

**Reference code(s):** GB 0214 DCNS

**Title:** Cardiff Naturalists Society records

**Creation date(s):** 1867-1991

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 1.56 cubic metres

**Name of creator(s):** Cardiff Naturalists Society

## CONTEXT

**Administrative/Biographical history:** Cardiff Naturalists Society was established in 1867 in Cardiff, Glamorgan, on the initiative of Robert Drane, F.L.S. (1833-1914). There were 24 original members recorded in the minutes. Early meetings were held in the Museum Room of the Cardiff Free Library, until the National Museum of Wales opened in 1927. The Cardiff Naturalists Society was the largest scientific Society in Wales in 1905, when it urged the location of the National Museum at Cardiff. One of the original objectives of the society was the practical study of natural history, geology and the physical sciences, but the society also took an interest in archaeology; an Archaeology Section was formed in 1894. The Society had links with Gwent and Morgannwg Antiquarian Society, active in the early 20th century, and accumulated records relating to Ely Racecourse (Roman villa) excavation of 1834. The society started a Geological Section in 1875, a Biological and Microscopical section in 1887 (re-named Biological and Geological Section, 1892) and an Ornithological Section in 1946. The society published annual Transactions from 1868 to 1986. John Stuart Cobbett (1845-1941), solicitor, undertook extensive research into the history of Cardiff.

## CONTENT

**Scope and content/abstract:** Records of the Cardiff Naturalists Society, 1867-1991: general records of the society 1867-1977, including minutes 1867-1960; notices, circulars and reports 1876-1967; Hon. Secretary's correspondence and filing, 1891-1970; files on preservation activities, 1934-1967; membership records, 1927-1977; newspaper cuttings, 1897-1956; Archaeological Section records, 1900-1975, including minutes 1900-1961; Biological and Geological Section, 1887-1973, including minutes, 1887-1973, attendance books 1906-1973, financial records 1933-1973, and bird study, 1954; Physical and Chemical Section, minutes, 1888-1892; Cardiff Art Loan Exhibition papers, 1884; John Stuart Corbett, research papers, transcriptions of Inquisitions Post Mortem, and letters; Ely Racecourse excavations, papers 1834. Gwent and Morgannwg Antiquarian Society minutes, minutes 1913-

1920; meteorological statistics, 1824-1949, including weather station record books 1890-1922; Ornithological Section records, 1970-1990, including minutes, 1977-1989; newsletters, 1990-1991; and photographs, 1873-1970, including photographs of Robert Drane, [c. 1873]-1905; South Wales Cyclone, 1913; and Old Cardiff, [c. 1890]-[c. 1970].

## ACCESS AND USE

**Language/scripts of material:** English, Latin

**System of arrangement:** Arranged as follows: general records of the Society; Archaeological Section; Biological and Geological Section; Physical and Chemical Section; Cardiff Art Loan Exhibition, 1884; John Stuart Corbett transcriptions, research notes and correspondence; Ely Racecourse excavations, papers 1834; Gwent and Morgannwg Antiquarian Society minutes; meteorological statistics; Ornithological Section; and photographs.

**Conditions governing access:** No restrictions

**Conditions governing reproduction:** Usual copyright regulations apply.

**Physical characteristics:** Good to fair 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 possible.

**Archival history:**

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

## ALLIED MATERIALS

**Existence and location of originals:** The original inquisitions post mortem (John Stuart Corbett's research notes, DCNS/CORB/13, 1-17), can be found at the National Archives (Public Record Office) which has published calendars of them.

## 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 of records for the Cardiff Naturalists Society; Bernfeld, W.K., 'The Cardiff Naturalists Society,' *The Cardiff Book*, Vol 1, (Cowbridge and Bridgend, 1973); Bernfeld, W.K., 'The Cardiff Naturalists Society : The First Hundred Years,' *The Glamorgan County Naturalists Bulletin*, No.6, Spring 1967; Salmon, H. Morrey, *The Cardiff Region: A Survey*, (Cardiff, 1960).

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

**Date(s) of descriptions:** December 2003. Amended July 2004

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