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CITY OF SALFORD

ARTS AND LEISURE DEPARTMENT

Archives catalogue

U312

Correspondence concerning James Nasmyth, of Edinburgh, Patricroft, Lancashire, and elsewhere, engineer, 1849-1888, n.d., and related papers, 1889-1971, n.d.

Deposited: see below

Catalogued: A.N. Cross, Nov., 1987-May, 1990.

Location: Archives Centre, 658/662 Liverpool Road, Irlam, Manchester, M30 5AD.

This is an artificial collection comprising correspondence of or concerning James Nasmyth (1808-90), the famous engineer, and related papers acquired by Eccles Public Library. In the Library some of these letters were marked with details of how and for what price they were purchased (eg. "Maggs", "5/-") or were put into envelopes so marked; in this catalogue these details have been repeated and cases where documents were found together have been noted so as to give some indication of provenance. Documents are single letters unless otherwise indicated. They were transferred to the Archives Centre in April and November, 1987, except for U312/C1/1, /C1/4-5, /C3/1, /C13/1, /C17/1, /C23/1, /C30/1-2. These letters were received from Salford Local History Library in March, 1990, and appeared to have been purchased some years earlier by Miss M. Patry, formerly Assistant Manager (Libraries), Salford Cultural Services Department, though there were no details as to provenance or purchase other than an envelope (U312/42/11) bearing her name. References added in Eccles Public Library (eg. "SNO274") are given below in round brackets.

For correspondence of Holbrook Gaskell found with these letters, incl. letters from James Nasmyth, see U313. For records of the business partnerships of which James Nasmyth was a member see U268 and for the J. Cantrell collection containing much material on Nasmyth see U269.

These letters include two (U312/C12/1-2) not sent by or to Nasmyth; these were sent by Alexander Fraser and refer to letters (U312/C11/1-2) which he had received from Nasmyth. The letters include some written by Nasmyth during his business partnerships, but are personal in nature rather than written on behalf of a partnership though U312/C31/1-3 contains remarks on work being done by the firm.

Nasmyth's career has been the subject of a number of publications, as noted in the introduction to U268.

Two items found with these letters were passed to Salford Museums in Dec., 1989. One, a penwash drawing of a tree, stuck to a card, was given the Museums reference F20-1989; marked "J. Nasmyth Augt. 5 1877" and, on the back, "9 Aug. 1957, 2140, SNO277, SN75, Mrs. Gibbs, 6 Quebec Mansion, Filsham Road, St. Leonard's on Sea", it was found with a slip marked "Donation Mrs. E.M. Gibb ...". The other, an etching of two cottages and a pond, a part cut off, was given the Museums reference F21-1989; it was marked "JN1869" and "-mes Nasmyth 1869" and, on the back, "9 Feb. 1957, SNO276, SN75, ?3506" (first figure written over and indistinct).

The Nasmyth Collection in Salford Local History Library includes photocopies and other copies of Nasmyth material.

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

- U312/C1/1 To "Bicknell", from Penshurst: thanks for note and for hospitality; will communicate with Dr. Fairbairn; if convenient will look out for Bicknell in the "Tropical Dept" on Friday next for a "confab" before the meeting; may be out of his reckoning as meetings of Works and Stores Committee come round so rapidly, on each alternate Board day as he understands it, 7 Aug. 1866
- /2-3 Letter to "Mr. Bicknell", from Penshurst: is forwarding a duplicate set of "Photo copies" from sketches sent by poor Warwick Brooke who has not long to live though, if spared, would have risen to very high position in the arts, 19 Oct., 1866; slip marked "Henry Bicknell ?son-in-law of David Roberts the artist", n.d. (2 docs. found in U312/Z2/1 with U312/C4/1, /C33/1, /Z1/1-3) 1866, n.d.
- /4-5 To "Bicknell" (with envelope addressed to Henry Bicknell, Cavendish House, Clapham Common, London), from Penshurst: sorry it will not be "in our power" to receive Bicknell and Mr. Buckton as "we" have to go to meet Nasmyth's wife's brother and his wife and sisters; had hoped to have seen him here but the weather was uncertain; asks about a walk to "?Bouchurch", 23 May (1 letter; 1 envelope postmarked 24 May) 1869
- /C2/1 Letter from "Argyll" /George Douglas Campbell, 8th Duke of Argyll, 1823-1900/, Argyll Lodge: has not found Nasmyth's letter nor the photographs; thanks for Nasmyth's trouble about the lens and his "debt" to Nasmyth for it; has bought but has not yet seen two large pictures by Alexander Nasmyth, of Invereray and ?Norwatt; hears Nasmyth has been giving to the public valuable services and advice "on the subject to which you refer", 19 Feb. (1 doc. found with U312/C6/3-8 in U312/Z2/2) 1859
- /C3/1 To Col. Collville, from Penshurst: regrets not having acknowledged earlier the letter from Col. Collville and its "inclosure" from Sir H. Ponsonby"; the "destruction" of a certain tree (also referred to later in the letter) "is too sad and irritating" to "again touch on", with some other remarks about the extension of the "Buildings"; visit, beginning tomorrow, to Edinburgh; memories of walks with his father and his father's friends such as Sir James Hall, Playfair, Leslie Wilkie, ?Heddes, Williams, Raeburn and, sometimes, Sir Walter Scott, listening to their remarks; postscript, Nasmyth's wife sends her very kindest regards to Collville's wife, 24 July. 1881

