

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 71

WAVERLEY WOOLLEN MILLS COLLECTION

Woollen Mills, Launceston
Textile Factories, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

Waverley Woollen Mills, Australia's oldest weaving mill and last blanket weaving mill, was established by Peter Bulman in 1874. Bulman, who migrated from Scotland in 1858, had farmed at Myrtle Bank, Breadalbane and Patersonia before venturing into the woollen industry.

Deciding to take up the challenge of the Tasmanian Government's 1869 offer of a bonus of £1000 for the first £1000 worth of all-Tasmanian manufactured woollen goods, Bulman leased a suitable site from James Scott at Distillery Creek, some three miles from Launceston. In 1872 he travelled to Scotland where he entered into partnership with Daniel, Archibald and David Johnstone, owners of a mill at Selkirk. The necessary equipment was obtained, the Johnstones proceeded to Tasmania and Bulman, Johnstone & Co. commenced woollen production on 13 May 1874.

Three months later the company's products sold at auction in Launceston for £1143; the Government bonus was awarded in February the following year. After the partnership was dissolved in 1883, Bulman was joined by his brother-in-law, Robert Hogarth. Hogarth had worked at the mill prior to spending 1878 to 1881 in Scotland learning the wool trade.

Power for the mill was originally obtained from a 25 foot water wheel using water piped from a dam on Distillery Creek. Later turbines replaced the water wheel and iron piping replaced the wooden chutes. In 1889 Bulman installed a hydro-electric scheme to run some of the machinery and to light his residence.

By 1888 tweeds and blankets, the company's principal products, and serges, shawls and flannel were marketed in Tasmania and the Australian colonies, the blankets having a particularly good reputation. In the 1880s the warm and water repellent "bluey" cloth, popular with outdoor workers, was produced. In 1884 a wholesale clothing factory making ready to wear garments was established in York Street, the factory continuing until the 1920s.

Upon Bulman's death in 1896, Hogarth became the sole proprietor. At the turn of the century the mill was employing about 100 people. Hogarth converted the business into a company in 1916, when he took his sons J Russell and R Harold into partnership. The mill continued to be run by the Hogarth family until 1981.

During the Second World War over one million blankets were made for British and Allied forces. The mill concentrated on blankets until 1962 when electric blankets and tufted carpet were also produced.

The 1970s were difficult years for the textile industry and the mill was on the brink of closure when it was purchased by John and Peter Temple of the Mohair Farm at Bendigo in 1981.

The Temples revitalised the mill by combining tourism with wool production. Tours were conducted through the factory and a showroom on the premises sold quality products made from pure wool and wool and mohair blend, including garments made in its tailoring department.

John Fahey of Melbourne bought the mill from receiver/managers in 1990.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in March 1997.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 1/1 | Miscellaneous legal records: Leases and grants, partnership agreements and dissolutions, memorandums and articles of association of Robert Hogarth and Sons Limited, etc. | 1862-1961 |
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2. Correspondence

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 2/1 | Correspondence etc concerning Peter Bulman and Waverley Woollen Mills (includes Bulman's extract of birth certificate, memo of insurance policy, book with lists of assets and liabilities in estate of late Peter Bulman) | 1873-1896 |
| 2/2 | Correspondence to Bulman & Johnstone from Colonial Secretary's Office re bonus | 1874-1875 |
| 2/3 | Letters to Bulman, Johnstone & Co. re orders (includes two letters re Torquay Band) | 1878-1879 |
| 2/4 | Letter from Bulman, Johnstone & Co. re blanket orders | 1879 |
| 2/5 | Orders for woollen goods from John Baily & Co., Hobart (agent for Waverley Woollen Mills) | 1889-1898 |
| 2/6 | Letters to Waverley Woollen Mills | 1908-1996 |
| 2/7 | Letters from Waverley Woollen Mills | 1922-1964 |
| 2/8 | Correspondence concerning Robert Hogarth & Sons Pty Ltd staff superannuation fund (includes names of some staff members) | 1948-1970 |

