

## **ROBIN JONES AND WHITMAN**

### **P8**

1776-1949. -20.99 m of textual records. - 24 plans.

#### **Administrative history / biography**

##### **COMPANY'S FOUNDATION (1765-1783)**

In 1766, Charles Robin of the Jersey islands visited the Gaspé Peninsula to assess the commercial potential. The following year, he moved to Paspébiac on behalf of Robin, Pison and Company. This family business was founded in 1765, uniting Charles, John and Philip Robin, who also operated a facility in Arichat, on the island of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

In the Baie-des-Chaleurs, Charles Robin built relationships with the Acadians and the Micmacs. He traded in various products such as salt, salmon, furs and whale blubber. But it would be cod fish industry that was to make the company's fortune. Thus, from the 1770s, the company already shipped thousands of quintals of dried cod to Europe. Percé constituted the main establishment with over 400 committed fisherman during the summer.

During the War of Independence (1775-1783), American privateers attacked the company's facilities. They seized cargoes, commandeered vessels, and burned everything they couldn't take back with them. Taken prisoner, Charles Robin managed to escape and eventually fled to Jersey, where he stayed until the end of the conflict.

##### **CHARLES ROBIN AND COMPANY (1783-1886)**

After the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Charles Robin returned to the Gaspé Peninsula to found a new company, Charles Robin and Company. The company expanded a lot and stood out from its competitors. At the turn of the 18th century, it managed to take advantage of increase of prices in Europe, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars. After 1815, his business also extended to the US, West Indies and South American markets.

In the mid 19th century, Charles Robin and Company constituted the largest Eastern Canadian Fishing Company. Its vessels carried the "Gaspé Cured", dried cod renowned for its high quality, mainly in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Brazil. From the ports of Cadiz, Lisbon, Naples or Rio de Janeiro, captains shipped products that were then sold in the company's stores: salt, molasses, rum, wine, coffee, spices, tobacco, etc.

On Paspébiac's bank, its facilities constituted a business complex of thirty buildings: docks, shops, warehouses, workshops, homes ("cookrooms"), forges, shipyard, farm, etc. Some of the oldest establishments were added thereafter. Those of Grande-Rivière (1833), Caraquet (1839), Newport Point (1854) Pabos (1867), L'Anse-à-Beaufils (1870), Rivière-au-Renard (1869), Cape Cove (1876), Anse-au-Griffon (ca 1880) and, on the North Shore, Magpie and Natashquan (1870).

## CREDIT SYSTEM

Fishermen sold their cod to fishing companies but generally did not receive cash for their catch. Instead, they were given credit at the company's store, where they obtained fishing equipment, clothing, food, drinks, tools and other items of domestic use. Fishermen often found themselves more or less in debt, which ensured their commitment to the company.

This system, akin to that used under French rule, was used by all fisheries companies in Gaspé. It was also in use elsewhere in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and other economic sectors.

## CRISES AND RESTRUCTURING (1886-1910)

In the second half of the 19th century, financial crises affected the company. The most important occurred in 1886 following the Jersey Banking Company's bankruptcy. At that time, Charles Robin and Company and its rival, LeBoutillier Brothers, are also driven into bankruptcy. Unable to obtain their supplies, the people of Paspébiac broke into the warehouses and took food and flour with them.

The event started a period marked by the restructuring, merging or disappearance of Jersey companies. In March 1886, the company founded by Charles Robin passed into the hands of another Jersey company formed by Gervaise Legros, Edward De La Parelle and Elias Collas. After a first reorganization, it finally adopted the name of Charles Robin, Collas and Company in 1891. With this merge, the company acquired the Gaspé, Malbay, Pointe Saint-Pierre and Sheldrake establishments. On the North Shore, in the late 19th century, it was also represented in Moisie, Dock, Ridge Point and Rivière-Saint-Jean.