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

- U312/C4/1 To Mr. Cooke, from Penshurst: plants and gardening; he has a special affection for burdock as having been a favourite with his brother Patrick and with his father, 25 Feb. (1 doc. found with U312/C1/2-3, /C33/1, /Z1/1-3) 1869
- /2 To Mr. ?Cooke, from Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Road, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.: addition of an errata slip to the "J. N. Book" now that the number is 5000 and as the whole number may not be bound; is noting corrections in the case of a new edition, 15 Mar. (1 doc., found with U312/C5/1, /C6/1, /C9/1 in U312/Z2/3) 1883
- The following are letters addressed to members of the Cropper family of Swaylands. Kelly's Directory for Kent for this period lists Edward Cropper, J.P., of Swaylands near Penshurst. One letter is addressed to "Joe" (a son) but with others it is impossible to be certain whether a letter was addressed to Mr or Mrs Cropper. "Mr" and "Mrs" are mostly written in these letters in such a way as to be indistinguishable and the contents of the letters could have been intended for either party. U312/C5/1, from the reference to Nasmyth's wife, seems likely to have been addressed to Mrs. Cropper.
- /C5/1 To Mrs. Cropper, from Penshurst: has opened note in absence of his wife; will be happy to show "your" son the telescope and discuss at length the best time to do so, with references to various planets; on Saturday has agreed to go with Eric Smith to photograph in the fields; Mrs. Nasmyth is visiting her father; she has been suffering from hay fever, 9 Aug. (1 doc. found with U312/C4/2, /C6/1, /C9/1) 1860
- /C6/1-8
/1 To Mr. Cropper: Culvor Hill: apologies for having kept interesting letters of Cropper's son for so long, comments on the son's travels and collection by him of things during them; the description of "Rio" tempts Nasmyth to go to see it, 14 Aug.; 1860-63, n.d.
1860
- /2 Culvor Hill, Penshurst: enclosing photographs; regrets that they will not be seeing "you" here at dinner this week, 17 Sept., 1860 (note added in pencil regarding Nasmyth and marked "4/-" in pencil, n.d.); 1860, n.d.
- /3 Culvor Hill: too good to thank him for the etchings; advice on proposal to frame them; declining invitation, 1 Oct.; 1860
- /4 Royal Hotel, Scarborough; Joe at the "Swiss School"; Scarborough as a resort, 20 Sept.; 1861
- /5 Penshurst; accepting invitation to dinner and regards to all at Swaylands, 6 Mar.; 1862

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

U312/C6/1-8
/6

To Mr. Cropper (contd.):

1860-63, n.d.
1862

10 Half Moon Street, Piccadilly: Joe and "Rams and merrimac war ships"; will send to Joe a sketch of his steam ram "invented in 1836, given to the Admiralty in 1845 and nothing done in the matter in 1862"; is going to the War Dept. today to have a talk with Sir I/J Burgoyne* on the subject and also Nasmyth's proposal for lining warships with 10-15 feet of wool as a protection against shot; our "iron plated ships" now vulnerable to 150lb shot from "a Steam Hammer made malleable iron gun with a charge of 50lb. of powder"; Joe's new boat, 17 Apr. (pencilled note as to invention of steam ram by Nasmyth added);

/7 "Your visit" to Liverpool; a "happy thought" of the Admiralty for the Channel fleet to be sent round the island; his visit to Newcastle for the meeting of the "B.A." and his experience as a guest there of Sir William Armstrong; in this "gigantic and criminal conflict" [the American Civil War] sees a "Diabolical Struggle for Power and Empire" rather than a love of freedom, 30 Sept.;

/8 Unaddressed, undated (except for "Monday morning") invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Cropper and Joe to dinner n.d.

