

H S McCOMB Collection

BOX 1

MTT Notice Papers 1884-1913
MTT Memos 1884, 1912, 1914
MTT Balance sheets 1901-03
MTT General Conditions of Contract
MMTB By-Laws 1-29 (1920-80)

BOX 2

Pre-MMTB Historical Data files:
Essendon, South Melbourne, Footscray TT, FN&PTT, MB&CTT, HTT, P&MTT, Brighton Electric Street Railway, Northcote Council, Box Hill-Doncaster, Zoological Gardens, MT&OCo.

BOX 3

Summary of Tramway Acts 1883-1959

BOX 4

Schedules of Tramways Authorised, Constructed and Operated, and Authorised and Not Constructed.
Annual mileages
Schedules of Tramways Acts
Orders-in-Council relating to Bridges
Schedule of Motor Bus Routes 1930

BOX 5

Consolidation of Tramways Acts 1957-58
Miscellaneous notes on Tramways Acts
Miscellaneous MMTB Specifications – wide variety of topics

BOX 6

Proposal for General Scheme 1922
Report on Traffic Congestion 1919
Various reports from Parliamentary Standing on Railways relating to tramways
Folder – MMTB Tramway Development
Miscellaneous papers

BOX 7

Chronological summary of Orders-in-Council and Acts relating to tramways

BOX 8

MMTB Act 1958 – Index, Schedules, Sections (3 volumes)
Miscellaneous Acts and papers
Two tracings – Essendon lines, and P&MTT lines at 1920

BOX 9

Public Works Department file relating to Victoria Bridge 1911-16
Lists of Orders-in-Council and Tramway Acts
Extracts from Government Gazettes 1885 onward
Tramways Act 1928 and miscellaneous papers

BOX 10

Book of Lengths of Lines and Curves
Three volumes of P&MTT Acts belonging to H S Dix
Various Parliamentary Reports including 1925 Victorian Railways Annual Report
Miscellaneous news cuttings
Map sequence showing tramway development from 1885 onward
Miscellaneous publications (official and privately produced)

BOX 11

MMTB Annual Reports 1920-40 (bound)

BOX 12

MMTB Annual Reports 1941-60 (bound)

BOX 13

MMTB Annual Reports 1959, 1960 (bound) and 1977-82 (loose)

GOODBYE MR McCOMB, M.B.E.

When Howard Spencer McComb died in 1992 at the age of ninety-four he was the Society's senior Fellow, having been elected to this office in 1954. This was just three years after the Society had been given permission to use the prefix 'Royal' in its title. Mr McComb was only the third Fellow of the R.H.S.V., following Mr A. T. Latham and Mr J. K. Moir.

H. S. McComb was born on 22 October 1897 at Box Hill and was the son of a surveyor and sometime Shire Engineer of the Shire of Lilydale, James Henry McComb, and his wife, Emily Hurlstone McComb, nee Cadle. He was the twelfth of thirteen children, and he was born four months after the celebrations throughout the British Empire to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession, and a little more than three years before the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia. The South African War was then in progress. He took a keen interest in religion from the time as a boy he drove with his father, a local preacher, around the circuit in a horse and buggy.

He was educated at Lilydale State School in Castella Street from 1903 to 1910, and then from 1911 to 1912 assisted his father in his duties for the Shire Council. During his long life, Howard McComb played many parts. In 1913-14 he was a scholarship student at the Melbourne Junior Technical School and he gained a Junior Technical School Certificate. Then in 1916-17 he completed a Diploma Course in Municipal Engineering at the Working Men's College, Melbourne (now the R.M.I.T.). He was then appointed Assistant Instructor in Surveying at that College. He was awarded a diploma in April 1919 as an Associate of the College in the Department of Civil Engineering. Then in 1920 he was awarded a certificate of competency by the Surveyor's Board of Victoria and was licensed to practise as a surveyor.

So Howard Spencer McComb had so far followed in the footsteps of his father in matters of technical training and employment. James McComb too had been a member (probably a foundation member) of the Victorian Institute of Surveyors, which was founded in Melbourne on 7 April 1874.

In January 1922 H. S. McComb entered the service of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board as a temporary assistant engineering surveyor. A year later he became the Board's Chief Surveyor, and he retained this appointment until he retired in October 1962, having attained the age of sixty-five years.

In the meantime he had interested himself in many other activities. He was the President of the Victorian Institute of Surveyors from 1931-32 and again from 1942-44. In April 1937 he was elected a Fellow of the Institute. He became in 1939 the Deputy Chairman of the Commonwealth Photogrammetry Committee. From 1943 to 1946 he was a member of the Surveyors' Board of Victoria which under the Victorian Land Surveyors Act 1942 granted certificates and licences to surveyors.

Mr McComb's many interests included that of History. He joined the Historical Society of Victoria in 1937, at the time when it was located at 234 Swanston

Street and when its President was Dr W. A. Sanderson. He was elected to the Council of the Society on 1 August 1942. Later that year, Mr McComb succeeded Augustus Wolskel as President of the Society. His Vice-Presidents were Dr Colin Macdonald and G. R. Leggett. He remained in office as President until August 1948 when he was succeeded by Mr Leggett, a former master at Geelong Grammar School with a passionate interest in sailing.

There seemed to be no limit to the expansion of Mr McComb's interests. In 1955 he became a member of the council of the Ferntree Gully Technical School; he also became the first representative of the R.H.S.V. on the Victorian Place Names Committee. He became one of three commissioners of the Dandenong Valley Authority which held its first meeting in July 1964, and continued in this position until 1976.

He researched and wrote widely on historical topics. His articles on 'Surveyor Hoddle's Field Books of Melbourne' which appeared in the *Victorian Historical Magazine* in May 1937 and May 1938 are still regarded as an important source, particularly as the original field books have been lost. He also wrote on schools at Scoresby, Bayswater, The Basin and Ferntree Gully, and local churches, people and places in the area where he lived. For many years he carried out research into the profession of land surveying in Australia. In this connection he was long a familiar visitor in the State Library of Victoria. With increasing age his eyesight deteriorated, so his visits had to discontinue.

In the Queen's New Year Honours list for 1981, Howard Spencer McComb was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for 'services to the community'.

As another Fellow of the Society, may I speak now more intimately of our departed Senior Fellow, by saying something about his personality. Throughout his long and useful life of public service he was a worthy citizen in the true sense of that expression. His record demonstrated that he was a man of integrity, always fair minded and industrious. He was kind and considerate and he was always well mannered in his dealings with others. His policy was ever one of the open door for those in need of help and encouragement. Until well advanced in years he was often visited by local school children in need of advice and in search of practical instruction with their school projects. He acknowledged the support of his wife in all his achievements: they married in 1929. He was a founding member of the Knox Historical Society and early meetings were held at the McCombs' house.

He was a leader in his dual profession of surveying and civil engineering and so he played his part without stint in moulding the development of the State of Victoria so far as surveying and engineering skills and resources could influence this development for the common good.

And so Howard Spencer McComb, our late senior Fellow in the R.H.S.V., your long life of public service to others has now closed. We say goodbye.

Warren Perry