

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 0214 D417

Title: Bowles and Son Tobacconists of Cardiff Records

Dates : 1876-1979

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.04 cubic metres (12 volumes, 8 photographs, 3 papers)

Name of creator(s): Bowles and Son Tobacconists of Cardiff

Administrative/biographical history

Bowles and Son Ltd. was established in 1888. The company was a wholesale and retail tobacconist. During the 1950s it was being run by Reginald Bowles and his brother Ivor. Its head office was at 9 James Street, Butetown, Cardiff, on the corner of James Street and Louisa Street. The company owned shops across Cardiff, in St. Mary's Street, Castle Street, Queen Street and High Street, along with a shop in Station Approach, Pontypridd. At one time, the company owned a total of 11 shops, some of which had been taken over from Percy Cadle.

The firm's stock was held in a warehouse in the basement of 9 James Street, which also included a cigar curing room. The stock was transferred from the basement warehouse to the first floor shop by dumb waiter. The second floor was used as office space.

The firm stocked a wide range of tobacco, including a number of foreign brands for the large proportion of regular customers from Cardiff's Somali community and for the seamen who came in to the docks. The firm also stocked a vast range of pipes, which were popular during the first part of the 20th century; cigarette lighters and ashtrays which, as they were not disposable at that time, were often seen as accessories and decorative pieces in their own right; matches; spills and pipe cleaners. As a wholesaler, the company supplied pubs, clubs and other shops across south east Wales. All the shops were of a similar appearance and smell. Most carried the same sort of stock, with some variations. One shop stocked sweets and two others, on High Street and St. Mary's Street, had a barber's shop at the rear.

The company was sold by its owners, Tom and William (Bill) Bowles, sons of Reginald and Ivor Bowles respectively, in 1979.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were deposited by the daughter of Tom Bowles in August 2006.

Scope and content

The records comprise photographs of Bowles and Son shops and cigar maturing room; newspaper cutting showing Bowles and Son shop on the Hayes, Cardiff; bank book, cash books and ledgers; staff and factory salaries and wages books.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained.

Accruals

Accruals are possible

Conditions governing access

Items containing information on named individuals may be restricted in accordance with the Data Protection Act and Record Office policy

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material

English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Fair condition

Archivist's note

Compiled by Rhian Phillips for the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to notes on the company's history produced by the depositor. The full notes are available on request.

Rules or conventions

This description follows Glamorgan Record Office guidelines based on ISAD(G) compatible cataloguing guidelines for fonds level descriptions used by the Archives Network Wales.

Date of description

August 2006