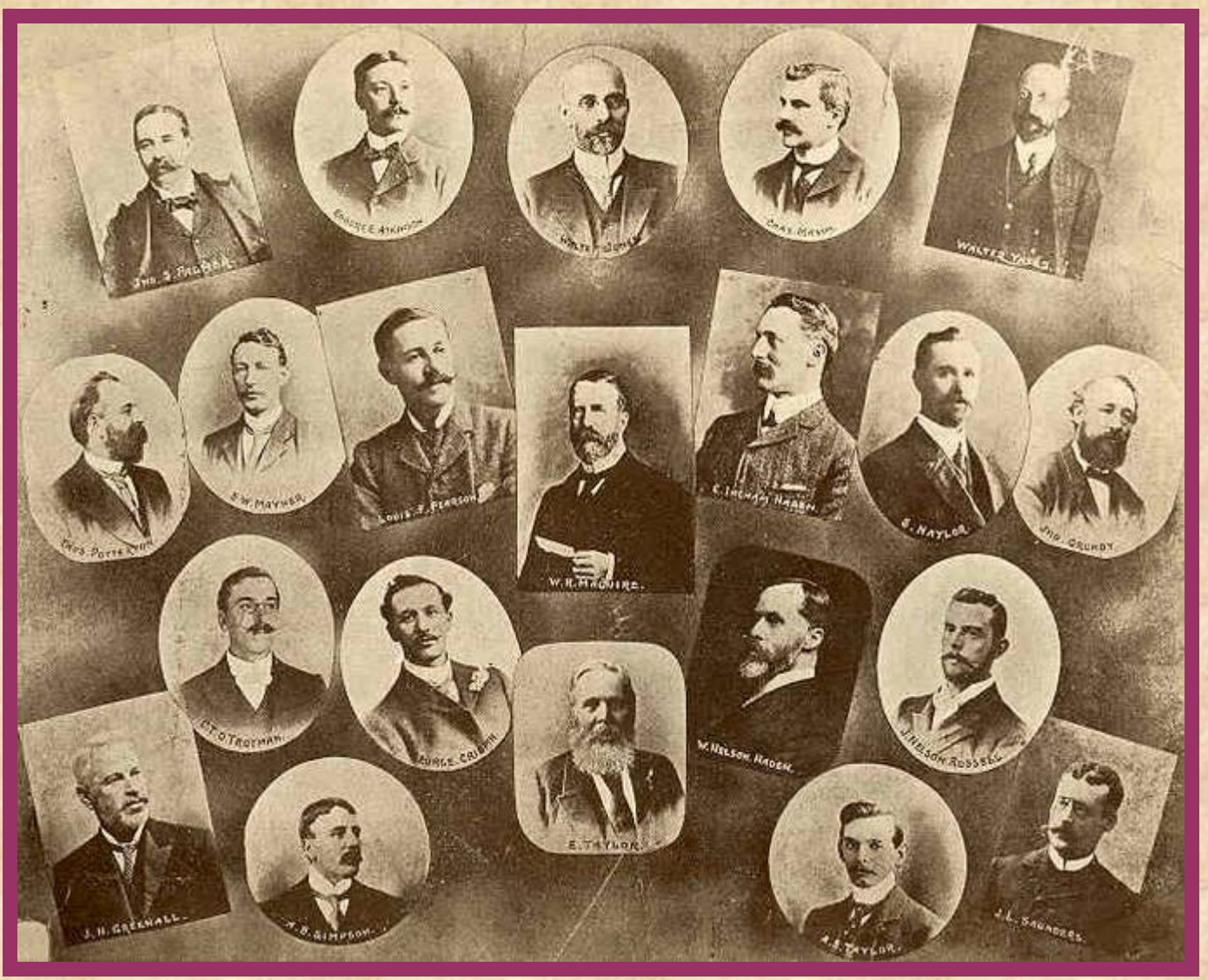
