

## LETTERS OF PHILIP WEBB AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

JOHN BRANDON-JONES

In January 1901 Philip Webb wound up his practice and retired to the cottage at Worth that became his home for the last fifteen years of his life and it was his intention to destroy all his drawings and correspondence before leaving Gray's Inn. Fortunately friends intervened: a selection of drawings and sketches were saved by George Jack and Charles Winmill—most of which eventually found their way to the R.I.B.A. Library—while the bulk of Webb's architectural drawings and notebooks, with miscellaneous papers and letters, were preserved by Emery Walker in whose care they remained until Webb's death in 1915.

Walker allowed the R.I.B.A. and V. & A. to select drawings for their collections, but the notebooks and personal papers remained in his own possession. They were lent to W. R. Lethaby who used them as one of the principal sources for the biographical notes which first appeared in the *Builder* between January 9th and December 4th 1925, and were published in book form as *Philip Webb and his Work* by the Oxford University Press in 1935. On the death of Emery Walker, his daughter, Dorothy, inherited the Webb papers and passed them on to the present writer.

The collection includes a letter-book containing copies of the more important office and private letters written between July 1874 and November 1883—many of these were quoted by Lethaby—and the record continues in another volume which breaks off in February, 1888. In addition there are drafts or copies of letters on loose sheets and many original letters received by Webb from friends, relatives or clients.

Most of the letters are concerned with personal and family affairs, but there are others that throw light on Webb's relationship with contemporary architects and with his fellow members of the Morris Company which are of considerable interest to the architectural historian.

The first groups of letters here printed (1 and 2) illustrate Webb's personal contact with William Butterfield. It has always been clear that Webb owed a great deal to the older man—the sketch books contain notes of Butterfield buildings and the influence can clearly be seen in early Webb designs. Butterfield was reputed to be a difficult, obstinate, and somewhat unfriendly character and, apart from the interest of Webb's criticism of the Keble College buildings, and Butterfield's reaction, it is interesting to find, in the later short notes, evidence that the two men were for many years on visiting terms and that each is therefore likely to have been familiar with the designs of the other at the drawing-board stage.

The Chamberlain letters illustrate the other and better known side of Butterfield's character as well as Webb's generosity in attempting to help a fellow

architect. It would be interesting to know what became of Robert Chamberlain; one hopes that he eventually made good, but the only later letters now surviving suggest that he borrowed one "fiver" after another and never in fact repaid any of Webb's loans.

Faulkner was one of the original members of the Morris Company and his letter (3) refers to the extraordinary background to the selection of a design for the Examination Schools at Oxford. T. G. Jackson, who was eventually employed to design the building, gives an account of the procedure in his *Recollections* (p. 133). Jackson states, that in the first instance, Street, Deane of Dublin, and several others were asked to submit designs. The Competition appears to have been held without rules and without a professional assessor: "Deane's plan was chosen by the Delegacy, but upset in Convocation and a fresh competition was invited". Street now refused to compete on the ground that Deane having won the first competition was entitled to the work. Other architects were brought in and the Delegates chose a design by J. O. Scott. Convocation again turned down the proposal. It was at this stage that Faulkner wrote to Webb, whose amusing reply is here printed.

Subsequently a third competition was held, again without an assessor and with only a verbal briefing of the competitors—now reduced to Deane, Bodley, J. O. Scott, Champneys and Jackson. The designs were sent in in January 1876 and the competitors were invited to meet the Delegacy in February, when they were apparently given a Viva Voce Examination, and in March Jackson was announced as the winner. Perhaps Convocation had by this time become exhausted or bored by the affair. At any rate, Jackson's plan went through with little opposition. The result was the comparatively inoffensive building that survives to this day.

The next letter (4), from Ford Madox Brown, which explains itself, gives a good idea of the way in which the business of Morris and Company was conducted. The happy-go-lucky procedure eventually led Webb to suggest to Morris that a reorganization was desirable, and the draft letter that follows probably led up to the reformation of the Company in 1875.

Five letters from G. F. Bodley (5) were written at a time when Webb was looking after various works for his friend, who was recuperating at Brighton after some illness or accident.

The last two letters here published (6) will be of interest to those who, like myself, have wondered at the omission of any account of Webb's work from Eastlake's *History of the Gothic Revival*. Clearly it was no fault of Eastlake that Webb's buildings were ignored.

## † PHILIP WEBB AND WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD

I R:B:G:I: Nov. 27 1869

Dear Mr Butterfield

I was at Oxford yesterday for the first time since I got the permission to

look over your college—Mr Braithwait was very polite & took pains to shew me the works.

