



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	TAFT, (H.) COMPANY PTY. LTD.
ACCESSION NO	1981.0167 and 1985.0045
CATEGORY	Business, organisations
ACTIVITY	Importers Retailers
DATE RANGE	1878-1981
SIZE OF COLLECTION	36 cm. (3 archives boxes) Photograph
HISTORICAL NOTE	Henry Taft was born Grisha Tafypolsky in 1879 in Russia. He emigrated to Australia in 1906 where he founded a stationery business in Collins Street and specialized as a fountain pen retailer and repairer. Taft was joined in partnership by his brother, Misha, who arrived in Australia from the United States three years later and eventually assisted the rest of his family of seventeen to come to Australia. The Taft family also established Merino Knitting Mills and Hillcrest Trading Co. The stationery business continues at the same address, though under different ownership.
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Family documents and certificates 1887-1981; correspondence 1878-1960; essays; photographs; miscellaneous papers, including accounts, share registers and balance sheets, of H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. and the other associated companies Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd. and Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd. 1947-1973. Also correspondence, plans and prospectus for home in Canterbury; private accounts; cheque butts. More Taft (H.), Company business records are held at the Jewish Museum Australia, in St Kilda, Melbourne.

Taft Collection (81/167; 85/45)

A Brief Introduction to the Collection

Harry Taft was born Grigory Abramovich (son of Abram) Tafypolsky in Wernersdorf, Russia in 1879 where his name was abbreviated to Grisha. The Ukrainian pronunciation was Hrisha and this translated into Yiddish as Hirsh. The obvious English translation was Harry Taft.

In 1906 when Grisha came to Melbourne from the Ukraine he spoke very little English but soon established a stationary shop in the city with a partner named Rosenfield. In 1911, they moved the shop to its present location on the corner of Centreway and Collins Street.

Grisha had been joined in Melbourne in 1909 by his brother Misha who had intended originally to settle in the United States. Another brother, Isaac, arrived in 1910. On a return trip to Russia to wind up his affairs in that year, Grisha married Olga Mushatsky who left her home and family to join her husband in a far away land.

Grisha went to Germany and investigated a new device - the fountain pen, which he then decided to import to Australia and sell in his business. He also sold various other products such as ladies handbags in the 1920s and watches in the 1930s.

In 1912 Isaac was kicked by a horse and subsequently died. The following year, 1913, Grisha and Olga's first son, Boyard Israel Taft was born. Their only daughter, Tamara Golda was born in 1919 followed by another son, Ronald born in 1920.

Grisha's parents, Abram and Sara, were brought to Australia from Russia in June 1922 as well as 14 other members of the Tafypolsky family. Soon after these members of Olga's family joined the Taft's in Melbourne. Hillcrest Hosiery, a hosiery factory was established in order to provide some employment for family members.

Harry, as he was soon known, was an active man in the community. The collection indicates the breadth of his interests ranging from his religious involvement in various Jewish organizations, sporting clubs (bowls in particular), the Masonic Lodge, charities and of course his business affairs. Apart from financial statements, balance sheets and asset assessments, the collection also houses aspects of Harry Taft's personal papers including letters, essays, photographs, correspondence, travel documents and certificates etc.

Index for
Taft Collection
 (Box One)