(8 docs., U312/C6/4-6, 8 each formerly stuck to card and each marked "4/-"; U312/C6/3 attached to sheet of paper; U312/C6/1 found with U312/C4/2, /C5/1, /C9/1; U312/C6/3-8 found with U312/C2/1)

/C7/1 To "Dear Joe" [Cropper], from Penshurst: is sending drawing of a cottage as he had promised; advice on drawing; hoping "your Very Dear Mother and Father and all the rest" will in a week be back at Swaylands "and much satisfied with Thurso Town", 17 July (1 doc.) 1861

U312/C8/1-14 consist of letters (with one envelope) to George S. Cundell, agent to Patrick Maxwell Stuart for his West Indian estate. These letters are all addressed to "Most Worthy Master", an expression which Nasmyth says in chapter 8 of his Autobiography was used by Nasmyth himself and other friends of G.S. Cundell. Subjects mentioned often include the weather, gardening and health, other subjects being noted below. U312/C8/1-2 were addressed from Nasmyth's home, "Fireside" [Patricroft], the others from Penshurst.

/C8/1-14
/1

Letters to G.S. Cundell:

1856-71
1856

Possibility of Cundell's leaving Finsbury; buying his cottage at Penshurst; "views ... worthy of Patk Nasmyth"; getting his workshop built; a ridiculous fuss over Bessemer's improvement which was a "clever Extension" of Nasmyth's "steam plan" which goes as at Bolton Iron works; satisfaction at full shops and order book left behind him at the Bridgewater Foundry, 20 Sept.;

* ?Mayor General Sir John Fox Burgoyne (1782-1871), bart., inspector general of fortifications.

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

U312/C8/1-14
/2

Letters to G.S. Cundell (contd.):

1856-71
1856

His last night at "Fireside" and 20 years in this house and 22 years in its vicinity; reference to "orbit of your commercial year"; his finishing with the Bridgewater Foundry; dealing with packing personal goods and dismantling "my little work shop"; a pleasant and satisfactory arrangement with his partner; "... I withdraw totaly [sic] and entirely leaving my partner and successor a full order book and shop full of the best class of paying work a large connection numbering 630 steady attached customers"; he has £60,000 in 3% Consols and £50,000 in other securities; in mid April will occupy the cottage at Penshurst; he and his wife will be with her parents at their house at "Barnbro" [Barnbrough] Hall near Doncaster until the end of March; hopes to have his "20 Reflector" in order by next autumn; has got a little steam engine to his own design for driving tools and polishing; but is set on a refractor of 7-8" diameter with revolving dome and clockwork motion; visit to Whitehaven to see 4.1" refractor and his bid for it; views seen through it of the ring round Saturn (and the division in the ring) and of Castor and [Pollux]; hopes Cundell will come and give him a lesson on "finding" with such a telescope; description of the same telescope, with a micrometer by Symms who has "done an 8" of which Nasmyth has heard; the 4.1", if obtained, will be only for an apprenticeship towards an 8"; hopes Cundell is pleased with his "Ross" one; gardening at his cottage, 21 Dec. (1 doc., slight tear, marked in pencil "Fine letter £25");

/3

Sorry to have missed him at the Crystal Palace; remarks on fruit and flowers on show; does not like temporary arrangements for festivals there, at the Palace, and, though "they" want him to be a director, he is thinking of selling his shares because of his "wrath"; glad Cundell had good views of Jupiter and suggests a cap of thin tin (for the telescope) as an improvement; his views of Jupiter "with my 4.1 article"; is getting bricklayers to erect bed for his 20" reflector; visit to the continent in a week or two; work with "Photo in the collodion line", 3 Oct.;

1857

/4

Watching Jupiter's satellites with his "4.1"; advises a cap (for telescope) for seeing stars in daytime; "Collodion Photography"; his investments, 29 Oct.;

1857

/5

Watching an eclipse of a Jovian satellite, 5 Nov.:

1857

/6

Attending Board meetings at the Crystal Palace; visits to London to see exhibitions and sights, incl. Rotten Row; oil painting as a hobby; death of David Roberts (born in 1796 and with a daughter, Mrs Bicknell) of "Bou-Church", Isle of Wight; his investments, incl. ones in Metropolitan [railway] and the new Charing Cross Hotel, 22 Dec.;

1864

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

U312/C8/1-14

Letters to G.S. Cundell (contd.):

1856-71, n.d.

