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## **D and F**

Records of Dring and Fage

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## D and F

### History of Dring and Fage

The date of partnership of John Dring and William Fage is uncertain but *circa* 1790. Claims to a foundation in 1745 by John Clarke, "Turner and Engine Maker", at York Building Water Works, Strand. John Clarke was succeeded by Richard Clarke, who was in turn succeeded by his brother-in-law, John Dring

John Dring, brass worker and hydrometer maker, of Walworth patented a cock (tap) in 1790. He took as a partner William Fage. Fage's wife Mary left the business to her daughter, Susan Fage and on her death to William George, the eldest son of her daughter. In 1839 William George left the business to Julia Holmes who took into partnership Edward Hall. He left the business to his daughter who married Alfred Jones. Alfred Jones passed the business to Edward Jones.

### Premises

21 Gracechurch St. and 4 Albion Place, Walworth	c.1790	Hydrometer makers to Board of Excise
6 Tooley St.	1798?	
248 Tooley St.	1800-1804	Hydrometer and rule makers
20 Tooley St. and 109 Upper East Smithfield	1804	
20 Tooley St.	1805-	Hydrometer maker and mathematical instrument maker
19 and 20 Tooley St.	-1882	
145 Strand	1883-1903	Opticians, mathematical, philosophical and gauging instrument makers
56 Stamford St.	1904-1941	
[As Dring and Fage Ltd from 1941]		
56 Stamford St.	1941-1946	
105 and 152 Tooley St.	1947-1977	

## Contents

Box 1	1	Legal and financial (11 folders, 3 volumes)
	2	Employees and persons (4 folders)
	3	Premises and leases (3 folders)
Box 2	4	Patents and products (14 folders)
	5	Miscellaneous material (9 folders)
	6	Books (30) transferred to SML main stock

## 1 Legal and financial

/1	1797-1818	Ledger of a journeyman rule maker [Strong?] for work done Jul 1797 – Jul 1818, endorsed at regular intervals “settled J.H.” [J. Hawkes <u>see</u> Jul 1797 and Sept 1807] up to Dec 1808, and Oct 1817 to Jul 1818, otherwise payment noted by recipient 114p, ms
/2	1865-1876	J G Bushby / Framer’s list of prices / Dring and Fage, rules maker. Standard charges listed alphabetically with details.  List of work done [11 Mar 1865 – Nov 1867, 2 Mar 1872, Jun 1872, Nov 1873, May 1874, Oct 1874, Jun 1875, Jan 1876]
/3	1862	Finishers list of prices, initials M.L. Indexed book with prices
/4	1831-1866	Statements of accounts of John Robbins with Edward Hall (10 items)
/5	1844-1848	E Hall’s cashbook [and] E Jenkin’s cashbook 12p, ms [and] 7p, ms
/6	1842, 1844, 1846-1849	Income tax declarations [with] miscellaneous tax calculations [undated, and] 2 income tax receipts (9 bundles)
/7	1867-1871, 1873, 1880	Balance sheets [with accounts, estimates. Undated] (11 items) 13p, ms

/8	1900	Auditors report / W H Pannel and Co., Chartered Accountants 10p, ts
/9	1861 Aug 8-12	Correspondence from J D Potter re compensation [for defective goods?] (2 items) Ms
/10	1872	Correspondence from Arthur Nicholls re payment errors and expenses (5 items) Ms
/11	1849-1854, 1872, 1877	Legal accounts of Alfred Jones 7p, ms
/12	1884	Court summons for sum of £20/13/1 claimed by Stephen Staight and Sons from Dring and Fage 2p, ts; 1p, ms
	1884	Correspondence from London and South Western Bank Ltd., re bank-mediated transactions 1p, ms
	1884	Correspondence from James, Son and James re payment of £90/11/11 for goods received 1p, ms
	1857, 1881, undated	Miscellaneous bills 3p, ms
	1853-1898	Miscellaneous receipts 10p
	1874, 1875	Miscellaneous cheques 3p, ts
	1876 & undated	Pricelists 5p, ms
	undated	Untitled and unsigned correspondence re cost and repairs of instruments by Dring and Fage 2p, ms
/13	1879-1881	Correspondence from Stones, Morris and Stones [to] Edward Jones re the estates of the late W.H. and Alfred Jones (4 items) 7p, ms

- |     |           |   |
|-----|-----------|---|
| /14 | 1882-1884 | Correspondence from Austin and Rayner re security and repayment of loans (6 items)<br>10p, ms |
|     | 1876      | Letters from J. W. Echaulier and A. Baker requesting a loan<br>1p, ms                         |