BOX 1

1. Ledger, September 1906-Jan. 1907. (Entries in Russian)
2. File containing: (two files amalgamated)
 - 2/1 Balance sheets for H. Taft, 1907-1918 (manuscript)
 - 2/2 H. Taft with D. Rosenfield, Deed of Dissolution of Partnership. February 1908.
Also, a photocopy.
 - 2/3 C.J. and T. Ham, Estate Agents, to H. Taft, accepting offer to rent a shop in the new Arcade building, 261 Collins St., and receipt. 12 May 1911.
 - 2/4 Lincoln Stuart and Co. Pty. Ltd. to H. Taft. Lease. 1 May 1920.
 - 2/5 Harry Taft and Morris Abraham Taft. Deed of Partnership. 1921.
 - 2/6 Conditions of sale of a chemist shop, 99 Nocholson St., Footscray owned by John Sheffield, witnessed by H. Taft. 16 Jan. 1923.
 - 2/7 Taft to Union Trustee Co of Australia Ltd., requesting a reduction of rent, trade having dropped to an alarming extent in comparison with 1929. 3 July 1931.
 - 2/8 Union Trustee Co. of Australia Ltd. to H. Taft Company, reducing the rental by 15 pounds per week. 4 July 1931.
Union Trustee Co. of Australia Ltd. to H. Taft Co. re. review of rental of the Centreway shop: will accept the figure at present being paid. 8 March 1932.
Neon Electric Signs, Sough Melbourne, to H. Taft & Co. Pty. Ltd. Neon display is completed, with invoice and rental and maintenance agreement. 14 August 1935.
H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. to Chartres Pty. Ltd. Advises that the cost to each participant in the neon advertising sign is slightly increased; provides details of the sign's appearance and operation. 4 March 1936.
Collins Bros. & Co. Ltd. to H. Taft & Co Pty. Ltd. Agreement to pay share in the sign which will include reference to "Waterman Pens". 12 March 1936.
S.W. Ramsay, representative for Conway Steward Pens etc., to H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. confirming agreement to pay for advising Conway Stewart on the sign. 18 March 1936.
Claude Neon Lights, South Melbourne, to H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. Acknowledges order. Rental and Maintenance agreement attached. 29 Ap. 1936.
 - 2/9 Lincoln Stuart & Co. Pty. Ltd. to Directors, H. Taft Company Pty. Ltd., granting lease of premises in the Centreway, cnr. of the Arcade and Collins Street. 20 August 1937.
 - 2/10 M.M.B.W. drainage plan for 105 Evans St. Brunswick where the Hillcrest Hosiery Mills were situated (owner H. Taft). 2 March 1933.
 - 2/11 Receipts for payment of registration of label at Trades Marks Office, A.C.T. 1940's.
 - 2/12 Valuation of the Hillcrest Hosiery Mills, 103 Evans Street, Brunswick by L. McFarland, 20 Nov. 1946.
 - 2/13 Notes and calculations on slips of paper, one on verso of Hillcrest sale note, 18 Sept. 1948.
 - 2/14 "Particulars of the Firm"; a short history of the Taft Co., including properties owned. Nov. 1948.
"General Notes". H. Taft Co. , Merino Co. & Hillcrest Trading. Nov. 1948. Two copies, one evidently a draft but the other, dated, also amended. Notes relate to the holding of meetings, making out cheques, etc.

- Sheet headed "January 18th 1949", listing shares of Merino Knitting Mills Co. Pty. Ltd. and Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd. held by the twelve shareholders.
 Copy of deed of transfer of shares by Harry Taft to Ronald Taft. 30 May 1949.
 "Particulars of the Firm". May 1949. A carbon copy with Jan. 1954 (1950?) substituted for May 1949 and headed "spare copy" only slightly amended; t. Events are recorded: opening of stationery shop August 1906, moves, allotment of shares, arrangements for superannuation insurance for staff, properties owned etc.
 "Minute Book Entries to be made of - "[notes for the guidance of the Secretary?]
 Extracts from H.T.Co. Minutes Book from Incorporation 22 June 1932. Records changes in share ownership, employment, appointment of directors, etc. spare copy of share listing for Merino and Hillcrest Companies at 18 Jan. 1949; "H. Taft Company Pty. Ltd. - Superannuation Plan (name, birthday, monthly instalments, annual premium) 1949; and "Superannuation Insurance with City Mutual Life Company, setting out similar information, 18 January 1949 (photocopy - original returned to R. Taft).
- 2/15 Will of H. Taft Esq., who bequeathed 50 pounds to many Melbourne hospitals and to Jewish organisations and in Jerusalem, Palestine, he bequeathed to the Hebrew University. The University of Melbourne received 135 pounds p.a. for the Hirsch and Olga Taft Interchange Scholarship between the University of Melbourne and the Hebrew University, Palestine. 1949.
 H. Taft, Chairman, to H. Taft, Mrs. O. Taft, and other shareholders, advising of dividend. 15 Jan. 1951.
- 2/16 J.W. Styles & Son. Valuation of 103-5 Evans Street, East Brunswick. 23 Apr. 1953.
 Fitzgerald and Tompson, to Directors, H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. Valuation of shares. 11 May 1953.
 Appointments of Boyard Israel Taft as agency and proxy at meetings by Ronald, and Harry and Olga Taft, Harry and Tamara Messer. 23 Sept. 1953.
 Financial memoranda: B.I.T. and other members of the family's shares in the respective companies, May 1953, Shares held Nov. 1953 etc. Summary, 1 March 1954; Factory, 24 Nov. 1954.
 H. Taft Co., Balance sheet, 30 June 1955.
 Newscutting, "Pen People", concerning Taft's, "the pen hospital", and Boris Taft who continued running the business since the death of his brother Harry (Boris arrived in Australia in 1923).
 H. Taft Co. (shop) & Merino Mills (factory) - financial summary 1955-1961.
 H. Taft Provisional Balance Sheet, 30 June 1956.
 H. Taft Balance Sheet 30 June 1957, 30 June 1958, 1962 (copies).
 "Harry" to R. Taft, outlining the position with respect to giving a lease on the Elizabeth St. property (tenant Darrel Lea Chocolates). 10 Feb. 1960.
 Same to the same. Informs him about business matters. 21 June (1960?)
 Same to the same. 7 December (no year)
 Same to the same, 9 June 1964. Encloses Stanton & Partners' suggested "Scheme of re-arrangement for Taft Companies
 Same to the same, answering query about valuation, annotated. n.d.
 Loose note-pages (2) : "In 4 years" followed by pencilled calculations of outgoings, assets etc.; "H. Taft Co.", notes of amount paid by R.T. and Estate etc.
- 2/17 Company Secretary to Boyard Taft advising of next Directors' Meeting of H. Taft & Co. (12 Sept. 1971, with copy of minutes, 25 July 1971.
- 2/18 Leonard M. Standon and Partners to Dr. B.I. Taft re. H. Taft Company Pty. Ltd., Hillcrest Trading Company Pty. Ltd. and Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd., being

