

WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

VOL. 10.

DECEMBER, 1959

No. 3

Chairman's Letter

In Queen Elizabeth the First's reign, a poet said: "O Time, too swift". He was not the first to feel that time passes quickly, and will not be the last. While writing this, my usual *Chairman's Letter*, for *Wright Ahead*, I am very conscious of its truth myself, for two reasons. The first reason is that it seems a very short time since I wrote my *Chairman's Letter* for the last Christmas number of our Works newspaper; and the second reason is that I shall be retiring from being Chairman and Managing Director (though remaining a non-executive Director) at the end of our financial year, 31st January, 1960. I am already two years beyond the normal retiring age.

It does not seem long ago despite the twenty-eight years, since first I came to Head Wrightsons at the time of the deep depression. Due to good fortune, and the goodwill, loyalty and ability of all—and I would especially thank my contemporaries, both in the offices and on the shop floor—we pulled



out of those depressed times, and have even got into the top five hundred, (not yet, apparently, to be nationalised). We now have the 3rd generation of the Founder of the Company, Sir John Wrightson, Bt., who, with his colleagues on our able board, will continue good direction, which, together with your goodwill, will ensure good progress, not only for the Company, and yourselves as individuals, but for the community we serve.

This Works Newspaper is a good medium for all of us to express our wishes to each other for a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. I would ask you too, not to forget those who may be in distress, in body or mind, and cannot happily participate in the customary festivities. A little practical help is surely worth while.

I conclude, therefore, my last *Chairman's Letter*, with my grateful thanks to all who have helped, not only with their efforts, but with their sincere friendship, to make our organisation happy, and prosperous.

Richard Miles

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Mr. and Mrs. J. Cameron

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:—

H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

- Mr. and Mrs. I. (Bing) Crosby — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Cooper — a daughter.

H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

- Mr. and Mrs. F. Watton — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Blower — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. K. Harrison — a daughter.

H.W. Steel Foundries Ltd.

Teesdale.

- Mr. and Mrs. J. Head — a son.



Mr. and Mrs. P. Bentley



Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Pocklington

Stockton.

- Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. Kiddle — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith — a son.

H.W. Stockton Forge Ltd.

- Mr. and Mrs. J. Gage — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. S. Lewis — a daughter.

H.W. Stampings Ltd.

- Mr. and Mrs. M. Irving — a son.

H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

- Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Watson — a son.



Mr. and Mrs. L. Sayer



Mr. and Mrs. J. Gaffney

Mr. and Mrs. G. Fenna — a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Clouston — a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Barrick — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Baker — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Wilson — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Swales — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Gibson — a daughter.

H.W. Processes Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Chandler — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Cumiskey — a son.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin



Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Wegg

**H.W. Colliery Engineering Ltd.
Sheffield.**

Mr. and Mrs. G. Bloor — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. Clewes — a daughter.

H.W. Export Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Neville — a son.

H.W. & Company Ltd.

Maintenance Department.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lytollis — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. B. Carabine — a son.



Mr. and Mrs. N. Dunning

MARRIAGES

H.W. Steel Foundries Ltd.

Mr. W. Pocklington to Miss A. Hall.

H.W. Stockton Forge Ltd.

Mr. Paul Bentley (F.S.) to Miss Margaret Mazzey (H.W.M. Co.).

Mr. N. Sayer (D.O.) to Miss D. Raper (H.W. Secretary's Dept.).

Mr. D. Harrison (D.O.), at present on National Service, to Miss R. Elkin.

H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Miss Wendy Knott (Switch Board) to Mr. W. Alexander (Merchant Navy).

Mr. Brian Sharp (D.O.) to Miss Sheila Dale (I.C.I.).

Mr. Norman Dunning (D.O.) to Miss Wendy Rees (Teesdale).

Miss June Turner (D.O.) to Mr. Clive Norwood (Stockton Forge).

Mr. G. R. Wegg (Elec. Dept.) to Miss N. Ritchie (Iron Foundries).

H.W. Iron & Steel Engineering Ltd.

Mr. J. Martin to Miss W. K. Bowles.

Mr. K. Walker to Miss D. Simpson.

Mr. R. Wood to Miss A. E. Carter.

Miss D. Green to Mr. F. Mills.

Mr. J. Gaffney to Miss J. Taylor.

H.W. Colliery Engineering Ltd.

Mr. R. W. Scott to Miss June Bell.

ENGAGEMENTS

H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

Miss Margaret Bell (Typist) to Mr. John Hope (Joiners Shop).

Miss Sylvia Pitelen (Typist) to Mr. Colin Williams.

H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. I. Atkinson (D.O.) to Miss Hilda Wardle (D.O.).

Miss B. A. Stainsby (D.O.) to Mr. A. B. Levie (Barclays Bank).

Mr. P. M. Beckwith (D.O.) to Miss Ruby Neil (Children's Nurse).

Miss Doreen Swailes (G.O.) to Mr. Clive Brown (Wages).

H.W. Processes Ltd.

Mr. Bill Winlow (Drawing Office) and Miss Judith Monaghan who have recently become engaged.

DEATHS

Condolences to the families of:—

H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

Mr. G. Gibson (Chair Rammer). Mr. Gibson had been with the firm for 43 years.

H.W. Steel Foundries Ltd.

Teesdale.

Mr. A. Riddy.

Mr. J. Turner.

Mr. A. Alderson.

Stockton.

