

# **R. Hoe & Company Records**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2007**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010239>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79026195>

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Revised by Lia Apodaca and Patrick Kerwin

## Collection Summary

**Title:** R. Hoe & Company Records

**Span Dates:** 1831-1948

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1855-1870)

**ID No.:** MSS26195

**Creator:** R. Hoe & Company

**Extent:** 5,600 items ; 23 containers ; 8.4 linear feet ; 17 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Printing press and saw manufacturers in New York. Business and family correspondence, letterbooks, subject files, financial records, advertising material, and legal records relating to R. Hoe & Company.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Hoe family.

Hoe, Peter Smith, 1821-1902. Peter Smith Hoe papers.

Hoe, Richard March, 1812-1886. Richard March Hoe papers.

Hoe, Robert, 1815-1884. Robert Hoe papers.

Hoe, Robert, 1839-1909. Robert Hoe papers.

### Organizations

House of Refuge (New York, N.Y.)

Magnetic Telegraph Company.

R. Hoe & Company.

### Subjects

Hardware industry--New York (State)--New York.

Printing presses--Patents.

Printing presses.

Saws.

### Places

Europe--Description and travel.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The records of R. Hoe & Company, printing press and saw manufacturers in New York, were given to the Library of Congress by Caroline Phelps Hoe Wilcox and her brother and sisters in 1957. Additional items were received by gift and purchase, 1963-1981.

### Processing History

The records of R. Hoe & Company were arranged and described in 1979. The finding aid was revised in 2006.

### Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the R. Hoe & Company Records.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of R. Hoe & Company is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The records of R. Hoe & Company are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these records is available on seventeen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, R. Hoe & Company Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The records of R. Hoe & Company span the years 1831-1948 and include Hoe family papers as well as corporate records. The bulk of the material spans the period 1855-1870.

R. Hoe & Company was founded as Smith, Hoe & Company in New York City in 1805 by Matthew Smith II (d. 1820), Peter Smith (d. 1823), and Robert Hoe (1784-1833), who had emigrated from England in 1803. Following the death of the Smith brothers, Robert Hoe, who had married their sister, Rachel, continued and expanded the business under the name R. Hoe & Company. In 1830 the company passed into the hands of Hoe's oldest son, Richard March Hoe (1812-1886), and nephew, Matthew Smith III. Richard M. Hoe's brothers, Robert Hoe (1815-1884) and Peter Smith Hoe (1821-1902), also became active in the family business. During the years under Richard M. Hoe's direction the firm greatly expanded and prospered. When he died in 1886, control of the firm passed to his nephew, Robert Hoe (1839-1909), who was in turn succeeded by other family members.

The [Family Correspondence](#) consists chiefly of letters between Richard M. and his brothers Robert and Peter Smith Hoe during various European travels conducting business for R. Hoe & Company overseas. The largest group of these letters, 1856-1859, documents the period of expansion leading to the establishment of a manufacturing plant in London and the purchase of the Isaac Adams Press Works in Boston. Schedules of orders and account sheets accompany the letters. The correspondence also includes travel descriptions of mid-nineteenth-century Europe, as well as itemizations of the art objects and luxury items purchased by them and sent back to the United States. Correspondence from 1860 to 1870 includes references to the efforts of brothers Richard M. Hoe and Robert Hoe to obtain from the U.S. Congress extension of patent rights to their printing press inventions.

The [Business Correspondence](#) contains few letters prior to 1850, due in part to several fires in the Hoe establishment. Some of the earliest letters are from Sereno Newton, an early associate in the firm. Despite the limited number of business letters, the file documents some of the day-to-day business transactions between customers, trade suppliers, and branch offices in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and London.

## Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1833-1934](#)
- [Business Correspondence, 1832-1907](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1856-1884](#)
- [Subject File, 1831-1942](#)
- [Addition, 1832-1948](#)

## Description of Series

### *Container*

BOX 1-6  
REEL 1-6

### *Series*

#### **Family Correspondence, 1833-1934**

Letters sent and received, with enclosures.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.

BOX 7-12  
REEL 7-11

#### **Business Correspondence, 1832-1907**

Letters sent and received, with enclosures.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 13-15  
REEL 11-14

#### **Letterbooks, 1856-1884**

Letterpress and typed transcripts from letterpress books of outgoing correspondence.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.

BOX 16-21  
REEL 14-17

#### **Subject File, 1831-1942**

Hoe family genealogy, printed matter, financial records, patent reports and transfers, partnership agreements, and other material related to the Hoe family and R. Hoe & Company.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, topic, or type of material.

BOX 22-23  
not filmed

#### **Addition, 1832-1948**

Correspondence, business records, printed matter and miscellany.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,112

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-6</b> <b>REEL 1-6</b>	<b>Family Correspondence, 1833-1934</b>  Letters sent and received, with enclosures. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Dodd, Moses W. and Rachel Hoe, 1857-1878, undated
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Ely, Giles S., 1857
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Hoe, Emily A., 1842-1844
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Hoe, Laura, 1859-1863
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Hoe, Olivia P. James, 1856-1865, 1905-1921, undated
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Hoe, Peter Smith, 1840-1881  (10 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1-2</b>	Hoe, Richard March  1833-1865  (13 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1866-1883, undated and fragments  (9 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	Hoe, Robert (1815-1884)  1834-1858  (7 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b> <b>REEL 3-4</b>	1859-1884, undated  (16 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	Hoe, Robert (1839-1909), 1844-1909, undated, and fragments  (15 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 4-5</b>	Kennedy, D. J., 1878
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 4-5</b>	Mead, Harvey, 1857-1860
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 4-5</b>	Mead, Herbert, 1878
<b>BOX 6</b>	Mead, Theodore H., 1854-1863