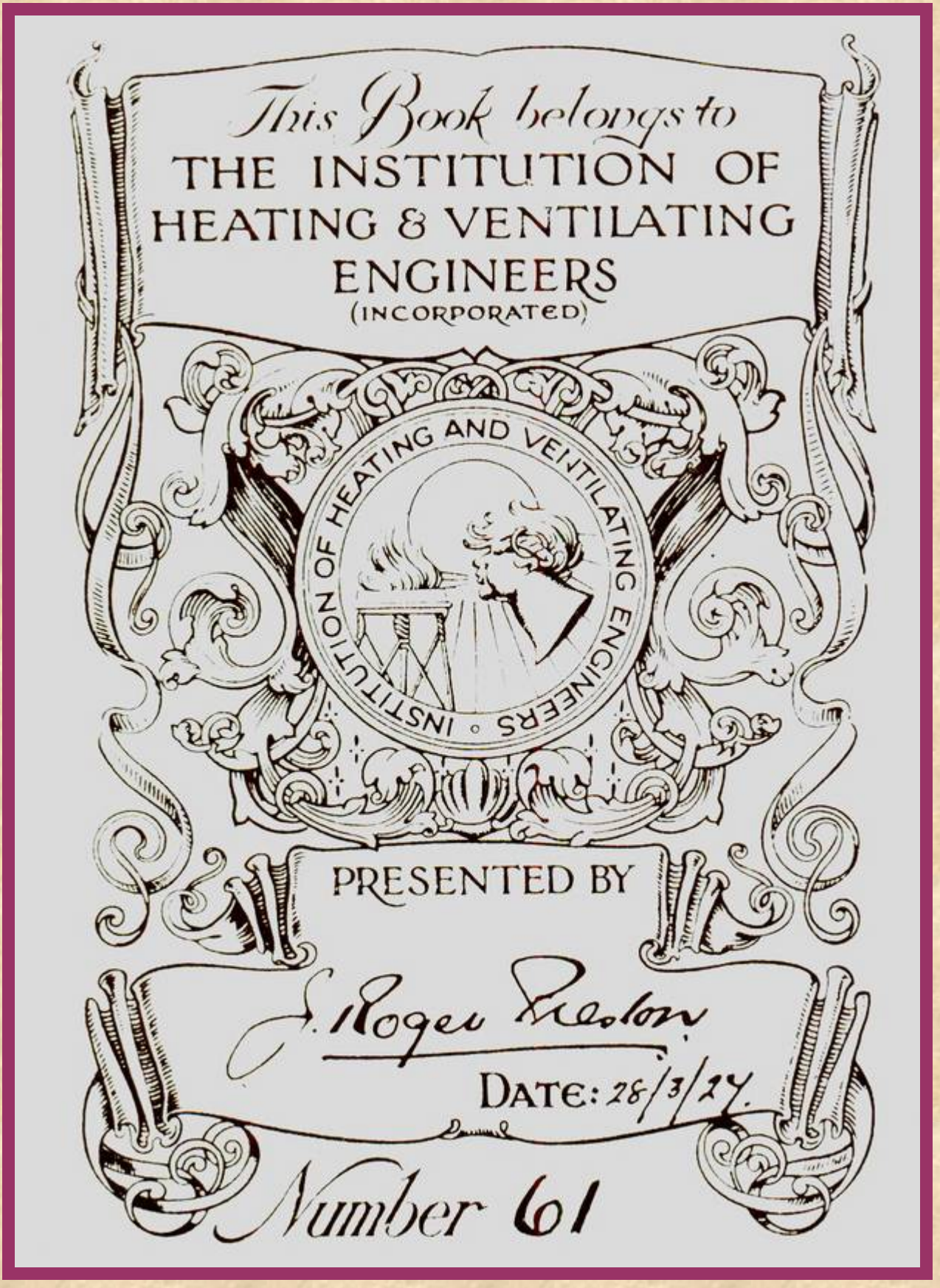
For the Greater Comfort of Mankind