## 2 **Employees and persons**

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|----|------|--|
| /1 | 1854 | Indenture between Charles Lewis Jenkin, John William Holmes, Julia Reed ( <i>née</i> Holmes) and Thomas Reed assigning control of Dring and Fage to Edward Hall<br>15p, ms |
| /2 | 1873 | Indenture of apprenticeship of Charles Bushby as a rule maker with Dring and Fage<br>1p, ms  |
| /3 | 1898 | Correspondence re evidence concerning an unnamed employee<br>4p on 2 leaves, ms  |
| /4 | 1870 | Booklet listing Brewers<br>20p, ms   |
|    | 1878 | List of [?clients] names<br>4p, ms   |

## 3 **Premises and leases**

- |    |      |   |
|----|------|---|
| /1 | 1870 | Tenancy agreement between Messrs Dring and Fage and Ralph Tooley re first floor room of 19 Tooley St.<br>1p, ms   |
| /2 | 1872 | Proposal for tenancy of 2 Northumberland Villas, Park Rd., Dulwich by Alfred Jones, leather merchant<br>1p, ms  |
|    | 1872 | [Letter] 1872 Apr 19 [to] Alfred Jones re addition of a fire clause to lease<br>2p, ms  |
|    | 1878 | [Letter] 1878 Mar 1, The Lawn, 101 Tulse Hill [to] Alfred Jones from Emily H. Leitwyche re establishment of a repair fund for leased properties<br>3p, ms |

	[undated]	Rent revenues 1p, ms
/3	1881 Sept 15	[Letter to] Edward Jones from Tress and Innes, architects, requesting names of references and an appointment to meet at the premises of 145 Strand 2p, ms
	1881 Dec 1	[Letter to] Dring & Fage from Yardley and Sons re building of new shop front at 145 Strand 2p, ms
	1885 Jun 23	[Letter to] C. J. Graham from Charles Innes re proposal to divide shop front of 145 Strand into 2 for lease to a hatter 1p, ms
	1913	Statement of auctioneer's account for offering leasehold interest of 145 Strand for sale by auction 2p, ms

#### **4 Patents and products**

/1	1817	Sikes' tables for ascertaining the strengths of spirits 51p, ms
	1817	Receipt and covering letter for Sikes' tables 2p, ms
/2	1850	Copy or draft memorial to Inland Revenue requesting renewal of excise contract [with] acceptance of renewed contract to supply hydrometers and gauging instruments to Customs Department 3p, ms [and] 1p, ms
/3	[c. 1870-1881]	Correspondence with Inland Revenue re supply and servicing of hydrometers 10p, ms
	1877	Memorandum from W. G. Williams, instrument makers, re the servicing of a weighing instrument 2p, ms
/4	[undated]	Costing of 274 hydrometers 4p, ms
/5	1890	Correspondence and diagrams 1890 Mar 28 – Jul 5 re

		construction of an instrument (rule) to the specification of Geo Mayston, Customs House, Glasgow 13p, ms; 3 figs
/6	[undated]	Use of hydrometer: Glasgow Bubbles 1p, ms
	1907	Article reprinted from <i>The Civilian</i> : "Bates versus Sykes", by J. Hefferman 3p, ts
	[undated]	Hydrometry table 1p, ms
/7	1930	Correspondence re testing and adjustment of hydrometers by the Government Laboratory 4p, ts
	1916-1922	Miscellaneous receipts 3p, ts
/8	[undated]	Dring and Fage hydrometers [and] Dring and Fage hydrometers advertisement 3 plates; 1 plate
/9	1790	Patent specification for cock (tap) by John Dring, brass worker and hydrometer maker 1p, ms (parchment)
/10	1935-1936	Correspondence between F. L. S. Murray of Dring & Fage, Patent Office and A. A. Thornton re:  1. Patent application No13895/35: "Improvements in or relating to hydrometers or saccharometers" 13p, ts; 2 figs; 2 receipts  2. Renewal of patent No 440310: "Improvements in or relating to hydrometers or saccharometers". Patent No 440310 [1936] 1p, ts  3. Patent application No 13895/35 for American patent [1935-1936] 7p, ts
/11	1936	Correspondence between F. L. S. Murray and Patent Office re patent application No 3184/36: "Improvements in or relating to devices for testing the thickness of bark

