

NATIONAL MUSEUMS **LIVERPOOL**

**BUSINESS RECORDS CENTRE  
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT**

**FRANCIS MORTON & CO., LTD., IRON MERCHANTS**

**Ref. Code: B/FM  
Acc. No.: MMM.1965.193**

**Listed by  
David Le Mare, Curator of Business Records  
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Retyped by  
Sarah Starkey, Curator of Maritime Archives  
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**INTRODUCTION**

The company goes back to 1766 when John Morton established a Chandler's business in Cable Street, Liverpool. By 1847 the firm was trading as the "Galvanised Iron Merchants", and run by Francis and Henry Morton. In 1858 Henry retired; Francis carried on alone and opened offices at 27 James Street and acquired works premises in Bevington Bush, and in 1863 additional works at Marybone.

Between 1863 and 1870, Francis Morton died, and to provide funds, the business was formed into a limited liability company, under the new Act of 1861, becoming one of the first firms in Liverpool to be so formed. The company prospered and built a new works in Naylor Street, but by 1880 there was again a need to look for new premises.

In 1880 Morton's took over the Windsor Iron Works in Garston, run by Colonel Hamilton. The premises were ideal and Morton's expanded, increased production, and won orders from all over the world, for their fences, gates, iron schools, churches and railway buildings. One of the first contracts at the new site was for the main girders of the Overhead Railway, work on which started in 1889. By now they had offices in London, Sheffield and Glasgow.

The archive consists of a letterbook and 5 catalogues. There are also some newscuttings, extracts from books and other articles. Also 2 postcards from St. Helier in Jersey, with views of a Morton building.

This collection was a gift from Mr. Cox of St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands, and was presented to the Maritime Archives & Library by Mr. B. Brett.

The collection is accessible by appointment only. Contact the Maritime Archives & Library for further information.

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**Title of Deposit: FRANCIS MORTON & CO., LTD., IRON MERCHANTS**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
B/FM/1 - 9	<b><u>FRANCIS MORTON &amp; CO., LTD., IRON MERCHANTS</u></b>	<b><u>1848 - 1992</u></b>
1/1	<b><u>Administrative Records</u></b>	<b><u>1848 - 1853</u></b>
1	Letterbook of H.J. Morton. [and inserts]	31 Jul 1848 - 28 Nov 1853
2/1 - 5	<b><u>Sales Catalogues</u></b>	<b><u>1851 - c.1900</u></b>
1	General - a red leather bound volume, indexed, illustrated and paginated.	1851
2	Metal Fences.	20 May 1851
3	Churches and Schools.	c.1870
4	General - iron buildings.	1885
5	No. 15.  [All these catalogues need conservation; 3-5 are very fragile.]	c.1900
3/1 - 6	<b><u>Newscuttings</u></b>	<b><u>1886 - 1992</u></b>
1	Morton's advertisement in the British Press and the <i>Jersey Times</i> .	2 Feb 1886
2	"A visit to the Jersey Railway's Co.", in the <i>Jersey Express</i> .	17 Oct 1894
3	"Messrs. Down Bros.", in the <i>Jersey Express</i> .	9 Oct 1896
4	Details of the Auction of the Jersey Eastern Railway, on the 15 and 16 May 1930.	May 1930
5	Details of the Auction of the Jersey Eastern Railway, on the 16 May 1930.	15 May 1930
6	Details of the Snow Hill Station building, used for 60 years as a farm shed and being restored, in the <i>Jersey Evening Post</i> .	10 Jul 1992

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B/FM/1 - 9	<b><u>FRANCIS MORTON &amp; CO., LTD., IRON MERCHANTS (cont)</u></b>	<b><u>1848 - 1992</u></b>
4/1	<b><u>Extracts from Book (photocopies)</u></b>	<b><u>1965</u></b>
1	Frontispiece, map of railway. [3 pages, pp. 102, 103 and 116]; and illustrations showing Snow Hill Station, taken from "The Jersey Eastern Railway", by N.R.P. Bonsor, Oakwood Press, 1965.	1965
5/1 - 2	<b><u>Postcards</u></b>	<b><u>1893 - 1894</u></b>
1	St. Helier from Fort Regent, showing Morton building.	1893
2	St. Helier.	1894
6	Extract from book, Chapter X, "Industry & Trade in Garston", from <i>The Story of Garston and its Church</i> , by Reverend J.M. Swift, published in 1937.	n.d.
7	An Introduction to the Industrial Development of Garston, B. Brett.	n.d.
8	Garston Industry and Dock Development - a Summary.	n.d.
9	More about Morton's - leaflet prepared by Garston and District Historical Society.	n.d.
	Numbers 6 to 9 is all photocopied.	

