

In order to improve access to more of the existing holdings of Western Archives copies of a number of preliminary finding aids are being made available. These preliminary finding aids, some of which were prepared many years ago, vary in degrees of completeness, detail and accuracy. Some provide only basic box listings of the contents of a fonds or a collection, while others provide additional background material. All are intended to be the starting point for access to the records and they should not be considered a definitive source of information on the full nature and contents of the fonds or collection. Questions about the information provided in the preliminary finding aids should be directed to archives.services@uwo.ca

A Brief History of the London Printing and Lithography Company

The London Printing and Lithographing Company was established in 1890. Originally, the printing plant belonged to the Free Press Printing Co. which formed in 1849. It was sold to William Weld, proprietor of the Farmer's Advocate and Thomas Orr, Superintendent of the Free Press plant in 1889. These two men obtained a Company Charter in March 1890 under the Ontario Statute. Stock was sold to Josiah Blackburn, one of the owners of the Free Press Printing Co., Sheriff William Glass, John Weld, one of William Weld's sons, and Fred W. Hodson, an editor for the Farmer's Advocate. These men, including William Weld and Thomas Orr were the company's directors. Orr owned a majority of the shares and became Company Manager. William Weld became the Company's President but died shortly afterwards to be replaced by another of his sons, Joseph Weld. John Weld became Vice-President and Frank G. Jewell, accountant.

The Company remained in the Free Press building until 1896 when it leased a new building close by to expand its operations. The steady growth of business necessitated continual physical and capital expansion. By 1898, the Company had a stock calendar business and had published "Illustrated London" as a sample of their workmanship. The labour required in the early years was very highly skilled and the hours of work were long. Most worked from seven to six and from seven to twelve in the busy seasons; Christmas and the summer months. Gradually, new technology and improved machinery made the delicate handwork of the artists, obsolete. Capital investment in improved machinery became increasingly important and the labour force shifted as saleswork replaced delicate artwork from 1900 to 1914.

Early saleswork was largely disorganized and geographically wide spread. Agents worked independantly across the country until R.T. Orr acquired a major interest in the Robb-Shelton Co. to handle sales in the West during the War. After the First World War, sales outside Ontario declined with the onset of the post-war depression and

the Robb-Shelton Co. closed its accounts. The number of salesmen declined and the Company concentrated upon sales in Ontario. The new manager, as of 1916, J.B. Orr, established a better co-ordinated sales team with agents gradually specializing in particular areas of the business.

The Company continued expansion and built a new facility in 1934. New sales were made in colour work and photographic copy during the 1930's. The Company dropped its stock calendar business and became more heavily involved in advertizing. By 1946, the Company was re-organized and incorporated as a new company in relation to its changing functions. The lithographing and printing business was changing as a whole during the period. Collectivization became more effective and increasing competition made heavy capitalization a necessity. The Amalgamated Lithographers of America gradually established itself as the company union. The Canadian Lithographers Assoc. acted as a trust between the companies and negotiated with the union on occasions. Thus, the company lost immediate control of some of the aspects of its business. Government over-time regulations also upset scheduling during the busy seasons. Increasing competition in the field of lithographing tended to produce consolidation which was also a result of the heavy capital investment required to constantly modernize.

The specific circumstances of the company's liquidation in the spring of 1974 are still somewhat illusive. Many of the company's assets were acquired by the Lawson and Jones Printing Co. of London and the building was purchased by London Life. It has been speculated that the company's directors were losing interest in the business and decided to sell rather than make a large capital investment in order to modernize and remain competitive. In any case, the company's liquidation fits into the general pattern of consolidation which characterized the printing and lithographing business during the period.

