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Northamptonshire Record Office

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Ledgers and measure books etc. relating to W.T. Huckell Ltd. of Bailiff St., Northampton, tailors, drapers and outfitters; minute book relating to the Northamptonshire Credit Traders' Association, Retail Credit Federation Year Book and Directory for 1971; and guild certificates of William Frederick Betts: deposited by S. Huckell of Northampton.

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J. and W.T. Huckell Ltd.: John Wallman Huckell is first mentioned in a Directory in 1890 (the date of establishment of the business according to bill heads) as a clothier of 33 Wellington St., Northampton. In 1898 he is described as a travelling draper and his address as 42 Clare St. In 1903 he was working from 67 Newland where he remained until c.1930 when the firm, now known as J. and W.T. Huckell (tailors), also took over 65 Newland (J.W. Huckell is first referred to as a 'tailor, draper, and clothier' in a 1920 Directory, and thereafter as 'tailor'). In 1952 and 1954 the business is referred to as W.T. Huckell of 65 Newland, tailor, and in 1956 and 1967 as J. and W.T. Huckell of 75 Newland. A bill of 1957 describes the business as 'general house furnisher, tailor, draper and clothier'. In 1969 (2 Dec.), W.T. Huckell Ltd. moved their offices to 76 Bailiff St. (information provided by S. Huckell).

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| 1. | <p>Customer Account Ledger Book
Reference 'WB' (Gayton area)
Details fortnightly/weekly payments (by instalments) for garments purchased by individual customers (alphabetically indexed at front).
Items purchased include carpets, eiderdown, oilcloth, coats, boots, costume, jumper, shoes, jackets, sheets, suits, bolster, pillow, bedspread, trousers, material, blankets, boys underwear, socks etc., dresses, shirts, ties, wellingtons, robe, waistcoats, caps, jackets, pyjamas, corsets, towels, tea-towels, rugs, brocade, matting, and a Humber bicycle (ladies) with lamp and bell (sold to Miss Paul of Gayton in 1937).
The Ledger includes some bills, related papers and correspondence etc stapled in with the accounts.
With, in jacket on front paste-down /end paper, note on dorso of part of printed advertisement for Swallow Raincoats Ltd. of Gt. Hampton St., Birmingham.</p> | 1927-1961 |
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2. Customer Account Ledger Book (as above). 1956-1963
Reference: 'J' (Far Cotton).
3. Customer Account Ledger Book (as above). 1958-1963
Reference: 'XA XB' (Kingsthorpe).
4. Customer Account Ledger Book (as above). 1962-1968
Reference: 'JA' (Kingsthorpe - mainly).
5. Order and Measure Book 1965-1967
Reference: 'SH Measures' (i.e. Stuart Huckell).
Comprises MS pencilled notes of customer orders taken by Mr. Huckell (with customers' addresses, measurements and other details e.g. colour, size etc. of garments); with several letters (from manufacturers, including Greatorex and Co. Ltd. of London - enclosing a small cutting of regency stripe brocade: stapled to page - and customers etc.).
The book was kept as a counter or day book and orders were entered following visits to customers by Mr. Huckell, customers' telephone enquiries, and visits to the shop.
Details given include item, size and customers' measurements.
The book employs a number of abbreviations:
L = transferred to ledger; V or A = marked in customer's account; abbreviations for names of manufacturer from who purchases were made e.g. DL = David Little & Co. Ltd., Leeds with pattern numbers, and material/fabric reference numbers; and there are cost marks, cash/goods prices, order numbers, and notes re delivery to customers etc.
Includes, on rear cover (inside), list of manufacturers with addresses.
6. Order and Measure Book 1965-1968
Reference: 'WTH' (i.e. W.T. Huckell).
As above; with some specimen materials etc., and related correspondence (stapled in) from manufacturers.
- 7/1-10 Bundle of printed circular correspondence (not used) to be sent to customers to draw attention to their accounts on which payments have fallen into arrears. n.d., c.1940-1960
The letter head describes the firm as 'General House Furnishers, Upholstered Goods, Wringers, etc', as well as tailors, drapers and clothiers.

Northamptonshire Credit Traders' Association

8. Minute book of meetings 1931-1961
Includes (pasted in at front) clippings from The Credit Trader magazine (1944) re a visit to Wellingborough by the General Sec. of the N.F.C.T. (National Federation of Credit Traders) TS flimsy copies of list of past National Presidents from reform of Association in 1926 up to 1972 (includes John W. Huckell, 1931; W.T. Huckell, 1943 and 1960; and Stuart Huckell, 1966: Messrs. J. and J. Huckell having been admitted as members of the Association in 1932); and, at rear, list of locations of C.T.A. Conferences (1937-1939, 1950-1957) and (taped to rear paste-down) printed booklet Northampton Association of Credit Traders (later N.C.T.A.) Rules, 1926 (with Amendments, 1948 and 1958).
9. Detached pages 91-94 from a book (?relating to N.F.C.T.) comprising Standing Orders relating to the N.F.C.T. stapled to the card of J.S. Mackintosh (Gen. Sec.). (found as enclosure in /8) n.d., c.1960
10. Retail Credit Federation (R.C.F.) Year Book and Directory. 1971
(pr. book, 136 pp.)

Guild Certificates

- 11/1-3 City and Guilds of London Institute, Department of Technology: certificates awarded to William Frederick Betts for first class passes in the examination in grade I of dressing of skins (records that he was also awarded 2nd prize (Leathersellers' Co.) and Institute's Bronze Medal), 1915, and of leather dying and finishing, 1915; and second class passes in the final examination in dressing of skins, 1916. 1915-1916
12. County Borough of Northampton Education Committee: Course Certificate in Leather Manufacture awarded to William F. Betts with full details of his school examinations, external examination successes and prizes gained (including /11). 1921
2 Dec. 1921.