

16324

Presented by  
 Lt. E. Sherb  
 Queen Mary  
 when Peers  
 of Hales.  
 See the letter  
 of May 17 1909  
 in "Covering  
 letters given  
 material sent  
 to the Archives"



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## REPRESENTATION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS, AS PREPARED FOR THE TRIAL OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN CAROLINE.

### TABLE OF EXPLANATION.

1.—The Throne, which was erected at the commencement of the reign of the present King. It far surpasses, in point of splendour, that of his late Majesty. The pillars which support the canopy are fluted and richly gilt. The crown and cornices of the canopy are likewise brilliant, with burnished gold. The hangings are of crimson velvet, looped up with golden ropes, and trimmed with costly gold lace. In the back are the royal arms, embroidered on crimson velvet, and above them the letters G. IV. The chair on which the King sits when he meets his Parliament, is correspondent in richness with the general decorations of the Throne. It is elevated upon a platform, approached by four low steps, which are covered with Turkey carpeting. The chair, except when the King is present, or when the Royal assent is given by commission to Bills passed by the Houses of Lords and Commons, is invariably covered with a scarlet cloth case, which preserves it from dust or other injury. As a further means of preservation, a brass trellice stretches in front of it, from pillar to pillar, which, upon the occasions to which we have alluded, is removed. Beyond the platform, and extending from the extremity of the steps on each side is a brass railing which separates this space from the rest of the house. It is within this railing, and immediately in front of the throne that the Members of the House of Commons have the privilege of standing during the proceedings of the Peers. During the trial of the Queen this privilege was exercised to a great extent, and the space was every day crowded with members. Among whom were those distinguished for taking a prominent part in all great public questions. Formerly there were three chairs on the left, and one on the right of the Throne, designed for the use of the King's eldest sons, but these were removed with the old Throne itself.

2.—The temporary galleries, erected by the direction of the house, to afford accommodation to the additional number of Peers who were summoned to attend. These galleries, which obscure the greater part of the ancient tapestry by which the walls of the house are covered, extend nearly the whole length of that part of the house which, on ordinary occasions, is reserved for the reception of the Peers; namely, from the foot of the Throne to the Bar: they are composed of a strong frame-work of timber, supported by iron pillars. The pillars which stand in pairs are gilt from their summits to their bases, as are the iron railings in front of the galleries. To these galleries there are stairs for ascent at each end; they contain three seats, gradually rising one above the other towards the wall. These seats, as well as all other seats in the house, not otherwise specified, are covered with superfine scarlet cloth. As a protection to the tapestry, a screen, also covered with scarlet cloth, is erected at the back. This is about eight feet in height, and may be distinctly seen in the plan.

3.—The Chair, in which her Majesty sat on the first day of her appearance in the House of Lords: it was placed on the floor to the right of the Throne, but within the brass railing which we have described. There was a second chair close at hand, for the reception of Lady Hamilton, who was constantly attendant upon her royal mistress. These chairs were of modern fashion, with scarlet seats and backs; the frame-work was gilt. There was also a footstool, covered with scarlet cloth. Her Majesty took her seat with great dignity, and the Peers all stood up on her entrance. She was attended into the house by Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, usher of the black rod, who carried his staff of office in his hand, and led her Majesty to her seat in the most respectful manner. Alderman Wood followed her Majesty: he was dressed in a full suit of court mourning, and stood in front of the throne with his brother members of parliament; he afterwards accompanied her Majesty from the house to her carriage, as did Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt.

4.—The Lord Chancellor, who, during the proceedings sat at the table of the house upon a stool covered with crimson velvet, instead of his usual seat, the woolsack. This he did for the convenience of taking his own notes, and writing such resolutions as it became his duty to submit to the house.

5.—The Woolsack, and two other seats of the like description, which are somewhat similar in shape to woolsacks. They are stuffed with wool, and tied in mobs at each corner. Their covering is scarlet cloth; and during the trial they afforded accommodation to the judges. The Chief Justice of the King's Bench sat on the right of the Lord Chancellor, and the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas on his left. The remaining seven judges sat behind.

