

MS 2117 (formerly Z25)

[Correspondence, chiefly of (Sir) Francis Petlit Smith (1808-1874), curator of the Patent Office Museum, concerning the suggestion that a photographic process had been invented and used at Soho House, Birmingham in ca.1790. The correspondence relates to seven 'Sun Pictures' now in the Science Museum's Pictorial collection (inv. no. 1884-16). These have been identified as 'mechanical paintings' executed between 1778 and 1781 by an unpatented process of Watt's partner, the entrepreneur Matthew Boulton (1728-1809) and his craftsman at the Birmingham Soho Works, Francis Eginton (1736-1805). The process is significant for its use of an albumen surface and may be regarded as aquatint at an intermediate stage ready for transfer printing processes akin to those used in ceramics technology.]

A Drawings

1. - Soho House before the alteration in 1791, restored from the Representation on the Silver Plate found in the Library of Soho House [front elevation]
Line drawing, part with wash, 20 x 23cm
2. - Soho House after the alteration in 1791
Pencil sketch, 10.5 x 17cm
3. - Supposed ground Plan of the Old House [and of] The altered House at Soho
Ink sketch, 26.5 x 21cm.

B Photographs

1. - Mr William Booth, London 1807
Carte-de-visite size photo of an engraving, 10.5 x 6cm.
2. - Holker House, North Lancashire. The property of W.S. Kirkes Esqre. M.D., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London [from pencil inscription on verso]
William Senhouse Kirkes (1823-1864): see *DNB* supp.

C Booklet

1. 1809
Memoirs of Matthew Boulton, Esq. F.R.S. late of Soho, Handsworth, Staffordshire
Printed booklet (16p. + frontis. engraving, by F. Eginton, of Boulton), 11 x 9.5cm.

D Letters, 1780s

1. 1780 Jun 28 [C19th transcription] London [to] Mr. Francis Eginton / Matthew Boulton, [re] Discharge of Eginton [from Soho Works]
2p. on 1 leaf
2. 1781 Jan 10 [C19th transcription] Soho [to] Mr Eginton / John Hodges [p.p.] Mess. Boulton & Fothergill
1p.

E**Letters, 1862** [some letters have been previously numbered as being from an 'Edward Price' sequence; the number is italicized below] 1 bundle

1. 1862 Nov 13 1. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
2. 1862 Nov 26 2. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
10p. on 3 leaves
3. 1862 Dec 1 3. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
4. 1862 Dec 3 4. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
5p. on 2 leaves
5. 1862 Dec 10 London [to F.P. Smith] / B. Woodcroft
3p. on 1 leaf
6. 1862 Dec 12 Patent Office [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
3p. on 1 leaf
7. 1862 Dec 13 5. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
2p. on 1 leaf
8. 1862 Dec 16 6. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
9. 1862 Dec 18 Patent Office [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
2p. on 1 leaf
10. 1862 Dec 19 Patent Office [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
2p. on 1 leaf
11. 1862 Dec 19 Patent Office [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
1p.
12. 1862 Dec 19 7. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
2p. on 1 leaf
13. 1862 Dec 20 Leeds Castle, Kent [to F.P. Smith?] / J. ? Gibson Watt
3p. on 1 leaf
14. 1862 Dec 21 9. 125 Liverpool Road, Manchester [to] Edwd. Price / John Powell
4p. on 1 leaf
15. 1862 Dec 22 8. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
16. 1862 Dec 23 10. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
2p. on 1 leaf
17. 1862 Dec 26 11. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
5p. on 2 leaves
18. 1862 Dec 29 12. Turkey Mills, Maidstone [to] F.P. Smith / Hollingworth & Co.
3p. on 1 leaf
19. 1862 Dec 30 13. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
2p. on 1 leaf
20. 1862 Dec 30 22 Sussex Road, Holloway [to F.P. Smith?] / James Kirkby
2p. on 1 leaf
21. 1862 Dec 31 14. 125 Liverpool Road, Manchester [to Edward Price?] / John Powell
4p. on 1 leaf

F**Letters, 1863** [some letters numbered as 'E' above] 2 bundles

1. 1863 Jan 3 15. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
2. 1863 Jan 6 London [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
2p. on 1 leaf
3. 1863 Jan 15 Adm[iralty], Whitehall [to] F.P. Smith / T. Lloyd
4p. on 1 leaf