## ROBIN JONES AND WHITMAN (1910-2006)

In 1910, the company was the subject of a new merger, this time with Canadian companies A. G. Jones and A. H. Whitman. Having become Robin, Jones and Whitman, its headquarters left the Island of Jersey to be set up in Halifax. New positions were created during this period, especially in Barachois, Bonaventure and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé. So that, in the early 20th century, it owned thirty institutions in three Canadian provinces: Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The period was marked by the upheavals of the global economy during the two world wars and the crisis of the 1930s. In addition, the Robin, Jones and Whitman company seemed to have difficulty adapting to technological changes in the fisheries sector. Meanwhile, there emerged the fishermen's cooperatives, grouped in the Federation of Quebec United Fishermen who benefited from governmental support, especially for the modernization of fishing vessels. Finally, in 1964 a fire destroyed most of the Robin company's buildings in Paspébiac.

In this context, Robin, Jones and Whitman abandoned fishing to focus on their store network, a sector marked by the arrival of the big chains. In 1998, they announced the closure of their Chandler store. In 2004 it was placed under the protection of the law on arrangements with creditors. The six existing stores in Gaspésie and Nova Scotia thus closed their business.

### PASPÉBIAC, A SITE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The site of the Paspébiac shoal, now a center of interpretation on the history of fisheries, was named a historic site of national importance by Canadian Heritage in 2003. In his discourse, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps said that the Paspébiac fishing bank "was the center of the first real fishing industry of Canada."

### Historical Preservation

Initial fonds from the Malbay fishing station, was presented by Mr. Gaston Langlais in 1979.

Other documents were then paid by Gerald Brotherton (1988), Réal Roussy (1992), Philippe Lapierre (1994), Gisèle Chicoine-Giroux (2009), Mary Travers called La Bolduc (2009), Clermont Duguay (2011) and Jos Thibeault (2011).

In 2011 and 2013, Peter and Lawrence Legros added to the archives the series of records from Paspébiac and Percé.

### Scope and content

The fonds inform on the business activities of Robin from 1776 to 1949. Including several documents from the 18th century, it is an exceptional testimony to the history of capitalism, maritime navigation, Jerseyan immigration and the Canadian postal system. Regionally, this is a key fonds for the economic, political and social history of the Gaspé region.

The historical fonds provides information on the export of dried cod and import of goods in international markets. It includes references to American and European political context, including the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. The fonds demonstrates the complexity of managing this type of International business.

The fonds reflects the migratory movement that developed between the Island of Jersey and the Gaspé. It also testifies to the relationships forged with other Jerseyan companies that were established there. One can find included, for example, many letters written by William Fruing and John Le Boutillier, who, after having worked for the Robin company, launched their own businesses.

For the 18th century, the fonds was one of the few sources of information on the development of different localities of Gaspé. It also includes the trade with the original inhabitants of the place. The fonds also shows the links established with the Montmagny region when it comes to hiring fishermen during the summer.

In addition to Paspébiac's administrative center, the fonds contains documents from several fishing stations in the Gaspé and the North Shore: Percé, Pointe-Saint-Pierre, Anticosti, Rivière-au-Renard, Malbay, Rivière-Saint-Jean, Moisie, L'Anse-à-Beaufils, Pabos, Gaspé, Gascons, Barachois, Newport, Belle-Anse, Petite East River and Cape Cove.

Socially, the fonds helps to better understand the relationships with the Gaspé fishermen that are sometimes difficult. It contains accounts of riots in Paspébiac in 1886, and the fishermen's revolt of Rivière-au-Renard, in 1909. The fonds can accurately document the debt issue through letters, accounting records and judgments.

This fonds is a veritable gold mine for genealogists. There is a large amount of nominative documents, for different periods and places. Given its economic importance, most Gaspésians have been in contact with the company in the areas between Rivière-au-Renard and Bonaventure.

The fonds contains thousands of received letters, mainly from the headquarters of Jersey and Halifax. In the form of records, there are also thousands of letters sent to the boat captains, to managers of fishery institutions, shareholders, suppliers and business relations in several countries of the world.

The fonds contains a significant amount of accounting records showing the sold products, payment methods and liabilities: Customer accounts ("ledger"), everyday transactions ("day book"), cash transactions ("cash book") invoice books, etc.

