Westminster City Archives



City of Westminster

Information Sheet 14

# **Poll Books and Electoral Registers**

Electoral registers and poll books comprise lists of people entitled to vote in a particular election. They were complied annually from 1832, after the Representation of the People Act, except for 1916-17 and 1940-44. Voting qualifications varied at different times. Before WWI, men had own property to qualify. In 1918 women over 30 were given the vote, and this was made equal to men at 21 in 1928, eventually being lowered to 18 in 1969.

In 1832 the parliamentary borough of St Marylebone was created, which included the parishes of Paddington, St Marylebone and, for a while, St Pancras. In 1983 the old Westminster, Paddington and Marylebone constituencies became two new constituencies of Westminster North, and the City of London & Westminster South, due to boundary changes

For fuller information, see *Poll Books c 1696 – 1862: A Directory to Holdings in Great Britain* and *Electoral Registers since 1832; and Burgess Rolls*, both by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers, and the *Handlist of British Parliamentary Poll Books* by John Sims (currently out of print).

## **Early Poll Books**

NB Poll books 1749, 1774-1820 are held at London Metropolitan Archives

| <b>Date</b><br>1727         | <b>Details</b><br>London & Middlesex electors listed in the<br>Bedfordshire Poll Book                                | Reference<br>Acc 145 | Location<br>archive store    |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1749                        | Poll book for Westminster Bye-election (printed copy and separate 2 volume index of names & trades)                  | 324.42               | open shelves                 |
| 1768                        | London Poll Book   | 324.42               | open shelves                 |
| 1774                        | Westminster Poll Book  | 324.42               | open shelves                 |
| 1784                        | Westminster Poll Book  |                      | m/f only                     |
| 1780                        | Westminster Poll Book  | 324.42               | archive store                |
| 1796                        | St Margaret & St John Poll books for<br>Westminster Parliamentary Election,<br>giving name, address and occupation   | E3081a               | (rare books)<br>m/f box 2249 |
| 1802                        | St Margaret & St John Poll books for<br>Westminster Parliamentary Election,<br>giving name, address and occupation   | E3081                | m/f box 2249                 |
| 1818, 1834, 1835, 1837 1841 | Westminster Poll Book  | 324.42               | open shelves                 |
|                             | City of Westminster Archives Centre<br>10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2DE<br>Tel: 020-7641 5180, fax: 020-7641 5179 |                      |                              |
|                             | E-mail: archives@westminster.gov.uk<br>Website: <u>www.westminster.gov.uk/archives</u>                               |                      | January 2010                 |

## **Electoral Registers**

NB Electoral registers 1873-1889 are held at London Metropolitan Archives.



Candidates in the Westminster election, 1784: Lord Hood, Charles James Fox and Sir Cecil Wray, who had defected to the Tories. Engraving by Thomas Rowlandson

#### **South Westminster**

| <b>Date</b><br>1835, 1857/58,<br>1858/59, 1859/60,<br>1862/63, 1865,<br>1865/66, 1883 | <b>Details</b><br>Westminster Register of Electors                       | <b>Reference</b> 324.42 | Location<br>open shelves          |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1874-76   | Register of Voters in the Parishes of St Margaret & St John, Westminster | E3351                   | m/f box 1507-8                    |
| 1888  | Register of Voters in the Parishes of St Margaret & St John, Westminster | E3351,<br>& 324.42      | m/f box 1507-8,<br>& open shelves |
| 1889  | Register of Voters in the Parishes of St Margaret & St John, Westminster | E3351                   | m/f box 1507-8                    |
| 1890-1905   | (no registers in the collection)   |                         |                                   |
| 1906/07   | St George district only  |                         | open shelves                      |
| 1907/08   | St George and Strand districts   |                         | open shelves                      |
| 1908/09, 1909/10,<br>1910/11, 1911/12,<br>1912/13, 1913/14,<br>1914/15                | St George, Strand and Westminster districts                              |                         | open shelves                      |

#### South Westminster (continued)

| <b>Date</b><br>1918, 1919 | <b>Details</b><br>Abbey and St George districts  | Reference                  | Location<br>open shelves  |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1920-1939                 | Autumn and spring editions, Abbey and St George districts  |                            | open shelves              |
| 1939                      | Westminster Abbey division, districts B, C,<br>D, E & F and districts G, H, J, K & L                                     |                            | open shelves              |
| 1939                      | St George division, with South Paddington  |                            | 35mm film                 |
| 1939-41                   | St George division, districts M-P & Q-S  |                            | open shelves              |
| 1945                      | Editions for March, May, August and October  |                            | open shelves              |
| 1946-1948                 |  |                            | open shelves              |
| 1949                      | Abbey division, with South Paddington for 1948/49  |                            | 35mm film                 |
| 1950-1983                 | With extra volumes for November 1949 and<br>November 1950, and volume for City of<br>London & South Westminster for 1979 |                            | open shelves              |
| 1984 →                    | As South Westminster   |                            | open shelves              |
| St Marylebone             |  |                            |                           |
| <b>Date</b><br>1844/45    | <b>Details</b><br>Includes list for Paddington and St Pancras  | <b>Reference</b><br>T/V/66 | Location<br>m/f & 1/192/2 |
| 1845/46                   | Includes list for Paddington and St Pancras  | T/V/68                     | m/f & 1/192/2             |
| 1846/47                   | Includes list for Paddington and St Pancras  | T/V/67                     | m/f & 1/192/3             |
| 1847/48                   | Includes list for Paddington and St Pancras  | T/V/69                     | m/f & 1/192/3             |
| 1850/51                   | Includes list for Paddington   | T/V/70                     | m/f & 1/192/3             |
| 1854/55                   | Includes list for Paddington and St Pancras  | 323.42                     | open shelves<br>& m/f     |
| 1856-1904                 | (no registers in the collection)   |                            | ox 111/1                  |

