Register of the Oenn Chemical Works (Campo Seco, Calif.) Assay Records, 1912-1919

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Collection number: Mss14

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Oenn Chemical Works (Campo Seco, Calif.) Assay Records,
Date (inclusive): 1912-1919
Collection number: Mss14
Creator:
Extent: 0.5 linear ft.
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
Stockton, CA 95211
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Oenn Chemical Works (Campo Seco, Calif.) Assay Records, Mss14, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Biography
Campo Seco, eight miles southwest of Mokelumne Hill in Calaveras County prospered briefly as a gold mining camp (1850-1860), but in later years was known principally for its production of copper and zinc, most notably from the Penn Mine. In 1887 the Penn Chemical Co. acquired a mining site and erected a smelter (1899) which served the Penn mines through 1919. The smelter was equipped with a crushing and grinding plant, eight roasting furnaces and a blast furnace. The smelter was shut down and dismantled when the price of copper declined following World War I. Gross returns from the smelting operation exceeded $7 million.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of pages of unbound printed forms on which daily assay samples are recorded, giving the percentages of copper, iron, etc. in each sample. Since the period covered by these records includes the World War I years, the data displayed may show an increase in mining activity in response to war needs.
BOX 1: DAILY ASSAY RECORD
Vol. 1 Jan. 20, 1912 - Mar. 7, 1914 (100 pp.)
Vol. 2 Jan. 3, 1914 - Feb. 29, 1916 (100 pp.)
Vol. 3 Feb. 29, 1916 - May 19, 1918 (100 pp.)
Vol. 4 Mar. 26, 1917 - Aug. 28, 1918 (42 pp.)
Vol. 5 May 20, 1918 - Mar. 29, 1919 (22 pp.)