The fonds contains lists of ship's officers and lists of employees. It also contains some newspapers relating the daily activities of the managers of the establishments. The fonds includes several other documentary forms: shareholders guidelines ("Intended Plan"), printed forms, inventories, cod's shipping books, payment requests ("orders"), supplier invoices, shipping orders by boat, vessel records, court records, deeds, plans, fish production statistics and instructions issued by the office of Paspébiac to the various stations of the Gaspé Peninsula.

## **Titles' variants**

The fonds contains documents about "Robin, Pipon and Company," "Charles Robin and Company" and "Charles Robin, Collas and Company."

The fonds also includes the archives of "John Perrée and Sons" and "John and Elias Collas" companies.

## **Ranking**

The fonds is divided into seventeen series: P8/1 Head Office of Paspébiac, P8/2 Percé, P8/3 Pointe-Saint-Pierre, P8/4 Anticosti P8/5 Rivière-au-Renard, P8/6 Malbay, P8/7 Rivière-Saint-Jean, P8/8 Moisie, P8/9 L'Anse-à-Beaufils, P8/10 Pabos, P8/11 Gaspé P8/12 Gascons, P8/13 Barachois, P8/14 Newport, P8/15 Belle-Anse, P8/16 Petite-Rivière-East P8/17 Cape Cove.

## **Head office of Paspébiac**

### **P8 /1**

1777-1926. 2.4 m of textual records.

### **Administrative history /biography**

Paspébiac was the first institution created by Charles Robin in 1766. It was the administrative headquarters of the company for the region of Gaspé for the whole period. It also played a role in coordinating the positions of operations for the entire peninsula and received its orders directly from the chief office in Jersey island or Halifax.

### **Preservation history**

The documents were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie from Peter and Lawrence Legros in 2011 and 2013.

### **Scope and content**

The series provides information about the international trade of dried cod from the Robin company in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. It is a unique source on the history of capitalism, Maritime and Canadian postal system. Regionally, it also highlights the importance of the enterprise on social, political and territorial issues.

The series contains mostly an impressive amount of letters sent and received by the Robin company at the Head Office of the Paspébiac. Going back to the beginnings of the company, one can find the letters sent by its founder, Charles Robin of Jersey. According to experts of the National Archival Testing Council (CNEA), this is a real "national treasure".

Some of these letters are addressing business relations of the company in Europe and America: Spain (Bilbao, Alicante, Cadiz); Portugal (Oporto, Lisbon), Italy (Naples, Palermo); England (London); Ireland (Cork, Waterford); United States (Philadelphia, Boston); Canada (Arichat, Quebec, Caraquet, Halifax); Dominica, Bahamas, Barbados and Brazil (Rio de Janeiro).

The series shows the complexity of managing such an international business, particularly in regard to the means of communication, management and of the quality of the processed product and knowledge of the various national markets: price, products, trade rules, currency values, liquidity, customs, etc. In this sense, it is an important part of the history of Capitalism in Canada.

It also contains the instructions to the captains in charge of the transportation of goods on board of the company's ships. Thus, there is a substantial amount of information on maritime activities: itineraries, ships, ports, weather, etc. It also highlights the difficulties associated with this type of transportation: shipwrecks, storms or the presence of pirates in times of war.

The series illustrates eloquently the beginnings of villages in Gaspé and in New Brunswick in the 18th and 19th centuries. In some cases, one can also find trades with the first inhabitants such as the Arsenault of Bonaventure or the Carleton Dugas. The series also includes a gallery with prominent characters: judge Felix O'Hara, merchant Raymond Bourdages, Lieutenant Governor Nicholas Cox, colonizer Azariah Pritchard, governor Guy Carleton and surveyors William Vondenvelden and John Collins.

The series highlights the importance of the Robin company as landowner, having particular trouble with the census of the manor of Grande-Rivière, disputes occurred with the Loyalists and a lawsuit in the supreme court of Nova Scotia.

