The Life of Edgar Dupuy (1840 – 1911)

a man of great scientific learning, biologist, x-ray pioneer, perfumer and pharmacist¹

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Introduction

The archives of La Société Guernesiaise contain a number of artefacts associated with Edgar Dupuy: an ambrotype photograph of him from the mid-1860s²; a carte de visite photograph of his two sons taken in about 1877³; a collection of letters addressed to him; a cutting from a magazine about his perfumery; a newspaper article; and his herbarium. And although these *Transactions* record how the herbarium came into the possession of this society, the provenance of the other items is less precisely known. In autumn 2012 all the Dupuy material was brought together for the first time when La Société appointed an archivist to catalogue and preserve its collection of documents and artefacts. Using these various articles as a basis, an attempt has been made to gain an impression of the life of this remarkable but virtually unknown Guernseyman.

The Dupuy Family in Guernsey

Edgar Dupuy was of Huguenot descent. He was born in St Peter Port on 12 July 1840 and baptised on 5 August 1840 in the Town Church where the first mention of his family in the parish registers is that of the burial of his infant great-uncle Josué on 22 February 1747. Josué was the son of Jacques Du Puy, a French refugee:



Fig. 1. Extract from Town Church burial register

"Josué, Fils de Jacques Du Puy, François-réfugié, fut enterré le 22 ième de Février 1747"

And the admission in 1862 to La Providence, the French Protestant Hospital in London, of Martha-Elizabeth Comley, the daughter of (a second) Josué Dupuy, born in St Peter Port on 29 May 1783, gives further evidence of the family's roots as admission to the hospital was confined to those of proven direct descent from a French Protestant family. On this occasion the actual area from which the family originated was named: "Joshua being a refugee from Saintonge"⁴.

Edgar Dupuy was the son of Peter Dupuy (1800-1872) and Mary Rabey Winter (1808-1843) who were married in the Town Church on 25 March 1830 and who are buried in Candie Cemetery. Peter was a hairdresser, wig-maker and perfumer who had a shop in Cornet Street in 1826⁵ and later at 35 High Street which Victor Hugo patronised. It is perhaps not surprising that the notoriously reluctant English-speaker⁶ should have sought out a fellow French-speaker, which it seems reasonable to assume Peter was. Certainly, his son Alfred John, who became a French Wesleyan Minister, was fluent in that language and this he is likely to have learnt at home. In his diary for 1860 the poet noted how he had bought a razor and leather from Dupuy, the price he had paid,

"16 janvier --- acheté et payé chez Dupuy 1 rasoir et un cuir ---- 9f.30c"7

and how he had used the razor for the first time two days later

"18 ---- je me suis rasé pour la première fois avec le rasoir Dupuy"8

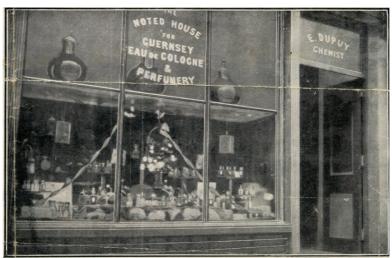
Of Peter's five children, only three survived childhood. The first of these, Edwin Winter Dupuy, was born in 1832 and baptised in the Town Church, where in 1871 he married Rosa Henry Barbet, the daughter of Stephen Barbet, the printer and bookseller of 25 High Street. There were five children of the marriage and they met with both academic and sporting success, their achievements frequently being reported in *The Star* newspaper. Sadly four of them were to succumb to tuberculosis as young adults before any had married⁹. The clergyman Alfred John was the second of Peter's surviving sons. He was born in 1835, also baptised at the Town Church, and married Amelia Rougier in Vale Chapel in 1862 but he died (quite probably also from tuberculosis ¹⁰) at the early age of 49 years without issue. The third son was Edgar.

On the 1841 census Peter and his family are found living in Hauteville. Ten years later the family, by then without a mother following Mary's untimely death in 1843, were at 3 Constitution Steps and in 1861 they were living at 17 George Road by which time Edgar was 20 years of age and working as a chemist. However, nothing further is known of his life until he married Julia Marquand in the Town Church on 11 June 1868. Julia was the 26-year-old daughter of Henri Marquand (1814-1859) and Mary David (1810-1886) and her occupation on the 1861 census is recorded as ship-owner, even though she was then just 19 years of age 11. In about 1868 Dupuy began his business at 9 Commercial Arcade and the couple were to remain living above the shop until 1892 when they moved to 22 Hauteville. There were five children of the marriage, two of whom, Arthur Edgar and Winifred Mary, were eventually to follow their father into the family business. As young men, Arthur Edgar and his brother Henry (Plate 1) were skilful competitive sailors and their successes in races held by the Guernsey Yacht Club were duly reported in The Star¹². In 1920 Arthur Edgar died at just 50 years of age and the following year was posthumously awarded the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal for service during the Great War¹³. Although Henry had passed the *Preliminary Examination of the* Pharmaceutical Society at the age of 16 years¹⁴, he became a bank clerk and moved in London. His two daughters, Edgar Dupuy's only grandchildren (and Peter Dupuy's only great-grandchildren), never married and so Peter's lineage came to an end¹⁵.

