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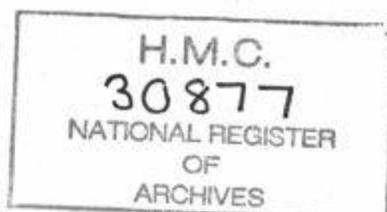
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Schedule of items deposited as a gift by the executors of the estate of the late Mr D.S.Foulkes-Roberts, Brynhyfryd, Mount Road, St.Asaph on 25 February 1988. (A.N.1566).

Ref: DD/DM/770

Diaries of David Swynford Foulkes-Roberts (1899-1988)

D.S.Foulkes-Roberts was the third son of Arthur Foulkes-Roberts, solicitor of Denbigh. He was educated at Howell's School, Denbigh; Colet House Preparatory School, Rhyl; Rossall School, Fleetwood; and Faraday House Electrical Engineering College, London. He obtained the degree of B.Sc. (University of London) in 1924. In 1925 after a period of training he became an assistant engineer in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Nigeria later becoming Divisional Engineer in charge of the Eastern Division. He resigned from this post in 1949 to become first a teacher with the Church Missionary Society in Nigeria and then in 1952 the principal of the Okikra Grammar School near Port Harcourt. He retired in 1959 and lived in St.Asaph. He taught for a short time at Oriel House Preparatory School St.Asaph. His main interest during his retirement, apart from the compilation of his diary was the education and welfare of the Nigerian students who stayed with him to attend college in this country. He died at Wynns Park Nursing Home, St.Asaph on 9 January 1988.

The diaries

The diaries assumed their present form during the period of Mr Foulkes-Roberts's retirement (from 1959 onwards). They are an edited transcript of his original diaries and contain extracts from letters, original documents, printed material and many photographs. When transcribing the diaries Mr Foulkes-Roberts has often provided notes on the outcome of certain events (sometimes years later) and references to other diary entries. Later volumes contain financial reports and a summing-up of the year on 31 December. There is also usually a list of insertions and often lists of trains observed during the year. Before 1922 the diary is taken from 'letters, postcards, old diaries of other people's, and memory'. His father kept a series of volumes, known as his black books in which he put the results of his work in genealogy and local history. These were deposited at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, c.1982.

Note: When cataloguing the diaries no attempt has been made to summarize their contents. However, some of the main events and insertions have been noted. Family and personal photographs are included in every volume. The volume covering the years 1925-59 was prepared specially for the record office by Mr Foulkes-Roberts c.1984. It is an abridged version of the original diaries which have been deposited with the Oxford University Institute of Commonwealth Studies (Colonial Records Project).

1. Pedigrees of Foukes-Roberts (formerly Roberts) family including Roberts family of Brondyffryn, Llangwyfan; Coed y Mynydd, Ysceifiog; and Foulkes family of Llechryd, Llanefydd. n.d. [c.1929] (1 vol.).
- 1a. Birth certificate of David Swynford Foulkes-Roberts, born 11 June 1899, registered 8 July 1899. Copy made 1933 [formerly inserted in 1 above].
2. 'Pre-diary'. Biographies of Peter Roberts, chemist (1835-1912), grandfather of diarist; Sarah Jane Foulkes (1841-1904), paternal grandmother of diarist, and other members of Foulkes family of Llechryd, Llanefydd, and Pen y Bryn, Abergele; and David Jones Morris (1824-78), maternal grandfather. Diary entries, from 1862 include prosecution of John Richard Foulkes of Llechryd under game laws; business labels of Peter Roberts, chemist, Denbigh; marriage of Arthur Foulkes-Roberts and Susanna Mary Jones Morris, 1890 (parents of diarist), including list of wedding presents and donors. Photographs include Coed y Mynydd, Ysceifiog; Pen y bryn, Abergele; Hendre Llwyn Ynn, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd; Pwllhalog, Cwm; Llanerchgron, Clocaenog; Llechryd, Llanefydd; Glanclwyd, Llanynys; Roe Gau, St. Asaph. 1862-99 (1 vol.).
3. Diary. Entries include opening of Prestatyn Town Hall, with photograph and press cutting; Miss Hickson's school, Prestatyn; reminiscences of Prestatyn, c.1904, especially concerning train spotting and including 'list of named engines seen by me', 1931; photographs include Ashlands, Prestatyn; shore, Prestatyn; nursery (with sample of wallpaper); Grove House, St. Asaph. 1899-1906 (1 vol.).
4. Diary. Entries include historical pageant at Denbigh in aid of Denbighshire Infirmary, 1907, with pageant programme, postcards etc., school reports from Howell's School and Colet House; A. Foulkes-Roberts's appointment as Hon. Archivist of Denbigh Borough, 1908; sighting of comet, 1910; first visit to 'living pictures', Rhyl, 1911; outings of Denbigh Field Club; investiture of the Prince of Wales, with photograph, 1911. Photographs include:- 40, Vale Street, Denbigh; May-day carriage (Miss Ella Foulkes-Roberts, sister, as May Queen), 1908; Colet House, Rhyl including on coronation day and celebrating bonfire night, 1909; Bron y parc, Denbigh; 'niggers' performing at Prestatyn, 1908. 1907-11 (1 vol.).
5. Diary. Entries include seaside entertainments, Rhyl, and Prestatyn, 1911, and Harry Reynolds Serenaders, Colwyn Bay, 1912 (including photograph); death of Peter Roberts, JP, St. Asaph (diarist's grandfather); sale of Prestatyn brickworks, 1912; verbatim report of lecture by A. Foulkes-Roberts to Denbigh Literary Society, 'interesting lecture by the borough archivist', 1913; omnibus accident at Denbigh involving father and sister; schooldays at Colet House, Rhyl and Rossal School, Fleetwood; outbreak of war. Photographs include interiors and exteriors of Bron y parc, Denbigh; 'D' Company, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Wrexham (group includes eldest brother, Peter), 1914. 1911-14 (1 vol.).