Organization of Collection:

1. Legal Documents including agreements, contracts, patents and copyrights, and wills
2. Correspondance and related papers
3. Financial Documents and related papers
4. Charts, lists and diagrams
5. Scrapbook materials

File listing

Box 4656- Legal Documents

Agreements

File 1- Incorporation Papers, 1890-3

File 2- Leasing Papers with Farmer's Advocate, 1890-1906

File 3- Mortgage Papers, 1890-1917

File 4- Annual Shareholders' statements re Ontario Company Act, section 131, 1900-07
Manitoba Company Act, section 120, 1914

File 5- Papers relating to the reorganization and incorporation of a new company ,
February to March, 1946

File 6- Shareholders transactions, March, 1946

File 7- Shareholders' banking and signing agreement, 1954

File 8- Pension Agreement between Canadian Lithographers Association and Amalgamated
Lithographers of America, Sept. 15, 1954

File 9- Pension Plans, Collective Agreements and Overtime Regulations re Employees,
1954, 1957, 1960, 1965

File 10- City of London and Company Property Agreement, Nov., 1960

Contracts

File 11- Employees, 1891, 1900, 1905-9

File 12- Salesmen, 1901-8
File 13- International Harvester, 1900-9
File 14- Lanston Monotype, 1916-21
File 15- Horticulure Press, 1933-5
File 16- A.E. McKenzie Seed Co., 1933-7
File 17- Kellogg's, 1938
File 18- Harris Seybold (Potter) Co., 1939-58
File 19- Employees, 1944-6, 1954, 1961
File 20- Customs Officers' Appt., 1949, 1950, 1954
File 21- Employees Applications and Agreements, 1964-5
File 22- Miscell., 1891-1900
File 23- Miscell., 1901-2
File 24- Miscell., 1903
File 25- Miscell., 1904
File 26- Miscell., 1905
File 27- Miscell., 1906
File 28- Miscell., 1907
File 29- Miscell., 1908
File 30- Miscell., 1909
File 31- Miscell., 1918-58
File 32- Sample Debenture Agreements, Circa 1965

Insurance Policies- Contracts

Company Policies:

File 33- Miscell., 1930-50
File 34- Employees' Bonds, 1936-9
File 35- Miscell., 1950-67
File 36- Policies re W.W. Purdom as agent, 1954-65

- File 37- Policies re Du Moulin and Moore as agents, 1955-57 (general policy)
File 38- Policies re Du Moulin and Moore as agents for fire and extended coverage,
1963-8

Private Insurance for R. T. Orr

- File 39- personal Insurance, 1922-64
File 40- Household and servants' liability, 1936-64
File 41- Automobile, 1936-61
File 42- Miscell., 1939-66

Patents and Copyrights

- File 43- Miscell., 1898-1904
File 44- Miscell., 1913-48

Statements

- File 45- Protest Note re Charles Ivey , 1896
File 46- Ballot paper statement re F. Needham's accidental destruction of, 1935
File 47- Shareholder's meeting and " Resolution C ", 1966
File 48- Last Will and testament of Joseph Weld, Sept., 6, 1914

Box 4657- Correspondance and Related Papers

- File 1- Directors from J.S. Howell re setting up Canadian Printing Trust, Sept. 3, 1892
- File 2- Directors and Shareholders with lists, 1897
- File 3- Ruby Reef Mining Co., with incorporation papers and shares; 1897
- File 4- G.E. Coombs re Richter Stocks, 1902
- File 5- Physicians' notes re employees' absences from work, 1907, 1926-51
- File 6- Berlin-Neröder Kunstanstatter, A.G., re Anglo-German Tribunal, 1914 shipments, litigation, 1920-28
- File 7- Manager and Canadian Lithographers' Assoc., re trusts, March 1915-June 1918
- File 8- Manager and various companies- in order: Duncan Lith. (June 1916 to April, 1917)
Howell Limited (August 1916 to May 1919)
Lawson and James Limited (August 1916 to February 1917)
Rolph and Clark Limited (Feb. 1916 to April 1919)
Simcoe Limited (August 1916 to Feb. 1917)
Stone Limited (March 1916 to August 1917)
plus miscell. co.
- File 9- Manager to W. Gray M.P. re Minister of Railways and Canals, Feb., 1916
- File 10- Manager to Gray re exemptions for employees, Nov., 1917
- File 11- Correspondance with George Jewell, Company Auditor, 1917-40
- File 12- Correspondance re Gunn property, 1919-1920
- File 13- Shareholders' Annual Meetings, 1920, 21, 22, notices and minutes from 1921 and 1924 meetings.
- File 14- Miscell., 1921-55
- File 15- Robb Shelton, 1922-4
- File 16- A.T. and L.S. Gowe, Salesmen, 1932-33
- File 17- A.D. Gowe, Salesmen, 1933
- File 18- A.T. Gowe re Central Scientific Dispute, 1936
- File 19- Robb Shelton, 1941-2
- File 20- Shareholders' undated letter re the mailing of financial statements
- File 21- Sec. Treasurer to Shareholders, re Debentures, Sept. 1947- March 1950 with lists of shareholders, 1946 and debenture information