6.—The Table of the House, at which the Lord Chancellor sat, covered with leather.

7.—Clerks of the House, who wear a costume similar to a barrister: Wm. Stewart Rose, Esq. and Benj. Currey, Esq.

8.—A Box, containing the papers to which reference was made during the trial, and other documents of a public nature.

9.—Benches, for the reception of the Peers. There are three rows on each side of the house, and four rows running across, in front of the table. They are constructed with convenient backs, are stuffed with horse hair, and covered with scarlet cloth. The covering of the backs is gathered in fluted folds.

10.—Entrance to the Stairs, leading to the galleries.

11.—The Bar. This extends from one side of the house to the other; it opens in two places by means of a falling ledge, to permit the passing and re-passing of the Peers, none other being allowed within it excepting only the officers of the house. It is at this bar that the counsel engaged in the judicial proceedings of the house always attend. Here too the Speaker and Members of the House of Commons appear when summoned to the presence of the King, either at the opening or close of a Session of Parliament. It is at this bar likewise that the Messengers from the House of Commons deliver to the Lord Chancellor or such bills as are sent from that house to obtain the concurrence of the Peers, or require information, or demand conference. Members coming on these public occasions enter by a pair of folding doors which our plan does not embrace, but which is in a direct line fronting the Throne. Their approach is invariably announced by the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, (Robt. Quarme, Esq.) who is attended by some of the principal door-keepers. Below this bar also it is that strangers are permitted to stand during the proceedings of the house.

12.—The space allotted without the bar to the Counsel and Agents of the Bill of Pains and Penalties, and the Counsel and Agents of the Queen. This is enclosed by a strong wooden railing, covered with scarlet cloth. It is entered by a small hatch next the side door, and by three larger hatches next the folding-doors, which we have already described as devoted to the admission of the members of the House of Commons on public occasions. It was through those doors that the counsel entered, when ordered to be "called in" by the house, either at the first sitting of the house in the morning, after divisions, or when they had actually withdrawn from the house; for it sometimes happened that when counsel were ordered to withdraw, they only stood down from the step, which is placed near the bar, and remained in the house during the discussions. There were chairs within this space, for the occasional accommodation of the counsel and agents.

13.—The King's Attorney-General, Sir Robt. Giffard, Knt.

14.—The King's Solicitor-General, Sir J. S. Copley, Knt.

15.—The Queen's Attorney-General, Mr. Brougham.

16.—The Queen's Solicitor-General, Mr. Denman.

17.—Mr. Gurney, the short-hand writer.

18.—The witness.

19.—The Interpreter. There was a second Interpreter, who attended on the part of the Queen, and who generally stood close to the interpreter of the house. In the background, behind the figures standing at the bar were distributed the remainder of the counsel and agents.

20.—The space allotted to the gentlemen connected with the Public Press, who were in attendance every day to take notes.

21.—The spaces allotted to the accommodation of the public, who were admitted by Peers' orders.

22.—The side folding door, at which the Queen entered on those days of the trial when it was her pleasure to attend the house. At the top is a massive bronze cornice, bearing a luxuriant festoon and thick drapery of scarlet cloth. It is through this door, too, that strangers invariably enter; it is under the constant charge of a door-keeper. Peers also occasionally pass by this avenue. There are similar folding doors to the right and left of the Throne. These lead from the robing room, in which his Majesty, when he attends the house, attires himself in his robes of state. That on the right is used only by the King when he robes his parliament; that on the left by the Lord Chancellor. There is also a side door at this end of the house for the admission of Peers and the Members of the House of Commons.

