
CLARKSON LTD

BRG 172
Series List

Clarkson Limited developed out of the already established firm of H.L. Vosz Ltd. Vosz was a glazier by trade, and established his business after migrating to South Australia in 1848. During his lifetime the firm only acted as glaziers, but 3 years after his death in 1886, an artist, J.F. Williams, was employed, and the firm began to accept stained glass window commissions.

Since Vosz left no family, the firm passed to the employees, although it continued initially to operate under the original name. It was renamed in 1915 after one of the employees, Albert Ernest Clarkson, as part of the anti-German feeling from the war. Clarkson became the first Secretary and Manager and later became Chairman of Directors in 1922.

As other smaller firms closed, Clarkson Ltd. began to dominate the local scene. They also later became agents for two British firms: Morris & Co., and Whitefriars. Throughout the years the firm continued to employ artists within its stained glass studio until this section was closed in the 1960's.

The firm continued to operate as an independent company and glass supplier until 1986 when it was taken over by A.C.I.

from 150 Years of Stained and Painted Glass by Peter and June Donovan, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 1986., pages 42-43.

[Additional information can also be found in the City of Adelaide Heritage Survey, 1981-1986 leaflet on the "Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia", 135 Rundle Mall.]
HISTORY OF CLARKSONS LTD. Extracted from A.N. Ward's History of Clarkson Ltd, 1908-1932. Zpam 666.1/W256

Heinrich Vosz founded the company which became Clarkson Ltd. He migrated to South Australia in December 1848 with his wife and 2 sons. Set up as a carpenter, glazier and painter in Ackland Street (now part of Frome Street), and was naturalized in August 1849.

Vosz went to the Victorian gold diggings in 1851, and when he returned to Adelaide he opened new premises at 82 (now 88) Rundle Street and established Australia's oldest glass, oil and colour business. He later moved to larger premises at 124 Rundle Street next to the Plough and Harrow Hotel (now the Richmond).

Vosz was the first importer of plate glass and also made a name for himself as an expert in artesian wells and in the pioneering use of bore water. He was also a pioneer plumber in SA.

His son predeceased him and the business was disposed to 2 employees by the trustees — Handtke and Schmidt. Operations were then confined to merchandise. A.E. Clarkson joined the firm as an office boy in 1889 and when Handtke retired in 1904, Clarkson was appointed first Secretary and Manager of H.L. Vosz Ltd. The company name was changed to Clarkson Ltd in 1915, and A.E. Clarkson was Managing Director until his death in 1936.

The Leaded Light and Stained Glass department was opened in 1899 — Mr J.F.Williams was the first artist and was appointed the Director in 1922. In 1923, there were 26 people employed in the Leadlight Department. For many years there were 2 artists employed in the design of stained glass window and leadlight design.

House paint production began in 1886. 'Vasco' paint was the first ready-mixed paint in

SA and later came the Diamond brand. Acceptance by the paint trade of ready-for-use paint led to expansion. Land was bought at Lipson Street, Port Adelaide and a modern factory built and opened in 1907. This was the first custom built paint factory in Australia. In 1908 the initial Grenfell Street property was purchased and became the mirror manufacturing plant and in 1922 the Bent Street property was purchased and became the glazing shop. A very large furnace was installed for plate glass bending and leadlight firing.

In 1958 a new head Office was built at 150 Grenfell Street and the firm moved out of Rundle Street after 100 years trading in that street. A unique feature of the new building was the 90 foot window — the first of its size and type in Australia; 10 sheets of plate glass weighing two tons were cemented together to provide a window without vertical stays or buttresses.

Mr L.S. Clarkson retired as Managing Director in 1968 and was followed by R.J. Lang. As from 1 July 1963, Clarksons became part of the Oliver-Davey Glass Ltd.

Watercolour designs for stain glass windows. All are on a reduced scale, but show the design and colours to be used. Only a few are identified or dated. Also includes a large memorial window by Vanessa Smith. ca.1900-1960. 40cm.	<u>1</u>
Cartoons for four stain-glass windows:(i) one of St George; (2) one of a man and woman, and (3) one of a woman and child. The latter two include shading and other details; the first only the glass cutting outline and the colour of glass to be used. (4)-The fourth cartoon is for a fairly plain window, for the Methodist Church/ at Willaston, Gawler East. ca.1940's. 4 items [2.3m x 1.1 m; 2.10 x 0.8m, 2.10 x 0.8m).	<u>2</u>
Minutes of the meetings of The Board of Directors of Clarkstons Ltd. 1965-1972. 12cm.	<u>3</u>
Financial records of the company including a ledger (1959-1965) and journal (1948-1973). 1948-1973. 17cm. (2 volumes).	<u>4</u>
Share transfer journal (includes both preference and ordinary shares) 1929-1973. 9cm (1 volume).	<u>5</u>
Employee health fund contribution ledger 1936-1961. 3cm. (1 volume).	<u>6</u>
Business letters (circular letters nos. 1-14) 1961	<u>7</u>
Working papers dealing with "mirror manufacture" and the "French embossing process". Both are typescript. n.d. 3cm (2 volumes).	<u>8</u>