4. 1863 Jan 19 16. Soho [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
2p. on 1 leaf
5. 1862 Nov 13 - 1863 Jan 19 [Notebook containing copy] Extracts from letters from Mr. Edward Price of Soho near Birmingham [to F.P. Smith]
6. 1863 Feb 5 17. Soho [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
7. 1863 Feb 6 18. Soho [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
8. 1863 Feb 12 19. 9 Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
9. 1863 Apr 14 Soho Hill, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / W.S. Garland
3p. on 1 leaf
10. 1863 Apr 16 20. Soho [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
11. 1863 Apr 18 [Cutting from] *Birmingham Journal* : 'James Watt and photography'
1 leaf
12. [1863] [Cutting from unspecified Birmingham newspaper : 'A strange discovery'. Bears ms. name 'Buckle Esqre. [Royal] Mint, London']
2 columns on 1 leaf
13. 1863 May 1 [Page from] *The British Journal of Photography* : 'Surprising discovery of photographs produced in the last century'
14. 1863 May 3 Extract from a letter of Mr. Jas. Brown to Mr. Brown Senr.
4p. on 1 leaf
15. 1863 May 6 20 St. Mary's Road, Canonbury [to F.P.] Smith / James Brown
1p.
16. 1863 May 12 21. Soho near Birmingham [to] B. Woodcroft / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
17. 1863 May 20 6 Green's Row, Chelsea [to F.P.] Smith / Robert Hunt
2p. on 1 leaf
18. [1863] Photographic Society, London [to] F.P. Smith / Hugh W. Diamond
3p. on 1 leaf
19. 1863 May 23 22. Harnslead Row, Handsworth near Birmingham [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
20. 1863 May 28 23. [To] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
2p. on 1 leaf
21. 1863 Jun 30 24. 9 Hamstead Row, Handsworth, Birmingham [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
5p. on 2 leaves
22. 1863 Jul 9 25. Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
23. [1863] 26. [To F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
1p.
24. 1863 Aug 7 27. Soho [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
5p. on 2 leaves
25. 1863 Aug 28 Extract from Miss Eliza Meteyard's letter to Mr Woodcroft
3p. on 1 leaf
26. 1863 Aug 31 (Copy) Hotel de Londres, Bagnères de Bigorre, Hautes Pyrénées, France [to] B. Woodcroft Esq., Great Seal Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London / Jas. P. Muirhead (2p.); [and]
1863 Sept 3 [To F.P. Smith?] / B. Woodcroft (1p.)
3p. on 1 leaf
27. [1863] Twickenham House [to] F.P. Smith / H.W. Diamond
3p. on 1 leaf
28. 1863 Sept 20 28. Hamstead Row [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf

29. [1863] Oct 12 (Photographic Society, London) Twickenham House [to F.P.] Smith / Hugh W. Diamond
3p. on 1 leaf
30. 1863 Oct 15 29. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
31. 1863 Oct 29 (Photographic Society, London) Twickenham House [to] F.P. Smith / Hugh W. Diamond
2p. on 1 leaf
32. 1863 Oct 30 7 Quality Court, Chancery Lane [to] F.P. Smith / Dugald Campbell
1p.
33. 1863 Nov 1 30. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
6p. on 2 leaves
34. 1863 Nov 2 (Her Majesty's Patent Office) London [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
1p.
35. 1863 Nov 2 39 Carlton Road, Kentish Town [to] F.P. Smith, South Kensington Museum / Eliza Meteyard
6p. on 2 leaves
36. 1863 Nov 2 31. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
37. 1863 Nov 4 Office of *The Reader*, 112 Fleet Street, London [to F.P.] Smith, Patent Museum / J. Norman Lockyer
1p.
38. 1863 Nov 6 31a. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
39. 1863 Nov 11 39 Carlton Road, Kentish Town [to] F.P. Smith / Eliza Meteyard
4p. on 1 leaf
40. 1863 Nov 11 (Copy) 9 Bedford Place, Kensington [to] B. Woodcroft, Great Seal Patent Office, Chancery Lane / Moreton H. Phillips
4p. on 1 leaf
41. 1863 Nov 11 [Part of the letter at F43 above as reproduced in journal '..... Photographic Society' (in proof form) and headed "Early Photographs"]
1 leaf
42. 1863 Nov 11 32. Handsworth [to F.P. Smith] / Edward Price
3p. on 1 leaf
43. 1863 Nov 14 Bay Villa Grange, Newton-in-Cartmel [to F.P. Smith] / Amos Beardsley
7p. on 2 leaves
44. 1863 Nov 16 Adelaide House, Grand Parade, St. Leonards on Sea, Sussex [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf
45. [1863] Nov 17 Twickenham House [to] F.P. Smith / Hugh W. Diamond
2p. on 1 leaf
46. 1863 Nov 18 32a. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
47. 1863 Nov 19 St. Leonards, Sussex [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
2p. on 1 leaf
48. [1863 Nov 19] [Sketch of Stratonice painting]
3 slips
49. 1863 Nov 19 Adelaide House, St. Leonards on Sea, Sussex [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
50. 1863 Nov 20 33. Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
4p. on 1 leaf
51. 1863 Nov 20 Adelaide House, St. Leonards on Sea [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
52. [1863 Nov] [To F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf

