

Pattern books from the Calico Printers Association collection

Archival reference code : YA1968.1/MS0409

Title: Pattern books from the Calico Printers Association collection

Dates: 1795-1923

Level: fonds

Extent: 10 linear metres

Creator:

The Rossendale Printing Co. Ltd

Thornliebank Co Ltd

Administrative/biographical history :

Textile printing company, known to have been active between c1795-1899, based in Crawshawbooth, Rawtenstall. The company became part of the Calico Printers Association in 1899.

Thornliebank Co Ltd was one of a number of British textile printing companies which amalgamated in 1899 to form the Calico Printers Association. The Thornliebank textile works was established by Robert Osburn in 1779. When Osburn went bankrupt in 1789, John Crum bought the business for his sons Alexander and James. The new company, Alexander & James Crum & Co, manufactured muslin and printed linens at Thornliebank. The company expanded to become one of the leading Scottish printworks, employing over 1,500 people. Alexander Crum's sons, John and Walter, took on the management of the business in 1819, changing the company name to John & Walter Crum & Co. Walter Crum had studied chemistry at Glasgow University, before continuing his studies with James Thomson, an accomplished chemist and pioneer of scientific industry based at Primrose Works in Clitheroe, Lancashire. On joining the family firm, Walter Crum represented the company's interests abroad, travelling to Syria, Turkey, France and Germany. He returned to his studies at Glasgow University in 1818, and published his first scientific paper, "Indigo", in 1823. Walter Crum later put his scientific theories into practice at Thornliebank, building a laboratory on the site and continuing his

research into dyeing. His interest in the dyeing process influenced the direction of the company, with the introduction of new colours and improvements in printing techniques. Walter Crum took sole control of the company in 1858. Under his direction, the best machinery available was installed at Thornliebank, followed by improvements to water purity and flow, and improvement of workforce conditions. Walter Crum was succeeded in the management of the company by his son Alexander, who took over the business on his father's death in 1867. Alexander and his brother William converted the business into a private, limited company in 1886, renaming it Thornliebank Co Ltd. The printworks continued operating until 1930, but from 1899 was part of the Calico Printers Association. From 1901, the company also had a design studio, with space for five designers, in the Calico Printers Association headquarters on Portland Street, Manchester.

Scope and Content : 10 pattern books of printed cottons, including books from the following Calico Printers Association collections: Rossendale Collection (printed cottons, English velvets, prints and delaines, printed cottons and fancies); Thornliebank Collection; DK Collection (cottons). The Thornliebank Collection and the Rossendale Collection were groupings of bound volumes of fabric samples from each company used by the designers for reference purposes.

Related people and institutions:

Thornliebank Co Ltd
Calico Printers Association Ltd
The Rossendale Printing Co. Ltd

Subjects covered:

Textile industry

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:

Calico Printers' Association Ltd (Gift, 1968)

Archival history:

Donated by the Calico Printers' Association to the North Western Museum of Science & Industry.

Both Thornliebank Co Ltd of Glasgow, and the Rossendale Printing Co had design studios at the Calico Printers' Association head office. When Thornliebank Works finally closed in October 1930, the design studio in Manchester was also wound up and the pattern books transferred to the Calico Printers' Association.

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Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/1**Level: item**

Title: Calico Printers Association Rossendale collection printed cottons sample book

Dates: 1795-1800

Scope and Content: Cotton treated, 166 pages.

Samples include abstract; floral abstract; abstract with floral abstract; stripes; stripes with floral abstract; stripes with abstract; stripes with floral abstract and abstract; stripes made of floral abstract; geometrical; geometrical with floral abstract or abstract; geometrical - flower abstract or abstract in regular order; various colours; a vast variety of stripes and stripes with floral extracts; colours - many black background and white pattern or red background and yellow pattern.

Creator(s):

The Rossendale Printing Co. Ltd

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/2**Level: item**

Title: Calico Printers Association Thornliebank collection printed cottons sample book

Dates: 1814-1815

Scope and Content: Cotton treated, 180 pages.

Samples include floral; floral abstract; abstract; feathers; Indian; geometrical; geometrical with floral abstract, abstract; geometrical - regular order of abstracts, flower abstracts; stripes with floral abstracts, abstracts, feathers; stripes made of abstracts, floral abstracts.