Although the name Dupuy was often mentioned in The Star newspaper, because Edgar and Edwin had the same initial, it can sometimes be difficult to distinguish between the two brothers in the various reports. For example, it was reported in 1878 that E Dupuy failed to become elected to the Central Douzaine and in 1881 that Mr E Dupuy's term of office as Overseer of the Poor had come to an end. Separating their children is even more difficult because no initial at all was used and accordingly in 1896 plain Dupuy is noted to have won the Elizabeth College Form 3 prize for Commercial Subjects. Miss Dupuy and sometimes the Misses Dupuy were talented singers, often performing publically, and in 1894 Miss Dupuy was running a school with Mlle Adèle Maccabez at Grove House in Elm Grove. It is impossible now to determine which of the four female cousins were the singers, or which the schoolmistress, although the prize-winning Dupuy seems likely to have been Edwin's son Frank. Suffice it to say that clearly they were members of a talented extended family. One thing we can be certain of, however, is that the watercolour reproduced in Plate 2, signed simply Dupuy and dated 1895, was painted by Edwin. It is a copy of a painting from 1817 by Frederick Corbin Lukis (1788-1871) which hangs in the Town Church¹⁶ and shows the interior of the church, looking west, before restoration in 1822. The wooden seats outside the pews were for the poor and inmates of the Town Hospital. Edwin's work was regularly seen in local exhibitions 17. In 1888 an exhibition of Model Yachts and Cutters "with kindred appliances which had been got together in connection with the Model Yacht Pond" was held in the Market Hall. It was opened by the Bailiff, Sir Edgar MacCulloch, and included "... two marine oil paintings, by Mr E. Dupuy, of High Street, one showing Castle Cornet as it was before the breakwater was built, and a fine brig running up under close reefed topsails."18The two brothers were similar in many ways: each was a chemist, and as we shall see, each was a perfumer, and each was artistic - Edwin Winter, clearly an accomplished painter, and as we shall also see, Edgar was a skilled photographer - but there the similarity ended because George Hugo wrote in *Guernsey as it used to be* "Mr Edgar Dupuy was Mr Edwin Winter Dupuy's younger brother but did not much resemble him. It is true that both were dark, yet Mr Edgar was a tall slight man, whereas Mr Edwin, of no more than middle height, was stout" 19. Plate 1 showing Edgar as a young man seems to endorse this description.

The picture which emerges is that of a Huguenot family settling in Guernsey and going on to achieve and contribute in a number of fields of activity here. They were academic and sporting, artistic and public-spirited, and they established successful businesses. In 1942 the Antiquarian Section of this society published a long list of names of men and women who had fled religious persecution in France in the 16th to 18th centuries and sought refuge on the island²⁰. The report ends with the comment that "It is remarkable, on studying the above names, that it is rare to find any which are still to be found in Guernsey" and this is just the case with this family. Not only has the name Dupuy disappeared from Guernsey, so has the family. A number of factors - deaths in early adulthood, marriages without issue, and daughters who remained single - have been instrumental in bringing this family to an end. However, as we shall see, it is for this reason that most of the Dupuy artefacts came into the possession of this society.

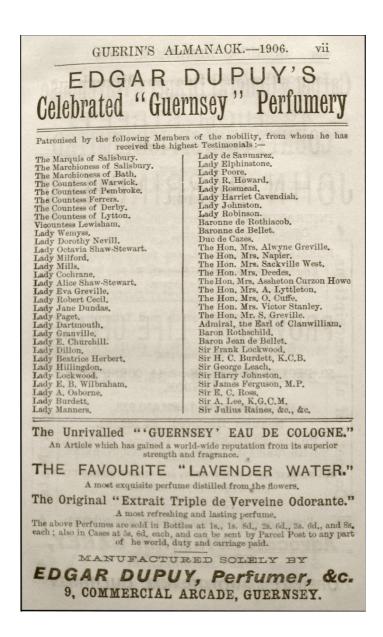
Pharmacist and perfumer



To have qualified as a chemist In the 1860s, Dupuy would have had to serve an apprenticeship in a pharmacy²¹ and although the details of that apprenticeship, and where he worked once he had completed his training, are not known, it is known that having opened his shop in Commercial Arcade in about 1868 he was to work for over 40 years. His name never appeared in the *Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists* held by the *Pharmaceutical Society* - there was no legal requirement at that time that it should – and for the same reason his premises were never registered with the Society either²².

His everyday work would have been much the same as that of any other chemist of his period. He would have made his own pills and tablets, ointments and powders, and dispensed a full range of medicines prescribed by local doctors. Ready-made remedies would also have formed a major part of his stock and one of these "Elixir Pectoral du Docteur Johnson" which he advertised (in French) in *Le Bailliage* on 15 October 1892 was claimed to be effective against a large range of respiratory maladies including the common cold, asthma and influenza²³.

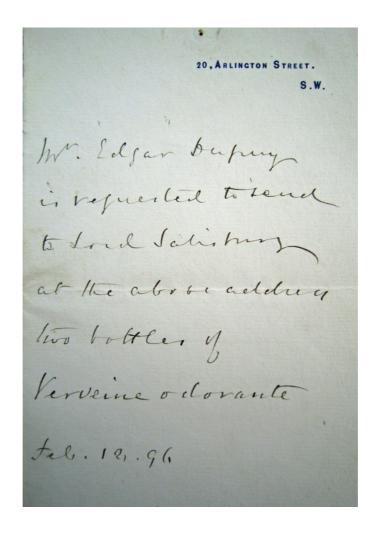
However, in addition to his routine work as a chemist, Dupuy manufactured perfumes. We already know there was a family connection with perfumery because in 1826 his father Peter had been working to some extent as a perfumer. And although in the intervening years the various censuses record his occupation as simply hairdresser, in 1862, in the Vale Chapel register (recording the marriage of his son Alfred John), Peter has declared his occupation to be solely that of perfumer. He regularly advertised in The Star but the perfumes (and perfumed soaps) he offered for sale were always made elsewhere, unlike those of his sons who made their own. Edwin Winter Dupuy began his business in 1862 at 35 High Street, sharing the premises with his father, and later moved to 5 Smith Street where he established "The Guernsey Eau de Cologne Manufactory". But it was Edgar who was to achieve the greater success in this field. His own Eau-de-Cologne first appeared on sale in 1868, and Island Bouquet was developed to coincide with the Golden Jubilee of 1887. His Lavender Water was popular but it was Extraite Triple de Verveine Odorante which seems to have been his most successful product. Each of his products was available in a variety of containers ranging from a plain glass bottle with a cork stopper, rather like a small medicine bottle²⁴, to a number of more elaborate vessels, some of which were decorated with gold leaf and had the cork sealed with wax²⁵. These more elegant bottles were mentioned in *The Star* at Christmas 1900: "Whilst in the Arcade the traveller ought by no means to forget to call at Mr Edgar Dupuy's chemist's shop, particularly those in need of perfumery. Here they can obtain the celebrated Guernsey perfumery made by him and sold in daintily shaped bottles. Mr Dupuy holds a quantity of valuable testimonials for his perfumery, which is no small recommendation for its high quality" 26. His list of customers is certainly impressive as can be seen in Fig. 3., which is a larger scale version of an advertisement which appeared in *The Star* on many occasions.



