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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE



Records of F.C. Chamberlain & Co. Ltd.
Shoe Manufacturers
Palk Road, Wellingborough

Accession 1977/249

The firm was founded by Frederick Chamberlain, who made boot uppers at West Street, Wellingborough, in 1891. In 1903, he had moved to Mill Road, and by 1903, was established in Palk Road, producing boot uppers, leggings and gaiters by 1919. In this year, Frederick Chamberlain donated Swanspool House and Gardens to the people of Wellingborough. An article of 1927, in the "Monthly Pictorial" magazine, shows the business to be thriving; "Hundreds of articles, mostly concerned with footwear, are produced daily in the form of leggings, mens' spats, ladies' gaiters, travelling slippers, moccasins, all of high quality".

With the death of Mr Chamberlain's son, Derick, the firm was taken over by Norvic in 1949, who turned production towards cheaper quality ladies shoes. In 1975, the factory was sold out to Drakers, as part of Norvics' rationalisation plan, but continued to produce cheaper quality ladies shoes, specialising in wider fittings. In July 1977, the factory was forced to close down, through lack of orders, and foreign competition.

The firm of L. Lilley Ltd. is associated with Chamberlains, because it was also taken over by Norvic in 1949. The firm is first mentioned in a Northants. Directory of 1874, as Thomas Lilley Shoe Manufacturer, at 51, Market Street, Wellingborough, also owning a wholesale boot and shoe factory in Irthlingborough. By 1877, Thomas Lilley had expanded both works. In Wellingborough he now owned a wholesale and retail boot and shoe factory in Market Street, a retail shop at 51, Market Street, and a boot upper factory at Cambridge Street. Whilst in Irthlingborough, he had a wholesale boot and shoe factory, and a curriers and leather merchants.

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Records of F.C. Chamberlain & Co. Ltd.
Shoe Manufacturers
(cont.)

By 1903, the firm was known as Lilley and Jones of Cambridge Street, and by 1918, as L. Lilley Ltd. in new premises, the Elsdon Works, Mill Road, producing boot uppers, leggings and gaiters, and acting as a leather merchant. The Irthlingborough works had become the Lilley Leather Company, but closed down between 1929-35.

When Lilleys were taken over by Norvic, they were producing shoes of all types, including slippers.

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(I) F.C. Chamberlain and Co. Ltd.

- 1 Accounts Book: July 1952-July 1954
Contains two separate accounts, the first half are Chamberlain's, the second, another branch of Norvic.
Part a) details of all out-payments, including expenses, petty cash, wages, with names of firms from whom goods purchased, and amounts. In-payments generally put together for each month under 'sales company'. Balanced monthly.
Part b) out-payments are purchases from Chamberlains, and occasionally, other firms, and odd expenses. Sales nearly all to shoe shops. Amount of all given and balanced monthly.
- 2 Despatch Book: Dec 1955-Dec 1959
Gives daily account of nos. of pairs of shoes, and their value, sent out by Chamberlains, to the Norvic branch firms:- Howlett and White, Lilley Ltd., Mansfield Shoe Company. Amounts totalled monthly for shoes to each firm.
- 3 Machinery Stock Lists: 1948
Lists all machinery and furniture per room in the factory. Gives type of machine, date of installation, and cost, with its value at 30.6.1948. Gives amount of rent, if the machine rented, and, if it was sold off, date, to whom, and price paid.
- 4 Certificate: 1951
1951 Festival of Britain Exhibition certificate, to show that the products of F.C.Chamberlain and Co. Ltd. were chosen for display.
- 5 Copy of "THE MONTHLY PICTORIAL" Magazine: April 1927
Contains an article and pictures about Chamberlains factory, p.p.22-24.

