Creator: Don Kevin Reynolds 1927-2014

Historical Note: Don Reynolds was an industrial archaeologist who had a long association with the Port Kembla Steelworks. He was a long-time member of the Illawarra Historical Society, an active contributor to the National Trust, one of the first members of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Branch of the Trust and convener of its Industrial Heritage sub-committee. His obituary was published in the Illawarra Historical Society Bulletin in September 2014. The collection comprises research materials and photographs, used in his research for his publications, including *A History of the Land for the Port Kembla Steelworks*, *The Railways of West Dapto* and *Swept Under the Carpet - Cement Works at Port Kembla*.

Record Summary: Research records - information files, correspondence, news clippings, photographs, technical drawings, books and a video recording

Date Range: 1907-2009

Quantity: 0.9 m (5 boxes)

Access Conditions: Available for reference. Contact Archivist in advance to arrange access.

Inventory: 1 October 2015
Item List

1. AIS Photographic Records

[4 folders comprising]
- 53 photographs individually numbered 1-51, largely of original Flat Products Development circa 1949-1958. Some photographs stamped ‘Arthur Cratchley Commercial Photographer’ on reverse [Original list incorrectly numbered. 2 photos numbered 21 and 2 numbered 22]
- Newspaper and newsletter clippings on construction of the steelworks
- Correspondence including appreciation letters for site visits and loans of magazines and photographs addressed to Gordon Hassen.
- Commemorative ephemera on closure of Slab Mill in 1988.

2. Port Kembla Steelworks

[4 folders comprising]
- 129 photographs. Includes photographs of steelworks plant under construction and surrounds and cricket match onsite. Circa 1927-1934. [Photos could possibly be from BHP Flat Products Engineering Records photographic collection.]
- Cross section plan of mill housings 36” Mill. [Photocopy]


[3 folders comprising]
- EP means Early Prints of the BHP Flat Products Engineering Records photographic collection.

4. AIS Engineering Records Photographic Library Glass Prints Collection GP1 to GP427 [1 folder]

[3 folders comprising]
- Photocopies of images from glass prints collection of Engineering Records Photographic Library GP1 to GP427. Images of steelworks under construction and machinery numbered. Majority up to 1938.

5. Hoskins Iron & Steel 1934 – 1937

1. Notes, personal recollections and miscellaneous materials on the history of Hoskins Iron & Steel 1934 – 1937 including: 5 photocopies of images of the countryside surrounding the station and 2 photographs of the “Old Farm” 1936
2. AIS Schedule of salaries for individual workers 1907- 1938.
3. Extract from the book Cleveland Iron and Steel, 1979 (United Kingdom)
   Poem ‘Back in the early days’ by John B Abbott.
5. - ‘Steel- and a dry piece of wood’ by JG Rue. Recollections covering the period 1928- 1935. [48pp]
   - Photograph of the staff of G & C Hoskins Lithgow Ironworks, 1909 [Includes individual names]

6. Port Kembla Blast Furnace Data (Data on Equipment) 1920s
   1. ‘Port Kembla Blast Furnace Data’ [photocopy]
   2. ‘AIS Port Kembla Combustion of Wongawilli Refuse in Stoker, 1931 [photocopy]

7. Engineering- Boilers
   1. Report - ‘Details of reciprocating steam engine driven generators, blowers and air compressors installed at the Lithgow and Wongawilli works of Hoskins Iron and Steel co ltd’ by D K Reynolds, October 1987 [manuscript] [142pp]
   2. Notes on ‘AIS Port Kembla Plant Sections, 1933 [5pp]

8. AIS Services Power Dept circa 1959
   [2 folders comprising]
   - Plant Register Index- equipment and performance specifications [196pp]

9. I M McLennan
   1. Australian Iron & Steel Limited- Prospectus of Issue of 1,000,000 7½ per cent, Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each. 1928 [31pp]
   [1 folder comprising]
   2. - “McLennan, Ian Sir 1962, The steel industry in Australia, s. n, Cooma” [Reprinted from the journal of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, vol. 34, no. 6, June, 1962, pp. 115- 124]
      - “A big enterprise: Steelworks for Port Kembla” from the Illawarra Mercury Friday April 22nd, 1921. [photocopy, 5pp]
      - Letter to Cecil Hoskins from Essington Lewis [BHP, 15th ]

10. Hoskins Steel Blowers and Air Compressors
Contains Lithgow material but also broader material on early Illawarra steel.
   1. - Interesting Comments re Lithgow’s Thompson Blowing Engine- summary notes [3pp]
Information from the manufacturer of the Thompson Compound Blowing Engine that was installed in 1923 and moved to Port Kembla in 1928. Includes 2 cross-section drawings of Thompson Compound Blowing Engine.


Articles from May/June 2009 Illawarra Historical Society Bulletin.


