

Heavy Metal archive workshop
Wallis and Stevens Limited
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About the Heavy Metal project



'Heavy Metal' is an archive project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Road Locomotive Society and the University of Reading.

The project started in January 2007 to encourage more people to use MERL's steam engine and farm machinery manufacturers' archives and to make them more accessible.

Over many months, Museum staff and volunteers have sorted and catalogued a large range of archives. These include 10,000 engineering drawings produced by steam engine manufacturers, Charles Burrell and 2,500 from Wallis and Steevens.

The volunteers, who include members of the Road Locomotive Society, also learnt conservation techniques enabling them to repackage glass negatives and preserve around 1,000 fragile drawings.

A project archivist was employed to sort and produce an electronic catalogue of three major archive collections: Wallis and Steevens and agricultural machinery manufacturers' International Harvester and Massey-Ferguson. These collections include technical literature, business and employee records, engineering drawings, photographs and advertising materials.

When the electronic catalogues are complete, the list of MERL archives will be available for everyone online at the Access to Archives' website – www.a2a.org.uk

The project has also enabled MERL to digitise a number of fragile archives to preserve them for the future and make them easier to use. These include a number of Wallis and Steevens production registers, which are requested frequently, and 600 glass negatives on loan from the Road Locomotive Society.

In order to attract more steam engine and tractor enthusiasts to use the archives, Museum staff took a touring archive exhibition to local steam rallies and country shows during the Summer. This included stands at the Steam and Vintage Show at Milestones Museum (Hampshire), the Etruria Canals Festival (Stoke-on-Trent), the Woodcote Rally (Berkshire), the Reading and Wokingham Country Show and the Newbury Show.

At each show, museum staff encouraged visitors interested in doing research on their engines or tractors to attend the Museum's archives workshops in the Autumn. The Museum also wanted to encourage children and families to visit MERL and a colouring-in competition was run at each show and the winners publicised in the press.

The project has been run in consultation with a steering group consisting of The National Traction Engine Trust, the Road Roller Association, the Steam Plough Club and the Road Locomotive Society. Each steering group organisation has also helped promote the project by displaying posters and leaflets at steam rallies they have attended and in their club journals.

The project has also been publicised in the Reading newspapers (*Evening Post* and the *Reading Chronicle*) and in the specialist publications including *Old Glory* and *Vintage Spirit* magazines and *The World's Fair* newspaper.

A brief history of Wallis & Steevens' business and products

Early history

- In 1850s Arthur Wallis founded Wallis & Steevens as an agricultural implement makers and dealers. Arthur was the grandson of Richard Wallis who founded Richard Wallis & Sons of Basingstoke, a corn, salt and coal trading company
- 1856 Arthur opened The North Hants Ironworks on Station Hill in Basingstoke and started manufacturing agricultural steam engineering products including portable engines, small stationery engines and threshing machines
- 1862 Charles Steevens joined the company as a partner and the company was incorporated as Wallis & Steevens Limited in 1893

Self-moving steam engines

- In late 19th century and early 20th century, Wallis & Steevens begun to manufacture self-moving steam engines: traction engines, steam tractors, road rollers and steam wagons
- 1890 First road roller was built
- 1895 First road locomotive was built
- 1920s Wallis & Steevens concentrated on manufacturing its 'Advance' series of road rollers, using diesel and petrol motors rather than steam power
- 1923 The first Wallis & Steevens 'Advance' brand rollers were produced

Working in partnership

- Wallis & Steevens were also agents for other agricultural manufacturers including David Brown Tractors (until 1953) and Massey Ferguson (until 1976)

Award-winning products

- 1861 Wallis & Steevens 36 inch threshing machine shown at the Leeds agricultural show
- 1867 Wallis & Steevens showed their portable engines and threshing machines at Bury St. Edmunds RASE and won 1st prize (£12)
- 1873 Wallis & Steevens won Bronze at the Universal Exhibition of Manufacture in Vienna for their 8nhp portable steam engine
- 1892 Gold medal awarded to Wallis & Steevens's wagons at the Kimberley Exhibition

