

Paul Middleton

**The Art of
John
Seymour
Lindsay**

**THE BUILDING
SKETCHES**

The Art of John Seymour Lindsay

The Building Sketches

Published by Paul Middleton
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Facts about this book

This copy of The Building Sketches contains 76 images of Buildings.

FOREWORD

JOHN SEYMOUR LINDSAY was a man of many parts, all of them fascinating, many of them important, some of them heroic.

His life has only just emerged in detail as the Lindsay family archive has lain dormant since his death in 1966. Only in the last few years has it been possible to examine his heritage in detail and the documents and artwork that emerged has painted a picture of a quite extraordinary man, with quite extraordinary talents.

There are a number of factors that make JSL (as we shall now call him) so special even in the context of the Great War. His age, his talent and his humility. He was born on 16 May 1882 in London. His talent was for drawing and painting. He was educated at home by his Aunt Esther after the early death of his mother and the estrangement of his father who owned an ironworks in Paddington. In 1899 he was apprenticed to a design studio in Adelphi, London. It was here that his talents developed. In the early 1900s he produced a series of cartoons in ink and watercolour on postcards which he sent to his family and to his girlfriend whom he married in 1915. They are full of humour and wit.

But JSL had such a prodigious output in so many areas of art, both before, during and after the Great War. This third book, of building sketches between 1905 and 1910, is followed by his wartime art between 1914 and 1919, his mastery of the pencil illustration between 1920 and 1966, his watercolours, his cartoons, his designs for Westminster Abbey and other London buildings and his amazing model making. As you will see, he was a true polymath.

His entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* can be found at the end of this book.

Paul Middleton 2013

Introduction

John Seymour Lindsay (JSL) was above all a master of the pencil. In this book we discover that between 1906, when he was aged 24, and 1910, he spent much of his spare time travelling around southern England with his sketchbook and selection of pencils. He was obsessed with the architecture of buildings particularly country houses. He was a draughtsman with an uncanny eye for perspective; he had a great eye for detail; his composition skills were complete; his understanding of shade, light and dark; and his mastery of the simple pencil were second to none. The sketches were originally only for private consumption - they were to help develop his draughting skills. After the Great War, this early practice work came to fruition with the publication of his first book and his design commissions during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, which showed off the full range of his skill with the pencil (see Biography page 54).

Finally a word about the quality of the artwork. Since JSL's death in 1966, all his artwork was stored, and not in particularly ideal conditions. When the originals eventually saw the light of day, they were faded and had acquired some foxing. They were all processed through a digital editing process in an attempt to rescue them before they passed into oblivion. I am so glad that I am now able to share them with you.

