

GB 0198 Valuation

## **Rotherham Archives and Local Studies**

**This catalogue was digitised by The National Archives as part of the National Register of Archives digitisation project**

NRA 26926



The National Archives

AUG 1984

H. M. C.  
26926  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF  
ARCHIVES

Archives deposited at Rotherham Central Library, Walker Place, Rotherham.

A collection, almost entirely consisting of valuation books, deposited by Merryweather, Corbett and Dawson, Ship Hill, Rotherham in March, 1984.

Valuation books were in existence from 1832, but the earliest appear to be missing. The first fifteen volumes still in the possession of the Company in March, 1984 were retained by Mr. P. Drabble. These covered the dates 1837-1849.

The listing of the volumes mainly uses the numbers painted in white on the individual volumes. Some bear numbered paper slips with a different number. Some of the volumes are affected slightly by damp due to storage conditions at the offices of Merryweather, Corbett and Dawson.

The box number is that of storage boxes at Rotherham Central Library.

Box 1	11(1849) to 35 (1858)
Box 2	38 (1858) to 62 (1863)
Box 3	63 (1863) to 87 (1866)
Box 4	88 (1866) to 113 (1869)
Box 5	114 (1869) to 140 (1872)
Box 6	141 (1872) to 168 (1874)
Box 7	169 (1875) to 190 (1877)
Box 8	191 (1877) to 219 (1879)
Box 9	220 (1879) to 247 (1882)
Box 10	248 (1882) to 280 (1887)
Box 11	281 (1887) to 313 (1891)
Box 12	314 (1891) to 345 (1895)
Box 13	346 (1895) to 377 (1898)
Box 14	378 (1899) to 406 (1902)
Box 15	407 (1902) to 436 (1906)
Box 16	437 (1906) to 468 (1912)
Box 17	469 (1912) to 483 (1916)
	484 missing
	485 (1916) to 495 (1920)
Box 18	496 (1920) to 508 (1938)

N.B. 507 (1926) then 508 (1938)

Series A volumes = Andrew Merryweather. Marked with A or a

- Box 19 AM 1872 then  
1a (1880) to 28a (1888)
- Box 20 29a (1888) to 55a (1894)
- Box 21 56a (1894) to 80a (1899)
- Box 22 81a (1899) to 108a (1904)
- Box 23 109a (1904) to 139a (1909)
- Box 24 140a (1910) to 159a (1913)  
160a - missing  
161a (1914) to 167a (1915)
- Box 25 168a (1914) to 189a (1921)

Series G volumes = Andrew George Merryweather. Marked G or g

- Box 26 1g (1905) to 37g (1921)
- Box 27 38g (1920) to 65g (1923)  
66g - missing
- Box 28 67g (1923) to 96g (1925)  
1 unnumbered volume which is possibly 69g  
72 and 89 - missing
- Box 29  
only part G series 98g (1926) to 123 (1929)  
numbered G or g to 105 only  
121 - missing
- Box 30 124 - missing  
125 (1927) to 151 (1930)
- Box 31 152 (1929) to 167 (1931)
- Box 32 Index volumes 1837-1860  
1860-1871  
1872-1889  
1890-1920  
Sheffield 1920-31  
1906-1933

Plus odd volumes

Notebook 1916-1917

Ledger 1868-1869

Cash book - Andrew Merryweather 1876-1887

Rough notes 1873

Valuation book - possibly Andrew Merryweather  
1896-1897

The oldest established firm of Auctioneers, Valuers, Land and Estate Agents in Rotherham, Merryweather and Corbett, celebrate 150 years of business representation in the Town during 1982.

Mr. James White, the Great Uncle of the Grandfather of Mr. Edwin T. Merryweather was in practice as a Tenantright Valuer. He was originally a 'Gentleman Farmer' at Wilsic, near Tickhill, and was persuaded by local farmers to take up the profession. As Rotherham was a thriving agricultural centre, he decided to open his business in the Town and purchased a small property, Leam Villa, in Moorgate Road, opposite the Carlton Park Hotel. He extended and converted the property to enable his office to be accommodated at the house. In addition to these premises, he maintained an Office in the Ship Inn, Rotherham, which in those days was the local market inn being situated near the local cattle market. It is interesting to note that the Partnership has a complete and continuing set of leather bound and hardbacked valuation books dating from 1832.

The practice was profitably carried out by Mr. James White until his death in the 1870's. At this time, his Great Nephew, Andrew Merryweather joined the practice and upon the death of James White, Leam Villa was sold and Mr. Andrew Merryweather, who had by this time taken the tenancy of Abdy Farm, Whiston, maintained the practice from an office which he built at Abdy Farm, Whiston. The business continued in this form until Mr. Andrew George Merryweather, the Father of Mr. Edwin T. Merryweather, joined the practice, having been articled to the firm of Auctioneers and Valuers, Messrs. Iscritt and Barrell in Grantham, where he had learned fully the profession of Livestock Auction and Tenantright Valuation. At this time, the development of the firm demanded larger offices and these were taken in The Crofts, which in those days joined the cattle market, but today, is at the rear of the Police Station. In fact, it was Mr. Andrew G. Merryweather who laid the foundations for the present firm because it was he who widened the scope of the practice to include Urban work in addition to general Rural work, by becoming involved in the sale of houses, valuation and sales of all types of commercial business premises. Upon its opening in The Crofts, the firm was styled Merryweather and Son. By coincidence, when Mr. Andrew Merryweather semi-retired from the practice in 1912, he was able to re-purchase Leam Villa, as his retirement home although the property was not used for business purposes. The Merryweather family remained in occupation until it was sold by the present Mr. Edwin T. Merryweather in 1963, when Mr. Merryweather moved to Stone to facilitate his then existing appointment as Agent to the Earl of Scarborough.