placed in "Member's Voluntary Winding-Up" with a view to liquidation and associated meetings. 8 May, 7 June, 11 October 1973.

2/19 Leonard M. Stanton & Partners to R. Taft, re H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. re. winding up. 7 June, 11 October 1973.

Leonard M. Standon & Partners to Estate H. Taft, c/- B.I. Taft, re H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. - Group (In Liquidation).

2/20 Scheme of re-arrangement for Taft Companies. (Stanton & Partners). Also Suggested Re-Constructcion H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. & Subsidiaries. n.d. (photocopy).

2/22 Advertisement for H. Taft, Fountain Pen Specialists on page from "Worth Knowing", 1 leaflet of adviserments, n.d.

2/23 Letterhead (top only) for Tafts' Hosiery Mills, East Brunswick; 2 visiting cards for H. Taft Company Pty. Ltd., Ladies' Bags & Purses, Fountain Pen Specialists, (one mentions clocks and watches).

3. H. Taft Company Proprietary Limited Minute Book. 23 June 1932 - 31 August 1955 from 1949 the minutes are those of joint directors' meetings for this company, Merino Knitting Mills and the Hillcrest Trading Co.

Contains minutes of directors' and general meetings.

The first meeting was attended by Harry Taft (in the Chair), Morris Abraham Taft (Director) with J.B. McConkey Solicitor in attendance. Boris Taft and Bernard Casan were appointed additional directors. It was resolved to purchase from Harry Taft and Morris Taft the business carried on by them. Allottees were Harry, Morris, Olga, Rosie, and Boris Taft and Bernard Casan. Meetings dealt with the affairs of Hillcrest Hosiery Mills as well as with the Collins St. shop until the formation of a new company in 1946, the Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd. to take over the Hillcrest Hosiery Mills factory. Later in that year a third company, the Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd. was formed to handle the sales of the Merino company. Included are statements of shareholdings, superannuation arrangements for company members 18 Janury 1949, a proposed Hillcrest half hose label (p.72), letter from Harwood and Pincott to Leonard M. Standon re. H. Taft Pty. Ltd., the amendment of the Articles of Association. 1949, notice of extraordinary meeting, 20 October 1952. Deed made between H. Taft and Merino Knitting Mills to pay to the wives of Harry and Boris Taft, and to their wives upon widowhood, 25 pounds p.a. H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd. with H. Taft Service Agreement re. the employment conditions of H. Taft at the joint company.

4. Balance Sheets

4/1 Manuscript (typed from 1932): These were found in an envelope marked "ending 1950" but it contains none later than 1940.
July 1924 - 1940.

4/2 Balance Sheets and Accounts at 30th June (prepared by Leonard M. Stanton, Chartered Accountant, and presented in separate folders unless otherwise described).

- 1947 Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
- 5
1948 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
- 1949 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd., Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd., Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
(presented together in one folder).
- 1951 Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.
- 1952 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd., Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd., Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.
(presented in one folder).
- 1953 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd., Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd., Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
(presented in one folder).
- 1954 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd. Contains also copies of letters to shareholders 1
March 1955 concerning the big loss by the Company in the last two years and the resolution
that it cease operations (machinery and plant to be offered for hire and premises to be l
let etc.), working papers on the affairs of the Company an National Bank of Australia
Hillcrest Hosiery Mills statement. Letter from H. Taft to Mr. Dabscheck 28
December 1954 authorising him to tke charge of the liquidation of Merino; Herald 21/4/?
Advertisement for Gollywog Stretch-ease Socks made by Hillcrest.
- 1955 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
- 1960 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
- 1961 Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
- 1962 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
- 1963 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
- 1964 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.
- 1965 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.
- 1966 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.
- 1967 Balance Sheet & Statement of Account for:
H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd.
Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.
Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.
- 1968 H. Taft Co. Pty. Ltd., Merino Knitting Mills Pty. Ltd.,
Hillcrest Trading Co. Pty. Ltd. (presented together in one folder with no notes)