		of trees” 7p, ts; 2 receipts
/12	1936	Correspondence between F. L. S. Murray, Patent Office and A. A. Thornton re patent application No 2096/36: “Improvements in or relating to hydrometers and like floating instruments for measuring the density of liquids”
/13	1936-1937	Correspondence between F. L. S. Murray and A. A. Thornton re patent application: “Improvements in or relating to pipe joints” 3p, ts; 2 receipts
/14	1936	Correspondence between F. L. S. Murray and Patent Office re patent application: “Improved scale back for thermo-meters” 6p, ts; 2 figs; 2 receipts
<b>5</b>		<b>Miscellaneous</b>
/1	1860 May 28	[Letter] Buckland Brewery [to] Dring and Fage from Alfred Kingsford forwarding a table from “The Brewer’s Calculator” [ <u>with</u> photocopy of title page] 2p, ms; 1p Xerox
/2	1876-1884	Exhibition passes:  Loan collection of scientific apparatus, South Kensington. (Mr E. Jones), 1876  International inventions exhibition, South Kensington. 1883  International forestry exhibition, Edinburgh. (Dring and Fage), 1884
/3	1914	Acknowledgement and inventory of items donated to the Science Museum 2p, ts
/4	[c. 1922]	The ancient craft of hydrometer making at the sign of the Half Moon and Dagger – A company history of Dring and Fage 4p, ts; 2 copies
/5		Photographs of:  Group of workmen (negative plate included)



Trade sign [Half Moon and Dagger] (with drawing)

Trade show exhibits

/6            1926            Certificate of thanks for presentation of Dring and Fage  
almanac to the Guildhall Library  
1p, ms

/7            [1930]            Proof of "Alcoholometry" by Gabb and Tate [c. 1930]  
93p, printed (with)

Transcript of Clarke's pamphlets on hydrometer for  
determining the strength of liquors, beers and spirits  
[undated]  
12p, ts

/8            Tradecards (some duplicates): Dring and Fage at 19 & 20  
Tooley St. (2), at 145 Strand (5), at 56 Stamford St. (4);  
plus copperplates (3), 20 Tooley St. and card of Standfast,  
Wayland Bros., 'Manufacturers of ropes, lines, twines &  
mats, dealers in hemp, flax & tow, mops, house flannel  
&c. Manufactory Lansdowne Cottage, London Fields,  
Hackney'. [6 further copperplates were seemingly  
forwarded to the Science Museum, possibly to its trade  
card collection]

/9            1929            Notes on the interpolated tables of Dring and Fage  
2p, ms

## 6            **Books transferred to SML main stock**

*Description and use of an improved hydrometer and  
thermometer united... made by John Dring and William  
Fage, London [? pre-1790]*

*An improved hydrometer... made and sold by John Dring  
and William Fage, London [c. 1790]*

*Clarke's original and genuine hydrometer...made by...  
John Dring and William Fage, London. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. [c. 1800]*

*Idem, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. [1808]*

*Idem, 18<sup>th</sup> ed. [1815]*

*Idem, 22<sup>nd</sup> ed. [1830]*

*The art of gauging made simple*, Peter Jonas. London [1804]

*Tables shewing the prices of liquors*, London [1805]

*Instructions... in the use of Sikes' hydrometer*, London [1817]

*Directions for using the patent improved saccharometer... sold by J Long*, London [1834]

*The practical gager*, William Symons. London [1838]

*Description and use of Sikes' hydrometer and Long's new improved saccharometer... made by Joseph Long*, London [1840]

*Description of the acetometer*, R. B. Bate. London [1841]

*Directions for using the new improved saccharometer... invented and made only by Joseph Long*, London [1847]

*Tables of temperature for Sikes' hydrometer by Dring and Fage*, London [1855]

*Idem*, London [1872]

*The brewer's calculator*, Alfred Kingsford. Dover [1860]

*The maltster's guide*, Edward Skeate White. London [1860]

*Illustrated catalogue and price list*, Dring and Fage. London [1866]. Interleaved and annotated copy

*Idem*, London [1870] Wanting

*Idem*, London [after 1883]

*Timber measuring*, Thomas Kentish. London [1866]

*Loftus's almanack for brewers, distillers and the wine and spirit trade*, London [1872]

*A handbook of hydrometry*, James Boddely Keene. London [1875]

*Price list of chemical, assay and bullion balances...*

*manufactured by L Oertling, London [1875]*

*Dring and Fage's almanack and brewer's directory, for 1877 (6<sup>th</sup> year of publication), with catalogue*

*Idem, for 1878, with catalogue*

*Sikes' tables of the concentrated strength of spirits... with the hydrometer made by Dring and Fage, London [1896]*

*Tables to be used with Sikes' hydrometer, London [1945]*

*Tables for ascertaining the strength of spirits with Sikes' hydrometer by Dring and Fage, London [?]*

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