The Story of the Presidents of the Institution of Heating & Ventilating Engineers



Bookplate from "The Mechanical Production of Cold" presented to the IHVE by J Roger Preston, President 1920

For the Greater Comfort of Mankind

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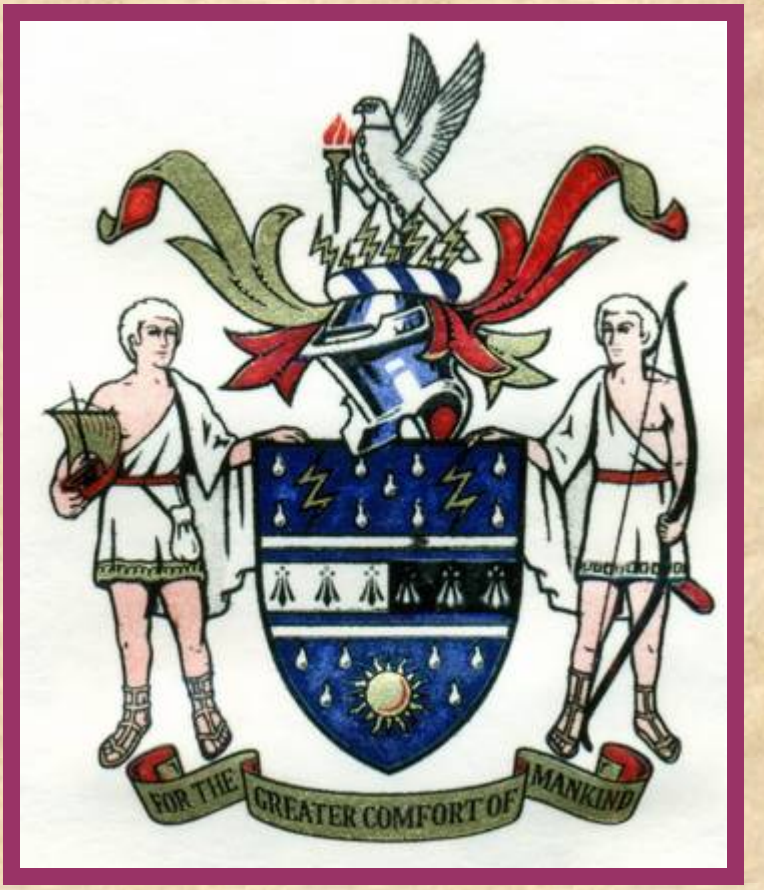
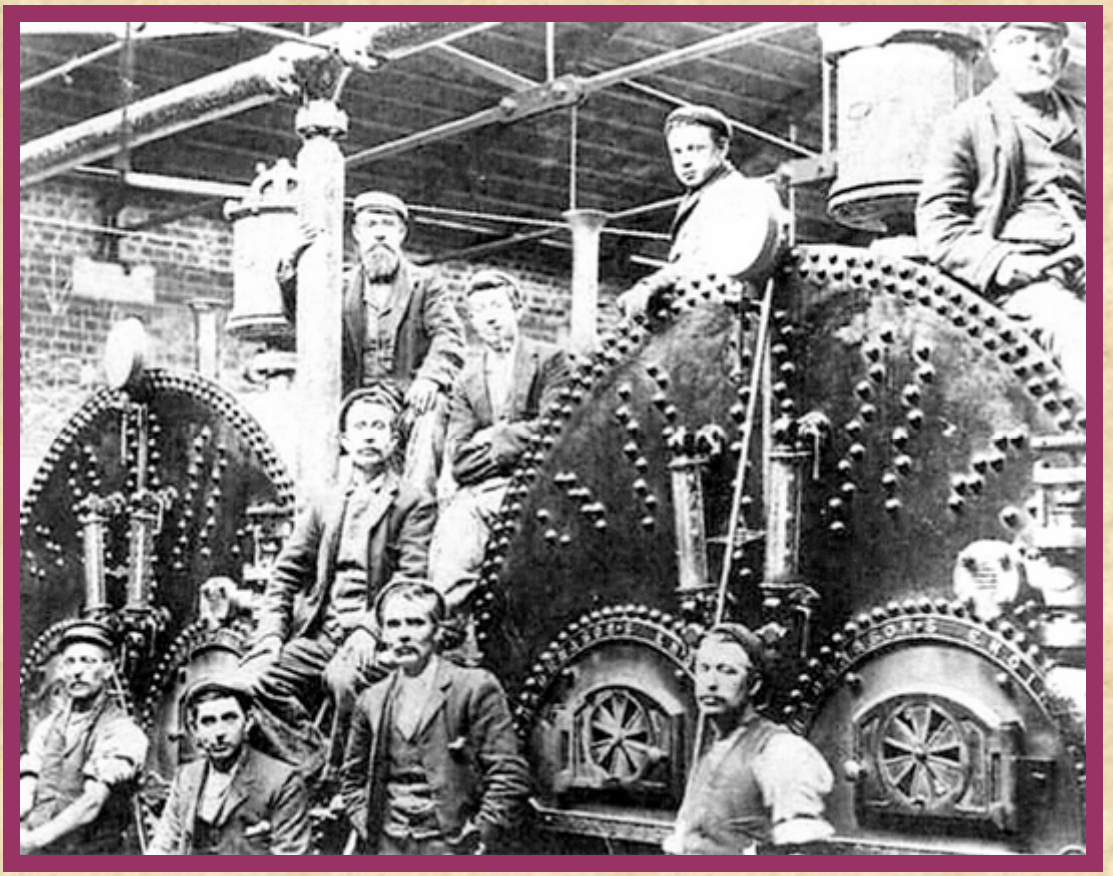