/7

Nasmyths' visit to France and Italy, incl. remarks esp. on Cannes, Pompeii, Naples, Vesuvius in partial eruption, Sorrento and Rome; visits from Sir John Herschel the astronomer; his investments, incl. £70,000 in the Metropolitan railway; oil painting as a hobby, 19 Dec.;

1865

/8

Appearance of Venus; meteors on the 14th Nov; his directorships of the Metropolitan or underground railway and of the Crystal Palace; Friday evening now and then at the Royal Institution; visit from Sir John Herschel; paragraph describing confirmation by the Astronomer Royal of appearance of markings on the face of the sun discovered by Nasmyth and described by him as looking like willow leaves; his investments, incl. that in the Metropolitan railway; death of his brother-in-law, William Barnes; local oil painters, 23 Dec.;

1866

/9-10

"a disastrous year", incl. "Fenian and gunpowder mill Explosives Earthquakes Hurricanes and Railway Board Rascalities and Financial Manipulating"; preparing illustrations for a book on the moon; his drawing of Copernicus used by W. De La Rue as frontispiece for diary for 1868; planets; thinking of visiting Naples and seeing Vesuvius, 8 Jan. (1 letter and 1 envelope);

1868

/11

Illustrations for his book on the moon; "I have called in the aid of a beautiful process called the Woodbury process" for making printing blocks from "Photograph Negatives", though understands the "concern is about to come to grief"; affairs of Metropolitan railway, incl. investments; "your Paritch" Theory of Lunar Craters ... not far from true"; Nasmyth's belief that a metal or mineral, if solid, will float in a molten mass of the same metal or mineral and that this general law also applies to water; its application to the moon; Nasmyth the first to announce "this great fact", at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1857; such expansion and volcanic craters on the moon; Cundell's "new glory" through that theory about lunar craters; planets; oil painting; Professor Huxley, by going into the subject of protoplasm, has frightened the "orthodox" who are upset at his being selected as the next President for the British Association; dogmas and the orthodox, 7 Dec. (two pencilled notes added, "To G.S. Cundell" and to George Cundell");

1869

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

- U312/C8/1-14
/12 Letters to G.S. Cundell (contd.): 1856-71, n.d.
1869
Is ending "Photo Illustrations" for his book on the moon (with a request at the end of the letter for their return); all these illustrations made from models of parts of the moon and the advantage of doing this; on visit to the "Woodbury works" found that the "hitch" was a disagreement between some directors and Woodbury; "a thousand pities" if a misunderstanding should interrupt progress of such an art, 10 Dec.;
- /13 Thanks for remarks on expansion and construction and the moon's history; remarks on molten and solid state of substances, 11 Dec. (pencilled notes added, n.d., apparently for preparing a modern pesticide): 1869, n.d.
- /14 "... harmless hobbies interspersed with Ingenieurs Trifling as Watt used to term it" ...; gardening, with reference to "... "Proving a fact" as old Stein used to console himself with ..."; astronomy, 30 Dec. (13 letters and 1 envelope; U312/C8/1, 3-14 found together in U312/Z2/4; U312/C8/2 found in U312/Z2/5) 1871
U312/C8/2 is quoted in James Nasmyth and the Bridgewater Foundry (p.217, footnote 258 to ch.VII; p.250, footnote 2 to ch.IX) as are U312/C8/6-7 (p.250, footnote 5 to ch.IX).
- /C9/1 From M[ichael] Faraday, Royal Institution of Great Britain: asks for loan of "your beautiful drawing" of a sunspot, shown in the library early in the summer, and of your drawing of the "Willow Pattern" [of markings on the sun's surface], 29 Apr. (1 doc., found with U312/C4/2, /C5/1, /C6/1; formerly stuck to sheet) 1881
- /C10/1 U312/C10/1-4 were found in U312/Z2/6 together with U312/C28/1-2, /C29/1-3, /C32/1).
- To Mr. Fenton, from Hammerfield: pleasure in signing the accompanying proxy; his health; loss of old friends; health of Mr. Fenton, 12 Jan. 1887
- /2 To Mr. Fenton, no address appearing for either correspondent: asking him to give the enclosed expired free pass to the "present secretary", 31 Dec. 1887
- /3 To Fenton, from Penshurst: announcing gift of an oil painting, 13 Dec. 1888
- /4 To Fenton, from Hammerfield: good of Mr. and Mrs. Fenton to be pleased with the oil painting; thanks for illustrated papers incl. portrait of Mr. Fenton, 22 Dec. 1888

