# ARTHUR DENBY WILKINSON AND THE NATIONAL POULTRY TEST COLLECTION

#### FR DW

Records relating to the National Poultry Test

The physical extent of the collection is 12 series.

#### Introduction

The National Poultry Test was founded, as the National Egg Laying Test, in 1917 by the National Utility Poultry Society in conjunction with the Great Eastern Railway Co., originating at the GER farm at Dodnash Priory, Bentley, Suffolk under the management of J.N. Leigh. The first Daily Mail Laying Test ran from 1st October 1919 to 31st January 1920, also managed by J.N. Leigh. These two Tests amalgamated in 1926-27, and in 1927-28 the Test moved to a larger test ground at Milford, Enton, Surrey. Railway interest in the Test ceased, but support continued from the Daily Mail, presenting the Championship Gold Cup (first presented 1923-24) and the Two Year Test Trophy. National Laying Test Ltd was formed [before 1952] to carry on the Test. Initially operating a comprehensive stock testing programme concerned with pedigree birds, the Tests expanded to include Commercial Random Sample Tests, Broiler Tests and Breeding Research (Random Sample) Tests (concerned with new composite breeds and hybrids), introduced between 1952 and 1957. From the early 1960s interest shifted from conducting laying tests in small unit houses to modern intensive houses.

Arthur Denby Wilkinson was appointed Test Manager 16th September 1952 and held the post until 1965. Previous posts had included that of Manager of Robert Brown's breeding and commercial egg farm at Aldbourne, Hassocks; Poultry Manager on O.A. Batten's Sussex farm; Assistant Manager of White Lady Poultry Farm, Bray, Berks; Assistant to Keith Wilson, Senior Technical Officer of the Land Settlement Association; Manager of Herbert Smith's accredited farm, Hastings.

FR DW/AD2/1-13 National Test administrative files
FR DW/AD4/1-2 Administrative files relating to premises
FR DW/AD8/1-7 Correspondence
FR DW/AD8/8-14 Correspondence with the press
FR DW/DO1/1-4 Maps
FR DW/ET1/1-59 Records of Tests
FR DW/ET3/1-7 Technical reference material
FR DW/ET3/8-11 Press cuttings
FR DW/P2/B1-13 Individual advertising publications
FR DW/P4/B1 House journal
FR DW/PH2/1-3 Photograph albums
FR DW/PH3/1-29 Files of photographs recording individual Tests

FR DW/PH3/30-37 Files of Test site photographs
FR DW/PH3/38-64 Files of miscellaneous photographs
FR DW/PH3/65-72 Collection of (mostly) mounted and captioned prints

**FR DW/SP2/1** File relating to Poultry and Egg Producers Association Award to A. Denby Wilkinson

FR DW/SP4/1 Autobiographical manuscript by A. Denby Wilkinson

**FR DW AD** Administrative Records

FR DW AD2 ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

FR DW National Laying Tests

**AD2/1** 1920s

FR DW FILES relating to the work of the National Test AD2/1/13

FR DW National Laying Tests

**AD2/2** 1954-1956

FR DW National Poultry Tests: Daily Mail

**AD2/3** 1954-1963

**FR DW** 500 Day Random Sample Commercial Tests

**AD2/4** 1954-1963

FR DW Egg Marketing AD2/5 1957-1964

FR DW National Broiler Random Sample Tests

**AD2/6** 1959-1964

**FR DW** 1st and 2nd British Egg Marketing Board Tests

**AD2/7** 1961-1964

**FR DW** 9th National 500 Day Random Sample Commercial Test

**AD2/8** 1963-1964

**FR DW** 16 Week Old Pullet Demonstration

**AD2/9** 1964-1965

FR DW New Test AD2/10 1964-65

FR DW Random Sample Egg Production Tests Schedule

**AD2/11** 1965

FR DW Foreign Tests AD2/12 1952-1964

FR DW USA

**AD2/12/1** 1952-1964

1952-53, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-

62, 1962-63, 1963-64

FR DW Spain 1960-62

FR DW Israel AD2/12/3 1961-64

FR DW Northern Ireland Tests

**AD2/13** 1962-64

FR DW AD4 ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS RELATING TO PREMISES

