

MS  
Coll  
217

Hunter Rose Papers

1

Letters patent, minute books, stock certificates, balance sheets, correspondence, and miscellaneous material relating to the Hunter Rose Company and associated companies. ca. 1874-1977.

Extent: 17 boxes and items: 9 linear feet/2.74 metres.  
Gift of the Hunter Rose Company, September 1983.

E. Hulse  
May 1986

### **Chronology**

1861-1895	Hunter, Rose and Company (partnership)
1895-1948	The Hunter, Rose Company (Limited) (incorporated company)
1948-1965	The Hunter Rose Co. Limited (owned by Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons (Canada))
1965-1981	The Hunter Rose Company (a division of Copp Clark Limited, later Copp Clark Pitman)
1981-1983	The Hunter Rose Company Ltd. (owned by a group of employees)

Other associated companies, owned wholly or in part by George Maclean Rose and his family:

1878-1882?	The Rose Belford Publishing Company Limited
1883-1894	Rose Publishing Company (partnership; later Rose Publishing Company, Limited, an incorporated company)
1888	Canadian Bookseller Company
1891-?	Canadian Biographical Publishing Company (partnership)
1895-1901	G.M. Rose and Sons (partnership; later incorporated as The G.M. Rose and Sons Company Limited)

### Chronology

- 1860 (1 Jan.) Samuel Thompson begins five-year contract as legislative printer to the Province of Canada in Quebec City. George Maclean Rose, manager of the printing office, and Robert Hunter, accountant. (10 June) Thompson & Co. (Samuel Thompson and Hugh C. Thomson) dissolved.
- 1861 (By April) Robert Hunter becomes principal owner of Thompson's printing office; Thompson, Hunter & Co. enters into a sub-contract with Thompson to carry out the balance of his contract as legislative printer. (By Dec.) Thompson withdraws from the business; it becomes Hunter, Rose & Co. (Robert Hunter, George Maclean Rose, François Lemieux; company name sometimes appears as "Hunter, Rose & Lemieux"). New company prints government documents "for the Contractors" for the balance of Thompson's contract.
- 1864 Hunter, Rose & Co. successfully bids in its own name on a new five-year contract as legislative printers to the Province of Canada; to begin 1 Jan. 1865.
- 1865/66 Capital of the Province transferred to Ottawa; company moves its printing office in late 1865 or early 1866.
- 1868 (11 July) Hunter Rose signs a ten-year contract with the Province of Ontario to do all government printing and binding; company opens a Toronto office at 86 King Street West under the management of Robert Hunter
- 1870 François Lemieux withdraws from the partnership.
- 1871 Following the completion of the federal contract, Ottawa office closed and business consolidated in Toronto.
- 1875 Company moves to new building at 25 Wellington Street West.
- 1876 Company wins a medal at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.
- 1877 (15 May) Death of Robert Hunter; GMR becomes sole owner of the business.
- 1878 (8 April) Rose Belford Publishing Co. incorporated; GMR, Robert James Belford, John Ginty, and other investors. This company located at 60 York Street until 1879. (1 May) GMR's brother Daniel Rose becomes a partner in Hunter Rose.  
Hunter Rose wins a medal at the Exposition universelle et internationale in Paris.
- 1879 Rose-Belford launches the Rose Library, first of several series of cheap reprints. (6 Feb.) GMR and the Belfords separate; the publishing business carried on as "Rose-Belford" at 25 Wellington Street West until 1882.
- 1881 (30 Dec.) Award of arbitrator in Hunter Rose's dispute with the Government of Ontario over payment for work done under its 1868-78 contract.
- 1883 Rose Publishing Co., successor to Rose-Belford, registered as a partnership as of 1 May: GMR, Daniel Rose, GMR's son Daniel Alexander Rose, partners.