In 1990 an article about Dupuy's perfumery appeared in the *Guernsey Press*²⁷. A former Guernsey resident, then living in England, wished to dispose of a number of items relating to the Dupuy family but was unable to find any member of the family to whom to give them. These form the bulk of the Dupuy articles now in the archives of this society to which reference was made earlier. The majority (48) are orders for perfumes and had been sent to Dupuy from as far afield as Rome, Canada, the British Embassy in Austria, Cyprus and India as well as England and Scotland, and many were from the customers named in this advertisement. The letters span 27 years and presumably represent just a small sample of those he received. The names of several of the correspondents are set out in the table with some of their remarks reproduced verbatim. Most orders were unsigned and presumably written by secretaries (the Countess of Harewood was an exception, writing and signing both of her letters) and there are several repeat orders, most notably from the Countess of Warwick on whose behalf four letters were sent between 1891 and 1898.

However, not every letter contained comments as glowing as the advertisement might suggest. One of the orders sent on behalf of the Countess of Warwick, on this occasion from St James' Palace, for three bottles of *Extract of Verbena* was followed a few days later by a second letter sent from Warwick Castle: "The Countess of Warwick arrived at Warwick some days ago and found the box with bottles Mr Dupuy had sent her but was surprised to see the bottles were only about a little more than half the size of those sent before – and as she paid the same price – she thinks there must be some mistake. The <u>former empty bottles</u> are standing on the same shelf so the difference is easily seen". As Dupuy sold this particular perfume in five sizes, at 1/-, 1/8, 2/6, 3/6 and 7/6 (1890 prices) clearly a simple mistake had been made.

The Marquis of Salibury's order was sent from his London address, 20 Arlington Street, and is dated 18 February 1896, a time when he was serving his third term as Prime Minister (Fig.4). Lady Salisbury was also a customer – her three orders were sent from Hatfield House, the Cecil family estate in Hertfordshire – and like her husband she favoured Dupuy's *Extrait Triple de Verveine Odorante*²⁸.



It seems remarkable that a small businessman in Guernsey could have built up such a distinguished clientele. To have been so popular Dupuy's products must have been of the highest quality, especially as at the time these letters were written commercial blends of fragrance were in production, and he would have faced competition from well-established London perfumers such as

Penhaligon's. Word of mouth certainly helped build up his business: Lady Dorothy Nevill, Lady Granville and Lady Paget each mentioned the Countess of Bath in their orders, and Lady Salisbury wanted the same size bottle of *Extrait Triple de Verveine Odorante* as had been supplied to the Countess of Warwick, but this does not explain how Dupuy's perfumes first found their way into this level of British society. A possibility is that his perfumes had been purchased at his shop by visitors to the island, perhaps arriving on private yachts as it is known that wealthy tourists visited Guernsey in this way at that time²⁹. For example, in June 1895 *The Star* reported that the Prime Minister Lord Rosebery had landed his yacht at Dixcart Bay and had taken lunch at Dixcart Hotel³⁰. Rosebery's father-in-law was Baron Rothschild who is listed as one of Dupuy's customers in the 1906 advertisement (Fig.3.). The article also mentions that staying at the hotel overnight, and returning to Guernsey that morning, was Mrs Giles, the niece of Lord and Lady Salisbury, two more of Dupuy's customers.

There are also interesting connections between some of Dupuy's customers listed in the table and the Royal Family. The Countess of Warwick, Frances Evelyn "Daisy" Greville (1861-1938), was the long-term mistress of the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII (1841-1910). In due course, she was succeeded in the Prince's affections by Mrs Alice Keppel whose family, the Edmonstones, were landowners based at Duntreath Castle near Glasgow. Both Alice's mother, Lady Edmonstone, and her brother, Sir Archibald Edmondstone, were customers of Dupuy. Lady Cochrane (the only customer to make payment by cheque rather than postal order) had entertained Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales at Quarr Abbey House on the Isle of Wight on several occasions when the Royal Family had been in residence at Osborne House³¹. And it was another customer, the Hon Sydney Greville (1866-1927), Daisy's brother-in-law and an equerry to the Prince of Wales, who had accompanied the Princess of Wales, Princess Alexandra of Denmark (1844-1925), from Sandringham to Osbourne House when the Queen's death was announced in 1901³². Also in that small party, in attendance, was Elizabeth Charlotte Knollys³³.

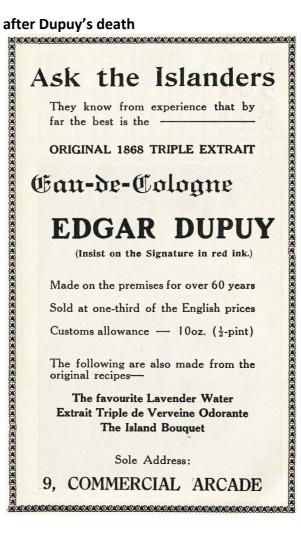
Elizabeth Charlotte Knollys (1835-1930)

Among the perfume orders are two small and (disappointingly) empty envelopes. One is marked simply "Order for Princess" and the other (in the same hand) "Miss Knollys' letter. Dec 06. From Sandringham". In 1873 at the age of 38 years Charlotte Knollys (she was always known by her second given name) was appointed a Lady of the Bedchamber to Princess Alexandra and over the course of 50 years rose to become her private secretary, confidante and friend ³⁴. The two women spent many of their years together living at Sandringham with Alexandra's unmarried daughter Princess Victoria, but because the "Order for Princess" is undated, it is impossible to know to whom it refers. If Dupuy received it before 1901, the year Edward VII ascended the throne, then the order could have been intended for either Alexandra or Victoria, after that date then it must have been intended for Victoria as by then her mother was styled Queen rather than Princess. In either case, a remarkably prestigious customer and it is perhaps interesting to reflect that either the wife or a daughter of Edward VII; one of his long-term mistresses; and the family of another, had all used Dupuy's perfumes! And if it is difficult to imagine how Dupuy developed his business connections with the aristocracy, then it is even more difficult to conceive how he acquired a customer from among the Royal Family. However, Charlotte Knollys had lived in Guernsey.

