MS 42 / DRUMMOND

1 William Drummond & Sons Ltd. Seed Merchants

William Drummond (1760-1824) set up in business in the late 18th century as a nurseryman and seedsmen in the Bannockburn area. He leased ground at Coneypark, Stirling, from about 1800 which continued in use as a nursery until the late 20th century. The business flourished and Drummond was joined by the eldest son of his first marriage, William, the founder of Drummonds' Agricultural Museum, who eventually became a partner. In 1814 they opened a shop at the corner of Baxter's Wynd (Baker Street) and Bow Street, Stirling and offered an advisory service to the leading agriculturalists from all over Scotland. The business expanded into new premises in Corn Exchange Road, where they held a successful agricultural exhibition and sale. The Drummonds were pioneers in turnip development with the 'Drummond's Improved Swede' and 'Drummond's Extra Improved Swede'. The firm took premises in King Street, 1820-1898, and when they were destroyed by fire they moved to Murray Place. This property was again destroyed by fire and was replaced by shops, offices and a store in Colquhoun Street. In 1831 William Drummond held his first exhibition of agricultural produce in Stirling. The exhibition attracted thousands of visitors and was repeated the following year with such success that in 1833 it was made permanent and became known as Drummonds' Agricultural Museum, Stirling. The museum displayed, as well as seeds and bulbs, the latest inventions in tools and implements. In 1840 it moved to its own building and it was also awarded a gold medal by the Agricultural Society of Scotland. The museum ceased to operate later in the century, partly because the increasing popularity of agricultural societies and shows made it less of an attraction. In 1843 a grandson of the founder, David Drummond, opened premises at 16 (now 58) Dawson Street, Dublin and in 1931 at Carlow. In 1941 and 1959 these premises were expanded to comprise a large grain-drying store with shops, offices stores and nursery gardens. W Drummond & Sons Ltd was incorporated in Dublin as a limited company on 10 October 1895. The objects of the company included the acquisition and 'take over as a going concern [of] the business of seed merchants, nurserymen, potato, manure, feeding stuff and implement merchants, and all other business now carried on under the style of William Drummond & Sons' in Stirling and Dublin The company retained its family connections with family members maintaining control until the premises closed in 1981. (ref. NA12279)

BOX LIST:

Box 1:

- Bundle of minutes of Directors and Ordinary General Meetings. Also includes correspondence from Dublin office, sales figures and director's salaries (1895-1919)
- Articles of Association; 3 copies, drafts and final proofs (1908-1934)
- Private cash book; contains personal accounts of William Drummond, Harvey Drummond, Peter Drummond, David Drummond, James Drummond. Also wages for Mrs. Jack, Miss
Clark, W. Clarke, J. Gray, J. Davidson, N. Cartshore, Mrs. Frazer and details of insurance account and share account with Stirling Steam Boat Company (1855-1895)

- Salaries and wages book. Includes letters: 26 August, 1894, Manchester, James Young to H. Drummond concerning J. Young’s salary; 5 September 1885, Dalkeith, John Davidson on same subject (1856-1895)
- Salaries book (1895-1954)
- Sales book, warehouse and nursery (1884-1954)
- Bank book; Bank of Scotland cash account (1829-1836)
- Bank book; Union bank, duplicate copy of cheque book account (1848-1859)
- Summary of accounts (1891-1968)
- Business summary; monthly sales profits (1906-1916)

Box 2:
- Annual accounts (stock and balance books) (1858; 1889-1896)
- Annual accounts and reports (1896-1919)

Box 3:
- Annual accounts and reports (1920-1944)

Box 4:
- Annual accounts and reports (1945-1973)
- Cash books and sales ledgers for shop (1818-1842)

Box 5:
- Ledger (1895-1918)
- Ledger (1918-1938)
- Income / corporation tax computations (1922-1925; 1931-1934)
- Prospectus for issue of £50,000 5% preference shares (1895)
- Letter to shareholders (1933)
- Stirling Horticultural Society library subscription list (1829-1831)
- County donations to the library of the Stirling Horticultural Society (1830-1831)
- Agricultural museum, tickets book (1833)
- Reports of the Drummond Museum (1832-1833)
- Stirling agricultural exhibition, expenses (1831-1836)
- List of articles stolen (from museum?) (1851)
- Scottish Agricultural Museums, A. Finlon (1962)
- Warehouse stock books (1936-1960)

**Box 6:**

- Directors expenses (1953-54)
- Uncatalogued business correspondence including:
  - Envelope containing correspondence mainly from Henry Drummond in Dublin to James Drummond Drummond in Stirling concerning the idea of making the firm an limited company and subsequent flotation of the company (1894-1895)
  - Envelope containing correspondence on attuation of Company’s articles of association (1933)
  - Envelope containing offer by Guinness & Mahon Ltd., on behalf of Denis Coakley & Co. Ltd. To acquire the whole of the issued share capital of W Drummond & Sons Ltd., with copy of letter to shareholders (1973)
- Catalogue, garden seeds (1814)
- Catalogue, garden seeds (1838)
- Directions for sowing and cultivating vegetable seeds, by W Drummond & Sons (1862)
- Catalogue, garden seeds (1903)
- Catalogue, shanks lawn mowers (1909)
- Catalogue, agricultural seeds (1930)
- Seed catalogue (1960)
- Catalogues for garden seeds, bulbs and agricultural seeds (1964-1976)
- Notebooks of travelers clients (1895-1915)
- Travellers reports (c1900)
- File of uncatalogued press cuttings (including cuttings concerning store fire, 1949)
- Pamphlet on Scottish Seed and Nursery Trade Association of 1784;
- Notes on history of company
- Invoices for Drummonds (1819-1889)
- Plan, Dalmorglen Park feus belonging to Mrs Margaret MacGregor (c 1929)
- Envelope containing typescript on lime in farm feeding
- Notices from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Photographs of directors and Drummond family, shop premises, warehouse, seedbeds
- Steel plate block of Stirling premises