You were quite wrong in supposing that I should not like the buildings. I like them very much indeed. I admire the general arrangement, the planning, the proportions and details.

If my own work bears no resemblance to yours it is because I could not do good work like yours and therefore I do not try, but I am quite capable of observing with huge pleasure a successful effort of a contemporary—(please excuse the impudence of this last remark)

I take it that on looking round the neighbourhood of the college you saw that there was an activity of life in building wh. though you might not relish the out come—it would be wise in you not to ignore, & thus came your idea of planting a vigorous red brick work in Grey Oxford. I wish that Kebles own work had been as vigorous

The skill you have shewn wh. I wish most to praise, is that of having managed to put together the requisite little boxes of rooms and yet that your building should not look small—and this without the advantage of the larger parts, such as Library, Hall & Chapel. I think you are quite right in your large Quadrangle and in pushing the East front close to the trees—both bold ideas.

I cannot forgive you for using cold blue slates, this colour is a real drawback. You will most likely say that you had no money for grey Westmoreland slates, and I shall say in answer. Tis a great pity that you hadn't. The contrivances of Scouts rooms, cisterns, lifts, stairs, sliding "Oaks", paving &c. were interesting and I thought quite good.

If in these days of dolour the mocking of a new peel of bells could be allowed—I should rejoice that you should have a hand in keeping up the tunefulness of Oxford and of adding yet another tower to the view from Hinksey.

Believe me to be  
Yours very truly  
Philip Webb:

P.S. I tremble for the filling up of a yawning gap on the South side of Lower High St.

Adam Street, Adelphi W C  
Dec. 11 1869.

Dear Mr Webb,

I was glad to hear from you after your visit to Keble College, and to get your intelligent though far too favourable criticisms. I of course feel with you about the blue slates. My difficulties in regard to money for the works first begun were great. A low tender helped me much, but the Committee was bent on economy and was composed of persons who did not I imagined care for the question of colour in slates, and I had not the courage, with further

works in prospect for wh. I knew there was not enough money, to ask them for any extras of an artistic kind. I hoped too that the gay walls would carry the eye somewhat away from the slating and I never allow my own eye to rest on the slating. But there it is for all that! You must pay us another visit when we are more in order. We are going to finish the Gateway, from the effect of wh. in the absence of the other public buildings I expect a good deal.

I am dear Mr Webb

Yours vy. Sincerely,  
W. Butterfield

Nov 30. 1871

Adam St Adelphi WC

Dear Mr Webb,

Shall you be at home on Tuesday evening (the 5th) if I look in on you about 8 oc.

I am yrs. vy. Sincerely,  
W. Butterfield

Oct 28. 1878.

Adam St. Adelphi WC

I have been thoroughly intending to come and see you as I engaged to do when you were here last. And I mean to come vy. soon, i.e. before Xmas. Having been away for the month of September I have been ever since and shall be for another month excessively pressed with arrears and have been vy. little in town. Works in the country have kept me running about. But by the end of November I hope to have straightened things a little and should like to come and spend an evening with you. I will write when the time comes to ascertain whether you will be at home.

You are far too kind in your judgment of my work. I hope that you are as fully occupied as you ought to be.

I am dear Mr Webb  
Yours vy. Sincerely,  
W. Butterfield

Adam St.  
Adelphi  
WC

March 23

Dear Mr Webb,

I do not know any Clerks of Works except my own whom I could recommend. And they are all engaged. I wish I could help you. I could tell you of an honest & capable builder some day if you want such a person.

I have been hoping to see you but have been excessively occupied.  
I am Yours vy Sincerely  
W. Butterfield

2. ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN, PHILIP WEBB AND WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD

Revd. J. W. Doran's  
259 Waterloo Road  
Manchester  
Feb. 11. 1871.

Dear Webb

I left town about a fortnight before Xmas, having previously called twice at your chambers to try & see you. I ought to have written to you before this, & should have done so, but have put it off from week to week in the hope that my inpecuniosity would cease, and I might send the coin (£5 : 10 : ) which you kindly lent me. A vain hope. The fact is I *must* get work in some office without any more delay. If it cannot be in one I like; temporary employment would be most pleasant while I was looking out for some other.

Can you do anything with anyone you know to help me? Terms (I think) not less than £2 : 10 : a week, tho' I would take £2. from Butterfield—or less, if he would at anyrate be civil till I was his clerk.