File 22- Directors and Shareholders, 1960

File 23- Directors and shareholders, 1961

File 24- Directors and shareholders, 1962

File 25- Directors and Shareholders with minutes of meetings, 1963

File 26- Directors and shareholders with list of shareholders, 1964

File 27- Greenshields incorp., purchases of Provincial treasury bills, 1963-4

File 28- Greenshields Incorp., purchases of Provincial treasury bills, 1965

File 29- Greenshields Incorp., purchases of Provincial treasury bills, 1966

File 30- Directors and shareholders, 1967

File 31- Ivey and Dowler, re changes in the Ontario corporation Act affecting notices of shareholders' meetings, 1967

Box 4658- Financial Documents and related papers

Ledgers: Book I, " memorandum ", 1921-36
Book II, " day to day " , 1921-34
Book III, 1959-62
Book IV, 1962-64

Inventories: Book I, 1924-46
Book II, 1941- 53

Box 4659- Financial Documents and related papers, Inventories con't

File 1- inventory , 1897

File 2- Robb Shelton inventory, 1926-30

Appraisals: Booklet I, advance figures, undated
Booklet II, valuation for insurance, undated
Booklet III, 1909
Booklet IV, 1914
Booklet V, 1920

Book I, 1909
Book II, 1914
Book III, 1919

Financial Statements: Book I, 1938-64
Monthly Statements, 1921 to 50

Box 4660- Financial Statements con't

Monthly Statements, 1950 to 61

File 1- Early reports and Statements, 1900, 1902, 1907-20

Unfiled-Auditors' Statements, 1920-1 to 1966

File 2- Compilation of Fixed Charges, 1917

File 3- Stockholders-Directors, 1948-60

File 4- Monthly Comparative Statements, 1955-6

File 5- Monthly Comparative Statements, 1956-7

File 6- Working Papers, 1956, 1965

Box 4661-Financial Documents, Income tax papers

Income Tax Papers and Related Government Papers

- File 1- Company income tax papers, 1917-1940
- File 2- Employees' income tax papers, 1941
- File 3- Employees' income tax papers, 1950-59 (Incomplete for some years)
- File 4- Company income tax papers, 1952-59
- File 5- Company income tax papers, 1965, with proof of Canadian ownership- lists of shareholders and their addresses
- File 6- Employees' income tax papers, 1965
- File 7- Company income tax papers, 1967
- File 8- Workmen's Compensation forms, 1942-5]
- File 9- Government Pension Commission Forms, 1963
- File 10- Corporation and Labour Union Returns, 1962-5

Payroll

- Book I - General Wage book, 1886-1895 (found in B4661-1), July 1895-January 1896
- Book II - Lithographing Department, August 1895-March 1911
- Book III - General Wage book, January 1897-December 1906 (4662)
- Book IV - Printing Department, November 1897-December 1914
- Sheets - Office Staff, 1930 to 1946
- Book V - General Wage book, 1941 - 1946

Box 4662- Payroll, con't

- File 1- Records of Earnings, 1960
- File 2- Record of Earnings, 1962
- File 3- Record of Earnings, 1963
- File 4- Record of changes in Pay, 1963-4
- File 5- Record of changes in Pay, 1964-6
- File 6- Salesmens' earnings and commissions, 1912-18
- File 7- Analysis of Sales, 1937-58

