

Northamptonshire Record Office

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE



Records of Rice & Co. (Northampton) Ltd.,
Repetition Ironfounders, of
South Bridge Road, Northampton.

Accession 1978/157

The Eagle Foundry was established in 1823 by Brettell and Barwell at the bottom of Bridge Street on the Phipps Brewery premises by the river. An advertisement of 1823 records the business manufacturing "iron arms for carts and wagons, tire and nails, iron hurdles, hare fencing and every other article manufactured in wrought iron. Best price given for old cast and wrought iron, copper, brass, lead, etc.".

Mr. Pickering Phipps Rice purchased the foundry in the 1860's and it has remained in the Rice family ever since. In the early days, the Bridge Street Foundry made castings for the building trade, from ranges and grates to lamp-posts, gulley grates and stable fittings. These were supplied to ironfounders, ironmongers and private customers all over England, as far as Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, in Essex, the Home Counties and in South and South-West England. The business also had a London selling office in Arthur Street, London Bridge.

In 1928 the Eagle Foundry was moved to South Bridge Road, although the offices remained in Bridge Street until the 1950's. A wide range of iron castings were manufactured for domestic use such as fireguards, grates, firedogs, wall plaques, stoves and rainwater heads; for agricultural use, for example mangers, hayracks and other stable fittings and for general use, for example signposts, gratings, bakers' ovens, manhole covers, sewer steps and ventilation shafts.

During World War II, the Foundry began to manufacture engineering castings and these have been the main product of the Company ever since. Over 100 tons of iron castings for all industries are produced a week, including castings for diesel engines, pumps, compressors, lifts and cranes, cars, pipe fittings, power transmissions, valve controls and textile machinery.

The Company has been modernised and expanded since 1963 and plans for further investment and expansion have been made for 1978/79.

In 1975, Rice & Co. Ltd's. associated Company, Rice Shell-mould Ltd. was opened at Round Spinney Industrial Estate, producing precision iron castings for cars and commercial vehicles, diesel engines, hydraulics and associated industries. In 1976 another associated Company was also opened, Round Spinney Components Ltd., producing bar auto components and machine castings.

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Rice & Co. (Northampton) Ltd.

Section A

Ledgers:

1	*North-West Journey Book A record of journeys made in the region North-West of Northampton, as far as Liverpool, by a representative of Rice & Co. to collect money and orders from ironmongers and ironfounders. The book gives the name and residence of the ironmonger, amount owed and amount paid by cash or by cheque. (Only two journeys are made each year.)	Jan 1870-Aug 1871
2	Midland Journey Book	1868-1872
3	South-West Journey Book	1870-1871
4	Two ledger pages of travelling sales representative of Rice & Co.	c.1870

Section B

Catalogues:

1	*General catalogue of castings of Rice & Co. (2 copies - 1 copy held by the Record Office.)	Feb 1913
2	General catalogue of Rice & Co.	c.1913
3	General catalogue of Rice & Co.	1920's
4	Catalogue of Rice & Co.	1931
5	General catalogue of Lays, Ironfounders of London.	1933
6	*General catalogue of Rice & Co.	1938
7	Catalogue of Miscellaneous Castings, Direction and Motor Sign Posts of Rice & Co.	c.1930's
8	Catalogue of Hobstoves & Dog Grates of Rice & Co.	-
9	Two leaflets on "Warmray" home heaters (1 held by the Record Office.)	1950's

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(cont.)

Section C

Photographs:

1	Mr. Pickering Phipps Rice	c.1900
2	Booklet of photographs:- Mr. A. Rice, Mr. John Rice at the Bridge Street works and general views of the South Bridge Road works.	1920's & 30's
3	Employees at the South Bridge Road works.	1930's
4	*Employees at the South Bridge Road works (Mr. A. Rice in the middle holding a clock).	1950
5	Views of employees and the works.	1960's
6	Booklet of photographs of items made by Rice & Co. over the years.	1920's +
7	*Fire grate made by Rice & Co.	c.1930's
8	*Dog grate made by Rice & Co.	c.1930's
9	*Grate and firedogs made by Rice & Co.	c.1930's
10	*Backplate of fire grate made by Rice & Co.	c.1930's
11	*Ornamental lion door-stop made by Rice & Co.	1970's
12	* " " " " " " " " " "	1970's

Section D

Miscellaneous:

1	Xerox of advertisement for Rice & Co. in "The Ironmonger".	1874
2	*Letterhead of Rice & Co.	c.1910
3	Price list for a catalogue of Rice & Co.	1936
4	List of spare parts for a Municipal Marvel Oven.	-