I dont think I've seen you since calling there. Bodley was out of Town, so I took no introduction & probably began in a rather shabby way—but I felt 'shabby'. I said I'd called to ask if he would be so good as to remember me when he should be in want of a clerk—if I was likely to suit him.

He turned sharp round on me with "So good as to *remember* you Sir! Why should I do that? When I know nothing of you." I put in that I'd said "if I was likely to suit him." to which he said "Take a seat, Sir, you begin at the wrong end, at present I know nothing of you." Whereupon he put a few short questions to which I gave equally short answers (being riled); and it ended by his saying he had others in view when he wanted assistance. I wrote next day to ask him, if he should have occasion to make further enquiries to apply to Mr. Bodley or you. Not of course in the least committing you to say either good or bad for me.

My pipe (after the interview) on Adelphi Terrace was melancholy, and soon afterwards I left Town.

Yours very truly  
Robert Chamberlain

P.S. In order to assist you in judging my circumstances—without some knowledge of which you can hardly give me advice—let me add that my Father allows me £75 or if necessary £100 a year, indicating at the same time that I ought to be independent. Also that I owe about £75 : a good part of which I ought to pay off this year. There are all the facts I think. Do tell me as far as you can what you think I'd better do.

Yours R Ch.

1, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn,  
London, Febr. 20 1871

Dear Chamberlain,

I have put off answering your letter with the hope of finding something to tell you of in the way of help, but I can think of none. Your advance on Butterfield was unfortunate. I think only that. But it seems to me that you had better try him again, by letter, and you may say that I have promised you to call & see him if he would like it & tell him what I think of you. This I shall be pleased to do. I would write to him openly saying that it is absolutely necessary for you to get regular work—and that harder work & less well paid under an architect whom you respect, would be preferable to easy work in most offices.

Thank you for openly explaining your circumstances to me. I can manage to let you have 20£ to help you to pay off your debts, (the worst item of your trouble) on the only terms on wh. I lend money, viz. to pay again if you can, but if you can't not to trouble about it.

If your Father can afford to let you have the allowance, I do not see why, so long as you really need it, you should not take it, for of course you would be only too glad to do *without* taking it.

If you like you may say to Butterfield that you have asked my advice & that I recommended you to apply to him again. I suspect his work would be irksome—but if it is, straightforward & honest habit will soon make it less tedious but behind all is the devil of “impecuniosity” wh. should be met in as manly a way as possible.

Yours Vy. Truly  
P.W.

259 Waterloo Road  
High Town: Manchester  
Feb: 23. 1871.

Dear Webb

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I made up my mind to take your advice when I asked it, and will do as you say. If I get into Butterfield's Office it feels a little like playing my last card—if I do not get on with him, I should hardly be able to rally enough enthusiasm for architecture afterwards to stick to it at all. This will be in some way a guarantee that I should do my best.

For your offer of help in another way, I shall always thank you most heartily, but at present, if I get work I think my debts are well in hand. It is the small sums I owe to friends that trouble me, this being quite a novel practice as yet D.G. The tradesmen can very well wait a bit as I am an old customer to them all & the bills only last years. However I must get an address to my name as soon as possible, and must get temporary work somewhere if Butterfield wont take me on.

Believe me yours very truly  
Robert Chamberlain

P.S. I shall not mention Bodley's name again to Mr. B. because I have not had an opportunity of explaining to him the result of my call; but if you would not mind adding to your trouble by first calling on Bodley & telling him about it, you cd. speak for him as well, I suppose Mr. B. wd. want to know why I left there. Yrs most obliged R. Ch.

259 Waterloo Road  
Manchester  
Feb. 26. 1871

Dear Webb

I have sent letter of which enclosed is Copy. On consideration I almost think that it wd. be better to let Butterfield apply to Mr. Bodley himself if he wants to, than that you should say anything for Bodley as I suggested—but as you like.

Yours vy. truly  
Robert Chamberlain

Revd. J. W. Doran's  
259 Waterloo Road  
Manchester  
Feb. 25. 1871

Sir,

I venture to write to you again being in this position. It is absolutely necessary that I should get regular work. And harder work & even less well paid under an Architect whom I could respect, would be preferable to easy work in most offices I have asked Mr. Webb's advice and he recommends me to apply to you again & has kindly promised me that he will call on you, if you would like it, and say what he thinks of me.

I am Sir  
Yours truly  
Robert Chamberlain

To W. Butterfield Esq.

Feb. 27. 1871  
Adam St. Adelphi  
WC

Dear Mr. Webb,

I have received the enclosed letter in wh. you are referred to. I forget whether I have seen the writer, but I suppose from his way of writing that I have done so. I am not in want of any one at this moment, but it may be of use perhaps if you could find time to remind me of any facts wh. I ought to

know. It wd. be a pleasure to see you but I do not ask you to take the trouble to call.

