

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFYDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 214 D147
Title: DRANE FAMILY PAPERS
Date(s) 1843 – c1980
Level of description: Fonds (level 2)

Extent: 1 box; 0.02 cubic metres

Name of creator(s)

Administrative/Biographical history

Robert Drane senior was an independent minister of the Church of Christ. He was born in 1799 and moved to Guestwick, Norfolk in 1824. He married Frances Anna Rudkin, also born in 1799. They had seven children, four of whom survived to adulthood: the eldest of these was Robert Drane junior.

Robert Drane junior was born on August 21 1833 in Norfolk. He trained as a chemist, and eventually took up a post in Cardiff, before opening his own shop in Bute Street in 1858. The business moved to Queen Street in 1868, and he lived above the shop. Robert Drane junior was, as well as a chemist, a naturalist and antiquarian. He founded the Cardiff Naturalist Society, published a well-known paper entitled 'The Hare in Captivity', and is credited with discovering the Skomer Vole. His antiquarian interests led to an important collection of old Worcester pottery, and a role as honorary curator of the Cardiff Museum. Robert junior died in 1914 and a plaque was placed on the wall of his shop in Queen Street

Little is known about the other three surviving Drane children. The next eldest, Anna Maria, was born October 14 1837. She married Henry H Skepper and they lived in Paris. They had at least one child, a girl named Emilie.

Emily Drane (known to her family as 'Nem') was born June 29 1839 and remained a spinster, living with their father in Guestwick. Robert senior and Emily moved to Cardiff to live with Robert junior in the 1870s, and both died there: Robert senior in 1877 and Emily in 1884.

William Drane was born June 12 1841 and is known to have outlived his brother.

The collection includes two letters from Bernard Bolingbroke Woodward (1816-1869), librarian in ordinary to Queen Victoria at Windsor from 1860 until his death.

Scope and content

The letters have been arranged in chronological order. Correspondence from Anna and Henry Skepper mostly relate family news, with a few mentions of the problems in Paris during 1870/1871. The letters written to Robert Drane senior concern religious matters. Other correspondence is written informally between friends and family members.

The papers of Robert Drane junior mostly relate to his pharmaceutical interests, but include photographs of his drawing room at his death, with much of his porcelain on display.

The collection also includes three letters from Llewellyn Meyler to his mother in Milford Haven, describing his pharmacy examinations in 1901. These are unrelated to the Drane family.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records offered have been accepted and listed

Conditions governing access

Open Access

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/Scripts of material

English; typed and handwritten

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Fair condition: D147/1/15, 17, 19 are particularly fragile

Finding aids

Item level list available; prepared February 2003

Related units of description

Robert Drane: diaries and personal papers (DXIB)

Robert Drane: correspondence, copy will, inventory of books, newspaper articles, lectures, poetry, photographs etc (DX89)

Photographs of Drane's collection of pottery, porcelain and glassware (DXGC)

Prescription books of E.G. Howell and Sons Chemists, Queen Street, Cardiff (formerly Robert Drane's) (DXQB)

Letters from Robert Drane to Mr Solomon Andrews regarding antiques (DAB31/5/56, 58-59, 61)

Note**Date(s) of descriptions**

February 2003

Drane family correspondence

D147/1/1	Copy letter from reverend Robert Drane to Thomas Cooke junior, giving him religious advice [1 paper]	March 1843
D147/1/2	Letter from Robert Drane (aged 11) to his father, reverend Robert Drane [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Nov 1844
D147/1/3	Letter from Mary Fidgett to reverend Drane, regarding the death and funeral of her husband [1 paper, 1 envelope]	1849
D147/1/4	Letter from Robert Drane, at Lynn, to William Drane, at Guestwick, written in mirror writing [1 paper]	c1850
D147/1/5	Letter from Martha Law to reverend Drane, sending apologies and discussing her religious feelings [1 paper, 1 envelope]	May 1854
D147/1/6	Letter from Robert Drane, at Cheapside, to reverend Robert Drane, regarding his dismissal, and a new job in Cardiff [1 paper]	Feb 1856
D147/1/7	Letter from Anna Drane to reverend Robert Drane [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Jun 1856
D147/1/8	Letter from B B Woodward, at Windsor Castle, to William Drane, at Guestwick, regarding Robert Drane's plans to open a shop in Cardiff [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Sep 1860
D147/1/9	Letter from Henry Skepper, in London, to [Emily] Drane at Guestwick [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Jun 1862
D147/1/10	Letter from Henry and Anna Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane [1 paper]	Oct 1864
D147/1/11	Letter from B B Woodward, at Windsor Castle, to 'Rupert' Drane, at Bute Street, Cardiff [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Jan 1865
D147/1/12	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris to Emily Drane [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Aug 1865

