

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 115

HENRY ARMITAGE COLLECTION

Auctioneer, Launceston

World War I and II

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

This collection includes material created and collected by Henry George Clemons Armitage (1921-2012). The collection reflects his activities as an auctioneer, his war service and his general interest in Tasmanian history, particularly that relating to Launceston. A smaller amount relates to his father Henry Alfred Armitage (1893-1975).

Henry Alfred Armitage was born in Launceston in 1893 to Alfred Armitage and Emily May Keene. Henry was employed at Peters Bros. Foundry, Launceston. After being retrenched from the foundry, he developed a market garden in Charles Street, returning later to work at the foundry.

Henry enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force in 1915, serving four years. He was awarded the Military Medal, receiving a commendation on his gallantry near Mouquet Farm, France in September 1916. He also served in the Citizen Forces, being discharged on 30 June 1920 on the termination of engagement.

Henry married Ivy Gladys Swift in 1920. He died in 1975. Ivy died five years later on 12 July 1980. They had three children – Henry, Elaine and Geoffrey.

Henry George Clemons Armitage was born in Launceston on 24 May 1921 and spent his childhood at 26 Balfour Street, Launceston, and attended Charles Street Primary School and the Launceston Technical College. He started work as a 14 year old office boy and auction assistant at Alfred Harrap and Son in Cameron Street, Launceston. After nine years with Harraps Henry joined Herd & Co in York Street, which later became Farmers and Graziers. In 1965, while working for Farmers and Graziers, he attended Joel's Coles Australiana Book sale in Melbourne, acting for Lord Talbot de Malahide. He noted that he was "probably the youngest buyer at the sale".

Henry served as a signalman in the Citizen Military Forces from 1941 to 1942, and the Australian Imperial Force from 1942 to 1946. He married Jessie Ailene Perkins on 1 November 1947 in Launceston. Following her death in 1981, Henry married Dawn Bailey (nee Heyward, c1923-2005) in 1985.

In 1972 Henry opened his own auction rooms Armitage Auctions in Canal Street, Launceston. His first auction was conducted on 9 February 1972, assisted by Mr Rex Howard as auctioneer. Armitage Auctions specialised in sales of antique furniture, art, books, coins, general furniture, industrial machinery and equipment, sales of behalf of the state government, clearing sales, bankrupt estates, new clothing and all types of valuations.

The business was sold in June 1987 to Bushby and Bell Auctioneers, who continued trading as Armitage Auctions.

During his years as an auctioneer, significant sales with which Henry was involved included the Brisbane Hotel sale, Criterion Hotel sale, Lanes Grand Hotel sale, the Berry sale 1960, Wanstead 1987, Longford House 1988, Fitzpatrick's Inn 1990, Judy and Alan Edwards 1992, Alfred White 1993.

One of the most notable prices realised during his career was for the sale of an oil painting by William Hartnett. It sold at auction in Launceston in 1969 for \$310, and was later re sold for more than \$60,000 in New York.

Henry wrote auction catalogues for 27 years from 1960-1987. In retirement he acted as a consultant to both Armitage and Tullochs Auctions, working on book auctions, in particular for that of Dr Geraldine Archer, up to 1995.

In September 1982 Henry was one of 16 first division winners in Tattsлото. In 1983 he travelled overseas.

Henry died in Launceston in December 2012. It was through the course of his life in Northern Tasmania and his 30 years active work as an auctioneer that his interest in Tasmanian history developed. Outside his professional life he was a keen bowler and gardener.

His first donation to the QVMAG was in 1965 – a Bass Strait lighthouse keepers letter book. Later donations included a small library of decorative arts and Australian history books, examples of locally made blackwood furniture, family war medals, and a collection of domestic items and souvenirs made by R Shott & Son, all of which are held in other museum departments.

Most of the contents of this collection were donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 2011 and 2013. Henry Armitage was also responsible for initiating donations from Dr G Archer, Miss A Ball, the Newton and Kenworthy families.