C. Hudson — Lab.

W. Layton — Crane Driver.

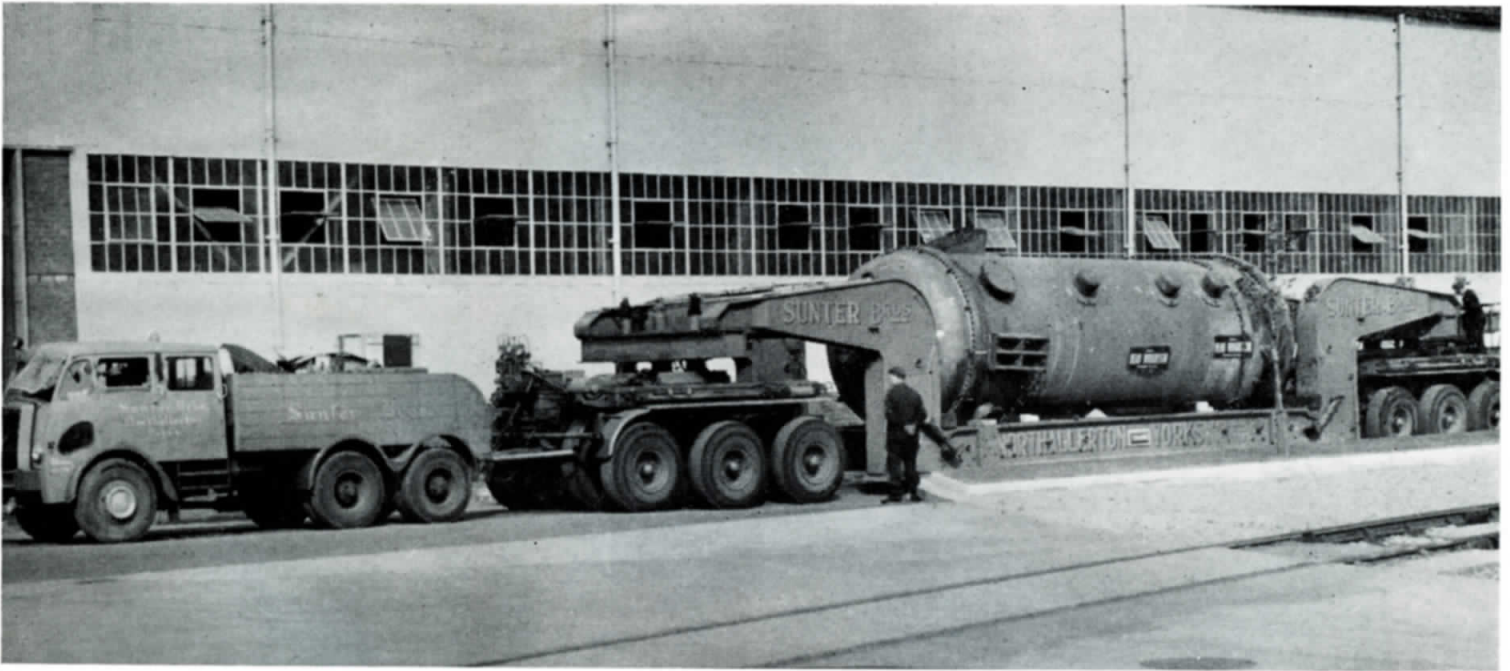
J. Lambert — Moulder.

H.W. Stockton Forge Ltd.

Mr. R. Dodds (Bridge Yard).

Mr. J. Bailes (Bridge Yard).

M. A. Boston (Bridge Yard).



H.W. TEESDALE LTD.

Machine Shop.

No doubt most of our employees who saw "The Steel Goddess" on B.B.C. Television recognised most of the boys in the "Leading" parts. Goodman's squad took up most of the time allowed — a very good job they did, too. We did not know we had so many good actors — that goes for all the lads who tried to get into the act but failed. As was to be expected — there was a funny side — the horrible type who shouted, "Fancy, paying £4 a year to see that so-and-so shower". Needless to say that was cut. Which was more amusing, the shot of Spring Street or the non-smoker trying to light up for the cameras.

Some of our most interesting jobs pass through the Heat Exchanger shop. The largest for some time, the "Wimpey" job, has just been despatched so I asked Jack Wellum, foreman of that department for details and, as usual, he was only too pleased to oblige.

A contract comprising eighteen exchangers has recently been completed and delivered to the Fawley Site for G. Wimpey & Co. Ltd.

The tests for this equipment covered a wide range. Some of the shell plates were ultra-sonically tested for laminations and the welds were X-rayed and then tested by the magnetic particle method.

Before despatch the equipment had to undergo searching hydraulic tests and high pressure air tests as well as vacuum and halogen tests.

The most interesting piece of equipment in this contract was a 9' 11" diameter converter with a total length of 34' and weighing 100 tons.

Although the converter was only 34 ft long, 3,454 tubes 1½" diameter and 25 ft. long were fitted into it — a total length of 16½ miles of tubing.

The tube sheets were received as forgings, 16 tons in weight and after machining weighed 4½ tons, whilst the drilling of the tubes sheets entailed drilling for a total of 2,780 feet and reaming for 2,780 feet.

Much of the new equipment recently installed in the Teesdale Works was used in the construction of the converter. The Berthie Vertical Boring mill was used for

machining to profile the combined flange tube sheets as well as the flanges on the end covers before, and after stress relieving. The heavy shell sections, 2⅞" thick were formed cold in the new vertical rolls. The overall weight of the converter dictated its assembly in the new Heavy Plate Shop where lifting capacity to handle 100 tons dead weight is available. The stress relieving furnace in this shop was used for the converter.

During the tubing of the converter, a team from H.W. Research and Development Department were at work installing equipment for carrying out strain gauge tests on the tube sheets.

This was done at the request of the Inspecting Authority, whose experience at that time did not cover the advanced methods used in the design of the combined flange tube-sheets. The test results proved conclusively that the design was within the permissible stresses for the material of construction.

Transportation to site of the 100 ton converter was arranged with the Ministry of Transport. After turning down all suggested routes, the Ministry indicated the route to be taken on five closely typed sheets.

The official route took 18 days against the 10 days originally scheduled. At one point the converter was within 20 miles of site but with 100 miles of the official route still to go.

It is interesting to note that at all times, the police escort for these special loads are controlled by the Traffic Department of New Scotland Yard.

We hope by the time this is in print, Jack Tunstall (Tool Room) is at last out and about, a wish we also extend to Harry Syson and Bob Rickerby. Don't forget the Machine Shop in January!!

Constructional Department.

Our swimming team was runner-up in the inter-departmental competition — we hope that next year they will be in first place — can John Kirk get a good start?

We welcome back after illness Mr. Scarth and hope that he continues in good health. Messrs. A. Littlewood and Eddie Hall have had a long spell of illness. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope they will soon be back with us.



Mr. Shaw making the presentation to two of our long service employees — G. Warriner (over 50 years) and J. Leeson (over 40 years) — have retired. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

Our rifle team again won the Miniature Air Rifle Inter-departmental Competition — this was the third year they had been victorious. Arthur Vernon — a novice — did very well. Where was Matt. Newton — still taking tips from Cheyenne?

Our Department did not get into the T.V. film "Steel Goddess" but our neighbours in the Machine Shop got a lot of credit. This was a shock to all of us. (Editor's note: I was shocked, too, that a department which did so much work for this contract was not included).

Another year is almost at its end — the ending has not been too good but we hope that the forthcoming year will bring plenty of orders for the yard and full employment for all of us.

H.W. IRON FOUNDRIES LTD.

Get Well Soon.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. J. Poulter (Moulder), Mr. W. Short (Fitter) and Mr. N. E. Baker (Moulder) who are away from work through illness.

