

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 0214 D523

Title: John Williams of Cardiff, Ironmongers and Iron Foundry, Records

Dates : 1841-1990

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.24 cubic metres (29 volumes, 1 box)

Name of creator(s): John Williams & Sons (1844-1899)
John Williams & Sons Ltd. (1899-1967)
John Williams of Cardiff Plc. (1967-1988)
John Williams Industries Plc. (1988-1990)

Administrative/biographical history

The business was founded in 1844 as an ironmonger's shop by John Williams (?-1874) after he moved to Cardiff from Swansea. Recognising the potential for expansion, John soon diversified from making nails, rivets, kitchen ranges and other household items to industrial iron founding, structural engineering and iron and steel stockholding, supplying ship repairers, contractors and engineers.

Originally based in a small shop on Duke Street, the business subsequently moved several times, and by 1874 it was concentrated on Queen Street. Here it occupied six shops with extensive workshops and warehouses behind, opening on to what is now Kingsway.

When John died in 1874, his sons Lewis, John and Charles took over, although Lewis Williams (1842-1908) was left as the sole proprietor after the deaths of his brothers in 1876 and 1884. Lewis remained in charge of the business for 35 years until his death in 1909, during which time he expanded the business and became a prominent figure in Cardiff's public affairs. His son, Edward, joined him as a business partner in the 1890s.

The business was floated in 1899, with *John Williams and Sons* becoming *John Williams and Sons (Cardiff) Ltd.*, with Lewis and Edward as joint managing Directors.

As the business grew, additional premises were acquired on East Moors Road in 1880, and it was here that the whole company relocated in 1917. At this time, the household ironmongery section was closed down and the company began focusing on the industrial side of its operation, for example, producing metal window frames, structural steel work, metal partitions and other engineering hardware. During the Second World War, production was turned over to gun mountings, landing craft engines, and other essential supplies.

In 1957, additional premises were acquired on Lewis Road, and in 1960 there was further expansion when the metal window factory moved to Curran Road and the Taff River Foundry opened at Curran Embankment.

In 1967, the company became *John Williams of Cardiff Plc.*, and then in 1988 *John Williams Industries Plc.*

The company failed in 1990.

Archival history

The records came into the donor's possession over a period of time from various sources.

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated on 29 January 2008 by the great great grandson of the company founder, who was also a company employee from 1953 to 1988.

Scope and content

The collection is comprised of the records of the following companies:

John Williams & Sons 1844-1899
John Williams & Sons Ltd 1899-1967
John Williams of Cardiff Plc 1967-1988
John Williams Industries Plc 1988-1990

The records include information on the company's history, minutes of meetings, financial records, and a catalogue of the foundry's products.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

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

Accruals

Accruals are possible.

System of arrangement

Chronological within series based on record content.

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

Finding aids

Detailed list available.

Existence and location of originals

Not applicable

Existence and location of copies

Not applicable

Related units of description

Not applicable

Publication note

Not applicable

Note

These records are held in an outstore; at least one week's notice is required to view them.

Archivist's note

Compiled by Geoff Edwards for the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to "*A Family Affair*" (1959), a draft history of the company and "*1844-1944 Centenary Year of John Williams & Sons (Cardiff) Ltd.*"; both are part of **reference**

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

February 2008

D523/1 Company History

D523/1/1 Collection of material concerning the history of the company and Williams family, including: "[1844-1944 Centenary Year of John Williams & Sons \(Cardiff\) Ltd.](#)" leaflet; drafts of "A Family Affair", 1959; correspondence, 1841-1960s; newspaper cuttings on the funeral of Lewis Williams, 1909; photographs of company staff and activities, c.1900-1970s

[1 bundle, 13 files]

D523/1/2 Scrapbook of articles concerning company May 1970

[1 volume]

D523/2 Minutes and Reports

D523/2/1 Minutes of Directors' meetings 1899-1912

[1 volume]

D523/2/2 Minutes of Directors' meetings 1912-1921

[1 volume]

D523/2/3 Minutes of Directors' meetings 1921-1929

[1 volume]

D523/2/4 Minutes of Directors' meetings 1929-1937

[1 volume]

D523/2/5 Minutes of Board meetings 1947-1948

[1 volume]

D523/2/6 Minutes of company meetings 1962-1972

[1 volume]

D523/2/7 Minutes of company meetings 1973-1978

[1 volume]

D523/2/8 Minutes of Board/Directors' meetings 1978-1990

[1 volume]

D523/2/9	Reports to Board [1 volume]	1921-1941
D523/2/10	Reports to Board, including financial statements and sales figures [1 volume]	1941-1947
D523/3	Financial Ledgers	
D523/3/1	Expenditure ledger [1 volume]	1873-1934
D523/3/2	Cash book [1 volume]	1874-1933
D523/3/3	Income and expenditure ledger Missing cover [1 volume]	1883-1909
D523/3/4	Expenses Ledger [1 volume]	1899-1907
D523/3/5	Payments and receipts ledger [1 volume]	1899-1944
D523/3/6	Expenses Ledger [1 volume]	1899-1946
D523/4	Annual Reports and Accounts	
D523/4/1	Balance sheets [1 volume]	1900-1960
D523/4/2	Balance sheets and profit loss accounts [1 volume]	1921-1930
D523/4/3	Balance sheets and profit loss accounts [1 volume]	1931-1940

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D523/4/4	Balance sheets and profit loss accounts [1 volume]	1941-1950
D523/4/5	Balance sheets and profit loss accounts [1 volume]	1954-1960
D523/4/6	Balance sheets and profit loss accounts [1 volume]	1961
D523/4/7	Trading accounts [1 volume]	1961
D523/4/8	Annual Reports and Accounts [3 bundles]	1931-1969
D523/4/9	Annual Reports and Accounts [1 bundle, 21 volumes]	1970-1990
D523/5	Share Records	
D523/5/1	Register of Shareholders [1 volume]	c.1899-1915
D523/5/2	Share ledger [1 volume]	1918-1928
D523/5/3	Register of Directors' Shareholding [1 volume]	[1960s]
D523/5/4	Register of Directors' Pay and Bonuses [1 volume]	c.1951-1964
D523/6	Products	
D523/6/1	Catalogue of foundry products, with illustrative photographs [1 volume]	[1970s]