American Smelting & Refining Company. Tacoma Smelter records

Finding aid prepared by Gina C Giang.
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Descriptive Summary
Title: American Smelting & Refining Company. Tacoma Smelter records
Dates: 1915-1928
Collection Number: mssTacomarecords
Creator: American Smelting and Refining Company. Tacoma Smelter
Extent: 75 items in 1 box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection of photographs and retention letters deals with the Tacoma Smelter in Ruston, Washington, that when finally closed in 1985, was one of the largest Superfund sites in America.
Language of Material: The records are in English.
Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following web site .
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Tacoma Smelting Plant and American Smelting & Refinery records, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
Purchased from Ken Sanders Rare Books, January 2015.
Historical Note
The American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) plant located in Tacoma, Washington was originally the Ryan Smelter, a lead-refining company, established by Dennis Ryan in 1887. William R. Rust (1850-1928) purchased the site in 1889 and changed the name to the Tacoma Smelting and Refining Company. In 1905, Rust sold the plant for $5.5 million to ASARCO, which converted the lead-refining plant to copper smelting and refining. The Tacoma smelter also produced arsenic trioxide, sulfuric acid and precious metals throughout most of the 20th century.
The ASARCO Tacoma plant was declared a Superfund site in 1983 and was demolished on January 17, 1993.
Scope and Content
There are 46 8"x10" black and white photographs (three are duplicates) of the expansion of the plant and the construction of the smokestack. All of the photos but two are identified and date between1915 to 1917.
The retention copies primarily consist of correspondence between H.Y. Walter, who was the manager of the Tacoma plant, and Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr., who was a mining magnate in Salt Lake City, Utah. The subject matter concerns business operations including negotiating rates and offering quotes to the White Caps Mining Company. The dates of the correspondence range from 1907 to 1928 (bulk 1919-1923).
Personal Names
Walker, H.Y.
Newhouse, Edgar L., Jr.
Corporate Names
American Smelting and Refining Company. Tacoma Smelter
Boston Consolidated Mining Company
Hedley Gold Mining Company
Tacoma Smelting Company
White Caps Mining Company

Subjects
Arsenic
Copper
Electrometallurgy
Metallurgical plants--Design and construction
Mines and mineral resources--Washington (State)
Smelting
Smelting furnaces

Geographic Areas
Tacoma (Wash.)--History

Genre
Correspondence (letters)
Photographs

Box 1
Photographs and correspondence
Folder 1  Tacoma Plant #158: Herreshoff Roasters (1915, Dec. 1)
Folder 2  Tacoma Plant #215: Tank House Interior (1915, Oct. 1)
Folder 3  Tacoma Plant #231: Tank House (1915, Oct. 30)
Folder 4  Tacoma Plant #289: Power House Building (1916, Jan. 20)
Folder 5  Tacoma Plant #295: Interior Roaster, Brick Work Starters (1916, Jan. 20)
Folder 6  Tacoma Plant #303: Interior Roaster (1916, Jan. 30)
Folder 7  Tacoma Plant #310: Casting House Building (1916, Feb. 19)
Folder 8  Tacoma Plant #311: Roaster & Dust Chambers Fan & Drives (1916, Feb. 19)
          Included: Duplicate
Folder 9  Tacoma Plant #313: Conveyor to Roaster & Dust Chambers (1916, Feb. 19)
Folder 10 Tacoma Plant #315: Top of Reverb Furnace (1916, Feb. 19)
Folder 11 Tacoma Plant #317: Interior of casting furnace (1916, Feb. 16
Folder 12 Tacoma Plant #319: Interior Power House (1916, Mar. 1)
Folder 13 Tacoma Plant #321: Reverb Bldg. (1916, Mar. 1)
          Included: Duplicate
Folder 14 Tacoma Plant #323: Yard Craneway (1916, Mar. 1)
Folder 15 Tacoma Plant #322: Main Flue Dust Chambers (1916, Mar. 1)
Folder 16 Tacoma Plant #324: Top of Reverb, Tracks (1916, Mar. 1)
Folder 17 Tacoma Plant #326: Oil Burners to Reverb Furnace (1916, Mar. 1)
          Included: Duplicate
Folder 18 Tacoma Plant #327: Oil Burners to Casting Furnace (1916, Mar. 1)
Folder 19 Tacoma Plant #328: Interior of Reverb Furnace (1916, Mar. 5)
Folder 20 Tacoma Plant #332: Installing 60 ton Converter Crane (1916, Mar. 5)
Folder 21 Tacoma Plant #329: Tracks under Roaster & Dust Chambers (1916, Mar. 10)
Folder 22 Tacoma Plant #330: Interior of Power House (1916, Mar. 10)
Folder 23 Tacoma Plant #331: Interior of Casting House (1916, Mar. 10)
Folder 24 Tacoma Smelting Company: Converter Flue Extension (1917, May 1)
Folder 25 Tacoma Smelting Company: New 2000 Ton Refinery (1917, May 1)
          Note: Exterior photograph
Folder 26
Tacoma Smelting Company: New 2000 Ton Refinery (1917, May 1)
Note: Interior photograph

