OLD ENGLISH PATTERN BOOKS
OF THE METAL TRADES

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF THE COLLECTION IN
THE MUSEUM

ILLUSTRATED

LONDON
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STATIONERY OFFICE
1913
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Title-Page of Ford, Whitmore and Brunton's Catalogue of Tools.
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NOTE

The thanks of the Board are due to the compiler of this catalogue, Mr. W. A. Young, who very generously undertook the work for the sake of his personal interest in the subject. A note on the historical side of the question has been contributed by Mr. Edward F. Strange, of the Department of Engraving, Illustration and Design, who has also seen the publication through the press.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Cecil Smith

October, 1913.

339390
CONTENTS.

Preface - - - - - - 6
Introduction - - - - - - 9
Catalogue:—
   Fittings for Furniture and Upholstery - - 15
   Ironware - - - - - - 26
   Horse Furniture, etc. - - - - - - 27
   Coffin Fittings - - - - - - 28
   Lighting Appliances - - - - - - 29
   Fancy Articles - - - - - - 31
   Tools - - - - - - 32
   Sheffield Plate - - - - - - 36
   Carvings - - - - - - 38
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plate</th>
<th>List of Illustrations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frontispiece</td>
<td>Title-page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Rapper all Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>French handles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Wro't Rings and Roses, Knobs for Drawers, Picture Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Brass Hinges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI.</td>
<td>Brass Furniture Handles and Ornaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII.</td>
<td>Brass Drop Handles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII.</td>
<td>Reflecting Commodes Handles, Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX.</td>
<td>Stamped Brass Commode Handles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X.</td>
<td>Wax Taper Holders, Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI.</td>
<td>Brass Escutcheons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII.</td>
<td>Picture Frame Mouldings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII.</td>
<td>Mirror and Girandoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV.</td>
<td>Harness and Plated Mounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XV.</td>
<td>Spurs, Plated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVI.</td>
<td>Lustred Candlesticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVII.</td>
<td>Cruet, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVIII.</td>
<td>Branched Candlestick, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIX.</td>
<td>Spoons and Fork, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX.</td>
<td>Cups, Egg-cups, Wine Labels, Funnel, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXI.</td>
<td>Tea-pot, Biscuit-box, Sugar Bowls and Hot-water Jug, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXII.</td>
<td>Urn, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIII.</td>
<td>Cake-basket, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIV.</td>
<td>Candle-sticks and Caddy-spoon, Sheffield Plate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE Pattern-books described in the following Catalogue are, in date, distributed over a period of about 75 years, embracing the last half of the XVIIIth and the first quarter of the XIXth century. They illustrate the beginning of what was then a new movement in the conditions of the crafts, namely, the growth of the organised factory as a means of production and distribution, as compared with the earlier limitation of these functions to the efforts of individuals.

The issue of engraved patterns goes back at least to the first part of the XVIth century, and may not unreasonably be placed even earlier. The Italian and German goldsmiths of the XVth century produced a number of engraved designs, which may well have been intended, in a sense, to advertise their wares, and to supply other goldsmiths with patterns. Otherwise it is difficult to understand why, in many cases, they should have been at the trouble to engrave plates and multiply impressions—since the original drawings, or copies of them, would have been sufficient for the purposes of their own workshops. Of this period, the engraved ornaments of the Master E.S. of 1466, Martin Schöngauer and Israel van Meckenem may be referred to as examples. During the XVIth century, this practice became much more popular. The "Little Masters" of the Nuremberg School engraved many designs, both for utensils to be executed by silversmiths, and for panels of ornament which might be utilised in various ways; and the Hopfer family of goldsmiths of Augsburg etched a large number of their designs. But there seems to have been no formal publication, in the modern sense of the word, in any of the cases just named. In 1549, however, a set of 40 engraved arabesque ornaments by Peter Flötner of Nuremberg was issued at Zurich by Rudolff Wyssenbach; a collection of patterns (wood-cuts), by H. Voghtherr, had been published at Strassburg ten years earlier; Hans Brosamer's well-known Kunstbüchlein is of about the same period; and, by the middle of the century, the issue of pattern-books, or published series of patterns
in unbound sets, seems to have become a recognised custom, at all events, of goldsmiths and some other craftsmen. The first pattern-book for lace-makers is that of Jörg Gastel, of Zwickau, 1525; and of lettering, that of Sigismundo dei Fanti, of Ferrara, printed at Venice in 1514. The earliest of the French designers of this class was Jacques Androuet du Cerceau, whose first book of ornaments, “Petites Arabesques,” was published in 1550. He extended his talents over almost the whole field of handicraft, and issued engraved designs not only for architecture and architectural ornament, but for goldsmith’s work, jewellery, furniture and locksmiths’ work—and even a set of contemporary costumes.

From this time, until about the end of the XVIIIth century, many publications of the sort were issued for the use of craftsmen of every kind. The group devoted to Furniture, by Chippendale and his followers, is among the best known. But all of these differ from the publications now under review, in one important particular. They were produced by, or on behalf of craftsmen, for the use of those engaged in the various industries to which they were related. The Trade Catalogues, on the other hand, were prepared by or for manufacturing firms; and their object was to promote the sale of the goods illustrated therein, and not to provide patterns for the use of makers.

None the less, they are of substantial importance and not a little interest. The issue of them began before the best traditions of workmanship and design had commenced to decay. Those dealing with Sheffield Plate, for instance, go back nearly to the invention of that process; and those relating to furniture fittings give authority and price for the handles, key-plates, bolts and hinges to be found on English (and often, French) Furniture at a time when it still had high merit. A number of them deal with small ornamental brass-work of every kind.

As so few of the catalogues can be associated with the names of manufacturers, it has been found necessary to allot to each a definite press-mark, which will serve to identify it for reference. In applications by visitors, it will be sufficient to quote this press-mark on the requisition without further description. It may be observed here, that the Department of Engraving,
Illustration and Design of this Museum, contains a considerable collection of the earlier patterns referred to above; which, together with those forming the subject of this Catalogue, can be seen by visitors in the Students' Room of the Department (Room 71) at any time when the Museum is open, except on Sundays.

E. F. Strange.
INTRODUCTION.

In these days the publicity expert ranks as one of the best paid members of a business staff, and the news section of a daily paper is under some risk of being swamped by the announcements of advertisers. Every sectional trade has its own paper, and every manufacturer issues catalogues, lists, and circulars to his customers, whether they are distributors of his wares or the purchasing public; so that it is a little difficult to visualise the conditions under which business was conducted, when the personal appeal was practically the sole medium of communication for the introduction of new goods.

Letters describing fresh patterns might serve in some sort, and samples were probably sent in many cases with such goods as were already on order, with which, doubtless, a price list would be forwarded in the hope of getting orders for the new goods at a later period. Neither descriptive letter nor free sample, however, would be entirely satisfactory. The former would often prove inadequate to convey a correct idea of the articles, the latter in many instances would be a too expensive method. As will be presently shown, the manufacturers made many different patterns, and quite apart from novelties would want to keep all of these before their customers. Hence there arose the necessity for some medium better than those mentioned, and presently the trade catalogue with drawings of the articles for sale came into being. Exactly when, or by whom they were started will probably never be known. The pages of The Spectator comprised some trade announcements, for the most part of books and nostrums and cosmetics. That brings us to the second decade of the XVIIIth century. The Hanoverian Succession was followed by a term of years during which the English manufacturer laid foundations whereupon the men who developed the steam engine and conceived the factory system reared their structures. Somewhere in the middle of that century, Thomas Boulsover, a Sheffield man, discovered a process which placed at the disposal of the well-to-do middle classes,
table appointments equal in appearance to silver and much less costly than the solid article. Purchasers of the same class were furnishing their houses in better style than their forefathers, and the demand for furniture was reflected in Birmingham, where the brass industry had been established at the close of the XVIIth century.

About the year 1770, manufacturers had begun to send drawings of their goods to their customers. At first these were loose sheets, if one may judge from the creases in the few plates that have been saved and passed down to us. Later these sheets were bound together, and so developed into the catalogue. Other manufacturers followed suit, and by the dawn of the XIXth century lists had been prepared to illustrate a considerable range of English made goods.

The Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington is fortunate in the possession of a small collection of these early catalogues. This is representative in its way, but it is remarkable that almost to a volume the wares illustrated belong to some branch of the hardware trade. With but few exceptions, these catalogues have no title-pages, possibly because the recipients removed, as the retailers of the present day often do, the evidences of their sources of supply. Against that view we may set the fact that inside the covers of some of the volumes names and discounts are written. The reference to discounts calls for a brief explanation. In the hardware trade, catalogues are prepared on a basis of prices commonly known as "list prices," from which a fixed discount, which may fluctuate from time to time, is taken, representing broadly the distributor's profit. Some of the old standard list prices have been in use for many years. The catalogues reveal the length of time during which the discount system has been a custom of the trade.