FR DW FILE Construction of Brooder House

**AD4/1** 1965

FR DW FILE Construction of Egg Room

**AD4/2** 1965

FR DW AD8 CORRESPONDENCE

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE, General

**AD8/1** 1952-1982

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Thornber Brothers Ltd regarding

AD8/2 National Random Sample Test

1957-1959

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE, Critical Letters

**AD8/3** 1957-1963

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with F& G Sykes

**AD8/4** 1957-1964

Mainly regarding Random Sample Broiler Tests

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Wye College

**AD8/5** 1959-1964

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE regarding the re-organisation of National

AD8/6 Poultry Tests Ltd

1964

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Lovell, White and King, Solicitors

**AD8/7** 1964-65

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Harry Strike of Poultry Field

AD8/8 Publications and Leonard Robinson.

1953-1960

Article for Poultry Farmer.

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with the press

AD8/8-14

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Poultry Farmer and Packer

**AD8/9** 1953-1962

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Poultry World

**AD8/10** 1953-1963

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Fred Horner of Poultry Industry

**AD8/11** 1953-1965

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with press, various

**AD8/12** 1957-1964

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE with Farmers' Weekly

**AD8/13** 1959-1963

FR DW CORRESPONDENCE and related Farmers' Weekly article

**AD8/14** 1962-1963

FR DW DO Drawings

FR DW DO1 MAPS

FR DW MAP of Surrey DO1/1 [post 1920]

Scale 1": 1 mile

**FR DW** MAP, Ordnance Survey Sussex (East) sheet LIX 5.

**DO1/2** 1929

(Fairlight area) Scale 1: 25000

FR DW MAP, Ordnance Survey Sussex (East) sheet LVIII SE

**DO1/3** 1931

(Fairlight area) Scale 6": 1 mile

FR DW MAP, Ordnance Survey Sussex (East) sheet LIX SW

**DO1/4** 1936

(Fairlight area) Scale 6": 1 mile

**FR DW ET** 

FR DW ET1 RECORDS OF TESTS

**FR DW** RECORD CARDS of complete Test records

**ET1/1** 1897-1960s

Divided into sections: Complete Test Records 1st year: Broiler Tests

Linking cups 500 Day Test

C.R.T.

Winter cups D.M. Gold Cup J.N Leigh

Rhode Island Reds

Light Sussex

White Wyandottes

**Buff Rocks** 

**New Hampshire Reds** 

Rhodebars Barnevelders

North Holland Blues

Australorps

White Leghorns Brown Leghorns

Black Leghorns

2nd Year: crosses

National Laying Test averages

Egg grades 500 Day C Test

500 Day consistency

Commercial Replacements Tests

Egg sales Breeding

Research Tests

MMAT Solar 2nd BR Broiler

2nd Broiler Demonstration

2nd Random Sample Commercial Test comments

2nd Random Sample Commercial Test mortality 1-8 weeks 2nd Random Sample Commercial Test mortality 9-20 weeks

4th 500 Day Random Sample Commercial Test 3rd 500 Day Random Sample Commercial Test

FR DW REGISTER of pens and producers

**ET1/2** [1930s-1960s]

Divided into sections:

Championship, two-year (1st year), two-year (2nd year), type and production, Rhode Island Reds.

FR DW ET1/3 PLOTBOOKS, recording stock, deaths, cullings etc

1933-1934

FR DW ET1/4 PLOTBOOKS, recording stock, deaths, cullings etc

1935

FR DW ET1/5 PLOTBOOKS, recording stock, deaths, cullings etc

[1936]

FR DW ET1/6 Notebook

(Nov) 1951-(Feb)1952

FR DW ET1/6-59 NOTEBOOKS kept by Denby Wilkinson recording National Test

information

Including laying figures and general work diary. Many also include miscellaneous material, including nature observation

notes and general diary entries.