Folder 27
Tacoma Smelting Company: Ditch For Cut-off Wall-25' x 550' Stack (1917, May 1)
Folder 28
Tacoma Smelting Company: Excavation for 25' x 550' Chimney (1917, May 1)
Folder 29
Tacoma Plant: 25' x 550' Chimney Excavation (1917, May 10)
Folder 30
Tacoma Plant: Reinforcement for 25' x 550' Chimney Foundation, View #2 (1917, May 19)

Folder 31
Tacoma Plant: Extension to Copper Casting Bldg. (1917, June 1)
Folder 32
Tacoma Plant: Club House (1917, June 1)
Folder 33
Foundation-25' x 550' Stacks Tacoma Plant (1917, June 25)
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Tacoma Plant: Casting Building #A1 (1917, Aug. 1)
Folder 35
Tacoma Plant: Power House Extension #A2 (1917, Aug. 1)
Folder 36
Tacoma Plant: Club House #A3 (1917, Aug. 4)
Folder 37
Tacoma Plant: 550' Stack (1917, Aug. 4)
Folder 38
Tacoma Plant: 25' x 571' Chimney (1917, Aug. 1)
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Tacoma Plant: Power House Extension (1917, Oct. 1)
Folder 40
Tacoma Plant: Nickel Crystallization Plant (1917, Oct. 1)
Folder 41
Tacoma Plant: Refinery Tank House Interior Showing Tanks
Folder 42
Photographs of unidentified mill equipment
2 photographs

Folder 43
Morse, Willard S. letter to C.W. Whitley (1907, Dec. 18)
With enclosure

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Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1919, Dec. 5)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1920, Jan. 8)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1920, Jan. 16)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to John G. Kirchen (1920, Feb. 17)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1920, Mar. 24)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to F.M. Manson (1920, Mar. 26)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to J.M. Bidwell (1920, Apr. 9)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1920, June 1)
Folder 61
Barker, R.F. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1923, May 1)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to B.N. Rickard (1923, May 23)
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Walker, H.Y. letter to B.N. Rickard (1923, Sep. 7)
Folder 64
Walker, H.Y. to John G. Kirchen (1923, Sep. 14)
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Folder 66
Newhouse, Edgar L. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1923, Nov. 8)
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Newhouse, Edgar L. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1923, Nov. 8)
Folder 68
Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1923, Nov. 14)
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Beyer, L.C. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1923, Dec. 6)
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Folder 71
Walker, H.Y. letter to Edgar L. Newhouse, Jr. (1924, May 27)
Folder 72
Barker, R.F. letter to B.N. Rickard (1924, Aug. 5)
Folder 73
Walker, H.Y. letter to H.A. Guess (1925, Aug. 13)
With enclosure
CONTAINER LIST

Folder 74  Walker, H.Y. letter to R.F. McElvenny (1928, July 31)
Folder 75  Walker, H.Y. letter to R.F. McElvenny (1928, July 31)