- 11/10/1973 Letter from Allan Nahum:Liquidator (Leonard M. Stanton & Partners) to Mr. R. Taft re: the distribution of the assets of:
H. TAFT Co. Pty Ltd.
HILLCREST TRADING Co.
Clearance for distribution of assets of MERINO KNITTING MILLS had not yet been received by Nahum. Advised that he was able to distribute the major part of the group assets ... enclosed a cheque for \$29,895.00 representing an interim distribution of \$15.00 per share. Advised that a further distribution would take place later (of course it would be a materially lesser amount).
- ? Scheme for re-arrangement of TAFT Companies.
- ? General Notes for MERINO KNITTING MILLS & HILLCREST
General Notes for H. TAFT & Co.
- ? Worth Knowing advertisement pages with example of TAFT fountain/
stylo pen ad.
- ? Example of TAFT's Hosiery Mills Letterhead.
- ? Suggested re-construction for H. TAFT Co. Pty Ltd & Subsidiaries.

Index for
Taft Collection
(Box Two)

Date	Contents/Item Description - Manilla Folder # 1 containing:
29/5/1919	'The Progress of the Soviet Government' in <u>The Australasian Worker</u> , article clipped and kept by H. Taft.
/5/1920	Lincoln Stuart & Co. Pty Ltd to Mr. H. Taft. Lease.
1921	Harry Taft and Morris Abraham Taft Deed of Partnership.
1923	Witnessed by Harry Taft the conditions of sale of a chemist shop at 99 Nicholson St, Footscray owned by John Sheffield.
1924-1940	Balance Sheets/Asset Lists for TAFT.
4/7/1931	Letter from the Union Trustee Co. of Australia Ltd. <u>re:</u> the proposed rental rate of shop at Centreway, Collins St. Prepared to receive £15 per week for the following six months owing to the hard financial times. (There is other correspondence related to this matter in the file).

2/3/1933	M.M.B.W. Drainage plan for 105 Evans St, Brunswick where the HILLCREST HOSIERY MILLS was situated. Owner H. Taft.
1937	Rental advice to TAFT at Centreway, Collins St.
1940s	Receipt for payment of registration of label at Trades Marks Office, Canberra A.C.T.
20/11/1946	Valuation of 103 Evans St, Brunswick, HILLCREST HOSIERY MILLS.
18/9/1948	HILLCREST HOSIERY MILLS copy of order for Cathie & Ireland. Rough Working Papers.
Nov. 1948	Particulars of the firm (a short detailed history of the TAFT Co.).
1949	Will of H. Taft Esq. who bequeathed £50 sums to many Melbourne hospitals and to Jewish organisations and in Jerusalem, Palestine he bequeathed to the Hebrew University. Taft's shares in the Company were to be divided amongst his children equally while his wife would inherit the house, property, furniture, belongings and jewellery. The sum of £135 p.a. was bequeathed to the University of Melbourne for the provision of the Hirsh and Olga Taft Interchange Scholarship

Date	Contents/Item Description	(cont.)	between the
	University of Melbourne and the Hebrew University in Palestine.		
23/4/1953	Letter re: valuation of 103-5 Evans Road East Brunswick Freehold Land and Buildings.		
1971	Notice to Boyard Taft advising date of next Director's Meeting of: H. TAFT & Co. Pty Ltd (12th Sept. 1971).		
25/7/1971	Minutes of Director's Meeting held on this day.		
8/5/1973	Letter from Leonard M. Stanton and Partners to Dr.B.I. Taft re: H. TAFT Co. Pty Ltd. HILLCREST TRADING Co. Pty Ltd. MERINO KNITTING MILLS Pty Ltd. stating that the above-mentioned companies would be placed into "Member's Voluntary Winding-up" with a view towards liquidation within six months etc.		
7/6/1973	Letter from Leonard M. Stanton and Partners to Dr.B.I. Taft re: H. TAFT Co. Pty Ltd. HILLCREST TRADING Co. Pty Ltd.		

MERINO KNITTING MILLS Pty Ltd.