From an examination of the shapes and sizes, it may be gathered that uniformity has never been a strong point with printers of hardware trade literature. Format has been a vexed question from time out of mind, and the trade is as far off agreement in 1913, as to what is the best size and shape for a catalogue, as were their predecessors a hundred and thirty years ago. A feature worth noticing is that most of the old catalogues are printed in such a way that the width of the page is greater than its height. All the brassfoundry books in
the collection are in that style, and the shape lasted over a century, being, indeed, generally abandoned by the Birmingham houses in favour of a smaller shape about 8 in. by 5 in., a few years ago. These volumes, as the industry progressed, grew most unwieldy, but the dimensions of the most recent editions differed only in thickness from those of the books collected at South Kensington. To stand them on a shelf of ordinary width, in their proper position was practically an impossibility.

It would be a fascinating pursuit, were the way open, to enquire how and by whom these volumes were produced. It has been suggested that the manufacturers in some cases employed their own craftsmen to engrave the plates, which is a possible solution of the problem. The use of the graving tool, or, at any rate, the chaser, must have been familiar to the proprietors of the businesses represented; indeed, in one book to which attention will be directed some of these tools are illustrated. Again the quality of the work, and the extraordinary attention paid to detail, furnish some justification for the view that the men who made the drawings had exceptional knowledge of the wares they drew.

The engraving was done in nearly every case on copper. The ink and paper have toned together, and for obvious reasons the plates have neither the brilliancy nor the clearness of a carefully preserved engraving, yet withal much of the work is of great merit. The paper helps a little in some of the volumes to fix a date, while in others the character of the ornament, or the style of the costume embodied in the designs, affords some sort of clue. A book with a water-mark 1811 must have been issued after that date, while the worthy brass-stamper who sought to catch the French trade with a commode knob variously depicting, on the centre, emblems of the Revolution, and a willow drooping gracefully over the tomb of Louis XVI., certainly brought out his list later than 1793, when that unhappy monarch went to his doom.

In the following pages, the catalogues have been considered in three broadly defined groups: (a) brass-foundry and Birmingham goods; (b) ironmongery and miscellaneous; and (c) tools and Sheffield goods.

The brassfoundry trade was introduced into Birmingham somewhere between 1689-1702, and grew steadily
until 1777, when the first known directory was published. Unfortunately none of the initials in the catalogues can be identified. There were, at the date last mentioned, thirty brassfounders in business in the town, using between them every year about 1,000 tons of brass. According to a document extant, dated August 28, 1780, there were trade combines even in those days, which regulated prices much as similar associations do to-day. The said document, which also contains the names of the principal firms in the trade at the time, sets forth that:

"At a meeting held this day, at the Swan, in Bull Street, we, whose signatures are here annexed, in consequence of the late advance in the price of ingot brass, find ourselves under the disagreeable necessity of advancing the price of brassfoundry goods seven and a half per cent.

"Thomas Underhill. "Whitworth and Yates.
"John Simmons. "Boole and Barber.
"Charles Power. "Richard Beach.

About the same time and probably as the outcome of associated action against the "late advance in the price of ingot brass," "The New Brass and Spelter Company," with a capital of £20,000, was formed for the manufacture of brass, by the brassfounders themselves, on co-operative lines. These works were in what is still known as Brasshouse Passage, near Broad Street, Birmingham.

The manufacture of stamped brass goods as distinguished from brass foundry (cast articles) was begun in Birmingham in 1769, the process being based upon a patent taken out in that year by John Pickering, a London jeweller. It was utilised by Richard Good, of Birmingham, for raising scales, saucepans, warming-pans, basins, and kettles. John Marston, a Birmingham brassfounder, improved upon the methods first adopted, and in 1777 adapted it to the manufacture of cabinet goods, furniture fittings, lock furniture, and hat and
cloak pins. The process was also used for the manufacture of coffin furniture, and in this connection reference should be made to catalogues M. 101. a. and M. 104. e. The principal makers of stamped goods, in 1783, were Jones and Barker and Gee and Eginton, who specialised in "coffin furniture in best white metal silvered on Britannic metal; looking-glasses and pictures in gilt metal or burnished gold frames, bordering, and ornaments for rooms, in stamped paper or gilt metal."

Sheffield as the centre for tools and cutlery may be said to have had its beginnings as a corporate producing centre as far back as 1624, when the Cutlers' Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament. Without trying to trace the earlier industry in the history of Hallamshire, it may be mentioned that with the two branches indicated was a third, known now, as in former years, by the generic name "steel toys." Such articles as corkscrews, button hooks, key rings, nut crackers, swivels and spring hooks, to mention only a few items, are "steel toys." The term is probably of considerable antiquity, as may be seen from an announcement from the advertising column of The Spectator, No. 394, issued 2 June, 1712.

The famous Original Venetian Straps, neatly fixed on Boards, now brought to the highest perfection, so as vastly to exceed all others, and for polishing and setting Razors, Penknives, Lancets, &c., are not to be parallel'd, being much more durable and smooth, never growing rough by using, but setting razors, &c., with greater Fineness and Exactness than any other sort possible can. Price 1s. each. Also the most excellent Venetian Metal Board of the same Bigness, for sharpening all sorts of Knives immediately, and without Trouble to Admiration tho' the Edge be never so thick or notch'd. Price 1s. with Directions for both; are sold only at Mr. Allcrafts, a Toy-shop, at the Blue-Coat-Boy, against the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill, Mr. Pais-ton's a Stationer, at the May-Pole in the Strand, and at Mr. Cooper's a Toy-shop, the Corner of Charles Court, Near York Buildings in the Strand.

From which extract from a newspaper two hundred years old we also learn that printed matter was supplied with novelties, when instructions for use were necessary or desirable.
With regard to Sheffield Plate, or as it has come to be known, "Old Sheffield Plate," this was the invention of Thomas Boulsover in or about 1742; who, however, applied the method chiefly to the production of such articles as buttons, snuff-boxes, and various kinds of ornaments. It was Joseph Hancock, at one time Boulsover's assistant, who realised the great commercial possibilities which the process possessed. To him belongs the credit of having developed in Sheffield a valuable industry, in which many fortunes were made. After flourishing for nearly a century, however, it disappeared with remarkable suddenness when the cheaper method of plating by electrical deposition was discovered. By 1850 only two or three firms were plating in the old way. Briefly stated, the process of manufacturing the plate was as follows:—An ingot of copper, 12 inches long, 6 inches wide, and 1 inch thick, was trimmed with a file and one surface made perfectly smooth and clean. Upon this was placed a sheet of silver corresponding in length and breadth, and \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch in thickness, its surface having been prepared in a similar manner. The silver was then gently hammered until every part came in contact with the copper. Then the two ingots were tied together with iron wire, to keep them in position, and placed in a charcoal fire until the mass became red hot and the silver was just on the point of flux. At the critical moment, when the two metals had become united, the mass was withdrawn from the fire and allowed to cool. The next process was to roll down the ingot to the gauge suitable for making up, and it is noteworthy that the sheet could be reduced to any degree of thickness without disturbing the relative proportion of silver to copper. A similar process was followed in producing plates of copper coated with silver on both sides, except that a sheet of silver was placed on the underside as well as the upper side of the ingot.

The story of this lost industry has recently been most adequately told by Mr. F. Bradbury, a Sheffield manufacturer, who has devoted a quarter of a century to the investigation of the subject. The names of two or three of the firms engaged in the business, whose lists are reviewed herein, have been furnished by that gentleman, who was able to identify some of the patterns illustrated.

W. A. Young.
CATALOGUE.

FITTINGS FOR FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERY.

M. 101. a.

Marks.—F.A. 228, 273, and a private mark pencilled inside.

Description.—A brassfounder’s catalogue. 7½ in. by 12 in., 179 plates, some folding. No date, but a water mark in one plate, 1814 (?). Bound in stiff mottled boards with leather back.

E. 2325-1910.

Summary of Contents.—Taper holders, small brassfoundry for cabinet makers and domestic use, sash fasteners, blind cord racks, pulleys, latches, drop handles, bed bell pull grips for rope and ribbon, lock furniture, crank bell fittings, bolts, brass wood screws, knobs and handles, escutcheons, ball and claw feet for furniture with and without castors, three wheel and socket casters, fittings for folding top tables, “patent” table slides and fasteners, drop drawer handles, fender footmen, rappers, chimney-piece figures for candles, candle brackets and sockets, curtain and screen fittings, stair rods, mouldings and beadings, warded trunk locks, vent pegs, corner clips for boxes, clock-case furniture, slide flush bolts, mountings for wooden trays and plate warmers, and hinges in variety.

Comments.—A good all round list particularly strong in furniture fittings. Some of the engravings are in excellent taste and would bear reproducing in modern brass foundry. The shape of the mortice lock furniture on Plate 46 and some of the drop handles on Plates 101, 101a, 101b, 101c, are examples worth noting. The door rappers are of exceptional interest, and it is not improbable that a saunter with a sketch book round the old squares and streets of Westminster and Belgravia would yield a harvest of pictures of these characteristic rappers, many of them now so thickly coated with paint as to leave no suggestion of the bronze and brass of which they are made. There is an index pasted inside the front cover. The prices are engraved on the page. See illustration, plate II.

M. 101. b.

Marks.—A modern monogram or book-plate pasted in the cover. From the Polovtsoff Collection.

Summary of Contents.—Commode handles, escutcheons, sconces for candles, clocks, knockers and furniture fitments and ornaments.

