

R/DX/57

Deposit by Mr Harold Jones

Acc 1723

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A music manuscript book, used as a scrapbook. The scrapbook was compiled by Commander Henry James Bray DSC (1884-1959), but there are items added after his death.

1901-1972

Commander Bray was born in Shrewsbury, attended Shrewsbury School, and was apprenticed aboard a Merchant Navy sailing ship in 1901. He travelled the world, eventually commanding his own ship. At the outbreak of war in 1914, he resigned and joined the Royal Navy. He retired to Knighton, where he managed the local labour exchange, gave piano lessons, and played the organ in the church.

The scrapbook includes: Commander Bray's apprentice indenture and certificate of competency as master of foreign-going ships; family photographs; photographs of fellow officers – from the Merchant and Royal Navies, all with typed commentary; drawings and memorabilia; newspaper cuttings; birth and marriage certificates.