

Steel Project

The *Steel Project* was developed by the Beaton Institute of Cape Breton Studies, University College of Cape Breton to document and research the experience of steel making in Cape Breton. To that end, a broad range of materials have been gathered and are now available for archival use or for distribution at cost. Some materials are available on 3.5 disk using IBM compatible format.

Reports

"Skills Adjustment Study - Sydney Steel" - a report based on a study of the skills adjustment process including the selection, training, and post training experience of workers made necessary by the modernization of the Sydney steel plant. Includes a literature review, steel plant chronology, analysis of pre- and post-1989 technology, interview data from retired and current employees with emphasis on the workers' experience of re-training, plus conclusions and recommendations. A comprehensive overview of the impact of technology at Sydney Steel. Completed in cooperation with Local 1064 of the United Steel Workers of America, with financial assistance from Labour Canada. 1991. 223 pages.

"Accidents, Illnesses, and Injuries of Employees - A Preliminary Study" - reviews sources dealing with health and safety concerns at Sydney Steel. Included are air pollution studies, government publications, union requested assessments, and Sydney Steel emergency hospital reports from various years. Also includes interview results and a bibliography. 1992. 71 pages.

"Steel Technology in Nova Scotia 1900-1965" - describes the process of manufacturing steel using the open hearth and electric arc furnace systems and the operations of rolling mills, along with a chronology of the development of steel manufacturing plants in N.S., 1900-1965. Part of a report done for the N.S. Museum of Industry & Transportation. 1991. 59 pages.

"The Nova Scotia Steel Industry: A Legacy of Unfulfilled Promises" - chronicles the history of steel making in Nova Scotia with emphasis on foreign ownership and control, and an analysis of management. Bibliography and appendix. 1991. 30 pages.

"Steelmaking" - describes the operations of an integrated steel plant from the coking process to blast furnace and open hearth procedures to finished steel. Includes bibliography, sources. 1991. 51 pages.

"Making Steel: Understanding the Lived Experience" - an article describing the nature of the Steel Project undertaken by the Beaton Institute of Cape Breton Studies as an attempt to record/preserve the record of the history and technology of steelmaking in N.S. Published in *Scientia Canadensis*, Vol. XV, No. 1, Spring/Summer 1991. Pages 58-72.

The Beaton Institute's Steel Project - describes the objectives and components of the Steel Project in its documentation of the historical, social, and economic importance of all aspects of the Sydney Steel plant. Published in *Archivaria* - Journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists. Number 27. Winter 1988-1989. Pages 194-198.

Video Productions

"Making Steel" is a film in three parts co-produced by the Beaton Institute and National Film Board of Canada. Each segment deals with a different aspect of steel making in Sydney, N.S.

Technology centres on the process of steel production at the integrated plant prior to 1989.

History covers nearly a century of steel making in Cape Breton from the early boom years to the current reduced operations. *Culture of Work* focuses on the people who make steel - their way of life and what it means to be a steelworker. Package includes glossary of terms and subjects for discussion. 1992. 60 minutes. VHS.

Strong Man is a short video filmed at the Sydney steel plant and set to original music specially composed to chronicle the various aspects of the steel making process. Imparts a good sense of the complexity, danger, and drama inherent in producing steel. 1992. 5 minutes. VHS.

Graphic and Audio Materials

Still Images:

"Steel Photograph Data Base" - is a machine readable data base of nearly 4500 graphic images including slides, photographs, and transparencies covering a period in the evolution of steel making from the early 20th century to the present. The pictures range from people, events, equipment, and processes involved in steel production to overviews of the complete operation. Each picture comes with identification notes.

Moving Images:

The Steel Project has gathered some 30 hours of video and film documentation of steel making in Cape Breton dating from the 1920's to the present. Sources of the material include the National Film Board, Nova Scotia Information

Service, Owen Fitzgerald, the Steel Project, and various steel workers. Contact Beaton Institute for complete listing.

Taped Interviews:

The Steel Project has assembled over 200 taped interviews with steel workers covering such topics as jobs performed, work experience, union affiliation, health/safety, concerns for the future of the plant, reflections on being a steel worker. A wealth of material available in transcription form, on disk, and audio tape. Contact Beaton Institute for complete listing.

Papers

The *SYSCO Papers* consist of 47 metres of business, personnel, union, technical papers of the steel companies in Cape Breton from 1899. Also includes technical drawings of various buildings and steel making processes at the Sydney plant. Inventory and Finding Aid available.

The *Steel Project Papers* refer to the activities of the Steel Project, including bibliographies, clippings, rare books, monographs, and materials from the credit course, "The Steel Industry in North America."

Funding for the Steel Project came from the following sources:

- Beaton Institute of Cape Breton Studies
- Canadian Studies Directorate, Secretary of State
- Council of Canadian Archives
- Council of Nova Scotia Archives
- Environment Canada
- Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation
- Labour Canada
- National Film Board of Canada
- Nova Scotia Dept. of the Environment
- Nova Scotia Dept. of Tourism & Culture
- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
- SYSCO Modernization Communications Committee
- United Steel Workers of America/Sydney Local 1064.
- University College of Cape Breton

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