Changing times

- 1881 Agricultural depression begun and lasted until 1898
- 1914 Wallis & Steevens manufactured bomb cases and engines for World War 1
- 1939 Produced rollers and other machinery for use in World War II
- 1964 Prototype road rollers tested during construction of M1 motorway
- 1966 Moved to new works at Daneshill Industrial Estate in Basingstoke

International company

- Wallis & Steevens encouraged export of their products, in particular threshing machines driven by horse power or steam. Photographic archives show Wallis & Steevens engines used in Siam in 1921 and a 6 ton 'Advance' Road Roller used in India (in 1927).

What happened next?

- Following difficult times in 1970s, the recession of 1980s and government cuts on road building, Wallis & Steevens Limited eventually ceased trading in 1981
- The company's wholly-owned subsidiary AJB Engineers was sold to Belcher Brothers Investment Ltd and the road roller and sprayer business was taken over by BSP International Foundations Limited
- The archives were deposited as a gift by Wallis & Steevens Limited in 1981 and 1983

**THE WALLIS AND STEEVENS COLLECTION:
Business records of Wallis and Steevens Ltd, Basingstoke**

The business records of Wallis and Steevens Ltd were deposited as a gift, by AFW Wallis and PR Wallis, in 1981 and 1983. They consist of the following:

TR WAL AC1/1-57	Ledgers – sales, general, wholesale, agricultural machinery and engineering	1856-1956
TR WAL AC2/1	Cash books – petty cash wages	1946-1961
TR WAL AC4/1-4	Journals – transfers to general and other ledgers	1897-1960
TR WAL AC6/1-19	Other accounts – bank books	1897-1951
TR WAL AC7/1-77	Financial statements , including for Anna Valley (Tractors) Ltd	1893-1980
TR WAL AD1/1-6	Records of general meetings and board meetings – minute and agenda books	1893-1961
TR WAL AD2/1-11	General administrative and commercial records	1892-1969
TR WAL AD3/1-10	Employee records	1903-1970
TR WAL AD4/1	Premises records – Daneshill works	1966-1973
TR WAL AD5/1-5	Materials records – materials price books	1900-1967
TR WAL AD7/1-9	Commercial records – order number registers, road roller sales	1918-1980
TR WAL CO1/1-4	Partnership records	1884-1894
TR WAL CO2/1-59	Limited company records – allotment, dividend and share certificate books etc	1893-1964
TR WAL CO4/1-2	Property records	1881-1893
TR WAL DO1/1-5	Engineering drawings and sketches, including other firms (approximately 2500 and several bundles of sketches)	1875-1960
TR WAL DO2/1-2	Drawing registers	1870-1964
TR WAL ET1/1	Test report	1964
TR WAL MP1/1-23	Registers and lists of production	1872-1965
TR WAL MP2/1-524	Manufacturing working papers and details – including shop books	1900-1970
TR WAL MP3/1	Outworks records – order for gearboxes	1932-1942
TR WAL P2/A/1-16	Advertising and servicing publications – mainly Advance rollers	
TR WAL P8/1-16	Artworks	1950s-1960s
TR WAL P9/1-4	Other records	1954-1978
TR WAL PH3/1-45	Photographic prints	1900-1960s

How can I find the record I want?

1) In person at the Museum of English Rural Life reading room

Monday to Friday 09.00 – 17.00.

It is very helpful if you can let the Museum know in advance that you are attending and if possible which documents you would like to look at.

In the reading room you can look at the following catalogues:

A) **Printed catalogue** entitled 'Wallis and Steevens – TR WAL'. This includes drawings and shop books

B) **Printed catalogue** entitled 'Trade – drawings'

This contains a section on Wallis and Steevens drawings held. In part these are grouped by type of engine, e.g. 'Wallis & Steevens 6 HP traction engine mounted on springs new design 1893', however not all the drawings listed are held at MERL. For the full list of drawings held, look at the printed catalogue.

