

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

## CHS 23

### McHUGH BROTHERS PTY LTD COLLECTION

Potteries, Launceston

#### INTRODUCTION

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## INTRODUCTION

John McHugh (1831-1892), a potter from Scotland, appears to have had his first business in The Quadrant where he produced domestic ware. In 1872 he moved to a leased site in South Launceston. Utilising the good natural clay deposits in the area, he concentrated on tile and pipe manufacture from 1873. His business, Tasmania Pipe and Pottery Works, Sandhill, flourished supplying product to the Launceston Corporation in alternate years. Agricultural pipe production also became a speciality to meet pastoral demands. After John McHugh's retirement in 1891, the business was continued by his sons and James Jackson under the name McHugh Brothers and Jackson (Tasmanian Steam Pipe, Tile and Pottery Works). In this period it employed a workforce of 13, and had agents in Hobart (Messrs W T Bates & Co) and on the North-West and West coasts. John McHugh's sons became sole proprietors after Jackson's death in 1900.

In December 1918, McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd was taken over by James Wright, James Gordon Duncan and William Grieve, and was incorporated on 20 March 1920. Between the First and Second World Wars fine ware was added to the range of products, but abandoned after the Second World War. Major customers in this period included the Electrolytic Zinc (EZ) Company and the Postmaster- General's Department, and McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd also had contracts to supply sewer pipes to Ballarat and Canberra (then in the early stages of its development as the national capital).

In 1960 McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd bought the Granton Brickworks and a second company, McHugh Brickworks Pty Ltd, was established. It was later sold by Humes Ltd to the Hobart Brick Company Pty Ltd. Humes Ltd had taken over McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd in late 1961, although it continued as a separately registered company until 1968. The pottery was demolished in the late 1970s.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in June 1984 with an additional item donated in August 2003. Further items were added in 2008: these are listed as *8.Addendum*

## ***1. Legal Records***

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 1/1 | Statutory File (includes annual returns 1919-1967, with gaps; details of shareholders and directors 1960-1967; papers re Granton Bricks Ltd 1962-1968; <i>Memorandum and Articles of Association</i> 1918; <i>Articles of Association</i> 1963; certificate of incorporation May 1921; correspondence re Humes Ltd offer 1961) | 1919-1968 |
| 1/2 | <i>Articles of Association</i> 1963 (second copy); Tasmanian Brick Works Pty Ltd (later Clays Pty Ltd) <i>Memorandum and Articles of Association</i> 1922 (typescripts); H McHugh declaration re land title May 1906 (copy, 1972); certificate of election (intestacy) for R H McHugh estate March 1954                        | 1922-1972 |

## ***2. Minutes of Meetings***

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 2/1 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, minutes of meetings ('Rough') (includes draft minutes of directors and shareholders' meetings March 1938-June 1960)  | 1938-1960 |
| 2/2 | Clays Pty Ltd, minutes of meetings (includes minutes of directors and shareholders' meetings December 1946-June 1963 and balance sheet June 1963) (company previously known as Tasmanian Brick Works Pty Ltd) | 1946-1963 |

## ***3. Shareholders' Records***

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 3/1 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, register of shareholders (includes register of mortgages and debentures and register of directors at end of volume)            | 1919-1952 |
| 3/2 | Share register (includes names of shareholders, directors and details of shares)  | 1919-1963 |
| 3/3 | Register of share certificates December 1926-February 1952 (includes share transfer forms)  | 1926-1952 |
| 3/4 | Register of share certificates February 1952-December 1961 (includes share transfer forms and unused share certificates)                                | 1952-1961 |
| 3/5 | Register of share certificates July 1960- May 1963 (includes share transfer forms and unused share certificates)  | 1960-1963 |
| 3/6 | Lists of shareholders 1959-1961; share transfer forms A J McHugh estate to E L Webb and various to Humes Ltd 1961; share certificates (loose) 1919-1961 | 1919-1961 |

#### ***4. Financial Records***

|      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| 4/1  | Accounts ledger March 1919-July 1963   | 1919-1963 |
| 4/2  | Journal March 1919-1962  | 1919-1962 |
| 4/3  | Journal June 1962-August 1965  | 1962-1965 |
| 4/4  | Register of expenditure September 1953-May 1961  | 1953-1961 |
| 4/5  | Register of income June 1961-November 1966   | 1961-1966 |
| 4/6  | Register of income March 1961-September 1963<br>(‘Rough’ copy)   | 1961-1963 |
| 4/7  | Cash sales book July 1955-December 1962  | 1955-1962 |
| 4/8  | Cash sales book August 1960-December 1967; Messrs<br>Haines Pty (Devonport) stock book 1933-1935   | 1933-1967 |
| 4/9  | Petty cash book December 1957-December 1968  | 1957-1968 |
| 4/10 | Register of income, Granton, August 1960-June 1967   | 1960-1967 |
| 4/11 | Register of income and expenditure June 1960-September 1963  | 1960-1963 |
| 4/12 | Register of income and expenditure July 1966-July 1968   | 1966-1968 |
| 4/13 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd/Humes Ltd, accounts ledger<br>December 1967-December 1973  | 1967-1973 |
| 4/14 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd/ Humes Ltd, royalties book<br>November 1952-July 1976 (record of royalties paid to<br>Clarks Potteries Ltd, New Zealand) | 1952-1976 |
| 4/15 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, provident fund receipts   | 1952-1962 |

