GUIDE TO THE REV. W.B. CLARKE COLLECTION

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Reverend W.B. Clarke personal papers

Collection dates: 1821-1872

Creator: Not known

Languages represented: English

Repository: Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library

https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/

Extent: 2 boxes

Genre and Forms: Manuscripts, correspondence, ecclesiastical notes, sketches, and printed material.

Abstract: Reverend Clarke’s papers reflect his two primary interests – spiritual concerns and geological findings in Australia.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance
Not known.

Access
Rare Books and Special Collections is a closed access collection located on Level 1 of Fisher Library. Please make an appointment to use material from Rare Books and Special Collections using the online request form at


Staff will retrieve the material for you which must be read under supervision in the Rare Books Reading Room. You must provide identification (eg, University of Sydney library card, driver’s license, passport) while you are using the material.

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Preferred citation
Reverend W.B. Clarke personal papers, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library.
Biographical note
William Branwhite Clarke (1798-1878) was born in Suffolk, England; studied at Jesus College, Cambridge (B.A., 1821; M.A., 1824); and commenced work as deacon at Norwich Cathedral in 1821. By the late 1830s, struggling financially and of poor health, Clarke accepted a chaplaincy in Australia and immigrated to New South Wales with his wife and children in 1839.

Clarke had an impressive capacity for work and performed his parish duties, significant geological field work, and contributed to scholarly research. Such was his output that he was responsible for many of the geological surveys of south eastern Australia and produced numerous papers and reports, even suggesting the districts in which gold was likely to be found. He claimed to be the first to discover gold, in opposition to the claims of Edward Hargreaves, Strzelecki and Sir Roderick Murchison. He was offered a Senate position at the University of Sydney but turned down the offer.

Clarke was considered the pre-eminent geologist in the colony and is still referred to as “the father of Australian geology”. A selection of Clarke's tools and scientific instruments are held by the Macleay Museum.

References:


Local Catalogue Headings
Clarke, William Branwhite, 1798-1878

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

BLUE BOOKS

1. Correspondence rel. to the recent discovery of gold in Australia. Presented to both Houses of Parliament. 3 Feb. 1852.

2. Further papers rel. to the recent discovery of gold in Australia. Presented 14 June 1852.


4. Further papers rel. to the recent discovery of gold in Australia. In cont. of the papers presented 28 February 1853. Presented 16 August 1853.


MANUSCRIPTS


11. Notebooks (4). Paged consecutively 1 -352. Ms of The Northern Reports made to the Colonial Secretary. By W.B. Clarke. Contains :
   a. On the general geological character of the country between Marulan and the Peel River.
   b. On the geological character & possible extent of the "Hanging Rock Diggings" & on continuation of the goldfields to the northwards.
   c. Views on dispersion of gold in Australia.
   d. On occurrence of alluvial lead ore.
   e. On the ... Hanging Rock and Peel River gold field ...
   f. On [the] Namoi and Apsley Rivers ....
   g. On [the] ... Macleay and Gwydir rivers ....
   h. On [the] ... highlands of New England ....
   i. On [the] geology of [the] Clarence District.


13. Notebook. VIII. Continuation of (12) above + short ms on opals.

14. FAIRLES, Alfred. (Gold miner). Copies of A.L. to Clarke. Accompanying ms notebook containing essay by Fairles written at Morpeth, 5 February 1861, describing meeting with Clarke, Clarke's geological exposition and aid to Fairles.

15. Folder of miscellaneous mss and newspapers including Clark's notes on British victory in Belgium; notes by Mordaunt Clarke giving his father's views on natural science and theology.


20. Sketches by Clarke.

21. Letter [from a University lecturer in geological sciences] to W.B.C. Parramatta. 11 January 1853. 5 pp. {Copy?}

22. HUGHES, R. Letter from ... to W.B.C. n.d. 3 pp.

23. JULIAN, M. Letter from ... to W.B.C. Marston, n.d.

24. DRAKE, NATHAN. Letter from ... to W.B.C. 19 April 1829.


26. MUELLER. Letter from ... to W.B.C. 7 September 1863. 2 pp. Copy.

27. Description of land at Crows Nest.

28. WENTWORTH, D’ARCY. Copies of correspondence and Newspaper cuttings relating to trial of ....

29. JAMISON, J. Letter from ... to W.B.C. 22 March 1853. 7 pp.


31. CLARKE, WILLIAM B. Notes for a sermon. n.d.

32. List of medals presented to W.B.C. Typescript. 1 p.

33. Miscellaneous fragments.(3)

PUBLISHED WORKS

34. List of Geological Society of London. 1 November 1872.


37. "Carmen exquale". A poem occasioned by the death of the late Queen. 1821.

38. Researches into the goldfields of New South Wales. 2nd ed. 2 copies.