

U DX64

**Housekeeper's Account Book and
Commonplace book of Sarah Caroline Buthicar**

1809-1852

Biographical Background:

It is unclear who used the Housekeeper's Account Book (U DX64/1) as there is no name or address provided.

The commonplace book (U DX64/2) was endorsed in 1892 by Frederick William Mills who described himself as Sarah Mills's 'surviving executor', making him her son or possibly grandson. According to the biographical information he provides, Sarah Mills was born Sarah Caroline Buthicar on 27 September 1789. She was the daughter of the Reverend James Buthicar of Harrow on the Hill, who was French master at Harrow School. She probably received the commonplace book on her twentieth birthday as she has endorsed the front of the book with a starting date of 27 September 1809. She married Frederick Russell Mills of the Home Office and they lived in St John's Wood, London. The book ends abruptly with a poem called 'Misery':

'Yet still thy features won that light
Which fled not with the breath
And life ne'er looked more purely bright
Than in this smile of death.'

According to Frederick William Mills the commonplace book ceases at the time when Sarah Mills's third child, Anna Maria Pope, died at the age of 29. Frederick Russell Mills died in 1861 and Sarah Mills died in 1879.

Custodial history: Donated by C.N. Jackson, 17 Jan 1957

Description:

A small collection containing a printed Housekeeper's Account Book, which was rarely used, and a notebook, later diary, of Sarah Caroline Buthicar.

Extent: 2 volumes

Related material:

Diary and commonplace book of David Burton [U DDCB/25/38]

Commonplace book containing pious poems and sentiments [U DDCB/28/36]

Personal papers: commonplace book [U DDCH/32]

Housekeeper's account books 1845-1854 [U DDCA2/48/25-29]

Housekeeper's account book with Mrs. Marten [U DDCV/216/11-12]

List of duties of Mrs. Conyers, on being appointed housekeeper c. 1630 [U DDEV/79/J35]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

- U DX64/1 'Housekeeper's Account Book' c.1818
Ruled for daily and weekly totals. Printed 1797. This account book was rarely used. A few pages have been cut out from the front of the notebook and probably were those that contained the extra information detailed in the contents page such as tables of weights and measures. However some of the pages containing extra information survive at the back of the including a table of the expenses of every week in the year and of the whole year, at one view (which has been left blank); tables of English and Irish money equalised; horse, hat and dog taxes; instructions for the choice of all kinds of flesh, fish, game, poultry etc. and the season when they are in the most perfection; sundry useful receipts and the importance of keeping a diary.
1 volume
- U DX64/2 Commonplace book of Sarah Caroline Buthicar 1809-1852
Begun in 1809 on her 20th birthday, this small book consists mainly of copies of riddles and poems. From c. 1830 it continues as a diary with each page generally relating to one year. Briefly mentions key events of the year including births, marriages, deaths, accidents and major visits she made or received. In 1838, she notes she went to Queen Victoria's coronation. There is also a brief note, written in 1892, from the last surviving executor of Sarah Caroline Buthicar about how he found the book and a little about the diary, which can be found in the front cover.
1 volume