

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

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 Price lists 1924-1977

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

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 1902

	Society, John Campbell's complimentary ticket	
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	1886-1983
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>Oversized item</i>	1959
8/2	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, Melbourne, pipe machine staging <i>Oversized item</i>	1959
8/3	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, Melbourne, decking sheets <i>Oversized item</i>	1963
8/4	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, Melbourne, sub base for drive base frame <i>Oversized item</i>	1963

8/5	H V Hampton Pty Ltd, outdoor sink <i>Oversized item</i>	nd
8/6	Aluminium Production Corp. Ltd, Bell Bay, reduction bays, prebaked furnace, furnace stools, pot skimming rake <i>Oversized item</i>	1962
8/7	Aluminium Production Corporation Ltd, Bell Bay, anode charger assembly & details potrooms <i>Oversized item</i>	1962
8/9	Aluminium Production Corporation Limited, Bell Bay, green carbon plant arrangement, arrangement of L.V.M. inspection platform & extension <i>Oversized item</i>	1962
8/10	Aluminium Production Corporation Ltd, Bell Bay, carbon baking furnace exhaust ducting access platform to damper <i>Oversized item</i>	1962
8/11	H C Sleigh Limited, Melbourne, olds oil firing equipment typical firehole modifications & burner arrangement <i>Oversized item</i>	1965
8/12	South Yarra Firebrick Co., South Yarra, No.4 kiln, between walls, No. 1, 2, 3 kilns, between walls <i>Oversized item</i>	nd

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, 250 Wellington Street, Launceston'; 'Pottery Ware with care, Breakable, from John Campbell Pty Ltd, Electric Potteries, Launceston, Tasmania'	nd
9/3	'John Campbell Pty Ltd, 250 Wellington St. Launceston, phone 238, We thank you. Your interest and Patronage has been appreciated... ', small card	nd
9/4	Business cards: 'Mr. J. Campbell, Executive Commissioner, Tasmania'; 'Colin B. Campbell, Representing Mr. John Campbell, Pipe, Tile, Pottery and Fire Brick Works,	nd

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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Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, news cutting file
'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

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(Tasmania) *Newsletter*, no.132, August 1991, pp.6-7

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