- Unknown Unit diagram of works Port Kembla.
- Assorted correspondence concerning blooming mill.
- References to personnel [biographical]

11. BHP Officers [Front label “Letters from Sid Hoskins in USA in 1926”]

1. Various correspondence between Cecil and Sid Hoskins, 1926 [21pp]
- “Memories of an AIS Interworks Mail Boy” 1940s by Neville Brown [3pp]
- “Ash Tray donated by Barbara Mill” Notes on an ash tray manufactured from the first coil rolled on the hot strip mill, 1955. [2pp]
- Manuscript “Notes re Don Reynolds’ BHP Experience” [15pp]
- Typescript “Steel- Its Early Days in Australia” by Emery Balint [From talk to a joint meeting of the Engineering Heritage Committee and Civil Engineering Panel, The Institution of Engineers, Australia, 22nd September, 1987]

2. Miscellaneous documents regarding AA Price

- Cut outs from newspapers and newsletters from various sources concerning BHP Officers [circa 1940-1980]
- Photo and names of AIS Electrical Staff, 1954.
- Photocopy of image and names of No 1 Blast Furnace 1965-1967.
- 1 photograph and 2 photocopies of images of staff. [Unknown date and people]
- (Compilation of materials and personal recollections of individuals/senior personnel at AIS through to 80s.)

12. Correspondence…the Origins of the Bloom Mill and 36” Mill, AIS


2. “The Steel Industry in Australia” by WE Fraser in RTB Quarterly, September 1952 [photocopy, 7pp]
- “BSC’s Port Talbot Works” by David Brinn [photocopy, reprinted from ‘Steel Times’ July, 1976, ]
- 1992 Facsimiles, letters, publications. 2 copies?

13. History of Open Hearth Steelmaking [note: original folder incorrectly titled “Tom Thumb Lagoon”]
1. - Notes concerning Open Hearth steelmaking at Port Kembla.
   - 2 pages from the Kembla News, November 1981 about 50 years of AIS at Port Kembla.
   - Miscellaneous notes on the history of Open Hearth Steelmaking in Australia.
   - photographs of Port Kembla [undated. Possibly circa 1930s]
2. - Miscellaneous notes and photocopies of images [Sources unknown]
   - Complete list of equipment, performance etc

14. History of Port Kembla Steelworks

1. - “Ten Years Development in Steam Engineering at the Port Kembla Steel Works, NSW, Australia” by H Escher in 1939. [published conference paper, 443-477pp]
   - Transcript of letters written by Charles H Hoskins during an overseas trip in 1925. [34pp]
   - Correspondence regarding William Sandford Papers
2. - Article “The Age of Steel: Master of modern industries, what we owe to Bessemer and Kelly” [Reprinted from the Lithgow Mercury, 3rd May, 1907. 17pp]

15. Kembla Rolling Mills

1. - Correspondence concerning Galloway Rolling Mill Engine
   - AIS work under construction Open Heath Plant and Rolling Mill Plant [1pp]
2. - Manuscript “The Kembla Rolling Mills” by John Devitt. [Undated, 40 pp]
   Manuscript “The early history of the rolling mills of Australian Iron and Steel Ltd, Port Kembla” [Date and author unknown, 12 pp]
   - Ground plan drawing of Hoskins Ltd Iron and Steel Works, Lithgow. [Circa 15th January, 1925]
3. - Manuscript “Notes re the Baldwins rolling mills provided for the new AIS steelworks in 1928/29, their first installation and their early years of operation- Draft Copy Only” by Don Reynolds, December, 1999 [32pp]
   - Group photograph of 21 males. Some identified. [Circa 1920s, on cardboard backing]

16. Chief Services Engineers

1. - 14 photographs
   - Miscellaneous
2. - Manuscript “Chief Services Engineers Department” by BHP Steel International Group Slab and Plate Products Division, September 1986 [53 pp]
   - Manuscript “New 800-ton blast furnace and plant of AIS at Port Kembla” [14pp]
   - Miscellaneous
17. Hoskins letters
   1. List of references to the Australian Iron and Steel Industries [Don Reynolds, 25th April 2005]
   2. Correspondence between Sid and Cecil Hoskins during Sid Hoskins’ trip to US re steel devel., [circa 1925-1926]

   2. Photocopies of front page of Kembla News [3pp]

19. Miscellaneous
   1. Lists assorted (abcd)
      - B & M Engine List (Steam Engines)
      - BBC Turbine List
      - Parsons Turbine List
      - Linde? Refridge Comp.[Missing]
   2. A drawing of a Marshall Portable Steam Engine. No 48112
   3. Notebook regarding production. Features the initials PRD on cover. [Belonged to P R Dyball, Works Secretary at AIS]
   4. A small booklet on the “System of Staff Training” published by The Broken Hill Proprietary Co Limited, 1929 [71pp]
   5. 2 VCR tapes labelled “The Big Blow- Galloway Engine, 1-520: 521-1153”
   9. Booklet “Steam power plant planning guide: 10,000 to 60,000KW” by Westinghouse Electrical Corporation, Philadelphia. [38 pp]