The Story of the Presidents of the Institution of Heating & Ventilating Engineers

For the Greater Comfort of Mankind

Eur Ing ***Brian Roberts*** *CEng HonFCIBSE MASHRAE*
Chairman, CIBSE Heritage Group 1984-2011



The steam boiler erection team (G N Haden, 1890s)
Haden family who served as IHVE Presidents were
William Nelson 1906-7, Chas Ingham 1910 & George Nelson 1938

Fan delivery 1890s (Matthews & Yates)
Walter Yates was IHVE President in 1909

Contents

1897-1909: The First Years

1910-1919: The Great War

1920-29: The Roaring Twenties

1930-39: The Depression Part-1

1930-39: The Depression Part-2

1940-49: World War II & the Aftermath

1950-59: The Recovery Years

1960-69: The Institution Flourishes

1970-76: Chartered Status Achieved

Information Section

Introduction: History of the Early IHVE

George Crispin, IHVE President in 1905, remembers

Three Pines,
3, Ivywell Road.,
Sneyd Park,
Bristol 9.
July 12th 1943,

History of The ~~Association~~ Institution.

Dear Miss Moran,

Herewith are my recollections of early History.

In the year 1898 my Firm was approached by a Mr. Harris as to whether a member of our Firm would join an Association of Engineers of which Mr. Grundy. Senior was President.

We turned it down as on enquiry we found the main mover was a Company Promotor.

Later on in 1899 when a circular was received inviting to inaugural meeting of Heating Engineers at Kings Hall, Holborn Restaurant and circular was signed by the late Edward Taylor, [of revered Memory] I arranged to attend and did so on return journey from Luton where we had a Contract on and where I had attended a Masonic Function.

On entering the Hall I saw about fifty people standing about in small groups and was struck with the deadly silence, Louis Pearson [Sir Louis now] came forward and said he was glad to see some-one he knew.

Always inclined to be matey I walked round to the groups told them my name and asked theirs and got them to fraternize and in ten minutes or so there was a buzz of conversation like a Corn Exchange.

Edward Taylor Secretary Pro-tem read the notice calling the meeting and asked for name of Chairman for the day.

I mentioned that Walter Jones [also of blessed Memory] another friend of mine was the oldest man in the Trade and he was for it, he was a splendid Chairman and was elected President for 1899.

Had it not been for him Sir Louis Pearson, John Palmer, Edward Taylor and a few others I could mention who paid out the original Promotor there would not be the flourishing Institution thereis to-day.

A Banquet had been arranged and after the loyal toast had been honoured Walter Jones said. ' Well Gentlemen we have had a very harmonious business meeting and I trust some-one will favour us with a Song ' there was a long silence and an Engineer sitting next to me said:- ' You look as if you could sing a good song ' I said well I am not exactly bursting to sing but I have a roll of songs downstairs.

Then I was for it and as no-one else could be prevailed on to hold forth I had to render the three chorus songs:-

The Longshoreman.
Three for Jack.
The Powder Monkey.

