

Papers relating to United Electric Tramways of Montevideo Ltd, tramway operating company

This document describes a collection of records held by NatWest Group Archives, including details of their background; publications (if any) relating to them; summary of the contents of the collection; and information (where known) about related records held in other archives.

collection reference GM/2045/

background history

United Electric Tramways of Montevideo Ltd was set up in the early twentieth century by La Sociedad Commercial de Montevideo, the local affiliate of a British transport company which, alongside La Transatlántica (affiliated to a rival German transport company), had purchased controlling interests in Montevideo's seven existing horse-drawn streetcar lines in anticipation of the electrification and expansion of the tramway system.

The first electrified line, owned by La Sociedad Commercial, opened in late 1906 and ran from the business district of the city to the beach suburb of Pocitos. Other lines were opened over the course of the next five years by both La Sociedad Commercial and La Transatlántica, and passenger numbers multiplied. The tramway companies were subject to a high degree of state regulation, concerning for example the expansion of their networks and fare prices. The companies were eventually nationalised in the 1940s, and the tramway system itself was dismantled during the following decade.

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The London bank [Glyn, Mills & Co](#) appears to have been involved in financing United Electric Tramways of Montevideo Ltd.

related publication

- A Rosenthal, 'The arrival of the electric streetcar and the conflict over progress in early twentieth-century Montevideo', *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol.27:2, May 1995, pp.319-42

our archive holdings

- quarterly statements of account to La Sociedad Commercial 1905-25
- agreement with La Sociedad Commercial for tramway electrification 1905
- receipts of title deeds lodged with the London and River Plate Bank Ltd 1905
- debenture stock and share transfer records 1905-8
- legal opinion on the company's relationship with the state 1908
- records re appointment of, and power of attorney for, trustees 1906-21