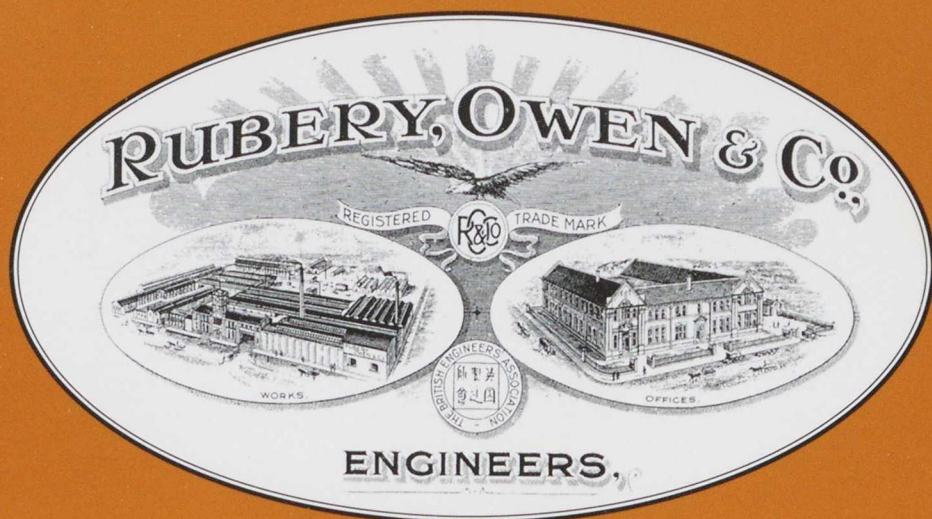


# RUBERY OWEN HOLDINGS LTD. ARCHIVE





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**RUBERY OWEN HOLDINGS LTD.  
ARCHIVE**

Modern Records Centre Sources Booklet No. 9

*by*  
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*edited by*  
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*With a preface by*  
Charles Jones

Coventry  
1997

*The Modern Records Centre is pleased to take this opportunity to record its thanks to Rubery Owen Holdings Limited both for the deposit of the Rubery Owen archive in the Centre and for its generous support of work on the archive prior to deposit.*

*This Sources Booklet is a companion to Automotive history sources in Coventry archives, which was published in 1996 to mark the official centenary of the British motor industry. Its publication has been supported by the Centre's Development Fund.*

*The cover photograph shows Rubery Owen's Darlaston works and offices c. 1914-20. The illustration was used as part of the company's letterhead (ref. MSS.338/RO/6/3/1/6).*

*Photograph by M. Gould ABIPP, University of Warwick Photographic Service*

Cover illustration by courtesy of Rubery Owen Holdings Limited

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## PREFACE

Several features of the Rubery Owen papers make their deposit in the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick especially appropriate and welcome. The Centre has a long-standing and distinguished reputation as a repository for the records of trade unions and employers' organisations, and the Rubery Owen material is a significant addition to these collections, not least because of the Christian and philanthropic commitment which Sir Alfred Owen brought to his work as chairman. The breadth of Sir Alfred's interests - business, political, and social - provides a second reason to welcome their deposit at Warwick, for this is a regional collection of the first importance, containing valuable material on local government and higher education in the Midlands, not just manufacturing. As a business archive, the Rubery Owen collection complements other material in the Centre relating to the automotive industry and its suppliers. In addition, it has a special value to business historians, chronicling the postwar expansion and contraction of what may fairly be termed a proto-multinational corporation. Finally, to historian and archivist alike, this is a collection which rises above its various component elements to provide a memorial to the man at the heart of it and a record of a paradigmatically twentieth-century endeavour. As this guide makes clear, the interests of Sir Alfred Owen and the Rubery Owen group were extremely complex. The meticulous indexing and cross-referencing systems devised by Sir Alfred's filing clerks (six of them at one point!) reflect this complexity. They suggest a man of Napoleonic energy and concern for detail, pushing personal management to its absolute limit. In this respect he was characteristic of his generation, which means that the archive as a whole testifies to a certain mentality and conception of public responsibility.

*Charles Jones*

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to draw attention to the wide range of topics dealt with in the records of this private company. Sir Alfred Owen, the chairman and joint managing director (with his brother Ernest) ran the Owen Organisation which at one stage was producing over 12,000 separate products. Both brothers had interests outside the business and their papers reflect these activities. The Owen family have decided that all Sir Alfred's files should be kept to illustrate the wide range of matters dealt with by a typically busy industrial chief executive. Some files have been removed relating mainly to the Owen family, named individuals and some minor matters.

Sir Alfred Owen's files form the bulk of the Rubery Owen Archive. In 1949 his personal secretary retired and gave instructions to destroy all the chairman's correspondence files. His successor was instructed to keep everything and only a few files from 1949 have survived. An alpha-numeric system was introduced in 1950 with the subject denoted by the first two letters of the title followed by a chronological number. Thus:

Abbotsholme School AB.1  
Admiralty AD.1  
Advertising AD.2  
Agricultural matters AG.2  
Christian Businessmen's Committee CH.4  
Eaton Axles EA3  
Research & Development RE.3.

File folders were renewed annually and the previous year's correspondence transferred to numbered box files and removed to separate storage. Some boxes were stored in a basement that was flooded and the files were attacked by mould. They have been cleaned and dusted.

There are three finding-aids to Sir Alfred Owen's files:

MSS.338/RO/4/3/1. The first 20 registers contain the filing code for each year with cross-references for the correspondence with heads of departments at Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd. for 1949-1968.  
MSS.338/RO/4/3/2/1/20-39. The second 20 registers, covering the period 1951-1970, are annual registers showing the names of correspondents listed alphabetically and describing the subject of the letter and the file number.  
MSS.338/RO/4/3/1/40-43 consists of four transfer books which reflect the manner in which the files were transferred to a set of sequentially numbered boxes. The boxes are numbered from 421 in 1949 to 1,000 in 1956.

Renumbering started again at no. 1 in 1956 and continued to box no. 1373 in 1970.

The transfer books containing the lists of files by box numbers were photocopied and were used as the major finding-aid for the series. Each file was re-numbered starting at No.1 each year, because it was not known how many files would have to be removed. Researchers should use MSS.338/RO/4/3/1/40A-43A, find the file in the year in which it was created and note the number which was entered in ink. Thus Sir Alfred Owen's file on AGRICULTURAL MATTERS - AG.2 for 1949, listed in the notebook for 1949, MSS.338/RO/4/3/1/40A-Indexes, will have a new "archive number" which is built up as follows:

MSS.338/RO	Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd
/4	Correspondence
/1	Directors
/2	Sir Alfred Owen
/421	Box no.
/4	The fourth file of 1949 (AG.2).

The 'call number' for the file Agricultural Matters is therefore MSS.338/4/1/2/421/4.

An attempt has been made in this booklet to bring together files of a like subject. This should iron out any strange alphabetisation, like NO.1 - Notifications of deaths and condolences. Only Sir Alfred Owen's files have been listed in detail although the files belonging to other directors are identified where appropriate. In this booklet the alphanumeric file numbers only have been used and recourse must be made to the photocopied transfer books to find the location of the file. A date after a file number indicates the first time the file was created. Remember also that each file has a new volume for each year. Thus AG.2 - Agricultural matters, 1949-1970, will consist of 22 volumes, while Donald Campbell's Bluebird project, 1959-1965, will consist of seven volumes.

### Other Records

Files relating to Sir Alfred's activities as a member and chairman of the Staffordshire County Council were transferred to the Staffordshire County Record Office in 1974. The Rubery Owen Photographic and Film Collection is held by the Staffordshire Film Archive at Staffordshire University.

### The Archive

**ARRANGEMENT:** In September 1966 Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd was converted into a holding company and the assets of Darlaston and its associated factories were transferred to a new company, also called Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd. In 1975 the latter

company changed its name to Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd. Records created by the original company and its predecessors have been described under **Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd**. Records relating to the work of the Darlaston factories which span the 1966 division have been described under Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd. Particular series where this has occurred can be found in *Functional Records* relating to the Industrial Relations function.

**Access** by the public is generally open to all records more than thirty years of age unless they refer directly to individuals - members of the family and employees alike. Records less than 30 years of age are closed. Applications for access to closed records may be made to the Chairman of Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd and will only be considered from *bona fide* students if the company has a genuine interest in the results of the research which the applicant wishes to undertake. Copies of any material to be published must be submitted for approval by the Company before publication.

The 'Thirty year rule' does not apply to records of subsidiary companies, other than Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd.

