

# R. Hoe & Company Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Paul D. Ledvina  
Revised by Lia Apodaca and Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of  
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

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

## 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

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of R. Hoe & Company is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-6 REEL 1-6	<u>Family Correspondence, 1833-1934</u>  Letters sent and received, with enclosures. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.
BOX 7-12 REEL 7-11	<u>Business Correspondence, 1832-1907</u>  Letters sent and received, with enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 13-15 REEL 11-14	<u>Letterbooks, 1856-1884</u>  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	<u>Subject File, 1831-1942</u>  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	<u>Addition, 1832-1948</u>  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>
BOX 1-6 REEL 1-6	Family Correspondence, 1833-1934  Letters sent and received, with enclosures. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Dodd, Moses W. and Rachel Hoe, 1857-1878, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Ely, Giles S., 1857
BOX 1 REEL 1	Hoe, Emily A., 1842-1844
BOX 1 REEL 1	Hoe, Laura, 1859-1863
BOX 1 REEL 1	Hoe, Olivia P. James, 1856-1865, 1905-1921, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Hoe, Peter Smith, 1840-1881  (10 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Hoe, Richard March  1833-1865  (13 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1866-1883, undated and fragments  (9 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	Hoe, Robert (1815-1884)  1834-1858  (7 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3-4	1859-1884, undated  (16 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 4	Hoe, Robert (1839-1909), 1844-1909, undated, and fragments  (15 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	Kennedy, D. J., 1878
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	Mead, Harvey, 1857-1860
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	Mead, Herbert, 1878

# Family Correspondence, 1833-1934

## *Container*

## *Contents*

---

BOX 6 REEL 4-5	Mead, Theodore H., 1854-1863  (2 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 5	Seymour, Ebenezer and Mary J. Hoe, 1857-1860
BOX 6 REEL 5	Seymour, Edward, 1859, undated
BOX 6 REEL 5	Seymour, Henry, 1857-1859
BOX 6 REEL 6	Smith, Matthew, III, 1835-1839
BOX 6 REEL 6	Miscellaneous and unidentified, 1838-1934, undated
BOX 6 REEL 6	Transcripts of letters
BOX 6 REEL 6	Hoe, Richard March, 1857-1865
BOX 6 REEL 6	Hoe, Robert (1815-1884), 1849-1873
BOX 7-12 REEL 7-11	Business Correspondence, 1832-1907  Letters sent and received, with enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 7 REEL 7	1832-1849  (7 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 7	1850, Jan. 3-1859, Feb. 10  (7 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 8	1859, Feb. 11-Aug.  (6 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 9	1859, Sept.-1867, Nov.  (9 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 10	1868, Oct.-1869, Nov. 28  (9 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 11	1869, Nov. 29-1907, undated  (9 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 11	Transcripts of letters, 1848-1881

Business Correspondence, 1832-1907

*Container*

*Contents*

---

BOX 12 REEL 11	Indexes to previously bound letters, 1858-1878
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 13 REEL 12	Hoe, Richard March, 1859-1870
BOX 13 REEL 12	Hoe, Richard M., Robert Hoe (1815-1884), and Peter Smith Hoe, 1864-1874
BOX 13 REEL 12	Hoe, Robert (1815-1884)
BOX 13 REEL 12	1858, July-1859, Mar.
BOX 14 REEL 13	1859, Mar.-1864, Mar.  (3 vols.)
BOX 14 REEL 14	Transcripts from letterpress books
BOX 14 REEL 14	1856-1857
BOX 14 REEL 14	1858
BOX 15 REEL 14	1868-1884
BOX 15 REEL 14	1874-1875
BOX 15 REEL 14	1875-1876, 1881-1884
BOX 15 REEL 14	Hoe, Robert (1839-1909)
BOX 15 REEL 14	1857-1860
BOX 15 REEL 14	1879-1882, "Church of the Covenant"
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 16 REEL 15	Adams, Isaac, 1859
BOX 16	Advertising cuts, clippings, and trade catalogs, 1840-1933

Subject File, 1831-1942

*Container*

*Contents*

---

REEL 15	(3 folders)
BOX 17	(3 folders)
REEL 15	
BOX 17	Crowell, Luther C., 1877-1902
REEL 15	
BOX 18	Gutenberg 500th anniversary, 1900
REEL 15	
BOX 18	Medallion designs, letters of acknowledgment, and clippings, 1900-1903
REEL 15	(2 folders)
BOX 18	Statue by Ralph B. Goddard, 1899-1900
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Financial records, circa 1840-1910
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Account book of profit and loss summaries, 1856-1910
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Bank notes
REEL 15	(2 folders)
BOX 19	Bills and receipts
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Inventory and order lists
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Mortgage and rental agreements
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Hoe family genealogy
REEL 16	
BOX 19	Hoe v. Hoe, 1900-1901
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Hoe, Richard March
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Estate settlements, 1884-1903
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Journal of travels in England, 1838
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Third Regiment, New York State Artillery, 1838-1843
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Hoe, Robert (1815-1884)
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Account books
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Expense ledger, 1880-1883
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Real estate investments, 1882-1884
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Estate settlements, 1884-1889
REEL 16	
BOX 20	Hoe, Robert (1839-1909)
REEL 16	

Subject File, 1831-1942

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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
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 REEL 16	Miller, Warren P., 1866-1892
BOX 21 REEL 17	Reports and transfers, 1838-1884, undated
BOX 21 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	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