I am yours vy sincerely  
W. Butterfield

P. Webb Esq

259 Waterloo Road  
Manchester  
March 22. 1871.

Dear Webb

I am very much obliged for your good offices with Butterfield & should have written to thank you before, but I've been hoping to get back to Town. Perhaps I'm as well here however till I have something to do. I am trying to prepare something for the next Architectural Exhnt. in the way of Cottages and 3rd. class houses.

I have sent an advertisement for the Curators book. You were quite right in what you said to Mr. B. If I went it wd. be with the intention on my part of staying; and I think I should feel the restraint less than in most offices. I fear however that Butterfield hasn't yet altered his first impression of me.

I have been trying to persuade the Lawyer through whom my Fathers allowance comes that it would make no difference except to myself if he would pay it in advance on the first instead of the last of each month; but I haven't been as successful as Mr. Lowe with the Income Tax. So I am much hampered in my plans for want of ready cash. Would you therefore let me accept your offer of a loan to the extent say of £14:10: (which wd. make the debt to you £20. altogether). Half of this I want to pay a last years debt, & the other half to anticipate my allowance, & to be repaid as that comes in if, as I hope, I get a spell of work from Bodley or some one.

Yours vy truly  
Robert Chamberlain

P.S.

Do you think the enclosed advertizement if put in the "Builder" & the "Field" might bring grist to the mill?

P.P.S.

If I cd. find out Brownings (of Stamford) initials I think I should write to him & ask if he wanted a clerk. You dont know anything of him do you?

TO THOSE about to lay out Estates in Building, or GENTLEMEN wishing to build Labourers Cottages: An Architect of over 15 years experience in First-Class Offices tenders his services—to supply general Plans & Elevations after first seeing the sites and learning the requirements.

Address R.C. Care of Mr. Boyd, 7 Conduit St. London, W.

259 Waterloo Road, Manchester  
July 6 1871

Dear Webb

I believe I have attempted every likely Architects' Office here now : & am trying a Civil Engineer who has been wanting an Architectural Clerk. If this fails I shall no doubt be able to persuade my Fathers Agent that it is no use keeping me here for lack of funds. I wish you would send me a P.O.O for 10/- (not more) next week or before, & let me give you an I.O.U. for £21 : 0 : 0 which will then be the amount you have so kindly lent me. I enclose another "present from Putenhall", in drawing which I have had my share of the benefit. Its from the Manor House & is all the old work that is left except the outside shell. Unfortunately I've not got more than one of my note books here or I might be drawing out lots of things.

Yours (in haste) vry truly  
Robert Chamberlain

To P. Webb Esqre.

259 Waterloo Road  
Manchester  
July 8. 1871.

Dear Webb

You are the kindest man I know, & altogether too generous, to send another Five—which I suppose you have worked for—to an idle fellow like me. However I am so sick of idleness & this beastly Manchester that I am glad of it to make my return to London more certain; and very careful I shall be how I get to far north again.

I shall try to be in town the end of this week, and should like to give you a formal note of what you have lent me.

Believe me yours very truly  
Robert Chamberlain

### 3. C. J. FAULKNER AND PHILIP WEBB

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
OXFORD  
May 24. 1873.

My dear Webb,

Yesterday convocation was called on to approve of designs for new Examination Schools prepared by John O. Scott (a son of GGS) but convocation by a large majority rejected and sat upon the designs, & this I think they deserved. Thus it comes to pass that now for a second time the university has treated architects with considerable contumely. Street and Waterhouse on this last occasion declined to send in any design on the ground that they

did not choose to subject themselves to the chance of being snubbed. The vote of yesterday does not mend matters in this respect. I hope that opinion may now prevail that it will be better to appoint a committee to select an architect and to deal with him absolutely—I mean that the university should give the committee absolute powers without reserving to itself any right of subsequent approval or rejection.

If such a committee were appointed and were to crawl up the steps of No 1 Raymond Building on their knees, would you kick them out or would you consent to entertain the idea of making designs for these examination schools? I know you dislike Oxford being pulled about and still more of having anything yourself to do with the matter. But this is a case of necessity. We must have a building and it does seem as if we might as well have a decent one while we are about it. I am of too little influence to hope that my opinion will prevail in this matter in the university. Yet making the mad assumption that it does what then?