stating that as instructed we have now commenced proceedings to wind

- 5/6/1919 'Marriage and Divorce Laws in Russia' in The Australasian Worker, article clipped and kept by H. Taft (this may have been of interest to him as he was married in Russia).
- 14/3/1928 Letter to Mr Taft (H?) from Max Guettor.
- 13/9/1929 Letter to Mr Taft (H?) from Max in Alexandria Egypt.
- 2/7/1930 Letter to Mr. Taft (H?) which has been secondarily annotated 'letter from Benjamin N. brother-in-law in Alexandria Egypt'. From Max.
- 1930s - 1940s Bound red address telephone book/directory.
- 30/12/1932 Letter to H. Taft from J. Waxman while Taft is on vacation.
- Jan. 1934 Receipts for lodgings at 'Heyfield House' Esplanade, Lakes Entrance
in the name of Taft.
- Jan. 1934 Receipts for hotel account of Mr Taft at Hotel Astra Bondi Beach Sydney.
- 14/8/1934 Correspondence to H. Taft from J. Waxman while Taft is on vacation.
31/12/1934 "
20/1/1935 "
- 1934 Small black diary with appointments (probably for H. Taft).
- 1935 Correspondence between Mr. H. Taft and the Victorian Jewish Competitions Society re: the donation by the Tafts of a perpetual trophy for a debating contest.
- 23/1/1935 Letters to H. Taft congratulating him on his improving health etc from
31/1/1935 J. Waxman, Taft is holidaying at this time.
- 23/8/1935 Letter to H. Taft from Casper Pearlstein (Hon. Secretary of the Melbourne Jewish Sick Visiting Society), giving congratulations on the Taft's silver wedding anniversary.
- 28/9/1935 Heads of proposed basis of amalgamation of YMHA with J.L. of Victoria and related details.
- 24/10/1935 Letter from H. Taft to his solicitor J. McConkey re: the sale of some of Taft's land. Sketched plan of land size and tennis court at 105 Wattle Valley Rd, South Camberwell.
- Dec. 1935 Correspondence between Mr. H. Taft and W. Loud & Sons P/L re: the temporary leasing of Taft's land at 105 Wattle Valley Rd, South

Camberwell.

Memo to H. Taft from H.R. Wansbrough (builder & contractor) re: use of Taft's land for a period during works on an adjoining property.

Letter to Wansbrough from H. Taft re: the unfolding dispute of the use of this land. Taft promised to withdraw legal action if Wansbrough would clean up his mess and make a donation of £1.1.0 to the Childrens Welfare Association of Victoria.

- 9/4/1936 Letter from H. Taft to R. Hallenstein re: the history of the Children's Welfare Association
- 4/5/1936 Letter from Mr. H. Taft to M. Zeltner, president of the Jewish Orphan Society of Melbourne.
- 8/6/1936 Correspondence relating to debating trophy.
11/6/1936 "
27/6/1936 "
15/7/1936 "
- 5/10/1936 Handwritten draft of a proposal that in case of death of Harry Taft or Morris Taft financial requirements for their widows be made (see minute book).
- Jan. 1937 Clothing Parcels to Russia through the London Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations. Rates of sending new clothes to Russia.
- 16/7/1937 Letter from H. Taft to Mr Movitz.
- 27/7/1937 Statement of income and expenses by me as a Medical Practitioner for the y/e 30/7/1937, signed by B. Taft.
- August 1937 Statment of income and expenses by me as a Medical Practitioner from 1/7/1937 - 31/8/1937, signed by B. Taft.
- 24/5/1940 Wartime cartoons clipped from The Argus - subject WW2 and Hitler.
31/12/1940 Some hand written comments are visible.
15/5/1941
- 31/10/1941 Letter from Casper Perlstein, Secretary of the Melbourne Jewish Aid Society to M. Taft reminding him of a liability of £8.17.6 which was long overdue being paid.
- 11/4/1945 Letter to Mr Taft congratulating him on the birth of grand daughter. From Gretel.
- 12/4/1945 Letter to Mr. & Mrs. H. Taft from the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia giving congratulations to them both and the happy young parents on the birth of a dear little babe.

- 12/4/1945 Letter acknowledging receipt of donation to The EZRA Association (Maternity Aid for Palestine) in the name of the Taft's new grand daughter.
- 13/4/1945 Letter acknowledgeing receipt of £5 donation in the name of Ruth Messer (H. Taft's grand daughter) to the United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund on the occasion of Ruth's birth.
- 6/3/1946 Airmail letter to H. Taft from Miriam Spielman in London requesting food parcels for several of her friends in need. 'The food situation here is really worse than during the war years, but as soon as the weather improves, it is hoped there will be plenty of fish and queues will not be necessary.' She suggests tinned meat, fruit and jams, dried fruit, jellies. There is a pile of correspondence relating to this matter, mostly thank you letters written to Mr & Mrs Taft from the London families who received their gifts. There are also some grocery lists which presumably relate to the products the Tafts purchased and then sent to England.
- c.1947 Small card board with personal telephone numbers listed.
- c. 1949 Newspaper article showing 'the plans of houses Melbourne people liked to build in 1949'. Attached is a note which partly reads, 'plan #256 is a very likely one for Dromana, the aspect & position of rooms is very near what is desired'. Three suggested amendments to the plan are made.
- 4/7/1950 Letter to 'Dearest Aunty' from Arnold, Nerida and myself (?).
- 14/1/1951 Invitation for Mr. & Mrs. H. Taft to attend the Victorian Friends of the Hebrew University dinner.
- 16/11/1952 Letter from Ronald Taft at the University of Western Australia to the Editor of the Australian Jewish Herald re: gathering memoirs for the 40th anniversary of Kadimah.
- 1952 -1953 Victorian Friends of the Hebrew University, Jersualem, statement of receipts and payments for the period from Feb. 5th 1952 - Jan 13th 1953.
- July 1954 Receipt for payment of annual subscription to Victorian Friends of the Hebrew University, £2.2.0 paid by Mrs Taft.
- ? Notice listing the features of a property and annotated 'possession to our purchaser, terms if desired £300 down, balance 3 or 5 years at 6% or arranged to suit purchasers.