#### St Marylebone (continued)



John Aird, Conservative MP for North Paddington 1887-1905, addressing local people in the parliamentary election of 1900

| <b>Date</b><br>1905   | <b>Details</b><br>Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6  | <b>Reference</b><br>T/V/72 | <b>Location</b><br>1/218/2 |
|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1905  | Wards 2, 4, 7, 8 & 9   | T/V/73                     | 1/218/2                    |
| 1913/14   | Incomplete: Hamilton Terrace, Church<br>Street, Bryanston Square and Portman<br>wards only |                            | open shelves               |
| 1914  | Incomplete: wards 1, 3, 5 & 6 only   |                            | open shelves               |
| 1918  |  |                            | open shelves               |
| 1918/19   | Autumn and spring editions   |                            | open shelves               |
| 1920-1926   | Autumn and spring editions   |                            | open shelves               |
| 1927  | Autumn edition   |                            | open shelves               |
| 1928/29-1935/36   |  |                            | open shelves               |
| 1936  |  | T/V/75                     | 1/105/3                    |
| 1936/37   |  |                            | open shelves               |
| 1937  | Incomplete: wards A & J missing  | T/V/76                     | 1/105/3                    |
| 1937/38   |  |                            | open shelves               |
| 1938  | Includes absent voters list for Hamilton<br>Terrace  |                            | open shelves               |
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## St Marylebone (continued)

| <b>Date</b><br>1938/39, 1939/41, | Details                                      | Reference | Location<br>open shelves |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1945-1957<br>1939                | Includes North Paddington                    |           | 35mm film                |
| 1958                             |  |           | m/f only                 |
| 1959-1965/66                     |  |           | open shelves             |
| 1966-1983                        | (with Westminster volumes)                   |           | open shelves             |
| 1984 →                           | Becomes North Westminster                    |           | open shelves             |
|                                  | Paddington                                   |           |                          |
| Date                             | Details                                      | Reference | Location                 |
| 1832                             | Poll Book for Paddington                     | T/V/65    | 1/192/2                  |
| 1844/45                          | Included in St Marylebone list               | T/V/66    | m/f & 1/192/2            |
| 1845/46                          | Included in St Marylebone list               | T/V/68    | m/f & 1/192/2            |
| 1846/47                          | Included in St Marylebone list               | T/V/67    | m/f & 1/192/3            |
| 1847/48                          | Included in St Marylebone list               | T/V/69    | m/f & 1/192/3            |
| 1850/51                          | Included in St Marylebone list               | T/V/70    | m/f & 1/192/3            |
| 1854/55                          | Included in St Marylebone list               | 323.42    | open shelves<br>& m/f    |
| 1867                             | Wards 1-4                                    |           | open shelves             |
| 1867/68                          |  |           | open shelves             |
| 1869-1901                        | (no registers in the collection)             |           |                          |
| 1902-1915                        | Plus additional volume for 1906              |           | open shelves             |
| 1918                             | Queen's Park only (unbound, card jacket)     |           | open shelves             |
| 1919                             | North & South Paddington                     |           | open shelves             |
| 1919                             | North & South Paddington absent voters lists | T/V/74    | m/f & 1/93/5             |

## Paddington (continued)

| <b>Date</b><br>1920-1926 | <b>Details</b><br>North & South Paddington, Autumn and<br>Spring editions      | Reference | Location<br>open shelves |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1927-1940                | North & South Paddington, plus an additional volume for 1933/34                |           | open shelves             |
| 1939                     | North Paddington, with St Marylebone   |           | 35mm film                |
| 1939                     | South Paddington, with St George division                                      |           | 35mm film                |
| 1945-1947                | South Paddington   |           | 35mm film                |
| 1945-1948                | North Paddington   |           | 35mm film                |
| 1948/49                  | South Paddington, with Abbey division for 1949                                 |           | 35mm film                |
| 1949-1969                | North Paddington   |           | 35mm film                |
| 1950-1969                | South Paddington   |           | 35mm film                |
| 1947-1967                | North & South Paddington, plus and additional volume for 1957 South Paddington |           | open shelves             |
| 1968-1971                | North & South Paddington<br>(with Westminster volumes)                         |           | open shelves             |
| 1972-1983                | (with Westminster volumes)   |           | open shelves             |
| 1984 →                   | Becomes North Westminster  |           | open shelves             |

#### **St Pancras**

| <b>Date</b><br>1844/45 | <b>Details</b><br>Included in St Marylebone list | <b>Reference</b><br>T/V/66 | Location<br>m/f & 1/192/2 |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1845/46                | Included in St Marylebone list                   | T/V/68                     | m/f & 1/192/2             |
| 1846/47                | Included in St Marylebone list                   | T/V/67                     | m/f & 1/192/3             |
| 1850/51                |  | T/V/71                     | m/f & 1/192/3             |
| 1854/55                | Included in St Marylebone list                   | 323.42                     | open shelves<br>& m/f     |

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