53. 1863 Nov 21 Adelaide House, Grand Parade, St. Leonards on Sea [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
54. 1863 Nov 23 200 Piccadilly [to] F. Smith / Thos. J. Gullick (1p.); [bearing]
1863 Nov 21 (Copy) Adelaide House, Grand Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea [to T.J. Gullick] / M.P.W. Boulton (3p.)
3p. on 1 leaf
55. 1863 Nov 22 Adelaide House, St. Leonards on Sea [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf
56. 1863 Nov 23 Bay Villa Grange, Newton-in-Cartmel [to F.P. Smith] / Amos Beardsley
4p. on 1 leaf
57. 1863 Nov 24 200 Piccadilly [to] F. Smith / Thos. J. Gullick (1p.); [bearing]
1863 Nov ? (Copy) To the Editor of the *Illustrated London News* / Henry Lee M.D. (2p.), [re article in *ILN* 43, p. 530 'The discovery of photography']
3p. on 1 leaf
58. 1863 Nov 24 39 Caritor Road, Kent'sh Town [to] F.P. Smith / Eliza Meteyard
2p. on 1 leaf
59. 1863 Nov 24 The Cedars, Lee, Kent [to] F.P. Smith / J... Penn
3p. on 1 leaf
60. 1863 Nov 30 17 Temple St., Birmingham [to] F.P. Smith / John H. Chamberlain [&] Geo. Jabet, Hony. Secs. ... Birmingham and Midland Counties Archaeological Association
3p. on 1 leaf
61. 1863 Dec 4 33a. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / Edward Price
6p. on 2 leaves
62. [1863] Dec 12 Thomas's Hotel, Berkeley Square [to] F.P. Smith / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
63. 1863 Dec 16 (Copy) 60 Westbourne Terrace [to] Mr. Boulton / J. Hodgson
3p. on 1 leaf
64. 1863 Dec 18 Trentham, Staffordsh. [to F.P.] Smith / Thomas Kirkby
2p. on 1 leaf
65. 1863 Dec [Accounts for carriage etc. of 'Sun Pictures'. With GWR receipts (2)]
3 slips
66. 1863 Dec 20 34. Hamstead Row, Handsworth [to F.P. Smith] / E. Price (5p.) [With note re 'Wedgewood the great potter' (1p.)]
6p. on 3 leaves
67. 1863 Dec 20 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
68. 1863 Dec 23 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
69. 1863 Dec 26 17 Temple St., Birmingham [to] F.P. Smith / J.H. Chamberlain [&] Geo. Jabet [as F60 above]
3p. on 1 leaf
70. 1863 Dec 30 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
6p. on 2 leaves
71. [1863] [Note] 33 Little Queen Street / W. Taylor, [re letter of 1799 from James Watt to Josiah Wedgwood Jr. re 'the silver pictures']
1p.

