

Hall of Fame

Landmark equipment that shaped the history of h&v

1864 – Grundy warm air stove

[John Grundy]



John Grundy Senior was born in Tyldesley near Manchester in 1807. His occupation was a grocer and flour trader. He was a warden of the local Top Chapel and when they needed a heating system he developed and installed a revolutionary warm air heating stove with an arrangement of plenum and discharge ducts. This was so successful that in 1859 he set up in business to manufacture and market his heating apparatus, which he later patented (BP 2949: 1864). The business flourished and he continued to make improvements, increasing its efficiency and effectiveness, and securing more patents. He died in 1879.

His son, John Grundy Junior, born in 1844, took over and expanded the business. In the 1880s, he moved to live in Islington and opened three London offices. In fact, the firm became so successful that he set up his own iron foundry

in Tyldesley. The Grundy stove became well-known in the industry and was widely used, so much so that in 1897 (the year of the founding of The Institution of Heating & Ventilating Engineers) he could claim to have heated some 3,000 places of worship, including many famous cathedrals, as well as mansions, houses, hotels, hospitals, schools, warehouses, factories, and workhouses. The firm advertised "Winter, Warmth and Comfort – Pure Warm Air".

John Grundy was one of the band of entrepreneurs who established the IHVE and in 1898 he was elected the first president. He died in 1913. His son Herbert Hamilton Grundy took over the business and served as IHVE president in 1915. Herbert died in 1932 but the stoves were so well-liked that manufacture continued into the 1970s and examples can still be found in use today, a history that can be traced back nearly 150 years.



More pictures and details of historical products can be found on the CIBSE Heritage Group website at: www.hevac-heritage.org