Business records

1. Auction catalogues, Tasmanian

1/1.1	Miscellaneous Tasmanian auction catalogues	1956-1965
1/1.2	Miscellaneous Tasmanian auction catalogues	1966-1971
1/1.3	Miscellaneous Tasmanian auction catalogues	1972-1979
1/1.4	Miscellaneous Tasmanian auction catalogues	1980-1986
1/1.5	Miscellaneous Tasmanian auction catalogues	1987-2007

2. Sales records

The following Armitage Auction records show lot no, basic description, buyer, vendor, price. The total value of the auction is often shown. In some cases there is no printed catalogue for particular sales, although records of the sales are held in this collection. Armitage's popular blackwood sales did not have printed catalogues.

2/1.1	Armitage Auctions sales records, 1 Mar. 1972-22 Jun. 1974	1972-1974
2/1.2	Armitage Auctions sales records, 24 Aug. 1974-26 Jul. 1975	1974-1975
2/1.3	Armitage Auctions sales records, 30 Aug. 1975-27 Nov. 1976	1975-1976
2/1.4	Armitage Auctions sales records, 26 Feb. 1977-3 Dec. 1977	1977
2/1.5	Armitage Auctions sales records, 25 Feb. 1978-7 Jul. 1979	1978-1979
2/1.6	Armitage Auctions sales records, 28 Jul. 1979-31 May 1980	1979-1980
2/1.7	Armitage Auctions sales records, 7 Jun. 1980-25 Jul. 1981	1980-1981
2/1.8	Armitage Auctions sales records, 15 Aug. 1981-29 May 1982	1981-1982
2/1.9	Armitage Auctions sales records, 19 Jun. 1982-14 May 1983	1982-1983
2/1.10	Armitage Auctions sales records, 24 Jun. 1983-4 Aug. 1984	1983-1984
2/1.11	Armitage Auctions sales records, 8 Sep. 1984-23 Nov. 1985	1984-1985

2/1.12 Armitage Auctions sales records, 1986-1996
7 May 1986-27 Jun. 1987; 21 Oct. 1995-23 Mar. 1996

3. Advertisements and publicity

- 3/1 'Antique cuttings' album 28 May 1923, referring to 1923,
Property and antique sales including WT Bell, Harraps, 1954- 1964
Bells Mart, F & G, Burn & Son. Includes reference to
Launceston properties and sales; Ila House and Brisbane
Hotel; Percy Hart; Mrs CG Ryan; WE Gregory; JL Berry;
George Harrap; Mrs Muriel Russell; Henry Reed; Dinham's
Store Scottsdale; Mrs HA Clarke of Clutha, Hobart; Miss K
Dougherty Longford; Lonah Ulverstone; ER Walden;
Mrs EC Wesley; Mrs Rosenberg; Mr EC Whittle; Mrs GM
Johnson; HL Terry Mole Creek Hotel; Mrs E Ferrall;
agricultural machinery sales; reference to poultry sales
and sale of dog; and sale of salvage material from Kermandie
at Stanley
- 3/2 Ledger of newspaper cuttings and handwritten records 1949-1960
relating to land and property sales, Tasmania, including
Launceston and environs, Burnie. Agents represented
include Harraps, Richards, Weedons, Allan Stewart
- 3/3 Newspaper cuttings 1963-1966
- 3/4 Newspaper cuttings 1967-1970
- 3/5 Newspaper cuttings, Farmers & Graziers, 1971
4 Feb. 1971-20 May 1971
- 3/6 The Hartnett painting, includes newspaper bill The Sun, 23 1970
December 1970, '\$310 Tas. Painting sold for fortune'
- 3/7 Scrapbook on Armitage Auctions activities, 1972-1974
3 Mar. 1972-14 Sep. 1974
- 3/8 Scrapbook on Armitage Auctions activities, 1974-1978
21 Sep. 1974-16 Dec. 1978
- 3/9 Scrapbook on Armitage Auctions activities, 1979-1981
13 Jan. 1979-19 Sep. 1981
- 3/10 Scrapbook on Armitage Auctions activities, 1981-1985
19 Sep. 1981-4 Dec. 1985
- 3/11 Newspaper cuttings on Armitage Auctions activities, 1986-1987
11 Jan. 1986-27 Jun. 1987