Index for
Taft Collection
(Box Two)

Date 3/3/1910	Contents/Item Description - Manilla Folder # 2 containing: Photo captioned 'The Family Rostow Bloomfield Conn. USA'
June 1933	Photo captioned 'Yosemite Park The Red Tree With love to Grisha and Olga'
July 1952	Photo captioned 'To Olga & Grisha At the family party in our garden. Uta & Al Falk, Celia & Nelson. The strong tropical sun made this picture hazy.' Photo captioned 'To Olga & Grisha - taken at the family party, July 13 1952. These are the grandchildren of some of your American cousins. They look like the Australian grandchildren. These are the children of George Falk & Vita Falk Gallin, Toby Rosaun and Miriam Rosenbaum Dubin. Series of un-identified photos or with writing obscured on the backs.
May 1927 - August 1928 Redcliffe.	Series of letters from Harry and Olga Taft and their children Tamara, Ronald and Boyard to each other and to other family members during this period. At this time, the Tafts were staying in Nowra and
18/8/1943 - 28/12/1953	Series of letters written to Olga Taft, writer's name is unclear.

Index for
Taft Collection
(Box Two)

Date 23/11/1909	Contents/Item Description - Manilla Folder # 3 containing: By-Laws of the Citizen's Lodge presented to H. Taft upon initiation.
1910	Harry Tafts United Grand Lodge Certificate of Membership.
13/1/1910	Citizen's Lodge reference for H. Taft written by the Secretary.
28/6/1911	Duke of Richmond Lodge installment of Bro. Will A. Smith.
25/7/1911	Citizen's Lodge installation of Bro. Alfred Richards.
23/7/1912	Citizen's Lodge installment of Bro. N. Cohen as Worshipful Master.

- 25/3/1913 Receipt showing payment of £1.1.6. as subscription to Citizen's Lodge.
- 15/6/1914 Citizen's Lodge Clearance Certificate for H. Taft.
- June 1925 Photo of The Steam Hammer Construction of Lock on the Murray, Wentworth NSW.
- 1/4/1926 Melbourne Jewish Aid Society Certificate of Life Membership - H. Taft.
- 1/5/1930 Leather wallet containing:
Taft's Hosiery Mills Business Cards
personal Weight card showing 11st. 8 lbs.
1931/32 RACV Service Members Card for H. Taft.
- 13/5/1930 Chatham Lodge installation of Bro. Henry J. Barrell.
- 24/12/1931 Chatham Lodge notice of next meeting to H. Taft.
- 26/1/1932 Notice of Chatham Lodge Meeting on 9th Feb 1932 to H. Taft to attend.
- 2/3/1933 Riversdale Lodge installation of Bro. William Comeadow.
- 7/6/1933 Scorecard for Taft v's Berryman at Canterbury Bowling Club Season 1932/33. Draw for non-prize winners Season 1932/33.
- 8/1/1934 Ticket to Fairy Cave costing 2/6.
- 1935 Centenary Congress of Child Welfare Workers Itinary and a listing of the CWA by society and representative.
- 19/2/1935 Letter from the Hon. Sec. Children's Welfare Association to H. Taft inviting him to the Congress Garden and Theatre Party.
- 23/2/1935 Centenary congress of Child Welfare Workers Garden Party at Botanical Gardens invite.
- 14/5/1935 Chatham Lodge installation of Bro. Clarence Stuart Charles.
- 11/7/1935 Letter from the Hon. Sec. Children's Welfare Association to H. Taft with congratulations on his silver wedding anniversary.
- 18/2/1936 Letter from Hon. Sec. CWA to H. Taft informing him of recent appointments to the association.
- 1938 Czechoslovakia leaflet showing threats to the country by Hitler etc.

