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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Records of G.L. Michel & Sons,
Knife and Machinery Manufacturers
and Leather Merchants
for the Boot and Shoe Industry
37, Newland, Northampton

Accession 1972/83
Accession 1986/345
Accession 1990/69

The firm of G.L. Michel is first recorded in a Northants directory of 1863/64, as "G.L.Michel - English and Foreign Leather Merchant of 37-40, Newland, Northampton". An 1894 directory shows the premises also occupied by the son of George Leopold Michel as "D. Michel & Co., Shoe Manufacturers". However, by 1903, the firms of father and son had amalgamated to become G.L. Michel & Son, Leather Merchants, at 37, Newland.

The firm carried on several operations within the same premises - leather was bought and sold; secondhand and new boot and shoe machinery was bought, overhauled, repaired or rebuilt, and then resold to shoe manufacturers. Shoe leather cutting knives were made of all sizes and types. Michels firm also went to other companies for the purpose of valuing their machinery. They traded with the firms all over Britain and also France. This trade was established by Michels advertising its rebuilt machinery and knives in most of the leather trade magazines, as well as offering to buy unused or unwanted secondhand machinery from shoe firms, which they could resell.

By the 1920's the firm was run by three brothers, Montague, Henry and Leon Michel, but in october 1929, Leon retired, bankrupt, from the business, due to continued ill health and a series of misfortunes. The firm was continued by the other brothers and one of their sons, David Michel, entered the business later.

In 1972, when the area was redeveloped, the firm left Newland and moved to 1, Purser Road, Northampton, where it remains today, still operating under the same name of G.L. Michel & Sons, Leather Merchants. In October 1983 the firm celebrated its 125th Anniversary.

G.L.Michel & Sons

SECTION A

VOLUMES

(A)

Letter Books

Carbon copies of the books written during the dates shown below to other firms and private individuals, dealing with offers by the company; quotes; auctions; and related material.

- 1 February 1920 - April 1921
- 2 April 1922 - May 1923
- 3 May 1923 - May 1925
- 4 May 1925 - September 1927
- 5 October 1927 - July 1929
- 6 July 1929 - January 1932
- 7 January 1932 - January 1937
- 8 January 1937 - November 1944

Personal Notebooks

Belonging to D.O. Michel, and recording technical information (e.g. last numbers, etc.) and notes as to when shoe firms require certain items. Also there is a daily account of telephone calls.

- 9 January 1950 - February 1951
- 10a May 1951 - November 1952
- 10b December 1952 - May 1954
- 10c May 1954 - October 1955
- 10d October 1955 - January 1957
- 10e January 1957 - March 1958
- 10f April 1958 - March 1959
- 10g April 1959 - December 1959
- 10h December 1959 - September 1960
- 10i October 1960 - June 1961

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION A (CONT.)

VOLUMES (CONT.)

Personal Notebooks (cont.)

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 10j | September 1961 - October 1962 |
| 10k | October 1962 - October 1963 |
| 10l | October 1963 - June 1964 |
| 10m | June 1964 - March 1965 |
| 10n | April 1965 - January 1966 |
| 10o | February 1966 - June 1967 |
| 10p | July 1967 - March 1968 |
| 10q | March 1968 - October 1968 |
| 10r | October 1968 - May 1969 |
| 10s | May 1969 - January 1970 |
| 10t | January 1970 - April 1971 |

Packing Books
see 25 a-g

BOXES

Correspondence

Bills and orders from 1908 - 1962, dealing with private customers and firms, regarding orders, quotes, offers, and dealing with day to day enquiries to the firm.
Dates below:

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 11 | A - H | 1908 |
| 12 | H - Z | 1908 |
| 13 | A - Z | 1909 |
| 14 | A - Z | 1915 |
| 15 | A - Z | 1915 |
| 16 | A - Z | 1916 |

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION A (CONT.)

BOXES (CONT.)

Correspondence (cont.)

