RICHARD V. WELLS

Water Divining

February 2026

1 **[DOWSING]. GRABHAM, Oxley. 1864-1939.** A small but interesting archive relating to dowsing or water-divining in the 20th century. 20th century.

£165.00

The archive of papers relating to Mr Oxley Grabham and his interest in dowsing, include letters to Grabham, newspaper cuttings, lecture notes and other material. Oxley Grabham was appointed keeper, by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, of the Yorkshire Museum, a post which he held from 1904 to 1919. His obituary described him as "a naturalist of some distinction." The archive consists of (i) Two newspaper cuttings from 1915 reporting Grabham's address to the YPS. (ii) ALS from Benjamin Tompkins, dated 1909, on a splendid letterhead in red and black, discussing the use of hazel and oak twigs. (iii) Short ALS from John Stears, engineer and water expert, dated 1912, about a meeting in York. (iv) Three ALS's from Violet Cholmondely discussing practical dowsing. (v) ALS from ... Parsons referring to a list of water finders. (vi) Two newspaper cuttings referring to Sir Ray Lancaster, director of the Natural History Museum. (vii) A newspaper cutting "Australian Soldier as Water Diviner", an advertisement for 'Mansfield's Patent Water Finder', and other cuttings all tucked in a booklet, dated 1908, "Do You want Water".