



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Victorian Fibrous Plasterers And Plaster Workers' Union
ACCESSION NO	1978.0084
CATEGORY	Labour, organisations
ACTIVITY	Trade Unions
DATE RANGE	1910-1961
SIZE OF COLLECTION	15 archives boxes Photograph
HISTORICAL NOTE	The Victorian Fibrous Plasterers and Plaster Workers' Union was a small union of skilled tradesmen, an apprenticeship trade. It was established in 1908, and called variously the Fibrous Plasterers' Association, the victorian Fibrous Plasterers Union, and, since 1938, the Victorian Fibrous Plasterers and Plaster Workers' Union. By 1998 it had become the Victorian State Building Trades Union Plaster Industry Workers Division.
DATE OF TRANSFER	4 Aug 1978
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Minutes; correspondence; arbitration and wages board decisions; financial records.
LISTED BY	
DATE	

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

VICTORIAN FIBROUS PLASTERERS AND PLASTER WORKERS' UNION COLLECTION

SECOND ACCESSION

DATE RANGE: 1910 - 1961

SIZE: 15 boxes

TRANSFERRED: 4 August 1978

HISTORICAL NOTE: This Union was established in 1908 being called variously the Fibrous Plasterers' Association, the Victorian Fibrous Plasterers Society, the Victorian Fibrous Plasterers Union, and, since 1938, the Victorian Fibrous Plasterers and Plaster Workers' Union. This accession of records is particularly strong in the period of the Second World War and its aftermath of reconstruction and re-training in the industry.

NOTE ON USE OF COLLECTION:

The files in this collection contain much overlapping material. A useful strategy for research would be to check all files within a similar date range, especially:

- 3/4 Correspondence of VFPU Secretaries,
- 4 Wages Boards and Wage Claims,
- 5 Subject Files
- 6 Disputes
- 7 Arbitration and Conciliation.

 VICTORIAN FIBROUS PLASTERERS AND PLASTER WORKERS UNION COLLECTION

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 - 1/1 Annual, General Executive, Quarterly and Picnic Committee Meetings

2. Finances (1935 - 1959)
 - 2/1 Financial Statements and Balance Sheets
 - 2/2 Members' Contributions
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 - 2/4 Pay-in Records
 - 2/5 Shop Stewards' Returns

3. Correspondence (1923 - 1961)
 - 3/1 Trades Hall Council
 - 3/2 Fibrous Plasterers Manufacturers Association of Victoria
 - 3/3 Minutes of meetings between Fibrous Plasterers Manufacturers Association and VFPU
 - 3/4 Correspondence of VFPU Secretaries (J. Connell, D. Lovegrove, F. McDermott, E.M. Roche)
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 - 4/1 Wages Board Determinations and Associated Correspondence
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 - 8/1 Attendance Books
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9. Annual Picnic (1936 - 1955)

10. Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme (1937 - 1949)

11. Publications, Government Reports and Acts of Parliament
 - 11/1 Apprenticeship Commission of Victoria Reports
 - 11/2 Reports
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 - 11/4 Arbitration and Conciliation Judgement
 - 11/5 Wages Board Rulings
 - 11/6 Trades Hall Council and Fibrous Plasterers Union Publications
 - 11/7 Building, Journal of Master Builders Federation of Australia.
 - 11/8 Workers' Compensation Acts, Victoria
 - 11/9 Monthly Review of Business Statistics
 - 11/10 Forms of Architectural Concrete
 - 11/11 Catalogues
 - 11/12 IES Lighting Review

11/13 Building and Construction Magazine
11/14 Plaster Fixing Plans
11/15 Photographs
11/16 Miscellaneous Papers

