

YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WILLIAM BROWN AND J W CLAY, CORRESPONDENCE, 1908-1924

William Brown (1854-1926) was a man of independent means. His father inherited the Arncliffe Hall estate through his marriage in 1853, although his son had to sell the heavily-mortgaged property in 1899. He devoted his life to antiquarian pursuits, probably stimulated to do so by his brother in law, the antiquarian Canon J. C. Atkinson. Amongst his membership of various antiquarian societies was the YAS, of which he became a member at some date before 1882 and in 1896 became its honorary secretary and honorary editor of its *Journal*. In 1919 he became a vice-president and was an editor of the Record Series from 1919 to 1923, the period covered by far the greater part this correspondence. An obituary by Professor A. Hamilton Thompson appeared in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, volume 28 (1926), pages 118-133. His correspondence with Charles T. Clay was concerned with the latter's work of medieval deeds whose editions of which were published by the Record Series.

After Brown's death, his letters to Clay were arranged in date sequence by Clay and numbered 1 to 69. Clay inserted five surviving letters from himself to Brown in this sequence, but did not number them. There are also four letters from Brown dated 1908 and 1911 which are unnumbered, presumably because Clay found them at a later date. For Clay himself, see *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, volume 52 (1980), pages 1-18.

Letters from William Brown of the Old House, Sowerby, Thirsk
To Charles T. Clay of 11 Tite Street, Chelsea, London SW3
concerning Clay's publications with the YAS. There are letters (2)
of 1908 and 1911 (2), and letters from 1919 numbered by Clay
from 1 to 69, with letters (unnumbered) from Clay to Brown
inserted by Clay after nos. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 45