



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	<b>Taylor Ferguson &amp; Co. Pty. Limited</b>
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	1960.0005
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Business, organisations
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Wine, spirit and provisions merchants, importers
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1879 - 1959
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	11 boxes
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	Taylor Ferguson and Company, and their predecessors, John McGee and Company (who also dealt in general provisions) held importing agencies for a number of distilleries and wine and tobacco houses in the British Isles, Europe and America. Their wholesale network stretched throughout Victoria.
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	Sept 1960
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Access: Open
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Correspondence (including instructions to travelling salesmen and orders to overseas suppliers) 1883-97 and 1951-59; accounts 1879-1959
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b>	
<b>NOTE ON LISTING</b>	This list was revised in 2011. The contents of boxes 7 to 1 have been listed and added to the original list.
<b>LISTED BY</b>	Frank Strahan
<b>DATE</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1960, 28th March 1963 with additions 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2011

## RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: TAYLOR FERGUSON & CO. PTY. LTD., formerly JOHN MCGEE & CO.

ADDRESS: 529 Rae Street, North Fitzroy.

MAIN ACTIVITY: Wine, spirit, and provision merchants.

DATE OF TRANSFER: September 1960.

GENERAL NOTE: A circular letter of September 1st., 1898 held by Taylor Ferguson and Co. (see item 51 in list of records below) reads, "We the undersigned beg to notify that we have purchased from Mr. William H. Martin the old established business of John McGee and Co. Pty. Ltd., with which we have been connected for many years and that we shall trade under the style of Taylor Ferguson and Co. .....Yours faithfully, Geo. A. Taylor, J. A. Taylor, Thos. J. Boyle, J. W. D. Ferguson". Most of the records in this transfer ( i.e. those predating September 1898) are records of the earlier firm.

References in Sands and Kenny's and Sands and McDougall's Melbourne Directories date John McGee & Co. back to 1855:

1855: Griffin and McGee, Produce Merchants, 189 Swanston Street.

1856-7: Ditto.

1858: Change of entry: McGee, John & Co., Provision Merchants, 189 Swanston Street.

1859-62: Ditto.

1863: Directory missing.

1864: Change of entry: McGee, John & Co., wholesale wine, spirit, and provision merchants, 189 Elizabeth Street.

1865-7: Ditto.

1868: Change of entry: McGee, John & Co. (McGee, John; Dyson, Wm.H.), merchants, 19 Little Flinders Street West.

1869-98: Change of entry: McGee, John & Co., merchants, 318-320 Little Flinders Street. (Note: 1880 partners listed as: McGee, J; McVitty, J; Deegan, J.F.)

1898: As mentioned above, firm becomes Taylor Ferguson & Co. with Geo. A. Taylor, J.A. Taylor, Thos. J. Boyle, and J.W.D. Ferguson as partners. Note: There are no entries for Taylors or Boyles in the lists of merchants prior to this date, but John Ferguson & Co. are listed from 1882.

## Records of Taylor Ferguson &amp; Co. continued.

2.

- 1899 - 1905: Taylor Ferguson & Co. (late John McGee & Co. Pty. Ltd.) 318-320 Little Flinders Street.  
Above partners listed.
- 1906: Taylor Ferguson & Co. listed as above, but Boyle is not listed as a partner.
- 1907-8: Ditto.
- 1909: Change of entry: Partners are Geo. A. Taylor and David Ferguson.
- 1910: Change of entry: Address is corner King and Little Collins Streets.
- 1910 - 57: Address remains 137 King Street.
- 1957: Change of address: to present position at 529 Rae St., North Fitzroy.

Frank Strahan,  
University Archivist.

28 March 1963.

Conditions: Good.

Bulk: 2 r.f.

CLASS 1: Correspondence - General:

1/1. Correspondence, Outwards to local agents.  
Information on trade in wines, spirits, ales, hops, groceries,  
and confectionery.