During the first World War, the practice was carried on by Mr. Alfred Styring Merryweather, as his brother, Mr. Andrew George Merryweather, went to the war. At this time, the firm was styled Merryweather and Sons. Mr. Andrew Merryweather died in 1921. In 1927, Mr. Edwin T. Merryweather joined the firm and remains with the firm today as Partner and Senior Consultant and has, therefore, been in continuous practice in the Town for 55 years, with the exception of war service during the second World War.

The 1930's saw further changes in the Partnership. In 1932 Mr. Sidney Murfitt Hardcastle, joined the firm as pupil and later as assistant until the beginning of the second World War and Mr. Edwin T. Merryweather was also called to the War, which meant that during the period 1939 to 1945, the business was looked after by Mr. Andrew Styring Merryweather, who also continued to farm at Abdy Farm, Whiston.

After the War, the business was run down and it became Mr. Edwin T. Merryweather's immediate task to regenerate the practice. Part of the regenerating was brought about by an association formed with Mr. William Dawson, who had lost both his elder brother and assistant during the war and was entirely on his own and thus unable to practice as previously. This relationship continued until Mr. Dawson's death in 1958 when the two firms were amalgamated and Mr. Dawson's daughter, Miss A. L. Dawson, joined Merryweather and Corbett, being the fifth generation of Dawsons to practise in Doncaster.

Prior to this, Mr. Hardcastle had returned from the war, purchased a share in the business of Mr. William Corbett, Agricultural Auctioneer and Valuer in Penistone and upon the death of Mr. Corbett, his practice was amalgamated with Merryweather and Sons to become the firm Merryweather Sons and Corbett. In the early 1960's, the style became Merryweather and Corbett.

Up to 1956 the business was still housed in The Crofts although Rotherham had seen many changes and in fact, the cattle market had been moved to Corporation Street, around 1920.

The result of the amalgamations and the growth of business meant that the practice exceeded the rented office accommodation in The Crofts. Mr. Merryweather purchased the present site in Ship Hill and erected the present premises in 1956. These premises were designed to be vastly in excess of the current needs at that date and once again the premises are now insufficient for present day needs.

In the late 1950's, it became apparent to Mr. Merryweather that if the business were to continue, certain additional staff was required in order to provide continuity. Mr. D.S.R. Watson, the present Senior Partner, joined the firm as an assistant in 1958, having been articled to Messrs. Cranswick and Cranswick of Bridlington, and initially he carried out agricultural and livestock auction work. However, with the decline in livestock auctions and the increase in urban development in South Yorkshire, the Partnership took a decision that it would dispense with all livestock auction work in cattle markets. The closure of Rotherham Market and at a later date, the closure of Worksop Market confirmed this decision and Mr. Watson is responsible for the growth of the Partnership in retail commercial and industrial development having worked as far afield as Cornwall and Scotland.

The agricultural side of the business is now concentrated to a large extent in Doncaster being a more suitable geographical base although the Rotherham Office still offers an agricultural



service to our long established and much valued agricultural clientel .

Mr. Alfred S. Merryweather was active in the Partnership prior to 1958 when illness forced his retirement from the office although not from the Partnership.

In 1965, Mr. Peter Drabble became an assistant to the firm, in 1961 Mr. Watson had become a Partner and Mr. Drabble subsequently became a Partner in 1972, responsible for the total residential sales of the practice. This includes the sale of new property on behalf of major public companies, in addition to the general housing market.

In 1972, Mr. Peter Horne, joined the Partnership at Doncaster Office and is specifically responsible for the Land Agency work and has been instrumental in acquiring large areas of land on behalf of major pension funds which the firm now manages. The Doncaster Office still retains a link with Messrs. Dawsons, mentioned earlier, and is styled Merryweather, Corbett and Dawson and in fact, Miss A.L. Dawson remains with the firm as Partner responsible for administration.

1981 has been a successful year for the Partnership. It has seen further acquisition of agricultural land for institutions, acquisition of supermarkets and industrial sites on behalf of major development companies and the sale of 983 residential properties, new and existing. The present Partnership comprises: Mr. D.S.R. Watson, FRICS., Mr. P. Drabble, MAEA., Mr. P. Horne FRICS., Mr. E.T. Merryweather FRICS., and Miss A. L. Dawson. Mr. S. M. Hardcastle FSVA remains as Senior Agricultural Consultant. In addition to the Partners, the firm employs three qualified Surveyors and a total staff of 42. The practice can provide a complete professional and personal service in all aspects of the profession.

It can be seen that the present practice has been based upon a sound historical background and the drive and foresight of Mr. Edwin Merryweather.

It is the intention of the Partnership to continue to expand as and when the opportunity arises and although its expansion is totally within the South Yorkshire conurbation, with offices being maintained at Rotherham, Doncaster, Tickhill, Maltby, Mosborough, Wombwell and Worsbrough Village, the question of further expansion beyond South Yorkshire is currently under review provided that a continuing personal service can be maintained.