

## Richard Upjohn Papers, NYPL

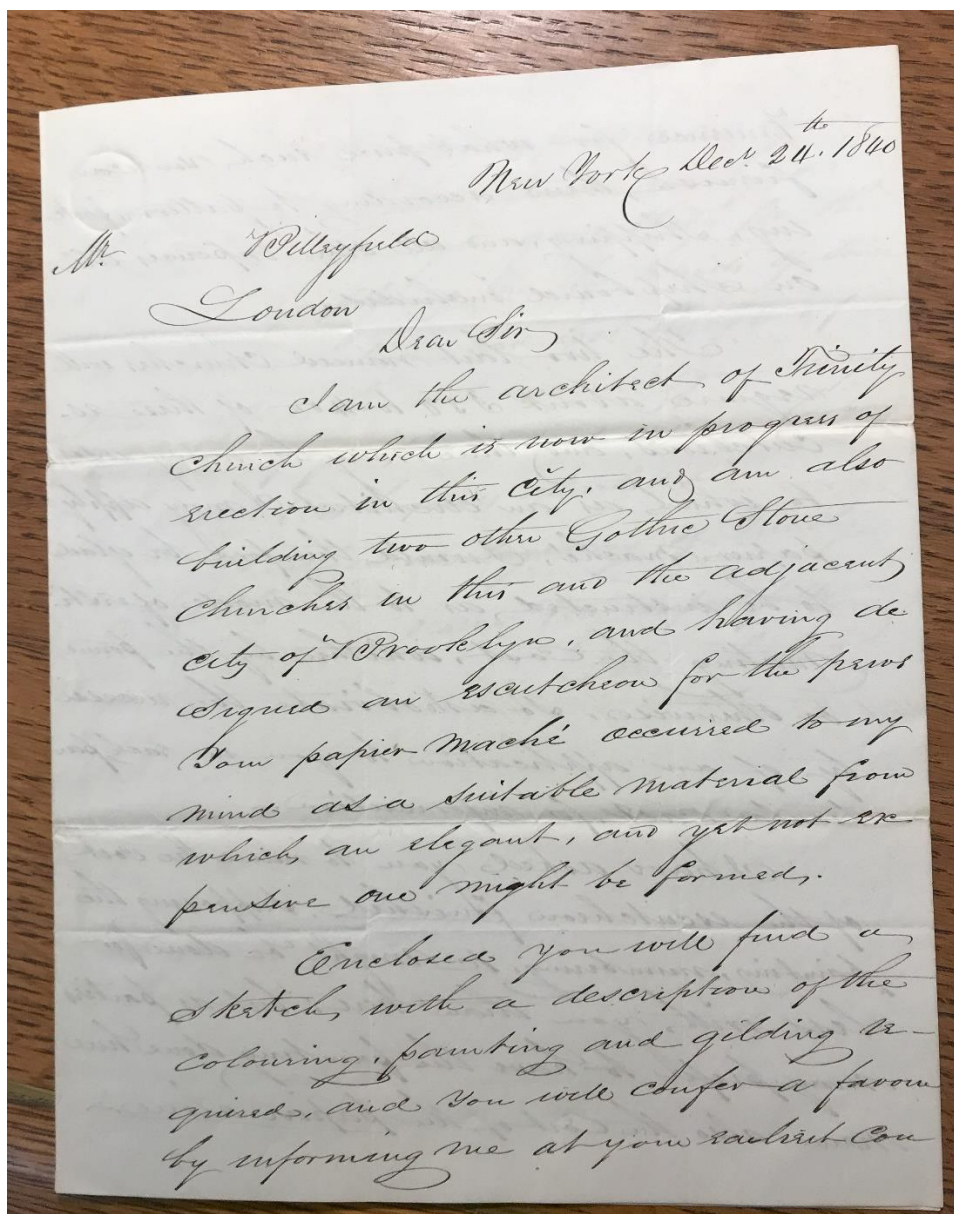
**DATE: May 31, 2024**

I examined correspondence from boxes 1 and 2, as well as box 12. Since Ascension was Upjohn's first major commission, there is not nearly as much material in the archive as for Trinity Church, which he was building during the same years. Only box 1 had relevant materials for Ascension.

Letter dated March 13, 1840

from Daniel Russell, Chatham Connecticut (now East Hampton)

regarding supplying Upjohn with stone for building (he doesn't say for which commission), as had been used in certain cottages and churches in Hartford. He discusses the color of stone available from his company (a lighter and a darker shade) and their prices, as well as the cost of shipping the stone to New York City.



numerous public Buildings in Conn.  
erected with our kind of Stone in their  
style; it will be needless for us to say  
any thing at this time with regard to their  
appearance or durability.

You will very much oblige us  
by informing us as soon as convenient  
what the probability is with regard to using  
our kind of stone in the erection of the  
Churches above named & whether, in case  
our material should be concluded upon, you  
will be so good as to give us an opportunity  
to estimate to furnish them.

Very Respectfully Yours

Daniel Russell

agent for  
Russell & Hall

Letter dated December 24, 1840

From Richard Upjohn to a Mr. Belleyfield [spelling?] in London requesting the cost of producing a papier mâché escutcheon (coat of arms) for use in two churches (Trinity and another church, possibly Ascension). A design for this escutcheon was originally enclosed with the letter. Upjohn stated that they will need between 350 and 400 of these and that they can be painted after they arrive in New York.

New York Dec<sup>r</sup> 24. 1840

Mr. Belleyfield  
London

Dear Sir,

I am the architect of Trinity Church which is now in progress of erection in this City, and am also building two other Gothic Stone Churches in this and the adjacent City of Brooklyn, and having de- signed an escutcheon for the pews I saw papier maché occurred to my mind as a suitable material from which an elegant, and yet not ex- pensive one might be formed.

Enclosed you will find a sketch, with a description of the colouring, painting and gilding re- quired, and you will confer a favour by informing me at your earliest con-



Furniture for what price such you can furnish, then according to pattern, packing, shipping, and all other expenses till on shipboard included.

The two last named Churches will require about \$50 to \$100 of these escutcheons, and there may be many uses, to which, as an Architect I may apply papier-mache', I would therefore be glad to be instructed, as to the mode of estimating the cost, whether by the pound or otherwise, so as to obviate the necessity of an application to you in each particular case, for information.

I have asked you to name the cost of the escutcheon finished, supposing the painting, numbering, &c might be done for less with you than here; but as painters may prefer to have the painting done here name also the cost of the paper alone.

Some few of your patterns are now  
in my possession, handed me by a  
friend to whom you gave them for the  
purpose of placing in the hands of some  
architect; but he had lost ~~most~~ of  
them before he met me, and you may  
therefore, if you please, send me a book  
of patterns, with prices attached.

I enclose an engraving of Trinity  
Church  
I am very respectfully  
Yours &c. St

Several letters from young aspiring architects during July and August 1841, which seem to be in answer to an advertisement by Upjohn for an assistant. The Church of the Ascension was completed in 1841, and so correspondence in the archive after that year was not examined.