A History of the Radiator

Brian Roberts & Paul Yunnie

Victorian ventilating radiator with ribbed pipes
William Graham & Sons, 35 Upper Thames, Street, London, 1897
The “Elmwood” sectional column radiator with gold decoration
Manufactured by the Elmwood Iron Works Chicago
[Domestic Engineering, c.1890]
The Beeston Boiler Co.

BEESTON, NOTTS

MANUFACTURERS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF
HEATING APPARATUS

View of Robin Hood Boiler and Radiator Works, Beeston.
Frontage—600 feet. Total area—20 acres.

20,000 TONS OF BOILERS, RADIATORS, PIPES
AND VALVES MANUFACTURED ANNUALLY

Please do not tear pages out of Catalogue; we are always willing to supply loose sheets.
ALL PREVIOUS LISTS CANCELLED.

1932.
Electric heaters [Catalogue of Crompton & Company, c.1900]

Electric radiators using glow lamps with reflectors, Drake & Gorham Ltd
[Building Services Engineering, Neville S Billington & Brian M Roberts, 1982]
French advertisement for “Ideal Classic,” Compagnie Nationale des Radiateurs
[Restoration Project, George Fuller, Building Services, May 1983]
A variety of European radiators (Corps de chauffe pour eau et vapeur)
[Traité Théorique et Pratique de Chauffage et de Ventilation, H Rietschel, 1911]

The following manufacturers have been identified: 2 Körting frères, 5 Käuffer et Cie,
6 Usines Métallurgiques Kaiserslautern, 7 & 17 Rietschel et Henneneberg
9-12 Compagnie Nationale des Radiateurs, 16 Sulzer frères
Longden & Co, Phoenix Foundry, Sheffield. Leed's patent “Sunbeam” radiator

Sole Makers of

Prepared either for steam or hot water.
All joints are screwed.
No India-rubber or other packing used.
10,000 Radiators of our make in use in Great Britain.
Made in circular and other forms.

Trade SUNBEAM. Mark.

London Office: 447 Oxford Street, W.

These Radiators are used in the following places:—
New Town Hall, Sheffield; National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh; Natural History Museum, South Kensington; New Assize Courts, Birmingham and Nottingham; Guildhall, Gloucester; Hove Town Hall; Ventnor Royal Hospital for Consumption; Polytechnic Institute, Regent Street, London; St. Paul’s Schools, West Kensington, London; Coats’ Memorial Church, Paisley; and many other public and private edifices.

Longden & Co, Phoenix Foundry, Sheffield. Leed's patent “Sunbeam” radiator
[A Practical Treatise upon Warming Buildings, Fredk Dye, 3rd edition, 1897]
Works and London Showroom of Lumbys Limited, Halifax

[Catalogue of “Solar” Boilers & Radiators, 1937]
A selection of radiators [Catalogue of Mackenzie & Moncur Limited, 1900
Hothouse Builders and Heating & Ventilating Engineers, Edinburgh & London]
Some radiators, coils & coil cases [Catalogue of Mackenzie & Moncur Limited, 1900
Hothouse Builders and Heating & Ventilating Engineers, Edinburgh & London]
John Bartlett Pierce
Born 1844 in Embden, Maine, founded the Pierce Steam Heating Company, which manufactured cast iron radiators. In 1892, Pierce merged his company with two others to become the American Radiator Company

American Radiator Building
New York, 1924
Architects Hood & Fouilhoux
National Radiator, Hull
A UK factory was established in the early 1900s

National Radiator Building
Great Marlborough Street, London, 1928
Architects Hood & Jeeves
[Art Deco Architecture, Patricia Bayer, 1999]
Showrooms and Works of The National Radiator Company Limited
[Ideal Manual, 1930]
Cast iron socket heating coil with return bends

Box end heating coil with external sockets

Rubber jointed heating coil

Heating coil with rubber joint rings compressed with bolts & nuts, Walter Jones, 1876

Box end heating coil with internal sockets

[Heating by Hot Water &c, Walter Jones, 3rd edition, 1904]
Perkins high pressure hot water heating coil
St Mary’s Church, East Brent, Somerset

Box end heating coil
Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire, 1870s

Cast iron pipework heating coil marked “W Sparrow, Martock”
[Montacute House, near Yeovil, Somerset]

Box end heating coil, St Mary the Virgin, Bristol, by Vincent Skinner c.1896
[Photographs by Frank Ferris, CIBSE Heritage Group]
Heating pedestals and high-pressure hot water coil
[Apparatus for Warming and Ventilating Buildings, A M Perkins, 1841]

Cast iron radiator covers by the Coalbrookdale Co, c.1870, incorporating Maw's pierced tiles
[The Decorative Tile, Tony Herbert & Kathryn Huggins, 1995]

Coil case [Jones, 1904]
Heating pedestals, coil inside a decorative base, Kingston Lacy, Dorset
[Photographs by Frank Ferris, CIBSE Heritage Group]
Oxbow or Washboard Radiator
Howard Steam Heating Co, 1856
[Smithsonian Institution]

“Ornate” decorated column radiators
United States Radiator Co, c.1900

Early decorated steam radiator, American patent model of 1859
[Manufactured Weather, exhibition leaflet Smithsonian Institution, 1993]
“Mattress” radiator, patent 1854

Nason’s “Standard” wrought iron radiators, c.1870
[An Historical Sketch of Central Heating: 1800-1860, Eugene S Ferguson]

Early 5-section steam radiator, c.1860
[A History of the Development of the Radiator, Ara Markus Daniels, Dom Eng, 11 January 1930]

Prototype 3-column radiator, c.1878

Food warming or warm closet radiator
[Domestic Engineering, Feb 1896]

“Ornate” radiator, United States Radiator Co [Dom Eng, Jan 1896]
“Whittier” radiator, H B Smith Co, c.1873

“Bundy” loop radiator, A A Griffing Iron Co, 1874

The “Reed” radiator, H M Smith Co, c.1876

[Examples of American radiators from Practical Steam and Hot Water Heating and Ventilation, Alfred G King, 1913]
The “Pyro” radiator, A A Griffing Iron Co, 1876

“Elite” radiator, A A Griffing Iron Co, 1877

Wall radiator, Fowler & Wolfe, 1897 or before
Kalamazoo “Vine” pattern radiator

Griffing “Bundy” duplex base ventilating radiator

Jarecki Mfg Co Ltd, Erie, PA

[Examples of American radiators from issues of Domestic Engineering in the 1890s]
“Aurora” decorated column radiator

“Leader” ornamental radiator
Telegraphic Address: "WARMING, LONDON."

Contractors to H.M. War Office, School Board for London, Corporation of the City of London, Metropolitan Asylums Board, &c.

J. WONTNER-SMITH GRAY & CO.
Hot Water and Steam HEATING ENGINEERS,
81 FINSBURY PAVEMENT, LONDON.
Works: 26 PHIPP STREET, E.C.

Manufacturers of
HIGH & LOW PRESSURE HOT WATER APPARATUS
FOR WARMING
Churches, Schools, Mansions, Private Residences, Asylums, Hospitals, Public Libraries and every description of Public Buildings.

THE FINSBURY RADIATOR.

These Radiators have been fixed in the following Buildings:—Mansion House, London, Guildhall New Offices, City of London Court, Public Libraries at Camberwell, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., Mount Street, W., Stoke Newington, &c.; also Inkerman Barracks, Woking, Military Hospital, Colchester, &c.