The series also shows the interest of the company executives in politics. In several letters, one finds references to the holding of elections (1830, 1834, 1874). To facilitate trade, the Robin company searches for the members' support and attempts to influence the vote: "I hope you wil use all your influences in procuring the votes" (1830). It also includes several exchanges with the member from Gaspé, Robert Christie.

Besides the letters (1777-1887), the series also contains correspondence received in Paspébiac (1822-1920), most of which come directly from company executives in Jersey and Halifax. These documents have significant heritage value, and their form, tell us about the functioning of the transatlantic postal system.

In total, this represents thousands of letters that cover a period of nearly one hundred and fifty years. It allows us to get information about the major events that influenced the company's history: the American Revolutionary War, the arrival of the Loyalists, the Napoleonic Wars, the collapse of the Bank of Jersey, the merge with A.G. Jones and A. H. Whitman and the First World War. There are also references to famine episodes (1844) and the 1886 riots.

The series contains several other documentary forms: contracts, notarial Jerseyan deeds, legal documents, invoices, statements of Jerseyan shareholders ("Intended Plans"), payrolls of employees, payment requests (1786 -1802), inventory establishing of the Paspébiac (1904-1909), the genealogy of the Robin family (1906) and many others. It also contains two printed forms dating from 1789, considered Canadian incunabula.

### **Titles' Variants**

The series contains documents relating to the "Robin, Pison and Company", "Charles Robin and Company", the "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and the "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

### **Ranking**

The series is divided into seven sub-series: P8 /1/1 General Administration; P8 /1/2 Management; P8 /1/3 Finance; P8 /1/4 Material Resources; P8 /1/5 Fishing and processing; P8 /1/6 Import and export; P8 /1/7 General Stores.

## **Percé**

### **P8/2**

1776-1933. - 6.72 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

Percé is the second fishing station set up by the Robin company in the Gaspésie.

#### **Historical Preservation**

When the facilities in Percé were sold, the documents were transferred to the company offices in Paspébiac. They were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Peter and Lawrence Legros in 2011 and 2013.

#### **Scope and content**

The series shows the importance and magnitude of fishing operations and the processing of cod in the establishment of Percé in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

To cope with the demand, the company hired numerous seasonal employees through intermediate recruiters in Saint-Thomas-de-Montmagny and Maria. Employment contracts (1859-1882), employees lists and records containing the names of those enlisted to fishing operations, processing (cutting, salting, drying, storage) and shipping.

The series also contains a register of fish bought by Charles Robin, Percé (1776-1777), the oldest gaspésien document still preserved in the region.

The series includes many registers of letters (1831-1933), sent mainly to the company's headquarters in Jersey and to captains of the company's ships. Add to this several thousand letters that were received (1819-1918), most often directives from the head office in Paspébiac. One can find exchanges between William Fruing and John LeBoutillier back from when they were both employees of the Robin company.

From the 1880s, the letters received contain exchanges between local customers and representatives of business enterprises in Quebec, London and Jersey.

The series shows the supervisory role played by the institution of Percé to other establishments located nearby, including Cape Cove (Anse-du-Cap), L'Anse-à-Beaufils and Grande-Rivière.

The series has several documents concerning the activities of shipping and receiving goods in the port of Percé: delivery notes, quantities of salt delivered, book orders, inventories of imported products, etc. There are also some financial documents: annual reports, payment requests ("orders"), invoices, receipts, account statements and records of daily transactions. It also contains several judgments for debts, a record of blacksmithing and the journal of Charles De Gruchy (1897-1901).

### **Variant titles**

The series contains documents relating to: "Robin, Pipon and Company," "Charles Robin and Company", the "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

### **Ranking**

The series is divided into eight sub-series: P8 /2/1 General Administration P8 /2/2 Personnel Management, P8 /2/3 Finance P8 /2/4 Material Resources, P8 /2/5 Fishing and processing P8 /2/6 Import and export, P8 /2/7 General stores, P8 /2/8 Forge.