- 17 1947 - 1950
- 18 1947 - Early 1950s
- 19 1957 - 1960
- 20 1960 - 1961 Random Order
- 21 1960 - 1962 Random Order

Miscellaneous Box - spanning the years 1906 - 1916

- 22a Correspondence, 1906 - 1908
- 22b Enquiries, 1908
- 22c 3 Bundles
 - (i) Delivery and Packing Notes
 - (ii) Advertisements, Circulars
 - (iii) Raffle Tickets, Press Cuttings
- 22d Despatch notes and receipts, 1909
- 22e Delivery receipts, 1915
- 22f Goods received, 1915
- 22g Letters and notes dealing with orders, quotes and invoices, 1915/1916
- 22h Enquiries from firms regarding orders, 1916

Miscellaneous Box - spanning the years 1917 - 1948

- 23a Enquiries from other firms, quotes, etc., 1917
- 23b Miscellaneous papers, 1918 - 1961
- 23c Correspondence regarding the retirement of Leon Michel, with regard to his bankruptcy, 1929 - 1935
- 24d Letters from firms regarding orders, 1948

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION A (CONT.)

BOXES (cont.)

Miscellaneous Box
containing:

- 24a Correspondence between 1929 - 1930
- 24b Enquiries from private individuals and firms regarding enquiries and orders

VOLUMES (Cont.)

Packing Books

- 25a October 1977 - December 1979
- 25b December 1979 - January 1982
- 25c January 1982 - May 1983
- 25d May 1983 - August 1984
- 25e August 1984 - June 1985
- 25f July 1985 - May 1986
- 25g May 1986 - March 1987

SECTION B

Purchase Day Book

Gives daily account of goods purchased, with name of supplier, price of individual items and their total cost. Totalled monthly and discount allowable to Michels deducted from monthly total.

- 1a May 1914 - May 1917
- 1b March 1973 - November 1979
- 1c December 1979 - April 1984
- 1d May 1984 - December 1984

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (cont.)

Bought Ledgers

Gives names and addresses of persons/firms with whom Michels have accounts: gives amount paid, date and method of payment. Discount, if any allowable to Michels, shown.

- 2 January 1891 - November 1913
- 3 May 1908 - December 1922
- 4a January 1920 - April 1940
- 4b August 1940 - June 1967
- 4c November 1966 - December 1984

Cashbooks of Payments Out

Gives date of invoice, name of payee, amount paid, with columns indicating types of goods:- leather, machinery/auction goods, advertising, rates, stationery, light and heat, repairs. Totalled monthly and forwarded to the end of the year.

- 5 January 1917 - November 1917
- 6 November 1917 - July 1918
- 7 July 1918 - May 1919
- 8 June 1919 - March 1920
- 9 April 1920 - April 1921
- 10 April 1921 - April 1922
- 11 May 1922 - March 1923

List of credits at end of each book with name of person owing money, amount paid, and whether for leather or machinery/auction goods.

- 12 March 1923 - March 1924
- 13 March 1924 - March 1925
- 14a March 1925 - July 1926
- 14b August 1926 - February 1928

G.L.MICHEL & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (CONT.)

Cashbook of Payments Out(cont.)

- 15 March 1928 - May 1932
- 16 April 1932 - March 1934
- 17 April 1934 - April 1936
- 18 May 1924 - August 1946
- 19 September 1946 - October 1948
- 20a November 1948 - January 1956
- 20b February 1956 - September 1961
- 20c October 1961 - November 1966
- 20d December 1966 - February 1973

Payments to Suppliers Notebook

Gives names of suppliers, amounts paid, balanced against amount held in the bank. Totalled monthly.

- 21a June 1946 - June 1951
- 21b August 1951 - September 1955
- 21c October 1955 - October 1960
- 21d October 1960 - December 1964

Box of Bills and Invoices to Michels

- 22a 1957 - 1960
- 22b Sundry invoices for goods purchased 1958 - 1961
- 22c Vouchers 248 - 541, January 1961 - June 1961
- 22d Purchase invoices July 1974 - June 1975
- 22e Purchase invoices July 1975 - June 1976
- 22f Purchase invoices July 1976 - June 1977
- 22g Purchase invoices July 1977 - June 1978

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (cont.)

Box of Bills and Invoices to Michels (cont.)

- | | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 23 | (a) | General bills (light, heat, etc.) | Dec.1929 - Dec.1934 |
| | (b) | General bills (light, heat, etc.) | April 1938 - May 1952 |
| | (c) | Leather and machinery bills | Oct.1932 - April 1933 |
| | (d) | Leather and machinery bills | May 1933 - Oct.1933 |

Receipts and Payments Books

Shows payments out of firms, for utilities and sundry expenses, receipts from firms or private customers. Amounts not totalled up.

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 24 | December 1892 - June 1899 |
| 25 | June 1899 - June 1904 |
| 26 | July 1904 - June 1908 |
| 27 | July 1908 - August 1911 |
| 28 | September 1911 - March 1915 |
| 29 | March 1915 - May 1919 |
| 30 | June 1919 - May 1923 |
| 31 | June 1923 - January 1927 |
| 32a | September 1928 - October 1934 |
| 32b | January 1935 - November 1941 |
| 32c | December 1941 - March 1952 |
| 32d | April 1952 - June 1964 |
| 32e | July 1964 - June 1972 |

Petty Cash and Expenses Books

Shows general expenses under various headings - wages, carriage, travelling, individuals, petty cash.

B35 also entered under C5.

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (cont.)

Petty Cash and Expenses Books (cont.)

- 33 November 1923 - April 1941
- 34 May 1941 - July 1945
- 35a August 1945 - June 1950
- 35b July 1950 - September 1957
- 35c October 1957 - May 1965
- 35d Cash Receipt Book January 1985 - July 1987
- 35e Petty Cash Book January 1985 - January 1987
- 35f Cash Payment Book January 1985 - April 1986

Travelling Expenses Notebooks

Shows bills for petrol and running costs for firms cars, including incidental expenses, e.g. light bulbs. Shows cars used, with their registration numbers and mileage.

- 36 May 1928 - August 1940
- 37a September 1940 - June 1950
- 37b July 1950 - May 1957
- 37c May 1957 - March 1959
- 37d March 1959 - April 1967

Orders Ledger

Gives names and addresses of firms ordering goods, with dates of orders. Shows what type of material required and the quantity to be delivered.

- 38a 1924 - 1943
- 38b Confirmation notes covering telephone orders. June 1978 - November 1980.
- 38c Notes of telephone orders 1982 - 1983

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (CONT.)

Goods on Approval Books

Shows items being tried out on approval lent to other firms, also machinery overhauled or repaired by Michels, with dates of entry and return, including costs. Orders for spare parts or goods to be added onto other sales shown.

- 39 March 1931 - August 1938
- 40a September 1938 - February 1956
- 40b Sales notebook of H.H.Michel 1921 - 1922

Sales Day Books

Gives daily account of sales with names and addresses of purchasers, quality and type of goods sold, individual price and total price; totalled monthly. Returns of goods to Michels are recorded in red at the end of the month, showing name of purchaser, type, amount and cost of goods returned, with date of return. These are deducted from the monthly total. Monthly totals are carried forward to the end of the year.

- 41 February 1917 - May 1919
- 42 June 1919 - March 1920
- 43 March 1922 - September 1924
- 44 October 1924 - July 1927
- 45 August 1927 - December 1930
- 46 January 1931 - December 1934
- 47 January 1935 - November 1938
- 48 November 1938 - January 1943
- 49a February 1943 - February 1948
- 49b February 1948 - December 1957
- 49c January 1958 - September 1965
- 49d October 1965 - January 1971
- 49e February 1971 - September 1974

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (cont.)

Sales Day Books (cont.)

- 49f October 1974 - October 1978
- 49g November 1978 - November 1984
- 49h November 1983 - December 1984

Despatch Books

Daily account of goods despatched from Michels, with name and address of purchaser, description of goods, individual prices and total price. Sometimes date of ordering is given. Goods returned are in red. No totalling amounts are given.

