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WESTEEL-ROSCO

MG 28, III 78

Finding Aid No. 1112 / Instrument de recherche no 1112

Prepared by Dan Moore  
Economic and Scientific  
Archives in 1979 and  
revised in 1984.

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WESTEEL-ROSCO (est. 1852)

Originals, n.d., 1885-1958. 38 cm. Photocopies, n.d., 1943-1977. 15 cm.  
Finding Aid No. 1112.

Westeel-Rosco had its roots in several nineteenth century Canadian sheet metal fabricating companies. In 1852 George Washington Reed, an American who was a slater by trade, set up the first known sheet metal company in Montreal. In 1930, he was bought out by Western Steel Products. The Metallic Roofing Company, established in 1886, manufactured metal roofing, sidings, ceilings and other architectural components. In 1899, a group of contractors formed the Roofers Supply Company in order to reduce costs by making bulk purchasers from their British and American suppliers. The immediate success of the company led to expansion in major cities throughout Canada. Considerable growth in Western Canada led to the development of several sheet metal firms which eventually merged to form Western Steel Products. In 1945, the name of the company was changed to Westeel Products Limited. Westeel Products took over Rosco (formerly the Roofers Supply Company) in 1966. A detailed history of mergers in the sheet metal industry is found in volume 3 of the collection. Both companies handled a wide range of metal products which included fire-proof doors, fire escapes, culverts, prefabricated metal buildings, farm buildings and equipment, bins, lockers, and various expanded metal products. These products were manufactured in several Canadian cities or imported. They were installed in Canada and in countries around the world. The Metallic Roofing company gained an international reputation after winning gold medals at the Paris Exhibition in 1900 and subsequent World Fairs. Their products had a major impact on architecture and methods of building as they were a durable and economical way of achieving the desired ornateness which had become prohibitively expensive in the labour intensive wood and plaster products.

Presented in 1978 by Westeel-Rosco Limited, Toronto, Ontario. An additional trade catalogue was presented in 1984 by Dana Johnson, Ottawa, Ontario.

About 100 photographs were transferred to the National Photography Collection. They include photographs of Rosco decking and siding installations across Canada and of plant interiors showing employees operating Rosco's sheet metal production machinery. For photographs of product samples for industrial exhibitions and trade fairs between 1897 and 1902 see the ledger in volume one, file six.

Finding Aid No. 1112 is a detailed file list.

Trade catalogues, price lists, n.d., 1890, 1897-1928. 18 cm (volumes 1, 3).  
Records pertaining to pressed metal roofing, sidings, ceilings and decorative components for a variety of buildings: residential, commercial, agricultural, and ecclesiastical.

-iii-

MG 28  
III 78

WESTEEL-ROSCO (est. 1852)

Business records, n.d., 1885-1977. 35 cm (volumes 2-3).

The Metallic Roofing Company material includes correspondence, ledger, journal, stock book, employee's salary records and Quarter Century Club records. Also miscellaneous pamphlets leaflets and promotional material for Westeel and Rosco.

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Economic/Scientific Archives

WESTEEL-ROSCO

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| <u>Volume</u> | <u>File No.</u> | <u>Subject</u>   | <u>Dates</u>   |
|---------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 1             | 1               | Western Steel Products for Modern Buildings Illustrating and Describing Westeel Products, Winnipeg. Catalogue No. 828. (Cancels Nos. 215, 216).                    | n.d.           |
|               | 2               | The Metallic Roofing Company of Canada, Toronto. Metal Tiles, Shingles, Sidings etc. Catalogue "B".  | n.d.           |
|               | 3               | The Metallic Roofing Company, Toronto. Architectural Sheet Metal Building Materials. Catalogue "S".  | n.d.           |
|               | 4               | The Metallic Roofing Company, Toronto. Metallic Roofing Shingles, Tiles, Siding, etc. Catalogue "Y".   | n.d.           |
|               | 5               | The Metallic Roofing Company, Toronto and Winnipeg. Cornices, Skylights, Ventilators, Finials, etc. Catalogue "Z".   | n.d.           |
|               | 6               | The Metallic Roofing Company. Product Samples for Industrial Exhibitions and Trade Fairs. Ledger.  | 1897-1902      |
|               | 7               | The Metallic Roofing Company of Canada, Toronto. Catalogue "A" Sheet Metal Building Products. (Includes Corrections).  | 1904           |
|               | 8               | The Metallic Roofing Company, Toronto and Winnipeg. Metallic Ceilings and Wall Materials. Catalogue "H".   | 1912           |
|               | 9               | The Metallic Roofing Company, Toronto and Winnipeg. Catalogue R 2 of "Metallic" Building Materials for Outside Use Including the Famous "Eastlake" Steel Shingles. | 1912           |
|               | 10              | The Metallic Roofing Company, Toronto. "Metallic" Ceiling and Wall Finish. (See Catalogue H). Price List No. 14.   | January, 1912. |