## Family Correspondence, 1833-1934

### Container

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REEL 4-5

(2 folders)

BOX 6 Seymour, Ebenezer and Mary J. Hoe, 1857-1860

REEL 5

BOX 6 Seymour, Edward, 1859, undated

REEL 5

BOX 6 Seymour, Henry, 1857-1859

REEL 5

BOX 6 Smith, Matthew, III, 1835-1839

REEL 6

BOX 6 Miscellaneous and unidentified, 1838-1934, undated

REEL 6

BOX 6 Transcripts of letters

REEL 6

BOX 6 Hoe, Richard March, 1857-1865

REEL 6

BOX 6 Hoe, Robert (1815-1884), 1849-1873

REEL 6

BOX 7-12

### Business Correspondence, 1832-1907

REEL 7-11

Letters sent and received, with enclosures.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 7 1832-1849

REEL 7

(7 folders)

BOX 8 1850, Jan. 3-1859, Feb. 10

REEL 7

(7 folders)

BOX 9 1859, Feb. 11-Aug.

REEL 8

(6 folders)

BOX 10 1859, Sept.-1867, Nov.

REEL 9

(9 folders)

BOX 11 1868, Oct.-1869, Nov. 28

REEL 10

(9 folders)

BOX 12 1869, Nov. 29-1907, undated

REEL 11

(9 folders)

BOX 12 Transcripts of letters, 1848-1881

REEL 11

BOX 12 Indexes to previously bound letters, 1858-1878

REEL 11

BOX 13-15

### Letterbooks, 1856-1884

REEL 11-14

Letterpress and typed transcripts from letterpress books of outgoing correspondence.

## Letterbooks, 1856-1884

### Container

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Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.

BOX 13	Hoe, Richard March, 1859-1870
REEL 12	
BOX 13	Hoe, Richard M., Robert Hoe (1815-1884), and Peter Smith Hoe, 1864-1874
REEL 12	
BOX 13	Hoe, Robert (1815-1884)
REEL 12	
BOX 13	1858, July-1859, Mar.
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BOX 14	1859, Mar.-1864, Mar.
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BOX 14	Transcripts from letterpress books
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BOX 15	1868-1884
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BOX 15	Hoe, Robert (1839-1909)
REEL 14	
BOX 15	1857-1860
REEL 14	
BOX 15	1879-1882, "Church of the Covenant"
REEL 14	
BOX 16-21	<b>Subject File, 1831-1942</b>
REEL 14-17	
	Hoe family genealogy, printed matter, financial records, patent reports and transfers, partnership agreements, and other material related to the Hoe family and R. Hoe & Company.
	Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, topic, or type of material.
BOX 16	Adams, Isaac, 1859
REEL 15	
BOX 16	Advertising cuts, clippings, and trade catalogs, 1840-1933
REEL 15	
	(3 folders)
BOX 17	(3 folders)
REEL 15	
BOX 17	Crowell, Luther C., 1877-1902
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BOX 18	Gutenberg 500th anniversary, 1900
REEL 15	

## Subject File, 1831-1942

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BOX 18  
REEL 15  
Medallion designs, letters of acknowledgment, and clippings, 1900-1903  
(2 folders)

BOX 18  
REEL 15  
Statue by Ralph B. Goddard, 1899-1900

BOX 19  
REEL 15  
Financial records, circa 1840-1910

BOX 19  
REEL 15  
Account book of profit and loss summaries, 1856-1910

BOX 19  
REEL 15  
Bank notes  
(2 folders)

BOX 19  
REEL 15  
Bills and receipts

BOX 19  
REEL 15  
Inventory and order lists

BOX 19  
REEL 15  
Mortgage and rental agreements

BOX 19  
REEL 16  
Hoe family genealogy

BOX 19  
REEL 16  
Hoe v. Hoe, 1900-1901

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Hoe, Richard March

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Estate settlements, 1884-1903

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Journal of travels in England, 1838

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Third Regiment, New York State Artillery, 1838-1843

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Hoe, Robert (1815-1884)

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Account books

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Expense ledger, 1880-1883

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Real estate investments, 1882-1884

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Estate settlements, 1884-1889

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Hoe, Robert (1839-1909)

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Cemetery monument construction, 1885

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Death certificate, 1909

BOX 20  
REEL 16  
Grammar school essays, report cards, etc., 1851-1857, undated

BOX 21  
REEL 16  
Leander, Mead & Co., New York, business records, 1831-1838, undated

## Subject File, 1831-1942

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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BOX 21  
REEL 16  
Miscellany of business permits, indentures, and insurance reports, 1841-1881

BOX 21  
REEL 16  
Miscellany of family contracts and letters of credit, 1864-1942

BOX 21  
REEL 16  
Partnership agreements, articles of incorporation, and bankruptcy notices, 1850-1932

BOX 21  
REEL 16  
Patents

BOX 21  
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Miller, Warren P., 1866-1892

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REEL 17  
Reports and transfers, 1838-1884, undated

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REEL 17  
Taylor, W. W., and E. Anthony, 1880-1883

BOX 21  
REEL 17  
Printed matter concerning trade suppliers and products

BOX 21  
REEL 17  
Tucker, Stephen D., 1893-1895

BOX 22-23  
not filmed

### **Addition, 1832-1948**

Correspondence, business records, printed matter and miscellany.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 22  
not filmed

Business records, 1841-1903

BOX 22  
BOX 22

Correspondence  
1832-1844  
(5 folders)

BOX 23

1845-1948, undated  
(9 folders)

BOX 23

Miscellany, 1861-1948, undated

BOX 23

Printed matter, 1861-1871, 1898, 1924, 1933, 1948, undated