FR DW ET1/7 Notebook (Mar) 1952

FR DW Notebook ET1/8 (Jun) 1952

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/9** (Sep-Nov) 1952

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/10** (Dec) 1952-(Mar) 1953

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/11** (Apr-May) 1953

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/12** (Jun-Aug) 1953

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/13** (Aug-Nov) 1953

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/14** (Dec) 1953-(Feb) 1954

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/15** (Mar-May) 1954

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/16** (May-Aug) 1954

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/17** (Aug-Nov) 1954

FR DW Notebook

**ET1/18** (Nov) 1954-(Feb) 1955

FR DW Note book ET1/19 1954-1955

Includes observations of a religious nature

FR DW Note book

**ET1/20** (Mar -May) 1955

FR DW Note book

**ET1/21** (Jun-Sep) 1955

FR DW Note book ET1/22 (Sep) 1955

Note book FR DW

(Nov) 1955-(Mar) 1956 ET1/23

FR DW Note book ET1/24 (Mar-Jun) 1956

FR DW Note book

ET1/25 (Jun-Sep) 1956

FR DW Note book ET1/26

(Sep-Dec) 1956

FR DW Note book (Jan) 1957 ET1/27

Note book FR DW

ET1/28 (Mar-Jun) 1957

FR DW Note book ET1/29 (Jul-Oct) 1957

FR DW Note book

**ET1/30** (Nov) 1957-(Mar) 1958

FR DW Note book ET1/31 (Mar) 1958

FR DW Note book ET1/32 (Jun) 1958

FR DW Note book

ET1/33 (Sep) 1958-(Feb)1959

FR DW Note book

**ET1/34** (Feb-May) 1959

FR DW Note book

**ET1/35** (Jun-Aug) 1959

FR DW Note book ET1/36 (Sep-Dec) 1959

FR DW Note book ET1/37 (Jan) 1960

FR DW Note book ET1/38 (Apr) 1960

**FR DW** Note book **ET1/39** (Jun) 1960

FR DW Note book ET1/40 (Sep) 1960

FR DW Note book

ET1/41 (Dec) 1960-(Feb) 1961

FR DW Note book ET1/42 (Mar-Jun) 1961

FR DW Note book ET1/43 (Jun-Sep) 1961

FR DW Note book ET1/44 (Sep-Dec) 1961

FR DW Note book ET1/45 (Dec) 1961 - (Mar) 1962

FR DW Note book ET1/46 (Mar-Jun) 1962

FR DW Note book ET1/47 (Jun-Aug) 1962

FR DW Note book ET1/48 (Sep-Dec) 1962

FR DW Note book ET1/49 (Dec) 1962-(Feb) 1963

FR DW Note book

**ET1/50** (Mar-May) 1963

FR DW Note book

**ET1/51** (Jun-Sep) 1963

FR DW Note book

**ET1/52** (Sep-Dec) 1963

FR DW Note book

**ET1/53** (Jan-Apr) 1964

FR DW Note book

**ET1/54** (May-Aug) 1964

FR DW Note book ET1/55 [1950s-1960s]

Includes Dungeness Bird Observatory Committee notes and

post register

FR DW Note book ET1/56 [1950s-1960s]

Includes Dungeness Bird Observatory Committee notes

FR DW Note book ET1/57 [post 1955]

Miscellaneous notes for articles/talks/letters

FR DW Note book ET1/58 [1950s-1960s]

Miscellaneous notes

FR DW Note book ET1/59 [1950s-1960s]

