Guide to the Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co. Records

NMAH.AC.0348

NMAH Staff

1989
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co. Records
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0348
Date: 1909-1972
Extent: 1.8 Cubic feet (3 boxes, 12 map-folders)
Creator: Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co.
Language: English

Collection is in English.

Summary: The collection is arranged into three series. Series 1: Series 2: Series 3:

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Collection donated by Arthur L. Shearer, son of Walter L. Shearer and president of Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co., to the Archives Center, on August 1, 1989.

Processing Information
Collection processed by NMAH Staff, 1989.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Biographical / Historical

Trenton, New Jersey was the home of many pottery related industries during the early twentieth century. Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co. is one the few that remain in the area today. The company was established by Jonathan Bartley in 1908 and was relocated to the John Maddock and Sons Coalport Works building in 1930.

Walter L. Shearer, president of Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co., compiled records of his general business activities and the history of the Scammell China Co. property. The collection documents the Scammell China Property from 1909 when the Lamberton Company occupied the facility. In 1923, William Scammell purchased the property and opened the Scammell China Company. He continued to use the Lamberton name on certain lines of china. The Scammell China Co. produced china for hotels, restaurants, hospitals, and railroads between 1924 and 1954. In 1952, Albert Gasser purchased the company at auction. Shearer purchased, at auction, the physical plant of Scammell China on 10 December, 1954.

Scope and Contents

Business records including correspondence, invoices, cancelled checks, drawings and blueprints, photographs, and safety and industrial pamphlets kept by Walter L. Shearer involving the pottery industry of Trenton, NJ. The records focus primarily on Scammell China Co. whose physical assets were briefly owned and sold by Shearer. The collection is divided in three series: Bartley Crucible/Walter Shearer Papers; Scammell China Co. Records; Pottery and Related Industries Materials.

The Bartley Crucible/Walter Shearer Papers are composed primarily of correspondence concerning the insurance and renovations of the Scammell China property. There are several building descriptions and inventories that were provided for insurance purposes. Some of the correspondence relates to tenants and purchasers of the property and assets. There is some general business material related to Bartley Crucible and Refractories Co.

The Scammell China Records consist of original and printed material documenting the Scammell China Co. from the 1920s to 1954. The materials include project and renovation proposals, product catalogues, sales records, photographs, blueprints, business correspondence, and marketing materials.

Pottery and Related Industries Materials is comprised of printed materials such as advertisements, brochures, newsletters, and catalogues.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Bartley Crucible/ Walter Shearer Papers, 1909-1989

Series 2: Scammell China Co. Records, 1928-1959

Series 3: Pottery and Related Industries Materials, 1926-1959
Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
  Crucible industry
## Container Listing

### Series 1: Bartley Crucible/ Walter Shearer Papers, 1909-1989

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<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Jonathan Bartley Crucible Co. Brochures, 1909-1925</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Walter Shearer Correspondence, Notes, 1954 General business correspondence and records involving the acquisition of the Scammell property</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Walter Shearer Correspondence, 1955-1956 Regarding the renovation of the Scammell property</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Walter Shearer/ Scammell Insurance Policies, 1955-1956</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Walter Shearer Correspondence, 1957-1959 Correspondence and lease agreements for the Scammell property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Walter Shearer Correspondence, 1954-1964 Regarding the sale of industrial assets of the Scammell property</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Walter Shearer Correspondence, 1960-1972 Correspondence and agreements involving the lease and sale of the Scammell property and insurance claims</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>Bartley Crucible Machinery Photographs, 1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 1</td>
<td>Maddock Pottery Co. Blueprints, 1914</td>
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<td>Floor plans and other drawings</td>
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Series 2: Scammell China Co. Records, 1928 - 1959

Box 2, Folder 1  Product Catalogue: Lamberton/ Scammell, 1931-1936

Box 2, Folder 2  Journal of Material Receipts, Scammell China Co., 1945-1954 Bound ledger with listings of materials and providers

Box 2, Folder 3  China Sales Records, 1949-1954 Correspondence and sales reports documenting products damaged in kiln firing

Box 2, Folder 4  Scammell China Orders Received/ Sent, 1950-1954

Box 2, Folder 5  Equipment Photographs (Leeds and Northrop Co.)

Box 2, Folder 6  Scammell Equipment Installations, 1935-1949

Box 2, Folder 7  Air Compressor Instruction Manuals, 1930-1938

Box 2, Folder 8  Scammell China Co. Power Plant & Diesel Engines, 1934-1939

Box 2, Folder 9  Decorating Kiln by Allied Engineering Co., 1935

Box 2, Folder 10 Kiln Installation by Robertson & Co., 1937 Descriptions, invoices, and correspondence regarding the kiln installation

Box 2, Folder 11 Scammell /Robertson & Co. Correspondence, 1938-1939

Box 2, Folder 12 Scammell China Co. Real Estate Statistics (298-330 3rd St. Trenton, NJ), 1954 Statistics on the buildings in the Scammell facility, including measurements, productivity, and utility use.

Box 2, Folder 13 Auction of Scammell China Co. Properties, 10 December, 1954

Box 2, Folder 14 Scammell Property Press Clippings, 1954-1959

Map-folder 2  Allied Engineering Co., Blueprints for Scammell China, Muffle Kiln, 1938-1948

Map-folder 3  Lamberton Works, Scammell China, Blueprints by Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance, 1939

Map-folder 4  American Kiln & Foundry Co., Tunnel Kiln Blueprints, 1945-1946 Six blueprints of steel details, elevation sections, tracks, and car platforms

Map-folder 5  Nelson Warner Whitehead, Building Plans for Scammell China, 1945-1947
Map-folder 6  W. Neff, Surveys, undated

Map-folder 7  Craig Ridgeway & Sons Blueprint of Steam Hydraulic Elevator for Scammell China, 1928

Map-folder 8  Jerry Galoppa, Building Plans for Scammell China, 1938-1939

Map-folder 9  Robertson & Co., Blueprints for Edwin Bennett Pottery Co., 1937

Map-folder 10  Robertson & Co., Blueprints for Scammell China, 1937-1939 Tunnel kilns and bills of materials

Map-folder 11  Robertson & Co., Blueprints for Scammell China, 1941

Map-folder 12  Robertson & Co., Blueprints for Scammell China, 1941-1949

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Series 3: Pottery and Related Industries Materials, 1926 - 1959

Box 3, Folder 1  Johns Hopkins Insulating Brick Tests, 1926 Report sent to Richard Williams of Diatom Insulation Co.


Box 3, Folder 3  Brochures, 1936 Brochures and announcements for various companies related to refractories

Box 3, Folder 4  Brochures, 1956 Brochures for industries located in Trenton-Mercer County

Box 3, Folder 5  T.A. Karno (General Hardware Corp.) Correspondence, 1951-1959 Correspondence and business records related to General Hardware Corp. and kilns