William Palmer Papers

Finding aid prepared by Gina C Giang.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
© 2014
The Huntington Library. All rights reserved.
Descriptive Summary
Title: William Palmer Papers
Dates: 1879-1932
Collection Number: mssPalmerpapers
Creator: Palmer, William Roy
Extent: 305 items in 3 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: This collection consists of documents for the United Verde Copper Company, Clarkdale, Arizona, the Columbia Graphophone Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the Tioga Mining Company, Mono County, California.
Language of Material: The records are in English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
Publication Rights
The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining necessary permissions rests with the researcher.
Preferred Citation
Provenance
Purchased from Elliott Mittler, June 2014.
Biographical Note
William Roy Palmer was born in 1884 near Fairbury, Nebraska. In 1906 Palmer earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE) from the University of Nebraska. He also took extension courses in law and business administration. He was a professional engineer and land surveyor who was licensed in New York. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.
Palmer's career began in 1906, where he was the Wire Chief at Lincoln Telephone Company in Nebraska. Two years later, he worked for General Electric as an inspector. In 1909 he was the Bridge Engineer at Patterson Bridge Company. After, he was Assistant Chief Engineer at Arkansas Valley Railway, Light and Power Company from 1910 to 1911. From 1913 to 1917, he was Assistant Chief Engineer and Chief Draughtsman at United Verde Copper Company in Clarkdale, Arizona. During World War I, Palmer became a traveling Metallurgical Engineer to coordinate war time copper production from 1917 to 1918. After the war, he was Chief Engineer and Special Projects Assistant at Columbia Graphophone Manufacturing Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut from 1919 to 1923. Later in life, Palmer was a Consulting Engineer in New York between 1927 and 1940. Around the 1930s, he was the Vice President and Chief Engineer at Tioga Mining Company in Mono County, California. In 1941, he was an Industrial Engineer at Vega Airplane Company in Burbank, California.
He married Ethel Howe in 1912. The couple had no children.
Scope and Content
Box 1 (1-4) consists of miscellaneous business records pertaining to the United Verde Copper Company from 1913 to 1916. These records include accounts, blue prints, calculations, diagrams, estimates, power costs, price lists, and work orders. The majority of the correspondence from 1913 to 1918 is from T.C. Roberts, the Chief Engineer at the United Verde and Pacific Railway Company in Clarkdale, Arizona. Subjects include the water situation in Clarkdale and sidewalk construction. There are also letters from William Palmer, who provides business updates. The correspondence from 1920 to 1922 mostly concerns Palmer's time at the Columbia Graphophone Company where he was General Superintendent of Engineering. The letters include technical reports and the development of a radiophone. Folder 7 consists of miscellaneous correspondence related to investments and the construction of a professional building in New York. The correspondence from 1931 to 1932 concerns the financing of the Northern Champlain Bridge, which replaced the ferry at the northern end of Lake Champlain.
William Palmer was the construction engineer for this project. The subject matter from 1933 to 1939 documents the estate of Rodolphus N. Swift. The title to the Tioga Mines in Mono County, California, originates with the Swift estate. There is one letter [undated], which advertises commercial linoleum. Box 1 also includes photostats of performance data from Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co., three diagrams, financial records, mining deeds related to the Swift family, and a lease.

Box 2 also includes legal documents related to the Swift estate and several agreements. There are also maps and tracts related to the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company (reproduction), United Verde Copper Company, Columbia Graphophone Company, and Tioga Mining Company. Notes include the "Palmer-Messer Process," which is the extraction of mercury bearing ores or other sulphides by amalgamation, which Palmer applied to patent around 1932. There is a folder with miscellaneous notes related to Tioga Mining Company, including calculations, claim ties, and legal notes. Another folder contains notes regarding a record press. Miscellaneous plans and drawings pertaining to United Verde Copper Company, archways, building, and kitchen cabinets are also included. There is also a folder with miscellaneous prices and estimates from various manufacturers and firms, which include asphalt, brick machinery, cement, brick, electrical wiring, and lumber work. These lists were once contained in a binder and include an index.

Box 3 includes reports related to the geology of the Comstock Lode by George F. Becker, a shellac shipment, and a summary report of matrices stopped by the Columbia Graphophone Company. There is a short story entitled "The Double Double-Cross" by Sidney Sutherland about two wise-cracking touts named the El Paso Kid and Rubber Lip. There are also two specifications, one for Dictaphone wax and the other for a revolving screen for the Canadian Copper Company. There is also an administrative survey by the Columbia Graphophone Company about the organization and methods along with a review and forecast of its financial condition. This was prepared for the President and Board of Directors by Holton, Richard and Company, Inc. The remainder of the box consists of ephemeral items such as newsletters, bulletins, and miscellaneous articles removed from periodicals. Some of these items are photostats.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged chronologically by genre.

**Box 1**: Business records – Legal documents

**Box 2**: Legal documents – Surveys

**Box 3**: Reports – Ephemera

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](https://catalog.huntington.org/).

**Personal Names**

Palmer, William Roy

**Corporate Names**

Columbia Graphophone Company (U.S.)

United Verde Copper Company

**Subjects**

Swift, Rodolphus N.

Building

Copper mines and mining--Arizona

Engineering

Engineers--Correspondence

Mines and mineral resources--Arizona

Mines and mineral resources--California

Mining engineers--Correspondence

Mercury

**Geographic Areas**

Bennettville (Calif.)

Jerome (Ariz.)

Lake Champlain Bridge (N.Y. and Vt. : 1929-2009)

Mono County (Calif.)

Tioga Mining District (Calif.)