Charlotte's father, General William Thomas Knollys (1797-1883), was the Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey from 1854 until 1856 although before the end of that period he was seconded to take charge of the new military camp being built at Aldershot. His time in office here seems to have passed uneventfully. He was much involved with raising money for the Patriotic Fund (to support widows of soldiers killed at Crimea), and he was on stand-by in case Queen Victoria's 1854 visit to Alderney was unexpectedly extended to Guernsey (it was not), but his main concern, and cause for complaint, seems to have been the unsuitability of Havilland Hall as his official residence ³⁵. As a young woman aged 19 years, Charlotte was still living with her parents and on 12 September 1854 she accompanied them to Sark on an official visit. *The Star* reported how "The General was accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Knollys . . . and on reaching the shore . . . was received by the Rev. William Collings, Lord of Sark, and Mrs. Collings" After inspecting 70-80 men of the Militia – the Lieutenant-Governor addressed them in "excellent French" and congratulated them on their "clean and soldier-like appearance" - the party then repaired to the Seigneurie for lunch ³⁶.

It is impossible to know what had prompted Charlotte to order perfume from Dupuy. Had she retained some improbable link with the island after 50 years or, perhaps more likely, had she simply chanced upon someone wearing the fragrance and liked it? Unfortunately, just how Dupuy established his notable list of customers is a question that is likely to remain unanswered.

The Perfumery continued after Dupuy's death



After Dupuy's death in 1911, his son Arthur Edgar (a pharmacist who registered with the *Pharmaceutical Society* that year³⁷) carried on the business until his own early death in 1920, after which Dupuy's daughter Winifred continued with professional help provided by a manager. In October 1924 an article entitled "Perfumery – The House of Dupuy" appeared in *Country Topics*³⁸ and noted that Dupuy's perfumes were offered for sale at a third of the English prices because of the small amount of duty obtaining in Guernsey at that time. The perfumes were duly praised. Quoting *The Hospital*³⁹ the article went on "I am glad to introduce the most delightful scent I have ever come across. This is *Island Bouquet*, supplied by Edgar Dupuy, Commercial Arcade, Guernsey. The mingled perfume of fresh flowers is suggested in a manner I do not think equalled in any other scent". However, the use of such extravagant language suggests that perhaps this was a promotional feature rather than a piece of objective writing. Winifred certainly continued to advertise the business – which retained her father's name – and in 1934 she placed the advertisement seen in Fig.5 in a tourist guide⁴⁰. Again the point was made that the "Original 1868 Triple Extrait Eau-de-Cologne" was still in production and was being sold at one-third of the English prices, helpfully adding that the Customs allowance was half a pint per person.

Winifred died in 1945 and the business was eventually taken over by Cecil Stonelake. However, as he produced his own range of perfumes it would seem that he had no need of Dupuy's fragrances, the recipes of which appear to have been lost. Nevertheless, It is remarkable that Dupuy's perfumes should have been in continuous production for over 75 years.

Clearly, Dupuy was successful professionally. In establishing such a popular perfumery, he had used his creative talents to devise the recipes for his fragrances, his skills as a chemist to manufacture them, and his business sense to market them. But he also achieved much with his activities outside of work: he had an interest in science, he was a skilled photographer and, most remarkably, he was an early worker with X-rays.

Scientific interests

The photograph of Edgar Dupuy (Plate 1) has been reproduced from an ambrotype – a small image produced on glass and contained in a metal case - and as it shows him as a young man in his midtwenties, it would have been taken around 1866. There is nothing to indicate who the photographer was, or why it was taken, but as this early type of photography was relatively costly, it was often used to mark a special occasion such as an engagement or professional success. This is a typical studio portrait of the period - the pose is stiff, Dupuy is unsmiling, his dress is formal - but the microscope is an unusual photographer's prop which almost certainly would have belonged to the sitter himself, so for it to have been included, it must have been of importance to him. Dupuy is perhaps seeking to portray himself as a serious man of science.

Biology

The first evidence of his interest in biological science comes in the form of a small book of pressed seaweeds which was given to the Priaulx Library in 1954 by Mrs H.E. Penney. It is signed by Dupuy, dated 10 September 1859 and titled simply (in an elegant hand) *Algae*. There are 35 small, delicate and carefully presented specimens, each mounted on a small piece of card. Each card is glued to a single page, and the pages are interleaved with tissue paper. Some of the species are identified but

most are not. Dupuy was just 19 years old when he collected these seaweeds and it is evident that even at that age he had the technical skill to prepare the specimens for mounting, and the artistic imagination to present them attractively.