*Leonard McDonald*

## Administrative History

John Tunner Rubery and his two brothers entered into partnership in 1884 to establish a business for the manufacture of light steel constructions in the Victoria Works at Darlaston, South Staffs, known as Rubery and Company. On the withdrawal of the brothers from the business in 1893, Alfred Ernest Owen joined the partnership. By 1903, A.E. Owen, who had been trained as an engineer, was very much more active than his senior partner and the change in the relative strengths of the partners was reflected in the change of name to Rubery, Owen & Company. Rubery withdrew from the partnership in 1910, and A.E. Owen became sole proprietor. Owen had already seen possibilities in automotive manufacture and had designed a lighter chassis frame, and had started manufacturing components for the aviation industry. By 1912, five departments were operating, each of which was treated as a separate profit centre:

Roofing	steel roofs, station buildings, railway bridges, foot bridges, theatre buildings, aeroplane sheds, tramway depots, shipyard, colliery and foundry buildings;
Fencing	fences, gates, balcony railings, staircase balustrades, wrought iron signs, strained wire fencing and unclimbable fencing;
Motor Frames	chassis for cars, buses, lorries and ambulances, pressed steel parts for motor cars;
Engineering	excavating machinery and conveyors, and steam and electrically driven navvies;
Aviation	straining screws, eyebolts, clamps, bolts and nuts, engine housings.

In 1912, Owen, finding it necessary to concentrate on the wider aspects of the business and to look after his investments in other companies, created the Staff Council with himself as chairman and the major heads of department to help him to administer the business. In April 1919 the name of the administrative board was changed to Committee of Management. In 1920 the Fencing department was closed and the Roofing department was re-organised into the Structural department, and a Metal Aircraft department was established.

He developed wider business interests as well. With others in the Darlaston community he invested in local companies: Chains Ltd. in 1910, and the Darlaston & District Housing Association, to build homes for artisans, and Nuts & Bolts (Darlaston) Ltd. in 1912. Elsewhere, he invested in A.G. Sutherland Ltd., makers of gas meters, in Birmingham, and a firm of ironmongers in Wrexham, Rogers & Jackson, already partly owned by the Owen family. At the suggestion of the Midland Bank and the urgent prompting of his accountant, Charles Eustace Partridge, a private limited company, Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd., was registered on 14 April 1920 (No.

166447), but A.E. Owen was reluctant to set about transferring the assets of his business to the new company.

In December 1923 the firm had difficulty in getting costs down to competitive levels in a rapidly falling market. The Works' departmental managers did not appear to be grappling successfully with these conditions, and drastic action was called for. Accordingly, a week's notice was given to all workmen to terminate their service with the firm, and a clean start was made by re-engaging only such men as were essential, and at such rates as the firm could afford. To achieve these ends George Buckley, the Secretary, and Charles Partridge, the Accountant, were appointed Joint General Managers, and their first important duty was to re-engage and fix the rates of such workmen as were required to carry out this scheme. Buckley ran the Central Office and Partridge the Financial Department. Owen died on 29 December 1929, but it took until 1934 before his executors were able to separate his different interests and transfer the assets of Rubery, Owen & Company to the limited company. The total purchase consideration was £232,996 which was satisfied by the issue of a like number of fully paid shares of £1 each.

### **Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd.**

Owen's eldest son, then 21 years of age and an engineering student at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, immediately stepped into his father's shoes, and took over the business on 2 January 1930. Alfred George Beech Owen (later Sir Alfred Owen, C.B.E.) was as much of a business man as his father. He and his brother, Ernest William Beech Owen, were appointed joint managing directors in 1934, and in 1938 he started to expand the company by buying a company in liquidation, Easiclene Porcelain-Enamel (1938) Ltd. At the same time he was expanding the parent company. A Metal Storage Equipment department was opened in 1932, and when re-armament started in 1936, two new departments were established: Armour Plate (AP) in 1937 to produce armour plate assemblies for tank hulls and gun turrets; and the Airframe department started to produce parts in 1939. At the same time he acquired the company in Warrington which operated under a number of different names reflecting its move from refrigeration manufacture to the manufacture of aircraft components and hydraulic mechanisms, as Electro-Hydraulics Ltd., and which was finally known as Rubery Owen Conveyancer Ltd. During the war the company's fabricating and presswork departments were employed in a wide range of products from lifeboats to aircraft propeller hubs. The Warrington company's engineering department was turned into a separate company to fulfil orders for the Admiralty.

With the end of the war approaching, Alfred Owen set about turning his companies into manufacturing peace-time products. The Metal Aircraft department (MA) became the Metal Assemblies department producing its deep-drawn presswork for a variety of products, including gas cylinders. The Armour Plate (AP) department, under the direction of Ernest William Beech Owen, became the Agricultural Plough Division in

1946, making ploughs for the revolutionary Ferguson tractor, and, after that company's merger with Massey-Harris of Canada, to Massey-Ferguson specifications. Other products included tractor components, quadrant controls (for operating the tractor lift) for other tractor manufacturers, and dry element air cleaners.

### **The Owen Organisation**

By the end of the War the Owen companies were employing 16,000 people and Alfred Owen sought further growth by taking over metal-working and motor vehicle components' firms. In 1951 he set up the Owen Organisation with the slogan, 'A Linked Family of more than Fifty Companies' so that a clear distinction could be made between the Owen Family's ownership of Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd. and their investments in other companies. Until a new corporate identity programme was introduced in 1970, this logo remained, with the number of companies in the slogan gradually updated.

After the war a group of car component manufacturers were brought together to form the British Motor Racing Research Trust to create a racing car made entirely of British components under a team led by Raymond Mays and Peter Berthon. Alfred Owen soon became chairman of the Trust, and when it was running short of funds, he decided that Rubery Owen should take over the assets of the Trust. They were purchased on 24 October 1952, "with a view to continuing development work and possibly racing the existing 16 cylinder B.R.M. cars, and to building an entirely new 2.5 litre unsupercharged car", for the formula which was due to start in the in the 1954 racing season [R. Mays, RO/4/1/2/BR.2/2]. The Trust became known as the Owen Motor Racing Association, and its Works at Bourne, Lincs. was called the Engine Development Division.

At Darlaston, Rubery Owen's loose structure of manufacturing departments operating as individual profit centres with managers responsible directly to the Chairman, was replaced by a divisional structure of seven divisions in 1956, each responsible for their own design, manufacture and sales, with central control being exercised over finance, purchasing, research, personnel and engineering plant and maintenance services. The seven divisions were organised as follows:

Motor:	Car components, particularly chassis frames, presswork, wheels, axle cases and fuel tanks;
Structural:	Design and fabrication of steel work for buildings;
Contracts:	Manufacture of earthmoving equipment and cranes for sub-contract;
Bolt and Nut:	Manufacture of bright bolts and nuts for the motor industry;

- Metal Assemblies: Deep-drawn presswork, particularly for vehicle brake cylinders and compressed shells for refrigerators and washing machines; gas bottles and cylinders;
- Metal Equipment: Steel shelving, pallets and containers;
- Rowen-Arc: Welding machinery.

There were also specialist factories, like Pressings in Coventry, Foundry Equipment in Shropshire, Engine Development at Bourne and Industrial Storage and Office Equipment at Wrexham, which were managed from Darlaston.

The Organisation itself operated a Central Services Division which offered assistance to subsidiaries and charged for the services they provided. It consisted of the following functions:

Secretarial	Accounting	Supplies
Engineering	Research and Development	Production Engineering
Personnel	Public Relations.	

In addition there were a number of trade investments, some of which were important to the Group and its associated activities:

Eaton Axles Ltd.	Ruberowen (South Africa) Ltd.
Mahindra Owen Ltd. (India)	Cardinal Steels Ltd.
Gillots Forge and Rolling Mills Ltd.	Kleine Reinforced Concrete Ltd.
Bowser International Ltd.	Luke Bros. Ltd.
Port Hamble Ltd.	Isetta of Great Britain Ltd.

It is difficult to present a concise picture embracing the whole Organisation, but by the middle of 1955 the main activities and the principal companies were [MSS.338/RO/11/3/2]:

## Engineering

- (a) *Components for the motor industry*
  - Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.
    - Wheels, chassis frames, petrol tanks, axles
  - Rubery Owen (Warrington) Ltd.
    - Machining and assembling of axle cases, lathes
  - Motor Panels (Coventry) Ltd.
    - Pressings for car and commercial vehicle bodies
  - Rubery Owen & Kemsley Pty Ltd.
    - Suppliers of components to the motor trade in Australia
  - E. Camelinat & Co. Ltd.
    - Miscellaneous pressings, of which 70% were sold to the motor trade.
- (b) *Equipment for handling and storing materials*
  - Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.
    - Industrial shelving, office equipment (marketed by Leabank Office Equipment Ltd.)

