

U DX328

Papers of Basil Norman Reckitt and family

1669-1989

Historical Background:

Reckitt and Sons Ltd. was established on 1 October 1840 by Isaac Reckitt. Initially Isaac rented a starch mill on Dansom Lane in Hull, which remains the company's main UK office and its U.K. pharmaceuticals factory. By 1854 the business had begun to produce other household products. The business was taken over by his four sons and was listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1888. Reckitt and Sons merged with J and J Colman Ltd. in 1938 to form Reckitt and Colman Ltd. Reckitts continues today as part of Reckitt Benckiser.

Basil Norman Reckitt was the great grandson of Isaac Reckitt, founder of Reckitt and Sons. He was educated at King's College, Cambridge and began his career at Reckitts in 1921, after leaving University. He held various posts at Reckitts including Chief Account and manager of the Advertising Department. From 1937, Basil was a member of the board of Reckitt and Sons. During the Second World War he was part of the Anti-Aircraft Command in Hull and later became the Brigade Major of the Hull and North Lincolnshire area. Before the end of the war in 1945, he travelled with the American Army into Germany attached to the Military Government. He was given the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel with his specific responsibility being the trade and industry of the Ruhr.

After the war, he became a director and Vice Chair of Reckitt and Colman Holdings Ltd at its formation in 1953 and became Chairman in 1966. Basil Reckitt was heavily involved in local life and was a member of various associations throughout Hull and the East Riding, including being a member of the Council of Hull University. In 1961 he was also appointed as Deputy Lieutenant of the East Riding and Kingston-upon-Hull.

Basil Norman Reckitt wrote several books including *Garden Village, Hull: A History*, *Charles I and Hull, Brothers at War: Yorkshire Loyalties 1642*, *A History of the Sir Philip Reckitt educational trust* and *The History of Reckitt and Sons Limited* as well as publishing a transcript of Ann Reckitt's diary. He had three daughters with his wife, Virginia Reckitt. He died on 3 Dec 2005, aged 100.

Ann Reckitt, was born Ann Coleby in Norfolk in 1796. She married Isaac Reckitt in 1819 and they had seven children, five sons and two daughters. She died on 27 March 1875, aged 78.

Custodial history:

Bequeathed under the will of Basil Reckitt and delivered by his widow, Mary Reckitt in 2007.

Description:

This collection contains six volumes of collated Reckitt Family Papers, which includes original handwritten letters, photographs and other documents such as will transcripts and the original diary of Ann Reckitt (U DX328/3/1). There are also three war diaries kept by Basil Norman Reckitt between 1939 and 1945 (U DX328/2/1-3). These diaries contain brief descriptions of the events of the day, such as bombing raids on Hull. The collection also includes two copies of a *Topographical and Historical Account of Wainfleet*, a typescript edition of Ann Reckitt's diary as well as printed copies of *The First Minute Book of the Gainsborough Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends 1669-1719*.

Arrangement:

U DX328/1 Collated Reckitt Family Papers
U DX328/2 Basil Norman Reckitt's War Diaries
U DX328/3 Ann Reckitt's Diary
U DX328/4 Published Works relating to the Reckitt Family

Extent: 3 boxes

Related material:

Records of Isaac Reckitt [U DRA/618-629]
Reckitt & Colman Ltd., Kingston Works, Hull [C DBKC/2/24/9]
Reckitt, Colman & Chiswick (Overseas) Ltd., Kingston Works, Dansom Lane, Hull [C DBKC/2/24/5]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