VICTORIAN FIBROUS PLASTERERS AND PLASTER WORKERS UNIONLIST

1. Minutes
- 1/1 Annual, General Executive, Quarterly and Picnic Committee meetings Box
- 1/1/1 Victorian Fibrous Plasterers Society, 20 September 1934 - 16 May 1935. (Minutes of Special Summons Meeting, 4 October 1934 at back of book) 1
- 1/1/2 Victorian Fibrous Plasterers Union, 29 October 1941 - 28 January 1942 1
- [Minutes of Executive and General Meetings from 3 May 1942 to 10 June 1942 are in Attendance book, dated 13 September 1939 to 3 June 1942, item number 8/1/7 below]
- 1/1/3 6 September 1944 - 29 August 1945 1
- 1/1/4 5 September 1945 - 7 August 1946 1
- 1/1/5 14 August 1946 - 13 November 1946 1
- 1/1/6 22 January 1947 - 22 September 1948 1
- [Minutes of Executive and General Meetings from 20 October 1948 to 3 November 1948 are in Attendance Book, dated 9 July 1947 to 26 November 1947, item number 8/1/1 below]
- 1/1/7 1 February 1956 - 22 May 1957 1
- [Minutes of the Picnic Committee for 9 February 19[?], are in Attendance Book, item number 8/1/4 below]
2. Finances
- 2/1 Financial Statements and Balance Sheets Box
- 2/1/1 Financial statements and balance sheets, 1939, 1945 - 1954. (File includes motor garage rent book for 1947 - 1954; 1935 Diary of events; overtime of men at various (country?) jobs, found in envelope marked 'Mr. Lovegrove'.) 2
- 2/2 Members' Contributions
- 2/2/1 Treasurers receipt lists, 21 November 1951 - 10 December 1956. 2
- 2/2/2 Cash book c. 1940 - 1941 [Includes arrears, benefits and whether unemployed] 2
- 2/3 Vouchers
- 2/3/1 27 May 1959 - 11 November 1959 2
- 2/4 Pay-in Records
- 2/4/1 Commonwealth Bank, 25 June 1950 - 14 February 1952 2

2/4/2	Commonwealth Bank, 13 March 1952 - 28 August 1954	2
2/4/3	Commonwealth Bank, 8 September 1953 - 28 September 1954	2
2/4/4	Commonwealth Bank, 12 October 1954 - 1 February 1956	2
2/4/5	Typed lists of cheques received, January 1956 - December 1959	2
2/5	<u>Shop Stewards' Returns</u> (Originally in one file, now in two)	
		Box
2/5/1	First half file; Shop Stewards' Returns, June 1958 - December 1959	3
2/5/2	Second half file; Shop Stewards' Returns, March 1956 - June 1958	3
3.	<u>Correspondence</u>	
3/1	<u>Trades Hall Council</u> (See also 3/4/1 below)	
		Box
3/1/1	Inwards correspondence from THC, 22 February 1947 - 23 November 1949	4
3/1/2	9 February 1950 - 19 November 1952	4
3/1/3	2 March 1953 - 10 April 1956	4
3/1/4	6 June 1956 - 26 August 1957	4
3/2	<u>Fibrous Plasterers Manufacturers Association of Victoria</u>	
3/2/1	Inwards correspondence, 28 June 1935 - 11 December 1950	4
3/2/2	1 February 1951 - 8 July 1955	4
3/3	<u>Minutes of Meetings between Fibrous Plasterers Manufacturers Association and VFPU</u>	
3/3/1	Minutes of meeting on 7 November 1949	4
3/4	<u>Correspondence of VFPU Secretaries (J. Connell, D. Lovegrove, F. McDermott, E.M. Roche)</u>	
		Box
3/4/1	Correspondence with members re compensation, dismissal and other routine matters. 17 December 1939; 20 May 1946 - 24 November 1954. (Includes correspondence with interstate unions and THCs, 17 July 1945 - 23 April 1954)	5
3/4/2	Outwards correspondence re routine financial matters; to Victorian Labor Party; general correspondence, 12 February 1944 - 8 August 1955	5
3/4/3	General correspondence and working papers for period 1923 - 1927, under Secretaryship of E.M. Roche and F. McDermott	5
3/5	<u>Victorian Labor College</u>	
3/5/1	Correspondence and circulars, 1955 - 1961	5
3/6	<u>Australian Trades Union Press Pty. Ltd.</u>	
3/6/1	Inward correspondence and circulars from ATUP Pty.Ltd., 1960 - 1961	
4.	<u>Wages Board and Wage Claims</u>	
4/1	<u>Wages Board Determinations and Associated Correspondence</u>	

(Plaster of Paris Board; Fibrous Plasterers Board) (See also Subject files, Group 5, below)