Electro-Hydraulics Ltd.

Fork-lift trucks (marketed by its three subsidiaries)

Hudson Brown Ltd.

Component parts for fork-lift trucks.

- (c) *Aircraft undercarriages and hydraulic equipment*

Electro-Hydraulics Ltd.

- (d) *Structural steelwork*

Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.

- (e) *Agricultural machinery*

Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.

Salopian Engineers Ltd.

- (f) *General engineering*

Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.

Nuts & Bolts (Darlaston) Ltd

C. & L. Hill Ltd. - non-ferrous castings

Rubery Owen Kepston Ltd. - pulleys

Invicta Electrodes Ltd - welding electrodes

- (g) *Domestic equipment*

Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.

The Castra Electric Washing Machine Co. Ltd.

Easiclene Porcelain Enamel (1938) Ltd. - washing machines and kitchen equipment

Gasel Ltd. (marketed through its subsidiary) - refrigerators.

### **Merchanting and retail**

- (a) *Builders merchants, and dealers in agricultural implements, ironmongers*

Rogers & Jackson Ltd. and its four subsidiaries

- (b) *Motor distributors and engineers*

Charles Clark & Son Ltd. and its subsidiary

Shuker & Son (Shrewsbury) Ltd. - a subsidiary of Rogers & Jackson Ltd.

### **Motor Racing**

*Racing cars, high performance engines and motor accessories*

Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd. - B.R.M.

The Organisation's companies and associated companies rose from 14 in 1950, all in the UK, to 66 UK and 18 overseas companies in 1969.

## **The Third Generation**

The third generation of the Owen family started to join the company. Helen Grace, Sir Alfred's eldest child, a graduate of Birmingham University, had already joined the company in 1952 and worked in Head Office until her marriage. She was closely associated with the Company's pioneering Preparation for Retirement programme and introduced Industrial Life and Christian Teamwork into the workplace. She was also responsible for Office Development. His elder sons both graduated in Economics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Alfred David Owen started in the Motor Division in 1961, after completing National Service, becoming its General Manager in 1963. John Ernest Owen, after a year as a Management Trainee at Jaguar Cars Ltd., joined the firm in 1963 as Managing Director of the Easiclene company, responsible for the Organisation's domestic and office equipment activities.

### **Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd.**

As a private company the Organisation had great difficulty in raising capital for the expansion of the businesses, and this led to a re-structuring of the Group. After two years of planning Electro-Hydraulics Ltd., the successful company based in Warrington, was converted into a public company in 1964 and 40% of its shares were offered for sale to the public. The issue was fully subscribed and the profit was used to re-structure Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd. and reduce its overdraft [MSS.338/RO/4/1/2/628/Fl.8(1964)].

In 1966 Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd was turned into a holding company which supervised the activities of the Group, Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd.; and the assets and trading activities of the Darlaston Works and its related factories were transferred to a new company, confusingly also called Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd. (This name was later changed to Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd.) David and John Owen were appointed directors and started to shadow the senior family directors, David following the Chairman's role, and John operating in the Domestic Equipment Division. After the sudden death of his uncle, Ernest Owen, in February 1967, John took over all his responsibilities in the Contracts and Agricultural Divisions. The brothers were appointed Joint Deputy Managing Directors in March 1967. Sir Alfred Owen suffered a serious heart attack in October 1969, and the day-to-day management of the Group was left to the two brothers. They decided to split the management duties, A.D. Owen becoming Acting Chairman of the Group and supervising the management of the subsidiary UK and overseas companies, and J.E. Owen becoming Managing Director of the Darlaston company and its associated factories in Moxley (Wednesbury), Wrexham and Warrington.

In 1970 the major subsidiary companies were brought together into sub-groups each headed by a new holding company, viz.,

Conveyancer Group

Domestic Equipment Group  
Fasteners Group  
C. & L. Hill Group  
Distributors Group.

In addition Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd. was also administered as a separate sub-group.

The subsequent years, with the onset of the recession in 1974 and the recession of the early 'eighties, with difficult industrial relations problems in the engineering industry and a shortage of working capital, were to be a severe test of the third generation's abilities, and it speaks much for their resilience and hard work that the company was able to survive, albeit in a different form.

\* \* \* \*

### **Sir Alfred George Beech Owen, O.B.E., C.B.E., D.Sc., J.P.**

Sir Alfred Owen retired as chief executive of all the companies but remained Chairman of Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd. until his death on 29 October 1975. He had been made O.B.E. in 1946, promoted to Commander of that Order in 1954, and was appointed Knight Bachelor in 1961 for services to local government. He served on the Darlaston Urban District Council from 1934 (Chairman 1942-1946, and 1952-1954) until it was absorbed into Walsall County Borough in 1968, when he continued to represent the Bentley Ward until 1972. He was a councillor in the Borough of Sutton Coldfield, 1937-1974 (Mayor 1951), and was an independent member of the Staffordshire County Council, 1949-1966, serving as Chairman from 1955 to 1962. He served Keele University from 1957, first as Chairman of the Council and then as Vice President of the University College of North Staffordshire, and, when it received a full Charter, as Pro-Chancellor. The University made him an Honorary D.Sc. in 1965. He also served on the Council of Birmingham University. In addition he served on a number of national committees reflecting his lifelong interests as a Christian business man, including Dr Barnardo's, the Boys Brigade and the Youth for Christ Movement. He was also closely associated with the Billy Graham Crusades. At a national level he served for many years as vice chairman of the National Savings Movement. In 1964 he was appointed chairman of the National Road Safety Advisory Council.

For a short biography of Sir Alfred Owen, see Jeremy, David J.: 'Sir Alfred George Beech Owen (1908-1975). Manufacturer of engineering components', *Dictionary of Business Biography*, vol. 4 (1985).

\* \* \* \*

The records have been divided into the following classes:

## SUMMARY OF CLASSES

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 Minute Books         | 9 Agreements                           |
| 2 Statutory Records    | 10 Press - cuttings                    |
| 3 Financial Records    | 11 Reports                             |
| 4 Correspondence       | 12 Notices                             |
| 5 Letter Books         | 13 Functional Records                  |
| 6 Printed Publications | 1 Preparation for Retirement           |
| 7 Other Publications   | 2 Industrial Life & Christian Teamwork |
| 8 Diaries              | 3 Group Archives                       |

## Index to the Records

### ACCOUNTS

Annual reports and accounts for parent and all subsidiary and associate companies AN.2.

### AGRICULTURE

Ernest William Beech Owen, Joint managing director, took personal charge of all agricultural engineering matters after 1948 and later of the Contracts division which included not only the Agricultural Plough department but also hydraulic valve manufacture. His records exist from 1961 until his death in 1967. A list can be found in MSS.338/RO/4/1/3 - Appendix 4.

Sir Alfred Owen's records include:

Agricultural matters AG.2; Allis-Chalmers AL.1; F.H. Burgess Ltd., Agricultural engineers BU.2; Contracts Division CO.14; Harry Ferguson Ltd. FE.3; W. Gwenapp (Agricultural) Ltd. GW.1; Hop picking machinery HO.4-5; Kenneth Hudson & Son HU.6; International Harvester IN.10; Salopian Engineers Ltd. SA. 4-6,8; Salopian Kenneth Hudson Ltd. SA13.

### ALEXANDRA FINANCE Co. Ltd. (Motor vehicle financing)

Annual Accounts AN.2; General AL.1 (1963).

*See also* Charles Clark & Son Ltd.; Shuker & Son (Shrewsbury) Ltd.

### APPRENTICES

Ex-apprentices guild RU.3A; Wrexham WR.1.

*See also* Employees

## **ASSOCIATE COMPANIES**

General AS.1 (1963); Bowser International Ltd. BO.6; Brooke Tool Manufacturing Co. Ltd.: Finance, meetings BR.16-20; Barber-Greene Olding & Co. Ltd. BA.3; Eaton Manufacturing Co. (USA) EA.16; E.N.V. Engineering Co. Ltd. EN.1; Kleine Co. Ltd - Reinforced concrete construction materials KL.1-2; Rockwell Ltd. SO.1C (1965); Toledo Woodhead Springs Ltd. TO.1.

