

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 34

CAMPBELL'S POTTERY COLLECTION

Potteries, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

John Campbell, who was born in New Zealand in 1857 and came to Victoria as a child, began work as an apprentice at the Bendigo Pottery. About 1879 he moved to Launceston where he worked at the William Jory Brickworks. In 1881 Campbell bought Alfred Cornwell's pottery works in Wellington Street at the Sandhill, an area which contained good clay deposits. He imported skilled workmen to manufacture ornamental and domestic wares at his Victorian and Launceston Steam Pipe, Brick, Tile and Pottery Works, changing the name slightly a little later to the Victorian and Tasmanian Steam Pipe, Brick, Tile and Pottery Works and then to the Victorian and Tasmanian Steam Potteries. He received awards at the Calcutta International Exhibition 1883-84, Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition 1888-89 and the Tasmanian International Exhibition at the Albert Hall 1891-92. In *Wise's Tasmania Post Office Directory* for 1892/93, John Campbell advertised that he manufactured every description of earthenware, with ornamental terra cotta a specialty: this was demonstrated by his extensive array of pottery at the Tasmanian International Exhibition. By 1892 he had an agency and show rooms in Collins Street, Hobart.

Although heavy clay products such as earthenware pipes and bricks were the mainstay of the business, John Campbell was a craftsman and he experimented with shapes and glazes for hand-thrown decorative domestic and art pottery. His business became one of Australia's most prolific and successful commercial potteries.

After John's death in 1928, the firm was managed by his son Colin. In addition to supplying the Tasmanian market, in the 1930s Campbell's Pottery exported handmade richly glazed art pottery to mainland states, where it became famous and enjoyed good sales. Pottery was also exported to New Zealand. Pipe production continued during the Second World War but the art pottery section was closed, although some pottery continued to be exported to the mainland until the March 1942. The section reopened in the latter half of 1945 when production was resumed by Colin's son Rupert, and nephew Glenn Campbell, but closed again in 1949. Trading as D & G Campbell, Rupert and Glenn took over pottery section in 1950, producing domestic and art pottery until 1960.

Manufacture of sewer pipes continued and Rupert and Lex Campbell were conducting the business when rising production costs and the Launceston City Council's approval of P.V.C. underground sewer pipes led to the demise of the pottery in mid-1976. The façade of Campbell's office showroom and of the workshops were subsequently re-erected at Rutherglen Holiday Village at Hadspen.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 1981.

1. Legal Records

1/1	John Campbell Pty Ltd and Alex Campbell, agreement for lease of property in Wellington Street (incomplete)	1952
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2. Correspondence

2/1	Correspondence, 1928-1930, 1932-1933	1928-1933
2/2	Correspondence	1934
2/3	Correspondence	1935
2/4	Correspondence	1936-1937
2/5	Correspondence	1938
2/6	Correspondence	1939
2/7	Correspondence	1940
2/8	Correspondence	1941-1945
2/9	Correspondence	1946-1949
2/10	Correspondence	1950-1951
2/11	Correspondence	1952-1953
2/12	Correspondence etc	1959-1968
2/13	Correspondence	1976
2/14	Correspondence	nd

3. Orders

3/1	Orders	c1920- 1927
3/2	Orders	1928
3/3	Orders	1929
3/4	Orders	1930
3/5	Orders	1931
3/6	Orders	1932

3/7	Orders	1933
3/8	Orders	1934
3/9	Orders	1935
3/10	Orders	1936-1938
3/11	Orders	1939-1940
3/12	Orders	1941-1942, 1944
3/13	Orders	1947-1949
3/14	Orders	1950
3/15	Orders	1951
3/16	Orders	1952
3/17	Orders	1953
3/18	Orders	1960, 1967
3/19	Orders, 1968-1969, 1977	1968-1969
3/20	Order book	1968-1970
3/21	Orders	nd

4. Financial Records

4/1	Payments received?, small note book	1907-1908
4/2	Notebook inscribed 'John Campbell, Pottery Depot, 47 Collins St., Hobart', records of financial transactions (according to the 1912 Wise's <i>Tasmania Post Office Directory</i> the Victorian and Tasmanian Steam Potteries Hobart show rooms and agency were located at 47 Collins Street, see their advertisement at p.153)	1912-1920
4/3	Invoices	1932-1934
4/4	Invoices	1935
4/5	Invoices	1936
4/6	Invoices	1937