3. Financial Records

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|-----|---|------------|
| 3/1 | Sales, balance sheets for Bulman, Johnstone & Co. | 1874-1881 |
| 3/2 | Bulman, Johnstone & Co., ledger | 1874-1884 |
| 3/3 | Balance sheet [Waverley Woollen Mills]; National Bank of Tasmania Ltd cheque book for skin account, 1912-1913 | 1892, 1911 |
| 3/4 | Waverley Woollen Mills, price list | 1899/1900 |

3/5	Ledger	1883-1893
3/6	Ledger (Hogarth on spine)	1920-1934
3/7	Waverley Woollen Mills, price lists	1923-1955
3/8	Ledger (Hogarths written on fly leaf)	1934-1962
3/9	Waverley Woollen Mills, various sales and prices	1937-1962
3/10	Journal (spine title)	1941-1962
3/11	Robert Hogarth & Sons Pty Ltd, list of shareholders etc	1945-1951
3/12	Ledger	1954-1973
3/13	Ledger	1967-1970
3/14	Ledger	1970-1974

4.Machinery Records

4/1	Waverley Woollen Mills, list of machinery	1902-1908
4/2	Machinery at Waverley Woollen Mills, correspondence and brochures	1922-1955
4/3	Valuation of machinery etc at Waverley Woollen Mills for insurance purposes	1936
4/4	Inventory of machinery and plant at Waverley Woollen Mills	1950
4/5	Books, typed sheets etc concerning machinery	nd, 1961
4/6	List of motors installed at Waverley Woollen Mills	1961
4/7	Certificates of machinery inspections at Waverley Woollen Mills	1964-1966
4/8	CSIRO Division of Textile Industry, four brochures explaining use of machinery	1967
4/9	Handwritten notes on Waverley machinery	nd

5. Production Records

5/1	[Production records], handwritten in small note book	1881-1883
5/2	Invoices Wool, R Hogarth (cover title of small note book)	1883-1885
5/3	[Production records], handwritten in small note book	1897-1900
5/4	Wool book, handwritten production records in two small note books	1907-1915
5/5	Weaving Room output, handwritten in small note book	1917, 1926
5/6	Milling Department (includes staff names)	1944-1947
5/7	Records of wool etc received	1954-1974
5/8	Batching Room	1954-1976
5/9	Milling Department (includes staff names)	1957-1962
5/10	Milling Department (includes staff names)	1962-1970
5/11	[Materials sorted]	1970-1976
5/12	Production records and sales summary for blankets	1972-1974

6. Woollen Samples

6/1	Book of samples, 'Office duplicate No. 2 (for use of Warehouse') written inside cover	nd
6/2	Book of samples, 'From Waverley Woollen Mills, Launceston, Tasmania', stamped inside cover	nd
6/3	Book of samples, plain colours, 'Waverley Woollen Mills, Launceston, Tasmania' stamped in gold lettering on cover	nd
6/4	Book of samples, striped fabrics, 'Waverley Woollen Mills, Launceston, Tasmania' stamped in gold lettering on cover	nd
6/5	Folder of samples, 'Range vii, heavy woollen overcoating' printed in ink on cover	nd

6/6	Book of notes on dyes, with woollen samples	c1930
6/7	'Waverley Clothing', 16 sample cards	nd
6/8	'Our Latest Designs', sample card for four samples, one missing	nd
6/9	Miscellaneous samples	1933, nd

7. Staff Records

7/1.1	Staff records, includes names and tasks performed	1883-1884
7/1.2	[Time book] (includes staff names)	1910-1912
7/2	Time book, carding room (includes names of staff)	1912
7/3	Waverley Woollen Mills, list of staff (includes age, work performed, hours of work, wages) <i>Oversized item</i>	1911-1912
7/4	Mill wages paid by Robert Hogarth & Sons Ltd <i>Oversized item</i>	1917
7/5	[Staff book] gives date of commencement, date of leaving	1922-1940
7/6	Waverley Woollen Mills, Launceston, list of employees who have left to go into defence services	c1942
7/7	Pay roll sheets, computer print out	1973 - 1974

8. Photographs

Photographs relating to Waverley Woollen Mills are registered on QVMAG, Community History, photograph database

9. Newspaper Cuttings

9/1	Cuttings concerning Waverley Woollen Mills from various newspapers etc. <i>Oversized item</i>	1871-1985, nd
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10. Hogarth Family Records