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

The company subscribed as members to a number of organisations which were not directly related to employers' associations (the latter have been listed under TRADE ASSOCIATIONS). Aims of Industry AI.1; Anglo-American Productivity Assoc. AN.1; British Institute of Management BR.11; British Racing Motor Trust BR.3-6; British Racing Motor Assoc. BR.7; Central Council of Physical Recreation CE.1; Coventry Blood Donors Assoc. CO.11; Economic Society "E" Misc.; European Atlantic Group (1962) EU.1; Incorporated Sales Managers Assoc. IN.1; Industrial Welfare Society IN.4; Industrial Association of Wales IN.3; Institute of Industrial Administration IN. 6; Institute of Industrial Supervisors IN.7; Institute of Metals IN.8; Institute of Materials Handling IN.18; National Institute of Industrial Psychology NA.3; National Trades Technical Societies NA.4; Training Within Industry TR.2.

## **AVIATION PRODUCTS**

General AV.1; Bolt & Nut division BO.7-8/1; W.S. Parkes, General manager PA.4.  
*See also* Electro-Hydraulics Ltd.

## **AXLES**

Eaton Axles Ltd. - Meetings, case deliveries, Warrington meetings, 2 speed and single speed axles EA.7-12; Eaton Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (USA) EA.16; E.N.V. Engineering Co. Ltd. EN.1; Rockwell Ltd. SO.1C (1965); John Thompson Ltd., Wolverhampton TH.2; Toledo Woodhead Springs Ltd. TO.1.  
*See also* Motor Department; Motor Division; Rubery Owen (Warrington) Ltd.

## **J.W. BAKER & SONS Ltd. (Builders' merchants)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General BA.2.

## **Dr. BARNARDO'S**

Sir Alfred Owen was a serving member of the Council for many years. The records are the working papers which it issued to members. They also include personal correspondence with other members of the Council. They can be found at BA.5-18, and include:

Annual general meetings; Boarding out; Council meetings; Deputations sub-committee; Finance; Health reports; Home Office; Homes; Management committee;

Religious adviser's reports; Summaries of children in homes; visiting reports BA.5-18.

**BENTLEY HALL BRICK WORKS Co. Ltd., Darlaston**

Annual accounts AN.2; general BE.6. Company files are at MSS.338/ROS/1.

**BILLING & SON Ltd., Guildford (Printers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General BI.10 (1960).

**BIRMINGHAM**

Birmingham University BI.4-8; Chamber of Commerce BI.2; Regional Hospital Board BI.3.

**'BLUEBIRD' PROJECT**

Donald Campbell CA.1 (1959); Motor Panels (Coventry) Ltd. MO.8-11.

**BOLT & NUT DIVISION**

General BO.7; Cold heading, Moxley works BO.7/1; Meetings BO.8.  
*See also* Rubery Owen (Moxley) Ltd. at MSS.338/ROF/5

**BOWSER INTERNATIONAL Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; Petrol pump manufacture BO.6; Company files are at MSS.338/ROS/2.

**BOXFORD MACHINE TOOLS Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General BO.9 (1963).

**B.R.M - ENGINE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

Sir Alfred Owen was an enthusiastic founder member of the British Motor Racing Research Trust which was set up to design and race a car made entirely from British components. It was initially unsuccessful and when the project was in danger of collapse he took it over and merged it into the Owen Organisation. The Owen Racing Motor Association continued to rely on assistance from component manufacturers, and the Bourne Works became Rubery Owen's Engine Development Division. The car was ultimately successful, receiving the Constructor's Award in 1970. (R. Mays & P. Roberts, *B.R.M.*, 1962, rev. 1964)

Correspondence with designers R. Mays and P. Berthon; Owen Racing Motor Association; J.S. Sandercombe, Engine Development Division; financial matters incl. budgets; Ford conversions; exhibitions; meetings BR.2-9; Shorrock Superchargers SH.6.

**J.E. BRASSEY & Co. Ltd.**, Chester and Wrexham (Ironmongers)  
Annual accounts AN.2; General BR.22. Company files are at MSS.338/ROJ/2.

**W. BREALEY & Co. Ltd.**, Sheffield and Kilnhurst  
Annual accounts AN.2; General BR.8 (1959).

**BROOKE TOOL AUTOMATION Ltd.**, Birmingham  
Annual accounts AN.2; General BR.13 (1960).

**BROOKE TOOL MANUFACTURING Co. Ltd.**, Birmingham (Tool manufacturing)  
Annual accounts AN.2; Annual general meetings; Financial matters; Directors BR16-19.

**BULL STAKE MOTORS**, Darlaston  
Annual accounts AN.2; general BU.2 (1960).

**E. CAMELINAT & Co. Ltd.**, Birmingham (Pressed steel manufacture)  
Annual accounts AN.2; Meetings CA.2-3. Company files are at MSS.338/ROS/23.

**CAMPBELL, Donald**  
Bluebird project CA.1 (1959).

**CARDINAL STEELS (Joseph Gillot Ltd.)**  
Annual accounts AN.2; general CA.8.

**CASTRA ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINE Co. Ltd.**, Leeds and Wolverhampton  
Annual accounts AN.2; General CA.7. Company records are at MSS.338/RODE/1.

**CENTRAL PATTERNMAKING Co. Ltd.**, Willenhall (Patternmakers)  
Annual accounts AN.2; General CE.1 (1963). Company records are at MSS.338/ROL/2.

**CHAINS Ltd.**, Darlaston  
Annual accounts AN.2; General CH.1. Company records are at MSS.338/ROF/4.

#### **CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS**

Dr Barnado's BA.5-18.  
*See also* Christianity; Youth Organisations

**CHARLES CLARK & SON Ltd.**, Stafford and Wolverhampton (Motor vehicle agents)

Annual accounts AN.2; Meetings, Stafford branch CH.7 -7A.  
*See also* Bull Stake Motors; Shuker & Son (Shrewsbury) Ltd.

## **CHINA**

Trade possibilities, in particular the '48' Group initiative CH.13.

## **CHRISTIANITY**

As a well-known committed Christian businessman Sir Alfred Owen became involved in many organisations. He took a personal interest in all their activities.

"The Bible Speaks to Britain" BI.1; Billy Graham Crusades BI.8; British & Foreign Bible Society BR.9; Cambridge University CA.10; Christian Business Mens' Committee CH.4; Christian Colportage Association CH.5; Christian Teamwork CH.10A (1959); Church and Christian work CH.10-12; Crusades and campaigns - all districts CR.2; Fact and Faith Films FA.1; Fellowships FE.2/1- 2/9; Gideons GI.1; Industrial Life Panels IN.19 (1959); International Friendship League IN.11; Lichfield Diocese LI.1; Lord Monckton's Committee (Church of England) LO.4; Midland Band of Hope League MI.11; Missionary work MI.10; National Comm. Temperance League & other temperance societies NA.2; Protestant Truth Society PR.4; Salvation Army SA.9.

*See also* Fellowships; Youth Organisations

## **CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Committee of enquiry into the role of the Church Commissioners (Chairman, Lord Monckton) - Lord Monckton's committee LO.4.

## **CHURCH OF ENGLAND NEWSPAPERS Ltd.** (Publishing)

Annual accounts AN.2; general CH.10B (1960).

## **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

Friends of Ancient Staffordshire Churches FR.1; Midlands Industrialists' Dinner Group DI.1; National Trades Technical Societies NA.4; Outward Bound School OU.3; Minworth Social Club & Institute, Sutton Coldfield MI.2; Rotary Clubs and Round Tables RO.5; St John's Ambulance Brigade; Sutton Coldfield clubs SU.5; Union Club UN.1.

## **CONTRACTS DIVISION**

E.W.B. Owen started the division in 1948 and expanded it by manufacturing plant and machinery under licence from their U.S. owners, like 4-in-one shovels and Husco hydraulic valves. The detail can be found in his correspondence under MSS.338/RO/4/1/3-Appendix 4. In 1967 J.E. Owen took over the direction of the

division and his files can be found in MSS.338/RO/4/1/5. Sir Alfred Owen's files include:

Agricultural Plough (AP) department CO.14/1; Dept. 18 CO.14/4; Salopian Engineers Ltd., Prees CO.14/2; Pensnett Works CO.14/3; Rubery Owen-Drott Ltd. RU.13 (1964).

### **CONVEYANCER GROUP**

The Group was formed in 1970 with Rubery Owen (Conveyancer) Ltd. as the holding company for Langham Engineering (Liverpool) Ltd., Conveyancer Fork Trucks Ltd. and Conveyancer-Scott Electric Vehicles Ltd. The statutory records for these companies can be found at MSS.338/ROC/1-4.