C) **Books and journals**

The library at the Museum of English Rural Life also holds a few journal articles and pamphlets about Wallis and Steevens Ltd. These can be searched on OLIB – see page 3 of this guide.

2) Online

Online catalogue at *Access to Archives* website <http://www.a2a.org.uk>

Search under the KEYWORD Wallis and Steevens

And choose LOCATION OF ARCHIVES Museum of English Rural Life

Then select 'CATALOGUE IN FULL' from the bar at the top of the page to see all the records in this section of the catalogue on A2A.

This will be replaced soon by a new catalogue (already available in the Museum reading room), including full descriptions of the drawings held (around 2500).

A general search under 'Wallis and Steevens' also brings up other records contained in other collections held at the Museum – e.g. H Plowright & Sons Ltd (TR PLO), R & J Reeves & Son (TR REE) etc.

If you only want to find MERL's catalogue,

CHOOSE Extended search

In the 'Catalogue reference' box:

ENTER TR WAL
PRESS Search

This should bring up one entry only

Online catalogue of the Museum of English Rural Life – OLIB

This provides an overall description of the records held and can be consulted via the Museum website at <http://www.merl.org>

Choose COLLECTIONS AND CATALOGUE
Then COLLECTIONS DATABASE
Then OPEN DATABASE
Choose KEYWORD SEARCH
Enter WALLIS AND STEEVENS

This should then bring up the Wallis and Steevens archive collection; it is not as detailed as the catalogue on A2A. It also brings up all the other materials (objects, library books and journals) held, although for Wallis and Steevens the collections are not as extensive as for other agricultural manufacturers.

The Road Locomotive Society is also currently cataloguing and digitising its private collection of Wallis and Steevens glass plate negatives, which will be stored at the Museum. For further information on the RLS see its website <http://www.roadloco.org/>

How do I find out about my Wallis & Steevens engine?

A. Dates and classes of engine

From an engine number we can find the date, class, who ordered it and the basic specification.

These are all in one entry in the Wallis production registers, TR WAL MP1

1. For steam engines the series is TR WAL MP1/1-7. The entry for each engine is quite full, sometimes two pages or more. Information about drawings, painting and nameplates is often included, and sometimes later second-hand sales.
2. For motor rollers the series is MP1/9-11. MP1/9 is a summary register which overlaps to some extent with the other two. Entries are less detailed, no more than a line or two, but enough to confirm customer, type of engine originally fitted, and often the road registration.

B. Further details

1. Shop books. TR WAL MP2/4-516. The steam engine registers usually include a reference to a shop book. These books are in the archives, and are a record of every detail of materials and tools that went into the construction of the engine.
2. For motor rollers there is far less detailed information, but registers TR WAL MP1/22-23 contain some useful additional material for the period 1952-81.
3. Sales accounts. The sales ledgers, TR WAL AC1/1-22 can be used to discover details of the original purchase and subsequent transactions relating to individual engines. The ledgers are big and heavy and cannot be photocopied.

C. Drawings

There are two registers of drawings, TR WAL DO2/1-2. These give a list of the drawings in number order. In the front and back there are lists of drawings required for each class of engine. Traction engines were classified by power rating (e.g. 6hp single cylinder). Steam tractors (called motors by Wallis & Steevens) were classified by weight (e.g. 4¾ ton motor compound). Road rollers were classified by weight. The later design of steam roller was given a brand name, the Advance, resulting in rollers being identified as 8 ton Advance. The same brand name was used throughout for motor rollers.

To find the class list for a steam engine or roller:

1. From its number, check the class of engine in the production register, as in section A1 above.
2. The register usually has a sentence 'Built to the list of drawings for no. xxxx'. This gives us our guide when we come to the class list in the drawings register.

