

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 59

THE OSCAR RALPH HART COLLECTION

**Businessmen, Launceston
Real Estate Agents, Launceston
Women, Launceston**

INTRODUCTION

THE RECORDS

- 1. Field & Hart Business Records*
- 2. E H Hart & Co. Business Records*
- 3. E H Hart & Co. Financial Records*
- 4. E H Hart & Co. Correspondence*
- 5. Oscar Ralph Hart Personal Correspondence*
- 6. Oscar Ralph Hart Miscellaneous Records*
- 7. Ivy Helen Hart Miscellaneous Records*
- 8. Miscellaneous Items*

OTHER SOURCES

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INTRODUCTION

Edward Henry Hart, born 7 January 1867 (1) commenced business as E H Hart & Co., commission agents, collectors of accounts, debts and rents, house, land, estate agents and valuers, and insurance company agents, on 1 March 1913 at Sussex Chambers, 60 Cameron Street, Launceston. He had previously been a partner with Alfred Field, trading as Field & Hart, property vendors, estate agents, rent collectors and sharebrokers, at the same address. (2)

Oscar Ralph Hart, son of Edward Henry and Mary Elizabeth (nee Whitelaw) Hart, was born on 22 November 1895. (3) He served in the A.I.F. during the First World War and was a Gallipoli veteran. The only surviving son, he joined his father in the firm, commencing practice as a valuer about 1920. At the time of his father's death on 3 June 1936 he was a partner in the firm. (4) He carried on the business, one of Launceston's largest rent collectors, until he retired at the end of 1967. Some of the records demonstrate the impact of the Second World War on real estate. From c1958 Mr Hart appears to have worked from his home, 117 Elphin Road. In 1968 he was elected an honorary life member of the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania in recognition of many years of practical service to the real estate profession.

Oscar Ralph Hart married Ivy Helen Shaw on 9 November 1921 at St John's Church (5): they had two daughters. Mrs Hart's papers reflect her involvement in community organisations, particularly public hospital auxiliaries. She died on 13 November 1973, aged eighty. (6) Mr Hart died on 13 May 1980, at the age of eighty-four. (7)

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in February 2001.

References:

1. Tasmanian Pioneers Index
2. *Examiner* 4/6/1936, p.6
3. Tasmanian Pioneers Index
4. *Examiner* 4/6/1936, p.6
5. *Daily Telegraph* 10/11/1921, account of wedding
6. *Examiner* 14/11/1973; Carr Villa records on microfiche
7. *Examiner* 14/5/1980

1.Field & Hart Business Records

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 1/1 | Field & Hart, stationery. | 190? |
| 1/2 | Field and Hart, contract notes, 22 March1912, 21 February1913; transfers, nd | 1912-1913 |

2.E H Hart & Co. Business Records

| | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| 2/1 | E H Hart & Co., contract notes, 10 March1913-1929 (samples only retained) | 1913-1929 |
| 2/2 | E H Hart & Co., contract notes (samples only retained); sale agreements | 1930-1952 |
| 2/3 | E H Hart & Co., lease agreements (samples only retained) | 1914-1921 |
| 2/4 | E H Hart & Co., tenancy agreements (samples only retained) | 1922-1929 |
| 2/5 | E H Hart & Co., tenancy agreements (samples only retained) | 1930-1935 |
| 2/6 | E H Hart & Co., tenancy agreements (samples only retained) | 1936-1939 |
| 2/7 | E H Hart & Co., tenancy agreements (samples only retained) | 1940-1943 |
| 2/8 | Valuation certificates etc | 1942 |
| 2/9 | Valuation certificates etc | 1943-1944 |
| 2/10 | Certificates of valuation etc | 1945 |
| 2/11 | Certificates of valuation etc | 1946 |
| 2/12 | Certificates of valuation etc | 1947 |
| 2/13 | Certificates of valuation etc | 1948 |
| 2/14 | Certificates of valuation etc | 1949 |
| 2/15 | Valuator's reports, correspondence etc re property valuations | 1950 |
| 2/16 | Valuator's reports, correspondence etc re property valuations | 1951-1952 |
| 2/17 | Valuator's reports, correspondence etc re property valuations | 1953 |
| 2/18 | Valuator's reports, correspondence etc re property valuations | 1954-1956 |
| 2/19 | Valuator's reports, correspondence etc re property valuations | 1957-1964 |

