



Inventory

Acc.13178

Business records and family papers of W & R Chambers

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Papers, circa 1811-circa 1992, of W. and R. Chambers, publishers.

Files and volumes have been arranged in accordance with the existing order as far as possible. Original reference numbers have been noted in brackets at the end of descriptions. Some items in this deposit were previously part of Dep.341 (Dep.341/41, 517, 624).

For further papers of this firm, see Dep.341.

Deposited, 2010.

Manuscripts, typescripts and annotated printed works

These works are in bound volumes. Reference numbers in brackets refer to the original library catalogue numbers from a copy of the catalogue dated 2001.

1. Manuscript journal of Charles Edward Stuart Chambers, 1899-1908. Ledger includes entries for rent on Middle Cardney property, staff costs, sale of game, oats, and dog food. 1 volume. [4a]
2. Album, 'Cuttings concerning W. and R. Chambers', including press cuttings, photos, sketches, pamphlets, and letters, 1831-1987. 1 volume. [11]
3. Typescript copy of the 'Diary of Robert Chambers to 1833', with editorial annotations. 1 volume. [15]
4. Typescript of letters of Robert Chambers to Anne Kirkwood, 1829-1834. 1 ring binder. [16]
5. Album of press cuttings of reviews of the 'Memoirs of William and Robert Chambers'; also included are cuttings of obituaries of Robert Chambers, 1871-1872, 1967. Includes a typescript contents list. 1 volume. [17]
6. Album, 'Cuttings Relating to William & Robert Chambers', containing press cuttings, correspondence, literary works, etc., 1844-1906, 1936, 1949, 1980-2004. 1 volume. [25]
7. Minute book of the Committee for the Restoration of the Cross of Edinburgh, 1860-1861. Includes sketches of and press cuttings about the Cross. 1 volume. [26]
8. Undated manuscript of Robert Chambers works 'on angling, natural history etc.' Includes contents list. 1851 watermark. 1 volume. [27]
9. Annotated album, 'Newspaper articles by publications by W. [and] R. C.', 1842, 1851-1863, 1871. Volume includes press cuttings, including literature reviews of work on Robert Burns. 1 volume. [28]
10. Manuscript, 'Memoir of R. Chambers and W. Chambers', with associated proofs, 1871. The manuscript may have been used as the basis of 'Memoir of Robert Chambers with Autobiographic Reminiscences of William Chambers' (Edinburgh: W [and] R Chambers, 1872). 1 volume. [29]

11. Manuscript, 'M.S.S. of Robert Chambers, Traditions of Edinburgh, etc.', 1610, 1720, 1824-1873. Included are various literary works, journal entries, letters, notes, a printed notice, 1720, a copied letter, 1610, and copied excerpts from parish registers, 1563-1665. 1 volume. [30]
12. 'M.S.S. Various'. Manuscripts of Robert Chambers, including works on his early life, the Domestic Annals of Scotland, Scottish ballads, and geology, 1832, 1841, 1851. 1 volume. [31]
13. Manuscript, 'M.S.S. of Robert Chambers, Junr 1858-1860', 1858-1860, 1997. Included are writings, some loosely inserted, on natural history, country sports, Chambers's devotion to Queen Victoria, and an interest in the Prince of Wales. 1 volume. [33]
14. Annotated copy of 'The Letters of Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe to the Late Dr Robert Chambers', edited by Charles E. S. Chambers (Edinburgh: 1881), 1823-1851, 1881. Title page note indicates the volume was 'printed for private circulation', included are original correspondence, a family tree in manuscript, and press cuttings. 1 volume. [Dep.341/624]
15. Manuscript journal of Robert Chambers, 1837. Journal contains entries relating to visits to interview people about memories of Robert Burns. Some of the content noted by C.E.S Chambers as 'unsuitable for publication'. 1 volume. [M2]
16. Manuscript, 'Anecdotes from the Conversation of Bishop Law, noted down in 1827', 1853-1854. [M3]
17. Robert Chambers's 'Book of Sales', 1819-1822. The ledger includes titles of books sold, money drawn, and profit totals. 1 volume. [M8]
18. 'Letters from French prisoners', 1789-1793, 1810-1812. Volume contains letters from French prisoners at Peebles to James Chambers, receipts for education of Robert Chambers and William and Jeannie Gibson. 1 volume. [M12]
- 19-20. Interleaved copy of the Journal of Sir Walter Scott. The volumes contain pasted insertions including portraits, topography, proof- engravings from Scott's work, and autographed letters, 1811, 1831-1858, 1890. 2 volumes. [M21]
21. Manuscript of the Reverend Hamilton Paul, 1837-1838, 1846. Correspondence and notes relating to Chambers's edition of Burns's poetry. 1 volume. [O22; Dep.341/517]
22. Transcript, 1879, of letters of Robert Chambers to Mrs Cross, 1821-1824. 1 volume. [R3]
23. Manuscript, 'M.S.S of R. Chambers, Traditions of Edinburgh, etc.', 1833-1864, containing research notes including extracts from historical sources. 1 volume. [R5(a)]
24. Manuscript, 'M.S.S of R. Chambers, Traditions of Edinburgh, etc.', 1824-?1850s. Several notebooks bound together containing historical notes as well as material relating to the life of Robert Chambers. 1 volume. [R5(a)]