They all joined in manfully and with the aid of dear old John Palmer's few racy tales a splendid evening was spent and The Powder Monkey Chorus of soon we'el be in London Town proved a fact.

My Certificate is dated the 28th of February 1899.

The first Summer Meeting at Stourbridge was a great success and I was able to present a Photograph of Members taken that day to The Institution and I trust the London Blitz has not destroyed it.

I can recall many Summer Meetings apart from mine as President in 1905 and three of them stand out in my Memory:-

First:- The Dublin Meeting with our revered friend MacQuire as President.

The Second & Third the Council asked me to arrange.

The Second owing to illness of President Simpson I arranged at Windsor with the steamer Queen of England taking us up river with dinner at the Crown at Cookham, I had asked that Messrs Pearson & Jones should act with me, they did we met there previously & had a good dinner, they told me to get on with it and I did.

The Third Summer Meeting I arranged with White Hart Headquarters was lunch at Staines, tea at Hampton Court and evening finish at the Franco- British Exhibition.

The above Summer Meeting was arranged the second year of Mr. W.N. Hadens Presidency as it was felt not to be fair he should have second expense as President.

During my year as President I arranged Council Meeting the first evening and supper and a Masonic Reception Committee of four Brethren and their wives was a great help to me.

I consider the annual gatherings of Past Presidents has proved a great service to The Institution.

I was glad when they approved of my proposal for a reception committee at Summer Meetings and instanced that two Engineers who I had chummed up to at Summer Meetings told me they felt quite out of it knowing no-one there and that they had decided not to attend Meetings again, but after being introduced by me to other members everything was merry and bright.

Having reached my 76th year and travelled the world I have proved:

T'is the human touch in this world that counts
The touch of your hand and mine
That means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter or bread or wine
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er
and bread last only a day
But the grasp of the hand and the sound of thr voice
Sing on in the soul, always.

I could with thankfulness recount of many friendships formed, many alas broken by death and of men like my dear friend and brother Sam Naylor who so many times have seconded my efforts on the Presidents Outing Day in telling him and the Lady President how much we loved and appreciated them.

Good mens lives are a blessing to us and their death an inspiration to us.

We are Ships that pass in the night but for goodness sake let us signal to others as did the Night Watchman of old - Alls Well.

In conclusion I will say to all members as I did in my Presidential address in 1905:-

Do what you can being what you are
Shine like a glow-worm if you cannot be a Star
Work like a pulley if you cannot be a Crane
Be a wheel greaser if you cannot drive the train.

With all and to all good Wishes to each Member of the Institution hoping that the War will soon end so that enjoyable Summer Re-union Meetings may gladden many Hearts.,

Yours Faithfully.

George Crispin

Past President 1905 & 6.

The Oldest Heating Firm.

By H. B. WATT.

The recent correspondence in the journal on the question of the oldest heating firm suggested an inquiry into the origins of some of the firms on the membership roll of the National Association of Heating, Ventilating and Domestic Engineering Employers. Mr W. Nelson Haden has suggested some names, but below is a list which shows that at least nine heating engineering firms have been established over 100 years, one of them dating back for over two and a quarter centuries :—

	A.D.
Edward Deane & Beal, Ltd., London	1700
Rosser & Russell, Ltd., London	1770
A. Seward & Co., Ltd., Lancaster	1778
Clements, Jeakes & Co., London, now amalgamated with Benham & Sons, Ltd. ... ... previous to	1800
Comyn, Ching & Co., Ltd., London... previous to	1800
H. C. Price, Lea & Co., London ... ... about	1804
G. N. Haden & Sons, Ltd., Trowbridge	1816
Henry Hope & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham, now Hope's Heating & Lighting, Ltd.	1818
J. C. & J. S. Ellis, Ltd., Sheffield, now amalgamated with the Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd.	1825

The point as to when any one of these firms erected the earliest installations of central heating, as distinguished from stoves or firegrates fitted into rooms, is not easily elucidated, but we have information which takes this back to the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The editorial conjecture in THE IRONMONGER of October 27 that the first hot-water engineer practised in Bath is ingenious enough, but the activities of that individual, whoever he may have been, are easily beaten in antiquity by the cave dweller, who, when he first discovered the secret of fire raising, would certainly proceed to qualify as a heating engineer—of a kind.