Comments.—This is, perhaps, one of the oldest volumes in the collection. It is a scrap-book, in which the engravings, each measuring about 16 in. by 12 in., have been carefully mounted. At some time or another the plates have been folded for convenience in storing or transmission, and it seems unlikely that they were ever bound up as a book. The designs are all of brass wares, but whether cast or stamped it would be a little difficult to decide. The examples of handles for furniture, both stiff and drop, appear to be drawn full size. The embellishments, of a somewhat florid character, include masks, lions' heads, dolphins, and rams' faces. Descriptive numbers are engraved on the page near the articles, but the prices have been written in by hand. The last-named do not help much in arriving at comparative values. Thus, a clock stand, one of three shown, which, if approximately full-sized must have been 14 in. or 15 in. high, is priced at 7s. 6d. The design is marked by the French influence, and is graced with two delightfully-modelled figures, male and female, in dresses of the period. There is also a dial, indicating the presence of, or position for, the clockwork. The most probable explanation of the low price mentioned is that here is a set of sheets issued by a firm of brassfounders to indicate what could be made of their castings. In a word, the prices quoted were for the parts out of the sand, the purchasers working up the wares and retailing them.

M. 101. c.

Mark.—None.

Description.—A brassfounder's catalogue. 7½ in. by 11 in. 135 plates, some folding. No date. Water mark: Britannia and a Lion within a fence; motto Pro Patria, Band & Son; also monogram A P B (?) in a circle; also mark of J. Whatman (undated); and of I. Taylor, about 1785. Original binding, mottled stiff boards and leather back. E. 2259—1913.

Summary of Contents.—Furniture fittings of every kind and in other examples.

Comments.—The plates are well executed and in some cases (e.g., plate 115) show a technical treatment of some interest, which certainly suggests the hand of a chaser of brass rather than that of a skilled engraver. The latter patterns of drop handles and furniture ornaments are of unusual richness. On plate 121, is a representation of the Baptism of Our Lord, with the motto "Je Jezus despois de Baptizado tirouse immediamente da Agoa," which may indicate a Portuguese (?) market. Favourite devices are the Eagle and a Bunch of
Grapes, as well as the characteristic scroll ornament of the Chippendale style. Plate 128 gives us the information that “a compleat Commode sett” consisted of “6 Handles and 3 Escut to D°, 1 Frontice piece, 2 Large Ornament pieces and 2 short D°, 2 strips for D°.” Plates 132–134 are entitled “French Handles” and are in Louis Seize style; Plate 135 consists of “Escutcheons to Match French Handles.” The French Furniture in the Victoria and Albert Museum contains examples very closely approximating to these patterns—a fact which raises the interesting question as to whether the furniture fittings of the late Louis Seize style were not, at all events in part, cast or stamped in England in the rough and exported to France, where they received that fine finish which has always been characteristic of French work of the kind. See illustration, plate III.

M. 101. d.

Marks.—A. and P. written on an index pasted in the cover.

Description.—A brassfounder’s catalogue. 8½ in. by 13 in., 180 plates, a good many printed on both sides and a few folded. No date, but a water mark in some plates, J. Davis, 1829. In original stiff boards, mottled, and leather back and corners. E. 1827–1899.

Summary of Contents.—Furniture handles and fittings, door handles, latches in iron and brass, gun-racks and gun-case fittings, secret escutcheons, hinges, brass butt hinges, strap hinges for boxes, rising door hinges, skew joints, fire screen hinges, spring tray ditto, hollow-jointed butts, French hinges; door springs, stair rod eyes, vent pegs, sash lifts, trunk, coffin and chair nails, saw handle screws, box corners, desk clips, nails, screws, cup, square and tenter hooks, cabinet door hooks, surplice, acorn and other ornamental screw hooks, curtain hooks, hat pins (both plate and screw), hat and coat hooks, chimney hooks (for the fire implements), castors and trenchers, door porters, bell cranks, pulls and furniture, fishing rod reels and ferrules, lamp screws and chain, cow-horn knobs, screw and plate pulleys, blind roller ends and rack pulleys, curtain rod pulley ends, sash screws and fasteners, jack cranes in iron and brass, glass screws and venetian blind turns, table catches and slide fasteners, bolts and latches in variety, trunk locks, sash rollers, “spire” and other screw-end knobs, cupboard turns, lock knobs, screw rings, flush shutter rings, gun rings, bedpost ferrules, glass plates, clock ornaments, turn buttons, capitals and bases for clocks, fender footmen and hangers (the latter a kind of trivet), cabinet ornaments, tea bells, screen sockets and clips, wax taper stands, toy cannon, candle brackets, name plates, rappers, brass boot heels and ventilators.

Comments.—This catalogue is strong in hinges. The “Rising Hinge with Steel roller” on plate 37, may well be the beginning of self-closing floor hinges. A set of fittings cost 15s. 6d., but a smaller size is priced at 11s. 6d. Some of
the joint drawings disclose details of construction of considerable mechanical ingenuity. The door springs made in iron as well as brass, cost from 4s. 9d. The principle underlying the design was a coiled spring, probably of flat steel. The chair nails were supplied in "princes" metal and "gold colour." Screws constitute an interesting page; the countersunk pattern was made in the following sizes and numbers: \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. by 1 to 7 in., \( \frac{3}{4} \) in. by 3 to 9 in., \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. by 4 to 10 in., 1 in. by 6 to 12 in., \( 1\frac{1}{4} \) in. by 7 to 13 in., \( 1\frac{1}{2} \) in. by 8 to 14 in., \( 1\frac{3}{4} \) in. by 9 to 15 in., 2 in. by 10 to 16 in. They are quoted at per gross, and are described as "iron screws with brass plated heads." There is a line against each run of sizes, not priced; another grade, "Tinn'd Lacq'd." Round head screws of iron with similar heads were supplied from 2 to 10 inches long. The drawings, which are full size, show a flat mushroom head, with a corresponding shallow neck. A trencher is a plate castor, in this case of iron with brass frames and wheels. "Tulip" castors represent an attempt to apply the acanthus leaf to the socket. The bell furniture section numbers 47 pages, and is very comprehensive. This section discloses the use of a metal link chain as early as the date indicated. The lock knobs were fastened to the spindle by being riveted through the centre of the grip. The rappers are described as "hatch knockers," and the crude bolt and nut method of attaching to the door front, explains in part the popularity of knocker-wrenching with the "Bucks" of the Regency and later times. The inclusion of two pages of circular "hit and miss" ventilators is significant of a growing interest in hygiene. The largest is 5 in. in diameter. Prices throughout are written in with ink.

M. 101. e.

Marks.—Livre No. 702. (Written inside cover.)

Description.—A brassfounder's catalogue. 7\( \frac{1}{2} \) in. by 11\( \frac{3}{4} \), 67 plates, some folding. No date, no water mark. In original mottled covers with leather back. E. 127-1896.

Summary of Contents.—Hinges in great variety, screw knobs and handles, iron nails and wood screws with brass heads, castors, pulleys on plates and screws, axle pulleys for sashes, blind cord pulley racks, desk quadrants, clock furniture, drop handles and roses, tray and cistern handles, trunk handles, stop handles for lifting, small cabinet brassfoundry in variety, brass trunk locks with iron keys, bell cranks and fittings, night bolts, sash fasteners, and table fitments.

Comments.—A rather commonplace list and not well produced. Of particular interest are the castors with brass or leather bowls, the use of which last-named material may explain why brown earthenware was adopted later for this purpose. The use of brass heads for iron wood screws seems unusual. Prices are written in.
M. 101. f.

Marks.—None.

Description.—A brassfounder's catalogue. 7½ in. by 11½ in. 120 plates, some folding. No date, but may be about 1770. Water marks: A crown with G.R. under; a crown with a lion rampant in a border; in the folding plates, a fleur de lys; an heraldic device; L.V.G.; W; and Amsterdam (?). In original mottled board with leather back. E. 2324-1910.

Summary of Contents.—Handles, escutcheons, and fittings for furniture. Details practically as in M. 101. e. A few items call for special mention: Brass headed nails on square tapered shanks, (plate 47) "princis" metal nails, tea box handles, wrought rings and plates for drawers, wrought rings and roses, picture nails with fancy heads, and brass coffin rings.

Comments.—The drawing is sketchy except in the case of some of the folding plates. A feature peculiar to the handles shown on some of the plates is the method of fixing with wire staples which form the loop in which the drop part hangs. This is passed through the plate and the wooden front, the ends being then turned back inside the drawer. Two good examples of this method are on plate 40. "Princis" metal may have been a special bronze. The nails, which were sold by number, not dimensions, had taper pins and ball or mushroom (cup) heads. The wrought rings and plates are among the best things in the book. Why they are spoken of as wrought is not clear, but the word suggests that they may have been chased with a graver. The plate had a keyhole in the centre, with an escutcheon plate to cover it. Plate 105 shows what constituted a "compleate commode sett" namely 6 handles, 3 escutcheons, 1 frontice piece, 2 large ornament pieces, 2 short do. and 2 strips. Prices throughout are written in with ink. See illustrations, plates IV. and V.

M. 101. g.

Mark.—Cd. 418, written inside cover.

