

## GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

**Reference code:** GB 0214 DABE

**Title:** AB ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS GROUP

**Dates :** 1956-1992

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent and medium:** 0.06 cubic metres (2 boxes, 16 vols.)

**Name of creator(s):**

AB Electronic Products Group and preceding companies

**Administrative/biographical history**

AB Electronics was established as AB Metal Products in the 1920s by Sidney Marks, a master toolmaker, in London as a firm of metal stampers and engravers but moved to a factory in Middlesex before 1939, gradually extending its range of domestic electrical and metal goods. Marks moved the business in 1950 to Ynys-boeth Trading Estate, Abercynon, but stayed in London and appointed Henry J. Kroch, a German-born, Swiss-educated engineer. Kroch became managing director in 1964, chairman 1978-1986 and honorary president 1987-1993. AB established itself as a major manufacturer of electrical equipment such as radios and televisions and components for other industries. AB Metal Products became a subsidiary of Gas Purification and Chemical Co Ltd in 1963 but in 1965 was floated as an independent company. AB established an additional factory in 1967 in West Germany and Kroch became a prominent member of trade missions to China, South Africa and other countries. Diversification into micro-electronics and micro-circuits prompted a change of name to AB Electronics Components Ltd in 1967, re-named AB Electronic Products Group 1977. By 1987 the company had eight factories in south Wales but despite a series of commercial ventures, the company struggled against loss of military contracts. The company was taken over by the TT Group in 1992.

**Archival history**

**Immediate source of acquisition**

**Scope and content**

Annual reports, newscuttings, and photographs

**Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information**

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

**Accruals**

Accruals are not expected

**System of arrangement**

Arranged by category and date.

**Conditions governing access**

Open access

**Conditions governing reproduction**

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

**Language/scripts of material**

English

**Physical characteristics and technical requirements**

Good condition

**Finding aids**

Detailed list available.

**Existence and location of originals**

**Existence and location of copies**

**Related units of description**

**Publication note**

'From Whisky Pourers to Sonic the Hedgehog - AB Electronic Products Group plc, Abercynon' by Susan Edwards in Report of the Glamorgan Archivist for the year ending 31 March 1994.

**Note**

**Archivist's note**

Compiled by Richard Morgan for the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to article in publication note.

**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**

November 2005

**Annual reports**

DABE/1/1-28 Annual reports and electronics  
[2 booklets] 1965-1992

**Queen's Award to Industry**

DABE/2/1, 2 Queen's Award to Industry presented to AB  
Electronic Components Ltd 1968  
Booklet and related papers  
[1 booklet, 1 envelope]

**Newscuttings**

DABE/3/1 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 1A' 1951-1961  
 DABE/3/2 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 1B' 1961-Jan 1965  
 DABE/3/3 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 2' Jan 1965-Oct 1967  
 DABE/3/4 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 3' Oct 1967-Nov 1968  
 DABE/3/5 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 4' Nov 1968-Sep 1969  
 DABE/3/6 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 5' Oct 1969-Dec 1971  
 DABE/3/7 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 6' Jan 1972-Dec 1975  
 DABE/3/8 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 7' Jan 1976-Aug 1970  
 DABE/3/9 Newscuttings. 'Book No. 8' Sep 1978-Dec 1980  
 DABE/3/10 Newscuttings Dec 1981-Oct 1983  
 DABE/3/11 Newscuttings. Marked 'Last Book' Oct 1983-Feb 1985  
 DABE/3/12 Newscuttings Feb 1985-Jun 1985  
 [11 vols.]

DABE/4 Press cuttings from German subsidiary A.B.  
Elektronik GMBH, Werne an der Lippe 1967-Jun 1970  
[1 vol.]

DABE/5 Press cuttings supplied by Dorland (City) Ltd of  
advertisement and references to AB Metal 1965  
Products Ltd  
[1 file]

DABE/6 Press cuttings 1981  
[1 file]

DABE/7 Unsorted newscuttings including an article on H. J.  
Kroch's retirement, 2 January 1987 1957-1987  
[1 bdle.]

**Industrial periodicals**

- |          |                                                                                                                                                       |             |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| DABE/8/1 | Works Management, vol. 18, no.2, containing reference to H. J. Kroch, newly elected fellow of Institution of Works Managers<br>[1 printed periodical] | Feb 1968    |
| DABE/8/2 | British Industry Week, containing article on H.J. Kroch and AB Electronics Components<br>[1 printed periodical]                                       | 12 Apr 1968 |
| DABE/8/3 | Progress Wales (Development Corporation of Wales), containing article by H.J. Kroch on trade mission to China<br>[1 printed periodical]               | Summer 1972 |
| DABE/8/4 | South Wales Spectator 14, no. 106, containing piece on H.J. Kroch<br>[1 printed periodical]                                                           | Jan 1969    |

**Photographs**

- |         |                                                                                                     |                 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| DABE/9  | Photographs of works, manufacturing processes, and staff at work<br>[1 bdle.]                       | 1956-c. 1985    |
| DABE/10 | Photographs of works, manufacturing processes, and staff at work<br>[1 bdle.]                       | c. 1958-c. 1960 |
| DABE/11 | Booklet containing photographs of works, manufacturing processes, and staff at work<br>[1 booklet]  | c. 1958-c. 1960 |
| DABE/12 | Photographs mainly of social gatherings, factories, and manufacturing<br>[1 bdle.]                  | c. 1958-c. 1985 |
| DABE/13 | Photographs and programmes at company's Golden Jubilee<br>[1 vol.]                                  | 19 Apr 1985     |
| DABE/14 | Photographs regarding presentation of Queen's Award to Industry<br>[1 vol.]<br>[See also DABE/1, 2] | 1986            |