

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION: J W STEETH & SON

ACCESSION NO: 83/111

CATEGORY: Business, organizations
ACTIVITY: Manufacturing jeweller

DATE RANGE: 1930 - 1969

SIZE OF COLLECTION: 1.02 metres

DATE OF TRANSFER: 22 Dec 1983

HISTORICAL NOTE: Founded in the early 20th Century by James William Steeth, (c1884-1959) this firm gained a reputation for the high quality of its work. The Melbourne Cup was produced for William Drummond & Co from 1919 to 1970 (missing only four years). James' son Maurice James Francis Steeth (c1913-1970) was employed as a toolmaker with Aviation Manufacturing Co Pty Ltd from Jan 1941 until Oct 1945 when he left to join the family firm. He continued the business after the death of his father on 1 Jan 1959, until his own sudden death on 10 Jun 1970. Maurice gained a reputation as a teacher and examiner. The business was acquired by the Italian born silversmith Fortunato Rocca.

DESCRIPTION: Work books, invoices, stock sheets, newspaper cuttings and photographs. The collection also holds work punches for Steeth and Edward Fischer of Geelong

FORM:

NOTE ON COLLECTIONS:

NOTE ON LISTINGS:

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

ACCESS CONDITIONS: Open

LISTED BY: T J Hart

DATE: 19 November 2001

Collection: - Accession:

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
	1	Work Book	
1	1/1	Work Book	15 Jan 1930 – Oct 1934
1	1/2	Work Book	27 Oct 1934 – 28 Oct 1941
Vol	1/3	Work Book	Oct 1941 – 13 Jul 1959
	2	Invoice Book	
2	2/1	Invoice Book 1-100	1 Nov 1963 – 2 Dec 1963
2	2/2	Invoice Book 101-200	3 Dec 1963 – 20 Dec 1963
2	2/3	Invoice Book 201-300	20 Dec 1963 – 30 Jun 1963
2	2/4	Invoice Book 301-400	16 Jan 1964 – 21 Feb 1964
2	2/5	Invoice Book 401-500	21 Feb 1964 – 31 Mar 1964
2	2/6	Invoice Book 501-600	1 Apr 1964 – 22 May 1964
2	2/7	Invoice Book 601-700	25 May 1964 – 6 Jul 1964
2	2/8	Invoice Book 701-800	6 Jul 1964 – 19 Aug 1964
2	2/9	Invoice Book 801-900	19 Aug 1964 – 25 Sep 1964
2	2/10	Invoice Book 901-1000	25 Sep 1964 – 12 Jan 196?
3	2/11	Invoice Book 1001-1100	12 Nov 1964 – 19 Dec 1964
3	2/12	Invoice Book 1101-1200	17 Dec 1964 – 22 Dec 1964
3	2/13	Invoice Book 1201-1300	20 Jan 1965 – 9 Mar 1965
3	2/14	Invoice Book 1301-1400	9 Mar 1965 – 13 Apr 1965
3	2/15	Invoice Book 1401-1500	13 Apr 1965 – 24 May 1965
3	2/16	Invoice Book 1501-1600	24 May 1965 – 29 Jun 1965
3	2/17	Invoice Book 1601-1700	29 Jun 1965 – 30 Jun 1965
3	2/18	Invoice Book 1701-1800	1 Jul 1965 – 6 Aug 1965
3	2/19	Invoice Book 1801-1900	6 Aug 1965 – 8 Sep 1965
3	2/20	Invoice Book 1901-2000	8 Sep 1965 – 11 Oct 1965
4	2/21	Invoice Book 2001-2100	11 Oct 1965 – 18 Nov 1965
4	2/22	Invoice Book 2101-2300 - book unused - destroyed	
4	2/23	Invoice Book 2201-2300	18 Nov 1965 – 20 Dec 1965
4	2/24	Invoice Book 2301-2400	21 Dec 1965 – 2 Mar 1966
4	2/25	Invoice Book 2410-2500	3 Mar 1966 – 6 Apr 1966
4	2/26	Invoice Book 2501-2600	6 Apr 1966 – 20 May 1966
4	2/27	Invoice Book 2601-2700	23 May 1966 – 24 Jun 1966
	3	Credit Book	
1	3/1	Credit Book	12 Jul 1965 – Jun 1966
	4	Stock Sheets	
1	4/1	Stock Sheets	14 Feb 1969 - 28 Nov 1969
1	4/2	Stock Sheets includes Kozminsky probate valuation	5 Mar 1970
	5	Miscellaneous Letters	
1	5/1	Miscellaneous Letters	1955 - 1969
	6	History	
1	6/1	History of Gold & Silversmithing, ts and nd	

Collection: - Accession:

Box No	Series Number	Description	Dates
		research notes	
1	6/2	Copies of Directory entries for gold & silversmiths - South Australia	1843 - 1850
1	6/3	Copies of Directory entries for gold & silversmiths - Victoria	1858 - 1904
	7	Newspaper Cuttings	
4	7/1	Newspaper Cuttings	- 2 Sep 1966
vol	7/2	Newspaper Cuttings - includes one cutting relating to Fortunato Rocca 27 Oct 1971	23 Jul 1966 - 31 Aug 1970
	8	Photographs	
BWP 9012	8/1	J W Steeth polishing a Melbourne Cup UMA Neg 81	nd
BWP 9022	8/2	Maurice Steeth inspecting finished Melbourne Cup Argus Photo UMA Neg 80	nd
BWP 9023	8/3	Maurice Steeth beating the bowl of a Melbourne Cup Herald Feature Service Photograph UMA Neg 79	c1945
BWP 9024	8/4	Maurice Steeth fitting a handle to the Melbourne Cup Herald Feature Service Photograph UMA Neg 82	c1945
BWP 9013	8/5	Maurice Steeth working on Melbourne Cup with gas jet UMA Neg 78	1967
BWP 9025	8/6	Maurice Steeth working on a finished Melbourne Cup, Aug UMA Neg 83	1967
BWP 9026	8/7	Maurice Steeth holding aloft the Melbourne Cup	c1967
BWP 9027	8/8	Maurice Steeth working on a "piece"	nd
BWP 9030	8/9	Maurice Steeth working on a "piece"	nd
BWP 9031	8/10	Maurice Steeth in the workshop with an unnamed assistant	nd
BWP 9032	8/11	Maurice Steeth displaying a chalice	nd
BWP 9033	8/12	Maurice Steeth examining a piece of jewellery	nd
BWP 9034	8/13	Maurice Steeth and unidentified woman working on inlay to the back of a Regency style chair	nd
BWP 9037	8/14-35	Twenty five 35mm contact prints of unlisted subjects: silver antique items (including the Victorian Parliament mace,	

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Box No	Series Number	Description	Dates
OSBB/25	8/36	workshop, railway and country scenes Don Maurice Gold Mine, Strath Creek, Victoria	1969
5/6	9	Records of the Geological Survey of Victoria Unlisted	
	10	Objects	
5		5 steel punches in leather pouch E. FISCHER, GEELONG, STRLG. SILVER, [Southern Cross], & [Trefoil]	