#### ***5. Production Records***

|     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 5/1 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, pipe kiln book December 1941-<br>February 1968   | 1941-1968 |
| 5/2 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd/ Humes Ltd, kiln book July 1967-<br>December 1969 | 1967-1969 |
| 5/3 | Humes Ltd, kiln book June 1970-August 1974                                | 1970-1974 |
| 5/4 | Humes Ltd, kiln book August 1974-December 1975                            | 1974-1975 |
| 5/5 | McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, stock book April 1954-<br>November 1962          | 1954-1962 |

5/6 McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, stock book December 1962-  
May 1964 1962-1964

### **6. *Employment Records***

6/1 McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, wages book March 1957-August 1962  
1962 1957-

6/2 Wages book July 1960-August 1962 (includes pottery coal  
accounts 1925-1943 at front and end of volume) 1925-1962

6/3 Wages book August 1962-October 1963 (includes loose papers  
1961-1963 at end of volume) 1961-1963

6/4 Wages book March 1940-March 1950 1940-1950

### **7. *Miscellaneous Items***

7/1 McHugh Brothers Pty Ltd, invoice September 1925; March 1931;  
*Cyclopedia of Tasmania* extract (2 copies); Launceston Bank  
for Savings, South Launceston Branch cheque slips;  
five b/w photographs 1954 1900-1954

7/2 Transcript of an interview of Mr Leo McAuley on McHugh's Pottery,  
conducted by QVMAG staff on 23 July 1981 1981

### **8. *Addendum***

8/1 Agreement between John McHugh and John Campbell re  
tenders to the [Launceston] Corporation, supplying pipes  
to each other etc, 1 May 1883 1883

8/2 Tasmanian Exhibition of Australian Products & Manufactures,  
Launceston, Diploma of Merit, first class, awarded to  
Messrs McHugh Bros., for 'Working Exhibit Pottery' 1913

8/3 McHugh Bros. Pty. Limited, Hobart ...Contractors to Tasmanian  
Government and Corporations of Hobart, Launceston and Burnie,  
revised price list, 1 May 1923 1923

8/4 McHugh Bros. Pty. Limited ...Contractors to Tasmanian  
Government and Corporations of Hobart, Launceston and Burnie,  
revised price list, 1 July 1937 1937

8/5 McHugh Bros. Pty. Limited, Hobart, revised price list, 1 May 1947;  
Southern Tasmanian price list, 15 December 1949 1947

8/6 McHugh Bros. Pty Limited, price list, 28 July 1953;  
reprinted 30 August 1958 1953, 1958

|      |   |            |
|------|---|------------|
| 8/7  | Price list, 1 November 1961   | 1961       |
| 8/8  | McHugh Bros. Pty. Ltd., 15 Thistle Street and Main Road, Austins Ferry, price list, 1 November 1965   | 1965       |
| 8/9  | Three letters to Messrs McHugh Bros. Pty Ltd, Launceston, from Secretary, McHugh Bros. Proprietary Ltd Tasmanian Potteries, Hobart, 13 (two letters), 19 November 1928 re purchase of property at Kingston and clay samples | 1928       |
| 8/10 | Letter from Hon Sec. C.W.A., Devonport, 7 October 1938, re purchase of jugs and beakers for women's ward, Devon Hospital  | 1938       |
| 8/11 | W Springer, McHugh Potteries works foreman, articles in <i>The Clay Products Journal of Australia</i> , November 1950, March 1956   | 1950, 1956 |
| 8/12 | 'Ceremony re starting de-aired pipe machine', typescript (includes short history of the firm)   | 1952       |
| 8/13 | McHugh Brothers Pty. Ltd., history of the firm, typescript  | 1970       |
| 8/14 | McHugh Bros. Pty. Ltd, short history of the firm, 9 April 1973, typescript  | 1973       |
| 8/15 | McHugh Brothers, <i>Illustrated price list drain pipes-tiles-pottery etc</i> (frontispiece is photograph of Hugh McHugh, sole proprietor)   | nd         |
| 8/16 | Wholesale price list  | nd         |
| 8/17 | <i>Drawings, details and prices of salt-glazed stoneware septic tanks</i>   | nd         |
| 8/18 | <i>General description of McHugh's two-chamber septic tanks</i>   | nd         |
| 8/19 | <i>Illustrated list McHugh Bros. Pty. Ltd...Tasmanian glazed earthenware pipe, tile and fire brick manufacturers</i>  | nd         |

## OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 34

QVMAG, Community History, photograph database, search for McHugh

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, biography files 'McHugh' and 'Duncan'; newspaper cuttings file 'Potters and Pottery - McHugh Bros'

*Clay Products Journal of Australia*

M J Cocker, *The story of a Tasmanian pioneer family: McHugh Brothers pottery* (rev 1998)

*Cyclopaedia of Tasmania*, vol. 1, Hobart, 1900

Geoff Ford, *Australian pottery: the first 100 years*, Wodonga, Vic, 1995, pp.140-151

Dennis Hodgkinson, *The clay products industry in Tasmania*, Launceston, c1975

Glenda King, 'Launceston's commercial potteries', National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) *Newsletter*, no. 132, August 1991, pp.6-7

C B Tassell and M Morris-Nunn, *Launceston's industrial heritage: a survey*, vol.1, Launceston, 1982