- 1880s      Rose Publishing Co. carries on an active publishing program: the two-volume *Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography* (1886-88), edited by GMR, and other important works published.
- 1889      (13 Dec.) Rose Publishing Co. to be “carried on as an incorporated company.”
- 1894      (Jan.) Failure of the Rose Publishing Co.
- 1895      (10 Jan.) Building on Wellington Street damaged by fire.  
(10 July) Hunter Rose incorporated as “The Hunter, Rose Company (Limited)”: GMR, president and Dan A. Rose and Atwell Fleming, managers.  
(1 Nov.) G.M. Rose & Sons established: GMR sole owner.
- 1898      (10 Feb.) Death of GMR.  
(27 April) G.M. Rose & Sons incorporated as “The G.M. Rose and Sons Company”: GMR’s Sons Daniel Alexander, Robert Hunter, and Frederick Wetherall, his daughter Jessie Georgie Campbell, James Francis Stokes, investors.  
(11 July) Dan. A Rose becomes president of Hunter Rose; Atwell Fleming, vice-president.  
(By July) Hunter Rose moves to the Temple Building, 62-76 Richmond Street West.
- 1901      G.M. Rose & Sons Co. dissolved.
- 1902      (Oct.) Dan A. Rose resigns as president and joint manager of Hunter Rose; Atwell Fleming becomes president George Maclean Rose, junior, secretary-treasurer.
- 1904      (28 June) George Maclean Rose, junior, becomes president and manager.
- 1908      (By May) Company moves to a new five-storey building at 12-14 Sheppard Street.
- 1909      Company buys its first case-making machine.
- 1920      (27 Sept.) Supplementary letters patent increasing the Company’s capital stock from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- 1928      (18 Dec.) Fred W. Rose becomes president.
- 1930      Hunter Rose sets a Canadian record with the printing and binding of John Henderson’s *Howard Ferguson* (Macmillan of Canada) in six days.
- 1934      (8 Nov.) George Gordon Smithers, son-in-law of Fred W. Rose, becomes vice-president.
- 1947      Death of Fred W. Rose.  
(7 May) Smithers becomes president.
- 1948      (25 Nov.) Business sold to Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons (Canada). Re-incorporated as “The Hunter Rose Co. Limited” under letters patent dated 23 Nov.; share capital, \$200,000. New company takes over as of 1 Dec. 1948.

- 1949 Arthur Derham Pointing becomes president.
- 1953 Work begins on a new building at 125 Bermondsey Road in North York.
- 1954 (March) Company moves into Bermondsey building.
- 1956 (May) Establishment of mobile division to do racetrack printing at Woodbine and Fort Erie.
- 1957-58 Addition to Bermondsey Building.
- 1960 Rowland John Blacker becomes president.  
(22 Dec.) Company celebrates its hundredth anniversary.
- 1960-61 Second addition to Bermondsey building.
- 1962 Further addition to building.
- 1965 (1 April) Hunter Rose enters into an amalgamation agreement with The Copp Clark Publishing Co. Limited, becoming a division of "Copp Clark Limited" (later Copp Clark Pitman).
- 1974 Hunter Rose wins 9 out of 36 awards at the "Look of Books/Les plus beaux livres", sponsored by Design Canada.
- 1977 Special "Jacket Spotlight" award at the "Look of Books".
- 1978 Certificate of excellence at Chicago '78.
- 1981 (June) Hunter Rose is sold to a group of employees, Copp Clark Pitman retaining a minority interest in the company.
- 1983 (Sept.) The Hunter Rose Company goes into receivership and business is wound up.

## Scope

Only a small part of the Company's archives has survived. The most important group of documents is a series of minute books covering the period 1895, when the Company was first incorporated, to 1948, when it was sold to Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons (Canada). Also of special interest is a confidential report written by Brown Chamberlin, the federal Queen's Printer, who was appointed in 1881 to arbitrate the Company's dispute with the Government of Ontario over payment for work done under its 1868-78 contract. A detailed balance sheet dated 31 March 1894 outlines the Company's assets after the failure of the associated Rose Publishing Company. Through surviving stock books and transfer certificates, it is possible to trace the ownership of the company until the sale to Pitman.