4/1/1	VFPU Secretary's file, 1942 - 1958 (Includes Vasiel Slab Oil Dispute records 1947)	Box 6
4/1/2	Wages Board Determinations, Victorian Government Gazette, 1942 - 1958	6
4/1/3	Wages Board and other material such as job specifications and printed material 1934 - 1944 (especially 1937-39)	6
4/2	<u>Specific Claims</u>	
4/2/1	'Lost time' Wage Claims 1937 - 1940	Box 7
4/2/2	Gypsum Wall-Board Award 1944 - 1949	7
4/2/3	Wage Claim 1935 - 1936	7
4/2/4	Wage Claim 1934	
4/2/5	Basic Wage Claims 1939 - 1942 (Includes material collected against the proposed reduction in the basic wage. Items in file 6/1 - 6/3 below were originally in this file.)	7
	[The following three files, 4/2/6 - 4/2/8, were originally in one file titled 'Executive Reference' with items in file 6/5 below]	7
4/2/6	Wage Case 1934 - 1935	7
4/2/7	Wage Case 1936	7
4/2/8	Wage Case 1938	7

5. Subject Files

5/1	File includes:	Box 8
	- Standard code for Plasterers and Fibrous Plasterers, 15 November 1940;	
	- Annual Leave, 1946	
	- Draft Log, 1945	
	- Wages Board, 1940, 1945 and 1954	
5/2	File includes:	8
	- Fibrous Plaster standards	
	- Apprentices, issues c.1944 - 1945	
	- Awards, Fibrous Plasterers draft log, September - October 1946	
	- Building Trades Victorian Award 1941	
	- Correspondence with Building Trades Federation	
	- Synopsis of Minutes of Fibrous Plasterers Wages Board c. 1945	
	- Building Trades (Defence) Award and union policy thereon re differential rates in the trade, c.1941	
	- N.S.W. Award (Differential rates), September 1943	
5/3	File includes:	8
	- Hearings before Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the matter of the National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations and Defence Awards, 1941	
	- Hearings before Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration re Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and change of name to Building Workers Industrial Union of Australia, 1944 -	

-
- 1945
- Documents re application of VFPU under Conciliation and Arbitration Act to change of membership conditions, 1938
 - Documents re Fibrous Plaster Industry Advisory Committee of the Department of War Organisation of Industry, 1943 - 1944
 - Hanna Bros. dispute, 1942 - 1944
- 5/4 File includes:
- Documents re Dilution and post-war Dilution Agreement 1950, 1949 - 1957 8
- 5/5 File includes:
- Correspondence and minutes of meetings between the VFPU and the Fibrous Plaster Manufacturers' Association of Victoria re scheme of registration of manufacturers in the industry, 1951 - 1952 8
- 5/6 Building Trades (Defence) Award Victoria and Application for Common Rule. Copy of letter from Harold Holt (Minister of Labour and National Service) to Murray Stewart (Commonwealth Arbitration Court), September 1941 8
- 5/7 File includes:
- Documents re Building Trades (Defence) Award Victoria, c.1940-41. (See also 5/6 and 5/3 above) 8
- 5/8 File includes:
- Defence Act 1939 8
- Wage Claim, 1935
- Sweating, 1934-35
6. Disputes
[The three files 6/1, 6/2 and 6/3 were originally with documents in file 4/2/5 above]
- 6/1 Transport Act, 1941 Box 9
6/2 Building Trade Dispute, 1941 9
6/3 Fawkner Park Dispute, 1942 9
6/4 Yallourn - SEC - Zuleika Dispute, 1937 9
6/5 Zuleika Dispute 1937. (File originally titled 'Executive Reference' and also contained items 4/2/6. 4/2/7 and 4/2/8) 9
6/6 Rand v. Stronga, 1947; Regent Theatre, 1947 9
6/7 Wet Weather and Payment for Labor Day Dispute; Correspondence re Manpower in wartime, c 1942-1943 9
6/8 Coburg Plasterboard Co., Vernon and Hough Dispute, 1939 9
7. Arbitration and Conciliation
(see also item 11/4 below)
- 7/1 File includes Certificate of Registration of VFP and PWU, 1938; Transcript of proceedings in the matter of Insulwool Products Pty. Ltd. and VFPU, September 1944, (Slag Wool Dispute); Defence Box 10