We welcome back after National Service Mr. B. Copeland (Electrician).

We congratulate Mr. G. Morris on his recent appointment as Secretary of the local branch of the Institute of British Foundrymen. Mr. G. Morris succeeded Mr. F. Shepherd, who held the post for a number of years previously.

H.W. STEEL FOUNDRIES LTD.

Teesdale.

It is with extreme regret that we have to report the death of Mr. Arthur Riddy after a long illness. He had been with the Company for 40 years — our deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Our sympathy goes too, to the wife and family of Mr. J. Turner (Test House) whose sudden death was a shock to us all.

We wish a speedy recovery to Messrs. Mason, Jones and Harris who have all been on the sick list for quite a long time.

Welcome back to Messrs. J. G. Allen (General Manager), R. Bradburn (Burner), T. Craggs (Burner) — may they continue in better health.

Our sympathy goes to Messrs. J. T. Baker and J. Dorrington, both of whom have lost their wives.

Congratulations to Mr. G. Pearson (Moulder) who has attained his majority.

Stockton.

Congratulations to Mr. R. Mackinlay on his promotion to staff.

Messrs. Gaddes and Umpleby again did well at the Fruit and Vegetable Show — we wish them continued success.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. P. McGregor who is at present in hospital.

H.W. STAMPINGS LTD.

With the freak English Summer now just another happy memory, the dark days before Christmas are well and truly upon us. However, visitors to "Stampings", will no doubt notice the splash of colour which has invaded the entrance to the General Office — a decided improvement on the otherwise "Emergency, Ward 10" effect, of the past. All-round improvements are being planned, which will eventually bring our office more into keeping with the times. Efficiency and a creative happy atmosphere, should prove the end-product of this effort on the part of all concerned with the Management of our Seaton Carew division.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. A. Muir, on his appointment as Assistant General Manager, together with our good wishes, that he may enjoy a happy association with all.

We also extend our congratulations to Mr. Kenneth Clarke and Mr. L. J. Mogridge. Mr. Clarke has succeeded Mr. Mogridge as Commercial Manager who has been appointed Chief Sales Representative for "Stampings". We wish them both every success in the future.

A Treasure Hunt for cars and motor-cycles was held on 17th July. This was successfully organised by Bill Amos and Ken Rowland of the Drawing Office, together with John Allen, who has been transferred to the Steel Foundry, Teesdale. To the delight and relief of those taking part, a reception committee was apparent in almost every village reached. The villagers entered into the spirit of things and no 'red-herrings' were thrown over the trail. Judging from some of the remote places, it must all have had the appearance of a miniature Monte Carlo rally. A happy 'get-together' rounded off a very pleasant evening, when refreshments were provided at an hotel in Billingham.

Our wishes for a happy and successful future go to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Duncan, who were married in September. Mrs. Duncan was formerly Margaret Hunter — Comptometer Operator. They are now residing in Harwell, where Mr. Duncan has obtained a post at the Atomic Energy Plant.

Congratulations are extended to Miss E. Russon (Typist), upon her coming of age — and to Mr. Albert Hall, who has been promoted to Chief Wages Clerk. (Luckily, the majority of the Staff are on monthly salary).

"Nothing can be gained by striking", or so it is often said, but one member of our Drawing Office — Lloyd Nelson — has proved this otherwise. Coming into contact with a car which was leaving a neighbouring site, resulted in Lloyd parting company with his motor-bike. Final figures show — Lloyd unseated, net gain — 2 stitches and a temporary limp.

The dream of every sporting man — and woman, is to hit the 'jack-pot' on the "Treble-Chance". One of the 'submerged tenth' was recently successful in marking correctly those 8 elusive 'duck-eggs', only this time, Jack's pot merely amounted to a few pounds. Never mind, Mrs. "Jack" is assured of a plentiful supply of her favourite chocolates — 'violet-creams'. Better luck next time, may you 'surface' soon!

We wish every joy and happiness in the future to Mrs. Audrey Lancaster of the Costs Department, who has left to await a happy event.

Our condolences are extended to the family of Mr. J. O'Keefe (General Hand) whose death took place shortly after retirement, and to Mr. David Hornsby (Cost Accountant) and mother, upon their recent bereavement.

May we at "Stampings" take this opportunity to wish all members of our organisation a Very Happy Christmas and A Bright and Happy New Year. And to all Magazine Correspondents, "Happy Writing" in 1960.

"MODERN TIMES AT SEATON"

Midst the Salt Flat's desolation,
In majestic isolation,
Our ultra modern factory proudly stands,
Modern to the 'nth degree,
Is our workshop by the sea,
And we sometimes get some soap to wash our hands!
(W)Right Ahead the times are we,
As it's obvious to see,
With our planners praises sung in dulcet tones,
Though we're sorry to relate,
As their ego we deflate,
That the job is stopped just for the lack of "Stones".
We have men from every nation,
From every walk and station,
A genuine cosmopolitan lot are we,
And our methods are unique,
With production at it's peak,
We use a slide-rule, just to stir the tea.
We once fixed a moving die,
In the now defunct pig-stye,
Our resources must be seen to be believed,
But when the north wind starts to blow,
And the shops get filled with snow,
We all are apt to get a trifle peeved!
Now we know that you'll agree,
That our Forging factory,
Is just as up to date as any other,
In fact we're well ahead of time,
Down in this sunny clime,
It's 1984, without Big Brother!

H.W. STOCKTON FORGE LTD.

Retirements.

We wish a long and happy retirement to Mr. P. McManus and Mr. M. McGowan.

We welcome back after a long illness Mr. L. Burns of the Fitting Shop.

Congratulations to all students who have passed their examinations. this year, especially to D. Cleary (age 19) of the Template Shop whose results were as under:—

S.3. Calculations and Science ...	100%
Drawing	95%
Process and Practice ...	85%

Intermediate City and Guilds — 1st Class Pass.

We welcome back to the Forge:—

H. Wilkinson (The Pig Farmer).

T. Nichol.

J. Skipper — after three years in Salt Lake City, U.S.A.

He thinks there is no place like home and expects his family to join him for Christmas.

Congratulations on their promotions to:—

Mr. W. Heron — Second in command Planning.

Mr. M. McGarvey to Planning.

Mr. R. Newby to Planning.

Mr. J. Ward to Rate Fixing.

Fitting Shop.