- 50 April 1929 - November 1932
- 51 November 1932 - March 1936
- 52a March 1936 - September 1939
- 52b September 1939 - August 1943
- 53a August 1943 - March 1948
- 53b April 1948 - June 1957
- 53c July 1957 - October 1964
- 53d November 1964 - September 1969
- 53e September 1969 - August 1971
- 53f September 1971 - August 1973
- 53g August 1973 - January 1975
- 53h January 1975 - October 1977

Sales Ledgers

Each firms accounts recorded separately, with their name and address, date invoice sent out and for what amount given. Shows amount paid, date and method of payment and amount of discount, if any.

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (CONT.)

Sales Ledgers (cont.)

- 54 A - L July 1912 - February 1931
- 55a M - Z August 1912 - March 1931
- 55b Running summary of small sales (?) 1934 - 1956
- 55c Ditto, 1950 - 1959
- 55d Ledger with few entries alphabetically
- 55e Notebook: ledger of dates of orders and types of leather supplied; prices inc. June 1965 - January 1970
- 55f Old Sales Ledger May 1971 - March 1984
- 55g New Sales Ledger 1983 - 1984

Customer Accounts Ledger

Each customer's account recorded separately, with their name and address. Gives date sent out and for what amount. Shows amount of discount, if any.

- 56 1907 - 1913
- 57a 1922 - 1935
- 57b 1935 - 1947
- 57c 1947 - 1971

Sundry Persons Accounts Ledgers

Daily account of sales to small firms or individuals. Shows amount owed, date and method of payment, with columns totalled up at the foot of each page.

- 58 October 1907 - January 1925
- 59a October 1931 - April 1938
- 59b May 1946 - April 1963
- 59c Sales invoices (with some letters) 1965 - 1969
- 59d Sales invoices January 1974 - June 1974
- 59e Sales invoices July 1975 - June 1976

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B(CONT.)

Sundry Persons Account Ledgers

- 59f Sales invoices July 1976 - June 1977
- 59g Sales invoices July 1977 - June 1978
- 59h Correspondence re accounts 1971 - 1979
- 59i Correspondence re Remploy accounts 1971 - 1977 (5 files)
- Correspondence re London Surgical Boot Co 1969 - 1976
- Correspondence re various accounts 1972 - 1973
- 59j Sundry Persons sales account book 1963 - 1984

Box of Bank Material (Box ref.No. (B) 60.)

- 60a Paying-In Slips March 1934 - April 1949
- May 1949 - June 1951
- June 1951 - November 1959
- May 1960 - November 1960
- November 1960 - July 1962
- 60b Cheque Stubs February 1942 - November 1946
- November 1946 - December 1949
- December 1949 - March 1955
- March 1955 - April 1960
- February 1951 - July 1962
- 60c Cheques July 1958 - June 1960
- July 1960 - June 1962
- 60d Pass Books February 1892 - January 1930
(Northants Union
and National
Provincial)
- 60e Bank Statements January 1930 - December 1949
- 61a Paying in slips (with 61b)

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION B (cont.)

Box of Bank Material (cont.)

- 61b Cheque stubs 1963 - 1971
- 61c Cheques returned 1963 - 1970
- 61e Bank statements 1950 - 1951, 1953 - 1958, 1963 - 1970
- 62 Income tax papers 1964 - 1969
- 63 Correspondence and rough financial notes re bank account 1971 - 1987

Miscellaneous Correspondence & Files

- 64 Telephone messages book May 1983 - April 1985
- 65 Box file of correspondence with Inland Revenue including PAYE leaflets, 1982 - 1987
- 66 Vehicle Insurance file, 1983 - 1985
- 67 File, including cash balances & headed notepaper
- 68 General insurance policy portfolio, 1984 - 1985
- 69 Building properties file 1976 - 1985
- 70 Statutory sick pay file 1985 - 1988
- 71 Purchase of goods & returns record sheets Jan 1985 - Jan 1987
- 72 Correspondence for the supply of leather to Messrs. Remploy of Cricklewood, London, 1979 - 1981
- 73 Correspondence with Messrs. Remploy for purchase of lasts and knives 1980
- 74 Correspondence relating to visit to Northampton of representatives from Messrs. Remploy 1981.
- 75 Correspondence with Fidelis Group of Companies 1980 - 1985

