

Conclusions

It is not surprising that as Victorian design technology evolved and alternative improved methods of heating rooms and buildings developed, the Chunk and Vesta 'stand alone' pattern stoves became old news and dated, so fell out of favour and were then overtaken by new methods of heating.

However, there can be no doubt that the Chunk and Vesta stoves of Richard Prosser were market leaders for nearly two decades, proven by the large number of stoves sold to the public and businesses.

It is interesting to note that a search of various Internet websites associated with engineering history has found no mention of Chunk or Vesta stoves. References to other stoves from this Victorian period such as Dr Arnott's can be found.

If any visitor to these webpages has further information, or details with new information/insight on the Chunk and / or Vesta stoves, how innovative they were, any possible American influence, or how they compared with competitors' stoves please contact the Website.

With thousands of the Chunk and Vesta stoves manufactured over two decades it is not impossible that an example still exists hidden away in a seldom visited Church basement or Undercroft. The Science Museum does not possess an example of either stove.

Should anyone know of a surviving example of a Chunk or Vesta stove the Website would very much like you to make contact. Also please email smd1949@icloud.com.

Richard Prosser died on 21st May 1854, his previous wealth greatly diminished by his investment of over £20,000 in his anti-welded tube invention which initially failed on trials by the LNWR but was later successfully applied by others according to his son.

A fitting tribute to Richard Prosser is this quote that ends Richard's ODNB entry. In evidence to a Parliamentary Committee on the Patent Office Library and Museum in 1864, Henry Cole (later Sir Henry) refers to Richard's proposals for a museum of inventions and describes him as "*a Patentee of considerable eminence, now dead*". Cole confirmed to the Committee that he regarded Richard as a "*high authority*" and went on to say "*he invented more things, I believe, than almost any man of his day*".

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