#### **CONVEYANCER Ltd., Warrington (Fork-lift truck manufacture)**

Annual accounts AN.2 (1970). Company records are at MSS.338/ROC/1.  
*Previously* Electro-Hydraulics Ltd (*q.v.*)

#### **CONVEYANCER FORK TRUCK Co. Ltd.**

L. Rumley; Australia; Canada CO.8-9.

#### **CONVEYANCER-RAYMOND Ltd., Warrington (Fork-lift trucks)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General CO.9C (1962).

### **CUSTOMERS (other than Motor Vehicle Manufacturers)**

J. Brockhouse & Co. - Trailer axles BR.14; Calor Gas CA.1; Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd. DU.1; Eaton Axles Ltd. EA.7-12; Harry Ferguson Ltd. FE.3; Fraser Hydraulic Transmission Co. Ltd. FR.1; Girling Ltd. GI.1; International Harvester Ltd. IN.10; Laing & Son Ltd. LA.6; Oddy Pumps OD.1.

*See also* E.W.B. Owen's correspondence in MSS.338/RO/4/1/3 - Appendix 4

### **DARLASTON, South Staffordshire**

Sir A.G.B. Owen served as a councillor on the Urban District Council from 1934 to 1968. The papers which he received as a councillor have all been preserved in the series DA.4-31. For the compulsory purchase of the land at Bentley by Walsall Council which Sir Alfred Owen had intended to develop as a Garden Village after the War, *see* C.E. Partridge's files in MSS.338/RO/4/1/4- Box 13. Other files include:

Bentley BE. 4; Bentley - Compulsory purchase of land BE.5; Bentley Estate - St. Emmanuel's Church BE.6; Bentley Estate Youth Club BE.6; Rotary Clubs and Round Table RO.5; Rubery Owen Housing Estate RU.6; Victoria Youth Club VI.1; Wednesbury & Darlaston Manufacturers Assoc. (W.A.D.M.A.) WE.1-2.

## **DARLASTON GROUP**

In 1970 Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd. was re-organised by converting many of its departments into subsidiary companies. Statutory records for the holding company and for Rubery Owen (Scotland) Ltd., Rubery Owen Hydraulics Ltd. and Rubery Owen Mechanical Equipment Ltd. can be found at MSS.338/ROD/1-4.

## **DENFORD'S ENGINEERING Co. Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General; Meetings DE.3-4.

## **DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS**

Departmental managers reported directly to the Chairman since departments and divisions were expected to be self-supporting cost centres. The terms department and division do not always reflect the company's organisational structures:

Bolt and Nut Division BO.7 - 8/1; Coventry Works CO.13; Contracts Division CO.14; Supplies DI.1-2; Drawing & Design dept. (E.D.R.O) WO.4; Dyffryn Convalescent Home DY.1; Electrical matters and welding EL.2; Electronics and computers EL.3; Engine Development Division BR.5; Engineering dept. EN.2; Heat and Air dept. HE.3 (1962); House magazine MA.3; Ilmington Boys' Hostel IN.16; Industrial Life Panels IN.19 (1959); Inglewood Guest House IN.5; Labour Office LA.6; Mechanical Equipment Division ME.2; Metal Assemblies Division ME.3; Motor Division MO.3-7; Packaging PA.2; Police dept. PO.2; Production engineering PR.2-3; Public relations and films PU.1-2; Publicity AD.2, PU.3; Research & development RE.3; Sons of Rest workshop RE.4, SO.3; 'Rowen-Arc', electrical equipment RO.1; Safety SA.1-2; Structural Division ST.29; Toolroom TO.1; Training TR.1-2; Transport TR.2; Welfare WE.7; Wolverhampton Works WO.5.

## **DIRECTORS (Rubery Owen)**

The correspondence of four executive directors has survived aside from the chairman's. They are A.D. Owen 1959-1969, Joint Deputy Managing Director, MSS.338/RO/4/1/5; E.W.B. Owen 1949-1967, Joint Managing Director, MSS.338/RO/4/1/3; J.E. Owen 1967-1968, Joint Deputy Managing Director, MSS.338/RO/4/1/6; C.E. Partridge 1894-1957, Finance Director, MSS.338/RO/4/1/4. In addition the chairman kept in touch with non-executive directors: Beevor, M. BE.2; Mitman, F.S. MI.12; Partridge, C.E. PA.5.

## **DISTRIBUTORS' GROUP**

The group was formed in 1970 when Rogers & Jackson (Holdings) Ltd. was renamed Rubery Owen Distributors Ltd. and became the holding company for J.E. Brassey & Son Ltd. The statutory records for the group can be found at MSS.338/ROJ/1-2.

## DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT

John Ernest Owen took charge of the division when he was appointed an executive director in 1963 and files relating to this appear in MSS.338/RO/4/1/5.

Easiclene Domestic Equipment Co. Ltd. - Kitchen fittings, Refrigerators, Washing machines, orders EA.1-4; Frigidaire Ltd. FR.2; Gasel Ltd. GA2-3; Gasel refrigerators GA.4; Publicity - Supplements and write-ups (*Daily Mail*) SU.4 (1959); Templewood Cabinets Ltd. TE.3 (1965); Wolverhampton Works WO.5.

## DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT GROUP

The group was formed in 1970 when the Castra Electric Washing Machine Co. Ltd. was renamed Rubery Owen Domestic Equipment Ltd. to serve as the holding company for A.G. Sutherland Ltd., H.T. Developments Ltd., J.B. Williams (Maxstoke) Ltd., Templewood Cabinets Ltd. and Easiclene Domestic Equipment Ltd. The statutory records for these companies can be found at MSS.338/RODE/1-6.

**Wm. DONALDSON (ENGINEERS) Ltd.**, Scotland (Automobile engineers)

Annual accounts AN.2; General DO.1 (1961). Company records are MSS.338/ROS/15.

*Later* Rubery Owen (Linwood) Ltd., 1965

## EASICLENE DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT Co. Ltd.

General; L. Friedman; A.R.M. Tanner, General Manager; Kitchen equipment; Refrigerators; Washing machines EA.1-5. Company records are at MSS.338/RODE/6.

*See also* Domestic Equipment Group

## EATON AXLES Ltd.

T.R. Beady; E.G. Morley; W.K. Hartley; meetings; production co-ordinating meetings; 2-speed and single axles; financial statements; spares EA.7-13A.

## ECONOMIC SOCIETY

"E" Miscellaneous.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Abbotsholme School AB.1; Ashridge College AS.1; Coleg Harlech Council CO.1; Denbigh Technical College DE.2; Foreign students FO.2; Monkton Combe School MO.12; Outward Bound School and Trust OU.3; Staff training TR.1; Training and Training Within Industry (T.W.I.) TR.2.

**ELECTRO-HYDRAULICS Ltd.**, Warrington (aeroplane undercarriages, fork-lift trucks)

Balance sheets and accounts AN.2; Board meetings; directors; monthly profit & loss accounts; L. Rumley, Sales director; C.W. Sharp, Managing director; Secretary EH.1-11. Company records are at MSS.338/ROC/1.

*See also* Conveyancer Group, Conveyancer Ltd., 1964, and Rubery Owen (Conveyancer) Ltd., 1973

## **EMPLOYEES**

Apprentices AP.4; Bonus scheme BO.2; Labour Office LA.1-2; latecoming LA.7; personnel PE.2; Rubery Owen Superannuation Fund RU.14; Staff notices ST.2; Staff and salaries ST.3; Staff Establishment & Liaison Officer ST.3A; Staff training TR.1; Training and Training Within Industry TR.2; Wages and structure WA.7 (1965); Works notices WO.2.

*See also* Education and Training; Industrial Relations; Trade Unions

## **EXPORT**

General EX.4; Africa - Liaison manager AF.1(1964); Canada CA.4; China CH.14; India IN.1-2; Germany GE.4; South Africa SO.1; London Office (Kent House) KE.1; U.S.A. US.1; U.S.S.R (L. Friedman) EX.4/1.

## **FASTENERS GROUP**

The group was formed in 1970 with Rubery Owen Fasteners Ltd. serving as the holding company for Chains Ltd., F.R.B. Metals Ltd., Hartley & Baldwin Ltd., Nuts & Bolts Ltd., Rubery Owen (Moxley) Ltd. and J. Stanley & Co. Ltd. The statutory records for these companies can be found at MSS.338/ROF/1-7.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

Inter-Varsity Fellowship IN.12; Bible Testimony FE.2/1; Birmingham and other universities FE.2/2; Inter-School Christian FE.2/4; Missionary Aviation FE.2/5; Technical and other colleges FE.2/7; Workers' Christian FE.2/8; Miscellaneous FE.2/9.