Yours ever  
Charles J. Faulkner

*Webb's Reply*

I.R.B.G.I. May 26 '73

My dear Faulkner,

Thank you for your very kind letter of Saturday.

I cannot but admire your boldness, your quite wonderful courage. Supposing it possible that I could agree to undertake the work in question, if it were offered to me, and that I succeeded in building it. Your life in Oxford would be simply unbearable for ever afterwards, and I do not know if you could quite escape obloquy if you spent the rest of your natural life in Wagga Wagga.

In the second place therefore know my deep aversion to having any hand in turning exceptional Oxford into a place of ordinary architectural expression—well, my mind is in no way changed, since I said to you that I never wd. help in that way.

There is great improbability that any committee wd. think of allowing me to try my hand at a design, and even if it did and I was so far lucky as to moderately satisfy myself, I am quite sure that I should never satisfy anyone else, except perhaps, Morris.

There is only one architect living who I think could do something wh. wd. not seriously hurt Oxford and who wd. yet be capable of carrying with him some opinion more extensive than that of himself and one dis-honourable friend (this friend will be here in half an hour & I'll tell him what I've said) and that is Butterfield.

So, accept my very sincere thanks and forgive any seeming rudeness

from yours ever  
Philip Webb:

4. FORD MADOX BROWN TO PHILIP WEBB

37 Fitzroy Sqr. W.  
(undated)

Dear Webb,

I am sorry you were not at the meeting on Saturday for it was a very pleasant one—at least to me—Jones, Morris & Marshall came, & as you confided your proxy to me I write to inform you what measures were passed. First of all Wardle & Campfield were each of them awarded a commission, in future of 5 per cent on the profits. Morris is to have 10 per cent & his salary is raised to 250£ with rent, taxes, coals & gas free. Next we took in hand the matter of a dividend, to us poor patient, much suffering outsiders; but eloquence or broad hints failed to extract a penny out of Top—who had come armed with every document except a pass-book or a cheque book—however he pledged himself to send us a tip all round immediately after quarterday 25th inst. So we must keep him up to that & hang on to that faint hope in desperation.

Dont forget our next meeting 2nd April

Yours ever

Ford Madox Brown

PHILIP WEBB TO WILLIAM MORRIS

1. R.B.G.I. Dcr. '73.

My dear Morris,

Some time ago I wrote to Wardle upon what I considered was necessary for the good of the Firm under its present circumstances, namely, to have an accurate account made of its value and financial state by some perfectly unconcerned and professional accountant, & he agreed with me (at least such is my recollection) that it would be well to do so. Since then I have further considered the matter, and am more sure that I was then right as to what would be for the good of the Firm, as well as I am now, for myself. For, I know that the "concern" is active, and therefore very considerably involved in a mercantile way, but, I also know that I, personally, have no control over the business; though I am personally interested in its prosperity, and shd. be involved in its adversity. In either case the result would be unjust. *Now, this is not a reasonable state of affairs; and, though I am dealing with artists, perhaps it would be as well to try and amend it.* I have therefore concluded to withdraw from the Firm as a mercantile partnership—though proposing to keep to the friendly and artistic conjunction, so long as I can be of any use to it. I must ask you—whose daily work it is to interest yourself in the matter—not to fancy that I am suspicious of the Firm's stability, but to understand only that my work will not let me be as certain of the "Queen Square" affairs as I am of those wh. keep me alive every day. Also let me

say, that I am glad of the business activity shewn, (though as before explained I cannot involve myself in it) because I am sure of the usefulness of the Firm's labours, as well as the harmlessness of them, in comparison with the monstrous rubbish usually turned out under the name of fine art *wh. makes such sober work as yours (apart from drunken poetry) most agreeably honourable.*

Yours very affectionately,  
Philip Webb.

P.S. You can use all, or any part, of the above, in letting the other members know that I wish to put myself on a new standing in the business. Also, I shd. propose that in the Christmas account, the value of each of the members shares should be named, and that any portion belonging to me shd. remain in the business so long as it is required, at the rate—say—of the English Funds—3 per cent.

NOTE: This letter is copied from Webb's draft. The parts in italics are crossed out and were presumably omitted from the final version. J. B-J.

#### 5. G. F. BODLEY AND PHILIP WEBB

Furze Hill, Brighton.  
Aug: 24. 1869.

Dear Webb,

Your note & Mr. Skinner's reached me at the same time to-day & I had but a moment or two to write to you to save the early post. One thing to be looked at is that the floorboards, it appears, have shrunk—query whether more than ought to be the case with well seasoned wood?

2nd. Then as to the necessity of some iron work for some small areas.

