



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Holden, John Bryson
ACCESSION NO	83/161
CATEGORY	Business, organisations
ACTIVITY	Auctioneers, Stock & Station Agents
DATE RANGE	July 1900 to April 1943 (with discontinuities)
SIZE OF COLLECTION	12 volumes
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>John Bryson Holden (b.July, 1835, “Keersbrook”, Randalstown, C. Antrim, Ireland) arrived in Victoria in November, 1855, on the <i>Lightning</i> and joined Manifold & Bostock, agents, in Warrnambool, before returning to England in 1863. He returned in 1864 and gained farming experience, before joining the firm of Samuel MacGregor & Co, in 1872 in charge of the Belfast (Port Fairy) branch. The MacGregor business failed in 1874, but Holden’s management of the branch was such that no client lost money, and he commenced business on his own account on 23/10/1874.</p> <p>As a commission agent and auctioneer, he developed local business interests, and was an original investor in the Belfast & Koroit Steam Navigation Company. His office was in Bank St, Port Fairy in premises originally used by Messrs Cowtan & Bland (latterly the Glaxo Social Club/Sea Scouts Hall) and lived at “Loongana” (demolished c.1930s) on the Portland Road. He was well regarded in the community, a generous employer and supportive of local activities. He died in Port Fairy on 22/12/1906 and the business passed to his son, J.A.Holden (to whose period 11 of the 13 letter books relate).</p> <p>J.A.Holden employed, after the Second World War, Leo Edward Osmond (son of Seth & Hannah Osmond) as an employee, who continued the firm after J.A. Holden’s death, until Osmond’s death on 1/7/1971.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	1982 with J W Powling records
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open

DESCRIPTION	
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	It is believed that the letter books were in the Powling collection as part of Osmond's Estate (undistributed). Osmond had previously given the Port Fairy Historical Society 11 volumes of J B Holden & Co's sale books which covered the period 1875 – 194?.
NOTE ON LISTING	
LISTED BY	Marten Syme
DATE	6 Jun 2005

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Box No	Series No	Description	Date
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	1	Letter books	11 Jul 1900 – 21 Apr 1943
		Outwards letters to clients	
1	1/1	Letter Book 18	11 Jul 1900 - 29 Jun 1903
1	1/2	Letter Book 19	1 Jul 1903 - 27 Jan 1906
1	1/3	Letter Book 20	30.Jan 1906 - 16 Nov 1908
2	1/4	Letter Book 21	17 Nov 1908 - 13 Sep 1910
2	1/5	Letter Book 22	14 Sep 1910 - 7 Feb 1913
2	1/6	Letter Book 23	15 Feb- 1913 – 10 Aug 1916
2	1/7	Letter Book 24	11 Aug 1916 - 26 Jun 1919
2	1/8	Letter Book 26	21 Mar 1921 - 20 Jul 1923
3	1/9	Letter Book 25	15 Aug 1918 - 19 Mar 1921
3	1/10	Letter Book 28	1 Aug1925 - 6 Feb 1928
3	1/11	Letter Book 33	29 Feb 1936 - 31 Mar 1938
4	1/12	Letter Book 34	2 Apr 1938 -25 Sep 1940
4	1/13	Letter Book 55	9 Sep 1941 - 21 Apr 1943

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