The Oldest Heating Firm.

Dear Sir,—The letter from Mr. W. Nelson Haden in your issue of October 27 opens up a very interesting subject apart from the question of which is the oldest heating firm. Some years ago I endeavoured to trace the originator of low-pressure hot-water heating. With regard to the oldest heating firm, I believe I am right in stating that Messrs. Deane & Beal, Ltd., of London, was established in 1700, and Messrs. Rosser & Russell, Ltd., in 1770, but, as Mr. Haden inquires, when did these firms first commence central-heating work? The earliest date when low-pressure hot-water heating was introduced that I have been able to discover is 1716 (16 years later than the establishment of Messrs. Deane & Beal, Ltd.), when a Norwegian named Triewald introduced it into this country for warming his greenhouse. The next date is 1787, when the Marquis of Chabannes first visited this country and strongly advocated the system of heating buildings by hot water. It would be interesting to know whether there is any earlier record.

By the way, your reviewer of Mr. E. Dye's book on *Warming Buildings by Hot Water* states that "we do not remember when he (Mr. Dye) first revised the late Mr. Walter Jones' book on the subject, but it was probably nearly thirty years ago." The book Mr. Dye revised was *A Practical Treatise on Warming Buildings by Hot Water*, by Chas. Wood, first published in 1837.

Yours faithfully,

Hampstead Garden City, November 8. ALCWYN A. JONES.

"THE IRONMONGER" 24/11/28.

The Oldest Heating Firm.

Sir,—We notice that on p. 79 in the current issue Mr. H. B. Watt gives a list of firms of long standing. The firm of J. C. & J. S. Ellis, which was merged into this firm many years ago, actually carried out heating installations as far back as 1825.

The oldest date we can claim is that we were established for engineering work as far back as 1756.

Yours faithfully,

THE BRIGHTSIDE FOUNDRY & ENGINEERING CO., LTD.

Sheffield. November 17. FRANK BIGGIN, Managing Director.

Letters regarding "The Oldest Heating Firm"

HE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENTILATING AND DOMESTIC GINEERING EMPLOYERS.

12, RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

2nd November 1928

W. Nelson Haden Esq

EXTRACT FROM "THE IRONMONGER", November 3rd. 1928 (Page 81)

THE OLDEST HEATING FIRM

Sir, - We have read with interest the letter from Mr. W.Nelson Haden under this heading in your issue of October 27, and I think it might interest you to know that this firm was established by Abraham Seward, the writer's great-great-grandfather, in 1778. Its principal interest at that time appears to have been that of tinplate working, and on March 30, 1797, Abraham Seward was appointed Tinplate Worker in Ordinary to His Majesty King George III.

Unfortunately, our records do not show when we first actually began heating and ventilating. In 1808 we patented an oil burner for the purpose of lighting and warming, and again in 1876 we obtained a patent for an improved hot-water sectional or tubular boiler, and although our ledgers are continuous from 1788 they do not show many details, and refer to day books and job books, the oldest of which now in our possession being dated 1851. One of the first jobs in it is repairing the heating apparatus at Burton Church.

It is quite clear from the ledgers that in the beginning of the last century we supplied various boilers, and forcing engines, and that on March 11, 1811, we supplied and fixed a large copper boiler weighing 7 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb., at a cost of 2s. per lb., for the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, along with brass cocks, pipes, and a copper ventilator.

On February 14, 1853, this firm, then being controlled by the founder's grandsons Abraham and Charles Seward, opened a branch in Preston, and soon afterwards extended at Preston into a foundry.

Some years after this the partnership was dissolved, and the younger brother Charles carried on the Preston business, which has now passed into other hands, although trading under the original name. The Lancaster business is still carried on by the direct descendants of the founder on the same site.

Yours faithfully,

For A.Seward & Co. Ltd.,

F.W.Seward.

Lancaster,
October 30.

Letter to G Nelson Haden about "The Oldest Heating Firm"