3. In the register there is an index telling us on which page to find the class list. It is not always straightforward to use, but a bit of patience gets us there. The class lists often have several columns relating to different design modifications to the class. The columns are headed 'order number' and one should be the number xxxx given by the production register. That is the column we follow for the drawings for the particular engine of our enquiry.

The class lists do not indicate whether we have the drawing. To check we have to go through the drawings register itself, or, better, use the list in the collection catalogue, or use our transcript lists (next section).

3. Transcript lists. The drawings registers are fragile, especially register 1, and should not be photocopied. To provide lists for enquirers, we adopted a policy some time ago of transcribing the class list from the register. Our holdings of drawings are indicated on these transcripts.

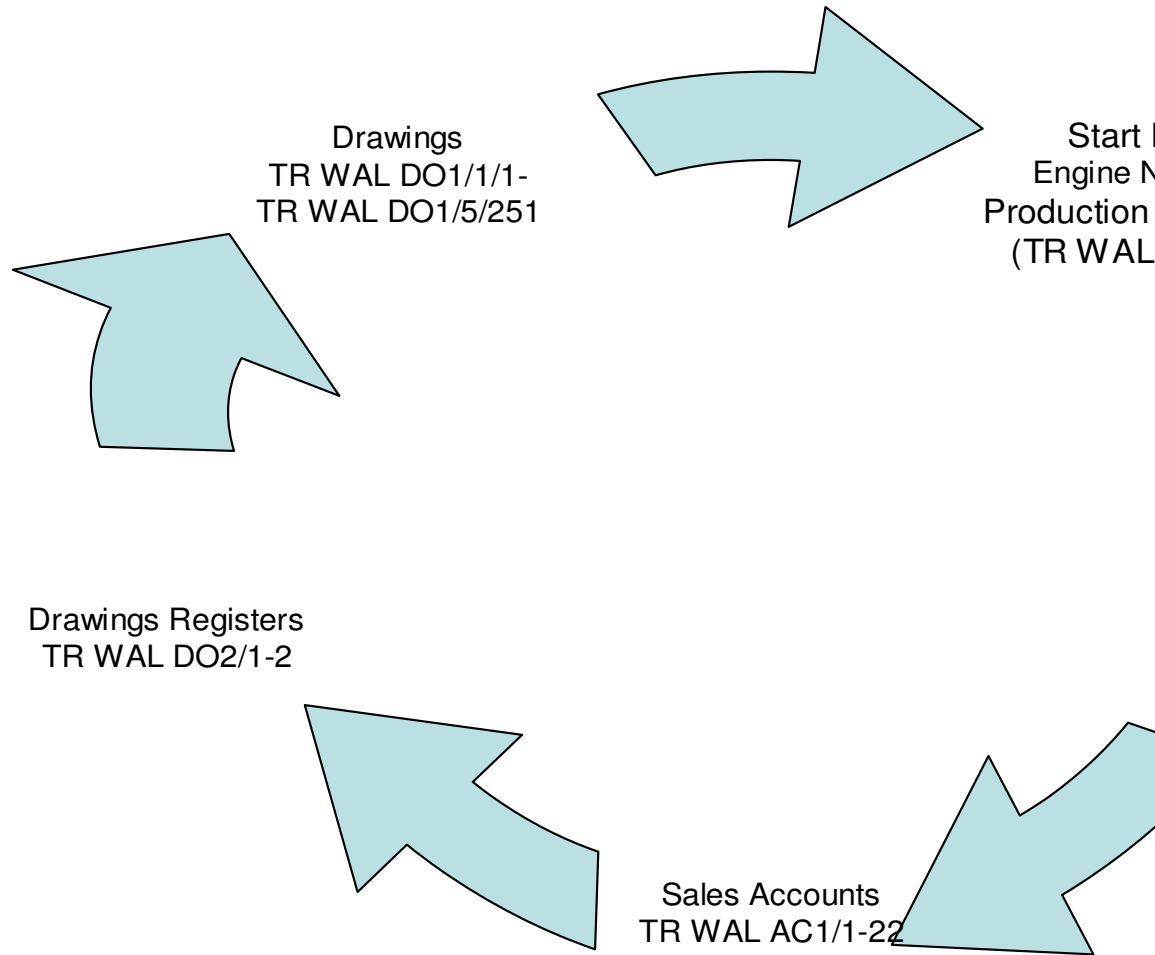
The transcripts cover most of the commonly requested classes now. Copies of these are in the drawings folder in the reading room. The Word files can be accessed in the archives section of M drive, and can be emailed to enquirers. The files have also been mounted in OLIB and are viewable through the catalogue.

