



Inventory

Acc.6134

Papers of Dr John Brown

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This collection, the principal surviving archive of Dr John Brown, author of 'Rab and his Friends', consists mainly of the bulk of his family correspondence, with some of his general correspondence including letters of Ruskin and Thackeray, and a certain amount of his literary material. The papers also include material relating to his ancestors and family from 1728 to 1923, and miscellaneous items relating to John Howell, polyartist, and to John Scott, editor of Baldwin's London Magazine.

Bought, 1974

Box 1

1. Early family papers:-

Letters of the Rev John Brown of the Associate Congregation of Haddington to: his son John, n.d. (but after 1777). his brother-in-law William Heggie, merchant in Abernethy, 1772, 1778. David Bairner in Kennoway, n.d. the Associate Burgher Synod, n.d.

Letters of the Rev John Brown of the Associate Congregation of Whitburn to his wife, Isabella Cranston, 1777-9.

Letters of Isabella Cranston to her husband, 1779-83, n.d.

Miscellaneous prayers and poetry of Isabella Cranston, 1778-9, 1795, with letters by her, 1779, 1782, 1788.

Letters to the Rev John Brown DD of Broughton Place church from:- his father, 1814, 1819. His uncle Ebenezer, minister in Inverkeithing, 1801, 1819-20, 1822, 1831-5, and others, including Thomas Chalmers, 1818-19, 1830, 1846.

Miscellaneous papers relating to the early period of the Brown family, and to the family of John Thomson, tobacconist in Musselburgh, 1746 (xerox), 1759, 1785-93.

2. Cash book of John Thomson, 1728-74, with additions by the Rev John Brown of Haddington, mostly relating to house rents.
3. Letters to Dr John Brown, author of 'Rab and his Friends' from his father, 1822, 1826, 1829, 1831-3, 1840, 1854, and his mother, n.d.
4. Letters of Dr Brown to members of his family, 1826-82. This group consists of over 200 letters of which some 120 have been published (though with many

large excisions) in Letters of Dr John Brown, ed. John Brown and D W Forrest, 1907.

Box 2

1. Letters of Dr Brown to persons outside his family, including one letter to Ruskin, 1860-78, n.d.

Letters of John Ruskin, all but one to Dr Brown and his wife, 1848, 1864, 1870, 1874, n.d., with a letter of Ruskin's father, 1842. There are eight letters (3 copies), and a scrap, of which only two have been published (nos.12 and 13 in Letters of Dr John Brown).

Letters of W M Thackeray mostly to Dr Brown, 1849-62. There are twenty letters (3 copies and a scrap), with some photographs of Thackeray drawings. Four of the letters do not appear at all in Gordon N Ray The Letters ... of W M Thackeray, 1946; the others Ray has taken from the deficient texts published in The Letters of Dr Brown. The letter to W B Reed, here complete in a press cutting, is reproduced by Ray in a depleted form from another source.

Miscellaneous letters to Dr Brown, 1832-82, n.d., some of which have been published in his Letters Writers include George Combe, Lord Cockburn, Panizzi, Gladstone, Henry Reeve, Dean Stanley, R H Hutton, Theodore Martin (describing Thackeray's death), Millais, Landseer, Longfellow, J A Carlyle, J H Burton, John Forster, Andrew Lang, and O W Holmes.

2. Diary of Dr Brown, 1858.
3. Literary papers of Dr Brown consisting mainly of scraps from several of his essays in Horae Subsecivae, with some unpublished material. References to the Horae are to the edition of 1885. Individual sections are from:

‘Mr Syme’, HS 1, pp.365-70, with another brief note on Professor Syme, apparently unpublished.

‘Sir Robert Christison’, HS, 1, pp.374-5.

A piece on ‘Wilkie's Dogs’, possibly intended for inclusion in ‘Notes on Art’, HS 2.

‘A Jacobite Family’, complete, HS 3, pp.83-113.

‘Something about a Well’, complete, HS 3, pp.445-8.

