

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 <https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/request-form.html>

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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:

Moyal, Ann. *The web of science: the scientific correspondence of the Rev. W.B. Clarke, Australia's pioneer geologist*. Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2003.

"A revered geologist". *Sydney University Museums Newsletter*, Issue 5, February 2005: 3.

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.
3. Further papers rel. to the recent discovery of gold in Australia. In cont. of papers presented to Parliament 14 June 1852. Presented 28 February 1853.
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.
5. Further papers rel. to discovery of gold in Australia. Cont. of papers presented 14 February 1854. Presented December 1854.

6. Further papers rel. to discovery of gold in Australia. In cont. [of] papers presented July 1855. Presented February 1856.
7. Further papers re. to discovery of gold in Australia. In cont. [of] papers presented February 1856. Presented 25 July 1856.
8. Further papers rel. to discovery of gold in Australia. In cont. [of] papers presented 25 August 1857.
9. Sydney Water Supply. Report of Commission appointed to enquire into supply of water to Sydney and suburbs (1869). Imperfect. Clarke's evidence, pp.56-63, has been excised.

MANUSCRIPTS

10. Notebooks (2). Translations of Waterland's "Vindication of Christ's Divinity." Latin and Greek.
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.
 - j. On [the] geology of [the] basin of [the] Condamine River.
12. Notebook. Marked VII. Ms extracts from anniversary address to Roy. Soc. N.S.W., 22 May 1872.
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.
16. Collection of British newspapers c.1820's. Contain reviews of Clarke's poem The River Derwent. 1822.
17. Entree card, W.B. Clarke, 25 April 1825. Ceremony of laying of Foundation Stone of new hall of Christ's Hospital.
18. MURCHISON, Sir R. [Copies of] letters dated 17 December 1838; 15 December 1852. (Originals in Mitchell Library.)

19. Packet of early letters to Clarke, dated pre-1830. in England.
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.
25. Hologram letter to W.B.C., 15 December 1872, re gold. 3 pp. Incomplete.
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.
30. DE LA ROCHERIE, PIERRE. Letter from ... to W.B.C. (In French). n.d. 1 p.
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.
35. Observations on winds and monsoons.1861.
36. Hurricanes. Directions for observers. 1848.
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.
39. Les Pays Bas - Illustrated publication. Notes in pencil throughout and pencil sketches by Rev. W.B. Clarke on back pages.