

Morse Brothers Machinery Company Collection

This material was donated to WMMI in March 2020 by the Quinn Process Equipment Company, located in Littleton, Colorado. The donor company occupied a building once used by the Morse company and before moving out, ensured that the Morse Collection would be preserved.

The Morse Brothers Equipment Company began operation in 1908 and survived into the 1970s before it went out of business. The company designed and built a wide variety of engines and machines for the mining industry. The collection consists of three parts:

1. 5-drawer flat file unit with equipment drawings

This flat file unit contains approximately 1,774 numbered sheets of drawings of items the company manufactured—classifiers, hoists, rod mills, ball mills, concentrating tables, flotation cells, thickeners, and much more. Most of the drawings are on sheets of four major sizes—8x10, 12x18, 25x18, and 35x23. They are dated from 1921 to 1964 and contain piece numbers for identification by company employees. The numbers range from M300 to 3,909, with four numbers dated 1981--9004-6, 9008. There are also 36 Engineering Computation Sheets dated between 1954 and 1964.

2. Tracing Catalog Ledger

This ledger contains an alphabetical list by piece of equipment manufactured by the company. Most items are from the 1930s and 1940s, with a few dating back to 1908. Each entry under the piece refers to the identification number on each page of drawings in #1 above. The ledger measures 10 inches wide, 12.5 inches long, and 2.5 inches high.

3. 2-drawer card file labeled Machinery Patterns

The machinery patterns are numbered from 302 to 5999. Information is contained on 4x6 pre-printed cards with handwritten cards also present. Each card has seven lines of information:

1. pattern number/section/rack/shelf
2. part name
3. units used on
4. core boxes/loose pieces in core boxes/loose pieces on pattern
5. date made/drawing number/order number
6. material/time/casting weight/casting material
7. remarks

In the back of the right-hand drawer is a mostly empty file of alphabetical tabs. Three cards are in this section—duplex classifier, 5x5 conditioner, thickener mechanism. The card file measures 15 inches wide, 17 inches long, and 6 inches high.

There were also two catalogs in this donation, one for Morse Rod and Ball Mills, and one for the Ruth Rod Mill. Both have been transferred to the museum's Mining Equipment Company Catalogs Collection. Additional material for the Ruth Ball Mill catalog has been placed in file folders and transferred to the museum's General Archives Collection.

