

Reference code(s): GB 0214 DBLN

Title: Blundell Family collection

Creation date(s): 1821-1857

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: (25 items)

Name of creator(s): Blundell Family

CONTEXT

Administrative/Biographical history: The Blundell family included Edmund Augustus Blundell, Governor of the Straits Settlements, Prince of Wales Island, and Singapore. Mongkut (1804-68), a devout Buddhist monk, became King Rama IV of Siam (now Thailand) in 1851, and used his knowledge of the West to further his country's interests. He established diplomatic relations with several European countries, including Great Britain, and opened Siam to Western trade. Mongkut was made famous in the West by Margaret Landon's book *Anna and the King of Siam* (1944), based on the reminiscences of Anna Leonowens, a British governess at the court of Siam. Edmund Augustus Blundell, corresponded with Mongkut, negotiating the first British treaty with Siam, 1855. R. P. Llewelyn [fl 1850] was the vicar of Llangynwyd (Glamorgan), [c. 1850].

CONTENT

Scope and content/abstract: Records of the Blundell Family, 1821-1857, including letters to Edmund Augustus Blundell from M. Mongkut, 1855, 1857 (photocopies); letter, R. P. Llewelyn, to Rev. H. H. Knight, of Neath, 1852 (photocopy); and sketch plan of proposed improvements to Cardiff's canals and rivers, 1821, by Thomas Telford.

ACCESS AND USE

Language/scripts of material: English

System of arrangement:

Conditions governing access: No restrictions

Conditions governing reproduction: Usual copyright regulations apply.

Physical characteristics: Good condition

Finding aids: A hard copy of the catalogue is available at the Glamorgan Record Office.

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information: All records have been retained.

Accruals: Accruals are not expected.

Archival history:

Immediate source of acquisition: Deposited by a private source at various dates.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Existence and location of originals: At the time of deposit of the copies, it was proposed that the original three letters sent by the King of Siam, Rama IV, and the silk bags in which they were delivered, be presented to the incumbent Government of Thailand.

DESCRIPTION NOTES

Note: Title supplied from contents of fonds.

Archivist's note: Compiled by Hayden Burns for the ANW project. The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan Record Office, Catalogue for the Blundell Family Collection; *Websters New Biographical Dictionary*, (Massachusetts, 1983) "Britannia Biographies" website, (www.britannia.com/bios/telford.html), viewed 04 December 2003; "The World of Royalty" website (www.royalty.nu/), viewed 04 December 2003.

Rules or conventions: This description follows ANW guidelines based on ISAD(G) second edition, AACR2, and LCSH.

Date(s) of descriptions: December 2003
