

## E. & B. Cowan Fonds

Original and photocopies, 177cm, 1935-1995

### Scope and Content:

The E. & B. Cowan fonds covers a range of company interests including personal works of either Eli or Ben Cowan and those produced by other employees. These documents cover events from across the entire life of the company as well as some reference materials dating to earlier research and engineering work done by the Cowan Brothers.

**B 50/1/1-2:** Company History and Brochures, 5cm, 1968-1995

Documents covering the company's history, corporate philosophy, and advertising publications.

**B 50/2/1:** Textbook Chapter, 2cm, 1981-1987

Various correspondence and drafts of a chapter being written by both Ben and Eli Cowan for the journal *Pulp and Paper Manufacture*. Uncertain if it was published.

**B 50/3/1-34:** Patents, 43 cm, (1932?) 1935-1994

International patents for a number of different inventions by the Cowan brothers (Eli and Ben primarily). Some patents predate the E. & B. Cowan company. Also present are a number of technical documents and reference notes for inventions.

**B 50/4/1-26:** Status Reports, 84 cm, 1979-1982

Status Reports on a very wide range of products. Mostly pulp and paper mills from various nations, but some other projects are present. There are a few main categories: overview records (1); a large number of documents on the Great Lakes Paper Company (2-6); other Northern Ontario projects (7-11); other Canadian projects (12-15); international projects (16-21); and specific techniques or overall market health (22-26).

**B 50/5/1-7:** Design Considerations, 19cm, 1921, 1942-1987

A range of price estimates (both for construction and operating costs) and information regarding a few past projects that were used by the Cowans to assist in estimating costs for future projects. This also includes an number of reference forms and calculations regarding the lifespan of various products or their stress capacities. Also included is information about the mothballing of a mill.

**B 50/6/1-3:** Equipment, three files arranged chronologically. 4cm

A compilation of every major machine needed in contemporary paper mills. Includes two overview sheets, all parts listed in alphabetical order. Some materials stored with series 6 have been moved to related documents in series 4. Also includes information about Earthquake preparations. (Uses Terrace Bay as reference for a low seismic zone.)

**B 50/7/1-9:** Research, 19 cm, 1926, 1946-1985

A wide range of topics for the pulp and paper industry which E & B Cowan engaged in varying levels of research for. Covers many technologies as they were emerging into the general market, providing a good overview of the evolution of pulp and paper technologies. 1) Sulphite and bleaching, 2) Wood, 3) Groundwood, 4) Waste

Management, 5) Pulp stage, 6) Late stage, 7) General and misc., 8) Onario Paper Co. field trip, 9) Oregon City de-inking plant field trip.

**B 50/8/1:** Miscellaneous, 1 cm, 1979-1984

Lectures for 1979, clippings, memo re: North America's pulp mills (1981).

**Organisational Sketch:**

During the Second World War Elijah Cowan was chairman of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association Machine Shop Board, while Benjamin Cowan was fighting in the war. However, when the war was over, the two founded a pulp and paper engineering firm, E. & B. Cowan, in 1946 as an engineering consulting partnership. It expanded internationally in 1959 with E. & B. Cowan International Ltd, and was incorporated as a private company in 1966. It grew steadily until being purchased by Lavalin (now SNC-Lavalin). In the early 1960s, it designed and engineered the first refined groundwood plant in North America. E & B Cowan, along with subsidiaries such as Pulmac Inc., was an important player in the world of paper mills, working across Canada and around the world, designing mills in Romania, Brazil, and many other nations. The companies also benefited from the Cowans' skills as inventors, the royalties from their earlier patents having helped to pay for the establishment of their companies.

**Related Documents:**

A 127 – Ben Cowan Personal Fonds

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