

WILLIAM JAMES DUNCAN ESQ.

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1866-1871 (EP 17)_W J Duncan Esq., 69 Hanover Street, Edinburgh

Comment:

At this time, 69 Hanover Street, Edinburgh¹ was the headquarters of the Edinburgh and Leith Bank². William James Duncan, its manager, was a Member of Maitland Club³ 1834 (Richard Duncan Treasurer). In 1868, The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor was established at this address (quoted in Edinburgh Past and Present)

References:

1. Duncan, W.J. Notices and documents illustrative of the literary history of Glasgow, during the greater part of the last century. [reprint with additions]. Glasgow, 1886
2. Duncan, W. J. Notes on the rate of discount in London during the period 1866-76. Edin. 1877 Our home and foreign trade — a supplement to above. Edin. 1880
3. Miscellaneous papers illustrative of events in the reigns of Queen Mary and King James VI. Ed: W. J. Duncan. Presented to the Maitland Club. Glasgow. 1834.
4. Saville, R. Bank of Scotland: a history, 1695-1995 Edinburgh University Press. 1996
5. Edinburgh and Leith Bank
<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/113751/details/edinburgh+29+31+george+street+clydesdale+bank/>
6. Gillies J. Edinburgh Past and Present. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Edinburgh. 1886
7. Fiddes, V. David Bryce 1803-1876. Publ: University of Edinburgh. 1976
8. Historic Scotland. Edinburgh, City of Council. Listed Building Report. 2009. <http://hsewsf.sedsh.gov.uk>
9. Checkland, S.G. Industry and ethos: Scotland, 1832-1914. Publ: Edward Arnold. 1984.

¹ 29-31 George Street / 69 Hanover Street, built initially for the Edinburgh and Leith Bank and later extended by David Bryce, in partnership with William Burn, for the reincarnation of the bank as the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank.

² The Edinburgh and Leith Bank, founded in 1839; the Glasgow Joint Stock Bank, founded in 1840; in 1844 merged to become the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank.

³ Maitland Club 1828 - 1850. The Maitland Club was founded in 1828 in Glasgow, Scotland, for the "cultivation of the literary antiquities of Scotland". Named after the Scottish lawyer, poet, and collector of Scottish verse, Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington