

Reference code(s): GB 0214 DRB

Title: Rhymney Breweries Ltd records

Creation date(s): 1836-1974

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1.08 cubic metres (87 vols., 2 boxes, 7 large boxes)

Name of creator(s): Andrew Buchan and Company (Rhymney Iron Company Brewery) (mid C19 - 1929); Andrew Buchan[>]TM's Breweries Ltd. (1929 - 1959); Charles Edwards Brewery Ltd. (1902 - 1949); Crosswells Cardiff Brewery Ltd. (1897 - c.1974); D.F. Pritchard Ltd. (1905 - 1930); D. Williams & Co. (Merthyr) Ltd. (1922 - 1958); The Ely Brewery Co. Ltd. (1887 - 1920); The Ely Brewery Co. Ltd. (1928 -post 1962); Griffiths Brothers Ltd. (1890 - 1929); Llanfoist Table Waters Ltd. (1949 - post 1962); Pontypridd Brewery Company (c.1890 - 1892); The Reform Brewery Co. Ltd. (1933 - 1957); Rhondda Valley Brewery Co. Ltd. (1873 - 1896); Rhondda Valley Breweries Co. Ltd. (1896 - 1920); Rhondda Valley and Ely Breweries Co. Ltd. (1920 - 1928); Rhondda Valley and Pontypridd Bottling Co. Ltd. (1888 - 1898); Rhymney Breweries Ltd. (1959 - 1969)

CONTEXT

Administrative/Biographical history: This collection results from the amalgamation of two large south Wales brewery companies in 1960, when Rhymney Breweries Ltd. took over the Ely Brewery Co. Ltd. Rhymney Breweries Ltd. could trace its origins back to the 1830s, while the Ely Brewery Co. Ltd. was established as the Rhondda Valley Brewery Company in 1873. Both companies over the years acquired a number of other brewery companies, some of which were wound up and absorbed into the parent company, while others continued in existence as subsidiaries. Through these acquisitions and mergers, from their origins in Rhymney and Treherbert respectively, the two companies came to own breweries in various locations in Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, the most important being in Rhymney, Cardiff (both owning breweries at Ely), Treherbert, Pontypridd, and Merthyr Tydfil. They also acquired a large number of [>]~tied[>]TM public houses across south Wales. In 1966, Rhymney Breweries Ltd. was taken over by Whitbread & Co. Ltd. Rhymney Breweries Ltd. continued as a subsidiary of Whitbread & Co. until 1969, when a new company, Whitbread Wales Ltd., was formed by merging it with Evan Evans Bevan Ltd. of Neath, another subsidiary of Whitbread.

CONTENT

Scope and content/abstract: Most of the records relate to Andrew Buchan^{>TMs/Rhymney Breweries Ltd., Crosswells Cardiff Brewery Ltd., Rhondda Valley/Ely Brewery Co. Ltd., and the Ely Brewery Co. Ltd (1887 - 1920); material for other companies is very limited. For all of the companies, most of the records are corporate records (mainly directors^{>TM and shareholders^{>TM minute books), although for some companies there are a small number of financial accounting records. For the Rhymney Breweries Ltd. there are a small number of photographs, and for Rhondda Valley/Ely Brewery Co. Ltd. there is large series of deeds relating mainly to public houses. For both of these companies there are also a very small number of staff records, and isolated price lists. There are no operational or technical records for any of the companies. While the earliest record in the collection dates from 1836, most date from the late nineteenth century only.}}}

ACCESS AND USE

Language/scripts of material: English

System of arrangement: The records have been arranged company by company, since this probably best reflects the original order and is the most useful arrangement for searchers. The records of Andrew Buchan^{>TMs/Rhymney Breweries Ltd. are listed first. The sequence in which the other companies are listed follows the order of their acquisition by Andrew Buchan^{>TMs/Rhymney Breweries. The final company to be acquired, the Rhondda Valley/Ely Brewery Co. Ltd., had itself already absorbed a number of companies, and these are listed after the Rhondda Valley/Ely Brewery Co. Ltd., again in the order in which they were acquired.}}

Conditions governing access: No restrictions

Conditions governing reproduction: Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply

Finding aids: Handlist available from the Glamorgan Record Office

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information: All records offered have been accepted and listed.

Accruals: Accruals are not expected

Archival history: The records passed into the custody of Whitbread & Co. Ltd. in 1966, when this company took over Rhymney Breweries Ltd. The records were held in the breweries at Rhymney and Ely at the time of their deposit in the Glamorgan Record Office.

Immediate source of acquisition: Deposited by Whitbread & Co.Ltd. in 1977 and 1978

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material: Records relating to the Rhymney Brewery and Andrew Buchan and Company can be found in the Rhymney Iron Works Collection (D/D Rh).

Publication note: Some of the records in the collection were used in research for Whitbread in South Wales. A History, by Nick Redman, published by Whitbread plc (1992).

DESCRIPTION NOTES

Archivist's note: Compiled by Annabel Wickham for the ANW Project; Sources used include Glamorgan Record Office finding aids.

Rules or conventions: Description follows Archives Network Wales guidelines based on ISAD(G) second edition; AACR2 and LCSH.

Date(s) of descriptions: January 2006