Printed material issued by Clarkson Ltd. Included is a "Programme of Smoke Social" (celebration of the change of name 1915); "75th Birthday Commemoration" (1923); "Leaded Light Design" booklet (n.d.), and 15 "Glass Price Lists" (1920-1948, incomplete set); Fibrolite Asbestos Cement and pamphlet. 1915-1948. 2cm.	<u>9</u>
Share certificates printed for Clarkson Ltd., but not issued. Includes preference shares. n.d. 3cm. (2 volumes).	<u>10</u>
Printed material used by Clarkson Ltd for "inspiration" – includes photographs and drawings of stain glass windows, booklets of biblical scenes, religious cards, etc. n.d. (ac.1920's-1950's?). 14cm. (8 volumes).	<u>11</u>
Newspaper cuttings, all of which relate to Clarkson Ltd. The majority are advertisements for their products. Also includes a "ready reckoner" supplied by Clarksons. ca.1925-1966. 6cm. (1 volume).	<u>12</u>
Flow Chart showing the structure of D.A. Clarkson under the Operations Manager.	<u>13</u>
Poster produced to advertise Clarkson glass. n.d. 75 x 53cm (4 copies).	<u>14</u>
Printing positives for the "Clarkwyn Mirror Catalogue". n.d. 1cm.	<u>15</u>

Note: A number of Clarkson Trade catalogues have been accessioned separately into the Serials Collection at

They include:

1. Modern Home Fittings (n.d.)
2. Shop Windows and Fittings (1928).
3. Tools for Carpenters, etc....(1938).
4. Builders' Hardware and Sanitaryware (n.d.).
5. Clarkwyn Mirrors and Glass Treatments.
6. Glass Treatments (c. 1950-1960).
7. Centremount Roadside Delineators. (n.d.)
8. Clarksons: Moving into the 60's. (1976).

Newspaper cuttings: photostat copies relating to Clarkson's, collected by Vanessa Smith, one of their artists. Some are dated and/or sourced. It also includes a copy of a handwritten history of "Clarksons, by Vanessa Smith". ca.1953-1970. 0.5cm.	<u>16</u>
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Photographs of Clarkson functions, production activities, displays and buildings. ca.1880-1985. 2cm.	<u>17</u>
Chart showing the organisational structure of Clarkson Ltd. n.d. (c.1970's?). 1 item.	<u>18</u>
Plans and drawings of Clarkson's Royal Park premises, and properties for which Clarksons provided services. 1984-1989. 0.5cm.	<u>19</u>
Papers relating to Clarkson's Beverley factory, including staff list, notes on processed and projects and reports. ca.1966-1969. 1cm.	<u>20</u>
Designs supplied by Clarksons, together with a working drawing. n.d. 0.5cm.	<u>21</u>
Notes and reports on various subjects. See Special List for Series 22 for details. ca.1935-1986. (mostly 1969). 1cm.	<u>22</u>
Files on various subjects. See Special List for Series 23 for details. 1958-1982. 1cm.	<u>23</u>
Miscellaneous items comprising newspaper cuttings and change of address. 1976 and n.d. 0.5cm.	<u>24</u>
Catalogues, produced by Clarksons: Wallpaper samples, season 1928. Clarkwyn Mirrors and Glass Treatments. ca. 1920-1980. 3 items. [Note: Another catalogue, Decorate with Clarksons, was added to the printed collection Z Pam 645/C613/b]	<u>25</u>
Promotional diary for Clarksons. 1938. 1 item.	<u>26</u>
Price lists: 1920, 1932, 1940, 1941 (June, September, November) 1944, 1948. 1920-1948. 11 items.	<u>27</u>

Glass objects/artefacts,	<u>28</u>
(1) Commemorative plaque for 100 years of service by Clarkson Limited (formerly H.L. Vosz Limited), 1948, (engraved 'H.L. VOSZ'27).	
(2) Commemorative plaque for opening of Clarkson Limited premises by Premier Don Dunstan, 1976.	
(3) Bas relief portrait in glass of Albert Ernest Clarkson, ca.1936.	
(4) Leadlight window depicting the crucifixion of Jesus, n.d. ca.1936-1976. 4 items.	
Photographs of the participants in the Clarkson Bowling Trophy tournaments. 1936-1989 5 items	<u>29</u>
History of the Clarkson Bowling Tournament 1993. 0.5 cm Written by Mr J B Stewart, a longtime company employee	<u>30</u>
List of Bowling Tournament winners 1913-1973 1973. 1 item and photograph 1927 Also includes two magazine articles and a newspaper clipping on the tournament. t	<u>31</u>
Miscellaneous papers 1911, 1979 & n.d. 4 items Includes two promotions cards for Clarksons, a 1911 letter ordering lead lights, and a copy of <i>South Australian Builder</i> featuring the Clarksons Bowling team	<u>32</u>
Composite photograph ca.1912 1 item All portraits are identified	<u>33</u>
'Priority News': inhouse magazine of O'Brien Glass & Clarkson Priority Plan members (issue No. 11) Autumn 1998. 0.5 cm (2 copies)	<u>34</u>
Correspondence 1958-1961, 1970	<u>35</u>
Company papers 1925-1979 4 cm Includes Articles of Association, Register of Directors, Company seal, Register of Shareholders, Property details etc.	<u>36</u>
Composite photograph of the visit of the Governor Sir Willoughby Norrie and Lady Norrie, to the Clarkson factory at Beverley. 11 June 1948 10 items	<u>37</u>

Brass metal plaque

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1915. 1 item.

Brass metal plaque with the inscription 'Presented to A.E. Clarkson Esq by the employees of Clarkson Ltd, August 5th 1915'.

Possibly removed from a framed picture.