

Reference code(s): GB 0214 DSA

Title: Stephenson & Alexander, Auctioneers and Chartered Surveyors, records

Creation date(s): [late 19th century]-[late 20th century]

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: Information to be supplied.

Name of creator(s): Stephenson & Alexander

CONTEXT

Administrative/Biographical history: Prior to Mr D. T. Alexander entering into partnership with Mr W. P. Stephenson, Mr Stephenson had been in partnership with a Mr Watkins, who started practising in Cardiff, Glamorgan, either at the end of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th century. Alexander had been involved in practising from Pontypridd, Glamorgan, in his own right as auctioneer from the mid 19th century. In 1877, D. T. Alexander and W. P. Stephenson formed Stephenson & Alexander; prior to that date, the firm had been known as Watkins & Stephenson. W. P. Stephenson died in 1885, and Alexander became head of the firm. Early in the 20th century, Alexander's sons, John and Hubert, joined him in the firm, and in due course became his partners. Up to his death in 1921, D. T. Alexander was still practising within the firm. The sons continued in their father's footsteps, and became more involved with landed estates, mainly across south Wales, but also in the West Country. In 1937, Hubert Alexander's son, Duncan, joined the firm, but with the intervention of the Second World War the running of the firm was left entirely to John and Hubert Alexander. Immediately after the war, Duncan Alexander became a partner, and in the 1950s, his younger brother, Peter, also joined the partnership. After the deaths of John and Hubert in 1954, the firm was run entirely by Duncan and Peter until the late 1960s, when William ('Bill') Hunt, who had been an employee of the firm since 1952, was appointed as partner. In 1976, Hugh James, who joined the firm in 1961, and David Davies, who joined the firm in 1968, were made associate partners. David Davies became a full equity partner in 1980, and Duncan and Peter Alexander in 1988. Hunt died in 1995; his brother-in-law Peter Graham, Local Director of DTZ Debenham Thorpe in Cardiff, then joined David Davies as a partner. In January 1999, Jason Jones, who joined the firm in 1989, was appointed as associate partner.

CONTENT

Scope and content/abstract: Papers of Stephenson & Alexander, [late 19th century]-[late 20th century], includes: saleroom copies of auction particulars,

1903-1943; early auction particulars of Watkins, Stephenson, D. T. Alexander, and the firm, 1851-1893; auction particulars of other firms of auctioneers, 1874-1918; auction indices, 1878-1984; the firms' sale books, 1874-1988; client files, [late 19th century]-[early 20th century]; papers extracted from client files, [1920s]-[1950s]; the firm's Ordnance Survey Map Department Indexes; Ordnance Survey maps with land ownership marked or notes added (all maps are 2nd edition unless otherwise stated); unmarked Ordnance Survey maps (all maps are 2nd edition unless otherwise stated); books, pamphlets, reports, directories, or catalogues found at and surplus to the firm's needs, 1932-1983; set of Ordnance Survey maps of Bridgend and Cowbridge Union; and David & David (also E. David & David) maps of land of the Church in Wales; and client papers, including Crawshay Bailey Estate papers and Llanharan Estate papers.

ACCESS AND USE

Language/scripts of material: English

System of arrangement: Arranged as follows: SA 1-30, work for clients; SA 31-47, Partners activities; SA 48-55, Firm's business papers; SA 56-[?], Personal and family papers; and SA 70-101, Other records (still to be listed).

Conditions governing access: Most of the records are held in an outside repository and enquiries on access should be made with the Duty Archivist in the Glamorgan Record Office. There are no restrictions on access but all searchers wishing to use any of the records for legal purposes are required to notify the Duty Archivist beforehand and access may be refused if formal permission is not made.

Conditions governing reproduction: Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Physical characteristics: Good to fair condition

Finding aids: A handlist is available at the Glamorgan Record Office and is in process of amendment and addition.

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information: All records have been retained. Additional records are in process of regular transfer.

Accruals: Accruals are expected.

Archival history:

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

ALLIED MATERIALS

DESCRIPTION NOTES

Note: Title supplied from contents of fonds. This collection contains some unlisted records.

Archivist's note: Compiled by Hayden Burns for the ANW project. The following source was used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan Record Office, Catalogue of records for Stephenson & Alexander, Auctioneers and Chartered Surveyors.

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

Date(s) of descriptions: March 2004