Isn't it wonderful how some little thing seems to belong to a particular person, house, or shop. Forge Fitting Shop for example seems to be prone to ducks in all their various forms. At one time with monotonous regularity it was ducks at cricket, one or two of the personnel were members of Norton Cricket Club and had the misfortune to be chosen to play for the team, and every Monday loud quacks could be heard all over the shop.

Then there was the apprentice who suddenly developed a passion for ducks, not the veiled sort that one might assume a healthy apprentice with an appropriate appetite would be interested in, but Aylesburys', Indian Runners and Mallards. Woe betide the poor simpleton who was rash enough to enter into conversation with him on the subject of ducks.

Now the duck enters into the picture again, a Widgeon — even as a corpse it was a thing of beauty, as it was borne around the shop in its shroud of brown paper to be poked and prodded by each and every admirer. One could not help but believe it was the tender succulent morsel the proud owner assured everybody it was after going through all the processes culinary.

The amount of meat to be had? Well! heard the story of the five thousand? You don't believe it!!! ASK NUGENT.

Congratulations to Clive Marrison, Tom Chambers, Clive Harding and Peter Grieveson on winning the inter-departmental team race at the recently held Swimming Gala. This was one better than last year when they finished second.

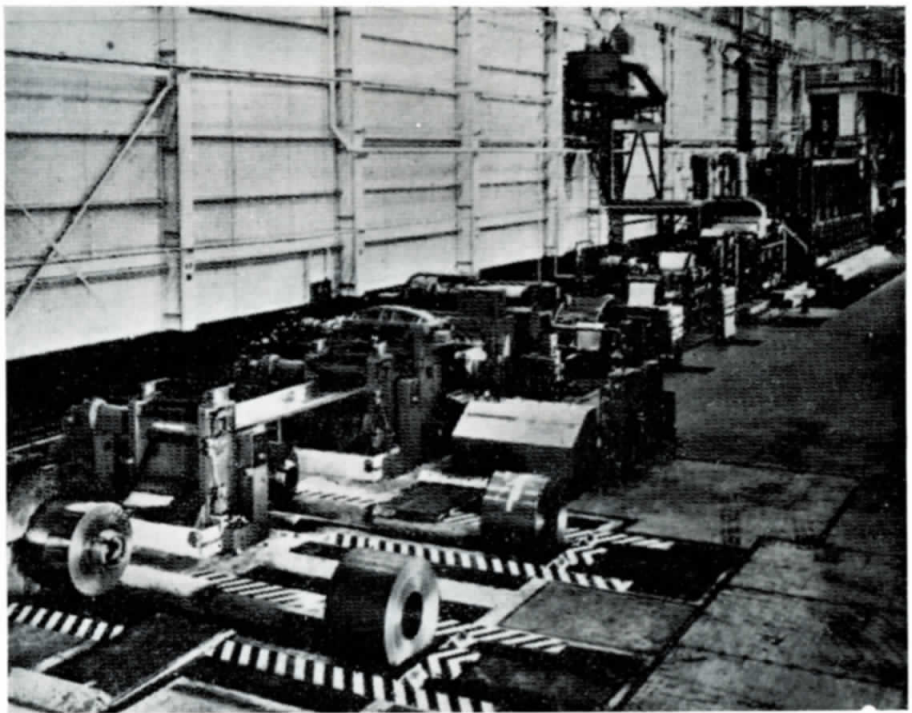
Eric Pattison and John Keir have been called to do National Service with the R.A.F. We think they "will go far" — to them we extend our heartiest greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

We welcome back Colin Whittaker after having completed his National Service. After his initial training he was "drafted" into the M.P.'s. — the friendly guys who keep other servicemen out of trouble.

His training in "Observation" stood him in good stead at the recently held Motor Rally when he came out the winner.

Christmas Greetings. All members of the Drawing Office offer warmest wishes and greetings to all friends throughout the Group. May 1960 see us all still "Forging Ahead".

A tinning line constructed by Blaw Knox of America and similar to the new plant on order for Richard Thomas and Baldwins for their Ebbw Vale works. The new line is to be built by the Head Wrightson Machine Company



(Below) A schematic diagram of the new tinning line which is to be installed at Ebbw Vale

H.W. MACHINE CO. LTD.

A £2½ million order from Messrs. Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., has considerably enhanced the order book. This order consists of:—

One Coil Preparation Line for operating at 4,000 ft. per minute. This line is used to edge trim the steel strip from the temper mills, and at the same time off-gauge material detected by means of a beta ray gauge, is cut out. The ends of prime strip are welded to form large coils for feeding to the electrolytic tinning line.

One Electrolytic Tinning Line for operating at 1,500 ft. per minute. To ensure continuous operation two pay off reels are used, one being loaded and fed to the welder ready to weld to the tail of the coil already being fed into the line. Three 80 ft. deep loops are available to allow time for welding. The strip is cleaned, pickled and scrubbed, then electro plated in 12 plating cells. The plating current is 180,000 amps (max) at 18 volts. Automatic current control ensures correct current for the weight of coating required and for varying strip speed.

Electric resistance heating melts the tin coating and gives a bright finish, before the strip passes to the chemical treatment section and oilers for protective coating.

The strip is then recoiled on tension reels or, at the lower speeds may be passed directly to No. 1 Cut-up Line.

Two Cut-up Lines operating at 1,000 ft. per minute max. cut the tinned strip into sheets at up to 400 sheets per minute and classify and pile them into prime sheets off gauge and menders (bad finish) and pinhole damaged sheets.

One Assorting Line for hand sorting of the reject piles from the Cut-up Line.

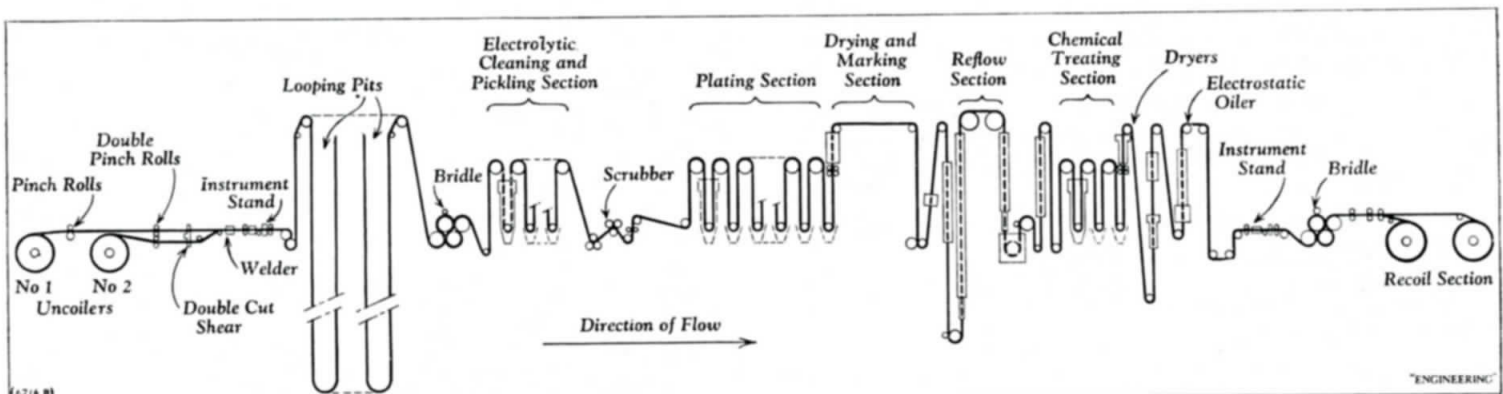
Nearing completion in the erecting shop is 100,000 lb. Drawbench for Australia, also 36" x 72" scrap baller, magnetic piler and twin head uncoiler for South Africa.