## **Pointe-Saint-Pierre**

### **P8 /3**

1836-1918. - -2.49 M of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

The "John and Elias Collas and Company" will be installed in Pointe-St-Pierre in the 1850s. Between 1850 and 1880 the Collas acquired several lots and built warehouses in Seal Cove, in Douglstown, Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie, Pointe-Saint-Pierre, Malbay and in the Gaspé Basin. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the Collas also extended their activities to the North Shore (Moisie and Sheldrake) and to the Anticosti Island.

If the company already had links with Charles Robin and Company, it was after the Bank of Jersey went bankrupt (1886) that the two companies would officially merge.

#### **Historical Preservation**

The records probably come from the Malbay establishment. Other records were filed by Jos Thibeault.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on fishing activities and marketing of dried cod from the "John and Elias Collas" company of Pointe-St-Pierre between 1830 and 1880. Following the merger, the records from "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman" were added.

The series contains records of letters (1863-1885) sent to the directors of the island of Jersey, the recruiter of the St-Thomas-de-Montmagny region and their business relations in different countries of the world: England (London), USA (New York), Spain (Cadiz), Canada (Halifax, Quebec), Barbados, Brazil, etc. Several letters also show the relationships maintained with the Robin company, before the merger of the two companies. Regionally, the series provides information on the relations with the Gaspé, Cape Cove and Sheldrake stations.

Through the accounting records of the general store (1836-1918), the series tells us about the sold products, production of cod, payment methods and the level of indebtedness of the clients.

**Title variants.**

The series contains the records from the "John and Elias Collas and Company," "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

**Classification**

The series is divided into three sub-series: P8/3/1 General Administration, P8/3/3 Finances P8/3/7 General Stores.

## **Anticosti**

### **P8/4**

1863-1887. - 0.12 m of textual records. -1 Plan.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

The "John and Elias Collas and Company" set up in Pointe-St-Pierre in the 1850s. During the second half of the nineteenth century the Collas also extended their activities to the North Shore (Moisie and Sheldrake) and to Anticosti Island.

If the company already had links with Charles Robin and Company, it is after the Bank of Jersey went bankrupt (1886) that the two companies would officially merge.

#### **Historical Preservation**

These documents are probably from the Robin company's installation at Malbay. Other records were donated by Millman Vibert.

#### **Scope and content**

The series tells us about the products sold, production of cod, payment methods and the level of indebtedness of the customers of the "John and Elias Collas" company on Anticosti Island. It reveals the presence of families immigrated from the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. In this sense, the series reflects the role of these regions in the settlement of the North Shore.

The series also includes a notarial deed with an attached plan of the establishment of the company.

#### **Variant titles**

The series contains the records of the "John and Elias Collas and Company" and "Charles Robin, Collas and Company."

#### **Ranking**

The series is divided into two sub-series: P8/4/1 General Administration, P8/4/7 General Stores.

## **Rivière-au-Renard**

### **P8/5**

1869-1930. - 0.99 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

Based on the records, the Rivière-au-Renard fishing station started its activities in 1869.

#### **Historical Preservation**

The records come mainly from the offices of the Robin company in Paspébiac. They were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Peter and Lawrence Legros in 2011.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on the daily management of the fishing station and general store in Rivière-au-Renard between 1869 and 1930.

It primarily consists of records of letters sent (1904-1930), mainly in Paspébiac, Gaspé, L'Anse-au-Griffon, Montreal and Toronto. There are also letters sent to clients in order to demand payment of their debts. The series also covers the period of the fishermen's revolt of 1909.

Through customer records (1869-1909), the series provides information on the products sold, cod production, payment methods, and debt levels. It also allows us to see that, in addition to Rivière-au-Renard, the establishment serves the localities of L'Anse-à-Valleau, Pointe-Jaune, St-Maurice-de-l'Échouerie, Petit-Cap and St. Majorique.

#### **Variant titles**

The series contains records of the "Charles Robin and Company", the "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

#### **Ranking**

The series is divided into two sub-series: P8 /5/1 General Administration, P8 /5/7 General Stores.

## **Malbay**

### **P8 /6**

1843-1948. - 5.43 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

Installed since 1816 in the Gaspésie peninsula, the presence of the "John Perrée and Sons" company in Malbay dates back to the 1840s. In 1852, the fishing station was bought by the "John and Elias Collas Company".