File 8- Salesmens' Earnings and Commissions, 1950-60

File 9- Salesmens' Earnings and Commissions, 1960-3

File 10- Salesmens' Earnings and Commissions, 1964

File 11- Salesmens' Earnings and Commissions, 1965

File 12- Employee address and rate book, I, undated, II, circa, 1920-30

Banking and related Account books with statements

Bank of Montreal, 4 ordinary account books, 1926-30; 4 special account books, 1927-31 and 1941-58; account book 3741, 1933 and 1 pass book. 1930-35

Bank of Nova Scotia, 1 account book, 1926-32

Canada Trust, 1 book, 1924- 30

Huron and Erie Trust, 1 book, 1921-27

Molson's Bank, 2 books, 1921-7

Ontario Loan and Debenture Co., 1 book, 1923-30

File 1- Miscell. banking file, bank and bond papers, 1954

Box 4663- Financial Documents and Related Papers con't and Charts, Lists and Plans

File 1- Invoices- April 1914, Subjects in order: General Expenses, Lithographing, Expenses and sales, Printing expenses and sales, Novelty dept., finishing dept., Stocks and sundries

File 2- Sample Reciepts, 1899-1902

File 3- Sample Copy returns, 1906

File 4- Sample Paysheet, 1923

File 5- Sample shareholders' meeting reciepts, 1937

File 6- Sample bank statements and cheque stubs, April- May, 1952

File 7- Sample cancel cheques, April, 1955

File 8- Sample vouchers, June to Sept., 1963

File 9- Sample vouchers, August to Sept., 1963

Box 4663-con't- Charts, Lists and Plans

File 1-Work in Progress, 1959-60

File 2- Work in Progress, 1961-62

File 3- Work in Progress, 1963

File 4- Work in Progress, 1964

File 5- Work in Progress, 1965

File 6- Sales of Calendars and Customer lists, undated

File 7- Novelty Indexes, Book I Eastern Sales, 1929, 1932-3,
Book II, Eastern Sales, 1930

Box 4664- Novelty Indexes, con't

Book III, Western Sales, 1929 and 1932-3, Eastern and Western Sales, 1935

Book IV, Western Sales, 1930-31, 1936

File 8, Floor Plans and diagram of Harris Printer, 1946

Scrapbook Material

Book I, Photo layout for Stanley Home Products

Landenberger Paper Equivalentor

Toronto Type Foundry Limited, Book I and II, 1966- machine descriptions and prices

Envelope with key for Stamp Machine

Cloth Expanding Alphabetical file box

Materials brought in by T.H. Orr, Autumn, 1979. These materials are a part of the Orr family's personal collection of company materials.

Addenda to the London Printing and Lithographing Company Papers

Box 4665

4 Company Stamps

Three bundles of Company property deeds

Early Sharebook, circa 1925

Company Director's share transactions book, circa 1940-70

Company Director's Income book, circa, 1946

Company Appraisals in Two Volumes, 1972-3

Box 4666

Company Appraisals, 1940

Company Appraisals, 1942

Company Appraisals, Two folders, 1951

Company Appraisals, Three folders, 1956

Two Cheque books, 1958-61, 1964-71

Stockholders' Minute book, 1951-63

Box 5089

Affidavit Envelope, 1973

Three Papers on legal changes, 1946-53

Insurance Envelope, 1975

Insurance file 1971-2

Two Share and Stock books, early and undated (periods identified by T.H. Orr)

Sharebook, recent and undated.

Addenda, Oversize documents of the London Printing and Lithographing Co. Ltd.

- X 1629- Work in Progress, 1939-44
- X 1630- Balance Sheets and Annual Statements, 1906-1918
- X 1631- Factory PayRoll, 1956-57
- X 1632- CashBook, 1919-22
- X 1633- Work Journal, 1893-95
- X 1634- Ledger, 1902-1907

X2143 – Sample Book, c. 1890 (Added February 18th, 1985, See letter February 12th, 1981)

X2143 – Papers and Ledgers of London Printing and Lithographic Company Limited