The three massive coil up-enders ready for John Summers have been dwarfed by the appearance of three heavy plate levellers now in the erection bay.

An order of local interest recently completed is a low speed coil Cut-up Line now installed at I.C.I. Billingham Works.

Social Topics.

Two treasure hunts this summer were well supported, the first was won by Mr. F. A. Batty with Mr. J. Bewley second. The next hunt was a victory for Mr. J. C. W. Black with Mr. D. Swales second.



Electrolytic Tinning Line.

290 guests attended The Autumn Dance in Teesdale Hall. A very pleasant evening, the success we must again credit to the staff of the Hall — our sincere thanks

Mr. W. H. Mather, our General Manager, is President of the Cleveland Institute of Engineers and we wish him a pleasant year of office.

Whilst on the subject of congratulations, we offer our felicitations to Dave Mankin on braving the rigours of his recent operation Haircut! Will Dave Bramley dare to be shorn in these wintry blasts? Incidentally, is Mike Beckwith's facial fungus a winter protection or another way of saving for the bottom drawer?

Congratulations to Brian Jordan and Doreen Smailes on their 21st Birthday.

Two new Morris Travellers in the car park, Beckwith and Ivan Atkinson are the proud owners.

Derek Smithson of the Design Dept. left us to take a position at Crook, and Wilf Lockheed (Cost Office) has joined an Insurance Company.

We welcome back from the Forces Mr. L. Walker, D.O., Mr. K. Latheron (Machine Shop), Mr. G. Curry and Mr. B. Hackett of the Fitting shop, and those returned from the sick, Mr. C. Parkin (D.O.), Mr. F. Bird (Fitting shop) and Mr. A. Frankland (Fab. shop).

We also wish a speedy recovery to:

Mr. J. Brown (App. Bay).

Mr. J. Gallacher (Machine Shop cranes).

A welcome to our new starters:

P. Veitch, A. Garbutt, and V. Jones, apprentice draughtsmen, Frank Womack, D.O. (after two years in Canada); E. Harrison (Strong Room); D. Allison, Sales Records, C. Oldroyd (Cost Office) and Miss Valerie Close (Mail Room). Mrs. Spenceley who has returned from house-wifery to grace the Typing Pool.

Philip Veitch has had a very successful athletic season culminating in his being 440 yd. junior champion and record holder of Northumberland and Durham.

We hear a Chargehand has a new angle(r) on the fishy story, it must be the first one to end in a Foxhunt.

A certain new bachelor establishment is quite a subject of conversation. Which do we believe, the stories of the charming way he does his chores or that luxurious sofa and soft lights? Incidentally we heard a moving story with a saltier situation.

Join H.W. and See the World.

Round the world in 74 days and still time for 9 weeks in Sydney and 6 days in Pittsburgh, but unfortunately only 6 hours in Waikiki. Engineers always have the wrong sense of proportions.

Travelling by Britannia, Super Constellation, Boeing 707 and Comet IV with B.O.A.C., Qantas and Transworld Airways, such was the good fortune of the writer.

The journey was in connection with a Cut-up Line for Australian Iron & Steel Co., of Port Kembla, N.S.W. and I spent several weeks with the hospitable staff of H.W. (Australia).

Mr. Jack Wright whom many at Teesdale will remember, his charming wife and a saucy nine year old Miss Wright. They have a beautiful bungalow with a magnificent view of the harbour and beaches from the picture window of the dining room.

Basil Ford, and his family. The younger daughter, Cheryl (a lovely name we do not hear in England) with her big wondering eyes, and Elizabeth her blonde big

sister. Bob Sharples and his Northumbrian wife and their two lusty boys

Bill Scott, a Scot who emigrated to Australia via Billingham and the R.N.

And we must not forget Miss Pender the new typist who started just after I arrived.

Thank you one and all.

Space precludes full appreciation of the country, the endless miles of bush, of sage green gum trees, the stripping bark hanging in enormous shreds. The fern palms, the bottle brush trees, the gigantic fault valleys in the Blue Mountains. The wonderful blue of the sky and sea, even in winter, and most of all those glorious beaches.

An enormous country, sparsely populated, most of the population trying to live in a few vast sprawling cities, and with fantastic traffic congestion. An emigration programme aimed at 5% increase in population per year has led to racial problems, as in the early days of America. Most of the Continental emigrants are glad enough to be in a country where work is available. The average British emigrant faces a few years of hard saving to attain anything like the standard of living over here.

Consequently, he grumbles and becomes one of those . . . Pommies.

I cannot end without thanking Aetna Standard and in particular Dick Berg and his charming wife for their hospitality.

H.W. IRON & STEEL ENGINEERING LTD.



Due to the success achieved with our first venture into the world of motor sport a second rally was held on the afternoon of 31st October. The entry on this occasion numbered 24 and was open to both motor cycles and cars.

The route, embracing some of the finest countryside in North Yorks, was 55 miles in length and a remarkably high standard of rallying was achieved. After three recounts the winner eventually emerged as Mr. Whitaker, driving an Austin A90, and, need we say, a product of Stockton Forge.

Second place was taken by Mr. Pratt (Hillman) of Stockton Forge and joint third Mr. Harfield (Singer) of H.W.I.S.E.L. and Mr. Bashford (Austin A30) of Stockton Forge.

Our congratulations are extended to the winners and also to Stockton Forge who, no doubt, will enter a works team in the 1960 Monte Carlo.