Description.—A brassfounder’s catalogue. 7¾ in. by 12¼ in. 82 plates. No date, but a water mark: Ludlow. 1809. In original binding stiff mottled boards, leather back. Has an index printed and pasted inside cover. E. 125-1896.

Summary of Contents.—Small cabinet brassfoundry mainly as enumerated in M. 101. a. Special features include cast brass perforated door guards, i.e., finger plates, door plates for engraved names, cloak pins, and ornaments for the fronts of furniture.

Comments.—This book is in excellent condition and well engraved. The contents are less comprehensive than M. 101. a, which it resembles, but its mortice door furniture and the cloak pin heads are worth attention. Sizes and prices are written in red ink.
M. 102. a.

Marks.—H. and F. Carte 7169.

Description.—A brassfounder's catalogue. 7 3/4 in. by 10 1/2 in., 106 plates, some folding. No date. Water marks; Design Britannia; design a helmet (?) and G.R.; also a fleur de lys and W. Bound in original mottled stiff boards, and leather back. E. 1721-1899.

Summary of Contents.—Cabinet brassfoundry mainly as enumerated in M. 101. a. Drop handles in great variety, cast furniture handles and mounts in the French style, tea chest handles, hinges with engraved faces, cloak pins with cast heads and candle sconces.

Comments.—The drawing in this volume is free and sketchy. The artist had a marked predilection for masks and profiles, and favoured pierced or at least perforated designs for the back plates of his handles. His single candle sconces are simple; but some double examples, apparently drawn full-size, are elaborate. See illustration, plate VI.

M. 102. b.

Marks.—None.


Summary of Contents.—Similar to M. 101. b.

Comments.—The date of the designs may be about 1780. The clock stand in M. 101. b. is duplicated with some variations, but no dial is shown, the price thereof is written in at 7s. An interesting portrait bust of "John Wilkes, Esq." is worked into a wreath ornament. Prices are written in with ink.

M. 102. c.

Marks.—None.

Description.—A brassfounder's catalogue. 8 1/2 in. by 13 in. Paged 1 to 326, printed on both sides of a blue paper, and bound in cloth boards with leather back. Neither date nor water marks; possibly about 1845. A full index on white paper. E. 1064-1902.

Summary of Contents.—Cabinet and builders' brassfoundry of quite conventional design and character. The Victorian style predominates, and among special features are insets printed on white paper showing shop window fittings, cased tube, picture rods and ends, picture chain and hooks, fishing rod reels, toy anchors and cannon (the last-named on folding plates), brass padlocks, cupboard and till locks, some with lever keys.
M. 102. d.

Mark.—H. Fils & B. 5,300. See also M. 105. a.

Description.—A catalogue of brassfoundry and stampings. 17 in. by 21 in. 22 plates. No date. Water marks; a fleur de lys and J. Holyoake. In original binding, limp paper with leather back. E. 1038-1899.

Summary of Contents.—Commode handles, candle sconces, furniture ornaments, girandoles, escutcheons.

Comments.—This catalogue is priced in English money, but below the name-mark is the legend “Rabais 27½ pr ct.” The designs suggest exclusively a French market with the Louis XVI. feeling in respect of style. There are a good many profiles and a few masks in the ornaments, but none help to establish the date. Prices are written in with ink at per “douz” or “paire.”

M. 102. e.

Marks.—“Bock fc. Birm.” on the index page, and 257 written in the cover.

Description.—A brass stamper’s catalogue. 8 in. by 11½ in. 89 plates, many folded. No date, nor water marks. In original mottled boards and leather back. E. 130-1896.

Summary of Contents.—Curtain pins, lamp and fire screen roses, bell pulls, finger plates or door guards, both stamped and perhaps pierced, clock case balls, door knobs and roses for rim and mortice locks, escutcheons, rose commode knobs, lion claw feet, shutter rings, “cadee” knobs, stamp’d screw knobs, knob glass screws, knob turnbuckles, cupboard turns, commode rings, drop handles, shutter rings, bed caps, cloak pins, chair ornaments, bell cranks and levers.

Comments.—This volume comprises several hundreds of examples many of them of considerable beauty. The engraving is excellent and the impressions brilliant. There are no indications as to date, but the contents and style suggest somewhere between 1790 and 1810. A few details are of special interest. The bed caps, used to cover up the sunk screws in the wooden posts, were round and oval discs with a screw lug or eye on the edge. Some of these had stamped centres set in cast rims. (A “bed cap” was the device of the 18th century cabinet maker, employed to cover the hole in which the head of the bed screw was sunk.) Chair ornaments are described as “with spikes to drive.” Every article is numbered, by the engraver, but prices are written in, as also are the page references in the index. Bell-pull fittings were gorgeous, round for ropes, and oval, with a slot in them, for ribbon. The illustrations represent the complete article, but the manufacturer is particular to explain that the “tassell is intended to match the curtains in color, and not included in the charge.” Commode handles are strongly represented, but the motifs differ from those shown in other lists. The lion with the ring through its mouth appears; the acanthus leaf is
effectively utilised, as also are the feathers of Wales, the Irish harp and the Scotch thistle. The United States of America is represented by a design incorporating thirteen stars and the motto *E pluribus unum* (suggesting a date between 1777 and 1792). The end folding plates show crank-bell furniture, some of the patterns being described as "New ornamental cranks & leavers."

**M. 102. f.**

**Mark.**—Maulin and C. *Omnia labori cedunt*, on the leather binding of back.

**Description.**—A brass stampers' catalogue. 6½ in. by 10 in. 106 plates. No date. Water marks: J. Holyoake and "Britannia," also on the folding plates a design: crown and horn and L.V.G. Stiff boards and leather back, but has probably been rebound. E. 809-1898.

**Summary of Contents.**—Practically as M. 102. e. but there are numerous examples of simple cabinet brass foundry, glass plates, cup and square hooks, sash fasteners, pulleys, bolts, castors and the like. At the end are locks, hinges, table catches and so on.

**Comments.**—Some of the commode and drop handles would appear to have been cast brass. The engraver has essayed the use of the human face and figure in a few of his centres with considerable success. Other motifs are the eagle, the urn, the cock, the rose, masonic emblems, Bacchus, the sun "in its splendour," nuts, shells and so on. Prices are written in and each item is numbered. The folding plates at the end comprise candle brackets and candle sticks, and two clocks of great interest. On both are the Gallic Cock with Father Time and a Cupid. *See illustration, plate VII.*

**M. 102. g.**

**Mark.**—None.

**Description.**—A brass stamper's list. 7½ in. by 12½ in., 85 plates. No date. Water mark: Britannia and 1801. From internal evidence it must have been issued after 1793 and before 1815. In original mottled binding and leather back. E. 129-1896.

**Summary of Contents.**—Commode handles, cloak pins, reflecting commode handles, escutcheons, bed caps, metal picture and glass frames and metal borders for rooms. Prices written in.

**Comments.**—The water-mark fixes 1801 as the near date of publication, although it should be remembered in this connection that paper was not likely to be used so quickly after making, a hundred years ago as it is to-day. The goods are stamped brass, and are described in many places as "finished burnished gold colour." The drawing is excellent, and the decorations embodied in the designs full of interest. While the list is English, the goods were evidently meant for consumption abroad as well, and the maker had one eye on the French and American markets. In the then disturbed state
of Europe not much manufacturing was in progress there, and the Americans were too young to have developed their resources. The war fever working in the mind of the draughtsman expressed itself in his graver. He literally revelled in naval and military emblems, and “Honor” and “Victory” appear in most unlikely places. With a fine impartiality he flouts the red cap or depicts Napoleon conducting in person a spirited bombardment of a castle while a troop of cavalry charges wildly up from the background. The feelings of the Royalist faction were to be appeased with a weeping willow drooping over the tomb of Louis XVI. Austria is provided for with the double eagle set in a variety of commode handles, cloak pins, and bed cups. The softer side of life is represented by scenes of childhood after the manner of Greuze and Sir Joshua Reynolds. Poland is flattered by a portrait of the patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko. A portrait of George Washington is another example of the bid for local markets. See illustration, plate VIII.

M. 102. h.

Mark.—Livre 35. R. & Co. 22½ per cent. (Written in cover.) Some of the plates signed “W. H.,” probably the engraver’s initials.

Description.—A brass stamper’s catalogue. 7¾ in. by 11¾ in., 80 plates, some folded. No date. No water mark, but from internal evidence about 1780. In original mottled boards with leather back.

E. 3563-1904.

Summary of Contents.—Stamped commode handles, ornaments for top of same, ring handles, escutcheons, bed screw covers, watch and tapestry hooks, cloak pins, metal edging for commodes, frames, curtain rings, and a full range of small brassfoundry, sash fasteners, handles, hooks, bolts, bell furniture, castors, hinges and the like.

Comments.—The bed caps in this book are expressly described as bed screw covers (see M. 102. e.). Some of the centres for the handles and escutcheon plates appear to have been enamelled or otherwise finished in colours, one among several on plate 19 being described as “Yellow Vase on Blue Gr’d.” Elsewhere the description runs, “Japan’d Middles sett in Gold Colour’d Rims,” the details being set forth as “Mahogany ground,” “Moco,” “Tortoise” and “Green” grounds. The motifs include urns, hunting scenes, reproductions of busts of ladies in a variety of styles and headgears, rural scenes, “Rosena” and so forth. See illustration, plate IX.