*See also* Christianity; Youth Organisations

## **FINANCE**

The Chief Accountant and Finance Director, C.E. Partridge, dealt with both company and personal matters, especially when Alfred Ernest Owen ran Rubery Owen as sole proprietor from 1910 until his death in 1929. As the executive and trustee of A.E. Owen's estate, he was responsible for converting the assets of the business into the limited company. His files, from 1894-1957, are listed in MSS.338/RO/4/1/4 - App. 5. Sir Alfred Owen's files include:

Annual reports and accounts, subsidiary and associate companies AN.2; Erlangers Ltd. ER.1; C.E. Partridge, Finance director PA.5; General; budgets; capital commitments; departmental costing and P&L accounts; operating statements; group charges; interim accounts; production costs; overdue accounts FI.2-11, 13.

### **FOUNDRY EQUIPMENT DIVISION**

General FO.3 (1963); Hallsworth automatic moulding system HA.3.

### **GASEL Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; general; meetings; managing director GA.2-3. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/5.

### **GATENSBURY BROS. Ltd.** (Financing company)

Annual accounts AN.2 ; general GA.1 (1964).

### **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Admiralty AD.1; Board of Trade BO.1; Government contracts GO.1; Ministry of Aviation MI.4 (1964); Ministry of Defence MI.4; Ministry of Health MI.5; Health Service - Birmingham BI.3, *and* West Bromwich Regional Hospital Board WE.8-17; Ministry of Labour MI.6; Ministry of Supply MI. 7; National Coal Board NA.8 (1963); National Road Safety Advisory Council NA.9; National Savings Movement SA.11-12; Sir Stafford Cripps, Treasury CR.2; Welsh Economic Development Council WE.5.

### **Dr. BILLY GRAHAM**

Crusades and future campaigns BI.8.

### **W. GWENNAP (AGRICULTURAL) Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General GW.1. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/22.

### **HARRISON & SON Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General; Meetings HA.1-2.

### **HEAT & AIR DIVISION**

General HE.3 (1962); Rubery Owen (Heating) Ltd. RU.13; Mechanair Ltd. ME.4.

### **HIGHWAY TRAILERS (G.B.) Ltd., Southampton**

Annual accounts AN.2; General HI.9 (1960).

### **C. & L. HILL Ltd., Darlaston (Non-ferrous sand castings)**

The C. & L. Hill group was formed in 1970 with subsidiary companies comprising Central Patternmaking Co. Ltd., Hill-Alzen Sales Ltd. and C. & L. Hill (Die-Castings) Ltd. The statutory records for these companies are at MSS.338/ROL/1-4. Sir Alfred Owen's files include:

Annual accounts AN.2; Accounts; General; Meetings; Returns; Hill-Alzen (Sales) Ltd.; C. & L. Hill (Die Castings) Ltd. HI.1-8.

### **HOSPITAL BOARDS**

Birmingham BI.3; West Bromwich & District WE.8, 10-15, 18.

### **KENNETH HUDSON & SON Ltd. (Agricultural engineers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General HU.6. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/20.  
*See also* Salopian-Kenneth Hudson Ltd.

### **HUDSON BROWN Ltd., Oldbury (Constructional Engineers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General HU.1. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/6.

### **INDIA**

Lathe project IN.3; Mahindra Owen Private Ltd. IN.2 (1960).

### **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

A complete set of records dealing with joint negotiations from 1961 to 1978 was put together from a number of sources within the company and were placed in the records of Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Ltd. at MSS.338/ROD/1/5/1. They consist of the minutes of meetings of the Management Committee 1961-1971, the Joint Shop Stewards Negotiating Committee 1961-1978, the Joint Staff Negotiating Committee 1963-1978, Informal Union meetings 1966-1973, Kings Hill (Wednesbury) Consultative Committee 1966-1975, Kings Hill (Wednesbury) Management Committee 1966-1971 and the Management/Electrical Trades Union Committee 1967-1970. Agreements relating to wage rates and working conditions at the Darlaston, Moxley and Kings Hill Works from 1927 to 1968 can be found at MSS.338/ROD/1/5/2.

In addition, documents sent to Sir A.G.B. Owen can be found at:

Joint Consultation meetings - all departments JO.1; Joint Production Consultative & Advisory Committee, Wednesbury Works WE.5; Management Committee MA.1; Management Committee and Joint Shop Stewards Negotiating Committee MA.7; Redundancy RE.3; Shop stewards' correspondence and meetings SH.1-2; Staff Advisory Committee ST.33; Superintendents' and Staff Foremen's Assoc. SU.23; Supervisory Staff Advisory Committee SU.24; Weekend overtime WE.6.

*See also* Employees; Trade Unions

## **INVENTIONS AND PROJECTS**

General IN.17.

### **INVICTA ELECTRODES Ltd., Willenhall (Electrodes for welding equipment)**

Annual accounts AN.2; Meetings IN.12-13. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/7.

## **KEELE UNIVERSITY**

Originally established as the University College of North Staffordshire in 1957, the chairman of the Staffordshire County Council served as *ex officio* chairman of the University Council. Sir Alfred Owen served as chairman of the University Council from 1957 to 1962. He was later appointed Vice President of the University College, and when it became a full University he remained as Pro-Chancellor. His files can be found under UN.3-7 and include:

General; Appeal committee; Buildings & development; Academic Council and Council meetings; Finance and estates.

### **LEABANK OFFICE EQUIPMENT Co. Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General LE.2. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/8. See also J.E. Owen; Metal Equipment Division; Wrexham Works

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

Slater, Miller & Co., Darlaston SL.2; Slater & Co. SL.2.

### **H.W. LINDOP & SONS Ltd., Walsall**

Iron founders LI.2.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Association of Civic Heads AS.2; County Councils Association CO.4 (1963); Darlaston Urban District Council DA.2-30; Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust LO.4 (1961); Sutton Coldfield Borough SU.4A-22.

## **LOCKSMITHS**

Saunders & Haddon, Willenhall SA.10.

### **MAHINDRA OWEN PRIVATE Ltd., India**

Annual accounts AN.2; General IN.2 (1960).

### **MECHANAIR (R.O) Ltd., Brownhills (Welding equipment manufacture)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General ME.4.

## **METAL ASSEMBLIES DIVISION**

General ME.3.

## **METAL EQUIPMENT DIVISION**

Darlaston and Wrexham works ME.2-2/1.

## **MOTOR DIVISION**

In 1958 A.D. Owen took charge of the division and his correspondence is at MSS.338/RO/4/1/5 with an index at MSS.338/RO/4/3/3. Sir Alfred Owen's files include:

General MO.3/1; Austin taxi axles AU.2; Automobile chassis and axle testing schedules AU.9; Axle case dept. AX.1,3; Dept. 18 MO.5; Dept. 19 MO.7/2; Hot press meetings MO.3/5; P.C. Jones MO.3; Light and heavy axles MO.4-4/1; T.R.S. Lloyd, Motor Frame dept. LL.3 (1949); Motor Wheel dept. MO.7, 13-14; F. Read, Motor Wheel dept. RE.1 (1949); Trailers MO.6; Wednesbury Works (Church Street) MO.5/1; Wednesbury Works (Meeting Street) MO.3/7.

## **MOTOR PANELS (COVENTRY) Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; Accounts; Board meetings; Managing Director (A.J. Jacques) MO.8-11.

## **MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS**

Armstrong Siddeley Motors Ltd. AR.2; Austin Motor Co. Ltd. AU.1; Berkeley Coachwork Ltd. BE.8; Chrysler Motors Ltd. CH.7; Commer Cars CO.2-3; Daimler Co. DA.1,3; Dennis Bros. Ltd. DE.6; Ford Motor Co. Ltd. FO.1-1A; Guy Motors GU.4; Humber Ltd. HU.3-5; Invicta Cars Ltd. IN.11; Isetta - B.M.W. IS.1; Jaguar Cars Ltd. JA.1; Morris Commercial Cars Ltd. MO.1; Morris Motors Ltd. MO.2; Rootes Group RO.8 (1964); Rover Co. Ltd. RO.6; Standard Motor Co. Ltd. ST.27; Vauxhall Motors Ltd. VA.2; Volvo VO.1; Vulcan Motor & Engineering Co. (1906) Ltd. MSS.338/RO/4/1/4/5.