23.—The Queen, in the place in which she sat on those days when she

was present at the trial. The chair she sat on was richly gilt, and covered with scarlet cloth: she sat with her side to the bar, and her face towards the witness: she occasionally took notes: her foot rested on a scarlet footstool. At the adjournment of the House, every day, a great number of Ladies and Gentlemen were admitted to see the manner in which it was prepared. On those occasions every Lady seemed to think it a necessary form to take her seat in the Queen's chair—an honour which was no doubt a source of subsequent pride.

24.—Lady Hamilton, on a bench by the side of the Queen. Her Majesty's chamberlains, Sir Wm. Gell, and the Hon. K. Craven, for some time stood without the bar near to her person, till excluded in consequence of an order which was made that none of the witnesses should be present during the trial, except those under examination. On her Majesty entering or quitting the House, the Peers invariably rose.

25.—The box of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, the Usher of the Black Rod, occasionally occupied by members of the House of Commons during the trial. The scarlet curtain which hangs in front of the box to preserve it from the draught of the door, is sometimes used to screen the female friends of the Peers from observation while attending to the proceedings of the house. They are seated on stools, not more than two or three at a time, and wrap themselves in the drapery. During the trial of the Queen, no ladies were present, except to take a casual view of the house at the moment of its adjournment.

26.—The ventilators in the ceiling. The other six marks in the ceiling shew the situation of six beautiful brass chandeliers, by which the house, when sitting late, is lighted.

27.—This figure is placed in the spot from which Lord Liverpool usually addresses the house; it also conveys a knowledge of the Ministerial side of the house.

28.—The ancient tapestry with which the walls are covered, representing the British fleets in various situations. The portraits of British admirals surround the panels.

29.—The place occupied by Lord Erskine.

30 and 31.—Represent Earl Grey and Lord Holland, and also indicates the Opposition side of the house.

32.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. His Royal Highness the Duke of York sat on the opposite bench. He took close notes of the evidence, and paid an undivided attention to the whole proceedings.

33.—Represents the Duke of Wellington, who generally sits near to Lord Liverpool, and the other ministers for the crown.

34.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence sat in this spot every day during the trial.

35.—Lord Kingston sat at this corner of the bench, close to the Queen.

36.—Under the galleries are semicircular openings for the purpose of giving light to the stairs. In the opening here represented, Lord Castle-rough appeared almost every day during the trial, intently alive to the whole of the proceedings. The other figures are merely meant to represent the situation of the peers generally.

H. Cowper, Esq. Clerk Assistant of the House, had a seat and desk close to the bar in front of the King's Attorney and Solicitor-General. It was the duty of this gentleman to take notes himself for the purpose of checking the notes of the short-hand writer. The minutes thus checked were afterwards printed and distributed to the peers every day. The rapidity with which they were thus accurately transcribed and printed excited the surprise of the peers.

Several assistant door-keepers were employed on this occasion, all of whom wore the badge of their office. The King's arms, cast in brass and gilt, suspended from their necks by gilt chains. These officers were all full dressed in black, wearing silk stockings, and silver latches in their shoes. In addition to the door keepers, the King's marshals, in scarlet liveries, with their staves, attended in the passages, and at the outer doors to preserve order.

Two rooms were assigned for the use of her Majesty's Counsel and Agents. These were close to the door at which we have described strangers to have been admitted. One of these was appropriated to the Queen's use, and here she had several conferences with her counsel.

The witnesses when ushered to the bar were attended by Mr. Quarme, the deputy usher of the Black Rod. They were sworn by Mr. Cowper, the clerk of Parliament. The house generally met at ten in the morning and adjourned at five.

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Represent<sup>n</sup> of  
Interior of House of  
Lords, as prepared  
for Trial of Queen  
Caroline - Aug - Nov. 1820



INTERIOR OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The engraving depicts the interior of the House of Lords, a grand hall with a high, vaulted ceiling supported by a network of wooden beams. In the center, a throne is elevated on a platform. To the right, a witness box and a witness stand are visible. The hall is filled with rows of benches for the lords. The scene is set for a trial, with a witness box and a witness stand visible on the right side of the hall.