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D147/1/13	Letter from Henry Skepper to Emily Drane [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Jun 1866
D147/1/14	Letter from Anna Skepper to Emily Drane [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Jul 1867
D147/1/15	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick [1 paper]	Sep 1867
D147/1/16	Letter from Anna Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Oct 1867
D147/1/17	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to reverend Robert Drane, in Guestwick [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Nov 1867
D147/1/18	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Dec 1867
D147/1/19	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick [1 paper]	1868
D147/1/20	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick, informing her that Anna has given birth to a still- born child [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Feb 1868
D147/1/21	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane [1 paper]	Feb 1868
D147/1/22	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick [2 papers, 1 envelope]	Apr 1868
D147/1/23	Letter from Henry Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane [1 paper]	Oct 1868
D147/1/24	Letter from Anna and Henry Skepper, in France, to Emily Drane [1 paper]	nd, c1870
D147/1/25	Letter from Anna Skepper, in France, to Emily Drane [1 paper]	nd, c1870

D147/1/26	Letter from Anna Skepper, in Boulougne, to Emily Drane, in Guestwick [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Aug 1871
D147/1/27	Letter from Anna Skepper, in Paris, to Emily Drane, regarding the move from Guestwick [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Nov 1872
D147/1/28	Letter from Emelie Skepper to Robert Drane senior, in Cardiff [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Jul 1876
D147/1/29	Letter from Anna Skepper, in Paris, to Robert Drane senior, in Cardiff [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Nov 1876
D147/1/30	Letter from Robert Drane, in Cardiff, to Mr Meyler, in Milford Haven, regarding Mr Meyler's father's death, and the practice of sending Christmas cards [1 paper, 1 envelope]	Dec 1900
D147/1/31a-c	Two envelopes, addressed to reverend Robert Drane, one with ink annotations Also a newspaper cutting relating to Robert Drane junior's funeral [2 envelopes, 1 newscutting]	1849 and nd 1914
<u>Papers of Robert Drane junior</u>		
D147/2/1	Notes on Chepstow Castle; Caldecot Castle; Castell Coch; 'Caerphilly or Sengenneth [sic] Castle'; by Robert Drane [1 booklet; handwritten]	nd, c1900
D147/2/2a-e	'Rules for dispensing': Robert Drane's rules for his assistants. One copy written on headed note paper, possibly in his hand, with envelope; also a photocopy of the rules, signed by his assistants, from the front of the shop's prescription book [4 papers, 1 envelope]	nd,c1900
D147/2/3	'In Praise Of Women' – poem by Robert Drane, written in his assistant's hand; note attached Reading every line of this poem shows it to be a diatribe against women, reading alternate lines makes them praiseworthy [1 paper]	nd

D147/2/4	Address to the Cardiff and District Pharmaceutical Association, by Robert Drane [1 booklet]	Jan 1905
D147/2/5	Transcriptions of Robert Drane's rules for dispensing, and his letter, written from Cheapside, to his father [see D146/1/6]; transcriptions compiled by T Turner [3 papers]	c1970
<u>Articles about Robert Drane</u>		
D147/3/1	'Robert Drane: pharmacist, antiquarian, naturalist' by T Turner [15 pages; typescript]	c1980
D147/3/2	'Robert Drane and the Ceramics Collection' by Rollo Charles, in <i>Amgueddfa</i> , the bulletin of the National Museum of Wales [1 booklet]	1974
D147/3/3	'Viking Isles of Dyfed: Skomer, Skokholm and Grassholm' by J N P Watson, from <i>Country Life</i> magazine. Includes a photograph of Robert Drane and J J Neale on Skomer Island [2 papers]	Oct 1974
<u>Photographs</u>		
D147/4/1	Photograph of the staff at Robert Drane's shop [1 photograph]	c1900
D147/4/2	Drawing of the exterior of Robert Drane's shop on Queen Street, by T Turner [1 photograph]	c1970
D147/5	Photographs of the drawing room of Robert Drane's house in Queen Street, as it was left at his death in 1914 [16 photographs, mounted]	1914

Miscellaneous

D147/6/1-5

Letters to Mrs Meyler, in Milford Haven, from her son
Llewelin, in London, regarding his pharmacy examinations.
Includes a list of the questions asked
[5 papers, 1 envelope]

Jul 1901