| <u>Volume</u> | <u>File No.</u> | <u>Subject</u>  | <u>Dates</u>      |
|---------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| 1<br>(cont'd) | 11              | The Metallic Shingle and Siding Company Limited, Associated with the A.B. Ormsby Company Limited. PRESTON. Sheet Metal Building Material. Catalogue No. 28. | May 1, 1926       |
|               | 12              | Westeel, Winnipeg. Ceiling and Wall Materials. Price List No. 828.  | February 1, 1928. |
|               | 13              | Westeel, Winnipeg. Keystone Copper-Steel Shingles - Sidings - Corrugated Iron Roofing - Trimmings. Price List No. 628.                                      | February 1, 1928. |
|               | 14              | Westeel, Winnipeg. Eavestrough and Conductor Pipe. Price List No. 728.  | February 1, 1928. |
|               | 15              | Westeel, Winnipeg. "Red Bottoms" and Westeel Tanks, Stock Watering Troughs, Tank Heaters, House Tanks Snow Melters, Cisterns. Price List No. 1428.          | April 16, 1928.   |
| 2             | 1               | The Metallic Roofing Company of Canada Limited. Stock Book. Toronto.  | 1885-1900         |
|               | 2               | The Metallic Roofing Company. Inventory of Plant and Machinery and A.R. Williams Valuation Thereof.   | January 25, 1889. |
|               | 3               | The Metallic Roofing Company. Journal.  | 1903-1932         |
|               | 4               | The Metallic Roofing Company. Ledger.   | 1905-1921         |
|               | 5-24            | Westeel Products Limited. National Advertising Campaign. Correspondence, Ads. (20 files).   | 1950.             |
|               | 25              | Rosco. A Record of Tear Sheets, Press Releases, etc. covering Rosco's Name from Roofers Supply Company to Rosco Metal & Roofing Products Limited in 1952.   | 1952              |



| <u>Volume</u> | <u>File No.</u> | <u>Subject</u>  | <u>Dates</u>      |
|---------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| 2<br>(Cont'd) | 26              | Rosco. "Coast to Coast" Vol. 1.<br>No. 3.   | July 1957.        |
|               | 27              | The American Institute of Architects.<br>Standard Filing System and Alphabetical<br>Index. 1957 ed. A.I.A. No. 172. | 1957              |
|               | 28              | Dominion Bridge Company and Rosco.<br>Joint Venture. Package Standard Buildings.<br>Artwork, Copy, Layout.          | 1958              |
|               | 29              | Westeel-Rosco Limited<br>Flexplan. Promotional Brochure.  | n.d.              |
| 3             | 1               | Artistic Metal Ceilings. 1 sheet<br>Vol. 7. Specialities.   | n.d.              |
|               | 2               | Westeel Fire Escapes. 12 pgs.<br>Specialities. A.I.A. file 14-c.  | n.d.              |
|               | 3               | Rosco Mine Specialities. 14 pgs.<br>Specialities.   | n.d.              |
|               | 4               | Westeel Corrugated Iron. "Security"<br>Roofing and Siding Folder. No. W459.   | January,<br>1954. |
|               | 5               | Westeel Corrugated Iron. "Security"<br>Roofing and Siding Folder No. W469.  | April,<br>1954.   |
|               | 6               | Rosco presents 3 Answers to Your<br>Wartime Roofing and Siding Problems.  | n.d.              |
|               | 7               | The Roofers Supply Company Limited.<br>Roofers Improved Plank Truss Barns and<br>other Farm Buildings. 32 pgs.      |                   |
|               | 8               | Rosco. Your Farm in Wartime.<br>Catalogue. 48 pgs.  | n.d.              |
|               | 9               | Rosco. Instruction for Erecting<br>Your Portable Silo. Single Sheet<br>Fold Out. Grain Bins & Portable Silos.       | n.d.              |

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|---------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 3<br>(Cont'd) | 10              | Rosco. Comment Obtenir de Votre Ferme Plus de Fourrage a L'Acre.<br>16 pgs. Grain Bins & Portable Silos.  | n.d.                             |
|               | 11              | Rosco. The Rosco Book of Farm Ideas. 58 pgs. Grain Bins and Portable Silos.   | n.d.                             |
|               | 12              | The Metallic Roofing Company of Canada Limited. Employee Salary Records primarily from the Depression. Correspondence on Wage Rates   | circa<br>1930's                  |
|               | 13              | Quarter Century Club. Employee's Biographies. Reports of Annual Meetings. "The Story of Westeel Products Limited" and brief historical sketches of the following sheet steel companys; Geo. W. Reed & Company Limited, Montreal, Quebec; The Metallic Roofing Company of Canada Limited, Toronto, Ontario; The Winnipeg Ceiling & Roofing Company Limited, Winnipeg, Manitoba; The Sheet Metal Manufacturing Company of Calgary, Alberta; The Edmonton Sheet Metal Works, Edmonton, Alberta; The Pacific Sheet Metal Works, Vancouver, British Columbia; The Metal Shingle and Siding Company Limited, Winnipeg, Calgary and Saskatoon; The A.B. Ormsby Company of Toronto, Ontario; The Hub City Roofing Company, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. | 1943-                            |
|               | 14              | Quarter Century Club. Membership Lists.   | n.d.,<br>1965-1967.<br>1969-1976 |
|               | 15              | Quarter Century Club. "Rosco Metal Products." Brief history, drafts.  | n.d.                             |
|               | 16              | Quarter Century Club. "The Story of Westeel Products Limited" drafts, notes.  | n.d.                             |

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|---------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 3<br>(Cont'd) | 17              | Quarter Century Club.<br>Questionnaire for Employees<br>Biographical Information.<br>Correspondence.   | n.d., 1963,<br>1965, 1970-<br>1977 |
|               | 18-21           | Quarter Century Club.<br>Correspondence. (4 files)   | 1951-1967<br>1976                  |
|               | 22              | Quarter Century Club. The Sub<br>Club. Toronto. Xerox of<br>Miscellaneous photos.  | n.d.                               |
|               |                 | ADDITIONAL MATERIAL  |                                    |
|               | 23              | The Metallic Roofing Company<br>Ltd., Toronto. Illustrated<br>Catalogue of the Eastlake<br>Metallic Shingles, Sheet<br>Steel, Pressed Brick. | 1890                               |
|               | 24              | Publicity Photos   | c. 1955                            |