	Works Awards, 1944; Documents re name change of ASC & J of Australia to BWIU of Australia, 1944	
7/2	Slag Wool Dispute, 1944	
7/3	File includes general correspondence and working papers in the period 1935 to 1941. Of note are: Sick and Accident Terminating Fund of VFPU, c.1940; Strike picket reports, 1941; Shorter working week claim 1935	10
7/4	Notices of applications for consent to changes in the conditions of eligibility for membership of an organisation, c.1950s and 1960s	10

8. Union Records

8/1 Attendance Books

[Items 8/1/1 and 8/1/7 below also
contain Executive Committee Minutes, cf. Series 1
above]

		Box
8/1/1	Meeting attendance books, 9 July 1947 - 26 November 1947	11
8/1/2	20 March 1946 - 14 May 1947	11
8/1/3	22 January 1947 - 24 September 1952	11
8/1/4	22 January 1947 - 30 June 1954	11
8/1/5	22 January 1947 - 16 January 1952	11
8/1/6	22 January 1947 - 21 October 1953	11
8/1/7	13 September 1959 - 3 June 1942	11
8/1/8	18 October [1952?] (One entry only; inside cover reads "5 1/2 day week")	11
8/1/9	18 October [1952?] to 7 April 19[?] (Inside cover reads "5 day week")	11
8/1/10	18 October 1952 - 14 March 1956 (Inside cover reads "6 day week".) Includes letters of apology for meeting 14 March 1956.	11
8/1/11	23 February 1944 - 20 February 1945. Includes letters of apology and re subscriptions from 1941	11
8/2	<u>Change of Address Register</u>	
8/2/1	12 June 1956 - 27 November 1957	11
8/3	<u>Lists of Members</u>	
8/3/1	List in alphabetical order for 1921	11

9. Annual Picnic Records

[Although these files are numbered by year,
correspondence within each one may range over
the whole period 1949 - 1955]

		Box
9/1	Picnic 1949 (contains correspondence 1936 - 1950)	12
9/2	Picnic 1951	
9/3	Picnic 1952 (Includes financial statements for 1950 and 1951 picnic)	12
9/4	Picnic 1953	12
9/5	Picnic 1954	12
9/6	Picnic 1955	12

10. Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme

[Each file in this series contains a wide range of information mainly concerning minutes of advisory committee meetings; allocation sheets with statistical breakdowns of employees of manufacturers; correspondence with Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction; reports; dispute resolution and other trainee information]

10/1	1937 - 1946 (although mainly for period 1940-46)	12
10/2	1947 - 1950	13
10/3	1944 - 1949	13
10/4	1947 - 1949 (includes debates over labour needs of the post-war industry)	13

11. Publications, Government Reports and Acts of Parliament

11/1	<u>Apprenticeship Commission of Victoria Reports</u>	Box
11/1/1	Apprenticeship Commission Reports 1939-59 (although mainly 1956 - 1958)	14
11/2	<u>General Reports</u>	
11/2/1	Tariff Board's Reports and Recommendations, 1930-21. File also includes Fibrous Plaster Workers W.A. Award 1949	14
11/2/2	Report of Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops, Victoria, 1949	
11/3	<u>Acts and Bills</u>	
11/3/1	Workers' Compensation Acts, 1928, 1935, and Bill of 1936. Includes definitions from Act No. 4524	14
11/3/2	Commonwealth Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1946	14
11/3/3	Local Government Act, 1928	14
11/3/4	Apprenticeships Act, 1928	
11/3/5	Slum Reclamation and Housing Act, 1938	14
11/3/6	Police Offences Act, 1928	
11/3/7	Includes National Registration Bill, 1939; Supply and Development Bill, 1939; National Security Bill, 1939	14
11/4	<u>Arbitration and Conciliation Judgement</u> (See also Group 7 above)	
11/4/1	Australian Builders Labourers Federation and T.R. and L. Cockram Pty. Ltd., 1936	14
11/5	<u>Wages Board Rulings</u> (See also Groups 4 and 5 above)	
11/5/1	Carpenters' Board, 1941 - 1943	14
11/6	<u>Trades Hall Council and Fibrous Plasterers Union Publications</u>	
11/6/1	File includes: Victorian Fibrous Plasterers and Plaster Workers Union Reports, June 1942 - June 1945; Workers Compensation Acts, 1940 (THC)	14
11/6/2	Pamphlets: "Sweating in Brunswick", VFPU, c.1935;	14