Miscellaneous notes including autobiographical material

FR DW ET3 TECHNICAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

FR DW FILE Poultry Diseases

**ET3/1** 1953-1964

File containing reports, publications, cuttings etc

**FR DW** REPRINT On Fleas, Blood and the Control of Leucosi; By F.B.

ET3/2 Hutt and R.K. Cole

(Jan-Mar) 1953

FR DW ET3/3	PAPER The Interaction of Genetic and Environmental Influences Affecting the Incidence of Avian Leucosis (19 Jun) 1953
FR DW ET3/4	PAPER The Nature and Breeding of Hybrid Chickens; By G.E Mann 1957
FR DW ET3/5	PAPER The Chilling of Dead Poultry by Various Methods; By J. Shemtob [1957]
FR DW ET3/6	PAPER Costs of Capon Production 1956; By A Rowley [1957]
FR DW ET3/7	PAPER Costs of Turkey Rearing 1956; By F.M Lancaster [1957]
FR DW ET3/8	PRESS CUTTINGS BOOK 1937-1938

FR DW PRESS CUTTINGS BOOK 1938-1962

FR DW PRESS CUTTINGS BOOK

ET3/10 1952-1963

PRESS CUTTINGS FILE FR DW

ET3/11 1930s-1960s

FR DW P

FR DW P2/B INDIVIDUAL ADVERTISING PUBLICATIONS

FR DW PROMOTIONAL BLOTTER advertising Palmer's Southern

Brand pure white-fish meal P2/B1

[1930s]

2 copies

LEAFLET including price list for Luckin Bros, Parsonage Farm, FR DW P2/B2

Chelmsford; Poultry breeding stock

1955-56

CATALOGUE for Harris, Son & Axe, Axeholme Poultry Farm, FR DW P2/B3

Doncaster; Pedigree and Commercial Poultry

1956-57

CATALOGUE for Lord Wandsworth College, Basingstoke; FR DW

P2/B4 Poultry breeding stock

[c1956-57]

FR DW LEAFLET Thornber Bros Ltd, Halifax; Thornbers Pioneers in

P2/B5 **Poultry Progress** 

1956-57

LEAFLET for Anglo American Chicks Ltd, Oxford Road, FR DW

P2/B6 Reading; Honegger Layers

(Mar) 1962

FR DW LEAFLET for J. Scott (Thrapstone) Ltd; Nu-Ven Battery House

P2/B7 [c1964]

FR DW PAMPHLET, for Flamingo Foam Ltd; The Closed Air Cell

P2/B8 **Insulation Material** 

[c1965]

FR DW P2/B9	LEAFLET for Ross Insulation Products Ltd; Ross Lite Wall Veneer Expanded Polystyrene [c1965]
FR DW P2/B10	LEAFLET including price list for Elstein Infra Red Radiators [1960s]
FR DW P2/B11	LEAFLET for Elstein Infra Red Radiators; `Prominent Users of Our Equipment' [1960s]
FR DW P2/B12	LEAFLET Elstein Infra Red Radiators; The New Universal Infra Red Radiator [1960s]
FR DW P2/B13	LEAFLET Elstein Infra Red Radiators; Advantages of Elstein Infra Red for Agricultural Use [1960s]
FR DW P4	HOUSE JOURNALS
FR DW P4/B1	HOUSE JOURNAL; Cobb's Pedigree Chicks (UK Distributors) Ltd No. 4 (Mar) 1964

FR DW PH PHOTOGRAPHS

FR DW PH2 PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS

FR DW ALBUM of miscellaneous photographs

**PH2/1** 1920s-1930s

Including unnamed chicken farm, Morley Farm, various individuals, various views of Sussex; also press cuttings

**FR DW** ALBUM of photographs of Cralle Place, Cowbeech chicken farm

**PH2/2** 1930s

**FR DW** ALBUM of photographs of White Lady Poultry Farm Ltd, Bray,

PH2/3 Berks

[1930s-1940s]

