

FASCINATING FIND

MELTING POT



This large Amver brand cast iron melting pot is almost a hundred years old, and is part of a large collection of old letterpress printing machinery. The linotype and intertype typesetting machines produced slugs (lines of type) from hot or type metal, which was an alloy of lead, tin and antimony. These were assembled into pages and used in the presses to print the paper. After printing was completed the type slugs were placed in this gas fired crucible, heated to melting point, (about 280 C or 540 F), and poured into ingots for re-use.

After 60 years of service, this machinery was replaced by early computer based printing equipment, and the Gympie Times donated it to the museum. It is on display in the tank and in the stamper shed.