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| U DX328/1 | Collated Reckitt Family Papers A series of volumes containing various different types of documents relating to the Reckitt family, collated by Basil Norman Reckitt. The documents have all been glued or celotaped into the volumes and predominantly comprise of letters, about both personal and business matters, and photographs. Other types of documents include copies of wills, newspaper articles, diary extracts and advertisements for Reckitt products. 6 volumes | 1756-1989 |
| U DX328/1/1 | Reckitt Family Papers Volume 1 This volume contains short biographies of Thomas Reckitt (1785-1862), John Reckitt (1790-1880), Isaac Reckitt (1792-1862), Charles Reckitt (1819-42), Frederic Isaac Reckitt (1823-1912), George Reckitt (1825-1900), Francis Reckitt (1827-1917) and Sir James Reckitt (1833-1924). Other documents include letters between the Reckitt family members, concerning both personal and business matters; photographs and silhouettes; letters from George Reckitt about his apprenticeships and a typed copy of Ann Reckitt's diary (1838-1843). 1 volume | 1803-1844 |

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| U DX328/1/2 | <p>Reckitt Family Papers Volume 2</p> <p>This volume predominantly contains letters between Reckitt family members, concerning both personal and business matters. The letters include ones referring to the death of Constance Reckitt at Ackworth School, Frederic Reckitt's experiments with sage flour in starch making, a fire at the starch works in April 1849, the wedding of Elizabeth Reckitt and the Peace Congress in Paris of 1849. The volume also contains other documents relating to the Reckitt's businesses including a Hull share list showing Isaac Reckitt as a member of the exchange.</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1845-1849 |
| U DX328/1/3 | <p>Reckitt Family Papers Volume 3</p> <p>This volume predominantly contains letters between Reckitt family members, concerning both personal and business matters. There are also photographs of Frederic, Francis, James, Isaac and George Reckitt as well as copies of portraits of Isaac and Ann Reckitt. Documents relating to the Reckitt businesses include advertisements and price lists, one of which is for Azure blue (Reckitt Blue), and a business card for Isaac Reckitt and sons starch manufacturers.</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1850-1862 |
| U DX328/1/4 | <p>Reckitt Family Papers Volume 4</p> <p>This volume contains a range of different documents relating to the Reckitt family. There are individual photographs of various family members as well as a group photograph of William, Ernest, Arthur, Connie, Frank, Joy, Norman, Francis, Louisa, Helen Arnold, Charles and Maud Reckitt (c. 1882). Some of the letters relate to the dispute between Francis, James and George about the control of the business under Isaac's will. There are also various letters, notes and diagrams relating to the creation of the Reckitt family tree as well as newspaper notices announcing the deaths of Francis Reckitt (1947), Arnold Reckitt (1952), George Reckitt (1900) and Beatrice Margaret Reckitt (1975). Other documents include photographs of the opening of the Garden Village in Hull (1908) and George Reckitt's passports (1898, 1902).</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1860-1975 |

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| U DX328/1/5 | <p>Reckitt Family Papers Volume 5</p> <p>This volume contains a range of different documents relating to the Reckitt family including copies of the wills of Thomas Reckitt and Isaac Reckitt; photographs of individual family members; the printed memoir of Charlotte Reckitt (1844); a copy of a letter from William Reckitt from America (1765); genealogical notes including a table claiming descent from Edward I; newspaper articles relating to Miss Eva Collet Reckitt (1970) and a chronological list of family and business events (1779-1879).</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1760s-1980s |
| U DX328/1/6 | <p>Volume relating to William and Isaac Reckitt</p> <p>This volume contains collated documents relating to William and Isaac Reckitt including copies of various certificates from monthly meetings of Friends; a photograph of a bank draft dated Paris 13 Nov 1756 for use when William Reckitt was a prisoner in France; letters from William Reckitt in America; a list of sea stores put on board ship for William Reckitt on his sailing for England at the end of his first American visit (1759); a map of William Reckitt's travels through America; the [original] will of Isaac Reckitt (1807); an insurance certificate from Norwich Insurance Company (1805); an incomplete transcript of Wagstaff's Life of William Reckitt and receipts and discharges for a pecuniary legacy to Sarah and Mary Reckitt from the estate of Isaac Reckitt (1807).</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1756-1989 |
| U DX328/2 | <p>Basil Norman Reckitt's War Diaries</p> <p>A series of war diaries kept by Basil Norman Reckitt. Provides brief notes on his movements; the progress of the war in general, including those places captured by the Allies and the Germans, and brief descriptions of bombing raids on Hull and London.</p> <p>3 volumes</p> | 1939-1944 |
| U DX328/2/1 | <p>Basil Norman Reckitt's War Diary</p> <p>Incomplete diary, covers the dates 23 August to 31 Dec 1939, 1 January to 8 January 1940, 1 January to the end of 1942 and 1 January to the end of 1943.</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1939-1943 |
| U DX328/2/2 | <p>Basil Norman Reckitt's War Diary</p> <p>The events of the corresponding days in 1940 and 1944 are written on the same page. Entry for D-Day simply states: '2nd front opens with landings on N. Coast of France.'</p> <p>1 volume</p> | 1940, 1944 |