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| 3/12 | Newspaper cuttings on Armitage Auctions activities, | 1972-2000,
nd |
| 3/13 | Copies of press releases | 1974-1980,
1985 |
| 3/14 | Folder of newspaper clippings regarding sale of the Thylacine rug at Pleasant Banks sale | 2002 |

4. Correspondence, including valuations

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|-------|--|-----------|
| 4/1 | Small folder relating to Henry's work at Harraps and F & G, including notes on the Melbourne Book Auction 1964 | 1951-1969 |
| 4/2 | Small folder of correspondence regarding opening new rooms; lease details CH Smith; valuer for Taxation Incentives; Auctioneer's General Licence Auctioneers and Estate Agents Council and Trust; sale of business | 1971-1991 |
| 4/3 | Auctioneer's General Licence, Tasmania. | 1957-1986 |
| 4/4.1 | General correspondence and valuations. | 1971-1987 |
| 4/4.2 | General correspondence and valuations. | 1988-1998 |
- Restrictions apply – 25 year rule**

5. Photographs

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| 5. | Miscellaneous photographs: the first motor vehicle auction to be held at Harraps Wool Store; Brisbane House auction; Bells Mart with dog; Henry and Mr Norman Baird; livestock sales; general views of the auction rooms and items sold, such as an Edison cylinder record, motor bike, furniture, books and artworks | c1947-1983 |
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6. Ephemera

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 6/1 | Armitage Auctions, invoice books, book of auctioneer's Lot tickets | 1970s, nd |
| 6/2 | Armitage Auctions, letterhead, with compliments slip, cheques, business cards | 1970-88 |
| 6/3 | Armitage Auctions, rubber stamps, six - Charge, Holding Account, Trust Account | nd |

Personal records

7. Henry Alfred Armitage 1893-1975

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| 7/1 | First World War ephemera, certificates, photographs
Postcards and a map, including a receipt from Finney
Monumentals for HA Armitage's headstone | 1914-1918,
1976 |
| 7/2 | The European War, scrapbook of newspaper cuttings | 1914-1918 |
| 7/3 | Scrapbook of newspaper cuttings, The British Fleet, etc. | 1914-1918 |

8. Henry George Clemons Armitage 1921-2012

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| 8/1 | Brown folder containing material relating to Miss Dawn
Heyward (later Mrs Dawn Bailey and Mrs Dawn Armitage)
including Music Examinations Board certificate, references
from Perrins, Launceston and correspondence from Douglas
and Collins, Launceston | 1932-1951 |
| 8/2 | Second World War ephemera, certificates, maps and
correspondence | 1939-1945 |
| 8/3 | Invoices and receipts F & G and Tulloch's Auctions for items
left for sale and purchased at auction, and valuations | 1968-1994 |
| 8/4 | 'Lotto' album with newspaper cuttings, tickets and letters
regarding Henry's win. | 1982 |
| 8/5 | Correspondence regarding property sale, Norwood | 1994 |
| 8/6 | Greeting and post cards from Elaine and Helen | c1990-2010 |
| 8/7 | Small wallet with membership and identity cards | c1990-2010 |
| 8/8 | Two letters regarding Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 | 2000 |
| 8/9 | Printed card from Prime Minister Howard and Minister for
Veterans' Affairs regarding the 60th anniversary of the end of
World War II and Service to Australia, TX13283 | 2005 |
| 8/10 | Eulogy and funeral program, HGC Armitage | 2012 |

General historical records

9. Photographs and postcards

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| 9 | 19 th century photographs of Italy, (architectural views
and reproductions of works of art, mostly identified)
and three 19 th century Ceylonese plant studies and portrait | 1800s-1940s |
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photographs by Skeen & Co.