Congratulations also to the old team of Ferriday, Reeves, Stone, Martin, Gaffney and Wilkinson, all of this division, for a well organised and enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

The success of these two rallies seems to ensure a good support for the newly formed Head Wrightson Motor Club and we wish the organisers every success with their venture.

Our other sporting activities include .177 Rifle Shooting when, during the inter-departmental shooting competition, our two teams both managed to reach the semi-finals. We offer our congratulations to the winners and hope to meet again next year.

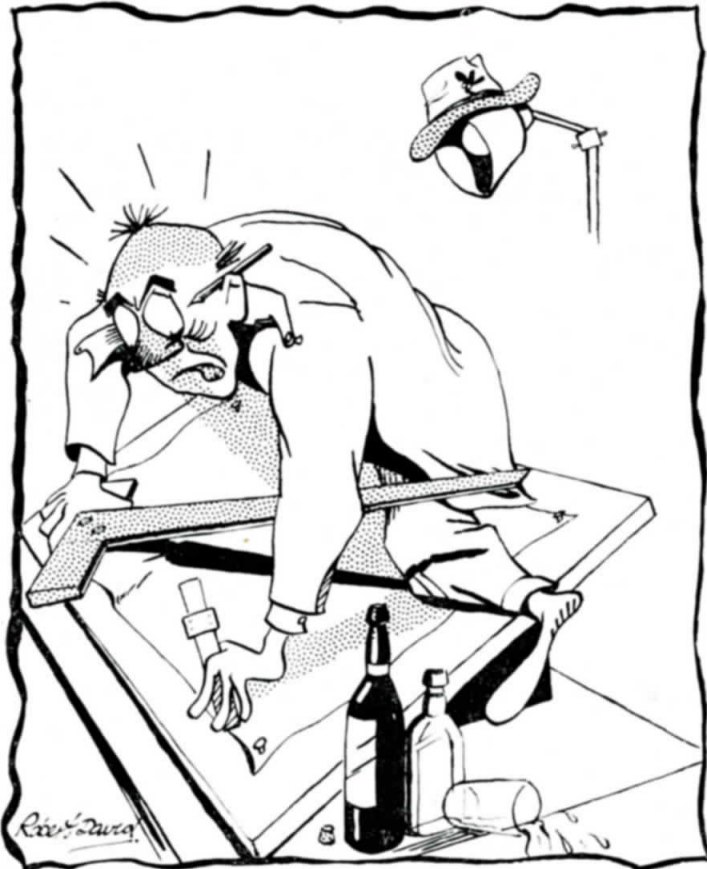
However, during the Individual Rifle Shoot we were more fortunate in that Mr. Brian Askey won the trophy for this event.

Brian's brother, Les Askey, incidentally has now taken a temporary post with the Orient Line Steamship Co., and is at present serving as a Junior Engineer aboard S.S. Orion (23,696 tons) somewhere in warm waters. Our best wishes and greetings to him and our commiserations to Mrs. Askey during his absence.

We welcome Dr. K. H. Hoyle, formerly of Research and Development, who has joined our merry throng (their loss — our gain, no doubt!). It is hoped that his recent visit to the U.S.A. together with Mr. G. Moodie proves fruitful for H.W.

Our best wishes to Messrs. J. Langstaff and J. Hodgson who are at present doing a spell of duty at Durgapur, India.

Seasonal Greetings are extended to all members of the H.W. organization.



H.W. COLLIERY ENGINEERING LTD.

Since the last issue of *Wright Ahead* orders have been received for two Coal Preparation Plants, one to be installed at Cotgrave Colliery and the other at Cortonwood Colliery. An order has also been received for Coal Handling Plants to be erected at Westoe and Wearmouth Collieries.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Clewes on the advent of a daughter and to Mr. and Mrs. G. Bloor, of a son.

All good wishes to Mr. R. W. Scott on his marriage to Miss June Bell.

Congratulations to Mr. R. Clarke on his engagement.

Many happy returns and all good wishes to Miss M. Bennett on the occasion of her 21st Birthday.

We are pleased to learn of academic successes and offer the following our congratulations:—

- Mr. John Holmes — Higher National — Mechanical.
- Mr. J. Gulson — Higher National — Engineering.
- Mr. D. Coldwell — Higher National — Engineering.
- Mr. A. Montague — National Cert. — Mechanical.
- Miss Duffell — J2 — Mechanical Engineering Course.

Retirement.

Mr. Andrew Taylor recently retired and to mark the occasion received a cheque from the Directors and Staff at Sheffield. He was one of the original staff of Colliery Engineering Ltd., and has well-earned a time of ease and enjoyment.

Good wishes to Mrs. J. Curson, who leaves Thornaby office, having been with Colliery Equipment Division from its inception. Our good wishes also to Mrs. J. Bambridge and Mrs. A. Green who have left Sheffield office after many years' service.

We offer a warm welcome to many new members of Staff at Sheffield:—

Mrs. E. M. Scott; Misses S. M. Grey, M. E. Greenhalgh, J. Walshaw; Messrs. J. P. Elliott, L. A. Newcombe, C. Mathews and R. Buttrell.

At Wolstanton:—

Mr. E. W. Bray.

At Manchester:—

Messrs. D. H. Fairclough, P. F. Marshall, D. G. Osborne, R. A. M. Duncan, F. Elleray, J. Metcalfe and N. Quinn.

At Newcastle:—

Messrs. L. Morris, J. Faney, R. Forbes, J. Bell, D. Wilkinson, W. Barker, B. N. Fenwick, R. Clark and Young.

At Abernant:—

Mr. S. Mundkar.

At Ogilvie:—

Miss N. Lester.

Mr. D. West has returned from National Service and Mr. A. G. Whitworth has left to take up Service duties.

Greetings.

To all our friends, wherever they may be, we offer warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas and a most joyful New Year.

H.W. PROCESSES LTD.

Welcome.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. J. Ramsden, Mr. E. F. Walton, Mr. J. K. Taylor who have recently joined H.W.P. Yarm as engineers; also Mrs. Olive Lowcock as Telex Operator.

Farewell.

Our good wishes go with Mr. Alec Taylor (Development Section) who resigned last month.

Get Well.

We should like to extend our good wishes for a speedy recovery for Mr. and Mrs. D. Pearson's two year old son, who unfortunately at the present time is seriously ill.

Social Section.

A new Social Committee was formed in October and members are arranging several festive activities which include a Smoker, a Children's Christmas Party, and a Social Evening for staff members.

H.W. EXPORT LTD.