The next indication of his biological interest is his herbarium which is contained in a purpose-made album, measuring approximately 10 x 8 x 4 inches, bound in green leather with the words Hortus Siccus⁴¹ printed on the front cover and spine (Plate 1). This might have been supplied by Stephen Barbet whose embossed mark appears on several of the mounting sheets. Inside the front cover Dupuy has again signed his name, added the title and the year 1864, and on this occasion included his address, 17 George Road. The collection consists of 240 specimens, all in good condition and free from insect attack. Each is mounted on its own sheet and protected by a loose piece of tissue paper. Every specimen had been named by Dupuy with both the Latin name in use at that time and a vernacular name, dated by month and year (almost exclusively from mid-1864 to mid-1865) and a collection site has been given. Each specimen shows the plant's identifying features - leaves, flowers, even a sliced bulb in some cases - and these have been arranged in an attractive manner. Dupuy has combined botanical knowledge with artistic flair. Plate 3 shows his specimen of the familiar Traveller's Joy Clematis vitalba which he had collected in Forest Road in July 1864, and Plate 4 shows the now common lvy-leaved Toadflax Cymbalaria muralis which he collected from Les Godaines in May 1864 where it could still be found 150 years later in May 2014⁴². These are the earliest known records of these two plants in Guernsey-

This style of herbarium - a bound volume - was already old-fashioned by Dupuy's time. It pre-dated Linnaeus (1707-1778) who a hundred years earlier had mounted his specimens singly on unbound sheets of paper, as had Joshua Gosselin (1739-1813) in the late 18th Century. But it is possible that Dupuy had adopted this style for a specific reason because even though the Hortus Siccus seems to be at first glance a typical Victorian collection of pressed plants, this is not the case. Certainly the plants have been placed in their correct families but the families do not then appear to be arranged in any recognised taxonomic order, and even though each family is headed by well-researched, neatly-written and sometimes lengthy notes - in itself an unusual feature of an herbarium - these notes contain nothing about the botanical characteristics of each group. Instead they relate to the world-wide distribution of the various plants within the family, and the uses made of some of them, especially any with poisonous properties or a use in medicine or perfumery. And although initially it seemed possible that the production of an herbarium might have been a requirement of his apprenticeship, this proved not to be so. However, his focusing on the medicinal uses of plants rather than their botanical structure; the precise year-long collecting period; the large number of specimens collected in that one year with the inclusion of rarities to the exclusion of common species ("In estimating the merits of collections, not only will the number of specimens be taken into account, but also their rarity or otherwise" 43) all point to his having produced the Hortus Siccus as an entry for the *Pharmaceutical Society's* annual Botanical Prize⁴⁴. It would have been much easier to send his herbarium to London in book form than as a collection of loose sheets. At this distance it is impossible to know if this was in fact the case, and if so, whether he actually entered the competition, but certainly his name never appeared on the list of prize winners.

The first documented reference to the *Hortus Siccus* came in 1941 in these *Transactions* when Mrs McRea, the Botanical Section Secretary at that time, reported having been shown it – and Gosselin's

herbarium (which Dupuy had owned) – by Dupuy's daughter Winifred ⁴⁵. Winifred died in August 1945 and later that year, in accordance with her wishes, both these herbaria were presented to this society by her friend Miss Evelyn Marquand with whom she shared a house at 2 Elgin, Kings Road ⁴⁶ (which curiously was also Mrs Penney's address). How the *Hortus Siccus* came into Winifred's possession is obvious, but how Gosselin's herbarium came to be owned by her father is not. It is known that after Gosselin's death in 1813 it had passed to his young granddaughter Mary Carey ⁴⁷, but what then became of it between her untimely death in 1823, and around 1900 when it was known to have been owned by Dupuy ⁴⁸, remains a mystery. Even David McClintock who researched Gosselin and his herbarium extensively could offer no suggestion ⁴⁹.

Electricity

Perhaps with the completion of his Hortus Siccus in mid-1865 Dupuy's botanical interest diminished but he must have continued to look after his collection, and that of Gosselin (if indeed he owned it at that time), for them both to have survived in such good condition. He certainly became interested in electricity because on 17 June 1882 he demonstrated the first incandescent light bulb ever seen in public in Guernsey: "On Saturday evening last crowds of curious persons might be seen gathered around Mr Edgar Dupuy's shop in Commercial Arcade, drawn there by the sight of a small. upright globe whence were given forth the first rays of a Swan's Incandescent Lamp ever publically seen in the Island. . . . The Guernsey public should feel grateful to Mr Dupuy for enabling them to see, free of charge, the effect of this brilliant light." 50 And more evidence of his interest in practical science came on 14 April 1896 when *The Star* reported that he had provided some electrical equipment for use at a public lecture and demonstration, but more of that later.

Evidently Dupuy was a practical man but one also with artistic leanings, and he was able to bring these two qualities together in another field in which he achieved much success, namely photography.

Photography

At what stage in his life Dupuy developed his interest in photography is not known, but as his two sons were professionally photographed in about 1875, perhaps it was not before that date or he might well have taken the image shown in Plate 1 himself. Instead it was taken by Auguste Javelot of 12 Victoria Road "Photographer to His Excel* the Lieut.Gov. & the Bailiff of Guernsey". It is a small photograph measuring approximately 2½ inches wide by 3½ inches high pasted onto a slightly larger card bearing Javelot's details (and the handwritten names of the two boys) on the reverse, a style known as carte de visite. These photographs were relatively inexpensive and often several copies would be bought at a time and given to friends and relatives⁵¹.

By the 1890s, a time when it is known that Dupuy was active as a photographer, there was great popular interest in photography and processing services were being provided to the general public by many community chemists. This tradition has continued up to the present

day with, for example, the high street pharmacy chain *Boots* still providing an in-store film development service, albeit at a much reduced level in recent years. However, although evidently an enthusiastic and talented photographer himself, there is nothing in his frequent advertisements in *The Star* to suggest that Dupuy offered photographic services in this way, although others did. The well-known Guernsey photographer Thomas Singleton, for example, advertised "Printing executed for amateurs, or Lessons given in any branch of the art"⁵².