Two boxes of correspondence and other material document the construction of the Company's building on Bermondsey Road in North York (1953-54) and additions (1957-58, 1960-61, and 1962). A small group of items--telegrams, certificates, programs--relate to the Company's centennial celebrations in December 1960. The high quality of its work throughout its history is indicated by several silver or bronze medals from the nineteenth century and certificates of excellence and other awards from Chicago '78 and the "Look of Books" (Design Canada).

With the Hunter Rose Papers, the Library received some three hundred books printed and/or published by Hunter Rose and associated companies. As this collection represented only a small part of the Company's output and many of the books appeared to have been acquired recently, the collection was dispersed through the Library, but a list is available in the Manuscript File.

A biography of George Maclean Rose (1829-1898) appears in volume XII of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*; a copy of the typescript is filed in the Manuscript File. Also available are copies of two articles: E. Hulse, "The Hunter Rose Company: A Brief History," written for the *Devil's Artisan* and Hamish Cameron, "Declining Sales Bankrupt Hunter Rose," *Quill & Quire*, Nov. 1983

## Container List

- Box 1                   A. Letters patent and by-laws for Hunter Rose and associated companies
- The Hunter, Rose Company, 27 Sept. 1920 (supplementary)  
                          The Hunter Rose Co. Limited, 23 Nov. 1948  
                          by-laws (two versions, both undated)  
                          The Rose Belford Publishing Company, 8 April 1878  
                          The G.M. Rose and Sons Company, 27 April 1898
- B. Cash book, minute books, miscellaneous records
- Box 2                   Cash book, 1 May 1879 - 31 Dec. 1887
- Box 3                   Minute books: no. 1, 24 April 1895 - 27 Feb. 1913  
  no. 2, 13 June 1913 - 25 May 1922  
  no. 3, 9 June 1922 - 21 Nov. 1928
- Box 4                                   no. 4, 14 Dec. 1928 - 5 March 1931  
  no. 5, 21 April 1931 - 11 Feb. 1949  
                          Miscellaneous records (one volume)
- C. Stock certificates, transfers, debentures
- Box 5                   Stock book, certificates no. 52-148  
                          Transfer book, no. 1-[38]
- Box 6                   Miscellaneous stock certificates, transfers, powers of attorney  
                          Debentures
- Box 7                   D. Balances sheets for the years: 1894, 1896, 1898, 1913-1914, 1921, 1927-  
                          1935, 1937-1948
- Box 8                   E. Government of Ontario and Hunter, Rose & Co., Award of arbitrator, 30  
                          Dec. 1881
- F. Hunter, Rose Company (Limited) and Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons (Canada)  
                          Limited:
- Agreement for sale, 12 Nov. 1948.  
                          Indenture adopting agreement for sale, 25 Nov. 1948  
                          Cash received re sale of business, 1948-1949  
                          List of dividends declared, 1903-1946
- G. Material relating to annual meetings (mostly post-1948)
- Managers report, 18 Nov. 1949  
                          Notices of annual meetings, 1949-1964 (incomplete)

H. Correspondence, etc.

Box 9

Anthony Trollope to HR, 9 July 1874  
Cassels & Standish to HR re by-laws, 3 May 1898  
Bond and Smith to HR, 26 Oct. 1906

Correspondence and other material relating to the building and equipment at  
125 Bermondsey Road

**Note:** all material arranged chronologically except for architect's bulletins,  
change orders, and progress certificates and builder's progress estimates,  
which are arranged in separate series by number.

1952 - 1959

Box 10

1960 - 1962

Toronto Board of Trade, report re printing of the *Journal* in 1956  
Hugh Taylor to R.J. Blacker re employment at HR, 27 Aug. 1957  
Correspondence and other material re purchase of the Mirror Offset Company  
Limited of Newmarket, Nov. 1957

Box 11

I. Material re racetrack printing  
J. Centennial celebrations, 22 Dec. 1960

Box 12

K. Pictorial material  
L. Type specimen books

Box 13

M. Advertisements, brochures, awards.

Box 14

N. Sample bindings

Item 15

Local discount bills registry (Blank sample)

Item 16

Hunter Rose challenge cup

Box 17

Oversize material

Mapcase

Oversize material

Boxes 18-20

Medals