

U DHS

**Records of Horsley Smith
and Co Ltd**

1871-1968

Historical background:

Joseph Henry Horsley (1850-1917) was the only surviving son of Henry Palmer Horsley and his wife Sarah Hick and Alexander Smith (1849-1927) was the fifth son of John Smith and Eleanor Cochran. They were both apprenticed to Bryson, Jameson and Co. when they began setting up a partnership in 1871. They leased land and offices from Hull Dock Company at Queen's Dock and then Victoria Dock from 1873. They imported all kinds of timber largely for the building trade and ship building and they continued to expand their premises, leasing more land in 1891.

In 1901 the business was officially sold for over £160,000 to become a limited company. However, it remained very much a family affair. Three of Joseph Henry Horsley's sons were governing directors after his death in 1917 and through to their own deaths in the 1930s. His daughter, Lucy Adelaide Horsley (1879-1957) married Alexander Smith's son, Alexander Alec-Smith (1877-1952), who was director of the company from 1901 to 1952 and chairman from 1927 to 1952. His own son, Rupert Alexander Alec-Smith was briefly a director and he is chiefly remembered for founding the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire and attempting to preserve Georgian buildings and fittings in Hull and the East Riding especially in the post-war period. His papers are at DAS and DAS/29/73-5 comprises six plans of the premises of Horsley Smith and Co in 1887. Alexander Smith's two other sons were also directors; one of them, Douglas Main Smith acting in this capacity from 1927 to 1938. Horsley family involvement with the firm continued into the next generation with two of Joseph Henry Horsley's grandchildren sitting on the board at different times. Derek Palmer Horsley was chairman from 1952 to 1967.

Horsley Smith and Co specialised in softwood and during the 1930s did a lot of trade with Russia. The firm also branched out, forming a company in London in 1926 and increasing their ties with J A Hewetson and Co. Ltd., a flooring firm, in the same year, so becoming involved in the hardwood trade as well. During the second world war and for seven years after the company was subject to controls and quotas, but in 1952 the firm returned purely to private business. In 1964 the company went public and changed its name to Horsley Smith Group Ltd. In 1968 it merged with Jewson and Sons Ltd. to become Horsley, Smith and Jewson Ltd. and in 1969 the last remaining timber stocks were cleared from Victoria Dock after almost one hundred years on the same site.

Custodial History:

Deposited by International Timber Softwoods Ltd., Hedon Road, Hull, 5 September 1978

Description:

The records of this timber firm cover almost one hundred years of the operation of Horsley Smith and Co. Ltd. in Hull. The earliest records in the collection are tenancy agreements with the Hull Dock Company and some correspondence related to the firm's tenancy on land on the north side of Queen's Dock and the south side of

Victoria Dock. The 1872 deed of partnership between Joseph Henry Horsley and Alexander Smith is in the collection as well as an 1888 note of a conversation between the two men. There is also the partnership account book 1872-1900 and other banking papers. The 1901 sale documents for the company are in the collection and post-1901 records include minute books of directors' meetings 1901-1950, details of dividends and investments from 1901 as well as the share ledger and register of members 1901-1939 and a bank book covering the same decades. In addition there is material on Russian timber shipment and prices, a number of papers related to the retirement and pension of J Fletcher and a copy of an article by I M Horsley on the company dated 1968.

Extent: 6 boxes (1 linear metre)

Related Material:

Papers of Rupert Alec-Smith [U DAS]

Photographs deposited by Col. Alec-Smith [C DFA]

Access Conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DHS/1	Minute Book of Director's Meetings and General Meetings 1 volume	Jun 1901- Oct 1913
U DHS/2	Minute Book of Director's Meetings and General Meetings 1 volume	Oct 1913- Feb 1923
U DHS/3	Minute Book of Director's Meetings and General Meetings 1 volume	Apr 1924- Jul 1933
U DHS/4	Minute Book of Director's Meetings and General Meetings 1 volume	Aug 1933- May 1950
U DHS/5	Minute Book of Group Capital Investment Committee 1 volume	May 1949- Aug 1959
U DHS/6	Minute Book of Group Capital Investment Committee 1 volume	Dec 1959- Mar 1966