25. Manuscript, 'Popular Rhymes of Scotland' by Robert Chambers, 1825. Includes notes from Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe and a letter from Chambers to Archibald Constable offering the manuscript for publication. 1 volume. [R8(a)]
26. Annotated and interleaved copy of 'Popular Rhymes of Scotland' by Robert Chambers, 1842. This volume includes sections on local superstitions, family names, nursery rhymes, etc. 1 volume. [R8]
27. Manuscript, 'The Pictures of Scotland' by Robert Chambers, ?1824-1827. 1 volume. [R9(a)]
- 28.-29. Manuscript, 'Chambers's Scottish Songs Original M.S. 1824'. 1 volume. [R12(a)]
30. 'Illustrations of the Author of Waverley: Proofs containing author's corrections &c', 1824. 1 volume. [R20]
31. Dedication copy of Poems by Robert Chambers, 1835. The volume is dedicated to William Tait, Esq, later given to Robert Chambers, Junior. It contains a letter from Peter Cunningham at the front. 1 volume. [R22(c)]
32. 'Manuscript Poems R. Chambers LL.D.' Contains poetry, notes, and songs, 1833-1867. Includes 'Introduction to the vision: A Poem by J. Kemp, Architect of Scott Monument'. 1 volume. [R23]
- 33-36. Interleaved copy of the Life and Works of Burns, 1856. Included are copy correspondence, and manuscript and printed insertions. 4 volumes. [R33]
37. Manuscript, 'Socianum', a memoir of Robert Chambers [1802-1871], 1833. 1 volume. [R46]
38. 'Proceedings at Peebles: on Entertaining and Presenting the Freedom of the Burgh to Messrs William and Robert Chambers, of Edinburgh', 1841. Includes a printed account of the presentation of the Freedom of the Burgh to William and Robert Chambers. Two letters relating to the event tipped in. 1 volume. [W6]
39. Manuscript, 'Doggiana, etc.' by Robert Chambers, 1840-1850. Contains humorous music, poetry, prose, and sketches. 1 volume.
40. Memo book of Robert Chambers containing entries on various subjects, 1844-1846. 1 volume [formerly Dep.341/41]
41. Notebook labelled 'Malta, 1836' and 'Remarkable Old People Mrs Thomson and Burns by Robert Chambers', 1838. 1 volume.
42. Manuscript, Robert Chambers on the Rebellion of 1745, 1872. Includes correspondence. 1 volume.
43. 'Memoirs of William Chambers', transcribed by J. Cargill, 1861. Contains explanatory note, drawings and photographs. 1 volume.

44. Interleaved copy of 'The Threiplands of Fingask', (London: W. and R. Chambers, 1880) with notes, press cuttings, manuscripts, and photographs. 1 volume.
- 45-46. Interleaved copy of 'Traditions of Edinburgh', 1825. Includes notes, annotations, and press cuttings. 2 volumes.
47. Manuscript journal of C.E.S. Chambers, 1901-1904. Includes brief accounts of daily activities. 1 volume.
48. Manuscript journal of C.E.S. Chambers, 1904-1913, 1923. Includes short accounts of daily activities. 1 volume.
49. Glenbuck Loch Fishing Record, 1913-1946. Included are dates, names, remarks on weather, and figures for number of fish, heaviest fish, total weights, and averages. The fishers include C.E.S Chambers and Robert Chambers, Junior. 1 volume.
50. Folder labelled 'press cuttings' containing newspaper cuttings and offprints, 1878-2003, and also a small number of 19th century documents possibly previously contained in volumes in the collection. 1 folder.