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

U312/C11/1-2

Letters to Alexander Fraser (addresses not given with first letter but two notes in ink added in margin by Fraser), addressed from Hammerfield:

?1871, ?1879

/1

Has much pleasure in answering Fraser's questions on his father Alexander Nasmyth; answers numbered 1-12 and other paragraphs giving information; below postscript James Nasmyth added a note of date and place of his own birth in 1808, 15 Dec.; Acknowledges letter of the 19th; happy to know Fraser was interested in particulars of his father which he sent; further information on his father, 21 Dec.

?1871

/2

(2 docs. found with U312/C12/1-2 in U312/Z2/7)

The dates given on these two letters are written respectively "1871" and "1879" but it would seem curious if two letters which refer to the same subject and apparently to the same enquiry should have been written eight years apart.

?1879

/C12/1-2

/1

Letters from Alexander Fraser, 18 Moray Place, Edinburgh: n.d.

Letter apparently to staff of editor as below: refers to second corrected proof of [Alexander] Nasmyth's life sent to the Editor earlier and asks for some words to be added regarding a statement; "it [? the statement] will appear in Smiles' book to a certainty", 12 (corrected from figure ?10) Feb., year not stated

/2

To the Editor, the Art Journal: is sending two letters received from James Nasmyth; would like to add a little to his life of Alexander Nasmyth as marked on the accompanying proof; "you are most welcome to ..." the letters as he has finished with them; they are "really curious"; in a note on another page he asks for their return if not to be kept; because of his success with his pictures this season he asks for no payment for his "notices"; will send a notice on an exhibition opening next Saturday, 12 Feb., year not stated;

(2 docs. found with U312/C11/1-2)

/C13/1

To George G. Frere, from London: thanks for his offer regarding Nasmyth's "great wrought [sic] iron guns", things to help in this "Warr" [sic, Crimean War]; Nasmyth's efforts with the Board of Ordnance, especially during the last eight months; reference to "my Steam Hammer" and its "energetic aid" in helping to "knock the Fort and Stronghold of this arch Deamon [sic] about his Bars"; "5 cwt shot is to be the article"; "They are to have a Try at a granite wall built on purpose at Woolwich"; "my 18 ton gun on its 18 ton turntable carriage" [sic]; has vivid memory of chat with Frere at Bristol fifteen years ago, 1 Dec. (1 doc., found with remains of paper hinges still attached)