10. Prints, maps, artwork

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|------|--|--------|
| 10/1 | 'Picturesque Launceston. Forty nine artistic views of the city and surroundings', Examiner Press | c1930 |
| 10/2 | The Hobart Bridge. 18 Magnificent Views. Oldham, Beddome & Meredith, Hobart. Pilver & Stephens Wartime Productions. Inscribed to Mrs Macdonald from Win and Bill Cornish | [194-] |
| 10/3 | Du Cane. State Aerial Survey map, Tasmania. Forth River to Lake Augusta from Mersey River to Nive River, colour, Lands and Survey Dept, Hobart. Scale 1 mile to 1 inch. Zone 7 sheet 52, 1 st edition | 1956 |
| 10/4 | Framed bark picture, [Dove Lake, Tasmania?]. Note on reverse 'hand done, Devonport artist' | nd |

11. Booklets

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|-------|--|----------------|
| 11/1 | TRA Tamar Regatta, Stephenson's Bend, Launceston, official program | 1909 |
| 11/2 | Tommy's Trip to Tasmania, booklet, issued by the Tasmanian Government Railway Tourist Office, nd | [1905 or 1913] |
| 11/3 | Derwent Rowing Club Annual Regatta program | 1915 |
| 11/4 | Empire Parliamentary Delegation to Australia program, Civic reception, Albert Hall, Launceston | 1926 |
| 11/5 | NTCA The Australian Cricketers Visit to Tasmania, souvenir booklet | 1938 |
| 11/6 | The Story of our Show, The National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania booklet | 1949 |
| 11/7 | Entally National House catalogue, 1 st edition, Scenery Preservation Board, Hobart | 1950 |
| 11/8 | Bell Bay, a new industrial centre for Tasmania's north, booklet | 1952 |
| 11/9 | Alfred Harrap & Son, Launceston, 1857-1957, A Century of Service, booklet | 1957 |
| 11/10 | Flinders Island booklet, Telegraph Printery | nd
c1960 |
| 11/11 | UPA Eventide Home for Aged Variety Concert programme, Chalmers Hall, Launceston | 1960 |

11/12	A Toast to Melba. Tasmanian Theatre Company, Hobart brochure	1970s
11/13	A Guide to books on Tasmanian history and personalities, roneoed booklet	1964
11/14	Antique, Colonial and Victorian exhibition catalogue, Ex-Servicewomens Homes Association, Town Hall, Hobart	1965
11/15	Growing Roses. Deane Ross. Rigby Instant Book	1968
11/16	Tasmanian Government Railways Special Centenary Project 1871. Historical Highlights	1970
11/17	Bass and Flinders Bowls Club [Launceston], official opening program, 46/500	1974
13/18	The Bridestowe Estate. Jubilee Season 1921-22 to 1981-82. A Souvenir of the Lavender Farm	1982
11/19	East Launceston Bowling Club 75 th Anniversary 1916-1991, booklet	1991
11/20	World Cup 1992 Canoe Slalom, Tasmania, programme	1992

12. Ephemera - general

12/1	Hinsby and Calvert, Chemists and Druggists, Hobart Town, invoice, Estate of HA Kissock	1866
12/2	Small printed calendar, Stars of Hope, selections from Frances Ridley Havergal, in four parts	1899
12/3	James Galloway, North Mount Cameron Stores, Gladstone. Invoice to Mr W Jackson for purchase of mouth organ	1901
12/4	A Harrap & Sons, Launceston or RP Furnage, Don Stores, Deloraine. Subdivision plan (with photographs) of portion of Tahara Estate, Deloraine East. For sale by auction April 6 in the Don Furniture Sale Room, opposite the Deloraine Hotel (fragile)	1917
12/5	J Davies, New and Second Hand Furniture, Hobart. Invoice to Mrs N Browne, St Georges Square, Launceston for purchase of furniture	193-
12/6	Women's Australian National Services (Tas Division). Efficiency certificate for Mabel Thorpe for Transport	1943
12/7	The Village Inn, Westbury, Phone 22. Label & Fitzpatrick's' Old English Inn, accomodation advertisement	mid 20thc
12/8	Typewritten script 'A Tasmanian Hero' verse play by 'Truganini', 37p	nd