3rd. As to the painting if properly done—

4th. They have given leave for some papering in the largest house (called "C") What will be best? The "stone colour ground Trellis" for "Saloon" & staircase, the "white fruit pattern" for the indigo coloured wood in the little morning room. For the large drawing room I thought of a white ground paper of Arthurs, an old design & good—I dare say you know it. If they will paper some bedrooms—the daisy pattern—dark & light & the "Venetian".

I cant get a reply to my notes to Chamberlain as to what *amount* of papering they sanctioned or as to what rooms are painted what colours. But I believe it is only the little mornng. room & saloon that have the woodwork painted a dark low toned blue—the rest white I suppose. But as I have said I can get no reply from Chamberlain on any subject.

I want you to meet Smith & have written to Skinner to ask him to write to him (Smith) to meet you on the day fixed for your visit.

Yrs vey truly  
G. F. Bodley.

Brighton.

Aug: 29. 1869.

Dear Webb,

Many thanks for your visit to Malvern & your note. I am glad your report is good. If you cd. kindly draw out the plan wanted for proposed alteration to the large house I shd. be much obliged. If you had left out the word "stupid" as applied to my Clients I shd. have been glad, as I shd. have forwarded your note to them—but this does not matter.

You dont mention if you saw Hernaman, the inhabitant of the large house? If you could make a working drawing for the oriel window as you have sketched it I shd. be much obliged. It is very much what I had thought of. Keep it as *deep* as you think well—they want to command the view. The moldings cd. be tolerably rich. They will look well painted white.

McCann & Evering (?), Gt. Malvern, will send you particulars of the existing sashes or any information you want.

Yours vey truly

G. F. Bodley.

P: Webb Esq.

I will let you hear about the Welsh house; there will be no great hurry for that: some time about a fortnight or three yeeks wd: do if convenient to you.

Furze Hill

Brighton.

Sept. 10. 1869.

Dear Webb,

I was much obliged to you for the drawing for the window at Malvern. It wd. have looked well & improved the house. But the Parson is a compound of conceit—ignorance & vulgar taste & is doing what he pleases with the house. This is Hernaman not Skinner.

I shd. be glad of the plans for the addition to the other house, the Servants Hall &c, & if you cd. send them as early as convenient I shall be much obliged, for Skinner is calling out about them.

I am vexed you had the trouble of drawing out the bay window—Hernaman was unmanageable. Please tell me what I am in your debt for all your time & trouble in this matter.

Yours vey Truly

G: F: Bodley.

P: Webb, Esq.

Furze Hill

Brighton. Sept. 29.

1869.

Dear Webb,

I was much obliged to you for the drawing of the Servants Hall—Malvern.

I have not heard yet from the Clients about it & suppose they may as usual make silly remarks about it. The Builders Estimate is 250£ wh: seems to me rather much. What do you think? 17' × 14' was the dimension of the ground floor room. I shd. have thought 5d. a cubic foot ought to cover it. As you know more than I do (for I only just saw the plan for a minute or two) of what there is in it Cd. you say roughly, if you think it worth £250.

I have not settled with Mr. Jones (?) yet about a visit to his place & dont think there will be much hurry as to that just yet.

Yours ever G: F: Bodley.

I am getting on a little but am so lame I am fit for but little.

You have not sent me your account.

Furze Hill  
Brighton.

Oct: 12. 1869.

My dear Webb,

I cannot let you do work for me for nothing—Railways & time wd. come to more than £6 but I send that to take part of the load off my conscience, with thanks.

I hope it may not be long now before I can get to town. I am heartily sick of Brighton.

Morris was good enough to come & see me the other day but of course missed a few trains & had consequently but little time to stay.

I am glad to hear you are full of work & wish I cd: see some of it. Could you not send me a photograph of your Kensington House?

Yours vey truly  
G: F: Bodley.

I shall I think write to ask you if you cd. go to Manchester & to Welshpool for me bye & bye. I want to see if I can manage it myself.

#### 6. C. L. EASTLAKE AND PHILIP WEBB

6 Upper Berkley Street West  
Hyde Park W.  
10 March 1870

Sir,

Being engaged in preparing for publication a "History of the Gothic Revival in England" I am very anxious to obtain authentic information regarding the most notable buildings of a mediaeval character which have been erected during the present century—May I venture to hope that you will kindly assist me in this endeavour by supplying me with a few brief notes on the principal works which have been executed from your design?