1854

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

- U312/C14/1-2 To R. Harrison from Penshurst: asking for a book to be sent to him, 14 Mar.: name of Nasmyth added in pencil, n.d. (1 doc., found with copy of entry and price in sales catalogue) 1880
- /C15/1 To Mr. Horsley from the Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square, London: regarding visits; "a look at all the R.A. Treasures"; B. Disraeli, "Monday May 1881". 1881
- /2 To do., from Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Road, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. regarding visits, "Friday May 4th". 1883 or 1888
 Friday, 4 May, could have occurred in the years 1860, 1883 or 1888. From the style of the handwriting alone it appears to have been written after U312/C15/1, most probably in 1888.
- /C16/1 To Mr. Hoskin, from Hammerfield: declining invitation 29 Apr., 1871: 1871,
 pencilled notes added regarding Nasmyth, n.d. ("8/6", "4") n.d.
 (1 doc.)
- /C17/1 To Robert Hunt, written on letterheaded paper of the Bridgewater Foundry: a friend of Nasmyth has discovered nickel ore on his estate in the North with about 8% metal; Nasmyth writes to ask if Hunt knows or can put Nasmyth in the way of getting to know who are the chief manufacturers of nickel; the ore, according to the friend, from which "our present supply of Nickel is derived is chiefly imported from Norway" and has only 2%; would be happy to reciprocate by sending any information that may happen to be of use to Hunt, 20 June 1851
- /C18/1-2 To "Mathew" Kennedy, Low Nook, Ambleside, Cumberland, from Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Road, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.: thanks for note; glad to know that Kennedy found the astronomical book, The Story of the Heavens, interesting; astronomy and application of photography to it; loss of memory in a friend; gardening; keeps his left hand for artistic work, 16 Oct., 1888; note added in another hand, "W. Stern from George A. Kennedy 31 Oct. 1889", presumably to indicate provenance (1 letter, 1 envelope) 1888, 1889 or later
- /C19/1-2 To Mr. J. Kinnaid, The Grove, Penshurst, from Penshurst: declining an invitation, 13 Apr. (1 letter, 1 envelope) 1868
- /3-4 To Mr. Kinnaid, The Grove, Penshurst, from Penshurst: thanks for copy of the Fortnightly Review, Nasmyth referring particularly to paper by Prof. Huxley, 1 June (1 letter, 1 envelope) 1869
- /5-6 Mr. A.? Kinnaid, 83 Farringdon Street, London, E.C., evidently one of staff of editor of a periodical, from Penshurst: delining to send an account of the sun and suggesting an account written by Sir John Herschel in, he thinks, 1864; "Writing ... at all times a bore to me", 27 Apr. (1 letter, 1 envelope) 1882

*B. Disraeli died 19 Apr., 1881.

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

- U312/C20/1 To Mr. MacKinley, from Bailey ... Hotel: thanks for note and will be glad of visit if convenient on Wednesday between 3 and 5, 20 Mar. (1 doc., found in U312/Z2/8) 1883
- /2-3 To Mr. MacKinley, 34 Nottingham Place, York Gate, London, from Hammerfield: musical entertainment at home; the theatre; his health, 8 Dec. (1 letter; 1 envelope with pencilled note on his age and also marked "SNO274") 1883
- /C21/1 To Mr. Mallet, from Penshurst: is **sending** a copy of his book on the moon, 11 Feb. (1 doc.) 1874, ?1879
- /C22/1 To Mr. Reed, from Penshurst: brief note about "Engagement" in Mr. Reed's "Little Studio" for photography, 4 Apr. ("1") (1 doc.) 1881
- /C23/1 To David Roberts, R.A., from Penshurst: invitation to him, his daughter and his son-in-law, to pay a visit, together with the Bicknells, to visit the Nasmyths in Kent, 25 Oct. 1861
- /C24/1 To James Samuel, from Bridgewater Foundry (printed letterheading), Patricroft: enthusiastic remarks about the result sent to him, railways in general and "the light engine"; his own conclusion, assuming a driving wheel of 5 feet 6 ins. and a gradient of 1:56; has sent a "few remarks" on the principle of railways" to the Railway Chronicle", with remarks on estimates of relation of non-paying weight of a train to its paying weight; reference to Samuel R. Adams; contributions by "Plugstone of Undershaft"; "Permanent way question"; recommendation by Dockray of heavier rails, 12 Jan., 1849; pencilled note added on "Buchan and Fortmartin" [?Formartine, Scotland] line, n.d. ("Richardson, 105/-, Apr. 1957, SH32, SNO280") (1 doc., torn, found with U313/C1-3, U313/C4/4-10, U313/C6/1 and U313/01)
For photocopies of this article sent to the Railway Chronicle, see U269/Z183. 1849, n.d.
- /C25/1-2 To Mr. F.J. Shields (word "artist" added in pencil below his name), from Penshurst; thanks for illustrations of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress", 23 June (1 letter, 1 extract from sales catalogue with price) 1867
- /C26/1 To Mr. [presumably Samuel] Smiles, from Penshurst: to accompany a copy of his book on the moon; rejoices to learn that Smiles has spent some hours in painting at a museum; painting as a hobby for himself; regards to Smiles's wife, 2 Mar. (1 letter, "Engineer" and "Duplicate" added in pencil) 1874