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION C

- 1 Miscellaneous Box
- a Valuations for stocktaking purposes carried out by Mr. L. Michel in respect of the following firms:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| A.E. Fox and Co. Ltd. | 31st August 1921 |
| The Premier Boot Co., Rushden | 31st August 1921 |
| John Drage and Sons Ltd., Bozeat | 31st August 1921 |
| Mountain and Daniels, Daventry | 12th July 1921 |
- Notebook of jottings regarding the valuations, this is an on-the-spot record.
- b Measurements of leather from different consignments, 1909
" " " " " " , 1915
" " " " " " , 1916
" " " " " " , 1917
- c Leather quotations book, from Sept. 26th 1957 showing stock and its price.
- 2a Furniture and Machinery Stockbook 1924 - 1936
Room by room stocktaking, listing all items in each department, including quantities; bundles, in feet, of leather, but with no values. Values are only given where objects, furniture and equipment in the room is listed.
- 2b Furniture and Machinery Stockbook 1937 - 1967
- 3 Leather Stockbook May 1922 - May 1934
Stocktaking of different types of leather; gives type, colour, no. of bales, date when leather sent out, quantity, and to whom. Incoming leather is in the lefthand column, and outgoing leather on the right.
- 4 Leather Stockbook : as above. June 1931 - June 1942

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION C (cont.)

- 5a Leather Notebook/Petty Cash Book August 1918 - March 1933
Day to day expenses dealing with and Sept. 1944,
the ordering of leather, following Leather Book
on monthly with each persons name
at the top, including wages and Aug. 1945 - June 1950
notes for carriages. The back Petty cash Book
of the book has been used to
record petty cash. This is
filed under Petty Cash -
Cross Ref . (B) 35a
- 5b Some prices of leather, late 19th century note book
- 5c Leather Stock book 1941 - 1955
- 5d Leather Stock book 1955 - 1970
- 5e Leather Stock Book 1968 - 1985
- 5f Leather prices file 1959 - 1970
- 5g Stock Sheets 1982 - 1986

Leather Notebooks

filed in Box (C) 1.

Day to day jottings, re: types of
leather; quantities, with date and
description.

- 6 January 1932 - November 1934
- 7 December 1934 - September 1939
- 8 September 1937 - May 1941
- 9 May 1941 - December 1943
- 10 December 1943 - November 1946
- 11 December 1946 - July 1951

SECTION D

(D)

1

Miscellaneous Box

a

Carriers Receipts of delivery, December 1916 - March 1917

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION D (cont.)

Miscellaneous Box (cont.)

- 1
- b Correspondence regarding Petrol Rationing and Fire-
watching, 1939 - 1945
- c Insurance Policies covering War Risks, 1941 - 1942
- d Engagement Diaries, 1951; 1952; 1953
- e Motorist Route Guide given by Grose, Northampton,
containing picture of their shop in Marefair.
- f Photograph of Northampton College of Technology.
- 2 Box containing Packing and Delivery notes, 1959 - 1961
- 3 Miscellaneous Box
- a Calendar with advertisement for firm of 1956
G.L.Michel & Sons at top
- b Calendars for 1983, 1985 - 1988 with 1983 - 1988
advert at the top
- c Calendar (pictorial) with advert at 1989
top
- d Postal commemorative cover, 18th Oct. 1983
1983 for 125th Anniversary of G.L.
Michel, with background info. cards.
- e Leather Price Lists 1985 - 1987
- f Circular letter, Managing Director,
United Leather Group Ltd reporting
absorption of G.L. Michel & Sons
3 Sept. 1987 1987
- g File: Stock Lists early 20th C.
Certificate (draft) as to 1927
Trade Marks

Letter re dissolution of Michel
Partnership 1929

G.L.Michel & Sons (cont.)

SECTION D (cont.)

3 Miscellaneous Box (cont.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| h | Sketch plan & elevations of extension of corrugated iron warehouse, built c. 1900 on garden of 34 Newland, Northampton
Attached: Explanatory note on above, by David Michel (1990) | 20th C. |
| i | Gold reverse transfer for G.L.Michel & Sons, Machinery Depot, Northampton | 20th C. |

February 1990