3.E H Hart & Co. Financial Records

| | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| 3/1 | 'E H Hart & Coy. Solicitors' Book, L'ton Mar 1 st 13 (written on title page) (record of money collected on behalf of legal firms) | 1913-1924 |
| 3/2 | 'Brokerage Book 5 March 1913' (written on title page) (lists broker, stock, client, scrips received, scrips delivered) | 1913-1951 |
| 3/3 | Adjustment account (ledger, indexed) | 1913-1964 |
| 3/4 | Journal (ledger) | 1942-1947 |
| 3/5 | Cash credit (ledger) | 1944-1956 |
| 3/6 | Mercantile Mutual Insurance Company Limited, premiums ledger | 1957-1961 |
| 3/7 | 'Launceston Home Builders' (stamped on title page) (various financial records) | 1924-1945 |
| 3/8 | Rents collected? Book 1 | 1913-1923 |
| 3/9 | Rents collected? Book 2 | 1913-1931 |
| 3/10 | Rents collected? Book 3 | 1931-1942 |
| 3/11 | Rents collected? Book 4 | 1913-1951 |
| 3/12 | Rents collected? (no number) | 1940-1962 |
| 3/13 | Transfers from rent book 1, 1 March 1913-22 May 1916 | 1913-1916 |
| 3/14 | Transfers from rent book 2, 22 May 1916-13 December 1918 | 1916-1918 |
| 3/15 | Transfers from rent book 3, 13 December 1918-21 April 1921 | 1918-1921 |
| 3/16 | Transfers from rent book 4, June 1922-July 1923 | 1922-1923 |
| 3/17 | Transfers from rent book 5 | 1920s |
| 3/18 | Transfers from rent book 6 | 1920s |
| 3/19 | Transfers from rent book 7 | 1920s |
| 3/20 | Transfers from rent book 8 | 1930s |
| 3/21 | Transfers from rent book 9, February 1939 | 1939 |
| 3/22 | Transfers from rent book 10, June 1941 | 1941 |

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|------|--|-----------|
| 3/23 | Transfers from rent book 11, February 1945 | 1945 |
| 3/24 | Transfers from rent book 12, April 1948 | 1948 |
| 3/25 | Transfers from rent book 13, September 1951 | 1951 |
| 3/26 | Transfers from rent book 14 | 1950s |
| 3/27 | Ledger | 1954-1966 |
| 3/28 | Trust account book | 1966 |
| 3/29 | Cash book | 1963-1966 |
| 3/30 | Various business cards: authorization to sell property; rent payment record cards; rent collector called when tenant not at home; For Sale card, endorsed Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd. | nd |
| 3/31 | Letterheads, nd, 1940s, 1950s | |

4.E H Hart & Co. Correspondence

| | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------|
| 4/1 | Correspondence | 1913-1944 |
| 4/2 | Correspondence | 1945-1949 |
| 4/3 | Correspondence | 1950-1953 |
| 4/4 | Correspondence | 1954-1956 |
| 4/5 | Correspondence | 1958-1961 |
| 4/6 | Correspondence | 1963-1966 |

5. Oscar Ralph Hart Personal Correspondence

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 5/1 | Correspondence dated 3 September-10 November 1937, between O R Hart and F H Stephenson, 140 Queen Street, Melbourne, re purchase of 117 Elphin Road by O R Hart | 1937 |
| 5/2 | Correspondence dated 16 October 1939-8 June 1940, between O R Hart and the State Government re Mr Hart's appointment to the Fair Rents Board | 1939-1940 |
| 5/3 | Correspondence dated 22 July, 7 November 1946 re Legacy | 1946 |
| 5/4 | Correspondence | 1962-1977 |

6. Oscar Ralph Hart Miscellaneous Records

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|------|--|------------|
| 6/1 | Postcard album with postcards from Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, SA, WA, New Zealand, England, Europe, Pacific Islands (some addressed to Oscar Hart and to Mrs E Hart, "Loyetea", Trevallyn) | c1906 |
| 6/2 | Large indexed book bearing inscription 'Oscar R Hart, 60 Cameron Street, Launceston', containing manuscript notes on various aspects of insurance | nd |
| 6/3 | O R Hart, member of Loyal Cornwall Lodge, MUIOOF, Launceston, United Friendly Societies' Dispensary, prescription book | 1934-1954 |
| 6/4 | Minutes, reports etc concerning Land Sale Control, 3 October 1948-11 November 1948 (Mr Hart was a member of the committee enquiring into Land Sale Control) | 1948 |
| 6/5 | Material relating to the committee constituted to enquire into and report upon the operations of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1949 (Mr Hart was a member of the committee) | 1950, 1952 |
| 6/6 | Minutes of meeting between representatives of Church of England and chairman and secretary of Homoeopathic Hospital | 1951 |
| 6/7 | National Hall Company Limited, notice of extraordinary meeting of shareholders re sale of National Theatre | 1952 |
| 6/8 | AIF Originals, notices etc, 1960, 1968-1976 | 1960-1976 |
| 6/9 | Commonwealth Institute of Valuers, notices, annual reports | 1968-1976 |
| 6/10 | Heather Hall Company, Lodge Heather, reports, notices etc | 1968-1977 |
| 6/11 | Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, Cornwall District, reports etc, 1968-1974 | 1968-1974 |
| 6/12 | Old Grammarians Lodge, reports etc, 1967-1975 | 1967-1976 |
| 6/13 | Real Estate Institute of Tasmania, reports etc, 1968-1975 | 1968-1975 |
| 6/14 | Papers relating to the estate of Lewis Walter Hart, Deloraine (most papers date 1949-53, but there are some earlier items. O R Hart was a trustee) | 1949-1953 |
| 6/15 | Papers relating to the estate of Alice Bertha Hart, Launceston (most papers date 1958-59, but there are some earlier items. O R Hart was a trustee) | 1958-1959 |
| 6/16 | Papers relating to the estate of Irene Leila Hart | 1961-1962 |

