

## Robert Knox: FRCSEd Diploma & James Bridie's 'The Anatomist'

Reference and contact details: GB779

RCSEd GD 61

Location: RS L2

Title: Robert Knox

Dates of Creation: 1825-2008

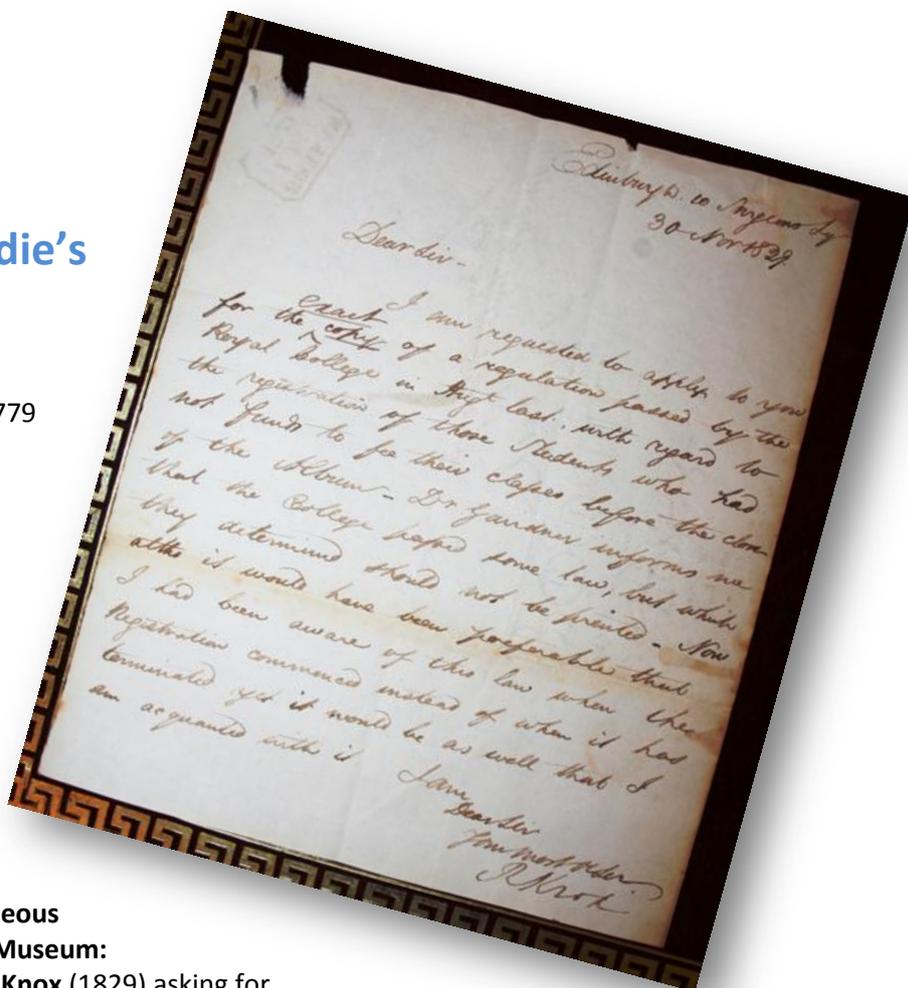
Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Extent: 1 file and 1 diploma

Name of Creator: R Knox

Language of Material: English.

Level of Description:



### GD/61/1/ 1-3 (Folder 1): Miscellaneous items transferred 1990s from the Museum:

1. letter from **Robert Knox** (1829) asking for clarification on payment for student classes (incl transcription);
2. letter from **Douglas Guthrie** to **Hartley** [ museum conservator], 1947
3. list of cabin passengers of Royal Mail Steamship Sarmation, 1884;

### GD/61/2/ 1-11 (Folder 2): Miscellaneous items transferred 2009 from the Museum:

1. Letter Sept 1931 from James Bridie, 6 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, playwright [The Anatomist] to ...regarding his play ..."My Dr Knox who is frankly a work of fiction not a biographical figure was deduced mainly from Lonsdale, some Edinburgh College of Surgeons pictures?, some of his own writings & Roughhead's "Trial of Burke and Hare". A friend of mine (now dead) Dr James Adams of Glasgow, was the son of a friend of Knox and the last act is based partly on an incident he described to me. I understood that none of Dr Knox's relatives survived. I am afraid I have not given an entirely pleasing picture of him, but at least I have refrained from making him a monster. You might be interested to read an article by a Mr Wallbrook? in "The Stage" of 24<sup>th</sup> September. It is a curious place in which to find a biographical note on the discoverer? of the .....body! I hope Mrs Noel? Will forgive me for taking liberties with her distinguished and unfortunate ancestor. It was done in ignorance. Sincerely Yours, James Bridie
2. Letter 16<sup>th</sup> October 1931 from Francis Caird Inglis, Photographer, to Henry Ainley, Actor. "Dear Mr Ainley, I read in the press the other day that you were playing Dr Knox and as I happen to have in my collection the original Calotype negative made by D. O. Hill... I have made two prints from it and enclose these for your kind acceptance...adding a third print, a full length, taken at the front door here about 1843..."
3. Letter 1<sup>st</sup> December 1931 from James Bridie to Mr Knox [grandson of Dr Robert Knox FRCSEd]. "Dear Mr Knox, It was a great pleasure to get your letter and to learn that my simulacrum of your very distinguished grandfather was not too offensive to you..."
4. Photographs. Two of Knox, at a small table, full length right arm outstretched; and one of Knox half length both hands together on a table (reproductions of originals. SNPG has an original photograph of the former)

5. Newscutting 8<sup>th</sup> October 1931. "Henry Ainley as an ogre with a soul: "The anatomist" is a very fine play...
6. File of 2008/9 secondary material gathered related to Burke and Hare
7. Letter 16<sup>th</sup> November 1931. From Dr G. Kerr Pringle to Henry Ainley, actor, regarding an enclosure related to Robert Knox [perhaps a photograph?]
8. Small newspaper cutting [1930s?] of a photograph of the "Anatomist" play actors.
9. Book. Bridie, J. Five plays [incl. The Anatomist]
10. Small pale blue box. 6 x 4 cms. Inscribed "Russian Cross. Dr R Knox. Crimean War".  
Contains small metal cross.
11. Small beige box. 9 x 8 cms. Contains the wax seal from Knox's 1825 RCSEd Fellowship Diploma (on same shelf in polyester bag, but currently glued to stiff board 45 x 30 cms). Also a metal religious charm 7 x 5 cms, depicting a saint with sword.



### **GD/61/3 RCSEd Fellowship Diploma**

of Robert Knox FRCSEd 1825.

43.5 cms x 29 cms, with fragment of original blue ribbon. Lacks wax seal.

Restored by Scottish Conservation Studio November 2009, for approximately £250.00.