Hull History Centre: Records of Horsley Smith and Co Ltd

U DHS/7	Minutes of Statutory Meeting, 30 August 1901 With Dividend Statement, 31 May 1902 2 items	30 Aug 1901- 31 May 1902
U DHS/8	Share Ledger and Register of Members 1 volume	Jun 1901- Jun 1939
U DHS/9	Tenancy Agreement: Hull Dock Co. to Horsley, Smith and Co. Land on North side of Queen's Dock, Hull 1 item	19 Jun [1864?]
U DHS/10	Tenancy Agreement: Hull Dock Co. to Horsley, Smith and Co. Land on North side of Queen's Dock, Hull 1 item	23 Oct 1871
U DHS/11	Tenancy Agreement: Hull Dock Co. to Horsley, Smith and Co. Land on South side of Victoria Dock, Hull 1 item	21 Jul 1873
U DHS/12	Tenancy Agreement: Hull Dock Co. to Horsley, Smith and Co. Land on South side of Victoria Dock, Hull 1 item	23 Apr 1874
U DHS/13	Tenancy Agreement: Hull Dock Co. to Horsley, Smith and Co. Land on North side of Queen's Dock, Hull 1 item	30 Jun 1891
U DHS/14	Order Book 1 volume	1898-1899
U DHS/15	Order Book 1 volume	1902-1903
U DHS/16	Letter: Hull Dock Co. to Alexander Smith Offering tenancy on North side of Queen's Dock 1 item	20 Jun 1871
U DHS/17	Agreement for sale: for £190: James Walker timber merchant and Alexander Smith, clerk, both of Hull Building and yard on North side of Queen's Dock used as timber yard 1 item	21 Jun 1871
U DHS/18	Deed of Partnership: Joseph Henry Horsley and Alexander Smith of Hull, timber merchants 1 item	23 Jan 1872

U DHS/19	Partnership Account Book 1 volume	1872-1900
U DHS/20	Draft Deed of Partnership: Joseph Henry Horsley and Alexander Smith 1 item	1886
U DHS/21	Copy. Note by J.H. Horsley on a conversation with Alexander Smith 1 item	23 Mar 1888
U DHS/22	Copy. Agreement for sale: for £161,310 19s 1d: J.H. Horsley and Alexander Smith to Horsley, Smith and Co. Ltd. The business 1 item	22 Jun 1901
U DHS/23	Pass book of Horsley, Smith and Co. at the Hull branch of the Bank of England 1 volume	1901-1935
U DHS/24	Letter: J.A. Hewetson and Co. to Horsley, Smith and Co. Accepting offer of tenancy in Dansom Lane 1 item	27 Sep 1905
U DHS/25	Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account 1 item	31 Dec 1926
U DHS/26	Employers' Return. Income Tax Schedule E 1 item	5 Apr 1829
U DHS/27	Agreement of shipment of redwood and whitewood from Russia Between (i) Churchill and Sim; Pharaoh, Gane and Co.; and Foy, Morgan and Co. ("The Brokers"); (ii) Russian Wood Agency ("The Exporters") and (iii) Horsley, Smith and Co. ("The Wharfingers") 1 item	27 May 1930
U DHS/28	Letter: W.B. Clayton to Mr. Smith Thanks for Christmas gifts to workmen 1 item	31 Dec 1934
U DHS/29	Schedule of prices of Russian timber 1 item	1939
U DHS/30	Circular letters from R.L. Davy: fund for presentation to J. Fletcher on his retirement Specifically, documents are dated 31 May and 23 June 1 bundle	31 May-23 Jun 1939

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U DHS/31	Memorandum: Hine Ltd. 1 item	30 Sep 1943
U DHS/32	Memorandum: R.L. Davy to A. Alec-Smith: cheque signatories 1 item	29 Jul 1946
U DHS/33	Memorandum: R.L. Davy to A. Alec-Smith: acceptance credits 1 item	17 Sep 1947
U DHS/34	Memorandum by R.L. Davy: "D" company 1 item	7 Oct 1947
U DHS/35	Papers relating to the Citadel estate planning enquiry and rebuilding there 1 bundle	1947-1949
U DHS/36	Letter: Midland Bank to R.L. Davy Overdraft facilities 1 item	19 Dec 1947
U DHS/37	Trust Deed and Rules of Pension Scheme 1 item	8 May 1949
U DHS/38	Letter: R.L. Davy to A.D.C. Smith Pension of J. Fletcher and J.H.S. 1 item	7 Jan 1954
U DHS/39	Copy. Article by I.M. Horsley on Horsley, Smith and Co. With memorandum to A.D.C. Smith 2 items	13 Nov 1968