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

U312/C27/1-2

To Richard Tangye, Gilbertstone, Lyndon End, near Birmingham, from Hammerfield: thanks for sending photograph of [presumably James] Watt's workroom and his bust by "Chantry" [F.L. Chantrey, subsequently Sir Francis Chantrey]; Nasmyth's own visit to the same workroom, 11 July (1 letter torn; 1 envelope with comment added in ink and partly split apart)

1887

Francis White and Co.'s Directory of Warwickshire, 1874, lists Gilbertstone House, Lyndon, Bickenhill parish (eight miles from Birmingham) as erected in 1867 and occupied by Samuel Thornley. Kelly's Directory, 1876, lists Richard Tangye as resident at Gilbertstone, Bickenhill parish. The area called Lyndon, under the name Olton, was subsequently included in Solihull Urban District.

Different spellings are given for the name of the recipient of the following two letters and of her residence. Kelly's Directory for Kent, 1887, lists a Lady Harriet Ward, Knotley Hall.

/C28/1-2

To Lady Harrietta Ward, Knottley House, Leigh, Kent, from Hammerfield: inviting her to call to select the two little crayon drawings she wished to accept, 10 Dec. (1 letter, marked in pencil "Maggs Bros Ltd. -Aug. 62-35/- NM/C", and 1 envelope; found with U312/C10/1-4, /C29/1-3, /C32/1)

1881

/3-5

Lady Harriet Warde, Knotley, Leigh, from Hammerfield: declining an invitation; refers to a Mr. Collette, an actor; remarks on acting, 30 Aug. (1 letter marked on back in pencil "Maggs Bros Ltd. -Aug. 62-35/- NM/C"; 1 envelope; 1 sales slip referring to U312/C28/1 and U312/C28/3)

1886

/C29/1-3

To Miss Williams, Hotel de Canterbury, Paris, from Penshurst: will have great pleasure in trying to select a photographic lens from the stock of the person named in her letter; regrets that it will not be "in our power" to accompany Miss Williams to the circus: no address given, 10 May (1 letter (part missing with loss of parts of two lines) marked in pencil "U/7/-" and "Engineer"; two typed copies (one marked "10/10/-" and 1") evidently of part of a sales catalogue; found with U312/C10/1-4, /C28/1-2, /C32/1)

1858

/C30/1-2

To "My Dear Sir", from Patricroft, on letterheaded paper of the Bridgewater Foundry: apologies for having left him so hastily the previous evening owing to need to catch the last train from Victoria Station to Patricroft; will be happy to meet at "the Infirmary" (not specified) as soon as he can arrange with "Mr. Fairbairn"; a pity "so grand a subject" as during last night was "so poorly handled", 28 Sept. (1 letter, 1848, 1 typed copy of part of a sales catalogue, n.d.)

1848,

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

- U312/C31/1-3
/1 To unnamed individual, evidently in a factory and 1849-50
concerned with a "Roll engine":
From "Fireside, Patricroft": thanks for note 1849
containing tracings of "the Roll Engine";
considers a proposal for a certain line in
relation to a drain preferable to a line nearer
"the Engine Wall"; getting a man to work the iron
under the steam hammer discussed on two pages
incl. a small sketch of a man working at a steam
hammer; Nasmyth could try to get hold of "some
such man but they are a most concieted [sic]
lot I assure you"; Messrs. Walker might happen to
know of a suitable man; Dick Oldfield handy in
managing the hammer; the small pumping engine will
do very well for the "Boston Flags", 8 Apr.;
- /2 From Patricroft: has had to get some tracings done 1849
if he is to send a satisfactory reply; "we are
progressing rapidly with the 30 Horse Roll Engine";
as regards furnacemen who would also see to the
Roll Department, he cannot name an acquaintance
with suitable men and "they [furnace men] are a
sad lot of dissolute fellows in general"; with
Mr. Owen and Messrs. Walker or Fox, possibilities for
finding you suitable men; regular furnace men
would consider it "not"regular" to turn their hand
to the rolls"; possibility of using men from your
own smith department to be taught by men from Messrs.
Walkers but "they are such jealous creatures" that
Nasmyth fears they would not teach in good faith;
refers to "a great iron work in Scotland" which
Nasmyth could ask for suitable men; attitude of
Messrs. Fox Henderson and Messrs. Walkers regarding
the "Fly on the roll shaft", 7 July;
- /3 From Bridgewater Foundry, Patricroft: "We" return 1850
the tracings regarding the "10 Horse Engine" with
required information; laying brick, concrete and
flagstone, with sketch and remarks about part of a
wheel passing through a recess in the wall; hopes he
has made all clear for Messrs. Fox to go on with their
estimate; is very happy that Messrs Fox have got the
job of "the great pallace of industry" (?the Crystal
Palace) and hopes this will remain on the spot as a
permanent exhibition room for British and worldwide
industry, 26 July
(3 docs. found in U312/Z2/9)
- /C32/1 To "Dear Sir", from Penshurst: thanks for the note 1886
regarding a mechanical means of reducing smoke and
foul air in an underground portion of railway; Nasmyth's
fan had had successful results in ventilating coal mines
in 1851; he had sent a design for such a fan to the
directors for "the Metropolitan Railway" about 1868 but
they did not make a trial of it because of difficulty of
avoiding nuisance at places where foul air was discharged;
remarks on such a scheme; at 74 not inclined to embark
on such an enterprise, 5 Apr. (pencilled note on Namyth
added) (1 doc., found with U312/C10/1-4, /C28/1-2,
/C29/1-3)