**Genre**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th><strong>Business records - Legal documents</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Business records: United Verde Copper Company (miscellaneous) [1913-1916]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Business records: United Verde Copper Company (miscellaneous) [1913-1916]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Business records: United Verde Copper Company (miscellaneous) [1913-1916]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Business records: United Verde Copper Company (miscellaneous) [1913-1916]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence (1913-1918)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence (1920-1922)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence (1926-1929)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence (1931-1932)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 items. Note: Water and rust damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence (1933-1939)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence [undated]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Data: Westinghouse Electric &amp; Manufacturing Company [photostats] (1910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Diagrams: Circuits of a Telephone and Telephone Switch-Board [1906?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Diagrams: Mining [undated]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 14  Financial records: United Verde Copper Company (1913-1916)  
10 items

Folder 15  Financial records: Big Chief Mine (1931)  
1 item

Folder 16  Land valuation: Data from Tax Collector City of Bridgeport, Conn. (1919, Sep. 2)  
1 item

Folder 17  Legal documents: Mining deeds [excerpts] (1879-1886)  
2 items

Folder 18  Legal documents: Deed of gift: Annie Swift Knowles to Antoinette E. Swift and Charles R. Swift (1923)  
1 item

Folder 19  Legal documents: United Verde Copper Company to Henry Frye [lease] (1912)  
1 item

Box 2  Legal documents - Surveys
Folder 1  Legal documents: Estate of Clement N. Swift (1930)  
1 item

Folder 2  Legal documents: Estate of Rodolphus N. Swift (1930)  
1 item

Folder 3  Legal documents: Estate of Rodolphus N. Swift (1930)  
Note: Paper is brittle. 1 item

Folder 4  Legal documents: Agreement between Rose R. Anderson and Lislie R. Messer (1932)  
1 item

Folder 5  Legal documents: Agreement between contractor and Northern Champlain Bridge Company (1932)  
1 item

Folder 6  Legal documents: Bacigalupi v. Western [Mach?] Co. and Conde v. Sweeney [excerpts] (1933)  
2 items

Folder 7  Legal documents: Agreement for Construction of Residence [template?] (1939)  
1 item

Folder 8  Lists: Standard Public Service Corporation and Operating Companies [undated]  
1 item

Folder 9  Lists: Woodworking Machinery Ordered for Toronto [undated]  
4 items

Folder 10  Maps and tracts: Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company [reproduction] (1882)  
1 item

3 items
| Folder 12 | Maps and tracts: Columbia Graphophone Company Yost-Plant (1919) | 1 item |
| Folder 13 | Maps and tracts: Tioga Mining Company (1932) | 1 item |
| Folder 14 | Notes: Palmer-Messer Process [approximately 1932] | 3 items |
| Folder 15 | Notes: Tioga Mining Company [approximately 1933] | Approximately 30 items |
| Folder 16 | Notes: #10 Record Press [undated] | 1 item |
| Folder 17 | Patent application: Process of Extraction of Mercury from Mercury bearing Ores or Products of Amalgamation [approximately 1932] | 4 items |
| Folder 18 | Plans (drawings): United Verde Copper Company [photostats] [1913] | 5 items |
| Folder 19 | Plans (drawings): Archways [undated] | 1 item |
| Folder 20 | Plans (drawings): Building and floor [undated] | 3 items |
| Folder 21 | Plans: Kitchen cabinet / furniture [undated] | 11 items |
| Folder 22 | Price lists: United Verde Copper Company and other firms/manufacturers (1912-1916) | Note: Removed from binder. Includes index. 1 item |
| Box 3 | Reports - Ephemera | |
| Folder 1 | Reports: Geology of the Comstock Lode by George F. Becker (1880-1882) | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Reports: Shellac from shipments received at E. Plant (1921, Mar. 8) | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | Reports: Columbia Graphophone Manufacturing Co.: Summary Report of Matrices Stopped (1922) | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | Short stories: The Double Double-Cross by Sidney Sutherland [undated] | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | Specifications: Dictaphone Wax [photostats] (1920) | 1 item |
Folder 6  Specifications: Revolving Screen for the Canadian Copper Company [undated]  1 item

Folder 7  Statutes: (Crim. Code, § 215) Using mails to defraud or distribute counterfeit money [undated]  1 item

Folder 8  Summaries: Summary of Productive Machine Equipment For Toronto and Bridgeport [photostats] (1922)  1 item


Folder 10  Ephemerata: Engineering News: Design of Standard (1913)  1 item


Folder 12  Ephemerata: Jerome-Portland Copper Mining Company (1916-1917)  2 items

Folder 13  Ephemerata: George Graham Rice's Industrial and Mining Age [newspaper] (1917)  1 item

Folder 14  Ephemerata: Green Monster Mining Company [notices] (1917)  1 item

Folder 15  Ephemerata: Jerome Bureau of Mines [newsletter] (1917)  1 item

Folder 16  Ephemerata: Direct mail (1917-1929)  4 items

Folder 17  Ephemerata: Nickel Steel: Data and Applications [approximately 1917]  3 items

Folder 18  Ephemerata: Miscellaneous (including photostats) (1922)  4 items

Folder 19  Ephemerata: The American Machinist [photostats] [1922]  1 item

Folder 20  Ephemerata: The American Magazine: A Ghostly Knock That Spoiled an Expensive Record [photostats] [1922]  1 item

Folder 21  Ephemerata: Insurance Bulletin: Insurance Department Chamber of Commerce of the United States (1926)  3 items
| Folder 22 | Ephemera: American Cyanamid Company: Recent Developments in Flotation and Cyanidation of Precious Metal Ores (1932) | 1 item |
| Folder 23 | [undated] Ephemera: Empty envelope | 1 item |
| Folder 24 | Ephemera: General Electric Company: Advice Regarding the Placing of Orders [photostats] [undated] | 1 item |
| Folder 25 | Ephemera: The Ohio Brass Co., Mansfield Ohio [undated] | 1 item |