From time to time examples of Dupuy's work appeared in his shop window followed a day or so later by a short note in *The Star*. For example, in 1893, after several years of trying, he managed to capture an image of both the skyline of St Peter Port, and its reflection in the Model Yacht Pond, in the same photograph⁵³. And in the severe weather of early 1895 he photographed icicles at Petit Bôt Mill and a frozen fountain at Hubert and Mauger's Nursery in Doyle Road⁵⁴. Sadly, these images have been lost but examples of Dupuy's work can be seen in Guernsey Folk Lore by Sir Edgar MacCulloch (the first President of this society), edited and published after the former Bailiff's death by Edith Carey (the first female President of this society)55. In that work his photograph of the Mill Pond at the Vrangue (Fig.7.) shows an image similar to that of the Model Yacht Pond – a reflection in water – and the Old Mill, Talbots is one of three of his photographs of the Talbot Valley also used (Fig. 8.) However, not all the photographs he supplied to Miss Carey were his own. He had reproduced Old Market Place and States Arcade from an earlier photograph taken by the professional photographer Thomas Belsham Hutton, who opened a studio here in 1871, and Top of Smith Street from "an old negative by Dr J Mansell". Dupuy's own photograph from the work, Old Manor, La Ville au Roi, was reproduced in the Transactions for 1932⁵⁶ and that of Dr Mansell in those for 1939⁵⁷. On neither occasion was Dupuy mentioned.

For an amateur photographer to have been asked to supply photographs for a major publication such as *Guernsey Folk Lore* was clearly a great acknowledgement of Dupuy's skill and reputation. He contributed 29 of the 53 plates, more than the number supplied in total by the three professional photographers Thomas Grut, William Guerin and Singleton whose work was also used. His images are interesting and well-composed – Dupuy clearly had 'a good eye for a photograph' – and as they cover many sites around the island, and as his camera, tripod and a box of glass negative plates would have been heavy, it seems likely that he needed some form of transport. Also, he must have had the facilities, and the necessary technical ability, to develop negatives such as Dr Mansell's (and his own) and to copy other photographs such as Hutton's⁵⁸.





These various photographic skills, and his interest in science, came together in perhaps the most remarkable of all his achievements when in early 1896 he began working with X-rays.

The New Photography

The discovery of X-rays in late 1895 by Wilhelm Röntgen opened up a new world of opportunities for examining the structure of the body. The use of X-rays to produce an image on an ordinary photographic plate soon became known as "The New Photography" and for community chemists like Dupuy who had photography skills, extending them into this new field was a logical progression and their involvement in the early days of radiography is well documented ⁵⁹. Typically, chemists obtained X-ray apparatus for use in their own shops but some were also invited into hospitals to X-ray inpatients using the hospital's equipment ⁶⁰. Edgar Dupuy was taking radiographs in early 1896 and it seems entirely likely that he actually made his apparatus himself because, as has already been mentioned, he had a practical interest in electrical matters and he is known to have loaned various pieces of electrical equipment, some of it home-made, to Adolphus Collenette for a public lecture:

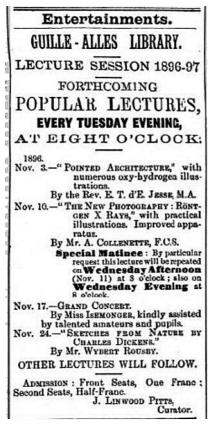
The first public demonstration of the New Photography in Guernsey

Although from the very beginning there was great interest among the general public in the New Photography, initially it was seen it as a form of harmless entertainment. The first public demonstration of X-rays in Guernsey was given by Adolphus Collenette (who was President of this society at the time) in the Guille-Allès lecture hall on Tuesday, 14 April 1896⁶¹. Bookings were made in advance at the Library but it proved so popular an event that even before the first lecture had been delivered, arrangements had to be hastily made for a second performance to be held two days later. Although this advertisement Fig.9 mentions that "new and special apparatus, obtained from London for the purpose" was to be used, the subsequent report of the two meetings mentions only that "Mr E. Dupuy, chemist, of the Commercial Arcade, had kindly lent a coil of his own construction made many years ago, a battery and two vacuum tubes" and Collenette publically acknowledged that Dupuy was the first person to have taken an X-ray in Guernsey. Public demonstrations such as this were becoming commonplace (even in fun-fairs) and if the New Photography was regarded as an entertainment, then the X-raying of a lady's gloved hand, ideally wearing rings, was soon to become the entertainer's party piece with radiographs similar to Fig.10 appearing in newspapers. The highlight of Collenette's first lecture appears to have been just such an event when the subject was Miss Stevenson "daughter of General Stevenson" (the Lieutenant Governor)⁶² who had to hold her gloved hand still under the apparatus for 12 minutes. Today that exposure time would be a fraction of a second⁶³.

By May 1896 a ready-to-use X-ray apparatus was available from the firm of Newton & Co., Scientific Instrument Makers of Fleet Street, at a cost of £30⁶⁴. This was a significant sum of money - about £3000 today - so for Collenette to have invested that amount – if that is what he did - he must have been quick to realise the potential clinical use of the new discovery. It seems he did because it was made known in *The Star* even before the first lecture that "if there be any local surgical cases in the diagnosis of which the Röntgen Rays would be beneficial, Mr Collenette will be pleased to render assistance . . ." He continued lecturing on this subject – always assisted by his brother Benjamin, a professional photographer – both here and in Jersey – and in November 1896 his advertisement (still in the *Entertainment* rather than *Educational* advertisement section of *The Star*) mentioned an "improved apparatus". His lectures must have continued to be

well-subscribed because again a repeat evening lecture was advertised – and even a Special Matinée performance (Fig.

Dupuy's shadowgraphs



Those members of the had been unable to attend lectures soon had an to see shadowgraphs (as originally called) on display



public who Collenette's opportunity they were in Dupuy's

11.).