10/1	Robert Hogarth's note books (five) on woollen production methods, made during his overseas trip	1878-1880
10/2	Correspondence etc concerning Robert Hogarth and	1881-1917

	Hogarth family (includes birth extracts for Thomas Hogarth and Robert Hogarth)	
10/3	Robert Hogarth's letter book	1883
10/4	Handwritten memo re Young Town S School fees for James Hogarth	1895
10/5	Diocese of Tasmania. Examination in religious knowledge certificate awarded to Lindsay Hogarth	1898
10/6	Thomas Hogarth, 'Ringarooma and Scottsdale early settlement', <i>Cyclopedia of Tasmania</i> , Hobart, 1900, pp.324-325 (photocopy)	1900
10/7	New Zealand Insurance Co. Ltd. policy for Robert Hogarth	1909
10/8	Colonial Mutual life Assurance Society Ltd policy for Thomas Gordon Hogarth	1914
10/9	[Robert Hogarth's speech on retiring as president of the United Chambers of Manufacturers, handwritten]	nd
10/10	J M Hogarth's note books (five) made at Scottish Woollen Technical College, Galashiels, Scotland; book of general notes	1937, 1938
10/11	Dr M W Fletcher's certificate re J R Hogarth's trip to England; Mr Hogarth's itinerary in England and Scotland	1955
10/12	Proxy statements by John Maxwell Hogarth and Agnes B Hogarth	1957
10/13	Phrenological Chart for Master Gordon Hogarth, aged 10 years	nd

11. Miscellaneous Items

11/1	Sydney International Exhibition, certificate of award to Bulman, Johnston & Co. <i>Oversized item</i>	1879
11/2	Centennial International Exhibition, certificate of award to Mr P Bulman <i>Oversized item</i>	1888
11/3	'Waverley Woollen Mills, Launceston' (photocopy from T W H Leavitt, <i>The jubilee history of Tasmania</i>)	1888
11/4	<i>History of Woollen Mill. "Waverley" Woollen Mills,</i>	c1906

	<i>Launceston, Tasmania</i> (pamphlet)	
11/5	Trade mark application, registrations for “Waverley” and “Regalux”; also removal of trade mark from register	1907-1969
11/6	Duties of foremen at Waverley Woollen Mills	1914
11/7	Water used for power at Waverley Woollen Mills	1923
11/8	<i>Waverley Woollen Mills: 1874-1924 jubilee</i> (photocopy of pamphlet)	1924
11/9	Exercise book containing notes on manufacture of various woollen goods produced at the mills	1928
11/10	Waverley Woollen Mills Employee’s Reference (form)	[1930]
11/11	Goods on order [Waverley Woollen Mills]	1934
11/12	Opinion by H J Solomon re pipeline over land of Robert Hogarth and Robert Hogarth & Sons Pty Ltd	1938
11/14	Commonwealth of Australia. War Damage Commission, contribution paid by Robert Hogarth & Sons Pty Ltd	1943
11/15	Tasmanian Institute for the Blind Deaf and Dumb, certificate of life membership to R Hogarth and Sons <i>Oversized item</i>	1949
11/16	References to Price Fixing Commission (exercise book)	1950
11/17	Estimation of value of freehold and improvements at Waverley by F H Stephens Proprietary Limited	1950
11/18.1	Launceston Legacy certificates of adoption; Seminar 1963; Annual report 1966/67	1954-1969
11/18.2	Launceston Legacy certificate of adoption <i>Oversized item</i>	nd
11/19	Proof of advertisement for Waverley blankets <i>Oversized item</i>	1955
11/20	Exercise book containing account of work performed on machinery etc by un-named employee	1958-1961

