

Presented to the Royal Society by Mrs C.N. Atkins

DERWENT BANK AND CHARLES SWANSTON

The Derwent Bank was established in 1827 and opened for business on 1 January 1828 in Davey Street, Hobart, with a staff of two, the cashier Stephen Adey and the accountant John Leake of Rosedale, Campbell Town. William Henry Hamilton was appointed managing director in 1830 but retired in 1832 and was replaced by Charles Swanston (1789-1850), a former Captain in the Indian Army. Swanston also carried on business as an import and export agent in wool, tea, sugar, rum, etc. The bank failed in 1849 and John Walker, merchant and mill owner of Hobart, acted as liquidator. These letter books were found with the papers of John Walker in the mill buildings formerly occupied by him in Barrack Street, Hobart (see also Walker papers RS.20). Another Swanston letter book is in the State Library of Victoria, and accounts of receipts & payments 1835-1840 - State Archives MS.37/6/1a

(See: S.J. Butlin, 'Charles Swanston and the Derwent Bank', Hist. Studies N.Z. & Aust., No. 7, May 1943, W.D. Hudspeth, 'the rise and fall of Charles Swanston', Pap. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Tas., 1948 pp 1-16).

DERWENT BANK

1. Deed of settlement, 22 Dec. 1827
signed and sealed by shareholders

(parchment, 3mm. folded & sewn book fashion) (21, 85) RS.9/1

 - 2 Letter books 1829-1854
 - (1) 1829-1837 outward letters mainly concerned with bank business and methods of operation, signed by S. Adey, W.H. Hamilton and Charles Swanston. The binding is missing and probably part of the volume.
 - (2) 1842-1845 General business letters outward. The main part of the letter and name of the addressee was entered, but not signed. The volume is indexed.
 - (3) 1845-1854 General business letters as above. Also a record of the collapse and winding up of the bank, 1849-1854, when letters were signed by John Walker (the liquidator). Indexed.
- (3 vols. - 2 being half bound folios) RS.9/2 (1-3)

Cashier's day book 9 Mar. - 31 Dec. 1841
(1 vol., 56 cm x 21 cm x 9 cm., bound vellum) See RS.20/6

Ledger accounts 1848-1854
Including liquidation accounts See RS.20/7
(1 vol. 58 cm x 32 cm x 12 cm bound leather)

Miscellaneous papers 1828 - 1838
including letters and cheques See RS.20/8
(12 papers)

CHARLES SWANSTON

/3 Letter books 1831 - 1847

Private business letters but also including
some relating to the Derwent Bank.

(1) Oct. 1831 - May 1838: outward letters concerning
his arrival in Tasmania and his business affairs in
Tasmania and Port Philip.

(2) May 1838 - Aug. 1845 outward letters concerning
business affairs mainly outside Tasmania. The volume
includes an index of names.

(3) Dec. 1842 - 1847 outward letters concerning business
affairs in Tasmania and Port Philip. Some pages missing

(3 vols., 2 bound calf)

RS.9/3 (1-3)