6 vols. (press copy)

25 May 1883 - 25 Nov. 1897. (gaps)

Box 1 Vol. 1: 25 May 1883 - 8 Jan. 1884.  
2: 9 Jan. 1884 - 19 Aug. 1884.  
3: 14 Feb. 1885 - 20 April 1886.  
Box 2 4: 18 Sep. 1888 - 19 Feb. 1890.  
5: 19 Feb. 1890 - 7 Jan. 1892.  
6: 8 Jan. 1892 - 25 Nov. 1897.

1/2. Correspondence, Outwards to overseas suppliers.  
Includes letters to England, Scotland, Ireland, France,  
and the United States of America.  
Information on trade in wines, spirits, ales, and tobacco.  
Some information on trade in hops and groceries.

4 vols. (press copy)

15 March 1882 - 14 Dec. 1891

Box 3 Vol. 1: 15 March 1882 - 16 July 1883.  
2: 16 July 1883 - 14 Jan. 1885.  
3: 27 Jan. 1885 - 14 Sep. 1888.  
Box 4 4: 24 June 1890 - 14 Dec. 1891.

CLASS 2:

Imports:

2/1. Shipments to arrive.  
Show: date bill of lading received, date of sailing, name  
of vessel, no. days out, description of goods. Goods main-  
ly wines, spirits, and ales, but also include groceries.

1 vol.

13 Jan. 1882 - 25 Aug. 1918.

2/2. Import orders.  
Show: date, name of supplier, goods ordered.

Included in above vol. 2/1.

1881 - 1882.

2/3. W.I. McLeod, Sydney, import account, ledger.

Included in above vol. 2/1.

5 May 1883 - 24 July 1885.

## 2/4. Wines, spirits, and ales imported.

Show: Order date, quantity, type of package (whether cases or casks), brand, invoice date, price, ship, charges, cost. First vol. these entries are under heading of name of supplier and of particular wine or spirit. The brand column is given over to the quantities of individual items in the cases or casks (i.e. quarts etc.). Second vol. entries under name of supplier only. The brand column is given over to the type of wine or spirit.

Box 5 2 vols.

27 Sep. 1922 - 13 June 1939.

Vol 1: 27 Sep. 1922 - 8 March 1934.

2: 2 Oct. 1934 - 13 June 1939.

CLASS 3:Sales:

- 3/1. Monthly sales summaries.  
For wines, spirits, and ales.

Box 4 Included in vol. 2/1, above.

1879 - 1888.

CLASS 4:Purchases:

- 4/1. Purchase books.  
Show date, name of supplier, goods purchased, price.

3 vols. (labelled as above).

22 April 1885 - 15 March 1920 (gaps)

Box 6 Vol. 1: 22 April 1885 - 12 November 1888.

2: 12 Nov. 1888 - 18 Nov. 1890.

3: 4 Jan. 1917 - 15 March 1920.

CLASS 5:Miscellaneous:

- 5/1. Notification of change of name to Taylor Ferguson & Co., and of change of ownership.

Box 6 1 page photocopy of circular letter.

1 Sep. 1898.

Frank Strahan

*Frank Strahan*

30-11-60.

		<b>Accounts books and financial records</b>	
7		Security Book containing details of hotel leases and licences. 1 volume	1909-1911 and 1912-1927
		Private Ledger – Taylor Ferguson & Co. Melbourne	1919-1928
		Private Ledger – Taylor Ferguson & Co. Melbourne	1934-1951
8		Duty Book containing descriptions of imported liquor, quantity and expenditure for calculation of duty	8 March – 6 September 1939
		Bills Receivable	August 1931- April 1941
		Bills Payable and Bills Receivable	June 1928 - 1939
		Clearances from Zanders & Taylors Bonds from 1/6/56	1 June 1956 onwards
9		Correspondence – Inward – Correspondence from Consulates, Embassies and international diplomats located in Melbourne concerning the purchase of alcohol and paperwork for the Collector of Customs	1951-1956
10		Correspondence – Inward – Correspondence from Consulates, Embassies and international diplomats located in Melbourne concerning the purchase of alcohol and paperwork for the Collector of Customs	1956-1959
11		Bond Entry and Withdrawal sheets	July 1957- June 1959

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