Creator(s):

Thornliebank Co Ltd

Related people and institutions:

Thornliebank Co Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/3**Level: item**

Title: Calico Printers Association Thornliebank collection printed cottons and delanes sample book

Dates: 1830-1840

Scope and Content: Cottons and Delanes treated, 286 pages.

Samples include stripes; stripes with floral abstract; stripes with abstract or geometrical shapes; stripes with abstract and floral abstract; abstract; floral abstract; geometrical; geometrical with floral abstract; geometrical - regular dots, floral abstracts, geometrical shapes; Indian; tartan; various colours; very abstract - hardly any resemblance with natural shapes such as flowers, etc.

Creator(s):

Thornliebank Co Ltd

Related people and institutions:

Thornliebank Co Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/4

Level: item

Title: Calico Printers Association DK collection printed cottons sample book

Dates: 1840-1850

Scope and Content: Cotton treated, 184 pages.

Samples include floral; floral abstract; abstract; stripes; stripes with abstract, floral abstract, floral; stripes made of floral abstract; stripes made of different shapes; stripes in waves; stripes in waves made of floral abstract; stripes with lamps, possibly Chinese; abstract with floral abstract; geometrical; geometrical with floral abstract; geometrical - shapes in regular order; Indian; Indian abstract; various colours.

Creator(s):

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/5

Level: item

Title: Calico Printers Association Rossendale collection English velvets sample book

Dates: 1844-1845

Scope and Content: Velvet treated, 100 pages.

Samples include geometrical; geometrical - regular order of shapes in lines; stripes; stripes with floral abstracts, dots, diamonds or abstracts; abstract; floral abstract; plain; check; Indian; various colours; mainly stripes in all variations.

Creator(s):

The Rossendale Printing Co. Ltd

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/6

Level: item

Title: Calico Printers Association Rossendale collection prints and delanes sample book

Dates: 1860

Scope and Content: Treated, 250 pages

Samples include floral; floral abstract; stripes; stripes with floral; stripes with abstract; stripes with floral abstract; stripes with geometrical pattern; geometrical; geometrical with floral abstract; geometrical with abstract; geometrical - regular order of floral abstract, dots, abstract, regular dots with floral abstract; abstract; abstract with floral abstract; abstract with geometrical pattern; Indian; landscape - Chinese; various colours.

Creator(s):

The Rossendale Printing Co. Ltd

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/7

Level: item

Title: Calico Printers Association Rossendale collection cotton fancies printed sample book

Dates: 1868-1870

Scope and Content: Cotton treated, 232 pages.

Samples include geometrical - florals, floral abstracts, dots, geometric shapes, animals, human images, in regular order; stripes; stripes with floral abstract, abstract or geometrical shapes; stripes made of florals, floral abstracts, geometrical shapes, chains or necklaces; abstract with floral abstract; abstract; very regular; various colours.

Creator(s):

The Rossendale Printing Co. Ltd

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/9

Level: item

Title: Calico Printers Association cottons sample book

Dates: 1923

Scope and Content: Cotton treated, 164 pages.

Samples include floral abstract; geometrical; geometrical with floral abstract; abstract; Indian; tartan; check; geometrical with floral abstract and peacock feather; various colours.

Creator(s) :

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd

Reference number: YA1968.1/MS0409/10

Level: item

Title: Calico Printers Association fabrics with woven patterns sample book

Dates: 1923

Scope and Content: Various fabrics treated, 300 pages.

Samples include: floral abstract; abstract; plain; floral; grain abstract; geometrical; Indian; stripes; stripes with abstract; geographical pattern with foreign letters; human abstract; human abstract - Egyptian; animal abstract; Chinese houses, dragon; Chinese abstract; Chinese letters; scene - Chinese; scene - fighting abstract; scene - probably Eastern Europe or Russia; scene - woman in the jungle; photograph of an Egyptian obelisk; various colours; many Chinese and Egyptian scenes; often in the pattern stitched upon the fabric in the same colour as the background or just in only one different colour (e.g. background red, pattern blue).

Creator(s) :

Related people and institutions:

Calico Printers Association Ltd