

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

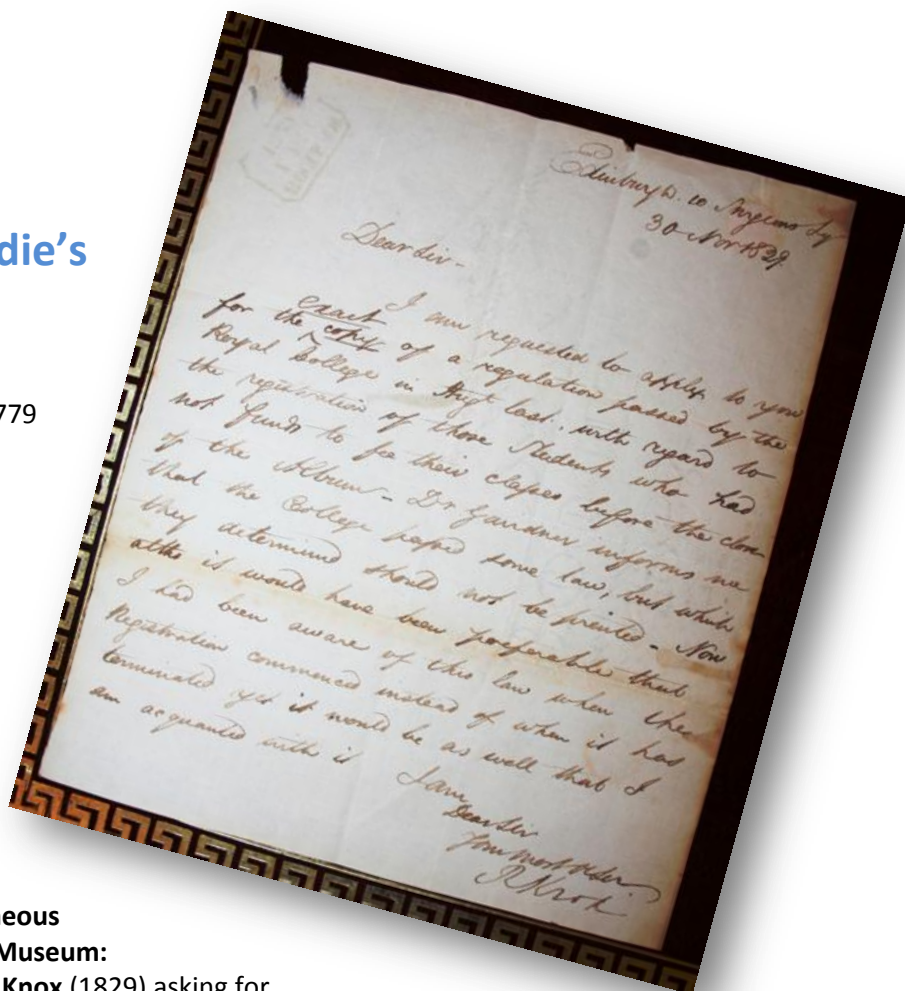
Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

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 24th September. It is a curious place in which to find a biographical note on the discoverer? of thebody! 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 16th 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 1st 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 8th 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 16th 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.

