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## **HILG**

Records of Adam Hilger Ltd, Scientific Apparatus and  
Instrument Makers, c.1875-1947

## **HILG**

Records of Adam Hilger Ltd. / Adam Hilger Ltd., London, [Astronomical and Optical Instrument Manufacturers] ca 1875-1947, 9 volumes and 1 box.

Research and product development reports 1916-1941, Frank Twyman's appointment notebook 1931 and 1933, lists of customers for various instruments 1875-1947 and notes on the history of the firm.

The firm was founded between September 1874 and March 1875 by Adam Hilger, a German from Darmstadt, with his brother Otto, to manufacture and sell scientific instruments. The premises were in 192 Tottenham Court Road but removed to Stanhope Street shortly afterwards and to 75a Camden Road in 1902. The business was incorporated as a limited liability company in 1904 with Mr Frank Twyman as Managing Director. The company specialised in the manufacture of optical lenses for rangefinders J quartz spectrographs, echelons and lummer plates for "which they gained a high reputation in Britain and Europe.

In 1948 having worked in close union with E R Watts and Son Ltd for two years, Adam Hilger Ltd and E R Watts & Son Ltd. I amalgamated to form one company registered as Hilger and Watts Ltd., Watts was founded in 1856 and specialised in the manufacture of Surveying and Engineers' Measuring Instruments which complemented Hilger's output. The firm was taken over by Rank Precision Industries in 1968.

The notes were donated to the Science Museum Library by Hilger Analytical, Margate, Kent in 1986.

**1           List of customers [compiled by members of Adam Hilger staff from the firm's records. All typescript]**

- 1/1           Glass Working and Optical Notes 1916 Mar - 1922 Mar  
Machining, Grinding, Polishing, Edging, Cementing and Etching of  
Glass and Silvering - Technical Notes  
p 1-9, 164, 177, 196a-d, 256-288 [Typescript]
- 1/2           Instruments and their manufacture 1916 Apr - 1921 Dec  
[Title page] Technical Notes concerning

- Instruments and their  
Manufacture [signed] F. Twyman.  
256p illus [Typescript]
- 1/3 Properties of Glass Calculations 1916 May - 1922  
Mar  
217p illus [Typescript with manuscript  
annotations and additions]
- 1/4 Researches Non-Optical, Research for Clients  
[and] Bibliographies  
1916 May - 1922 Mar  
[Title page signed] F Twyman  
307p [Typescript with manuscript annotations]
- 1/5 Instruments and Optical Work 1922 Apr - 1935 Mar  
Wages, Hours, Apprentices etc. 1920 Jul - 1935  
Mar  
p 272 - 484 [Typescript with manuscript  
annotations]
- 1/6 Confidential Bulletin of Development 1934 Apr -  
1935 Apr  
[gives details of product development and results  
of experiments]  
106p [Typescript]
- 1/7 Progress in Hilger Instruments 1936 Jan - 1941  
Jan  
103p [Typescript]
- 1/8 Miscellaneous notes on materials used, rules and  
regulations  
applicable in test room, instruments manufactured  
etc. 1915-1934
- 1/9 F. Twyman's notebook of visit to Midlands 1931  
Nov, to S.W. England,  
Wales, Oxford, Reading and Birmingham 1933 Nov  
[Giving firms and institutions visited, comments  
on visits, instruments ordered etc. Typescript  
and manuscript, 110p]
- 2 List of customers [compiled by members of Adam  
Hilger staff from the firm's records. All  
typescript]**
- 2/1 List of customers, instruments bought and  
comments on Hilger products 1875-1897 [17p]
- 2/2 List of customers, dates and instruments

- purchased from 1927-1932  
Spekker Steeloscope, Monochrome Illuminator and  
Infra-red Spectrometers [17p]
- 2/3 List of customers, dates, instruments purchased  
and prices 1917-1949  
Interferometers [16p]
- 2/4 List of customers and dates 1919-1934  
Annealing Apparatus [2p]
- 2/5 List of customers, dates and prices 1928-1930 and  
1940  
Photo-Elastic Apparatus and Accessories [2p]
- 2/6 List of customers 1934 and 1938  
Users of the Vitameter A. [4p]
- 2/7 List of customers, 1933  
Guild Trichromatic Colorimeter [1p]
- 2/8 List of customers and date 1936-1938  
Absorptiometer [3p]
- 2/9 List of customers, and size of instruments bought  
Matochrome [3p]
- 2/10 List of purchasers 1930  
Audiometer [1p]
- 2/11 List of customers  
"Millionaire" Calculating Machines [1p]
- 2/12 List of customers and date 1923-1940  
Spectrograph [29p]
- 2/13 List of customers and date 1927-1932  
Thermopiles [8p]
- 2/14 List of customers, date and instruments bought  
1899-1933  
Echelons and Etalons [55p]
- 2/15 List of customers, date and instrument bought  
1928-1932 and 1936  
Interferometers [3p]
- 2/16 List of orders from Germany [1929-19327] [2p]
- 2/17 Customers in Japan 1907-1928 and 1947 [5p]

- 2/18 Sales Invoices 1881, 1912-1913 [3p]  
Exchange Rates - effects on prices 1950 [3p]
- 3 Material on the history of the firm and staff employed by the firm**
- 3/1 History of Adam Hilger Ltd  
Correspondence, notes and brief histories of Adam Hilger Ltd [including a lecture by Twyman ca. 1944]
- 3/2 Correspondence and printed Notice on formation of Hilger and Watts Ltd 1948 [7p]
- 3/3 Correspondence, notices and circulars relating to the staff of Adam Hilger Ltd and Hilger and Watts Ltd [27p]
- 4 1916-1938 Adam Hilger Limited. Research publications [i.e. bound offprints of articles by members of staff]**
- /1 1916 Apr-  
1922 Jun
- /2 1923 May-  
1932 Apr
- /3 1932 -  
1938 Jan
- 5 Adam Hilger Limited. Technical and all other notes and confidential bulletins**
- /1/1-4 1924-1940 Vols. 1-4
- /2 1940-1943 Vol. 5
- 6 Scientific papers [of J C McLennan]**
- /1 1914 Mar-  
1928 Jun Proc. Roy. Soc.
- /2/1-2 1915 May-  
1929 Jan Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada [2 vols.]
- /3 1915-1929 Phil. Mag. 1915 Sept-1928 Oct; Nature 1925 Jan-1929 Feb
- /4 1914 Apr- Various publications



diffraction angle tables]

- /6            c.1968        Atomspek databook. [Reference book, heavily annotated/corrected, giving information re analysis by atomic absorption spectro-photometry]
  
- /7            1964 Aug      Instruction manual for the Willmore seismometer Mk II. SG450. (Issue 2). [36p. + 11 figs.]

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