12/9	Map of subdivision of Launceston North	nd
12/10	Tasmanian beer duty stamp, 4/6	nd
12/11	In Memoriam card of Mary Cowen	1889
12/12	Longford Racing Club Member's Lady's Ticket, Spring Meet 1897	1897
12/13	Letter of reference from Helen Kingsmill for Miss Anderson	1899
12/14	Certificate for second prize in The Tasmanian Mail Children's Hour Competition awarded to CE Dore, for translation of French poem, 28 September 1909	1909
12/15	Launceston Church Grammar School Prize & Honour List	1916
12/16	Newspaper cuttings, mounted on card, obituary Mr George Campbell Meredith July 1918, and Meredith home Riversdale, Swansea, with portrait photograph of Meredith by Wherrett, Hobart	1918
12/17	1929 Floods Distress ribbon	1929
12/18	Card of Bradman's scoring shots from his then world record innings of 334 at Leeds	1930

13. Ephemera – Launceston businesses

13/1	French Bros, painters and decorators. 4 folders. Letterhead; Memorandum; Multiple copies; Labels; Printed book Supply Goods, Printed book Works Department, correspondence, five letters regarding history of French Bros. 1967-68; Calendar 1970; Newscutting, A man who set out to help others [French Bros], The Examiner 23 December 2006	19-20thc
13/2	Henry Bills & Co, 42 Esplanade Street, Launceston. Down and Kapok Quilts, wholesale price list	1910
13/3	Paterson Street Methodist Church Jubilee Celebration, letter of invitation to a tea meeting; ticket for the tea meeting; Jubilee ribbon	1918
13/4	JC Ferguson, 67 Brisbane Street, Launceston, with compliments printed card	nd
13/5	WH Knight, Wellington Road, Launceston, newspaper notice; coloured label in the shape of Australia, Phoenix	nd

Foundry General and Structural Engineers; photograph
Peters Bros employees undated and unidentified

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| 13/6 | Brisbane Hotel, Launceston, postcard | nd |
| 13/7 | W Hart & Sons, Charles Street, Launceston,
Catalogue of Engineers' and Carpenters' Tools. Illustrated, 32p | nd |
| 13/8 | Harraps 1931 Autumn catalogue.
Agricultural and Farm Seeds, 64p | 1931 |
| 13/9 | R Shott & Son, Launceston. Tasmanian Blackwood Souvenirs
price list | 1940s |
| 13/10 | Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Banking at the Granite
Pillars Launceston, brochure | 1980s |

OTHER SOURCES

- QVMAG Kaye Pickett Morning Coffee talk QVM:2002:OH:0007
- QVMAG History Department for War medals, Henry Alfred Armitage and Henry George Armitage
- QVMAG Library for further Armitage Auctions catalogues (some of which are not held in CHS 115) and books
- QVMAG Visual Arts and Design Department for further Armitage Auctions catalogues (some of which are not held in CHS 115) and furniture
- Harrap, Alfred & Son *A century of service 1857-1957*. Harraps 1957
- Ingram, Terry *A question of polish, the antique market in Australia*. Collins 1979

CHS 115

Henry Armitage Collection

Date range: 1866-2012

Date received: 2011-2013

Content: Armitage Auctions business records – mostly auction catalogues c300, Armitage family records including service in WW1 and WW2, Launceston business ephemera and Tasmanian booklets.

Also included are a small number of earlier Tasmanian auction company records W T Bell 1946, Alfred Harrap 1948-9, Herds 1954, Farmers and Graziers 1956-71, Webster F & G 1972, Armitage 1972-1992, Tulloch 1982, Howard 1982.

Mainland companies Christies, Sothebys etc. are also represented in a minor way.

Quantity: 10 metres

Access: CHS collection guide