M. 102. i.

Marks.—None.

Description.—A brass stamper’s catalogue. 8 in. by 12 in. 60 sheets. No date. Water marks: Britannia and J. Holyoake. In original mottled board but new back.

E. 2063-1912.

Summary of Contents.—Similar to M. 102. a.
Comments.—This catalogue is paged 1 to 118, some of the sheets being printed on both sides. A commonplace list without any distinguishing specialities. An attempt to write in an index has been made at the end. Prices are written in with ink. See illustration, plate X.

M. 102. j.

Mark.—None.

Description.—A brass stamper’s catalogue. 8½ in. by 13 in., 63 plates. Neither date nor water mark. Has probably been rebound. E. 986-1898.

Summary of Contents.—Practically as M. 101. d. A special feature is the fine group of hollow balls for caddies and other small furniture. Bell rings and pulls in great variety, bed ornaments, cornice pole ends, glass supports, chimney hooks, curtain bands and plates.

Comments.—Prices are written in with ink. See illustration, plate XI.

M. 102. k.

Mark.—None.


Summary of Contents.—Mouldings and beadings, roses, ovals and bosses, designs for swags, figures and genre pieces, faces, sphinxes, masks, and feet, picture frame mouldings, friezes, mirrors, girandoles, candlesticks, window “Cornish,” chimney glass, and glass plates with a table of regular sizes, from 10 in. by 8 in. to 36 in. by 24 in.

Comments.—These designs were probably not intended for the brassfoundry trade. The details, partly cut away, written against some of the picture frame mouldings suggest carved wood or plaster as in M. 105. g. The convex mirror No. 604 has “Hicks set” engraved beneath it. Some prices written in with ink. See illustrations, plates XII. and XIII.

M. 103. a.

Marks.—None.

Description.—A catalogue (incomplete) of stamped brass, &c., furniture fittings, &c. 8 in. by 12 in. 46 plates, numbered 1 to 75. Watermark: B. & Co., 1837. Unbound. E. 836-1899.

Summary of Contents.—Commode knobs, roses, fingerplates, curtain fittings, picture frame corners, crucifix (plate 26), ornamental balls for work-boxes, ornaments with spikes, glass supports, plated furniture, escutcheons, lamp fittings, clock balls and ornaments, brass snuffer pans, metal picture frames, and a price list of engraved brass label dies.
Comments.—The patterns in this catalogue are of rather finer quality than usual and contain several items of special interest. The workmanship is good, and may be accounted for by the fact that the firm also undertook engraving (see above).

M. 103. b.
Mark.—None.
Description.—A catalogue (with several plates missing) numbered 1 to 231, of brass and iron furniture and upholstery fittings. 7 1/4 in. by 12 3/4 in. 111 plates. Water mark: S L & Co. 1822. Unbound. E. 882-1899.
Summary of Contents.—Handles, gun rings, escutcheons, window fittings, castors, hinges, knockers, drawer nobs, &c.
Comments.—An ordinary trade catalogue of the period.

M. 103. c.
Mark.—None.
Summary of Contents.—Hooks, jacks, knobs, latches, levers, locks, nails, nossels and pans, nossels and sockets, ornaments, pendants, pins, plates, pulls, pulleys, quadrants, rappers, rings, rolers (sic), roses, sconces, screws, springs, staples, stops, turns, vent plugs.
Comments.—An ordinary trade catalogue of the period.

M. 103. d.
Marks.—None.
Description.—A catalogue of brass bedsteads. 8 in. by 12 1/2 in. 36 plates. Water mark; T. 1838. Unbound. E. 993-1899.
Summary of Contents.—Patent brass bedsteads, stump bedsteads, cots and swing cots.
Comments.—An interesting set of early patterns for brass bedsteads.

M. 103. e.
Marks.—None.
Summary of Contents.—Wine, beer and spirit taps, patent cocks, bottling cocks, water cocks, stop cocks, washers and valves.
Comments.—The taps, etc., are all engraved with the names of the special purposes for which they were designed.
M. 103. f.

Mark.—B W surmounted with a crown (on plate 23).

Description.—Portion of a brassfounder's catalogue. 24 sheets, unbound. 10\(\frac{3}{4}\) in. by 14 in., and 7 in. by 10\(\frac{1}{2}\) in., from the same book. Water marks: H S IV., a fleur-de-lys, a shield, etc.

Summary of Contents.—Candelabra for girandoles, handles, Tea-box handles, glass-bearers, escutcheons.

Comments.—An incomplete series of leaves from a book that must have numbered more than 110 plates. The work is very good, and dates probably from about 1770-1780.

M. 103. g.

Miscellaneous.—52 cuttings of brass furniture fittings. Various sizes. 29741a etc., 29365 etc.

IRONWARE.

M. 104. a.

Mark.—On the fly-leaf "Book 485, nett money," "In order from this book please mention the number of it."

Description.—An ironfounder's catalogue. 7 in. by 11\(\frac{3}{4}\) in., 43 plates and 1 sheet of MSS. No date, but several water marks, one reading Evans and Sons, 1810. In original binding, mottled boards and parchment back. E. 124-1896.

Summary of Contents.—Cast iron hollow-ware, saucepans, boilers, kettles, butts and other hinges, sash rollers, cowhorn knobs, axle pulleys, stubs and plates, latches, catches and keeps, Norfolk latches, box handles, castors, bolts, sailor's palms, door knockers, and cast iron nails.

Comments.—This would appear to be for a factors' list, as the sheet of MSS. pasted on the fly-leaf relates to wares not included in the printed portion. The sheet is written upon both sides, and the prices are for locks and hinges. The recipient is reminded, in red ink, that "the prices fluctuate very much," while a note, also in red ink, at the foot of the second page runs thus:

The prices of wrought Iron hinges fluctuates so very much that a regular list cannot be sent at present, and the prices of Pewter plates and dishes fluctuates sometimes 4 times per annum and sometimes more frequently.

The hollow-ware is of a class still familiar, though less used than formerly, owing to the invasion of enamelled sheet steel pots and pans. It is interesting to note that, with the Canadian latch, a pattern now freely sold in this country, makers have got back to the cast-iron thumb latch of 1810. It has been suggested that the cow horn knobs, which are no longer used, were a relic of the days when oxen were regularly employed for ploughing two abreast. The last page relates to cast nails, lath, wall, plain and headed bills and flooring brads being mentioned. The brads named were sold by the "penny" count, 6d. measuring 2\(\frac{3}{4}\) in., 8d. 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) in., and 20d. 3\(\frac{1}{4}\) in. long. With a few exceptions in the case of weights below 16 oz. to the M. the price was 22s. per cwt. Prices written in with ink.
HORSE FURNITURE, &c.

M. 104. b.

Mark.—T. M. & Co.

Description.—A catalogue of harness and saddler's ironmongery and sundries. 10 in. by 15\(\frac{1}{2}\) in., 90 plates. No date, but various water marks, one 1800 (?). In original mottled boards and leather. E. 1265–1898.

Summary of Contents.—As indicated above and hereinafter. Also riding and driving bits, stirrups and spurs.

Comments.—This catalogue was acquired by the Museum by purchase from Naples. It is bound in mottled covers, and is endorsed inside the cover in ink:


Questo libro è d'un excellente fabbricante M. & Co.

Two things seem clear from this, first that T. M. & Co., were the initials of the English house; and second that a pretty big edition was published, for No. 3322 would hardly refer to the recipient's library of trade catalogues. The costumes help to fix the period as Georgian. There are a dozen or so engravings of horses, not well drawn, but full of vigour and action. One or two carriages are out-lined to show what constituted a suite of fittings, the cost of which, plated, ranged round 9l. and 10l. Harness mounts, buckles, egg-shaped springs threaded on bolts between plates, pole ends (garde d'effien), axle caps, and coach ironwork are comprehensively dealt with. Harness was "38s. plated all over," or "21s. with the sides left for covering with leather." Buckles, if sent with "the ends of the Tongs plated," were 1s. per dozen over the prices. "Terretts" were supplied with several kinds of sockets, and with blinker roses could be fitted with armorial crests. The leather work for saddles and bridles is capitally rendered, and shows that heavy ornamentation with metal was fashionable. On one plate the engraver drops English and Italian and breaks out in French—"Toute la Garniture pourra se faire semblable." See illustration, plate XIV.

M. 104. c.

Mark. None.

Description.—A catalogue of harness, saddlers' ironmongery, and riding and driving bits, plated or tinned. 16\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. by 10\(\frac{1}{2}\) in., 58 plates. Neither date nor water mark. In original mottled boards and leather back. E. 3961–1905.

Summary of Contents.—As indicated.

Comments.—This catalogue is somewhat similar to M. 104 b. and comprises about 400 items. The descriptions are in some cases in English, in others French, evidence that the book was for the Anglo-French trade. Except for a pen-and-ink sketch pasted in the back, and representing a groom and two horses, it does not call for special mention.
M. 104. d.

Mark.—A written record in the cover: Book No. 290.