We are glad to welcome Mr. E. J. ("Robbie") Robinson who has joined us to look after H.W. overseas affairs in West Africa and the Middle East. Mr. Robinson has spent six years in charge of H.W.'s office in Toronto, and before that, worked at Stockton Forge and in London Office.

McKEE HEAD WRIGHTSON LTD.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Neville on the birth of a daughter during October.

12th October, 1959, was D-Day for this newly formed international company, McKee Head Wrightson Limited (abbreviated M.H.W.), which is jointly owned by Arthur G. McKee, Cleveland, U.S.A., and Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd.

M.H.W. is a British Company with Registered Office at Teesdale House, 16/26 Baltic Street, London, E.C.1. It will combine the experience of the two Parent firms in the designing, engineering, procuring, and building of petroleum refineries, chemical and petrochemical plants throughout the world, excluding the North American continent.

The initial staff for the new concern has been found by transferring the majority of the existing Head Wrightson Processes Ltd. personnel. Special Products Department, Nuclear Reactor Section of the Drawing Office and certain staff of other Departments have remained with H.W.P.

Mr. F. D. Parker, a Director of M.H.W., and a party of five American staff, Messrs. C. B. Bredt, J. H. Henzel, J. J. Potoma, L. M. Elton, J. N. Garrison, have joined us from Arthur G. McKee & Co. of Cleveland. Mr. Bredt's stay with M.H.W. will be for about two years, and the other gentlemen for a period of a few months. We are happy to be associated with our American friends and we give them a hearty welcome. We are sure that by mutual team work our joint efforts will result in increased benefits to our customers, and to ourselves.

At the time of writing, the organisation and settling down process of M.H.W. is under way, the main object of promoting the Company's services being well to the fore. At about Christmas time (1959) M.H.W. staff expects to take up their "permanent" office positions at 16/26 Baltic Street, when the "settling down" process

will be extended to the limits! (M.H.W. and H.W.P. share the Baltic Street premises for the present. The latter concern is due to move to 20/24 Old Street eventually).

The separation of H.W.P. and M.H.W. staffs will bring regrets and sorrows to the many who have worked together as a team for long years, but all must look forward to the future of both these Companies in the spirit of "the Company is dead — long live the Company".

To our many friends within and without the Head Wrightson Group and Arthur G. McKee Co. we wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

H.W. (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

Hello from "Down Under!" This is the first contribution to *Wright Ahead* from this office (Mrs. D. M. Taylor whilst here sent some articles back for publication) and we are at a loss to know where to begin.

Some of your readers will no doubt know and remember our popular General Manager, Mr. Jack Wright, still as sharp as ever and now most engrossed with his garden — banana tree and all. A far cry from Norton!

Colin Elms recently arrived back home after his "term" at Sheffield. He is still thawing out and still house hunting — a very welcome and popular addition to our numbers. It also just happens that some of the questions on coal prep. are getting some sensible answers now that Colin is here.

To those who helped fatten up Basil Ford during his recent U.K. visit, we would like you to know that he has now slimmed down somewhat — not much perhaps, but nevertheless we are happy to say that he is definitely in better shape since leaving H.W.P.

Of others in contact with the U.K. Divisions, we would say that Bill Scott is a Scotsman who spent most of his young life in Middlesbrough but he is all right in spite of that. Bob Sharples is possibly not quite as bad as Sheffield may think but if there is a file missing or a letter delayed we all look in his direction. Miss Pat Pender attends to all our various wants including Mr. Sharples' and Mr. Ford's second cuppa. Our latest recruit, Mr. Ken Redknap, is well known to us all as a previous employee of Gibson Battle.

During the period of H.W. Australia's existence, we have been pleased to welcome as visitors Mr. Richard Miles, Dr. R. C. Fisher, also Pat Callaghan and Lewis Crossland from Sheffield and Ray Smith from the Machine Company. We are always happy to see visitors from Headquarters and hope that soon we will need some expert advice from those who know.

May we wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year for 1960.

HEAD WRIGHTSON & COMPANY LTD.

Maintenance Dept.

To mark his retirement, Mr. Lance Jackson was the recipient of a small gift from his workmates which was presented by Mr. F. Wiseman.

We wish a speedy recovery to the following workmates:—

Fred Walker; T. Hugill; B. Tate; Jack Bell.

We welcome back after a few weeks illness, Freddie Shaw and Bob Finn.

Our fourth Annual Dinner takes place on 12th December in the Queen's Hotel, Stockton. Arrangements have been made by the 'financial wizard', R. Lynch, and his committee. "Keep it up".



Guests at Tot's retirement dinner

On the 23rd September last, in commemoration of Mr. T. A. Purcell (Tot's) retirement from the W.E.D., the staff had a pleasant dinner at the Highfield Hotel, Middlesbrough, and later were admirably entertained by Mr. Purcell at the Middlesbrough Bowling Club. On behalf of the staff, Mr. W. Hutchinson presented Mr. Purcell with a travelling clock.

The evening was not without its repercussions. One member unconvincingly 'tripped on some wire' and damaged his leg, and several other members of the party, en-route from Great Ayton to Middlesbrough, thought the shortest way was via Guisborough!!!

Talking Point: "Never under-estimate Worthington's".

Accounts Department (Burroughs Section).

Congratulations to Miss Irene Barrow on attaining the age of 21.

Norma Honeyball is in hospital — we wish her a speedy recovery after her operation.

We welcome back Wilf Dunning after two years' National Service. We hope he soon settles down to battling with THE SYSTEM.

MR. R. HOWE — STOCKTON FORGE

Mr. Howe has recently completed his fifty years of service with the Head Wrightson Organisation.

As his grandfather joined the company as a pattern maker about 1870 and his father in 1880, this represents ninety years continuous service of the family with the Company. His father was foreman pattern maker at the Forge when he retired in 1921.

Mr. Howe started work in the Forge Drawing Office as an Apprentice draughtsman in August, 1909, at a salary of five shillings a week and served his time under the late Mr. George Elcoate. The original part of the present Forge offices had been built a few months before he joined the firm.

During the first world war he volunteered for work in the machine shop, when he worked as a turner and tool setter. This experience proved of great value in his future work in the Drawing Office because of the knowledge gained in machine operations.

His only break with the Company was when he enlisted in 1917, as a Signaller in the Royal Garrison Artillery when he saw service in France.

Mr. Howe returned to the Forge D.O. in 1919, when he worked on Colliery plant work and he recalls one particular screening plant for The Park Coal Co. Ltd., for which he was responsible. Orders for spare parts for this plant are still received. In the early twenties he made the drawings for the first rotary dryers to be made by

Head Wrightson. A little later he was responsible for the production of drawings for the range of 'Ruggles-Coles' dryers, which we had undertaken to manufacture, by arrangement with the Hardinge Company of America.