The enclosed forms—which have been prepared to save trouble will explain the kind of particulars which I require for my purpose. If you will kindly let them be filled up using some for churches and the rest for notes on buildings of a domestic (or public) nature I shall be extremely obliged—In order to render the list historically useful I will ask you to let it extend over as wide a range of time as possible i.e. to begin with your earliest work and end with the most recent.

If you could, in addition, furnish me with a mere list of your other works with the date appended it would be very useful.

Trusting that the object I have in view maybe sufficient apology for my troubling you with this request.

I am Sir,  
Yours very faithfully  
Charles L. Eastlake.

*Webb's Reply*

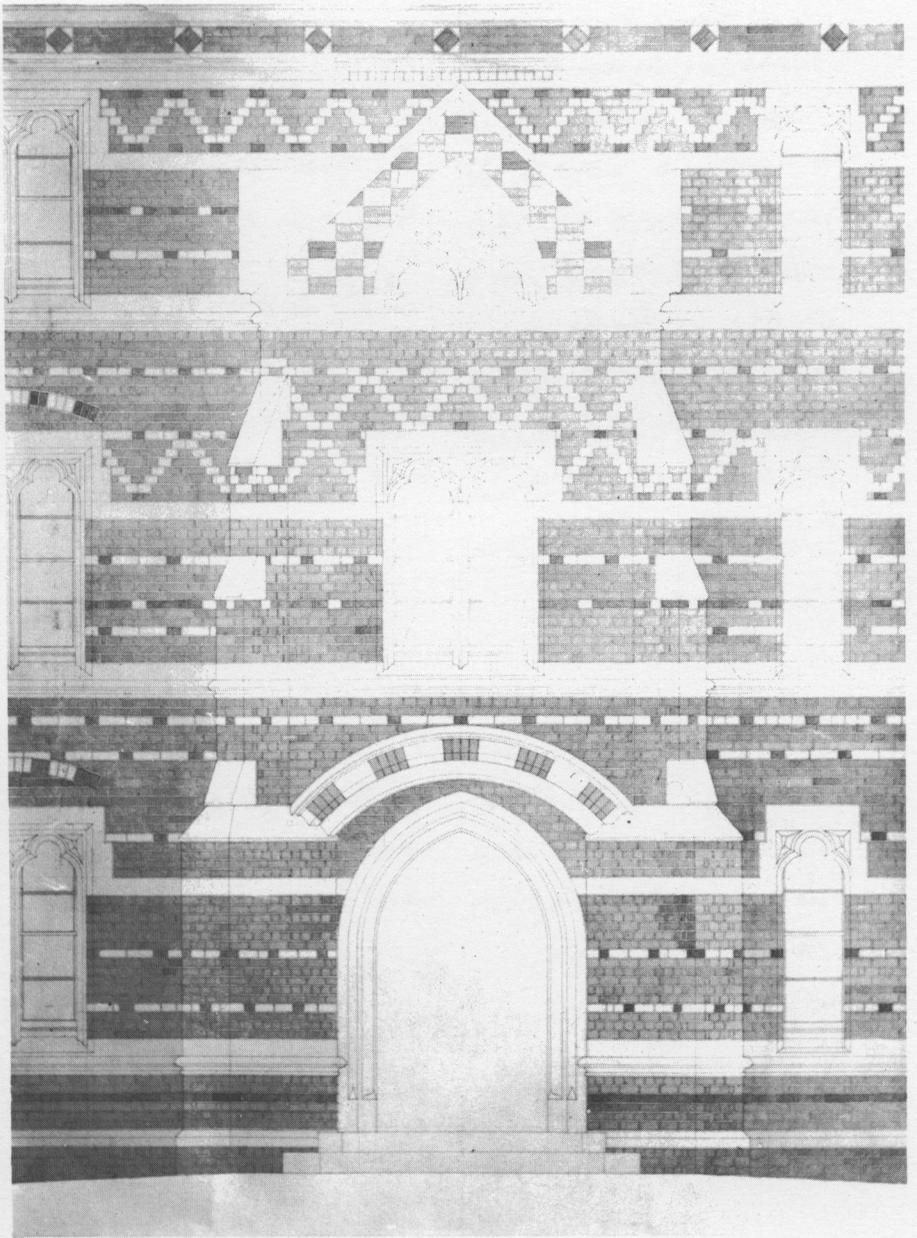
1, Raymond Buildings, Grays Inn,  
London, March 14 1870

Dear Sir,

I should have had much pleasure in complying with your request did it not break a rule which I've had some satisfaction in keeping, up to the present time—viz—not myself to make unnecessarily public any work which I've designed or completed

I should have been less able to have refused your polite proposal, if my work could have properly come under the category of the "Gothic Revival in England"

Yours truly  
Philip Webb



Keble College, Oxford : Detail of a doorway measured and drawn by John Quinlan Terry

Furze Hill  
Brighton.