4/7	Invoices	1940-1941
4/8	Invoices	1945-1946
4/9	Invoices, 1949, 1950, 1967-1969, 1975-1977	1949-1977
4/10	Cash sales receipt books, 1934-1935; 1936-1937; 1937-1938	1934-1938
4/11	Accounts from Government Railways of Tasmania, 1929, 1934, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1945	1929-1945
4/12	Accounts	1934-1937
4/13	Accounts	1938
4/14	Accounts	1939
4/15	Accounts	1940
4/16	Accounts, January-June 1941	1941
4/17	Accounts, July-December 1941	1941
4/18	Accounts	1942
4/19	Accounts	1943-1945
4/20	Accounts	1946-1947
4/21	Accounts	1948-1949
4/22	Accounts, 1962-1963, 1966	1962-1966
4/23	Accounts	1965
4/24	Accounts	1967-1968
4/25	Accounts, 1970, 1972, 1975-1976	1970-1976
4/26	Wages tax/pay-roll tax, 1938-1939, 1965, 1967	1938-1967
4/27	Balance sheet and accounts for year ended 30 June 1953	1953
4/28	Monthly statements sent to customers	1967-1970
4/29	Monthly statements sent to customers	1975
4/30	Monthly statements sent to customers	1976-1977, nd

4/31	Revised price list 1924, 1926 (pasted on one sheet)	1924, 1926
4/32	Revised price list of second quality drain pipes	1936
4/33	Revised price list, 1 July 1937	1937
4/34	Price list as at 1 May 1963, 1 December 1963	1963
4/35	Price list for agricultural pipes, fire bricks, fire blocks etc, as at 1 November 1965; for glazed vitrified clay pipes and fittings as at 1 November 1965	1965
4/36	Price list to operate from 18 October 1971 for vitrified clay pipes and fittings	1971
4/37	Trade price list to operate from 1 July 1973 for vitrified clay pipes and fittings	1973
4/38	Trade price to operate for vitrified clay pipes and fittings from 15 July 1974; 1 November 1974; 6 December 1974	1974
4/39	Master price list from 1 September 1975; Launceston City Council tender 1975	1975
4/40	Price list for disposal of remaining stocks of salt glazed vitrified clay pipes, 18 March 1977	1977

5. Production Records

5/1	D R Campbell, handwritten notes re kilns, dimensions of some pottery items etc	c1945
5/2	Pipe kilns, handwritten note book	1965
5/3	Glazes, handwritten in small note book	nd
5/4	Operating log sheets, Golden Fleece, Olds oil firing system, eight sheets <i>Oversize items</i>	nd

6. Employment Records

6/1	Employment record book (includes names of employees, days worked, wage details, remarks)	1886-1889
6/2	Employment sheets (includes names of employees, days worked, work performed)	1897
6/3	Time book (includes name of employees, days worked, wage details)	1903-1906

6/4	Time book (includes names of employees, days worked, wage details)	1909-1912
6/5	Time book (includes names of employees, age of employees, days worked, wage details)	1912-1915
6/6	Time book (includes names of employees, age of employees, days worked, wage details)	1918-1921
6/7	Workmen's Time Book (includes names of employees, days worked, wage details)	1925-1927
6/8	Wages sheet (includes names of employees, wages return for year ending 30 June 1936)	1936
6/9	Work performed sheet (includes employees names)	1969, nd
6/10	Work performed by named employees for Australian Aluminium Production Commission, Hydro Electric Commission, Agricultural Bank of Tasmania, Department of Works & Housing	nd

7. Miscellaneous Items

7/1	Label for Centennial Exhibition Melbourne, 1888	1888
7/2	Tasmanian Turf Club, season 1899, John Campbell's member's ticket	1899
7/3	The Northern Tasmanian Poultry, Pigeon and Cage Bird Society, John Campbell's complimentary ticket	1902
7/4	Launceston Horticultural Society, 1935-36 season member's ticket made out to Mr J Campbell	1935
7/5	Wm. Holyman & Sons, consignment sheets	1940-1941
7/6	Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand, consignment sheets, 1940, 1941, 1945	1940-1945
7/7	Government Railways of Tasmania/Transport Department (Railway Branch) consignment notes	1940-1941
7/8	Transport Department (Railway Branch) consignment notes	1945
7/9	Transport Department (Railway Branch) consignment notes	1946, 1968
7/10	Tasmania, Imports, Port of Launceston, 1938-1941, 1945	1938-1945