FR DW PH3 PRINTS

FR DW PRINTS 1st, 2nd and 3rd 500 Day Random Sample tests PH3/1 1955-1958

1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58

10 items

FR DW PH3/1-29 Photographs recording individual Tests

**PRINTS Blood Testing** FR DW PH3/2 1958

3 items

FR DW PRINTS 4th 500 Day Commercial Random Sample Test

PH3/3 1958-1959

13 items

FR DW PRINTS Broilers, Early Tests

[late 1950s] PH3/4

38 items

FR DW PRINTS Breeding Stock Test

PH3/5 1959-1960

13 items

PRINTS Commercial Replacements Test FR DW

PH3/6 1959-1960

FR DW PRINTS 5th 500 Day Random Sample Test

**PH3/7** 1959-1960

23 items

FR DW PRINTS Broiler Tests and Water Test

**PH3/8** 1960-1961

33 items

FR DW PRINTS 6th 500 Day Commercial Random Sample Test

**PH3/9** 1960-1961

37 items

FR DW PRINTS British Egg Marketing Board 2nd and 3rd Egg Quality

PH3/10 Tests

1960-1961

Dec 1960 and Jun 1961

14 items

**FR DW** PRINTS British Egg Marketing Board 2nd Egg Quality Tests

**PH3/11** 1960-1962

15 items

FR DW PRINTS British Standard Test

**PH3/12** 1961

22 items

FR DW PRINTS Broiler Tests

**PH3/13** 1961-1962

FR DW PRINTS 7th 500 Day Commercial Random Sample Test

**PH3/14** 1961-1962

21 items

FR DW PRINTS 7th 500 Day Commercial Random Sample Test

**PH3/15** 1961-1962

25 items

FR DW PRINTS 7th 500 Day Commercial Random Sample Test, British

PH3/16 Egg Marketing Board Egg Quality Test

1962

18 items

FR DW PRINTS Breeding Stock Test

**PH3/17** 1962

17 items

FR DW PRINTS Breeding Stock Test

**PH3/18** 1962-1963

14 items

FR DW PRINTS Broiler Test

**PH3/19** 1962-1963

5 items

FR DW PRINTS Commercial Random Sample Test

**PH3/20** 1962-1963

1 item

FR DW PRINTS 8th 500 Day Random Sample Test; Pens taken at the PH3/21

end of brooding and later

1962-1963

14 items

PRINTS 8th 500 Day Random Sample Test Chicks FR DW

PH3/22 [1962-1963]

1 item

FR DW PRINTS 8th 500 Day Random Sample Test; Chicks in brooders

and vaccinating pullets Sep 1962 PH3/23

1962-1963

15 items

FR DW PRINTS 8th 500 Day Random Sample Test; End of Test

PH3/24 1962-1963

5 items

PRINTS 8th 500 Day Random Sample Test; End of Test FR DW

PH3/25 1962-1963

4 items

FR DW **PRINTS Broilers** PH3/26 1962-(Dec) 1963

14 items

PRINTS Broilers, Cobbs and Chunkys National Broiler and FR DW

Water Test PH3/27

1963-1964

14 items

PRINTS 9th 500 Day Test

**PH3/28** [1963-1964]

7 items

FR DW PRINTS 9th 500 Day Test

**PH3/29** 1963-1964

7 items

FR DW PRINTS Mostly views of Test site

**PH3/30** 1930s-1950s

35 items

FR DW Site Photographs

PH3/30-37

FR DW PRINTS Views of Test site

**PH3/31** [1940s-1950s]

2 items

Approx 29cm × 23cm

FR DW PRINTS Views of Test site

**PH3/32** [1950s-1960s]

Approx 45cm × 30cm

FR DW PRINTS Construction of new houses, National Poultry Tests

**PH3/33** 1964

9 items

FR DW PRINTS Winter and Spring photographs, snow

**PH3/34** [1960s]

4 items

FR DW PRINTS Solar House

**PH3/35** [1960s]

42 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Test site, tangles and rubbish

**PH3/36** [1960s]

9 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Constructing new houses, contact prints

