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(For several reasons it is often difficult to date an item from a catalogue, or even to identify its manufacturer. The catalogues of about 1880 to 1914 are, by today’s standards, bulky and expensive productions; their illustrations, engraved on wood or lithographed in colour, are of better quality, and more informative, than the half-tone photographs or the coloured scenes of domestic bliss that serve today. Like the products they illustrate, they were made to last, nor did they need annual revision to accord with new sales gimmicks for ‘this season’s model’. Therefore they are seldom dated, though internal evidence may offer clues. Even a dated catalogue of, say, 1914, may include an item illustrated by the same block that appeared in the issue of 1880. Moreover, builders’ merchants of that period seldom gave the name of the manufacturer. Some manufacturers being also merchants of others’ products, it is possible to find Smith’s stove, anonymous, in the catalogue of Jones, who made no stoves of his own. Worse still, Jones may since have become famous for his own stoves. Let Smith consider the historian’s difficulties, before complaining that one of his pet products has been attributed to a rival. When it does come to guesswork in the matter of dates, a simple rule may be observed: your industrial antique is seldom as old as you think.)

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Additional information is available at the website of the CIBSE Heritage Group, www.hevac-heritage.org.

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CP403 (1974) Installation of domestic heating and cooking appliances burning solid fuel
CP332 Town gas space heaters – domestic installation
BS 1251:1970 Specification for open fireplace components
1181 Flue linings and terminals – clay
567, 835 Asbestos cement flue pipes
715 Sheet metal lining for gas
5854 Flues and flue structures code
5440 Flues for gas appliances
3572 Chimney access fittings
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4207 Monolithic chimney linings (revised 1982)
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This information was correct at the time of going to press. Names, addresses and product specifications may since have changed.