11/21	Information re tender for blankets for Department of Territories	1960
11/22	License re inflammable liquids granted to Waverley Woollen Mills	1965
11/23	Reference for Renee Lappage	1965
11/24	Record of fuel used`	1973-1981
11/25	J Glennie's typed reminiscences of working at Waverley Woollen Mills	1982
11/26	Waverley Woollen Mills postcards calendar <i>Oversized item</i>	1983
11/27	Waverley Woollen Mills, large coloured decorative promotional poster, includes sepia photograph of mill in centre, four circular illustrations and two maps of Tasmania, Fred W Brier, Designer, Launceston <i>Oversized item</i>	nd
11/28	Exercise book containing notes on standard shades for dyes	nd
11/29	Interviewer's worksheet (information on various aspects of the Mills)	nd
11/30	Typed notes re Council filtering plant polluting water supply to Waverley Woollen Mills	nd
11/31	Three plans of area around Waverley Woollen Mills	nd
11/32	Typed notes probably used for guided tours of Waverley Woollen Mills	nd
11/33	Waverley Blanket, two proof samples of label	nd
11/34.1	Robert Hogarth & Sons Pty Ltd, sample for duplicate invoice; Art work (two) for Waverley blankets advertisements	nd
11/34.2	Robert Hogarth & Sons Pty Ltd. art work for Waverley blankets advertisement	nd
11/35	Birth certificate for Agnes Bulman	1868

11/36	Prospectus for Launceston Woollen Manufacturing Company Limited	c1874
11/37	Memo from Sargood, Son & Co	1879
11/38	Notice from Beath, Schiess & Co.	1879
11/39	R Goldsbrough & Co. wool auction catalogues, 25 January 1882, 1 February 1882	1882
11/40	Tasmanian Government Railways, re tenders for uniforms	1896
11/42	Tender to Liquidator of Reliance Worsted Mills Pty Ltd	1937
11/43	Auction catalogue for woollen, scouring and spinning machinery and plant, cr. Macquarie and Hunt streets, Hobart	1937
11/44	Tasmanian Wool Growers' Agency Co., priced catalogue of wool sold	1938
11/45	Auction catalogue for woollen, scouring and spinning machinery and plant, Molle Street, Hobart	1938
11/46	Auction catalogue for worsted weaving and finishing machinery and plant, also brick factory & cottage, George Street, Launceston [Reliance Worsted Mills]	1938
11/47	Allan Stewart Pty Ltd, price catalogue of wool appraised	1940
11/48	Typed notes on James and Robert Towers, distillers	
11/49	M Hingston, <i>Ravenswood: local history</i> (pamphlet)	c1976
11/50	Tasmanian Fisheries Assn Waverley Fish Farm, plan, land & water donated by Robert Hogarth; three copies of photographs	nd
11/51	Commonwealth of Australia. Central Wool Committee, book of tables giving limit and yield per cent	nd
11/52	<i>How Waverley blankets are made</i> , Robert Hogarth & Sons Proprietary Limited, pamphlet	1940s
11/53	Waverley Mills scouring machine and warp machine (DVD, 15.5 mins. : copied from a VHS videocassette tape)	15 Nov. 1995

12.Ephemera

12/1	In memory card for Richard Alfred Robinson	1879
12/2	The Waverley Picnic Association, invitation to fifth annual social, to be held at “Waverley”	1906
12/3	The “Waverley” Blotter, advertising blotter warning of ‘Imitations’	[1930]
12/4	The “Waverley” Blotter, advertising blotter	1931
12/5	<i>The Waverley Woollen Mills Diamond Jubilee Picnic</i> , program	1934
12/6	Waverley Diamond Celebration Picture Night, admission ticket to Princess Theatre	1934
12/7	Commemorative Centenary Dinner of the Waverley Woollen Mills, menu for dinner at Hotel Tasmania	1974
12/8	Dinner commemorating the Centenary of Waverley Woollen Mills, autographed menu for dinner held at East Launceston Bowling Club	1974
12/9	The Launceston Explorer and Waverley Woollen Mills, invitation to ‘An Evening with a Difference’ on the ‘New Launceston Explorer’	1982
12/10	Waverley Woollen Mills – Launceston, ‘Please note - the following numbers on our pattern cards are now <u>sold</u> out’, on reverse of Tasmania Post Card	nd
12/11	Waverley Woollen Mills product label	1899
12/12	Miscellaneous Waverley Woollen Mills advertising flyers, pamphlets and product labels	1970s-1980s

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Miranda Morris-Nunn and C B Tassell, *Launceston's industrial heritage: a survey*, Launceston, 1982

Tasmanian year book, 1972, p. 327-328

M J Turnbull, 'The Bulman brothers', *Tasmanian Historical Research Association Papers and proceedings*, vol. 41, no. 4, December 1994