Description.—A catalogue of spurs. 9¼ in. by 8 in., 7 folding plates measuring 8 in. by 12 in. over the engraved surface. No date except in water mark, a design embodying a horn with “B” under, below that “G.R.” and at the bottom, 1795. Bound in original mottled cover. E. 128—1896.

Summary of Contents.—Spurs and buckles. Also rowels.

Comments.—The articles are numbered, and prices per pair have been added in red ink. One pattern is marked with the figure of a fox and the words “Tally Ho!”, and another has the word “Blue” engraved on the rowel guard; possibly this was a blued steel fitting sprung over the star. A variety of devices for encasing the rowels is shown in the last three plates. The spurs were possibly silvered by the close plating process described by Mr. F. Bradbury in “Old Sheffield Plate.” See illustration, plate XV.

COFFIN FITTINGS.

M. 104. e.

Marks.—Tuesday and Cooper’s Coffin Furniture and Ironmongery Warehouse, No. 221, Borough; London, on an oval label in a border, stuck on the cover.

Description.—A catalogue of coffin furniture. 10½ in. by 7½ in., 15 folding plates of various size. No date unless we may accept as evidence “1783” set out on the first sheet. Water marks: Britannia in the single folders; a design with a crown and fleur de lys in the larger sheets. Bound in original mottled covers with leather back. E. 997—1902.

Summary of Contents.—Coffin furniture, plates, handles, ornaments and sundries.

Comments.—Tuesday and Cooper were probably wholesale ironmongers, and may have been manufacturers of the goods shown in the catalogue as it was a London trade. The wares were almost certainly stamped tinplate or perhaps black iron. There is written at the back of the first plate: “Sets of Coffin furniture Silver’d will be “ 6d per Set advance—Handles Silver’d from 1/- to 2/- dz. pair.” Prices are written in in every case. The drawings are conventional and poorly executed. There is one quaint exception to the coffin sets in the shape of “Japanned Labels with plated frames and chains, dz. 5s. nett.”

M. 104. f.

Marks.—J. A. written inside cover.

Description.—Coffin furniture. 8 in. by 6½ in., 39 plates. No date, but figures arranged on one plate to read “1826.” No water mark. In original mottled cover and leather back. E. 3096—1910.

Summary of Contents.—Coffin plates, handles, ornaments, and sundries. Two tables of charges for engraving.
Comments.—The whole work and get-up was executed in better style than M. 104. e. and many of the 200 designs, which are carefully dimensioned, are quite presentable, being curiously suggestive of the work done by Blake, whose death in 1828 was, perhaps, a year or two anterior to the publication of this volume. In addition to the usual styles, plates in brass and Britannia metal are quoted. Some of the sheets at the end are printed upon both sides. Prices throughout are written in spaces provided, except where engraved with the numbers.

LIGHTING APPLIANCES.

M. 104. g.

Mark.—J. A. Glick pencilled in cover.

Description.—A catalogue of lighting appliances. 12\(\frac{3}{4}\) in. by 9\(\frac{3}{4}\) in., 44 plates. No date, but two water marks: Harris Bros. 1810.—I.H. (script) 1811. Bound in blue stiff boards, with leather back. E. 660-1901.

Summary of Contents.—Lustre candelabras and oil lamps for suspending from ceiling, Grecian hanging oil lamps, Etruscan lamps, examples hung from brackets, lamps for hanging and sideboard with air burners, candle shades, combined inkstands and candlesticks, table lamps, hand lamps and chamber candlesticks, candlesticks with one or two sockets, and with and without glass lustre drops, lamp chains, balance balls, glazed lanterns for halls and outside use, cabin and stand lamps for oil or candles, candle brackets for mirrors and pier glasses, standards and branches for furniture with screw attachments, “nossels and pans,” i.e., sockets and candle rings, union sockets and mounts in variety, hand lamps and lamps for candlesticks.

Comments.—An interesting list though singularly destitute of designs likely to lend themselves to modern methods. The air burner is not very clearly drawn, but appears to have been a wick holder perforated with slots to supply air close to the burning oil, which must have been colza or some equally heavy vegetable oil. The material used in the production of the wares is not specifically stated but was probably brass, as there are numerous references to finishes, such terms as “bronz’d” and “lacker’d,” being engraved against the parts. The lustre drop is described as an “icicle.” Dimensions are freely given and in some places the prices have been written in. The quality of the wares in every case appears to have been first class.

M. 104. h.

Mark.—Faraday & Son, 114, Wardour Street, Soho (pencilled inside cover).

Description.—A gas fittings catalogue. 7\(\frac{3}{4}\) in. by 12\(\frac{1}{4}\) in., 52 plates. No date, but a water mark, J. Rump, 1836. In original binding, mottled boards, leather back. E. 1102-1902.
Summary of Contents.—Gas burners, cocks, swing joints, Argand and other burners, gas brackets, pillars, pulpit fittings, pendents, chandeliers, gas fitters' tools and pipe hooks. Brass "barr" cocks, "in fine brass for Spirit and Beer Machines," beer cocks with loose keys and plugs.

Comments.—A firm bearing a similar style and name still carries on business in the street named. The illustration of the Argand burner recalls the fact that gas was adopted for lighting in 1812. The pattern is still employed to a limited extent. There are a few examples of glass chimneys which were always "charg'd extra" in this book. A curious example is a combined fitting of brass and glass. On a pedestal a small cherub is blowing a horn. He is under a glass cylindrical shade, which is surmounted with a brass socket, presumably to take the burner. The gas apparently issued through the trumpet or horn into the glass container and was burned at the jet, being controlled by a cock not shown in the illustration. Plate 28 establishes the fact that the universal cup and ball joint had been invented in or before 1836. Plate 40 represents an early form of the now discarded water-slide fitting. Although not specifically stated, it is fairly evident that nearly all the wares were cast brass, but there is a single example of a 24 in. "Cast Iron Bracket Bronzed." There are some dimensions, but no prices in this volume.

M. 104. i.

Mark.—None.

Description.—A lampmaker's catalogue. 12½ in. by 10 in., 145 plates, 2 double. Neither date nor water mark. In original boards and leather back. E. 1222-1899.

Summary of Contents.—Lamp chain, balance balls, chamber lamps, hall, ship, and cabin lamps, lanterns, bracket lamps, telescopic and shaded table lamps, hanging lamps with two and more burners, candelabras up to 12 lights, chandeliers, Palmer's candle lamps, cog-wheel lamps, pillar lampstands, founts for same, pillar candelabras with ornaments to fit "nozels," socket lamps for candelabras and candlesticks, ships' lamps, japanned wall lamps, hand lanterns with wire gauze filled openings, dark lanterns, japanned oil hand lamps, do., with hinged extinguishers, clocks, egg-timers, thermometers, barometers, card racks, letter weights, tea bells, inkstands, and ink-pots, wax taper stands, vases, and a letter balance.

Comments.—The engraving and designs throughout are in excellent taste, and the printing is on a tinted ground. The lamps are for a vegetable oil, the reservoirs in many examples being above the burner, devices being shown for regulating the flow of oil. Glass ware is shown, but invariably "charged separately." Many of the examples have the height indicated. The lustre drop was in vogue when this list was issued. A reference to Palmer in the
case of some of the patterns recalls the fact that a firm of that name, and in a similar way of business, has been settled in Clerkenwell for a great many years, and may have succeeded the party indicated. Some details are furnished about finishes in bronze and lacquer. Prices are written in with ink.

FANCY ARTICLES.

M. 104. j.
Mark. M. & P.G. (see also below).

Description.—A catalogue of useful and fancy articles in bronze and ormolu. 10 in. by 13 in., 70 plates. Neither date nor water mark. In original grey boards with leather back.

Summary of Contents. — Inkstands, candlesticks, vases, bottles in metal supports, thermometers, wax boxes, and the like as indicated below.

Comments. — On the front is a label: Lustre, Candelabras, Lamps, Inkstands, Flower vases, Paper Weights in Bronze or Or-Molu.

This list, of 70 plates, was printed by E. Lucas, 70 Mount Street, Birmingham. It is endorsed inside "M. & P. G., 1104, 10 per cent.," and "Book 307." The engraving is decidedly good, dimensions are furnished in some cases, but all the prices are written in ink. It opens with inkstands drawn about half size, as far as can be judged. As affording some idea of values, No. 299, a two-well stand about 14-in. long, with a portrait bust of Shakespeare, is priced as 33s. 9d. Some of the simpler patterns were supplied in as many as ten sizes. The inkwells were glass, probably of excellent quality, for the lustre had come into vogue when this book was published. Candlesticks were priced with and without drops, and thereby we get some idea of the cost of these ornaments. No. 1350, candlesticks 12½ in. high on a square base, are priced "55s. pr. with glass, 34s. without." A guinea paid for eight drops on each candlestick, 32 glass pieces in all. The finishes of the goods in the case of a pair of vases for flowers are specified as "Lac. 9d., rich gold colr., also bronz." Candle lamps about 12 in. or 14 in. high, with, as far as can be ascertained, a spring in the column and a metal shade, cost from 12s. 6d. to 2os., according to design. Cruet frames for single bottles were also made in bronze; with a glass bottle and stopper they cost from 10s. to 14s., but the frame could be purchased alone at 2s. 9d. upwards. Chamber candlesticks, also in "Bronz," were made in plenty of styles, mostly ornamented, and cost from 5s. 1od. to 10s. 6d. per pair, or, "if with bronzed snuffers, 2s. 6d. pr. extra." Other articles of interest to collectors are card-racks, watchstands, taper candlesticks, wax-ball taper-holders to represent little urns and mugs, squill vases, and even egg-timers, which last cost 9s. per dozen. Prices in all cases are written in with ink. See illustration, plate XVI.
TOOLS.