shop window where he presented a series of his own pictures, each of which was reported in *The Star* newspaper a day or so later. There were many. Some were of novelty value: "a collection of keys and screws placed inside an aluminium cigar case, the case then being put in the centre of a 2-lb loaf"65; others had an artistic appeal, for example, a plaice "the exquisite beauty and delicacy with which the skeleton of the fish is portrayed is certainly a triumph of art"66; but by mid-1897 he was displaying radiographs which were of clinical use. "On several occasions radiographs taken by Mr Dupuy have been most useful to the surgeon": a sewing needle which had broken off in a girl's finger was easily located and extracted, a broken hat pin was found and removed from a woman's calf, but perhaps most significantly, he was able to demonstrate that in a two-month-old, unhealed fracture of a young man's lower leg, the ends of the broken bones were not properly aligned and that

further medical treatment was therefore necessary. However, "the climax of these radiographs . . . is that of the complete frame of a lad of 14 years of age. This embraces every bone in his body from the skull to his toes". The report goes on to comment that it was believed that this was only the second occasion on which a whole-body X-ray had been taken⁶⁷. Seventeen individual X-rays would have been necessary — one for the head, another for the neck, two for an arm and so on — using ordinary photographic glass plates and Dupuy would have then had to use his photographic skills to make a print on paper from each of these plates ⁶⁸. He would then have had to cut and splice together the prints (and possibly photograph the result) to display in his window. It is difficult even to guess at what the total exposure time must have been. The abdomen requires the longest exposure and even in a slim young lad (bearing in mind that Miss Stevenson's hand took 12 minutes) the time needed for that radiograph alone must have been considerable⁶⁹.

However, of all of Dupuy's radiographs, the one which attracted perhaps the most attention, "the crowning point of results obtained by Mr Dupuy", appeared in his shop window in January 1897. It was of a living foot contained inside a stout Wellington boot. The bones of the foot, the various joints, the thickness of both the leather and the flesh, and the nails of the boot were all clearly visible⁷⁰. This radiograph was such a success that Dupuy must have passed on a copy to at least one other chemist, because among the Dupuy letters is one from a Mrs Katharine Holland, who had seen the radiograph in a chemist's window in Bath, and was asking Dupuy if she could buy a copy⁷¹.

Of all Dupuy's achievements this seems the most remarkable. He was using X-rays in St Peter Port within three months of their discovery in Germany, and within nine months he had learnt to fine-tune his home-made apparatus to such a degree that he could demonstrate the delicate bones of a fish. Early radiology was both difficult and dangerous as the injurious effects of radiation, especially to the operator, were not initially recognised. However, by late 1896 reports began to appear describing skin effects rather like those of a severe sunburn in some X-ray workers (compounded by the common practice of the operator using his own hand to test the apparatus) and after June 1897 no further reports of Dupuy's involvement with X-rays appeared in *The Star*. Even though clinical applications were becoming apparent, and despite Collenette's involvement, the New Photography was never mentioned in these *Transactions*. Perhaps it was always seen by some as entertainment rather than serious science.

Conclusion

Edgar Dupuy died at his home in Hauteville on 26 July 1911 and was buried two days later in the Foulon Cemetery where his gravestone can be readily found and is easily read. He was 71 years of age and the cause of his death was recorded as *senile decay*, a natural death due to old age. His wife Julia had died nine years earlier at the age of 60 years. There were no accounts of his funeral, nor any obituary, in *The Star*, the *Guernsey Press* or *The Guernsey Advertiser and Weekly Chronicle*.

Born at very beginning of the Victorian era – an age of great scientific discoveries - he was a typical 19th Century amateur scientist (although in experimenting with X-rays he went further than most!) But more than that he was artistic, and this shows in all his creative activities: his two herbaria, his photographs, his perfumes, even his radiographs, all display that side of his personality. He was also an astute businessman. Anything that might attract the public's interest and entice them to his shop – the electric light bulb, a particular photograph, an interesting radiograph – was displayed in his shop window (even some of his perfume orders have the mark of a drawing pin Fig.4.) and it cannot be a coincidence that a day or two later a note would appear in *The Star*.

Dupuy never joined this society even though Adolphus Collenette, a founder member, was his near neighbour and professional colleague in the Commercial Arcade at the time it was founded. If he wrote anything it has not survived, and despite his remarkable perfume business nothing is written of that, or him, beyond the two articles discussed. Despite having accomplished so much during his lifetime, in so many different fields, it seems surprising that so little is known of him. It is hoped that this attempt to bring together some of the achievements of this notable Guernseyman has gone some way to rectifying that situation.

Recording the *Hortus Siccus* and preserving the Dupuy artefacts

For the past two years Jennie Grange has spent a morning a week working on the Hortus Siccus, checking all of Dupuy's identifications (very few of which were incorrect), drawing up a complete list of the 240 plants with dates and sites, and adding their modern scientific names. This list has been sent to the Guernsey Biological Records Centre with professionally-taken photographs of eight of the most interesting specimens. Guidance has been sought from the Island Archives Service about storage and as a result the Hortus Siccus and the ambrotype photograph are now housed in custom-

made archival boxes, and the perfume orders and the carte de visite photograph in individual archival envelopes.

Acknowledgements

In writing this brief biographical sketch I have depended on the generosity of a number of others who have willingly shared their expertise with me. I am grateful to La Société's archivist, my wife Pat Costen, for introducing me first to Dupuy's *Hortus Siccus* and then to the various other items as she came across them in the society's library. Not for the first time Dr Darryl Ogier, Island Archivist, and Lisa Burton, Registrar at Guernsey Museum & Galleries, have willingly provided me with invaluable assistance, and I am grateful to them both. Michael Deane has been generous with his considerable knowledge and expertise in all aspects of photography, and my thanks go also to Cédric Bail of Hauteville House who found mention of Peter Dupuy in Victor Hugo's diaries and provided the passages quoted and a translation. I have pleasure in thanking Maria van der Tang and Marie Sillars of the Family History Section for their help: Maria directed me to the graves of both Edgar and Edwin Dupuy, and Marie's extensive research notes on the Dupuy family made that part of my task much easier.

Finally, I am especially grateful to Jennie Grange whose admiration for Edgar Dupuy and his achievements is matched only by my own.

1References

Anon., 1924.