G Letters, 1864. 2 bundles

1. 1864 Jan 1 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
8p. on 2 leaves
2. 1864 Jan 2 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf

3. 1864 Jan 3 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
4. [1864] Jan 7? 1 Cumberland Place, Regents Park [to] F. Smith / H. Wedgwood
8p. on 2 leaves
- 4a. 1864 Jan 8 Bay Villa Grange, Newton-in-Cartmel [to] F.P. Smith / Amos Beardsley
1p.
5. 1864 Jan 14 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
6. 1864 Jan 18 Carke [to] Amos Beardsley Esqre., Bay Villa Grange / James Stockdale, [with
cutting from *The Photographic Journal* (?), being a letter of 24 Nov 1863 from
Thomas Kirkby, Trentham, Staffordshire re 'Matthew Bolton's camera']
3p. on 1 leaf
7. 1864 Jan 22 London [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
2p. on 1 leaf
8. 1864 Jan 23 *The Reliquary, Quarterly Journal and Review*, Derby [to] F.P. Smith / Llewellyn
Jewitt [editor]
4p. on 1 leaf
9. 1864 Jan 26 Grange [to] F.P. Smith / Amos Beardsley
4p. on 1 leaf
10. 1864 Feb 3 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
7p. on 2 leaves
11. 1864 Feb 10 (Copy) Patent Museum, South Kensington [to] M.P.W. Boulton Esqre. / F.P.
Smith (5p.); [and]
1864 Feb 22 (Copy) Museum of Patents, South Kensington [to] M.P.W. Boulton / F.P. Smith
(2p.)
6p. on 2 leaves
12. 1864 Feb 13 Carke [to] Amos Beardsley Esqre., Bay Villa / James Stockdale
2p. on 1 leaf
13. 1864 Feb 16 Carke, Newton in Cartmel [to F.P. Smith] / James Stockdale
1p.
14. 1864 Feb 21 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
4p. on 1 leaf
15. 1864 Feb 22 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf
16. 1864 Feb 23 Cherbourg House, Gt. Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
2p. on 1 leaf
17. 1864 Feb 23 Bay Villa Grange [to F.P. Smith] / Amos Beardsley
2p. on 1 leaf
18. 1864 Feb 28 Carke [to F.P. Smith] / James Stockdale
4p. on 1 leaf
19. 1864 Feb 26 [Cutting from *Manchester Guardian* re] 'The Watt and Wedgwood Photographs'
1 slip
20. 1864 Feb 27 Carke [to F.P. Smith] / James Stockdale
3p. on 1 leaf
21. 1864 Feb 28 Carke [to F.P. Smith] / James Stockdale
4p. on 1 leaf
22. 1864 [?] Twickenham House [to F.P. Smith] / Hugh W. Diamond
2p. on 1 leaf
23. 1864 Mar 8 Bay Villa Grange [to] F.P. Smith / Amos Beardsley, [with pencil sketch of house
(1 slip)]
3p. on 1 leaf
24. 1864 Mar 10 Bay Villa Grange [to F.P. Smith] / Amos Beardsley
4p. on 1 leaf
25. 1864 Mar 14 [Draft] To the Editor of the *Photographic Journal* / F.P. Smith
1p. + 3p. on 1 leaf