7. Ivy Helen Hart Miscellaneous Records

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|------|---|-----------|
| 7/1 | Voluntary Aid Detachment, minute book, February-July 1935 | 1935 |
| 7/2 | Letters dated 25 February-22 May 1937 from Hon. State Secretary, Australian Red Cross Society, to Mrs I Hart, Commandant, VAD 600, 83 Elphin Road, Launceston, re Mrs Hart's appointment to the VAD | 1937 |
| 7/3 | Australian Comforts Fund. Jollity Club Branch, record book of women to whom wool was distributed and of garments returned, with minutes of meetings, 1940-44; Australian Comforts Fund, <i>Guide to knitting</i> , April 1941 | 1940-1945 |
| 7/5 | Launceston Legacy. Women's Auxiliary, minute book, 3 March 1955-6 November 1963 | 1955-1963 |
| 7/6 | Seven telegrams sent to Mr & Mrs O R Hart on the occasion of their Silver Wedding anniversary | 1946 |
| 7/7 | Letters re invitation to wedding of Mary Hart and Rae Cameron, acceptance from Mr & Mrs N Cameron, inability to accept from Mr D Mahoney | 1949 |
| 7/8 | Ivy Helen Hart, photocopy of will dated 20 March 1958 | 1958 |
| 7/9 | Invitation to Mr O R Hart & Mrs Hart to presentation of long service certificates to members of LGH auxiliaries, 2 September 1959 | 1959 |
| 7/10 | Tasmanian Public Hospital Auxiliaries, program of eighth annual conference, Nurses' Home, New Town, Hobart; typed Central Branch Launceston General Hospital Auxiliary report | 1961 |
| 7/11 | Geriatrics Conference, program of conference held at Occupational Therapy Centre, Cosgrove Park, Launceston | 1961 |
| 7/12 | Letter dated 11 March 1963 from Official Secretary, Government House, to Mrs I H Hart, 117 Elphin Road, re presentation of Insignia of a Serving Sister in the Order of St John to Mrs Hart | 1963 |
| 7/13 | Tasmanian Hospital Auxiliaries, program of tenth annual conference, Occupational Therapy Centre, Cosgrove Park, Launceston | 1963 |
| 7/14 | Tasmanian Public Hospital Auxiliaries, typed minutes of eleventh annual state conference, Nurses' Home, Tower Road, Hobart | 1964 |
| 7/15 | Tasmanian Public Hospital Auxiliaries, program of twelfth annual conference, Nurses' Home, Mersey General Hospital, Latrobe | 1965 |

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|------|---|---------------|
| 7/16 | Letter dated 29 May 1968 from Secretary, Launceston General Hospital, to Mrs I Hart, re donation of prize by Mrs Hart to student nurse; letter dated 2 July 1974 from Secretary/Manager Royal Derwent Hospital to Mrs O R Hart, re donation of clothing | 1968, 1974 |
| 7/17 | Lettercard headed "Ewenhurst", 117 Elphin Road, Launceston, with envelope | nd |
| 7/18 | Christmas cards (2) nd; seven humorous postcards, five unused, one addressed to 'Dear Ivy', another addressed 'Hello Oscar', 1 August 1940 | 1940 |
| 7/19 | Photograph of Mary Patricia Hart as a young child | nd |
| 7/20 | Small note book inscribed 'Greetings from Launceston' on cover, 'M P Hart, 117 Elphin Road, Xmas 1943' inside cover; small note pad, inscribed 'Best Wishes from Mary' on cover, nd | 1943 |
| 7/21 | Unused birthday, Christmas, engagement, anniversary, congratulation, thank you, New Year greeting, etc cards | 1960s? |

8. Miscellaneous Items

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| 8/1 | Scrapbook containing colourful cutout flowers, birds, people etc, embossed stamp of 'Walch Bros & Birchall, Launceston, Booksellers and Stationers', top right hand corner of first page (probably belonged to a member of the Hart family) | C19 th |
| 8/2 | South Esk Rabbit Trustees, voucher forms, nos 1-24, no.1 and no. 18, Dr. to Hart & Co.; most of the remainder Dr. to E Pinkard (re payment for rabbit skins) | 1878 |
| 8/3 | Tasmanian Liberal League, Bass Divisional Council, cash book, August 1904-December 1917 (includes list of members); receipts, 1915-17 | 1904-1917 |

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, LCC 33, assessment rolls; LCC 34, property transfer notices

P M Hart, *The Hart family*, Launceston, 1995