7/11	Tasmania, Exports, Port of Launceston, 1938-1942, 1945, 1946	1938-1946
7/12	Stock list, 30 June 1948	1948
7/13	Major Electric Furnaces, technical data	nd
7/14	Schedule, perhaps referring to insurance of property (lists buildings, machinery etc)	nd
7/15	Newspaper etc cuttings, 1886, 1909, 1974, 1983	
7/16	'Campbell's Excelsior' water filter, hand cut block, with print from block	nd

8.Specifications

8/1	H V Hampton, Melbourne, valve spoons automatic pipe machine <i>Oversize item</i>	1959
8/2	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, Melbourne, pipe machine staging <i>Oversize item</i>	1959
8/3	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, Melbourne, decking sheets <i>Oversize item</i>	1963
8/4	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, Melbourne, sub base for drive base frame <i>Oversize item</i>	1963
8/5	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, outdoor sink <i>Oversize item</i>	nd
8/6	Aluminium Production Corp. Ltd, Bell Bay, reduction bays, prebaked furnace, furnace stools, pot skimming rake <i>Oversize item</i>	1962
8/7	Aluminium Production Corporation Ltd, Bell Bay, anode charger assembly & details potrooms <i>Oversize item</i>	1962
8/8	Aluminium Production Corporation Ltd, Bell Bay, reduction bays "D" & "E", prebake pot, arrangement and details of voltmeter and potlight wiring <i>Oversize item</i>	1962
8/9	Aluminium Production Corporation Limited, Bell Bay, green carbon plant arrangement, arrangement of L.V.M. inspection platform & extension <i>Oversize item</i>	1962
8/10	Aluminium Production Corporation Ltd, Bell Bay, carbon baking furnace exhaust ducting access platform to damper <i>Oversize item</i>	1962

8/11 H C Sleigh Limited, Melbourne, olds oil firing equipment 1965
typical firehole modifications & burner arrangement
Oversize item

8/12 South Yarra Firebrick Co., South Yarra, No.4 kiln, nd
between walls, No. 1, 2, 3 kilns, between walls
Oversize item

9.Ephemera

9/1 Billheads etc: John Campbell Pty Ltd, Electric Potteries, 250
Wellington Street, Launceston, 193-; John Campbell Pty Ltd,
Tasmanian Electric Pipe, Firebrick, Tile and Pottery Works,
193-; D. & G. Campbell, John Campbell Ware, 250
Wellington Street, Launceston, 195-; John Campbell Pty Ltd,
manufacturers of drain pipes, agricultural pipes, firebricks,
chimney pots, air bricks, etc, 250 Wellington Street, Launceston,
196-; John Campbell Pty Ltd, manufacturers of vitrified clay
pipes for all drainage purposes, 250 Wellington Street,
Launceston, Tas. 7250

9/2 Labels: 'Potteryware: with care, from John Campbell Pty Ltd, snd
250 Wellington Street, Launceston'; 'Pottery Ware with care,
Breakable, from John Campbell Pty Ltd, Electric Potteries,
Launceston, Tasmania'

9/3 'John Campbell Pty Ltd, 250 Wellington St. Launceston, phone nd
238, We thank you. Your interest and Patronage has been
appreciated...', small card

9/4 Business cards: 'Mr. J. Campbell, Executive Commissioner, nd
Tasmania'; 'Colin B. Campbell, Representing Mr. John
Campbell, Pipe, Tile, Pottery and Fire Brick Works,
Wellington Road, Launceston, also at 47 Collins Street, Hobart';
'Colin B. Campbell, Representing Mr. John Campbell, Steam
Potteries, Launceston'

OTHER SOURCES

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QVMAG, Community History, 1991.OH.26

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'Potters and Pottery: Campbell's Pottery'

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article on Potters and Potteries, pp.287-288

Marjorie Graham, *Australian pottery of the 19th and early 20th century*,
Sydney, 1979

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Australia*, August 1987, vol. 26, no.3, pp.4-11

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

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