yale.edu](mailto:ycba.rarebooks@yale.edu)

<https://britishart.yale.edu/about-us/departments/rare-books-and-manuscripts>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	3
Preferred Citation .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Selected Search Terms .....	5

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Center for British Art, Rare Books and Manuscripts  
Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts  
1080 Chapel Street  
P. O. Box 208280  
New Haven, CT 06520-8280  
203-432-2814  
ycba.rarebooks@yale.edu  
<https://britishart.yale.edu/about-us/departments/rare-books-and-manuscripts>

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 32

**CREATOR:** Shepperson, Matthew, 1785-1874

**TITLE:** Matthew Shepperson archive

**DATES:** 1810-1869

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection comprises manuscript material concerning Matthew Shepperson, portrait copyist, art instructor to elite lords and ladies, and collector of portraits

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0032>

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund

---

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is unprocessed and may not be available for immediate access.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The collection is the physical property of the Yale Center for British Art. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts.

---

### Preferred Citation

Matthew Shepperson Archive, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund

---

## Biographical / Historical

Matthew Shepperson (1785-1874) attained fair success as a portrait copyist. Shepperson exhibited paintings at the Royal Academy between 1811 and 1821. He painted copies of portraits in his own collection and sold them to numerous lords, ladies, bishops and earls. He also taught painting in circles of nobility, mainly to socially prominent young ladies. Circa 1823-24 he made a copy of John Hoppner's painting of Horatio Nelson, which is now in the collections of the National Maritime Museum, and in 1828 he painted a portrait of John Childs (b. 1784). In August 2010, some of the paintings from Shepperson's collection (bequeathed to his heirs) were sold at auction; the lots includes Velazquez's Portrait of a gentleman, which sold for £3 million.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection comprises manuscript material concerning Matthew Shepperson, portrait copyist, art instructor to elite lords and ladies, and collector of portraits. It includes two account books, recording forty-three years of financial records. Also present are four visiting cards, the original will of Shepperson's mother (naming him as executor and heir), one manuscript receipt for paintings, and 18 autograph letters signed, four of the latter with red wax seals. A number of the letters are from John Childs, dated from about 1823 to 1826.

---

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Art -- Collectors and collecting  
Painters -- Great Britain  
Painting, British  
Portrait painting

### Genres / Formats

Account books  
Correspondence  
Receipts (financial records)  
Visiting cards  
Wills

### Names

Childs, John, 1784-  
Shepperson, Matthew, 1785-1874

### Contributors

Shepperson, Matthew, 1785-1874  
Childs, John, 1784-