

**Reference code(s):** GB 0214 DCY

**Title:** Cyfarthfa Iron Works records

**Creation date(s):** 1791-1846

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 0.07 cubic metres (3 vols & 1 booklet)

**Name of creator(s):** Cyfarthfa Iron Works

## CONTEXT

**Administrative/Biographical history:** Iron production at Cyfarthfa (Glamorgan) was started by Anthony Bacon (1718-86) in 1765. In 1786, the ironworks were leased to Richard Crawshay (1739-1810) and in 1794, he became the sole owner. By 1803, the Cyfarthfa works employed 1,500 people and was said to be the biggest in the world. When Richard Crawshay died in 1810, the works passed to his son William Crawshay (1764-1834), who was deeply immersed in his work as an Indian merchant and had no time for the Cyfarthfa works. He in turn appointed his son William II (1788-1867) to manage the concern. It was during this period that the works achieved its greatest production levels. Robert Thompson Crawshay (1817-79) took over in 1847, but his refusal to change to steel production eventually brought about the closure of the works in April 1874. Following his death in 1879, the works were converted to a steel production plant, and continued in operation until 1902, when it was bought out by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold of the Dowlais works. The works closed in 1919, and dismantling was commenced in 1928.

## CONTENT

**Scope and content/abstract:** Cyfarthfa Iron Works account books and index, 1791-1846 (with gaps).

## ACCESS AND USE

**Language/scripts of material:** English

**System of arrangement:** Arranged in chronological order.

**Conditions governing access:** No restrictions

**Conditions governing reproduction:** Usual copyright regulations apply.

**Finding aids:** A hard copy of the catalogue is available at the Glamorgan Record Office.

## ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

**Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information:** All records have been retained.

**Accruals:** Accruals are not expected.

**Archival history:**

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Deposited by the Merthyr Tydfil Library, 1962.

## ALLIED MATERIALS

**Related material:** Related units of description held at the Glamorgan Record Office: DCR, Crawshay of Trefforest and of Bonvilston House.

## DESCRIPTION NOTES

**Note:** Title supplied from contents of fonds.

**Archivist's note:** Compiled by Hayden Burns for the ANW project. The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan Record Office, Catalogue of records for Cyfarthfa Iron Works; Ince, Laurence, *The South Wales Iron Industry, 1754-1885*, (England, 1993); Hayman, Richard, *Working Iron in Merthyr Tydfil*, (Cowbridge and Bridgend, 1989); Addis, J. P., *The Crawshaw Dynasty*, (Cardiff, 1957); Taylor, M. S., *The Crawshays of Cyfarthfa Castle*, (London, 1967).

**Rules or conventions:** This description follows ANW guidelines based on ISAD(G) second edition, AACR2, and LCSH.

**Date(s) of descriptions:** January 2004

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