## **NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

General NA.9 (1964).

## **NATIONAL SAVINGS MOVEMENT**

Correspondence and meetings SA.11-12.

## **NUTS & BOLTS LTD., Darlaston**

Annual accounts AN.2; General; meetings NU.1-2; Hartley & Baldwins Ltd. NU.3 (1963); Kenwall Engineers Ltd. NU.5 (1964); J. Stanley & Co. Ltd. NU.4 (1963). Company records are at MSS.338/ROF/2.

*See also* Fasteners Group

## **OFFICE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE**

Leabank Office Equipment Ltd. LE.2; Metal equipment division ME.2-2/1.

*See also* J.E. Owen; Wrexham Works

### **OWEN, Alfred David**, Joint Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chairman

Correspondence for the period 1959 - 1969 can be found in MSS.338/RO/4/1/5. He was appointed General Manager of the Motor Division in 1959 and a Joint Deputy Managing Director in 1967. After Sir Alfred's stroke in 1967 he took an increasingly active role as Acting Chairman.

### **OWEN, Alfred Ernest**

A partner with John Rubery, he became the sole proprietor of Rubery, Owen & Company in 1910. Little has survived for this period except two letter books covering the period 1897 - 1912 MSS.338/RO/5/1-2; two private letter books maintained while he was on holiday, 1921 - 1928 MSS.338.338/RO/5/3-4; and the minutes of the Management Committee, 1912 - 1922 MSS.338/RO/1/1/1B - 2B, only the photocopies of which can be used.

### **OWEN, Sir Alfred George Beech**, Chairman and Joint Managing Director

Correspondence with committed Christians who were contemporary undergraduates, incl. Dr. Joost de Blank (later Archbishop of Cape Town) occurs in Cambridge University CA.10. Other files of a more personal nature include: Lectures and addresses OW.6; Managers and Managing Directors' circulars MA.4; National Road Safety Advisory Council NA.9 (1964); New Hall Estate NE.3; Presidencies and Vice presidencies PR.6; Worshipful Company of Coachmakers WO.3.

### **OWEN, Ernest William Beech**, Joint Managing Director

He started farming in 1938 and developed the agricultural engineering part of the business. In addition, as director in charge of the Contracts Division, he developed a range of products made under licence from US manufacturers. His records can be found in MSS.338/RO/4/1/3 and cover the period 1949 - 1967.

### **OWEN, John Ernest**, Joint Deputy Managing Director

Appointed Managing Director of Easiclene Domestic Equipment Ltd. and Leabank Office Equipment Ltd. in 1963, he took over the Contracts Division in 1967. His files from 1967 to 1968 are listed at MSS.338/RO/4/3/4/1.

**OWEN-KLEINE Ltd.** (Reinforced concrete building systems)

Annual accounts AN.2; General OW.9 (1960). Company records are MSS.338/ROS/9.

**OWEN ORGANISATION ESTATES Ltd.**, Darlaston

Annual accounts AN.2; General OW.10 (1964); Rubery Owen housing estate, Darlaston RU.6. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/10.

**OWEN ORGANISATION (TRANSPORT) Ltd.**, Darlaston

Annual accounts AN.2; General OW.8 (1965).

**OWEN RACING MOTOR ASSOCIATION**

See B.R.M.

**POLITICAL**

Conservative Party CO.6; County Councils Assoc. CO.4 (1963).  
See also Darlaston Urban District Council; Sutton Coldfield Borough

**PORT HAMBLE Ltd.**, Southampton(Yacht marina)

Annual accounts for Port Hamble and Luke Bros Ltd. AN.2; Express Dairy Co. Ltd. EX.3; K.L.G. Sparking Plugs Ltd. KL.3; Meetings PO.2-3.

**PRODUCTS, Various, not elsewhere listed**

Caravans CA.9; Glass fibre project FI.2 (1961); Hallsworth automatic moulding machinery HA.3; Hendrickson suspension unit HE.1; Lathes ROW.10; Pallets PA.3.

**PUBLICATIONS**

The company published a quarterly magazine, *Goodwill*, which was originally intended for employees but was later also issued to customers, from 1950 to 1980 MSS.338/RO/6/1. In addition a house newspaper was also published, variously entitled *R.O. News*, *Owen News* and *RO News*, between 1952 and 1981 MSS.338/RO/6/2. Trade catalogues and advertising pamphlets which have survived can be found in MSS.338/RO/6/3. Sir Alfred's files contain drafts of items for publication:  
Magazine MA.5; News Sheet NE.4.

**PUBLICITY**

Advertising AD.2; Supplements and write-ups (for *Daily Mail*) SU.4.

## **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

General RE.3.

## **ROAD MAKING EQUIPMENT**

Barber-Greene Olding & Co. Ltd. BA.3.

## **ROCKWELL Ltd.**

General SO.1C.

## **ROGERS & JACKSON Ltd., Wrexham (Retailers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General; Meetings; Sales returns and finances RO.1-3.  
Company records are at MSS.338/ROJ/1.

*See also* Distributors' Group

For background *see* E. Scourfield, *Agricultural implement makers* (1983), p.3

## **ROWEN-ARC Ltd., Brownhills (Welding equipment)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General RO.1.

*See also* Invicta Electrodes Ltd., Mechanair Ltd.

## **RUBEROWEN (SOUTH AFRICA) Ltd. (Metal pressings)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.15 (1961).

## **RUBERY, OWEN & Co. Ltd. (1920-1966)**

### **RUBERY OWEN HOLDINGS Ltd. (1966-)**

Annual accounts AN.2; Chairman's circulars MA.4; Company re-structuring FI.8;  
Development RU.11; Directors' meetings RU.2A; Financial matters FI.1-11;  
General RU.3; Group superannuation RU.14; Managing Directors' meetings MA.5;  
Management Committee MA.1; Directors' meetings RU.2A; Recreation club RU.1-  
2, 4-5, 8-10; Rubery Owen (Holdings) Ltd. RU.18 (1965).

*See also* Departments and Divisions; Directors; Sales; Export; Supplies

### **RUBERY OWEN & Co. Ltd. (1966-1985),**

### **RUBERY OWEN (DARLASTON) Ltd. (1975-9)**

With the establishment of the holding company, the manufacturing factories were brought together into a new company under the direction of John Ernest Owen in 1966. The records can be found at MSS.338/ROD/1, and its subsidiary companies, Rubery Owen (Scotland) Ltd., Rubery Owen Hydraulics Ltd. and Rubery Owen Mechanical Equipment Ltd., are at MSS.338/ROD/2-4.

**RUBERY OWEN (CONVEYANCER) Ltd.**, Warrington (Fork-lift truck manufacture)

Annual accounts AN.2 (1973). Company records are at MSS.338/ROC/1.  
*Previously* Conveyancer Ltd. 1964 and Electro-Hydraulics Ltd. 1946-1964 (*q.v.*)  
*See also* Conveyancer Group

**RUBERY OWEN - DROTT Ltd.** (4-in-One shovel manufacture)

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.13 (1964).  
*See also* Contracts Division; E.W.B. Owen's files at MSS.338/RO/4/1/3

**RUBERY OWEN (HEATING) Ltd.** (Industrial and domestic heating)

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.13. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/13.  
*See also* Heat & Air division HE.3 (1962); Shorrock Superchargers Ltd.

**RUBERY OWEN KEPSTON Ltd.** (Pulley manufacture)

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.7.

**RUBERY OWEN (LINWOOD) Ltd.**, Scotland (Automobile engineers)

Annual accounts AN.2; General DO.1 (1965). Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/15.  
*Previously* Wm. Donaldson (Engineers) Ltd.

**RUBERY OWEN (PLANT HIRE) Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.17 (1965).

**RUBERY OWEN (PUMPS) Ltd.**, Leicester (Petrol pump manufacture)

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.16 (1964). Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/17.

**RUBERY OWEN (SOUTH AFRICA) Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General RU.15 (1960).

**RUBERY OWEN SUPERANNUATION FUND**

General RU.14; Group superannuation RU.14.

**RUBERY OWEN (WARRINGTON) Ltd.** (Axle and lathe manufacturers)

Annual accounts AN.2; Accounts and balance sheets; Board meetings; General; Managing director; Lathes; Weekly production reports; Welfare and sports ROW.1-15. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/18.