M. 104. k.

Marks.—None.

Description.—A catalogue of edge tools. 9½ in. by 14¾ in., 32 plates, 1 torn. Neither date nor water mark. In original brown paper cover. E. 125-1896.

Summary of Contents.—Chisels, gouges, plane irons, "plow bits," augers, bung borers, cooper's tools, mincing and cheese knives, hatchets, choppers and cleavers, axes, adzes, plantation tools and pruners, bill hooks, shipwrights' caulking tools and scrapers, bricklayers' trowels, lath hammers, garden and field hoes, braces and bits, spoke-shaves, marking gauges, squares, mitre squares, (bevels), cross cut, circular and hand saws and sheep shears.

Comments.—Although there is no date, this list probably is an early nineteenth-century publication. It covers edge tools exclusively and comprehensively, and a careful examination of the illustrations discloses the fact that much that was good a hundred years ago remains good to-day. There are changes in detail, but they are not so great as might be expected. The importance of British trade with the West Indies and the southern States of the United States of America is shown by the names of a good many of the tools. Cotton pruners and matchetts are examples, one of the latter being marked with G.R. and a crown, while another has seven stars, a crescent moon, and a sun stamped on the blade. As nowadays, axes were made to suit local demands and the whims of workmen. Of these tools alone there are shown patterns respectively named Kent, Suffolk, Yorkshire, and Scotch, while the following list indicates some only of the trades for which Sheffield catered: wheeler's, falling, blocking, ice, ship's, ship's carpenter, hedge, coachmaker's, joiner's, butcher's, and bench. The geographical description persists in the case of other tools: Edinburgh bricklayers wanted a wide trowel, the Devonshire model was nearly diamond shape, while a pattern labelled "London" has rounded sides. Or take hoes, which were all made with socket eyes welded close to the blade. There are two "West India" sorts with the blade—if the sketch is full size—1¾ in. wide by 2½ in. deep, whereas on the mainland (Virginia) the dimensions of a plantation hoe were 4½ in. wide by 3½ in. high. Other names in this connection are Carolina, Demerara, Barbados, and Brazil. The Dutch hoe had a curved blade. No prices are quoted.

M. 104. l.

Marks.—Cutler & Co., Sheffield. (Name of issuing firm.) Mark in cover. Book 87.

Description.—A catalogue of edge tools. 9 in. by 14¾ in. 56 plates, some folding. In original mottled paper cover with cloth back. No date. No water mark. E. 121-1896.
Summary of Contents.—As M. 104 k. and in addition gravers, tools for skinners, tanners and weavers, book binders' knives, garden tools, picks and mattocks, hammers for carpenters, shoemakers and saddlers, tailors' shears, shears and snips for metal, draughtsmen's tools, planes and ploughs, metal turning tools and chasers, hand pads, chests of tools, files and rasps, shovels and spades and nails.

Comments.—This appears to be another edition, probably later, of M. 104 k., at any rate the author has had access to the earlier plates. It is of peculiar interest, because on the backs of some of the plates is a sticker bearing the name of Cutler & Co. (late Furness, Cutler & Stacey), Castle Hill, Sheffield. The text serves to warn all and sundry that:

It is well-known that a great proportion of TOOLS are manufactured ONLY TO SELL; and an

INFALLIBLE TRUTH

That those are the cheapest which do most work.

The ultimate issue of this sort of thing is the moral: Buy Cutlers & Co., and remember—None are genuine unless stamped—WELDON.

The additional plates relate to tools for engravers and mezzotinters, skinners and tanners, weavers, and bookbinders. Garden tools are also adequately represented. It is worth remarking, because it proves how carefully the plates were kept for use for succeeding editions, that a blank half page in M. 104 k. has been utilised in this issue for a few examples of pickaxes and mattocks. Later labels pasted on the pages give some idea of the appearance of Castle Hill Works, and show Hiram Cutler at this period in business solely on his own account, and advertising fresh trade-marks. In all these the trade-mark embodies a cross and the letter "F," which suggests that Furness was the real founder of the business.

Hiram Cutler also sold or made nails; and illustrates joiners' sprigs, floor stubs, shoe bills, slender bills, box and trunk nails, tacks, bed nails, clog nails, glazier's sprigs, chair springs, shoe hobs, and slater's lath nails. The interesting details are the slender points, and in the case of joiner's sprigs over ¼ in. long, and the lath nails, the "spatulate" flattened ends. None of the other goods are priced.

M. 104 m.

Marks.—No name but inside cover “Livre No. 70.”

Description.—A toolmaker's catalogue. 7½ in. by 11½ in., 28 plates, some folding, and two pages (folded) of text. No date, but a water mark 1798. Original mottled and leather binding.

Summary of Contents.—Garden tools, pad tools (sets of tools with a handle common to all) bits, rimmers, braces and bits for same, triangle stands or cats, tuning forks, steel toys, corkscrews, nut crackers, button hooks, dog couples, key swivels, pliers, nail nippers, bed keys, compasses, hand-
vices, turn-screws, prickers, toast forks, brass pastry cook's jiggers and tweezers, skates, pincers, pipes, sugar nippers, saw sets, fire steels, curling tongs and goffering irons, saddler's tools, steak tongs, boot hooks, cheese tasters, hammers, Italian irons, gun implements, spectacle cases, gun chargers, ladies' netting vices, punches for saddlers and corkscrews.

**Comments.**—This volume contains more descriptive text than all the rest put together, though the notes are confined to "Gentlemen's Garden Chests of Tools" and boxes of tools for amateurs. The descriptions are in English. In order to get the set packed snugly in the chest, the handle for the fork (it was little better than a toast-fork), rake, hoe, and other tools was made interchangeable and in three parts. Apart from tools, we have the class of goods known to the trade as "steel toys." Naturally there is no longer any demand for a good many of the articles enumerated—for example, spinet hammers, used for tuning the musical instrument of our great-grandmothers—while the recreation of the other sex is suggested by a number of tobacco stoppers. Another almost forgotten form of domestic utensil is the fruit tongs, although a modification in the shape of the "lazy coal tongs" has come down to us. An interesting example of this class of manufacture is the table cat, which consisted of a round ball with six arms standing out from it, so contrived that any three served as a foot, while the rest supported the hot dishes. From another page some idea can be gathered of the kind of skates that were used 100 years ago. They had wooden boards with a "runner" blade made in the approved way, but notched down at the heel to allow the screw to pass through it. Only two strapholes were cut and buyers had the option of plain "fluted" or hollow ground finishes. That manufacturers were as keenly alive to the necessity of getting business with novelties is shown by the inclusion among the designs of a steel tobacco pipe made with two extension tubes with screwed ends, so that three parts made a "churchwarden" of the metal indicated. Sugar cutters remind us of the time when sugar was made in shaped moulds and brought from the West Indies in paper covers. The sugar loaf used to add appreciably to the decorative effect of the grocer's window. Spectacle-cases was another line, cheesetasters might have been mentioned after the reference to the grocer's shop, while more curious than any other item were walking rods made in three parts with brass joints connecting the sections. Prices in red ink.

M. 104. n.

Mark.—Ross & Co. (Written inside the cover.)

Description.—A catalogue of tools and steel toys. 7 1/4 in. by 12 3/4 in., 27 plates, some folding. No date, but several water marks, one a design of a horn with 1797 below it; also the name J. Corbett. In original mottled cover and leather back. E. 10–1898.
Summary of Contents.—Nut crackers, button hooks, dog couples, huntsman’s swivels, saw sets, pliers, hand vices, pinking iron, bed wrenchers (sic), bodkins, tweezers, toast forks, key swivels, skates, carpenter’s tools, garden tool sets, sadler’s tools, hammers, compasses, sugar cutters and the like.

Comments.—This catalogue is singularly like M. 104. m. (q.v.) but the numbers are different, and as will be seen some different articles are illustrated. It is particularly interesting because there is what appears to be a private discount mark on the front cover (Lt/x), and, throughout, prices are written in against the illustrations, in a private mark, the cyphers being represented by letters. Thus on one plate it is recorded that “A compleat sett of Sadler’s Tools ax/x. Do., if in a Oak Chest t/s/x/x.” A Matthew Ross, a tool forger, was in business in Church Street, Birmingham, in 1770, and others of that name are to be traced in 1808, when Ross & Co. traded in steel toys in the same city. There were tool makers of the same name in other parts of Birmingham about this time, which fact suggests that Matthew Ross had sons who followed his trade.

M. 104. o.

Mark.—Ford, Whitmore and Brunton. No. 27, Charles Street, Birmingham.


