



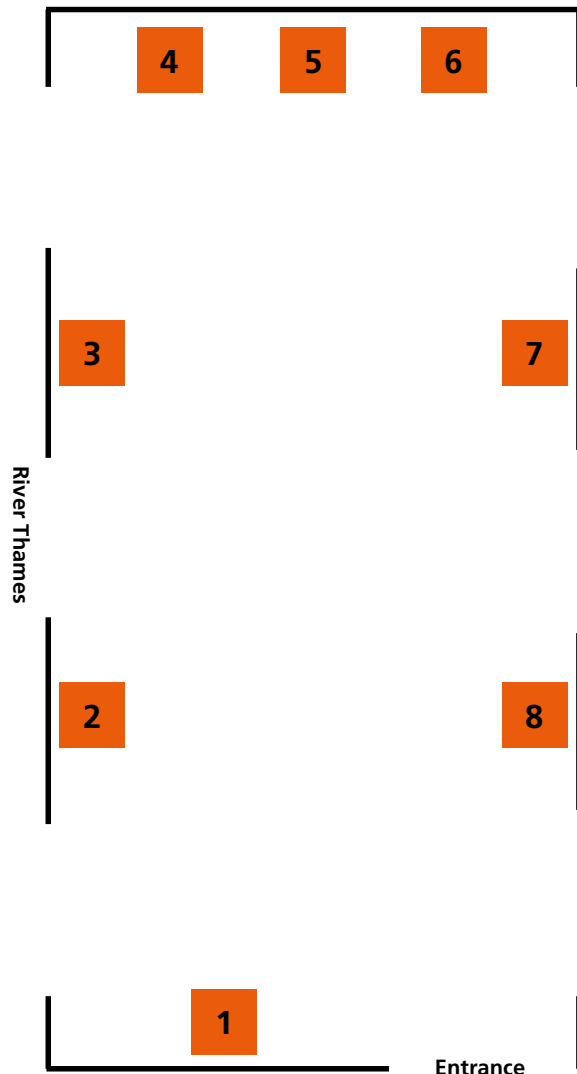
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Works of Art in the Churchill Dining Room



Churchill Dining Room

The Churchill Dining Room, originally the Terrace Dining Room or Harcourt Room, was made from three housekeepers' rooms and part of the Peers' Lower Library Corridor. The Harcourt Room was named after William Vernon Harcourt (1827-1904), the Liberal Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the room was opened in March 1907. The room was known simply as the Harcourt Room from the Second World War onwards until 1991 when it was changed from Lords to Commons and the room was renamed the Churchill Room in honour of Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965). Several paintings by Churchill are accompanied by a bust and a view of his lying-in-state in Westminster Hall.



Debate on the Address, 1960

Oil painting by Alfred Reginald Thomson, c.1960
WOA L182 (Loaned by the Trustees of Macmillan
Grandchildren's No 3 Fund)

The Churchill Arch

Oil painting by Frank Ernest Beresford, 1951
WOA 6587

Lying-in-State of Sir Winston Churchill

Oil painting by Terence Tenison Cuneo, 1965
WOA 7171

Venice in about 1951

Oil painting by Sir Winston Leonard Spencer
Churchill, c.1951
WOA 1600

The Ruined Council Chamber, House of Commons, May 1941

Oil painting by John Piper, 1941
WOA 496

Coast Scene near Cannes, 1935

Oil painting by Sir Winston Churchill, 1935
WOA L365 (Loaned by The Lady Soames)

House of Commons, 1940

Oil painting by John Worsley, 1947
WOA 2936

Sir Winston Churchill

Bronze portrait bust by Oscar Nemon
WOA S233

1. Debate on the Address, 1960

Oil painting by Alfred Reginald Thomson c.1960
WOA L182 (Loaned by the Trustees of Macmillan Grandchildren's No 3 Fund)

The State Opening of Parliament marks the formal start of the parliamentary year and the Queen's Speech sets out the government's agenda for the coming session, outlining proposed policies and legislation. It is the only regular occasion when the three constituent parts of Parliament – the Sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons – meet. This painting shows the House of Commons on 1 November 1960, debating the Queen's Speech which took place in the Lords earlier that day. The Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, can be seen speaking at the despatch box. The painter, Alfred Reginald Thomson was the official war artist to the Royal Air Force in 1940. In the 1948 London Olympic Games, he became the last person to win a gold medal for painting.

2. The Churchill Arch, 1951

Oil painting by Frank Ernest Beresford WOA 6587

On the night of the 10 May 1941, the House of Commons chamber suffered a direct bomb hit from enemy aircraft in the Second World War. The arch leading into the chamber itself is now known as the 'Churchill arch'. It was Winston Churchill who suggested that the arch be rebuilt from the original bomb-scarred stone as a monument to the ordeal of war, and as a reminder to future generations of the fortitude of those who stood firm through those times. The archway is now flanked by statues of David Lloyd George and of Churchill himself, the Prime Ministers of Britain during the First and Second World Wars respectively. (front cover)

3. Lying-in-State of Sir Winston Churchill Oil painting by Terence Tenison Cuneo, 1965 WOA 7171

Sir Winston Churchill died in his London home at Hyde Park Gate at the age of 90 on 24 January 1965. He lay in state in Westminster Hall, an honour not accorded to any British statesman since Gladstone in 1898. Churchill's body remained there for three days, before his funeral at St Paul's Cathedral. In 2010, the painting was presented by Gavin Graham to the House of Lords in recognition of the lifetime service to Parliament of Clerk of the Parliaments, Michael Pownall. The artist, Terence Tenison Cuneo (1907-1996), is well known for his paintings of railways and military scenes. He worked for the War Artists' Advisory Committee in the Second World War and was the official artist for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.



