



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Operative Painters & Decorators' Union (N.S.W. Branch)
ACCESSION NO	1983.0152
CATEGORY	Labour, organisations
ACTIVITY	Trade Unions
DATE RANGE	1874-1981
SIZE OF COLLECTION	13 archives boxes Photograph
HISTORICAL NOTE	The United Painters Society formed (or re-formed) in 1873-4 and affiliated to the Sydney Trades and Labor Council in 1874. It was a Sydney based union until after 1909 when a West Maitland branch was formed and followed by Goulburn, Broken Hill and Newcastle Sub-branches. It had many changes of name before becoming the NSW Branch of the Operative Painters and Decorators Union of Australasia in 1910. A split in the union between 1912 and 1919 resulted in two separate unions, the OPDU, NSW Branch and the Federated House and Ship Painters', Paper-hangers and Decorators' Employees Association of Australasia. The union was active in the Sydney Labor Council and the Building Trades Federation.
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Restricted
DESCRIPTION	Minutes 1874-1957; West Maitland Sub-Branch minutes 1909-1913; Golburn Sub-Branch 1916-1956; printed and general material including transcript of the two grades of Painters Inquiry 1903; material relating to the builders Workers Accident Pay Strike 1871; NSW Trades and Labor Council statement 1980, 1981; newspaper clippings; photographs including O.P.D.U. NSW State Committee 1937, 1939, union members 1908.
LISTED BY	Andrew Reeves
DATE	3 rd August, 1983.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: OPERATIVE PAINTERS' & DECORATORS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

ADDRESS: Room 39, Trades Hall, Goulburn Street, Sydney 2000

ACTIVITY: Union organization

TRANSFEROR: N.S.W. State Committee, O.P.D.U.

GENERAL NOTE: Although a painters' trade society was active in Sydney by the 1860s, it appears that a permanent society known as the United

Painters Society formed (or was re-formed) in late 1873 or early 1874, during the earliest years of the Sydney Trades & Labor Council, to which the Painters Society affiliated in 1874.

Through succeeding years it remained essentially a Sydney-based union, until a West Maitland branch was formed in 1909. Other sub-branches were later established, including those at Goulburn, Broken Hill and Newcastle. Prior to its entry into the Operative Painters' and Decorators' [Union] of Australasia in 1910 as its New South Wales branch, the union was known by a number of different titles. In summary form, these were:

1874	United Painters' Society
by 1884	The Operative Painters' Society
by 1892	Sydney United Trade & Benefit Society of Painters
by 1901	Sydney Trade Society of Painters

A split in the union between 1912-1919, resulting in two separate unions, is dealt with as a preface to the list of minutes.

For over a century, the union has been an active affiliate of the Sydney Labor Council, and has played a leading role in the Building Trades Federation and the labor movement's political and industrial campaigns.

LIST OF RECORDS:

GROUP 1.

MINUTES

GROUP 2.

PRINTED AND GENERAL MATERIAL

GROUP 3.

PHOTOGRAPHS

GROUP 1.

MINUTES

The minutes have been chronologically divided into four sections, for reasons of clarity. Between 1912 and 1919 the union in New South Wales was deeply divided, and two competing unions existed for five years. The Federal Executive recognized the continuing state branch of the Operative Painters' & Decorators' of Australasia under its new secretary, O'Brien; however, a N.S.W. court case resulted in the faction supporting the deposed secretary, Adam, now registered as the Federated House & Ship Painters', Paperhangers and Decorators' Employees' Association of Australasia, New South Wales branch (known for some reason as "the Amalgamated".), being awarded the books and records of the O.P.D. in New South Wales.

Consequently, there exist two parallel sets of minutes for the years 1914-1919.

1/1

Minutes, 1874-1911

[General meetings, summoned meetings]

Box 2	1/1/1	1 April 1874 - 12 March 1877
	1/1/2	26 March 1877 - 15 May 1882
	1/1/3	1 April 1884 - 12 January 1888

[General meetings, summoned meetings,
committee of management]

Box 2	1/1/4	12 January 1888 - 14 August 1891
	1/1/5	24 August 1891 - 2 November 1896
Box 1	1/1/6	15 November 1896 - 23 September 1901
	1/1/7	8 October 1901 - 5 September 1904
	1/1/8	19 September 1904 - 10 June 1907
	1/1/9	24 June 1907 - 29 March 1909

[General meetings, summoned meetings]

Box 8	1/1/10	12 April 1909 - 18 December 1911
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[Committee of Management]

Box 7	1/1/11	19 April 1909 - 29 December 1913
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OPERATIVE PAINTERS' & DECORATORS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

4.