26. 1864 Mar Chorboung House, Great Malvern [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf
27. 1864 Mar 16 Lewisham [to] F.P. Smith / Samuel Brown
3p. on 1 leaf
28. 1864 Mar 16 *The British Journal of Photography*, 2 Upper Hornsey Rise, London [to] F.P. Smith / Geo. Shadbolt
3p. on 1 leaf
29. 1864 Mar 16 Soho Hill, Handsworth [to] F.P. Smith / W.S. Garland
3p. on 1 leaf
30. 1864 Mar 20 *The Photographic News*, 32 Paternoster Row [to] F.P. Smith / G. Wharlon Simpson
2p. on 1 leaf
31. 1864 Mar 26 22 Abbey Road, St. John's Wood [to] F.P. Smith / W. Booth
2p. on 1 leaf
32. [1864 Mar] Thomas's Hotel [to F.P. Smith] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf
33. 1864 Mar 30 London [to] F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
1p.
34. 1864 Apr 2 Soho Hill [to] F.P. Smith / W.S. Garland
3p. on 1 leaf
35. 1864 Apr 4 11 Gt. George Street, Westminster [to] F.P. Smith, Museum of Patents, South Kensington / E. Thynne
2p. on 1 leaf
36. 1864 Apr 5 (Copy) [To] E. Thynne / F.P. Smith
2p. on 1 leaf
37. 1864 Apr 6 11 Gt. George Street, Westminster [to] F.P. Smith, Museum of Patents, South Kensington / E. Thynne
3p. on 1 leaf
38. 1864 Apr 6 (Copy) [To] E. Thynne / F.P. Smith
3p. on 1 leaf
39. [1864 Apr?] Bay Villa Grange [to F.P. Smith] / Amos Beardsley
4p. on 1 leaf
40. 1864 Apr 7 (Copy) [To] E. Thynne / F.P. Smith
4p. on 1 leaf
41. 1864 Apr 8 11 Gt. George Street, Westminster [to] F.P. Smith, Patent Museum, South Kensington / Fred. Geo. Thynne
2p. on 1 leaf
42. 1864 Apr 18 (Copy) Thomas's Hotel, Berkeley Square [to E. Thynne?] / M.P.W. Boulton
3p. on 1 leaf
43. 1864 Apr 19 11 Gt. George Street, Westminster [to] F.P. Smith / E. Thynne
2p. on 1 leaf
44. [1864 Apr?] (Photographic Society, London) Twickenham House [to F.P.] Smith / Hugh W. Diamond
3p. on 1 leaf
45. 1864 May 10 Soho Hill [to] F.P. Smith / W.S. Garland
4p. on 1 leaf
46. 1864 Jun 7 Villa Street, Birmingham [to F.P.] Smith / Fredk. Price
1p. on 1 leaf
47. [1864] Jun 9 [Cutting from the *Birmingham News* re] 'The Watt and Wedgwood Photographs'
1 slip
48. 1864 Jun 10 Villa Street, Birmingham [to] F.P. Smith, Museum of Patents, South Kensington / Fredk. Price
2p. on 1 leaf
49. 1864 Aug 11 [To] F.P. Smith / T. Lloyd
1p.

50. 1864 Aug 25 Birm[ingha]m [to] F.P. Smith / Thos. Pemberton, [with newspaper cutting re 'Unintended Portraits', being an article by Charles Tomlinson quoted from the *Art Journal*]
2p. on 1 leaf + 1 slip
51. [1864] Nov 10 Twickenham House [to F.P.] Smith / Hugh W. Diamond
3p. on 1 leaf
52. 1864 Nov 28 [Transcription, by J.B. of the Patent Office Library, of most of an article by J. Lotsky in *Mechanics' Magazine*, 65, 1856, 277, re memorias of Francis Bauer of M. Niépce's possible photographic invention]
1p.
53. 1864 Nov 29 11 Gt. George Street, Westminster [to] F.P. Smith, Museum of Patents, South Kensington / E. Thynne
2p. on 1 leaf

H Letters, 1872-1873

1. 1872 Jan 31 Mayfield, Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birm[ingham, to] Bennet Woodcroft / W.C. Aitken
5p. on 2 leaves
2. 1872 Feb 3 Watford [to] Sir F.P. Smith / B. Woodcroft
2p. on 1 leaf
3. 1872 Feb 29 Mayfield, Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birm[ingham, to] Sir F.P. Smith / W.C. Aitken
3p. on 1 leaf
4. [1872] [Note bearing Mr Aitken's address]
1p.
5. 1873 Jul 24 31 Queen Anne Street [to] Sir Fras. Pettit Smith / H. Wedgwood
3p. on 1 leaf

J Letters, miscellaneous

1. 1862 Nov 13-1863 Nov 2 Extracts from [29] Letters from Mr. Edward Price of Soho near Birmingham
32p. on 32 leaves
2. [1863] Nov 2 Extract from Miss Mettyeards [sic] letter [see F35 above]
2p. on 2 leaves
3. - Copy of Letter To The Right Honourable The Earl of Dartmouth / M.B. [Matthew Boulton]
5p. on 5 leaves

K Miscellaneous

1. - Names of Some of the Members of the Lunar Society
1p.
2. - [Note re Francis Eginton, from 'Nagler's [*Neues allgemeines*] *Künstler-Lexicon* 1837']
3p. on 1 leaf
3. - [Part of wrapper to contain 'Soho Pictures. Correspondence relating thereto. See also a roll of Sketches & Engravings' / Patent Office Museum, South Kensington, London]
1 slip + 1 fragment

Inv. no. 2003-