



Inventory

Acc.5074

Carlyle Executorship Papers

Deposited by Messrs Farrer & Co, August 1970.

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This collection relates almost entirely to the administration of Thomas Carlyle's estate, under the executorship of J A Froude and Sir James FitzJames Stephen, during 1881 and 1882. There are, however, a few documents outside this period, principally relating to the publication of Carlyle's works by Messrs Chapman & Hall in the last ten years of his life. Unless otherwise stated, letters listed below are addressed to the firm or partners of Messrs Farrer & Co, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2, whence this collection derives.

While many of the papers are concerned with the legal technicalities and financial details of winding up the estate, two other parts of the collection have a special interest. The accounts and statistics of publication will be of interest to historians of book production; and, more importantly, much correspondence deals with the attempt of Carlyle's niece Mary to obtain possession of the Carlyle MSS entrusted to Froude. Some account of these negotiations is given in Waldo Hilary Dunn's James Anthony Froude, II (Oxford, 1963) pp.471-500 passim. These papers amplify, if they do not amend, Mr Dunn's narrative.

1. Probate of Thomas Carlyle's will and codicil (6 Feb 1873 and 8 Nov 1878 respectively), 13 Apr 1881.
Printed copy will and codicil as above.
Envelope, formerly containing share certificates, with list of contents.
Power of Attorney, Froude to Stephen, to act during his absence abroad, 29 June 1881.
Instructions and draft for above, and a copy.
2. Copy executorship accounts endorsed with releases by residuary beneficiaries.
9 legacy receipts, 1881-2.
Table of 'present state of the Carlyle family 1881'.
7 dividend warrants on railway shares, 1881.
Correspondence from beneficiaries and their representatives, 1881-2.
Copy letter, Sir J F Stephen to Messrs Bensons (Mary Aitken Carlyle's solicitors) re dispute over MSS.
3. Ouvry's receipt for £1500 from Froude.
2 letters from David Masson, 1881, acknowledging bequest and discussing will.
4 letters from Mary Carlyle, 1881, re bequests and dispute over MSS.
4 letters from Froude, 1881, re same.
Letter of John Cook, WS, Edinburgh, re bequest to Edinburgh University, 1867.
Note in Carlyle's hand of agreement 'in regard to vol.4 & 3 of History of Friedrich'.

4. 'Papers from Mrs Forster relating to publication of works', including various statements from Chapman & Hall, mainly for Frederick the Great; draft agreement re same; some correspondence between publishers and John Forster re same.
5. Draft of Carlyle's will, 1873.
3 drafts of codicil to same, 1878 and a letter of Mary Aitken Carlyle re codicil, 1878.
6. Bundle of c. 70 letters, 1881-2, including many of J.A. Froude and Sir J F Stephen, all concerned with dispute over Carlyle MSS.
7. Copy Carlyle's will and codicil; and an epitome.
2 proofs of printed version of same.
Bundle of papers re valuation of property, sale of securities, etc.
Lists of 'Friedrich books' and 'Cromwell books' [bequeathed to Harvard].
Memoranda on copyrights and other papers re publication.
Draft statutory declarations for probate by executors.
Small bundle of household bills paid in 1881.
Bundle of executorship accounts, including some publishers' statements.
8. Papers re Legacy Duty on Carlyles estate, including: Legacy Duty assessment, 1882, with 5 statutory legacy receipts; 9 valuations of various bequests of chattels, a valuation of copyright and a (nil) valuation of 24 Cheyne Row.
Brief for opinion of Vaughan Hawkins.
9. 3 briefs for opinion of Vaughan Hawkins; 3 more briefs on a further case.
4 papers from railway companies re transfers of shares.
Correspondence re Mrs Baillie's annuity, 1881.
Opinion by Cozens-Hardy on an aspect of the MSS dispute, 1881.
Draft of circular letter from Stephen to the residuary legatees, 1881.
Printed copy of Carlyle's will and codicil.
10. General note of Carlyle's publishing agreements with Frederick Chapman.
Letters from Chapman to Carlyle, Miss Aitken and John Forster, 1876-8, mainly re stock figures and production.
Chapman & Hall's accounts with Carlyle, 1870-75, some with minor annotations in his hand.
11. Bundle of 7 notifications from Coutts & Co re sale of railway stocks, 1881; 4 similar notifications re sale of foreign stocks, 1882.

12. Papers originally found loose, including:
 - 3 printed copies of the will.
 - 'List of letters, papers, &c in possession of Mr Fronde', n.d.
 - Brief and opinion of H F Dickens, 1881; another brief for opinion of Vaughan Hawkins [1881].
 - Letter from Prof Wilson, Edinburgh; 2 from J A Pronde; 1 from Mrs M A Carlyle; all 1881.
 - Receipt from Bensons (for Mrs Carlyle) for 4 bundles of letters received from Fronde, 1882.

13. Executorship account, 1881-2.
 - Accounts from Farrer & Co, to executors, 1881 and 1886.
 - List of Carlyle's Dumfries securities, 1881, with draft brief to H F Dickens re same, and related papers.
 - Envelope (empty) re 'Craig[enputto]k Finis' with annotations by Carlyle re sealing up of contents.
 - List of British and foreign stocks and shares owned by Carlyle, with related correspondence.
 - Dividend warrant of Artizans' Dwellings Co, 1882.
 - Cheque books of Carlyle's British Linen Bank a/c, 1878; Executors' cheque book at Coutts', 1881-2 and bank account, 1881-2.

14. Envelope containing 47 letters from Froude, Stephen and members of the Carlyle family re the residuary estate, copyrights and MSS of Thomas Carlyle.