- 13/5/1939 Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co. Ltd to H. Taft re: lost ring which had since been found.
- Sept. 1939 The Left News edited by Victor Gollancz.
- 13/9/1941 'Drugs That May Change Essence of Man' in Herald.
- 1945 Australian Comforts Fund certificate presented to Mrs Taft for services rendered in a voluntary capacity during the World War 1939 - 45.
- 17/12/1948 Austin Hospital Heidelberg certificate showing H. Taft as a Life Governor of the Institution.
- 12/2/1950 Letter from Sam Ward to Harry Taft.
- 8/9/1955 Letter to Ron Taft in memory of his father H. Taft & speech to be given at a Memorial evening.
- Oct. 1963 Temple of David Congregation Dedication Newsletter.
- 27/10/1963 Invitation to Mrs Taft to attend the dedication & opening ceremony of the new War-Memorial Temple.
- 27/10/1963 Dedication of Temple of David order of service leaflet.
- 31/10/1963 'Rabbi Accepts Scrolls at Ceremony' in The West Australian.
- ? From News to Newspaper: A Romance of Industry How The Argus and The Australasian are produced publication.
- ? Notice from Health Dept. of Victoria leaflet listing symptoms of tuberculosis.
- ? Letter from Dr. Gabriel Tucker in Philadelphia USA to Dr. H. Taft & enclosures on Laryngeal Instruments.

Index for
Taft Collection
(Box Two)

Date	Contents/Item Description - Manilla Folder # 4 containing:
18/3/1909 Taft.	Commonwealth of Australia certificate of Naturalisation for Harry Taft.
8/12/1909	Certificate to state that Harry Taft formerly a Russian subject who is proceeding to USA and Europe on business and pleasure is a Commonwealth of Australia British Colonial subject.
c. 1910	Blue folder possibly a passport written in Hebrew.
c. 1910	Letters & certificates written in Hebrew.
27/4/1922	Memo from the Commonwealth of Australia re: permission granted to Mr H. Taft of Melbourne to bring to Australia certain relatives & connections.
28/4/1922	Letter from Acting Officer in the Commonwealth of Australia to H. Taft c/- Jewell Pen Co. 76 Newgate St E.C.1. authorising Taft to embark together with his party on a voyage to Australia.
23/8/1935	Renewed drivers license of Mrs Olga Taft.
27/7/1939	National Register Census of Property, Census of Men.
1947	Presentation folder given to Harry & Olga Taft to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of the members of the family on 7/6/1922. Includes a family tree.
15/7/1958	Extract of Entry Death Certificate for Hirsh Taft, Company Director aged 75 years. Cause of death: cerebral thrombosis with hemiplegia. Parents: Abram & Golda Taft formerly Rosoff. Occupation unknown.

Born: Russia, had resided in Australia since 1906.
 Married to: Olga Mushatsky in Melitopol Russia at the age of 30.
 Children: Boyard Israel b.1913, Tamara Golda b.1919, Ronald b.1920.

30/3/1942	Black Wallet containing: Identity cards for Harry and Olga Taft.
27/1/1981	Death notice for Mrs Olga Taft. 3 small cards with Hebrew writing.
Jan 1981	Vic. Union for Progressive Judaism agreement for Olga Taft's funeral.
Jan 1981	Drayton & Garson P/L Funeral arrangements and account for Olga Taft.

Index for
Taft Collection
 (Box Two)

Date	Contents/Item Description - Manilla Folder # 5 containing:
August 1980	The Taft (Tafipolsky) Family Tree and History of H. Taft. (The family history was called the Grisha Taft Centennary Lecture and was delivered by Ron Taft to H. Taft family members, Dec. 22 1979).

Index for
Taft Collection
 (Box Three)

Date	Contents/Item Description (Manilla Folder containing:)
Aug. 1935	Cards and letters on the occasion of the silver wedding anniversary of Harry and Olga Taft.
Aug. 1955 on	Brown cardboard box containing letters of sympathy and condolence the death of Harry Taft.
	Brown leather wallet containing address book and records of Taft family (Harry, Olga, Boyard, Tamara, Ronald) members weights.
	Grey 'Four Corners Travel Service' Folder containing: - British passport (Commonwealth of Australia) of Olga Taft including international certificate of vaccination and visa card for Spain. - Australian passport of Olga Taft including international certificate of vaccination, extra passport photos, Qantas plane ticket Melb.- Honolulu-Melb. in 1971 AUD\$595.00

- Itinerary for Olga Taft for trip in Sept. 1958 Melb.-San Fran.-Chicago-NY-London-Brussels-Frankfurt-Zurich-Rome-Tel Aviv-Bangkok-Singapore-Perth-Melb.

1958 Maroon Qantas Travel Folder containing:
Hotel receipts from abroad, aircraft boarding passes, Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia statement, various plane tickets, currency declarations.

Date Contents/Item Description (Manilla Folder containing:)
1937-39 Series of letters from Boyard and Olive Taft in London to the Taft family in Melbourne.

Date Contents/Item Description (Manilla Folder containing:)
1914 Essay "Chedar Days" by H. Taft.

1917 "The Russian Revolution" by H. Taft. Paper read before the Jewish Graduate and Undergraduate Society at University of Melbourne after the first revolution but before the 2nd Bolshevik

1934

"The Schlemihl" by H. Taft.