**PH3/37** [1960s]

3 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Directors and Managers

**PH3/38** 1899-1950s

10 items

**FR DW** Miscellaneous photographs

PH3/38-64

**FR DW** PRINTS Dodnash Priory, Bentley, Suffolk

**PH3/39** (15 Mar) 1919

3 items

FR DW PRINTS National Test staff

**PH3/40** 1929-1950s

38 items

FR DW PRINTS National Laying Test stand at Ideal Home Exhibition

**PH3/41** [1920s]

3 items

FR DW PRINTS Other sites/breeders

**PH3/42** [1920s-1950s]

5 items

FR DW PRINTS Poultry Industry Exhibition, British Poultry Development

PH3/43 Centre, Send Manor Estate, Ripley, Surrey

(Jul) 1936

26 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Dinners, various poultry associations

**PH3/44** [1930s-1950s]

Large photographs (Approx. 45cm × 30cm), rolled

FR DW PRINTS National Test, miscellaneous views of chickens and

PH3/45 individual Test pens

[1930s-1950s]

21 items

**FR DW** PRINTS National Test Open Days and presentations

**PH3/46** [1930s-1950s]

Views of miscellaneous individuals, groups and presentations

112 items

FR DW PRINTS Reception of birds

**PH3/47** 1930s-1950s

19 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Various individuals and groups

**PH3/48** 1930s-1950s

Largely unidentified, but includes photographs of Walter Elkington, possible members of his family, and of poultry

breeders

82 items

**FR DW** PRINTS National Test Dinner and prize presentations

**PH3/49** 1952-1963

Most with captions

35 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Test visitors: French party, school, vets

**PH3/50** 1956-1959

FR DW PH3/51	PRINTS Garden visitors, swans etc 1959-1961
	19 items
FR DW PH3/52	PRINTS Test visitors and judges 1959-1961
	31 items
FR DW PH3/53	PRINTS National Poultry Test prize presentations and trophies 1959-1960s
	23 items
FR DW PH3/54	PRINTS National Test staff at work [1950s]
	8 items
	Approx 24-42cm × 25-30cm
FR DW PH3/55	PRINTS National Test, weighing eggs [1950s]
	1 item
	40cm × 30cm
FR DW PH3/56	PRINTS Veterinary laboratory tests [1950s]

FR DW PRINTS Construction site, laying foundations

**PH3/57** [1950s-1960s]

1 item

FR DW PRINTS National Laying Tests Dinners and presentations

**PH3/58** [1950s-1960s]

23 items

FR DW PRINTS Weighing scales

**PH3/59** [1950s-1960s]

1 item

FR DW PRINTS Shellac sprayers

**PH3/60** 1960

8 items

FR DW PRINTS Surrey County Show

**PH3/61** (18 May 1964)

1 item

FR DW PRINTS Test visitors: Dr Glenn Bressler, Mr Gill

**PH3/62** 1964

14 items

FR DW PRINTS Thursley Common

**PH3/63** [1964]

1 item

FR DW PRINTS Vitamins Ltd., Walton Oaks Experimental Station Ph3/64 Poultry Houses

Poultry Houses (11 Jun) 1964

6 items

FR DW PRINTS Dodnash Priory Test visitors

**PH3/65** 1919

PH3/65-72

2 items

FR DW Collection of prints, mostly mounted and captioned

**FR DW** PRINTS Staff and individuals

**PH3/66** 1930s-1960s

8 items

**FR DW** PRINTS National Test site photographs

**PH3/67** 1940s-1960s

14 items

**FR DW** PRINTS Open Days and presentations

**PH3/68** 1950s

19 items

FR DW PRINTS British Egg Marketing Board Tests and egg grading

**PH3/69** 1950s-1960s

**FR DW** PRINTS Dinners and presentations

**PH3/70** 1950s-1960s

9 items

FR DW PRINTS National Tests

**PH3/71** 1950s-1960s

39 items

FR DW PRINTS Visitors PH3/72 1950s-1960s

11 items

FR DW SP PERSONAL MATERIAL

FR DW FILE Poultry and Egg Producers Association of Great Britain

SP2/1 Award

1962

Correspondence etc

FR DW MANUSCRIPT Personal Memoirs of Life in Poultry

**SP4/1** 1990

(Unedited and not fully corrected)

By A. Denby Wilkinson

Typescript