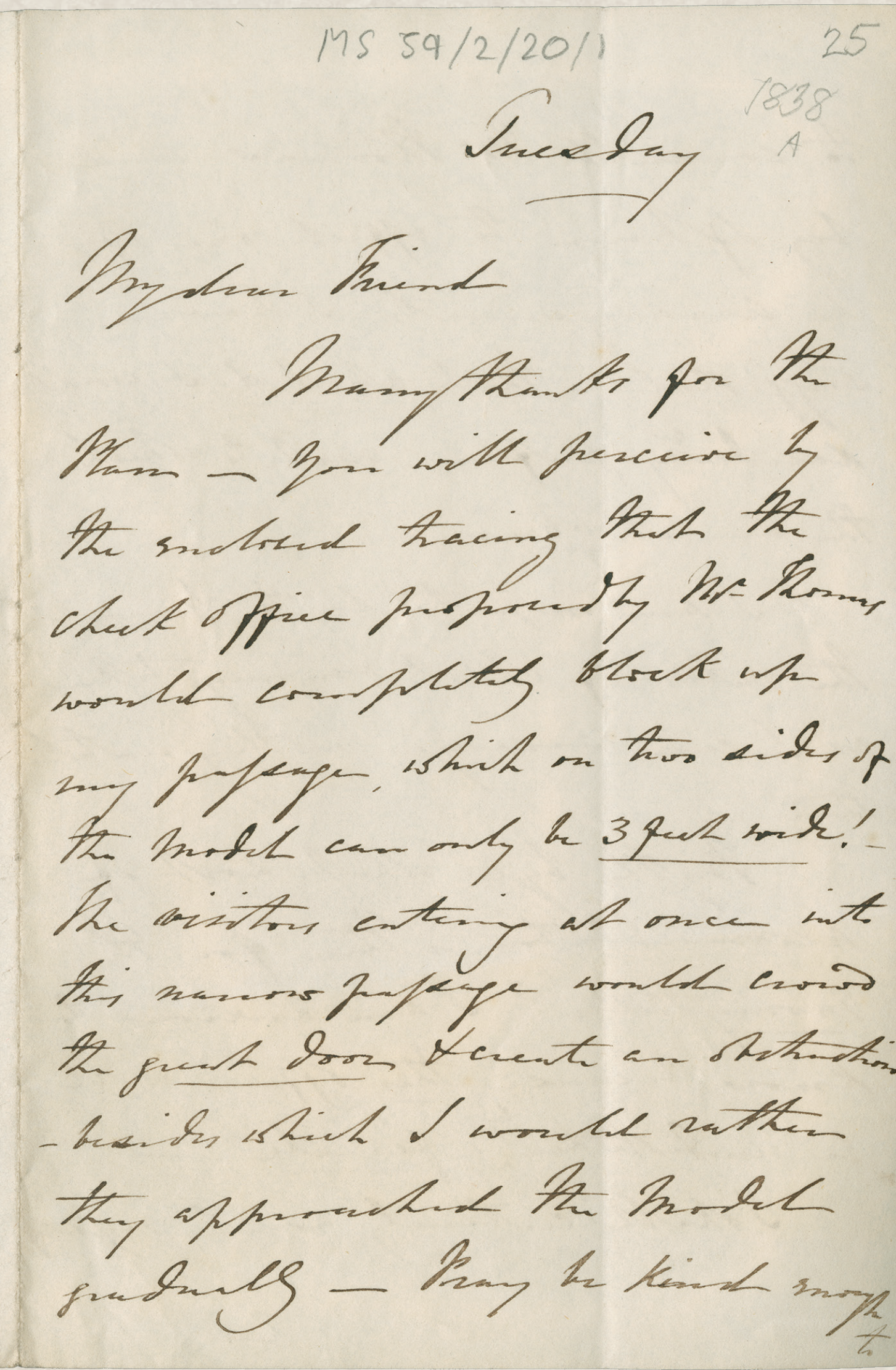


Prospectus for the Waterloo Models Company, c.1845. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/49/2



Letter from Captain William Siborne to Sir John Philippart, c.1838. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/20/1