"In 1960, the Robins decided to divest some sites including L'Anse-à-Beaufils, Ste-Thérèse, Newport and Mal-Bay." The employees who were already on site had precedence over the others. The foreman, Lucien Chicoine, thus became owner of the site. He operated for thirteen years under the name of "Mal-Bay Fish". In 1973, Lucien Chicoine decided to sell the company due to health reasons. Gaston Langlais and Amédée Lapierre acquired the fishing site in early spring of 1974.

It is the creation of "Malbaie Fisheries inc." Between 1974 and 1989, Malbaie Fisheries extensively renovated the interior of buildings to meet Quebec standards. This is the phase of setting up norms and regularizing of the industry. Nevertheless, Malbaie Fisheries packed up on May 23, 1990.

#### **Historical Preservation**

The documents of the Malbay fishing station were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by mister Gaston Langlais.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on fishing activities, trade, import and export of goods of the Perrée, Collas and Robin Malbay and Pointe-Saint-Pierre companies. It also contains information about the North Shore institutions (Moisie, Sheldrake, Long Point, Rivière-Saint-Jean and Anticosti).

The series contains primarily a large number of letters exchanged (1888-1948) with the foremen of the Jersey island and, after the merger, the manager of Paspébiac. One can also find letters sent to local suppliers (Gaspé), Quebec (Quebec, Montreal), Canada (Ontario, New Brunswick, PEI, Prince Edward Island) and Americans. Within the company, we note that the reputation of the institution extends mainly from Rivière-au-Renard to Cape Cove (Anse-du-Cap).

Among these letters, there are exchanges with the recruiter St-Thomas-de-Montmagny, about hiring seasonal employees. In the 20th century, it also received instructions from the head office in Paspébiac about fishing operations and general store management for the entire Gaspesian peninsula.

The series has several documents on maritime trade activities. It also provides information on weather conditions, the ships, the captains' names, the transported products, etc. It contains several references to other companies in the area of the Bay of Malbaie: Clarence Hamilton, Alex Duncan, John Fauvel, Mabe Brothers and George Prével.

Through customer records (1843-1946), the series provides information on sales, production of cod, payment and level of indebtedness. It also includes a register of judgments, mortgages and land seized due to non-payment of debts. Adding fish purchase records (1887-1943), genealogists will find a fair amount of nominative information on the population of the St-Georges-de-Malbaie, Pointe-Saint-Pierre, Malbay, Belle Anse, Barachois and Bridgeville regions.

The series consists of several other documentary forms: daily newspapers, financial documents, books of orders and records of the forge. There are also several inventories of products sold to the general store: medications, fishing equipment, clothing, groceries, furniture, etc.

### **Variant titles**

The series contains documents from the following companies: "John Perrée and Sons", "John and Elias Collas and Company," "Charles Robin, Collas and Company", and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

### **Classification**

The series is divided into eight sub-series: P8/6/1 General administration P8/6/2 Staff management, P8/6/3 Finance, P8/6/4 Material resources, P8/6/5 Fishing and processing, P8/6/6 Imports and exports, P8/6/7 General stores, P8/6/8 Forge.

## **Rivière-Saint-Jean**

### **P8/7**

1877-1910. - 0.17 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

"John and Elias Collas and Company" is said to have installed in Pointe-St-Pierre in the 1850s. During the second half of the 19th century the Collas also extended their activities on the North Shore (Moisie and Sheldrake) and to the Anticosti Island.

Even though the company already had some connections with Charles Robin and Company, it was after the Bank of Jersey went bankrupt in 1886 that the two companies would officially merge.

A cape of the Rivière-Saint-Jean bears the name of "Pointe Robin."

#### **Historical Preservation**

Some documents probably come from the Malbay fishing station. Others were contributed by Mrs. Gisèle Chicoine in 2009.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on sales, production of cod fish, payment methods and level of indebtedness of the clients of the Rivière-St-Jean establishment on the North Coast. It consists of records of customer accounts and daily transactions.