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

U312/C33/1

Addressee unnamed: slip containing autograph signature of James Nasmyth and a few lines, incl. wishing kindest love to all at Ashurst Park (1 fragment, marked in pencil "5/-" and "3", found with U312/C1/2-3, /C4/1, Z1/1-3) n.d.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS

/Z1/1-3
/1

Three newscuttings noting briefly subjects as below: 1890, n.d.
Will of James Nasmyth, noting that among his executors were his wife (Anne Elizabeth Nasmyth) and John Murray, jun., 50a Albemarle Street, and that Nasmyth asked for his body to be cremated at the Woking crematorium, with his reasons, [1890]; do., marked in ink, "Aug. 1890"; James Nasmyth and the steam hammer, n.d., quoted from Cassell's Illustrated History of England (3 extracts found with U312/C1/2-3, C4/1, /C33/1)

/2
/3

/Z2/1-11

Envelopes or folders found enclosing letters as indicated earlier in catalogue: 1960-71, n.d.

/1

Folder found enclosing U312/C1/2-3, /C4/1, /C33/1 and /Z1/1-3; n.d.

/2

Folder found enclosing U312/C2/1, /C6/3-8, marked "Photocopied 15/11/66 AJ"; 1966

/3

Folder found enclosing U312/C4/2, /C5/1, /C6/1 and /C9/1, marked "Dawson Oct. 1960 £100" and "Photocopied 15/11/66" AJ"; 1960, 1966

/4

Envelope found enclosing U312/C8/1, 3-14, marked "Cundell Acquired May 1971"; 1971 or later

/5

Envelope found enclosing U312/C8/2, from Winifred A. Myers (Autographs) Ltd., 70 New Bond Street, London W.1., postmarked 20 Feb., 1970, marked in ink "Most Worthy Master (Cundell) 21st Dec., 1856" and "3/5"; 1970

/6

Paper sheet folded and found enclosing U312/C10/1-4, /C28/1-2, /C29/1-3 and /C32/1, marked twice in pencil with name of James Nasmyth plus "(1808-1890)" and "(Engineer)" n.d.

/7

Envelope found enclosing U312/C11-12 and two slips of cardboard (one slip with label "R.W. Hall, Esq., M.I.C.E., Portsmouth Water Co., 26 Commercial Road, Portsmouth, Hants."), postmarked Portsmouth, 31 Jan., 1967, marked in pencil "Photocopied 15/11/66 AJ"; 1967?

/8

Envelope found enclosing U312/C20/1, marked "Nasmyth letter purchased 8/66 £3.3.0." and "Photocopied 15/11/66 AJ", postmarked 5 Aug., 1966; 1966

/9

Envelope found enclosing U312/C26/1-3, marked in pencil "Purchased from Sotheby's June 1966 £40. 3 letters to an unknown engineer" and "Photocopied 15.11.66 AJ"; 1966

/10

Envelope from Winifred A. Myers (Autographs) Ltd., 80 New Bond Street, London, W.1., postmark faded and illegible, of a size to have once enclosed U312/Z2/6; n.d.

/11

Envelope found containing U312/C1/1, /C1/4-5, /C3/1, /C13/1, /C17/1, /C23/1, /C30/1-2 n.d.

(11 envelopes or folders)