Sept. 10. 1864.

Dear Webb,

I was much obliged  
to you for the drawing for  
the window at Malvern.  
It wd. have looked very  
well & improved the house -  
But the Parson is a compound  
of conceit - ignorance

I shall be much obliged,  
for Shinnar is calling out  
about them.

I am vexed you had  
the trouble of drawing  
out to buy window - Anna  
was unmanageable.  
Please tell her that  
I am in your debt for

& vulgar taste & is doing  
what he pleases with  
the house. This is Anna -  
man, not Shinnar.

I shd. be glad of the plan  
for the addition to the other  
house - the servants' hall etc.  
& if you cd. send them  
as early as convenient

at your time & trouble  
in this matter.

Yours very truly  
G. F. Bodley.

P. Webb, Esq.

Fig. 1. Letter from G. F. Bodley to Philip Webb

Adrian Street. Adrephi WC  
Dec. 11. 1869.

Dear Mr Webb.

I was glad to hear from you after your visit to Herts College, and to get your very intelligent though far too favourable criticisms. I of

course feel with you about the blue slates. My difficulties in regard to money for the books first begun were very great. A low tender helped me much. But the Committee was bent on economy and was composed of persons who did not I imagined care for the question of colour in slates, and I had not the courage

to take further works in progress for the first for Mr. I knew there was not enough money to ask them for any extras of an artistic kind. I hoped too that the gay walks would carry the eye somewhat away from the slating and I would allow my own eye to rest on the slating. But there it is for all that! You must pay us unless

visit when we are more in order. We are going to finish the Gateway, from the effect of which in the absence of the other public buildings I expect a good deal.

I am dear Mr Webb.

Yours very sincerely  
W. Butterfield

Philip Webb Esq

Fig. 2. Letter from William Butterfield to Philip Webb

6 Upper Berkeley Street West  
 Hyde Park W  
 10 March 1870

Sir

Being engaged in preparing  
 for publication a "History of  
 the Gothic Revival in England"  
 I am very anxious to obtain  
 authentic information regarding  
 the most notable buildings of  
 a mediæval character which  
 have been erected during  
 the present century -

May I venture to hope that  
 you will kindly assist me

in this Endeavour by supplying  
 me with a few brief notes on  
 the principal works which  
 have been executed from  
 your designs?

The enclosed forms - which  
 have been prepared to save  
 trouble will explain the  
 kind of particulars which I  
 require for my purpose.

If you will kindly let them  
 be filled up with some few  
 notes on churches & the rest  
 for notes on buildings of a  
 domestic (or public) nature

I shall be extremely obliged -

In order to render the list  
 historically useful I will ask  
 you to let it extend over as  
 wide a range of time as possible  
 - i.e. begin with your earliest  
 work & end with the most  
 recent -

If you could, in addition,  
 furnish me with a more list  
 of your other works with the  
 date appended it would be  
 very useful.

Trusting that the object  
 which I have in view may

be sufficient apology for  
 my troubling you with this  
 request

I am, Sir,  
 Yours very faithfully  
 Charles L. Eastlake

P. Webb Esq.

61.1762  
 7440

Fig. 3. Letter from C. L. Eastlake to Philip Webb

1, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn,

London, March 14 1870

Dear Sir:

I should have had much pleasure in complying with your requests did it not break a rule - which Joe had some satisfaction in keeping, up to the present time - viz - not

unecessarily myself to make public any work in Joe design'd or completed -

I should have been able to have refused your polite proposal, if my work could have properly come under the category of the "Fifth Revival in England"

Yours truly  
Philip Webb:  
C. L. Eastlake Esq

Fig. 4. Letter from Philip Webb to C. L. Eastlake

[PRIVATE.]

“HISTORY OF THE GOTHIC REVIVAL,”

By C. L. E.

NOTES ON SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS,

*Executed from Designs by P. Webb Esq.*

Name of Building ... ..	
Situation ... ..	
For whom erected ... ..	
When commenced ... ..	
When completed ... ..	
Style of design ... ..	
General dimensions ... ..	
Principal materials used in construction.	
Whether any, and if so, what drawings or engraved blocks could be supplied for purposes of illustration ... ..	
Additional remarks or reference to any journal containing a description ...	

Fig. 5. Printed questionnaire for C. L. Eastlake's *History of the Gothic Revival*