4. Motor rollers. Drawings in our collections are very few because nearly all went to the firm that took over the goodwill of Wallis & Stevens when the Basingstoke works closed.

D. Photographs

There is a small number of photographs in the Wallis & Stevens collection. The main collection of the company's photographs is held by the Road Locomotive Society.

Navigating the Wallis and S Archive



Heavy Metal archive workshop
Wallis and Steevens



Archives containing information about individual engines

A: Production Registers Steam Engines

TR WAL MP1	Registers and lists of production. The registers all contain a customer index with the machine or machinery numbers ordered. Later registers also contain detailed handwritten descriptions of the construction of the engine or machinery.	1872-1965
TR WAL MP1/1	Steam engine register no. 1 Drawing office engine register compiled by W. Fletcher from October 1872 with index at rear. Includes the engine number, date produced and customer name. The volume also contains annual totals and some sketches. (1 volume) [Formerly accession number TR WAL 77]	1872-1878
TR WAL MP1/2	Steam engine register no. 2 Numbers 2001-2070. Also includes a summary production list and list of boilers tested. [Formerly accession number TR WAL 78]	1878-1887
TR WAL MP1/3	Steam engine register no. 3 Contains customer index. Pages 1-378 (10 Jun 1866-19 Jun 1909) are a combined register of machines and other agricultural products. Entries include customer name, address, title and detailed description of the machine, including thrashing machines nos. 177-274 (4 and 4 ½ foot machines) and 1010-1120 (3 and 3 ½ foot machines). Other goods include dressing machines, purifiers, traction wagons, vans, elevators, chaff cutters, weighing machines, bevil gears and sack hoists. Pages 390-548 consists of an engine register (numbers 2065-2381), with an index on pages 379-389. [Formerly accession number TR WAL 79]	1866-1898
TR WAL MP1/4	Steam engine register no. 4. Numbers 2368-2849. [Formerly accession number TR WAL 80]	1897-1905
TR WAL MP1/5	Steam engine register no. 5. Numbers 2850-2999 and 7000-7397. Format as steam engine register no. 4. [Formerly accession number TR WAL 81]	1905-1913
TR WAL MP1/6	Steam engine register no. 6. Numbers 7398-7890. Format as steam engine register no. 4 [Formerly accession number TR WAL 82]	1913-1926

