

**U DP223                      Records of the Hon. Joan Fairfax, née Wilson                      1901**

**Accession number:** 2025/07

**Biographical Background:** Joan Fairfax was born Joan Evelyn Jane Wilson on 11 February 1880, the fifth of seven children of Charles Henry Wilson, first Baron Nunburnholme, and Florence Wellesley. Lord Nunburnholme was the chairman of Thomas Wilson Sons & Co (see U DEW). After a brief engagement to the Duke of Manchester, where the wedding was first postponed and then called off shortly after it was announced, Joan married Guy Thomas Fairfax, of Bilbrough, in 1899. The couple had two sons, Bryan Gerald Ferdinand, known as Ferdinand, born on 31 August 1900, and Gavin Thomas, born on 2 December 1902. In 1908 Joan inherited £30,000 from her father's will, a large sum of money at the time. The Fairfaxes divided their time between Bilbrough, York and London. Guy Fairfax died in 1934. Joan Fairfax died on 11 December 1960, leaving an estate valued at over £25,000.

**Custodial history:** Purchased from Bernard Quaritch booksellers. No earlier provenance information known.

**Description:** The collection contains a single diary covering 1901.

**Extent:** 0.01 linear metres

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

**Language:** English

U DP223/1	<p>Diary of Joan Fairfax, nee Wilson</p> <p>The diary contains short daily entries about Joan Fairfax's activities. There are some gaps in the entries, the longest being from 8 August-2 October, and the final entry was made on 9 December. The entries are generally short, recording activities such as hunting, shooting and riding, afternoons and whole days sitting for a portrait, meeting her mother, and travelling with her husband Guy around Bilbrough, York and Tadcaster. The couple frequently attended balls and dances and often did not get home until five or six in the morning, all recorded in the diary. Occasionally "Baby" (presumably her son Ferdinand) is mentioned, being brought down to see her after tea or being taken to visit family. Her family links are clear, as she often visits Warter, her father's home, and spends time with her brothers and sisters. She mentions seeing "the Queen's funeral" in Piccadilly on 2 February 1901.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1901
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