- 2 I am grateful to Michael Deane for identifying the image as an ambrotype and for producing from it the photograph used in Plate 1. The original image measures 2% x 3% inches.
- 3 I am also grateful to Michael Deane for confirming that this photograph is a carte de visite.
- 4 Moullin, 1996, p.8.
- 5 Stevens Cox, J., 1986, n.p.
- 6 "When England wants to talk with me, she will learn my language". Davidson, 1912, p.273.
- 7 Massin, 1971, Tome X, vol. 2, [folio 75] p.1506.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Nothing is known of another son Frank beyond that he is thought to have emigrated to the United States, and died there in 1923.
- 10 The cause of his death is recorded as *décline* a term which on death certificates issued at this time often signified tuberculosis.
- 11 Presumably inherited from her father who had died two years earlier. On the 1851 census Henri Marquand was a *Master Ship Builder employing 35 persons*.
- 12 For example: Anon., 1896b, p.2. Henry Dupuy gained second prize in the race for 'large boats' at The Pilots and Fishermen's Regatta.
- 13 Bougourd, 2006, p7.
- 14 Anon., 1888a, p.2.
- 15 It has not been possible to discover anything of Edgar Dupuy's younger daughter Elsie May other that she married a man named John Ferguson and did not live in Guernsey (Moody, 1990).
- 16 I am grateful to John McCormack for help with identifying this painting as a copy of that by Lukis.
- 17 For example at the 1869 Guernsey Art Exhibition. Anon., 1869, pp.2-3.
- 18 Anon., 1888b, p.2.
- 19 Hugo, 1934, p.24.
- 20 Carey Curtis, 1942, pp.330-344. There is no one named Dupuy on the list.
- 21 Royal Pharmaceutical Society, n.d., p.1.
- 22 Homan, 2012b.
- 23 Anon., 1892, p.4. *Le Baillage* is subtitled *Journal Officiel de la Société Royale d'Agriculture et d'Horticulture de Guernesey*. A copy of this issue is held in La Société's archives.
- 24 The Guernsey Museum has one of this type of Dupuy's bottles embossed with his name.
- 25 Moody, 1990. Two full decorated bottles are illustrated in the Guernsey Press article.
- 26 Anon., 1900, p.2.
- 27 Moody, 1990.
- 28 The extensive archives at Hatfield House contain no correspondence with Dupuy *pers. comm.* [e-mail] 30 September 2013 Vicki Perry, Head of Archives and Historic Collections, Hatfield House.
- 29 I am grateful to Richard Hocart for this suggestion and for the information about Lord Rosebery's visit.
- 30 Anon., 1895b, p.2.

- 31 Bell, 2006, p.58.
- 32 Ridley, 2012, p.331.
- 33 Williamson, n.d., p.104.
- 34 Battiscombe, 1972, p.123.
- 35 Government House Letter Books. A letter from the War Department to Sir George Harding (Knollys' successor) dated 27 December 1855 include Knollys' view of "the many inconveniences attached to the residence".
- 36 Anon.,1854, p.1.
- 37 Homan, 2012b.
- 38 The cutting is annotated "From Country Topics: Oct 1924. I sent this to Melbourne this year 1957". It has not been possible to trace a publication of that name. Perhaps "Country Topics" was simply a section of a magazine.
- 39 This is another publication which has proved impossible to trace, defeating even the staff of the Royal Society of Medicine Library.
- 40 Anon., 1934.
- 41 Hortus Siccus literally a dry garden is a less-commonly used term for a herbarium a collection of plant specimens dried and arranged systematically. In this case in the form of a book.
- 42 When he collected this specimen in 1864, Dupuy was living in George Road so Les Godaines is almost certainly the small road of that name (now Godaines Avenue) almost opposite his house. Les Godaines in St Martins is a less likely habitat for this wall-loving Mediterranean plant.
- 43 Calendar of the Pharmaceutical Society, 1867, p.98-99. Regulations governing the annual Botanical Prize.
- 44 Homan, 2012a. I am grateful to Peter Homan, President of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy, for this suggestion.
- 45 McCrea, 1941, p.315.
- 46 McCrea, 1946, p.394.
- 47 McClintock, 1982, p.24.
- 48 Marquand, 1901, p.23. "Happily, a large portion of Gosselin's own herbarium still exists, and is at present in the possession of Mr. Edgar Dupuy"
- 49 McClintock, 1982.
- 50 Anon., 1882, p.2.
- 51 Anon., 1870, p.3. In 1870 Singleton was selling carte de visite views of Guernsey at 6d each, a time when, for example, a local shipwright was earning 3s 6d a day (Crossan, 2007, p.96).
- 52 ibid.
- 53 Anon., 1893, p.2.
- 54 Anon., 1895a, p.2.
- 55 Carey, 1903.
- 56 Curtis, 1933, opposite p.276.
- 57 Anon., 1940, opposite p.270.
- 58 A number of Dupuy's photographs have lettering in a bottom corner. I am grateful to Michael Deane for explaining that this is the logo of the *Strand Engraving Company Limited* which would have prepared his

images for publication.

- 59 Thomas, 2013, p. 33.
- 60 For example, the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, used a firm of local chemists, John Clarke & Co, who as early as 1897 had taken 50 X-rays for the hospital over the course of a year. *pers. comm.* [e-mail] Prof. A.M.K.Thomas 17 October 2012.
- 61 Anon., 1896a, p.2.
- 62 Lieutenant-General Nathaniel Stevenson was the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey from 1894 1899.
- 63 I am grateful to Dr D M Raw, Consultant Radiologist, for this information.
- 64 Holland, 1938, p.4.
- 65 Anon., 1897b, p.2.
- 66 Anon., 1896c, p.2.
- 67 Anon., 1897b, p.2. It has not been possible to confirm that Dupuy produced the second ever whole-body X-ray. The first was that of a dead soldier taken in Germany in April 1896 (Lee, Crean, 2013, p.10.)
- 68 Dupuy's technique is not known but "printing out paper" was being used in some hospitals in 1896 to make a print from a radiograph which had been taken on a photographic glass plate. The advantage of this technique was that a darkroom was not required.
- 69 See note 5 above.
- 70 Anon., 1897a, p.2.
- 71 Archive 1a.3. Mrs Katharine M Holland, Culmington Rectory, Bromfield, Salop (dated simply 23 January).
- 72 Holland, 1998.

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