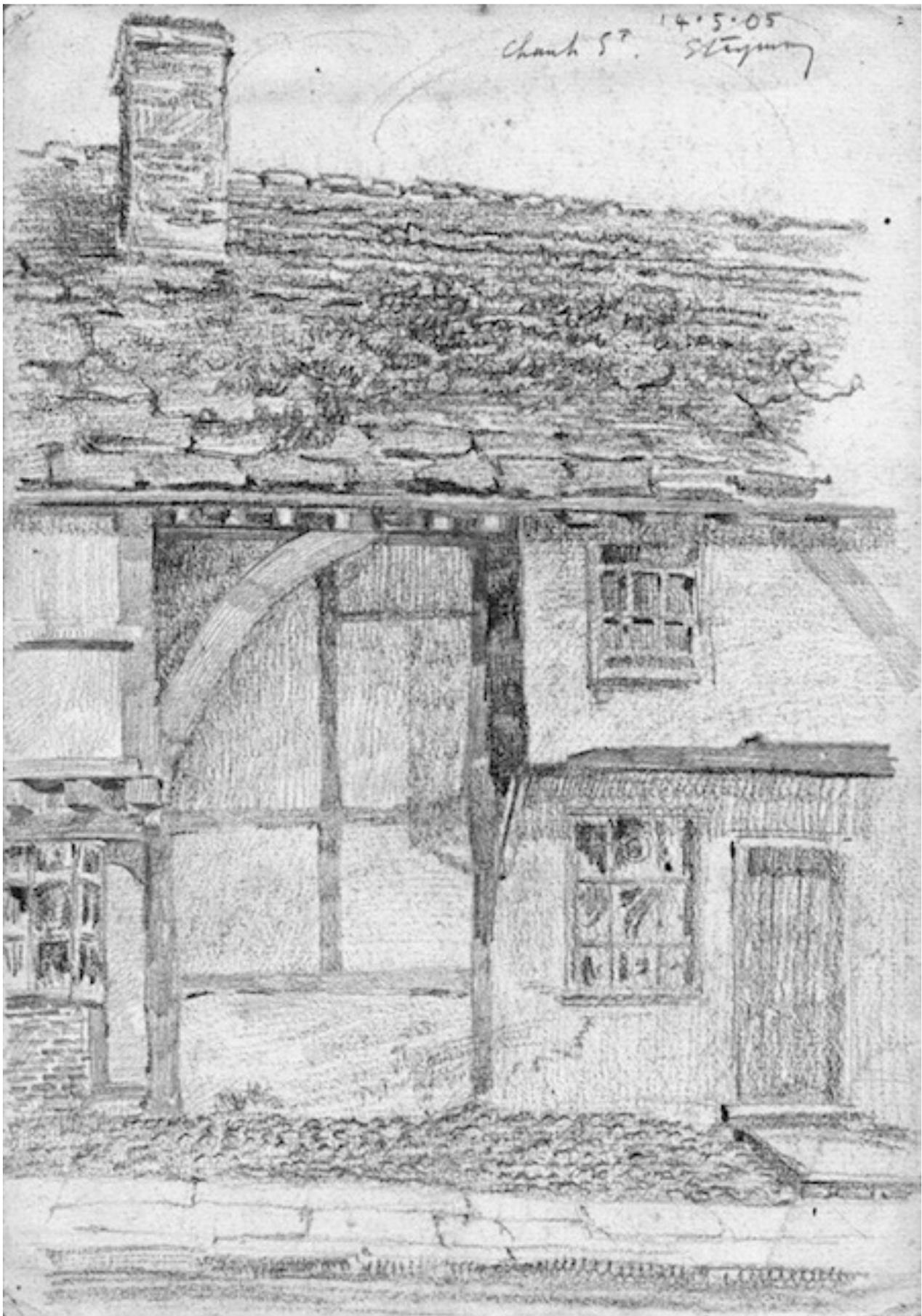
Chapter 1

1905/6 Pencil sketching in West and East Sussex

Between 14 and 17 May 1905 JSL visited Steyning and Ditchling and drew at least seven sketches of old and revered buildings.



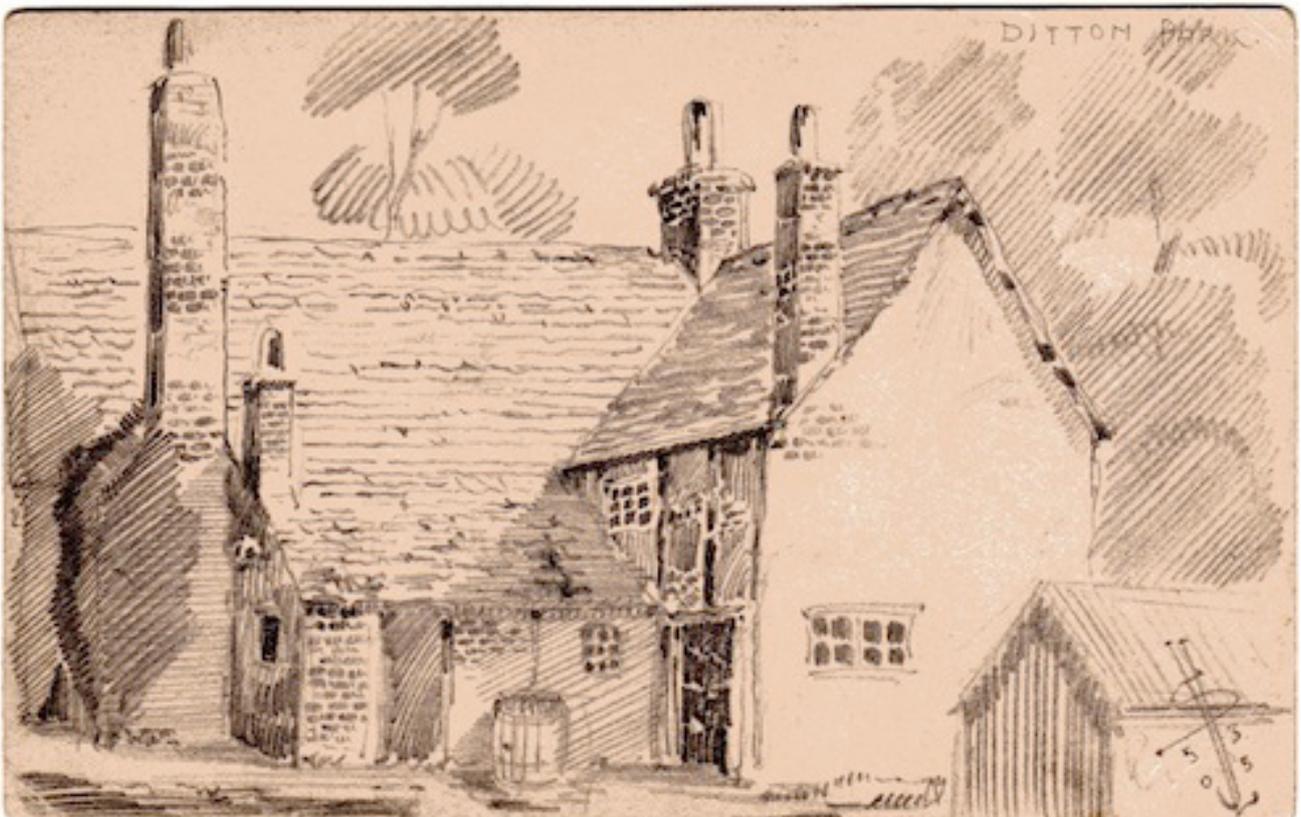
1905 Unknown location.