Around 1926, the Forge received the order for the Surface Structures, etc. for the Anhydrite Mine at Billingham and Mr. Howe was responsible for a section of this work, including the storage bunkers.

In 1928 Mr. Wardell, who was then Chief Draughtsman, re-organised the Drawing Office into sections and Mr. Howe was made responsible for the section handling dryers, mills classifiers and other chemical and mining machinery.

During the depression in the early 30's when the Forge closed down, Mr. Howe moved over to Thornaby, with what remained of the Forge D.O. staff.

In the late 30's and immediately after the last war, a considerable number of mills and classifiers were supplied to various parts of the world, particularly to West and South Africa.

Shortly after the war, Mr. Howe visited Oslo to discuss some equipment for the Sydvaranger iron ore mines in Northern Norway, and as a result an order was received for two large dryers and four classifiers.

In recent years Mr. Howe's considerable experience in the design of dryers has won the Forge many valuable orders and he celebrates his 50th year with the firm by breaking into a new field, when an order was received for 3 large dryers for dealing with iron ore.

'Bob' Howe has always been a good team man, and his advice and experience have helped many generations of young draughtsmen. His willing co-operation with the foremen and men from the shop floor has always proved invaluable.

To celebrate his fifty years with the Company, Mr. Peter Wrightson, on behalf of the staff, made a presentation to Mr. Howe.

On the next page appears the story of the reredos found at the Friarage, Yarm. On Friday, 4th December, our Chairman, Mr. Richard Miles, in the presence of Sir John Wrightson, Vice-chairman and other members of the staff, presented two parts of the reredos to Mr. Frank Atkinson, Curator of the Bowes Museum and the third part to Mr. J. W. Wardell who provided the historical details. Mr. Miles said:—

"Though the decline of gracious living by the few may be deplored, it must not be thought that the industrial, scholastic, and other welfare organisations that have taken their place, and their houses, are unmindful of the past.

In our own case, Head Wrightsons have taken over for offices, for one of the very latest industrial developments, that is to say, building nuclear power stations, an old house, the Friarage, at Yarm, with many historical associations.

During the necessary structural alterations, we found this carved reredos in an attic, and as it is such a beautiful and historic piece of work, we thought we could do no less than let the public have the advantage of being able to see it, in your excellent and developing Bowes Museum.

I have here an historical account, compiled by one of our subsidiary company Directors, Mr. Wardell, an antiquarian of some repute.

You have kindly fallen in with our wishes, and I have much pleasure in handing over this old reredos to your care, with the compliments of my company Head Wrightson, itself established in our Area, for a hundred years and still with strong family connections; in the hope that it will add, in however small a way, to the interesting and valuable display which I feel should be, and I am sure will be, much better known to the general and specialised interested public".

ALTAR REREDOS FOUND AT THE FRIARAGE, YARM, YORKS.

A find of great religious and artistic value was made recently in one of the roof lofts of The Friarage. This consists of a three-piece reredos, beautifully carved in pine as shown in the photograph herewith. The centre-piece is 61" long by 38" high, and the side-pieces, which are identical, are each 25" long by 34" high, but the height of the panel inside the frame is 28" in all three pieces, and they would be arranged on this level when in place as a reredos or a triptych.

By definition, a reredos is an ornamental screen of stone or wood, forming a facing to the wall behind the altar in the Church, and frequently decorated with representations of the Passion. Again a triptych is a painting or carving executed in three panels, so constructed that the two wings may fold on hinges over the centre-piece; the subjects of the side pieces being appropriate to that of the centre, and the whole generally designed as an altar-piece. As the two side-pieces could not cover the centre-piece, and as the hinges are lacking, it is almost certain that the three pieces were hung on the wall behind the altar to form a reredos and not a striptych.

It will be seen that the decorations of the centre and side pieces are similar. In both cases, the frames have the same outer, middle and inner designs, different in themselves but beautifully proportioned, and lighter in the side-pieces than in the centre one for the sake of balance. Except for size the mid-panel plaques are the same, if the external sprays are considered — as, of course, they are — part of the panel decorations, and the exquisite scroll and foliage designs of the latter are identical, but oriented to the major axes of the panels.

The design on the mid-panel plaque is a monogram for Jesus with a cross above the centre and the three nails for it below. The monogram was originally formed from the first two and the last letters of the Greek word INEOYE, meaning Jesus, which was later Latinised to IHS. These three letters are not — as sometimes erroneously supposed — the initials of Jesus Hominum Salvator, meaning Jesus the Saviour of mankind.

The reredos was undoubtedly carved by a master craftsman, either from London or abroad, travelling

from mansion to mansion in the North Country during the closing years of the 17th century, and it is almost certain that the work was done for John Mayes in 1695.

John Mayes, the elder son of Nicholas Mayes of The Friarage, was born in 1670 and was educated at Douay, where he later had legal training before returning to England to advise his co-religionists in those difficult days when the Penal Laws were still in force against Catholics. His mother, Cecily, nee Sayer, had looked after the Yarm property after her husband's death in 1675.

John Mayes married Mary, daughter of Roger Meynell of North Kilvington, and they had one child, a daughter Cecily, who was born in 1722. She succeeded to the Friarage when her parents died, married James Fernior without issue, and died in 1770, when the property passed to her cousin Edward Meynell, who rebuilt the main part of the house by 1775. His grandson, Thomas Meynell, built the Yarm Catholic Church in 1860.

The chaplains of all these Mayes and Meynells, living there incognito until 1795, when the laws against Catholics were sufficiently relaxed, said Mass in the large room on the first floor of the old wing of the mansion until the church was built. Sometime before 1860, an oil painting of the Crucifixion took the place of the carved reredos, which was then relegated to the loft of the new building, but for the 100 years prior to 1795, the wooden reredos, the altar, and all the other indications of a Catholic place of worship were removed and hidden after each celebration of Mass, watchers being on the lookout against surprise visits from pursuivants — very rare during this period — while the services were in progress.

The reredos of stamped and painted leather on a light wooden frame, similar in size and design to the centre-piece of the wooden one, the ruins of which were also found in the roof loft, was perhaps made for Nicholas Mayes about 1675 and used as an altar frontal after 1695, when it was replaced by the wooden reredos. The mid-panel plaque of the leather reredos shows the same monogram, with cross above and heart pierced by three nails below, in a sunburst surround.

J. W. WARDELL,
Eastry House, Yarm.
April 27th, 1959.