*See also* J.E. Owen

## **SALES & MARKETING (Rubery Owen)**

Bristol Office BR.1; Correspondence and meetings GE.2; Coventry agents (Simpson & Smart) SI.1; Sales division SA.3; Sales liaison GE.3; London Office (Kent House) KE.1; Manchester Office MA.6; Market research MA.10 (1964); Northern & Eastern Representative NO.2; Sales manager's letters SA.3; Scottish Office SC.1; Southampton Office SO.4; U.S.A. US.1.

## **SALOPIAN ENGINEERS Ltd., Prees (Agricultural engineers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; Board meetings; General; Managing Director; Progress reports; Production SA.4-6,8.

## **SALOPIAN KENNETH HUDSON Ltd., Prees (Agricultural engineers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General manager SA.13. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/20.

## **SALOPIAN-TELLOCK Ltd., Prees (Agricultural appliances)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General SA.14.

## **SAUNDERS & HADDON, Willenhall (Locksmiths)**

General SA.10.

## **SCOTLAND**

New factory, Cumbernauld (1962) SC.2; Wm. Donaldson & Son Ltd. DO.1; Sales SC.1.

## **SHORROCK SUPERCHARGERS Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General SH.6. Company records are at MSS.338/ROS/21.

## **SHUKER & SON (SHREWSBURY) Ltd., Shrewsbury (Agricultural and Motor vehicle agents)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General; Meetings; Sales SH.3-5.

## **G.R. SMITHSON & Co. Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General SM.3.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

Rubery Owen Scott (Pty.) Ltd. SO.1; Ruberowen (South Africa) Ltd. RU.15 (1964); Rubery Owen (South Africa) Ltd. RU.15; Van der Bijl Engineering Co. Ltd. VE.2.

## **STAFF**

*See* Employees

## **STRUCTURAL DIVISION**

General ST.29.

## **SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

*See under* Company name

## **SUPPLIES**

Central Stores CE.3; Director DI.1-2; Material control MA.8; Steel control ST.28.

## **A.G. SUTHERLAND Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General SU.3. Company records are at MSS.338/RODE/2.

## **SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Sir Alfred Owen served as a councillor in the Royal Borough of Sutton Coldfield from 1937 to 1974. The papers which he received as a councillor have been preserved in the series SU.4A-22. Other files include:

Minworth Social Club & Institute MI.9; Walmley WA.1.

## **TEMPLEWOOD CABINETS Ltd., Wolverhampton (Kitchen equipment manufacture)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General TE.3 (1965). Company records are at MSS.338/RODE/5.

*See also* Domestic Equipment Group; Easiclene Domestic Equipment Ltd.; J.E. Owen

## **TRADE ASSOCIATIONS**

A.B.B.E.M (Association of British Business Equipment Manufacturers) AB.1; Aircraft Bolt & Nut Assoc. (Heathcote & Coleman) HE.2; British Bolt and Nut Assoc. BR.10; British Iron & Steel Federation BR.11; British Welding Research Assoc. BR.13; Commercial Vehicle Frame Assoc. (Peat, Marwick & Mitchell) PE.1; Engineering & Allied Employers' Association EN.3; Federation of British Industries FE.1; Frame Research Council PE.1; Midland Bolt, Nut, Screw & Rivet Employers' Assoc MI.2; National Union of Manufacturers NA.5; Office Appliances Trade Association OF.1; Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders SO.2; Wednesbury & Darlaston Manufacturers Assoc. (W.A.D.M.A) WE.1-2; West Bromwich, Smethwick & District Manufacturers' Assoc. WE.18.

## **TRADE UNIONS**

Amalgamated Engineering Union AM.1; Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians AS.3; Clerical & Administrative Workers' Union CL.1; Shop Stewards SH.1-2; Superintendents' & Staff Foremen's Assoc. SU.23; Transport & General Workers' Union TR.5.  
*See also:* Employees; Industrial Relations

## **TRAINING**

*See* Education and training

## **UNIVERSITIES**

Sir Alfred Owen served on the Councils of two universities and received all the Councils' working papers. Birmingham BI.4-7; Keele (*orig.* North Staffordshire) UN.3-7.

## **VAN DER BIJL ENGINEERING CORPORATION Ltd., South Africa (Vecor)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General VE.2.

## **VELOCE Ltd. (Motor cycle manufacturers)**

General VE.1 (1959).

## **WADDINGTON TOOLS Ltd. (Tool makers)**

Annual accounts AN.2; General WA.1.

## **S. WALKER & SON**

Annual accounts AN.2; General WA.2.

## **WALSALL, South Staffs**

General WA.4; Walsall Football Club WA.5.

## **WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB**

Correspondence and Board meetings WA.5.

## **WARDEN & Co. Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General WA.6.

## **WEDNESBURY, South Staffs**

General WE.3; Wednesbury & Darlaston Manufacturers' Assoc.(W.A.D.M.A.) WE.1-2.

## **WELFARE**

General WE.7; Day nursery DA.32; Dyffryn Convalescent Home DY.1; Retirement preparation panel RE.4; Sons of Rest workshop RE.4; Rubery Owen Recreation Club RU.1,4-5,9-10; Warrington Sports Club ROW.13.

## **WEST BROMWICH**

Hospital Management Committee WE.8,10-17; West Bromwich, Smethwick & District Manufacturers' Assoc. WE.18.

## **FRED WHITELEY Ltd.**

Annual accounts AN.2; General WH.1 (1961).

## **WOLVERHAMPTON WORKS**

General WO.5.

## **WREXHAM WORKS**

Apprentices WR.1; General WR.3; Financial matters WR.5; Glass fibre project FI.2 (1961); Safety WR.9; Sales WR.10; Mechanical Equipment Division ME.2, 2/1.

*See also* Leabank Office Equipment Ltd.; J.E. Owen

## **YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

Bentley Estate Youth Club BE.4; Birmingham Youth for Christ BI.9; Boys Brigade BO.2; Boy Scouts BO.4; British Youth for Christ BR.13a; Church Lads' Brigade CH.9; Crusaders Union CR.4-5; Dr. Barnardo's BA.9-17; National Children's Home and Orphanage NA.1; National Sunday School Union NA.6; National Young Life Campaign NA.7; Princess Alice Orphanage PR.1; National Union of Students NA.6; Victoria Youth Club, Darlaston VI.2; Y.M.C.A. YM.1-2.

## PUBLICATIONS

The *Summary Guide* (1995), price £5.00, contains brief descriptions of the Centre's accessions to July 1995. Fuller descriptions appear in the original *Guide* (1977), price £2.50, in the *Supplement* (1981), price £3.00, in Part 2 of the *Consolidated Guide* (1986), price £5.00, and in the *Supplement* to the *Consolidated Guide* (1992), price £6.00.

In addition to the guides (p.2), the following publications relating to the Centre's holdings or fields of interest have been issued; those still in print are available from the Centre (post free inland) :

*The Taff Vale case : a guide to the ASRS records*, 1978, £2.00

*The Osborne case papers & other records of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants*, 1979, £2.50

*A shop steward at Oxford*, 1980, out of print (available in fiche from Microform Academic Publishers)

*The first Labour Correspondent and the Board of Trade Library*, 1983, £1.25

*The Confederation of British Industry & predecessor archives*, 1997, £5.00

*The International Transport Workers' Federation archive*, 1985, £2.25

*Trade union & related records* (pocket guide to deposits), 7th ed. *in preparation*

*Women at work and in society*, 2nd, enlarged, edition, 1991, £4.00

*A postman's round* (extracts from the diary of a Victorian letter-carrier in E. London), reprint, 1991, £3.50

*The Trades Union Congress archive 1920-60*, 1992, £4.00

*Employers' & trade associations' history*, 1992, £3.75

*Tom Mann : a bibliography*, 1993, £3.00

*Automotive history sources in Coventry archives*, 1996, £4.00

*The personal papers of Sir Victor Gollancz*, 1997, £3.00

Microfiche No.1 *British Employers' Confederation Archive*, 1983, £15

*Register of business records of Coventry & related areas*, pub. Lanchester Polytechnic, 1977, £3.00

Further titles in this *Information Leaflet* series include:

- No.2 *Pacifist history*, 10p
- No.3 *Taff Vale Case additional papers*, 10p
- No.4 *CBI predecessor archive*, gratis
- No.5 *Bevin TGWU papers*, 10p
- No.6 *Notes on local labour records*, 20p
- No.7 *Engineering Employers' Federation records*, 10p
- No.8 *Papers of R.A. (Dick) Etheridge*, 20p
- No.9 *Trades Union Congress deposited records*, 75p
- No.10 *Cinema history sources*, 40p
- No.11 *Road haulage history sources*, £1.00



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