1/2

Minutes, 1912 - 1919

1/2/1

Operative Painters' & Decorators' of
Australasia, N/S/W/ Branch

Box 3 1/2/1/1

13 March 1916 - 26 June 1917

1/2/1/2

17 March - 1 September 1919 (includes minutes
of a conference with Painters' & Dockers'
Union, 6 November 1919)

1/2/2

Federated House and Ship Painters,
Paperhangers and Decorators' Employees'
Association of Australasia, N/S/W/ Branch

Box 8 1/2/2/1

2 January 1912 - 21 September 1914

Unit 14 (vol) 1/2/2/2

6 October 1914 - 11 November 1918

1/3

Minutes, 1919 - 1957 i.e. post re-unification
[General meetings, summoned meetings,
committee of management]

Box 8 1/3/1

8 September 1919 - 13 September 1920

Box 11 1/3/2

18 September 1920 - 18 April 1922

1/3/3

24 May 1922 - 16 July 1923

1/3/4

23 July 1923 - 2 March 1925

1/3/5

9 March 1925 - 6 January 1926

1/3/6

11 January 1926 - 24 November 1926

Box 5 1/3/7

29 November 1926 - 4 July 1927

1/3/8

4 July 1927 - 12 March 1928

1/3/9

19 March 1928 - 26 November 1928

1/3/10

3 December 1928 - 1 February 1930

1/3/11

3 February 1930 - 21 September 1931

Box 6 1/3/12

28 September 1931 - 19 September 1932

1/3/13

26 September 1932 - 15 July 1935

1/3/14

29 July 1935 - 22 February 1938

Box 13 1/3/15

7 March 1938 - 21 January 1941

1/3/16

4 February 1941 - 8 September 1942

Box 12 1/3/17

14 September 1942 - 19 September 1944

1/3/18

26 September 1944 - 8 March 1948

[General meetings, summoned meetings]

1/3/19

12 April 1948 - 9 December 1957

[Committee of management minutes not
contained in general minute books]

Box 7 1/3/20

27 January 1948 - 29 June 1949

1/3/21

13 March 1951 - 26 June 1952 (26 June minutes
at front of the book; out of sequence)

1/3/22

17 July 1952 - 22 October 1953

1/3/23

29 October 1953 - 20 January 1955

1/3/24

27 January 1955 - 22 September 1955

Box 3 1/3/25

29 September 1955 - 13 June 1957

OPERATIVE PAINTERS' & DECORATORS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

5.

1/4

Minutes, sub-branches

Box 3

1/4/1

West Maitland Branch, No/2, Painters' Union
19 August 1909 - 22 August 1913

1/4/2

Goulburn sub-branch

Box 9

1/4/2/1

1916 - 1920

1/4/2/2/

1920 - 1926

1/4/2/3

1927 - 1938

1/4/2/4

1939 - 1956

Note: a number of balance sheets and accounts
(1949-1953) are interleaved with the minutes,
which are also accompanied by a History of
the Goulburn sub-branch of the union,
1916-1931, compiled by one of its members.

Box 10

GROUP 2.

PRINTED AND GENERAL MATERIAL

- 2/1 Transcript of the Two Grades of Painters' Inquiry 1903 (copy)
- 2/2 Bound volume of material relating to the Building Workers' Accident Pay Strike, 1971
- 2/3 N.S.W. Trades & Labor Council, Joint Demarcation Statement, 1980, 1981
- 2/4 J.K. Haken, Uni of N.S.W. (in co-operation with the O.P.D.U.), Survey of Health Hazards Associated with Epoxy and Polyurethane Resin Systems, August 1969.
- 2/5 Letter of reminiscences of Leonard Tole, together with newsclippings, c.1970. Reminiscences cover the period c.1912 - 1919.

GROUP 3.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 3/1 O.P.D.U., N.S.W. State Committee, 1937.
- 3/2 O.P.D.U., N.S.W. State Committee, 1939. (Same photograph as above, but mounted on a decorated cardboard panel).
- 3/3 O.P.D.U. committee, members with their banner. (Labour Day March) n.d.
- 3/4 Unidentified group of union members, 1 July 1906.

OPERATIVE PAINTERS' & DECORATORS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

6.

3/5 Unidentified groups of union members,
 possibly sporting teams. n.d.

3/6 ditto.

Andrew Reeves
Archivist

3 August 1983