TR WAL MP1/7	Steam engine and roller register no. 7. Numbers 7891-8118. Also Simplicity road rollers	1926-1938
TR WAL MP1/8	<p>Agricultural machinery register.</p> <p>Includes thrashing machines, trucks, trolleys, tipping wagons, trailers, water carts. Entries contain details of each order and cross reference to drawing numbers and works books. The volume also contains thrashing machines numbers 3063-3303, with an index giving size of machine, number, customer name and address and date. Separate unnumbered register for Colas tar sprayers for road rollers from p.581-590.</p> <p>[Formerly accession number TR WAL 84]</p>	1898-1938
TR WAL MP1/9	<p>Summary steam and motor roller register. Serial number, type of roller, date left factory, engine number, customer name and address. Alphabetical customer index. Advance steam rollers numbers 7772-8118. Advance motor rollers 3050-65374 (1930-1965). Sequence incomplete.</p> <p>[Formerly accession number TR WAL 85]</p>	1924-1965
Motor Rollers		
TR WAL MP1/10	<p>Motor roller register no. 1. Index of customers, notes on OF/OH clutches, new design hind axle locking gear. Register contains numbers 3050-38440 with type of roller, serial number, delivery date, customer, shop book, fittings and extras, rolls, weights and engine details.</p> <p>[Formerly accession number TR WAL 86]</p>	1930-1938
TR WAL MP1/11	<p>Motor roller register no. 2. Index of customers and motor roller ordered at the front. OH/K 38441-46109. Entries in numerical order with customer index.</p> <p>[Formerly accession number TR WAL 87]</p>	31 Aug 1938-1946

B Further Details

1. Shop Books

TR WAL MP2/1-	Shop books (MP2/4-516) with indexes (MP2/1-3). The indexes give a description, office number, parts entered in works book, materials entered into order book, tickets issued to foundry, smith, boiler shop, turnery, drillers, list issued to fitting office, bolt list issued, bolts sent to stores [etc] and name of the customer. The shop books give notes as to the materials and fitting of the engines and agricultural implements. The indexes only extend to shop book 396. Shop books 304, 320, 473, 488, 500, 502, 503, 504 and 506 upwards are not held. [The shop books and indexes were formerly catalogued under accession numbers TR WAL 88-90]	
TR WAL MP2/1	Shop index book 1 (to alphabetical sequence)	[1900-1920]
TR WAL MP2/2	Shop index book 2 (to numerical sequence 1-229)	[1900-1920]
TR WAL MP2/3	Shop index book 3 (to numerical sequence 229-396)	[1900-1920]

B2 Motor Rollers

TR WAL MP1/22	Motor roller register Summary with roller number, description, type (petrol or diesel and code OG, OGP, OGR, OMF, OMR, ONF, ONF2, ONF3, OOF, ONP, ONP2, ONP3, PA2, PCL, QA, QB, RA, RBF, RBP, RBX, RBV, SA), weight, fittings, extras, erecting and painting, whether for export, roller reference (with type code as above and numbers 52667-813261), entry number, customer name and date dispatched. Roller numbers as follows 667-999 (1952-1959), 50-999 (1959-1974), 50-94 (1973-1974), 1000-4039 (1974-1975) and 2020-2039 (1975-1976), 1020-1039 (1975), 4040-4059 [Formerly accession number TR WAL 298]	13 May 1952-1 Jun 1981
TR WAL MP1/23	Motor roller erecting book Listed under following sections by roller numbers or entry number and customer name (corresponding to roller numbers in TR WAL MP1/22 above).	c.1967-1981

Register divided into sections by type. OH motor rollers (types ON2, RB) OH motor roller extras (OK, OM and OMF rollers). Lightweight rollers, PA, PA air cooled, PCL, QA and QB). OF and PE rolls (PA2/D, PA2 E and PA2/G less centres, roll centres PA/D, PA2/E, PA/G, rolls CPE type QA/B, QA/C), rolls QA special. OF and PE extras – lamps OGP/R, QA, water sprayers PA, enclosed cabs PA, awning and curtains PA and QA, scarifiers for lightweight rollers type PA, electric lamps PC, spring loaded roll scrapers PA, engine hours recorders PC and QA, special modifications to PA rollers for Newcastle plant, water sprayers for type QA rollers. OC rolls and OC extras.