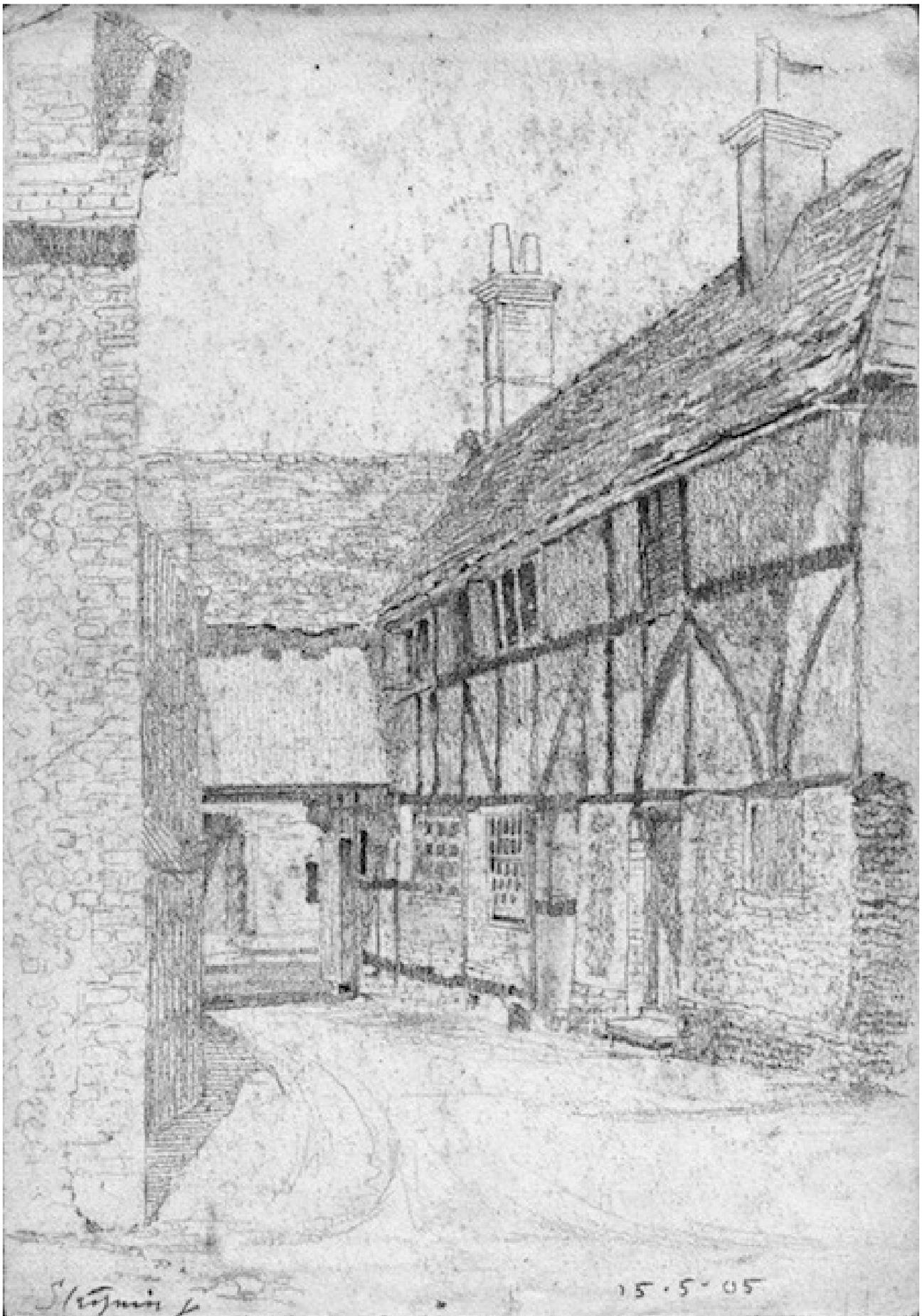
14 May 1905 Church Street, Steyning, West Sussex.



15 May 1905 High Street, Steyning, West Sussex.



5 March 1905 Ditton park, Bucks. On the reverse: 'I shall be up this evening. Thanks for yours'.



15 May 1905 Steyning, West Sussex.



15 May 1905 Old Work House, Steyning, West Sussex.



17 May 1905 Ditchling, East Sussex.



17 May 1905 Ditchling, East Sussex.