#### **Title variants**

The series contains records of the "John and Elias Collas and Company," "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

#### **Ranking**

The series is divided in a sub-series: P8 /7/7 General stores.

## **Moisie**

### **P8 /8**

1877-1898. - 0.35 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

The "John and Elias Collas and Company" is said to have installed in Pointe-St-Pierre in the 1850s. During the second half of the nineteenth century the Collas also extended their activities to the North Shore (Moisie and Sheldrake) as well as to Anticosti Island.

If the company already had links with Charles Robin and Company, it is after the Bank of Jersey went bankrupt (1886) that the two companies would officially merge.

#### **Preservation history**

Some documents probably come from Malbay's fishing station. Others were paid by Gisèle Chicoine in 2009.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on sales, production of cod, payment methods and debt levels of the institution's clients in Moisie on the North Shore. It also contains references to Sheldrake, Rivière-Saint-Jean and L'Anse-aux-Fraises.

The series consists of records of clients and daily transactions.

#### **Variant titles**

The series contains the records of the "John and Elias Collas and Company" and "Charles Robin, Collas and Company."

#### **Ranking**

The series includes a sub-series: P8 /8/7 General stores.

## **L'Anse-à-Beaufils**

### **P8 /9**

1862-1885. - 0.03 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history /biography**

Based on the records, the fishing station of L'Anse-à-Beaufils is said to have started its operations in 1862. The Robin company is said to have officially installed there in 1870.

#### **Historical Preservation**

The documents were grouped with those from Percé's fishing station. They were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Peter and Lawrence Legros in 2013.

#### **Scope and content**

The series contains the names of shoreman and fishermen used for catching and processing fish in L'Anse-à-Beaufils. It consists of records of split fish, an inventory of the weighed fish and records of daily transactions at the general store.

#### **Variant titles**

The series contains the records of the "Charles Robin, Collas and Company."

#### **Ranking**

The series is divided into three sub-series: P8/9/1 General administration, P8/9/5 Fishing and processing, P8/9/7 General stores.

**Pabos  
P8/10**

1890-1937. - 0.52 m of textual records.

**Administrative history /biography**

The Pabos establishment began its activities in 1867.

**Historical Preservation**

The documents were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Mr. Duguay Clermont in 2011.

**Scope and content**

The series provides information on sales, production of cod, payment methods and the level of indebtedness of customers of Pabos and L'Anse-au-Basque establishments. The series consists of records of customers and credit sales.

**Variant titles**

The series contains the records of "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

**Ranking**

The series is divided into three sub-series: P8/10/3 Finances, P8/10/5 Fishing and processing, P8/10/7 General Stores.

## **Gaspé**

### **P8/11**

1892-1896. - 0.10 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history / Biography**

The "John and Elias Collas and Company" is said to have installed in Pointe-St-Pierre in the 1850s. During the second half of the nineteenth century the Collas also extended their activities on the North Shore (Moisie and Shel Drake) and to Anticosti Island.

Though the company already has some connections with Charles Robin and Company, it is in the aftermath of the Bank of Jersey bankruptcy in 1886 that the two companies officially merged.

#### **Historical Preservation**

The documents probably come from the Malbay fishing station.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on fishing activities, trade, import and export of goods from the company "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" in Gaspé. It also contains information on the North Shore institutions (Moisie, Shel Drake, Magpie).

The series contains a few letters addressed to the head office of Paspébiac and headquarters of the Jersey island. There are also letters sent to Quebec suppliers (Quebec, Montreal, Campbellton), Canadians (Ontario, New Brunswick, PEI, Prince Edward Island) and Americans.

The series also reflects the links maintained with the Rivière-au-Renard and L'Anse-au-Griffon institutions. It finally has a few references to ship building and maritime trade, especially with Barbados and Brazil.

**Variant titles**

The series includes records of the "John and Elias Collas and Company" and "Charles Robin, Collas and Company."

**Ranking**

The series includes a sub-series: P8 /11/1 General Administration.