'Jeems the Doorkeeper', HS 3, a shortened version, apparently for an address to some church club.

A scrap on the education of women for the medical profession.

A poem, 'Come not when I am dead'.

Two printed rhymes: 'Glen Sannox', 1873, and 'Numeri Lege Soluti', 1874.

'The Book of the Prophet Xela', being a 'biblical' account, probably by Brown (though not in his hand) of the controversy surrounding the construction of a horse trough at the entrance to Rutland Street, ca. 1870.

A detailed critique of Henry Marshall's Military Miscellany; this does not appear to be by Brown, but he did write an essay on Marshall's work published in HS 1.

A Times article (ms. copy) on Dr Brown's writing, 1861.

4. Miscellaneous grotesques by Dr Brown, and a watercolour of Schiehallion, 1878.
5. Sketch book of Dr Brown, 1850.
6. Sketch book of Dr Brown, 1852.

Box 3

1. Miscellaneous papers of Catherine Mackay, Dr Brown's wife, 1838, 1846, 1850, 1852, n.d.

Miscellaneous family correspondence, 1840-1911, n.d., much of it connected with the death of Dr Brown, and the publication of his Letters The letter of David Douglas of 7 July 1887, includes four original drawings by Warwick Brookes for publication in Dr Brown's Marjorie Fleming, 1863.

2. Papers of John Brown (d. 1918)

Letters to members of his family, 1907-18. 63 of these letters have been published in Letters, Essays, and Verses of John Brown, 1921.

Correspondence relating to his death and the publication of his Letters ..., 1918-23.

Miscellaneous papers, 1909-18.

3. Literary papers of John Brown, 1910-15, n.d. These include part of a diary kept between February and May 1915 (with accompanying maps), and miscellaneous poetry. The diary and much of the poetry have been published in Letters
4. Part of a talk by the Rev John Cairns of Dumfries at the inauguration of a memorial to Mr Pringle, village schoolmaster at Ednam, n.d.

‘The Religion of Sir Walter Scott’, 1932, and ‘Galawshan’, n.d., two talks by the Rev W T Cairns D D, of Eyre Place Church, Edinburgh.
5. Autobiography of John Howell, polyartist, written in 1854, covering the early years of his life, and including a detailed description of his submarine, and of his mechanical horse for towing a velocipede.

Box 4

1. Papers relating to John Scott, editor of Baldwin's London Magazine.

Volume of typed transcripts of his letters to his family, 1801-21, with a related letter, 1868.

Letter to him from Wordsworth, 1816, with a copy of The Times Literary Supplement for 27 Dec. 1941, where it has been published in full by W M Parker (p. 660). The text is taken from earlier printed sources by E de Selincourt in The Letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth, revised Moorman and Hill, vol.3, pt.2, 1970, pp.321-4, where the first sentence, the final paragraph, and the whole passage dealing with Hazlitt have been omitted.

Articles by Scott written after 1818 (watermark) some at least for inclusion in Baldwin's London Magazine of which he became editor in 1820. The articles are:

- ‘Living Authors: A Series of Critical Sketches’, no.1.
- ‘The Chronicle of Pierre Nino’.
- ‘Notre Dame’.
- ‘Palais Royal’.
- ‘On Venice’.
- Part of an article on Byron.

Article by Major S. Butterworth from The Bookman, for Oct. 1922 on ‘The Old London Magazine and some of its Contributors’.

Related letters of Donald A Low, 1965, and W M Parker, 1973.

2. Papers relating to John Leech: a letter to his father, 1826, and answers to queries on his life and habits by J L Caley, ca. 1864.

Miscellaneous literary pieces, 19th cent.

Miscellaneous papers relating to the history of the Brown family, 1812, 1848, 1915, n.d.

Miscellaneous papers not relating to the family, 1754-1928, including a letter of Walter Scott W S, 1754, and a letter of Lord Cockburn to Kennedy of Dunure published in Letters ... from Henry Cockburn ... to Thomas Francis Kennedy ..., 1874, pp.194-5.