Summary of Contents.—Files, tools and engines for clock and watchmakers and for the trades mentioned, engine, oval and common lathes, rollers or flating mills, scales.

The title page (reproduced as frontispiece to this catalogue) is a beautiful bit of work, but unfortunately the list carries no indication of the period. Its shape and size represent a departure from the hitherto accepted shape, and consequently the volume is more convenient to handle than some of those already described. Each plate is mounted on a guard, and a special feature is the set of folding plates showing watch and clockmakers’ lathes with wooden wheels. From these it may be gathered that some form of automatic screw-cutting movement had been invented at the time. According to the title page the firm made also steelyards and “machines for weighing waggons, etc.” It is further added:—

N.B.—To give a draft of every particular Article would swell the Book to an unreasonable Bulk, we have therefore selected the most useful, and hope with the assistance of the list of Prices our correspondents will form a clear Idea of whole.”

Unfortunately the list of prices has not come down with the plates. See illustration, frontispiece.

x 18111
SHEFFIELD PLATE.

M. 104. p.

Mark.—R.C. & Co. on several patterns, indicating the firm of Robert Cadman & Co. "Livre No. 727" written inside cover.

Description.—A catalogue of Sheffield plate. 10 in. by 16½ in., 70 plates, some folding. Date, according to Mr. F. Bradbury, about 1797. Original mottled covers.

E. 122-1896.

Summary of Contents.—Candlesticks in perspective and also in half section, tea urns, hot water jugs, tea and coffee sets, cake baskets, caddies, tankards and cups, teapots, wine bottle corks and labels, waiters and trays, cruet frames with the glass ware, Toasters, breakfast dishes and covers, soup tureens, chamber candlesticks, wax taper holders, snuffers and snuffer trays, toast racks, inkstands, muffineers, sand boxes, wine funnels, salt cellars ("rainbow salts," Nos. 261, 262), spoons and forks, candelabras.

Comments.—Robert Cadman & Co., according to Mr. F. Bradbury's book "Old Sheffield Plate," began trading in 1785. The firm must have had a valuable continental connection, for some of the descriptions are in French as well as English. A number of extra notes, and all prices have been written in with pen and ink. There is a record in the cover that it is "Old, bought at Mr. Cameron's sale, 1812." See illustration, plate XVII.

M. 105. a.

Marks.—31,400. H. fils & B. Rabais 25 p. 0/.

Description.—A Sheffield plate list. 9¾ in. by 15½ in. 86 plates. No date. Water marks: a fleur de lys, A.L. and V.I. Original limp mottled covers, with paper back.

E. 1133-1898.

Summary of Contents.—Candlesticks, candelabra, tops for candelabra, chamber candlesticks, snuffers, urns, water jugs, coffee pots, cruets, oil bottles and stands, inkstands with taper holder and pounce pot, spoons, forks and ladles, trays, cups, table heaters and stands, salt cellars, mustards, tumbler stands, sugar basins, teapots, tankards, wine funnels, labels for bottles, egg cups, sauce bowls or boats, waiters, fish servers, toast racks, cake basket.

Comments.—Alternative "garter" decorations are shown on the plate representing the tea urn. No prices. Mr. Bradbury states that he has identified some of the candlesticks as being the production of J. Parsons & Co. (see plate 69, &c.), who traded about 1784. The same authority has identified some of the patterns in M. 105. b. mentioned below, a list slightly smaller than the last mentioned. That this was issued by John Green, at one time a partner with Parsons, is confirmed by a note written on the front plate. See illustrations, plates XVIII., XIX., XX.
M. 105. b.

Marks.—I.G. Book No. 10819. En Platés. This is repeated on the first page with the addition “1792. Jn. Green escompte 30 p. 5\%.”

Description.—A Sheffield plate catalogue. 9 in. by 15 in., 84 plates. Date 1792. Water marks: W. & Co. and a design, a crown, bugle and L.V. In original limp paper cover with leather back. E. 1049-1898.

Summary of Contents.—Similar to M. 105. a. (q.v.). See illustrations, plates XXI. and XXII.

M. 105. c.

Mark.—None.

Description.—A catalogue of Sheffield plate. 10 in. by 15\frac{1}{2} in., 46 plates. No date. A water mark: R.V.B. 1811. Cover missing. E. 1219-1898.

Summary of Contents.—Similar to M. 105. a., with some extra items, e.g., “cegar” cases, taper wax holders, oil lamps to fit candle sockets, combined egg cup and muffineer, egg cups in stand, tea bell, spirit frame and bottles, knife rest, caddy, toddy ladle, wine cooler.

Comments.—All numbers and prices are written in with ink, as also are many of the descriptions. Several of the candlesticks are made to draw up or close down telescope fashion, a form which came into vogue about 1796. See illustration, plate XXIII.

M. 105. d.

Mark.—None.

Description.—A scrapbook comprising designs of Sheffield plate. 10\frac{3}{4} in. by 15 in., 50 plates. No date. Water marks, if any, not obtainable, except in one folding plate: London and the top of 1801 or 1804. 29426.

Summary of Contents.—Similar to M. 105. a., with some additional examples, e.g., glass pepper pot with plated top, oblong tray, glass salts with plated frames, egg cups in stands, beef steak dishes, saucepan, tea caddy, salt or caddy spoon, knife rest.

Comments.—The oblong tray was supplied in a range of sizes, 6 in. to 24 in. The beef steak dish is similar to an entrée dish, and is described as being fitted with “the Handle to screw off to make a pair of dishes occasionally.” Many of the frames are of wire-work. Prices in all cases written in a private mark.

M. 105. e.

Marks.—Written inside, “Purchased at Turin and presented to the Library by His Excellency the Marquis d’Azeglio, the Sardinian Minister. Dec. 7, 1858.” Elsewhere in book: “Livre 037783 Argentee Rabais 32\frac{1}{2} p. 0\%.” E. 2592-1901.
Description.—A catalogue of Sheffield plate, 9\(\frac{3}{8}\) in. by 15 in., 93 plates. No date. A watermark: L.V. Has been rebound in stiff boards with original wrapper intact.

Summary of Contents.—Similar to M. 105. a., with additional items, such as sauce boat, tureen sauce boat, cream bucket, cream ewer, tea caddy and spoon, argyles for gravy, strainers, plate covers, spirit frame.

Comments.—Prices throughout are in English currency, but priced chaque or paire, as the case may be. Descriptions in English are underwritten with a French translation. An unusual feature is the drawing of shapes and covers in plan. Mr. Bradbury, who had previously examined the list, notes, "This catalogue issued obviously for foreign trade, and probably contains drawings of articles made by different manufacturers." See illustration, plate XXIV.

M. 105. f.
Three plates of Sheffield Plate candlesticks and a taper-holder (various sizes). 19543—3, 4, 29865.14, 28807.

CARVINGS.

M. 105. g.

Marks.—Dec' 20, 1776. Publish'd according to Act of Parliament by I & O Westwood. (on one of the plates).

Description.—A catalogue of patterns of carved work. 9\(\frac{3}{8}\) in. by 6\(\frac{1}{8}\) in., 27 folding plates. Dates on bottom of plates 1776 and 1777. Original stiff boards with paper back.

Summary of Contents.—Looking-glasses with gilt frames, furniture roses and ornaments, swags, mouldings and carvings for window architraves, door panels, chimney-piece cornices, "frizes," heraldic figures, mouldings for panel work, chimney pieces, alternative friezes and pilasters therefor.

Comments.—The chimney piece designs, two in number, show how the details illustrated in the book would be applied. Each part has the detail number engraved near it. It is disclosed that the "single ornaments in the book are engraved full size," and that they were sold separately or made up. "Their Elegance, Duration, and Cheapness," we are told, "are best recommended by a comparison with other carvings." Their elegance is beyond dispute, as also is their cheapness, for no prices are quoted. The chimney piece drawings are dimensioned and are to scale. There are two or three figure carvings, notably an oval, entitled "Boys' Tablet," a bacchanalian motif, and a Vestal Virgin. Their utility in general schemes is shown in two plates comprising 15 friezes. The engravings are well executed, and there is much in this catalogue worthy of adaptation to modern needs. See also M. 102. k., page 24.
Door Knocker (Rapper).

M. 101. a., page 15.
PLATE III.

Brass Handles for Furniture, made for the French Market.

M. 101. c., page 16.
PLATE IV.

WROUGHT BRASS SCREW-RINGS, ROSES, ETC.

N. 101 f., page 19.
Brass Handles and Ornaments for Furniture.
Brass Reflecting Commode Handles.
TO: MUM

AUNT HILDA
Mirror and Girandoles.

M. 102. k., page 24.
CLOSE-PLATED SPURS


UNIV. OF
PLATE XV. CALIFORNIA
Sheffield Plate, Branched Candelsticks.
SHEFFIELD PLATE, CUPS, EGG-CUPS, FUNNEL, AND DECANTER-LABELS.
Sheffield Plate, Urn.

M. 105 b., page 37.
PLATE XXIII.

SHEFFIELD PLATE, CAKE-BASKET.
SHEFFIELD PLATE, CANDLESTICKS AND CADDY-SPOON.

M. 105, p. page 37.
**THIS BOOK IS DUE ON THE LAST DATE STAMPED BELOW**

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