Index for
Taft Collection
(Box Four)

Date Contents/Item Description (Manilla Folder containing:)
1953/55 Correspondence & working papers re: liquidation of MERINO KNITTING MILLS P/L and re: valuing shares of:
HILLCREST TRADING Co. P/L
MERINO KNITTING MILLS P/L

Date Contents/Item Description (Manilla Folder containing:)
1908 Deed of dissolution of partnership, Mr H. Taft with Mr D. Rosenfield.

5/3/1908 Regulations on the establishment of G.P.C. Depot H. Taft at 302 Collins St Melbourne, for example:
-shop opening hours
- staff rules and conditions of employment
(original and photocopy)

- 12/5/1911 Letter from Central Land Office to H. Taft accepting his offer to rent Centreway Arcade shop.
- 1932-1949 Extracts from H. TAFT Co. P/L minute book (handwritten).
- 8/3/1932 Letter from Union Trustee of Australia Ltd to H. Taft re: the continued rent of shop in Centreway Arcade.
- 14/8/1935 Neon Electric Lights, Contract for rental of sign.
- 4/3/1936 Letter from H. Taft to sign maker with specs. etc.
- 12/3/1936 Letter from Collins Bros. Ltd representative to H. Taft re: using the name "Waterman Pens" on the lighted display board - permission to do so.
- 18/3/1936 Letter from Fountain Pen representative to H. Taft re: using the name "Conway Stewart" on the lighted display board - permission to do so.
- 29/4/1936 Arrangement between Claude Neon Lights & H. Taft re: order of display cabinet and relevant contract.
- Nov. 1948 General notes for:
H. TAFT Co. P/L
HILLCREST TRADING Co. P/L
MERINO KNITTING MILLS P/L
- 18/1/1949 Share division for:
HILLCREST TRADING Co. P/L
MERINO KNITTING MILLS P/L
- 30/5/1949 Transfer of shares in H. TAFT Co. P/L from Harry Taft to Ronald Taft.
- 1950s Working Papers for Harry Taft.
- Jan. 1950 Particulars of the firm, a brief history of H. TAFT Co. P/L
- 15/1/1951 Letters to Olga and Harry Taft and other family members re: share dividend for 1950.
- 11/5/1953 Letter to Directors of H. TAFT Co. P/L from Fitzgerald & Thompson Chartered Accountants re: valuing of shares of the company.
- 26/8/1953 Authority for Boyard Israel Taft to act as agent and proxy for Ronald Taft in matters of the company.
- 3/9/1953 Authority for Boyard Israel Taft to act as agent and proxy for Harry Taft in matters of the company.

- 1/9/1953 Authority for Boyard Israel Taft to act as agent and proxy for Harry Messer in matters of the company.
- 1/9/1953 Authority for Boyard Israel Taft to act as agent and proxy for Tamara Messer in matters of the company.
- 23/9/1953 Authority for Boyard Israel Taft to act as agent and proxy for Olga Taft in matters of the company.
- 30/6/1955 Balance sheet/Assets for: H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 1955-1961 Financial Statements for:
H. TAFT Co. P/L
MERINO KNITTING MILLS Co. P/L
- 30/6/1955 Balance Sheet/Assets of H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 1956 Newspaper clipping about Mr Boris Taft the youngest brother of Harry Taft who was celebrating fifty years of business in Melbourne for Taft's Pen Shop.
- 30/6/1956 Balance Sheet/Assets of H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 30/6/1957 Balance Sheet/Assets of H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 30/6/1958 Balance Sheet/Assets of H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 10/2/1960 Letter to Ron Taft from Harry Messer re: leasing of property in Elizabeth St owned by Taft family.
- 30/6/1962 Balance Sheet/Assets of H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 7/6/1973 Letter to Prof. R. Taft from A. Nahum of Leonard M. Stanton & Partners re: proceedings to wind up the company of H. TAFT.
- 28/6/1973 Notice of the extraordinary general meeting of directors of H. TAFT Co. P/L.
- 11/10/1973 Letter to the Estate of H. Taft c/- Dr. B.I. Taft re: clearance from the Commissioner of Taxation for the distribution of assets of:
H. TAFT Co. P/L.
HILLCREST TRADING Co. P/L.
- Minutes 23 June 1932 - 31 August 1955.
Letters of correspondence from Harry Messer to Ron Taft re: business matters of H. TAFT Co. P/L & scheme for re-arrangement of Taft companies.
- Samples of business cards and letterhead for H. TAFT Co. P/L and Taft's Hosiery Mills.

Samples of merchandise.

Statement of Income from Rents 1943 - 1950

Miscellaneous decorative patterns in pencil

Regulations of the Establishment of G P C Depot, H Taft , 302 Collins
St, Melbourne, City, 5 Mar 1908