
William Palmer Papers

Finding aid prepared by Gina C Giang.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Manuscripts Department

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Willam Palmer Papers

Dates: 1879-1932

Collection Number: mssPalmerpapers

Creator: Palmer, William Roy

Extent: 305 items in 3 boxes

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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.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. William Palmer Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

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

in Vermont. 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](#).

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

Business records
Deeds
Diagrams
Financial records
Legal documents
Letters (correspondence)
Notes
Price lists
Printed ephemera

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

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 Lislle 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
Folder 11	Maps and tracts: United Verde Copper Company [photostats] (1913-1916) 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 9	Surveys (documents): The Columbia Graphophone Mfg. Company: An Administrative Survey of its Organization and Methods together with a Review and Forecast of its Financial Conditions (1921) 1 item
Folder 10	Ephemera: Engineering News: Design of Standard (1913) 1 item
Folder 11	Ephemera: Arizona State Bureau of Mines [bulletin] (1915-1916) 1 item
Folder 12	Ephemera: Jerome-Portland Copper Mining Company (1916-1917) 2 items
Folder 13	Ephemera: George Graham Rice's Industrial and Mining Age [newspaper] (1917) 1 item
Folder 14	Ephemera: Green Monster Mining Company [notices] (1917) 1 item
Folder 15	Ephemera: Jerome Bureau of Mines [newsletter] (1917) 1 item
Folder 16	Ephemera: Direct mail (1917-1929) 4 items
Folder 17	Ephemera: Nickel Steel: Data and Applications [approximately 1917] 3 items
Folder 18	Ephemera: Miscellaneous (including photostats) (1922) 4 items
Folder 19	Ephemera: The American Machinist [photostats] [1922] 1 item
Folder 20	Ephemera: The American Magazine: A Ghostly Knock That Spoiled an Expensive Record [photostats] [1922] 1 item
Folder 21	Ephemera: Insurance Bulletin: Insurance Department Chamber of Commerce of the United States (1926) 3 items

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| 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 |