6. Diary. Entries include careers in forces of brothers Peter and Arthur with transcripts of Peter's letters on active service in France; sister's joining of V.A.D.; accounts of Zeppelin raids in London and south coast; Denbighshire Volunteer Regiment's camp at Gwaunynog, with photograph; L.N.W.R. timetable, 1916. Photographs include Bron y parc, Denbigh interiors. 1915-17 (1 vol.).
7. Diary. Entries include rationing, with ration and identity cards; reflections on education system at Rossall School and reasons for unhappiness; wounding and imprisonment of brother Peter by enemy, including press reports etc.; notice to passengers on Great Eastern Railways concerning lights during 'threatened attack by hostile aircraft'; programme of recital at Capel Mawr, Denbigh 1919; end of war; and entry of diarist and brother Maurice to Faraday College, 1919. Photographs include Mellings Lane and Park Street, Denbigh; peace celebrations, Denbigh; St.Hilary's church (prior to part demolition), 1923; Denbigh railway station and trains etc. at Denbigh and St.Asaph; London scenes, 1917-19 (1 vol.).
8. Diary. Entries include course work at college; visits to Denbigh etc.; visit of George V. to Denbigh, with photograph; construction of King's Mills dam, Denbigh; railway strike; trains at Prestatyn etc. Photographs include Denbigh railway station and trains etc.; procession on enthronement of Archbishop of Wales, St.Asaph, 1920. 1920-1 (1 vol.).
9. Diary. Entries include dedication of Denbigh war memorial, with photographs; list of Christmas presents; electrical engineering final examinations (University of London), with examination papers; visit of Prince of Wales to Denbigh, with photographs; 'list of engines seen by me, 1922-3'. Photographs include trains at Bodfari and Denbigh, 1922; London underground trains and stations etc.; panoramic views at Denbigh; Victorian views of Denbigh n.d. [c.1890]. 1922-3 (1 vol.).
10. Diary. Entries include training with GPO prior to leaving for Nigeria; wireless telegraphy course with L.M.S.railway; British Empire exhibition at Olympia, with photographs; excursion from Denbigh to Wembley by train; Great Review of the fleet at Portsmouth, with photographs; move from Bron y Parc, to Lawnt Cottage, Denbigh. 1924 4 August 1925 (1 vol.).
11. Abridged diary covering period in Nigeria. Entries include arrival in country; work; removal of Foulkes-Roberts family to Goring on Thames; outbreak of war; resignation etc.; principalship of Okrika Grammar School; resignation. 5 August 1925 - 5 March 1959 [c.1984] (1 vol.).
12. Diary. Entries include return to Britain; purchase of Brynhyfryd, Mount Road, St.Asaph; discussion on intentions concerning diary (30 August 1959); history of Brynhyfryd (from 1890); history of pharmacist's business of Robert Davies, St.Asaph, including transcripts from documents; Denbigh railway timetable. Photographs include Denbigh railway station, London underground stations. 7 March 1959 - 1 May 1960.

13. Diary. Entries include employment as part-time teacher at Oriel House School, St.Asaph; trains at Rhyl and Prestatyn stations; Mold-Denbigh railway - press-cuttings concerning proposed closure with photographs of journey from Mold to Denbigh; photographs of trains on Chester - Denbigh line, 1921 and 1961; death of Miss Alicia Roberts, aunt. 1960-1 (1 vol.).
14. Diary. Entries include death (and biography) of brother Arthur; local railway timetables, 1905, 1916, 1961-2, and copy transcript, 1939; hovercraft service at Rhyl, with photographs and timetable etc., J.M.Dunn, 'From Saltney Ferry to Denbigh'. Parts 1 and 2, Railway Magazine, June and July 1962. 1962-4 (1 vol.).
15. Diary. 1965-7 (1 vol.).
16. Diary. Photographs include local bridges and track of railway, construction of St.Asaph by-pass. 1968-70 (1 vol.).
17. Diary. 1971-3 (1 vol.).
18. Diary. Entries include deaths of sister Ella and brother Peter. 1974-6 (1 vol.).
19. Diary. 1977-84 (1 vol.).
20. Diary. Last entries by Miss Joyce Hughes, housekeeper. 1985-8 (1 vol.).