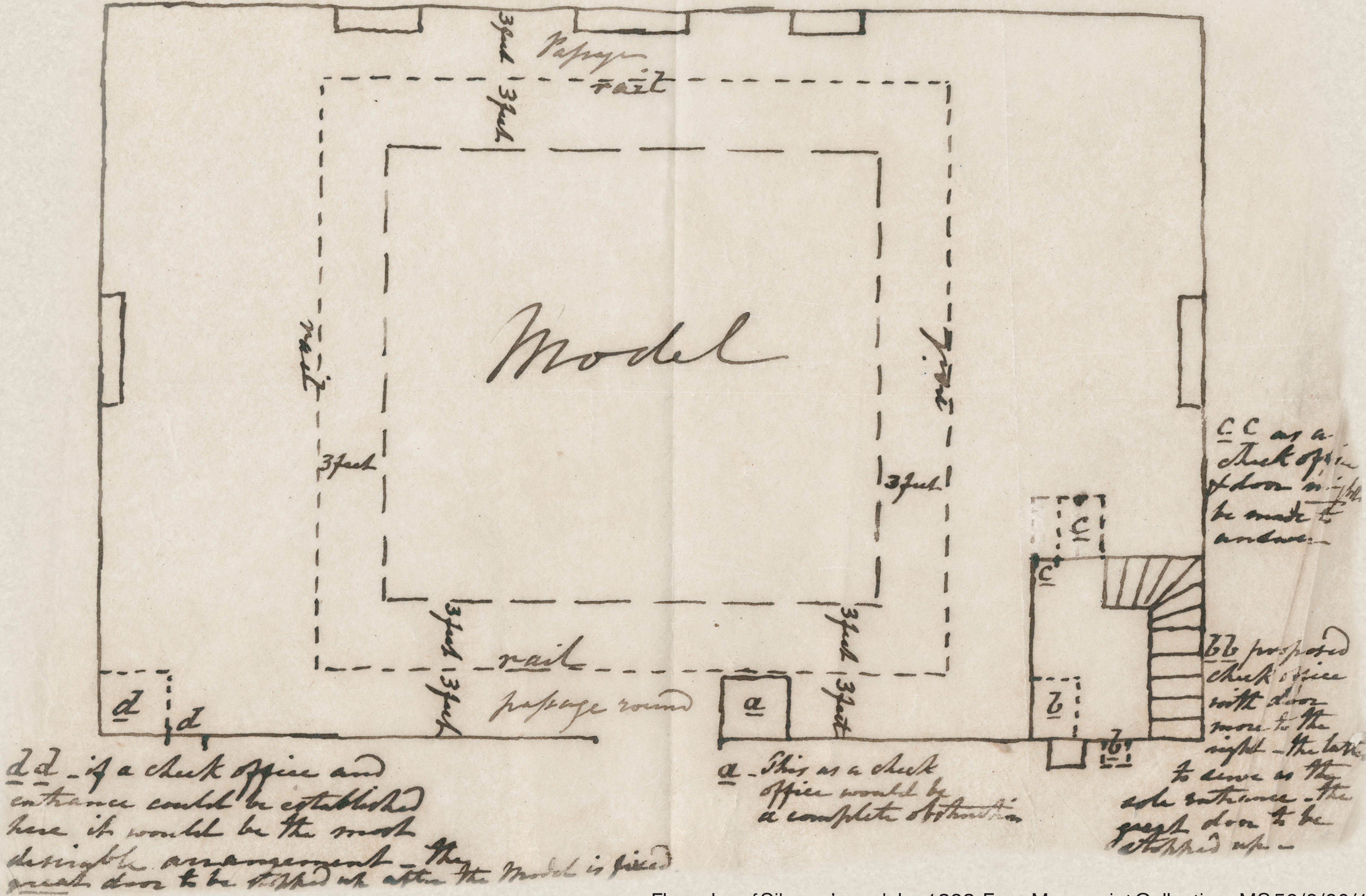
WATERLOO: A MODEL VICTORY

Waterloo became a renewed site of conflict during the 1830s and 1840s, but this time it was on a miniature scale.

In 1830 Lieutenant William Siborne began work on a 'Large Model' of the battlefield. By the time that it was exhibited in 1838, it was 420ft² and contained 75,000 tin-lead soldiers. Siborne issued precise instructions for the model's display at the Egyptian Hall in London. The model represented the closing stages of the battle but the prominence given to the Prussians raised objections. When the model was re-exhibited in 1845, the number of Prussian soldiers had been reduced considerably.

Siborne started work on a 'New Model' in 1840, which he exhibited four years later. This was much smaller (approximately 18ft by 7ft) and more focused than the Large Model. The New Model represented the charge by the British heavy cavalry under Anglesey and the British infantry under Picton during the early afternoon of 18 June 1815.

Plans to sell the models through a Waterloo Models Company attracted some high-profile support but Wellington was conspicuously absent from the list of patrons. The models remained unsold at Siborne's death in 1849. Today the Large Model is stored at the National Army Museum in London and the New Model is on display at The Royal Armouries in Leeds.



Floor plan of Siborne's model, c.1838. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/20/1



Advertisements for the exhibition of Siborne's models at the Egyptian Hall, London, 1845. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/37/2



Photograph of the 'New Model'. A battalion of the 92nd Highlanders drawn up in line to defend against the volley fire of attacking infantry. By permission of The Board of Trustees of The Royal Armouries