Letters

51. Letter, 7 March 1831, of Walter Scott. (framed)
52. Letter, 18 September 1835, of James Hogg. (framed)

Files of business and family papers.

These box files are as arranged by Anthony Stuart Chambers, according to his original typescript contents lists which are contained within the boxes.

- 53-54. Correspondence of descendants and relations of William and Robert Chambers, 1908-1991. Family history research including correspondence, family trees, photographs, and photocopies of historical documents. 2 boxes.
55. William and Robert Chambers, 1836-1906, 1983-1985. Contains correspondence, photographs, and photocopies of historical documents. 1 box.
56. Robert Chambers the younger and Laura [Anderson], 1855-1915. Contains diary of Robert Chambers junior, 1 Jan-13 Aug 1855; cash books July 1853-Dec 1859 and Jan 1860-Jan 1863; Laura Anderson's housekeeping book 1 Sept 1856-28 March 1859. Also letters from Laura to her husband Robert Chambers and Robert Chambers to their son Charles Edward Stuart Chambers. 1 box.
57. Charles Edward Stuart Chambers, 1884-1937. Contains publications including catalogues of books and manuscripts in the library of C.E.S. Chambers, 1885-1886. Also diaries 1901-1904, 1904-1923, 1932-1935 and journal of visit to U.S.A in 1884. Correspondence about family members including C.E.S. Chambers's brother Albert Murray Chambers, and his daughters Nina and Violet. 1 box.

58. Reginald Stuart Chambers and Kathleen Elizabeth Chambers née Stevenson, 1901-1964. Includes letters and diaries of R.S. Chambers and K.E. Chambers's reading journal for 1934-1944. Includes papers relating to Chambers's schooling at Harrow, 1901-1902. 1 box.
59. Antony Stuart Chambers, 1919-1946. Included are war time correspondence, military papers, newspapers, postcards and diaries for 1930 and 1936. Also copies of 'Touchstone' magazine created at Oflag VIIB prisoner of war camp, an inscribed copy of 'The Four-Poster' by A.N.L. Munby and a painting of Eichstatt dated 1943. 1 box.
60. Documents relating to history of W. and R. Chambers Ltd, 1832-1989. Included are press cuttings, correspondence, speeches on special occasions, agreements, papers relating to 150th anniversary dinner in 1969, and notes on the history of the business. 1 box.
61. Documents relating to history of W. and R. Chambers Ltd, 1862-1986. Included are papers relating to the Francis Testimonial on the freedom of the press from taxation, report 'The Chambers Tradition' 1974, press cuttings, anecdotes from members of staff and photographs including staff retirements, book displays and Chambers award for Scottish writing event.
62. Memoranda to directors, W. and R. Chambers Ltd, 1937-1958. Includes reports and memorandum. Also included are several small golf related poetry pamphlets by A. Turnbull. 1 box.
63. 'Soirees, concerts and excursions, etc.', Programmes and tickets for soirees and leaflets for annual staff excursions and other printed items, 1871-1914. 1 box.

Business files, 20th century.

64. Company records, c 1950s-1980s box 1: Papers for monthly meeting of company directors: February, March, April, May, June, June-Nov 1989; Report on sales, 1973-1988; Annual statements of accounts, 1987, 1988 and 1990; and copy of 'Memorandum and Articles of Association of W. and R. Chambers Ltd' and undated staff booklet.
65. Company records, c 1950s-1980s box 2: Papers concerning Thomas Wright Pearson fraud case, 1955; Reader's reports for the Chambers Literary Award 1977 and file of correspondence and papers 1972-1992.

Contents lists

- 66-68. 3 boxes of typescript contents lists and transcripts relating to the Chambers archive compiled by Antony Stuart Chambers, with a few ephemeral items relating to the history of W & R Chambers.