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| U DX328/2/3 | Basil Norman Reckitt's War Diary 1 volume | 1941 |
| U DX328/3 | Ann Reckitt's Diary This small series contains the original and the published transcript of Ann Reckitt's Diary. The diary covers the illness of her son James, the family's travels to the South of France and ends before Isaac's death in England whilst Ann and James were still in France. 2 volumes | 13 Nov 1861- Mar 1862 |
| U DX328/3/1 | Ann Reckitt's Diary The original diary written by Ann, it includes a handwritten poem, which has been stuck in, entitled My First and Second Love, and a preface on a loose sheet of paper added later by a different hand. 1 volume | 13 Nov 1861- Mar 1862 |
| U DX328/3/2 | Published transcript of Ann Reckitt's Diary by Basil Norman Reckitt Published copy of Ann Reckitt's Diary (U DX328/3/1) including a preface and biographical notes on Ann Reckitt. It was published in 2004 by Arthur H Stockwell Ltd. 1 volume | 13 Nov 1861- Mar 1862 |
| U DX328/4 | Published Works relating to the Reckitt Family A series comprising of several published works relating to the Reckitt family. Includes items covering the history of Wainfleet, copies of the minutes of the Gainsborough meetings of the Society of Friends (1669-1719) and the life of William Reckitt. 6 volumes | 1669-1829 |
| U DX328/4/1 | A Topographical and Historical Account of Wainfleet and the Wapentake of Candleshoe, in the County of Lincoln with Engravings by Edmund Oldfield Contains engravings of Wainfleet School, Wainfleet Old Church, Burgh Church, Friskney Church, Wainfleet All Saints New Church, Wainfleet St Mary's Church, Northolme Hall, Addlethorpe Church, Candlesby Church, Gunby Hall, Partney Church and Winthorpe Church. 1 volume | 1829 |

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| U DX328/4/2 | <p>A Topographical and Historical Account of Wainfleet and the Wapentake of Candleshoe, in the County of Lincoln with Engravings by Edmund Oldfield Contains engravings of Wainfleet School, Wainfleet Old Church, Burgh Church, Friskney Church, Wainfleet All Saints New Church, Wainfleet St Mary's Church, Northolme Hall, Addlethorpe Church, Candlesby Church, Gunby Hall, Partney Church and Winthorpe Church. 1 volume</p> | 1829 |
| U DX328/4/3 | <p>The First Minute Book of the Gainsborough Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends 1669-1719 edited by Harold W. Brace Volume 1 Contains an introduction to the text, the minutes and an index by person, place and subject 1 volume</p> | 1669-1719 |
| U DX328/4/4 | <p>The First Minute Book of the Gainsborough Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends 1669-1719 edited by Harold W. Brace Volume 2 Contains minutes and an index by person, place and subject 1 volume</p> | 1669-1719 |
| U DX328/4/5 | <p>The First Minute Book of the Gainsborough Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends 1669-1719 edited by Harold W. Brace Volume 3 Contains minutes and an index by person, place and subject 1 volume</p> | 1669-1719 |
| U DX328/4/6 | <p>Some Account of the Life and Gospel Labours of William Reckitt Includes an account of his travels in America. 1 volume</p> | 1776 |