	"Piecework leads to reduced rates", VFPU leaflet, c.1935;	
	"Why piecework and payment by results should be opposed", VFPS pamphlet, c.1935;	
	"No-Conscription Campaign" leaflets, 1943 (four leaflets)	
	VFP Society Ballot Paper (no date)	
11/6/3	Union Rules:	14
11/6/3/1	Fibrous Plasterers Association, n.d.	
11/6/3/2	VFPU, 25 June 1936	
11/6/3/3	Plasterers Society of South Australia, 3 February 1926	
11/6/3/4	VFP Society, 1921	
11/6/3/5	Federated Furnishings Trade Societies of Australia, 7 October 1910	
11/6/3/6	Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia. (Two copies, n.d.)	
11/6/3/7	Operative Painters and Decorators Union of Australia, 1927	
11/6/4	Union Miscellany:	14
11/6/4/1	VFPU Metal Stamp	
11/6/4/2	VFPS Syllabus 1926 (one card)	
11/6/4/3	VFPS 1928 Syllabus (six cards)	
11/6/4/4	Membership application card to VFPS for R.M. McGregor, 1923	
11/6/4/5	Membership application card to VFPS for C. Mechl, 1925	
11/6/4/6	Annual Picnic tickets 1925 (one ticket)	
11/6/4/7	As above, 1926 (one ticket)	
11/6/4/8	As above, 1927 (five tickets)	
11/6/4/9	VFPS Social Evening ticket, 1929	
11/6/4/10	VFP & PWU working card, 1948	
11/6/4/11	Building Trades Federation Working Card, 1924	
11/7	<u>'Building', Journal of Master Builders' Federation of Australia</u>	Box
11/7/1	<u>Building</u> , No. 4, 24 April 1937	15
11/7/2	As above, No. 2, 24 February 1938	15
11/7/3	As above, No. 7, 25 July 1938	15
11/8	"Workers' Compensation Acts of Victoria with Consolidated Regulations", 1937, by I.J. Lewis	15
11/9	<u>"Monthly Review of Business Statistics" C'wealth Bureau of Statistics</u>	
11/9/1	June 1938, No. 9	15
11/9/2	July 1938, No. 10	15
11/10	"Forms for Architectural Concrete", Portland Cement Association., January 1936	15
11/11	<u>Catalogues</u>	
11/11/1	"Marbelle" Wall Slabs & Mouldings - Stronga Fibrous Plaster Manufacturing Co. (n.d.)	15
11/11/2	"Griffinoid Fibrous Plaster", W.R. Phillips Manufacturer (n.d.)	15
11/11/3	"Brick Veneer Construction", Australian Plaster	15

	Industries P/L (n.d., 3 copies)	
11/11/4	"1940 Information for Architects, Contractors & Building Owners". Fibrous Plaster Manufacturers Association (2 copies)	15
11/11/5	"The effect of indirect lighting ...", Fibrous Plaster Manufacturers Association (3 copies, n.d.)	15
11/11/6	"Masonite - the Story of ..", The Masonite Corporation of Australia Ltd. (post-1937)	15
11/12	"IES Lighting Review", December 1941, by Illuminating Engineering Society	15
11/13	<u>"Building & Construction Magazine"</u>	
11/13/1	23 August 1938	15
11/13/2	28 November 1961	15
11/14	<u>Plaster Fixing Plans</u>	
11/14/1	Cnr. Belgravia Ave & Friend St., Box Hill, for R.L. Stevenson (n.d.)	15
11/14/2	Unidentified Building (possibly a church or hall, n.d.)	15
11/14/3	Catholic Church, Harden, N.S.W.	15
11/15	<u>Photographs</u>	
11/15/1	Unidentified building, plaster damage near skirting Ralph Illidge, Photographer (incl. Ref. No. 23)	15
11/15/2	Unidentified Building, plaster damage on walls [(3 photos) Ralph Illidge, Photographer (incl. Ref. No. 23:) (one photo stamped "API photograph subject 195 print 1)]	15
11/15/3	Unidentified Building, plaster damage over door (close-up of 11/15/2) Ralph Illidge, photographer "API Photograph Subject 196 print No. 3)	15
11/15/4	Unidentified Building, ceiling, Ralph Illidge Photographer (Back stamped "James Bell Mineral Products P/L)	15
11/16	Miscellaneous & Isolated Papers (1 file, including wage claim calculations, newspapers etc.)	15