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(II)

L. Lilley Ltd.

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| 6 | <p>Purchase Day Book:
 Daily account of purchases made by Lilleys. Lists name and address of supplier, description of goods bought - mainly leather, but also parts for decorating and lining shoes, e.g. bias binding, eyelets, glues, etc. Gives prices of goods, totalled monthly, with folio references to private ledger and bought ledger.</p> | Nov 1946-Feb 1954 |
| 7 | <p>Bought Ledger:
 Lilleys purchase accounts with suppliers, sundry accounts, and utilities. Gives name and address of suppliers, date of purchase, method of payment, amount of discount, and date of goods delivery. Folio references to purchase day book, and to receipts and payments book.</p> | March 1945-Oct 1952 |
| 8 | <p>Machinery and Trade Expenses Book:
 Records daily sundry expenditure on utilities, machinery repairs, trade expenses, stationery and carriage costs, with annual summaries and totals. Name and address of any suppliers, repairers, etc., given with description of expense. Folio references in annual summaries to private ledger.</p> | Nov 1953-Jan 1955 |
| 9-10 | <p>Receipts and Payments Book - 2 vols:
 Lists daily receipts and payments, including wages and petty cash. Names of firms dealt with are listed, and payment/receipt amounts in 3 columns, to show:- discount, amount owed, amount paid. Totalled monthly. Folio references to bought and customers ledger.</p> | <p>Jan 1941-Oct 1948
 Oct 1948-Jan 1955</p> |

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L. Lilley Ltd. (cont.)

- 11-13 Private Ledger - 3 vols: Jan 1916-Dec 1930
Indexed accounts of Lilleys income Jan 1931-Dec 1947
and expenditure, all totalled in Jan 1948-Jan 1955
December of each year.
- Income accounts include: rents
receivable, debtors, sales, bad
debts, bank deposit a/c's, trade
debtors.
- Expenditure accounts include: wages
and salaries, utilities, machinery,
repairs, directors fees, advertising,
commissions, share dividends,
travelling expenses, carriage and
trade expenses, purchases, sub-
scriptions, investments.
- 14-17 Sales Day Book - 4 vols: Sept 1944-April 1946
Daily account of sales, name and Jan 1949-June 1950
address of buyer, with description June 1950-June 1952
of goods sold (mainly shoes, shoe July 1952-Nov 1954
parts, and slippers), price per
item, and total cost, including
postage. Totalled monthly.
- 18 Customers Accounts Ledger: Feb 1945-Dec 1952
Lists names and addresses of
customers, and sundry accounts.
Gives date goods despatched,
date and method of payment,
with amount of discount.
- Index at front.
- 19 Petty Cash Book: Sept 1949-March 1958
Gives all items of sundry expenditure,
with monthly summaries and totals.
Annual summaries also with folio
references to private ledger.
- (Jan 1955-Jan 1958 in another petty
cash book, not in our possession.)

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L. Lilley Ltd. (cont.)

- 20 Bills Receivable Book: Aug 1885-Feb 1938
Gives names and addresses of customers, and date of acceptance, by Lilleys, of bills of exchange. Date of bill, place payable, time due for payment, date, and to whom transferred.
- 21 Stock Book: March 1928-Sept 1948
Gives stocks of: pp. 1-150 Box Calf, pp. 151+ Beva, Chrome, etc. (i.e. types of leather), pp. 104-149 - cut out, pp. 182-201 - missing. Date of stocktaking given, with names of foreman or person checking stock. Gives quantity of named leather, and its purchase price/foot, and total value. On the right, goods made from this batch of leather are listed, with their wholesale prices and total value of the "made-up" goods, and a gain or loss amount of money determined. Total value of all stock is never worked out.
- 22 Slipper Stock Book: Nov 1940-Oct 1954
Date of stocktaking given with names of foreman or person checking stock. Gives quantity of named leather, and its purchase price/foot, and total value. On the right, goods made from this batch of leather are listed, with their wholesale prices and total value. The value of the leather is taken from the value of the "made-up" goods, and a gain or loss amount of money determined.
- Loose in back: slipper stock list prices 1951-54, with reference nos. used in the stocktaking.