[Formerly accession number TR WAL 299]

B3 Sales Accounts

TR WAL AC1/1-22	Sales ledgers. Index of customers at front and annual index with customer sales for year at rear. Ledgers arranged by customer name, date, quantity, machine ordered, office number, cost. Later ledgers include method of payment, interest charged and total paid. (22 volumes)	1856-1929
TR WAL AC1/1	Sales ledger [Formerly accession number TR WAL 2]	1856-1861
TR WAL AC1/2	Sales ledger A [Formerly accession number TR WAL 3]	1861-1865
TR WAL AC1/3	Sales ledger B [Formerly accession number TR WAL 4]	1866-1868
TR WAL AC1/4	Sales ledger C [Formerly accession number TR WAL 5]	1868-1874
TR WAL AC1/5	Sales ledger D [Formerly accession number TR WAL 6]	1874-1877
TR WAL AC1/6	Sales ledger E [Formerly accession number TR WAL 7]	1878-1881
TR WAL AC1/7	Sales ledger F [Formerly accession number TR WAL 8]	1881-1886
TR WAL AC1/8	Sales ledger G [Formerly accession number TR WAL 9]	1886-1890

TR WAL AC1/9	Sales ledger H [Formerly accession number TR WAL 10]	1891-1896
TR WAL AC1/10	Sales ledger I [Formerly accession number TR WAL 11]	1897-1901
TR WAL AC1/11	Sales ledger J [Formerly accession number TR WAL 12]	1901-1904
TR WAL AC1/12	Sales ledger K [Formerly accession number TR WAL 13]	1905-1908
TR WAL AC1/13	Sales ledger L1, customers A-L [Formerly accession number TR WAL 14]	1909-1912
TR WAL AC1/14	Sales ledger L2, 1, customers M-Z [Formerly accession number TR WAL 15]	1909-1912
TR WAL AC1/15	Sales ledger M1, customers A-K [Formerly accession number TR WAL 16]	1913-1916
TR WAL AC1/16	Sales ledger M2, customers L-Z [Formerly accession number TR WAL 17]	1913-1916
TR WAL AC1/17	Sales ledger N1, customers A-K [Formerly accession number TR WAL 18]	1917-1920
TR WAL AC1/18	Sales ledger N2 customers L-Z [Formerly accession number TR WAL 19]	1917-1920
TR WAL AC1/19	Sales ledger O1, customers A-K [Formerly accession number TR WAL 20]	1921-1924
TR WAL AC1/20	Sales ledger O2, customers L-Z [Formerly accession number TR WAL 21]	1921-1924
TR WAL AC1/21	Sales ledger P1 customers A-K [Formerly accession number TR WAL 22]	1925-1929
TR WAL AC1/22	Sales ledger P2, customers L-Z [Formerly accession number TR WAL 23]	1925-1929

C Drawings

TR WAL DO2/1	Drawing office register no. 1	c.1870-1915
	<p>Drawings 1 – 6351. The register is arranged by order number, with drawing number, number of drawer kept in at the drawing office and date. Engines were numbered according to a code. Letters A-F and H were used for portable, semi-portable and stationary engines, and the letter indicated horse power (HP) e.g. A = 3 HP, B = 4 HP, C = 6. (1 volume)</p> <p>[Formerly accession number TR WAL 75]</p>	
TR WAL DO2/2	Drawing office register no. 2	1915-1964
	<p>Register arranged in order of drawing number. Contains a description, order number, then engine type, number of drawer kept into (until 1955 only) and date. The second half of the register is arranged by engine type, beginning with general arrangement drawing number, shop book number and detailed drawing numbers. The engines listed in the register include 4 ³/₄ ton motor compound (pages 203-208), 6 and 7 HP traction ordinary (pages 209-228), 6 and 8 ton roller (pages 229-240), 10 ton rollers (pages 244-247), 6 ton DC roller Advance (pages 248-250), 10 ton roller compound (pages 251-254), light locomotive or Colonial type tractor (pages 255-258), 50 Cwt roller Simplicity (pages 259-260) and Colas sprayer (pages 261-266). (1 volume)</p> <p>[Formerly accession number TR WAL 76]</p>	