Sample book - A Record of the Great International Exhibition held in London in the Year 1862... United Kingdom, Class 20, Silk and Velvet, collected and arranged by Joseph Barlow Robinson, Sculptor, Derby

Object: Sample book
Place of origin: Derby (made)
Date: 1862 (made)
Artist/Maker: Robinson, Joseph Barlow, born 1820 - died 18 (designer and maker) 
S. Courtauld & Co (manufacturer)
Materials and Techniques: Woven and printed silk samples
Credit Line: Given in memory of Joseph Barlow Robinson Eaton and his wife Ellen by their six grandsons
Museum number: T.258-2009
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
Joseph Barlow Robinson was a prolific sculptor, designer and author. After the 1862 International Exhibition he collated this commemorative volume consisting of 40 pages of textile specimens, including a piece of Courtaulds mourning crêpe, ribbons, dress silks and heavy furnishing silks.

The silks in this book show the most fashionable dress and ribbon silk designs, as chosen for the 1862 exhibition. As a whole, the volume provides us with an invaluable record of the quality of design of British silks made by Britain's best silk manufacturers. It demonstrates the work of the silk weavers who successfully competed against the very high quality and fashionable silks produced in France, and gives precise datable evidence of the impact of design education, and new technology, as seen in the numbers of silk samples dyed with artificial, aniline dyes. The samples representing the London firm of Keith & Co show a range of boldly coloured furnishing silks, which are useful to compare to the smaller scale dress silks and ribbons. While some silk manufacturers are still based in London, for instance, Kemp, Stone & Co, of Spitalfields, and D. Walters & Sons, the book is dominated by samples of broad and decorative ribbons, which had become a specialism of the Coventry manufacturers including Cash & Co. Other silk manufacturers represented in the book are based in Manchester and the surrounding area, which had taken over from London as the centre of the British textile industry.

Descriptive line
Large bound volume of silk samples entitled 'A Record of the Great International Exhibition held in London in the Year 1862... United Kingdom, Class 20, Silk and Velvet, collected and arranged by Joseph Barlow Robinson, Sculptor, Derby'

Physical description
Leather bound volume containing silk samples, mounted in 40 plate-printed pages with window mats.

Dimensions
Width: 42 cm cover, Length: 65 cm spine, Thickness: 7 cm spine, Weight: 8.7 kg, Width: 37.5 cm individual page, Length: 53 cm individual page, Width: 22.8 cm mourning crêpe showing through window, Length: 36.3 cm mourning crêpe showing through window

Museum number
T.258-2009

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1151432/a-record-of-the-great-sample-book-robinson-joseph-barlow/