## **Gascons**

### **P8 /12**

1902-1905. - 0.08 m of textual records.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on sales, cod production, payment methods and the level of indebtedness of customers of the Gascons establishment. It consists of clients records and daily transactions.

#### **Variant titles**

The series consists of records of "Charles Robin, Collas and Company."

#### **Ranking**

The series includes a sub-series: P8/12/7 General Stores.

## **Barchois**

### **P8/13**

1903-1928. - 0.14 m of textual records.

#### **Administrative history / biography**

The Barchois fishing station is said to have opened its doors in early 20th century.

#### **Preservation history**

The documents probably come from the Malbay fishing post.

#### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on sales, cod production, payment methods and the level of indebtedness of customers of the Barchois establishment. It consists of customer records, invoices and product inventory.

#### **Title variants**

The series consists of records from "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

#### **Classification**

The series is divided into two sub-series: Finance (P8/13/3), General Stores (P8/13/7).

## **Newport P8/14**

1914-1949. - 1.32 m of textual records.

### **Historical Preservation**

The documents were given to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Madam Lorraine Blanchard and the Mary Travers interpretation Center, also known as La Bolduc.

### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on fishing activities, trade, import and export of goods from the "Robin, Jones and Whitman" company in Newport Islands (isles).

The series contains a good amount of received letters, mainly instructions from the head office of Paspébiac, addressed to the Gaspé institutions. This is an interesting source for the period 1930-1940.

The series also shows the network providers of the local establishments, Quebec (Quebec, Montreal, Campbellton) and Canada (Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia).

The series provides information on sales, production of cod, payment methods and the level of clients' indebtedness. One can also find for example letters sent in order to demand the payment of the debts.

The series consists of several documentary forms: notebooks with customer accounts, invoices, receipt books, orders, inventory and price lists.

### **Variant titles**

The series consists of records from "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

### **Classification**

The series is divided into four sub-series: P8/14/1 General Administration, P8/14/3 Finance, P8/14/6 Import and Export, P8/14/7 General Stores.

**Belle-Anse**  
**P8/15**

1919-1920. - 0.01 m of textual documents.

**Historical Preservation**

The documents probably come from Malbay fishing station.

**Scope and content**

The series provide information on the products sold in the "Robin, Jones and Whitman" company store by Belle-Anse in 1919 and 1920.

**Title variants**

The series consist of records of the "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

**Ranking**

The series includes a sub-series: P8 /15/7 General Stores.

## **Petite-Rivière- East P8 /16**

1886 1927-1945. - 0.08 m of textual records. -23 Plans.

### **Administrative history/ biography**

Petite-Rivière-East is now part of the Municipality of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

### **Historical Preservation**

The documents were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Réal Roussy.

### **Scope and content**

The series contains some letters received from suppliers as well as instructions from the head office of Paspébiac. There are also plans of buildings and establishment of Petite-Rivière-Est.

The series also contains payment requests (1886), leases, judgments, financial statements, catalogs, labels of J.W. Windsor, etc. There are also equipments sales contracts in several annual installments.

### **Variant titles**

The series consists of records of "Charles Robin, Collas and Company" and "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

### **Ranking**

The series is divided into five sub-series: P8/16/1 General Administration, P8/16/3 Finances, P8/16/4 Material resources, P8/16/5 Fishing and processing, and P8/16/7 General Stores.

## **Cape Cove P8/17**

1928. - 0.04 m of textual records.

### **Administrative history/ biography**

The Cape Cove fishing station is said to have started its activities in 1876. Located near Cap d'Espoir, the place is now part of the municipality of Percé.

### **Historical Preservation**

The documents were grouped with those from Percé fishing station. They were donated to the Musée de la Gaspésie by Peter and Lawrence Legros in 2013.

### **Scope and content**

The series provides information on sold products, cod production, payment methods and debt levels of the customers of the Cape Cove (Anse-du-Cap) facility. It consists of a register of client accounts.

### **Title variants**

The series consists of records of the "Robin, Jones and Whitman."

### **Ranking**

The series includes a sub-series: P8/17/7 General Stores.