4. Venice in about 1951

Oil painting by Sir Winston Churchill, c.1951 WOA 1600

This painting by Churchill depicts a view of Venice in about 1951, looking down the Grand Canal with the Rialto Bridge in the distance (see also number 6)



5. The Ruined Council Chamber, House of Commons, May 1941

Oil painting by John Piper, 1941

WOA 496

This painting shows the House of Commons chamber after the bombing in May 1941. While the new Commons chamber was being built, the Lords let the Commons use their chamber for the rest of the war years. The bombed Commons chamber would have been much more decorative than the one you see today, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott. The artist of this oil painting, John Piper (1903-1992), was sent by the War Artists' Advisory Committee as an official war artist to paint historic buildings destroyed by German bombing.



6. Coast Scene near Cannes, 1935

Oil painting by Sir Winston Churchill, 1935

WOA L365 (Loaned by The Lady Soames)

Although he is best known as Britain's Prime Minister during the Second World War, Churchill was also a keen painter and produced many works of art during his lifetime. Churchill discovered his passion for painting at the age of 40 and produced more than 500 pictures over the next 48 years. He rarely travelled without his brushes and oil paints and found it to be a respite from politics.

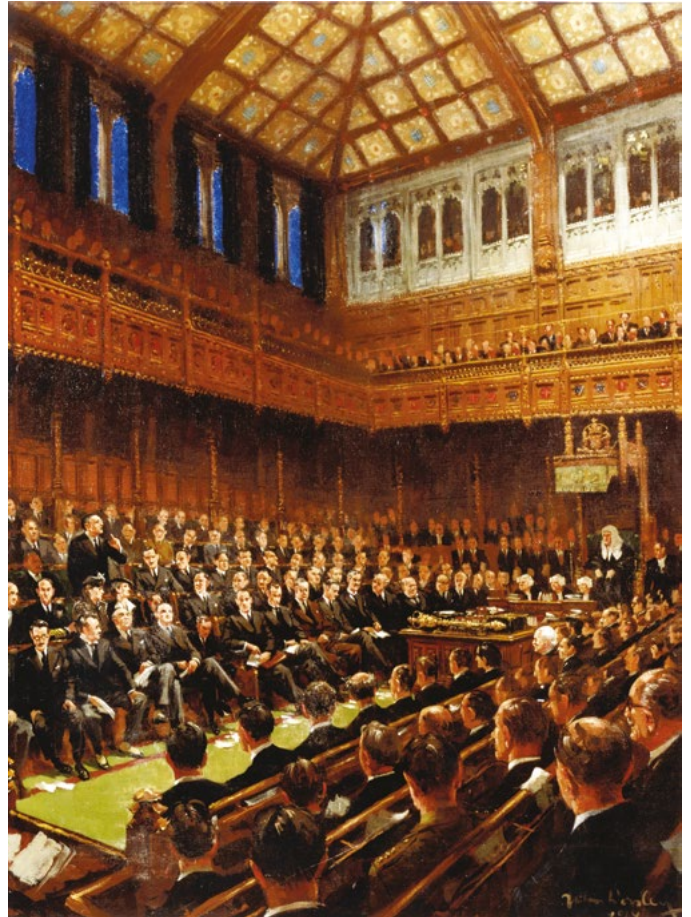
(see also number 4).

7. *House of Commons, 1940*

Oil painting by John Worsley, 1947

WOA 2936

This oil painting shows the original House of Commons chamber before it was bombed in 1941 (see number 5). The scene is set in 1940, with Members of the House of Commons in session. The scene is painted from the point of view of the opposition benches and looks towards the Speaker's Chair. The artist, John Worsley, was the youngest member of Sir Kenneth Clark's team of official war artists during the Second World War, and the only one to be captured by the enemy. He made the dummy prisoner 'Albert RN', allowing him to escape from the German camp.



8. *Sir Winston Churchill*

Bronze portrait bust by Oscar Nemon

WOA S233

Having been fascinated by Churchill for a number of years, the sculptor Oscar Nemon met him at La Mamounia hotel in 1951. Churchill soon developed a rapport with Nemon and the sculptor made the initial terracotta head of him from sketches and impressions garnered in the hotel dining room. Churchill's wife, Clementine, approved of Nemon's work. This, together with a recommendation from Sir Karl Parker, Keeper of the Ashmolean, led to the commission in 1952 to create a marble bust of Churchill for the Queen at Windsor, which this bronze is related to. Nemon set to work on three busts of Churchill, visiting him for sittings at No. 10 and Chequers.

There was outrage that this commission had not been awarded to a more established sculptor. According to a press report from 1954, the most successful sitting was when Churchill quietly went on with his own painting while Mr Nemon made his sketches. Another notable work by Nemon in the Parliamentary Art Collection is the full-length statue of Churchill outside the Commons chamber. (front page)



The Parliamentary Art Collection is the national collection of art relating to the history of Parliament. The Collection contains images of important Parliamentary events past and present, images of people who have played an important role in making Parliament what it is today, and images which record the development over the centuries of the Palace of Westminster and the other buildings of the Parliamentary Estate. The earliest pieces date from the medieval age, with major holdings dating back to the 18th century, together with significant contemporary holdings.