

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Records of Businesses

Chemical Industry Finding Aid

British Hydrocarbon Chemicals Ltd

In 1950 Distillers Company and Anglo-Arabian Oil (later British Petroleum) set up a joint venture based at Grangemouth named British Petroleum Chemicals Ltd, initially, to manufacture synthetic ethanol. In 1956 the company was renamed British Hydrocarbon Chemicals. In 1963 Distillers Company sold their interests in the firm to BP. Incorporated in 1966 as a limited company.

Became Acton Oil Ltd in 1987. The only petroleum chemicals plant in Scotland.

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A2268.001	1960s	Works Rule Book

Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI)

ICI was formed in 1926 by the merger of four of the largest chemical companies in the UK: Brunner, Mond & Company Ltd; Nobel Industries Ltd; British Dyestuffs Corporation Ltd; and United Alkali Company Ltd. Its purpose was to create a British company capable of competing in world markets with large American and German corporations. Operating in Grangemouth, ICI's main products included chemicals, explosives and accessories, fertilizers, insecticides, dyestuffs, domestic chemicals, leathercloth, printing, sporting ammunition and paints. In its first year of business, ICI sold £27 million worth of these products and made a pre-tax profit of £4.5 million. In 1993 the company demerged its bioscience businesses into a separate publicly listed company, Zeneca Group PLC.

ICI was incorporated in 1984 with the registration number 01852101.

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A260.01	19 Mar 1879	Photocopy of Patent No. 1090: Specification of George McRoberts, Manufacturer of High Explosive Components (to improve the composition of blasting gelatine originally patented by Nobel)
A260.02	31 Mar 1890	Photocopy extract from the Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry. Contains article on the manufacture of blasting gelatine.
A281.05		Photocopied extract from various sources relating to George McRoberts, works manager at Nobel's Explosives Company and inventor of the McRoberts Mixer.
A281.02/03	(1914)	Plan no.5; Service Box - wood, rubber lined for transport of thin gelatine from N/GL former wash houses to gelatine incorporating houses.

A281.01/02	(1914)	Drawing of gelatine mixing machine, scale 3"=1ft (McRobert's mixer)
A281.02/04	(1914)	Plan no. 6: Service box - wood, with leather lid, for transport of gelatine from gelatine incorporating houses to cartridge huts.
A281.01/01	1914	Drawing of gelatine mixing machine, 1914 design Scale 1.5" = 1ft (McRobert's Mixer)
A281.02/02	28 Feb 1914	Plan No 4: Incorporating house for gelatine, 2109, destroyed by explosion, 20 Feb. 1914. Scale 0.125"=1ft
A281.03	May 1914	Typed extract from report of explosion of gelatine incorporating house. Original ref: R1.1161
A281.02/01	May 1914	Drawing of gelatine incorporating house 2109, scale 0.125"=1ft. Original reference; R1.1(6)
A281.02/05	03 Apr 1915	Plan no. 4: Incorporating house for gelatine, Z298 destroyed by explosion, 3 April, 1915. Scale 0.125"=1'
A352.01	1919-1976	Photocopy of chapter xvi, "Carlisle and Grangemouth : Scottish Dyes Limited" from "Dyemakers of Great Britain, 1856-1976" by Maurice R Fox
A277.04	12 Apr 1924	Photocopy of journal of the Royal Society of Arts. Contains discussion of "Fast Dyeing and Dyes" lecture by James Morton.
A277.07	18 Dec 1925	Photocopy of article on Scottish Dyes Ltd, from the Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry.
A277.06	Mar 1928	Photocopy of article "The Manufacture of Caledon Dyes: A short description of the works of Scottish Dyes Ltd, Grangemouth" reported from the Industrial Chemist.
A277.03	20 Feb 1929	Photocopy of "Fast Dying and Dyes", lecture to the Royal Society of Arts given by James Morton.
A277.05	1930	Photocopy of "Dyes and Textiles in Britain, 1930" paper given to the British Association by James Morton.
A281.04	(1958) {nd}	Photocopied typed extract from Manufacturing Methods, Blasting Vol I. Relates to preparation of Nitroglycerine and use of a McRoberts Mixer
A2165.014	Circa 1958	Plan of ICI Explosives Factory at Westquarter
A2165.015	Circa 1958	List of buildings at ICI Explosives Factory, Westquarter
A277.02	(1980s)	Advertising leaflet for Tumbrelle Carpeting
A277.01	1987	Advertising pamphlet for ICI Grangemouth. Contains historical sketch of company, products, operations and research and development.

Nobel's Division, ICI

A695.003	1979	Price list. Explosives and accessories
----------	------	--

Parker, W.A. & Co

Agricultural feedstuffs, fertiliser, grain and seed merchants, 45 Hope St, Glasgow

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A250.001	1938	Advertising notebook and calendar for fertiliser, feeding stuffs, seed and grain merchants.

Ross, James & Co

James Ross & Co, a chemical manufacturing business, was established in 1845 by James Ross (1820-1893) and two partners. The business leased land on the Forth & Clyde Canal in Camelon near the West Burn. In 1847 James Ross bought out his two partners and leased land at Limewharf from William Forbes and began tar distillation. The business expanded with the establishment of Philpstoun Oil Works, near Linlithgow and the acquisition of Waverley Chemical Works, Leith and Dawsholm Works, Maryhill. In 1879 the business was transferred to a co-partnership of Robert M Sutherland (manager of Limewharf works) and Robert Orr of Glasgow. In 1920 the company was split into two, as James Ross & Co (Lime Wharf) Ltd and James Ross & Co (Philpstoun Oil Works) Ltd. In 1929 the company amalgamated with two Glasgow companies, Henry Ellison Ltd and Gas Residuals Ltd to form Scottish Tar Distillers Ltd.

(See Calatria Vol 1 pp97-108 for detailed history of company)

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A356.02/04	1878	Copy feu contract between William Forbes of Callendar and George Simpson and Robert Orr of land at Lime Wharf
A356.02/09	1879	Agreement, Post Office and James Ross & Co for provision and maintenance of a line of private wire and apparatus for telegraphs between Lime Wharf Works and Falkirk Post Office
A356.02/06	1880	Assignment by Robert Orr and A.J. Smith, Trustee for George Simpson, in favour of Robert Orr and R.M. Sutherland
A356.02/05	1882	Copy lease between William Forbes of Callendar and Robert Orr and Robert Mackay Sutherland of part of Carmuir
A356.02/01	1882-1885	Letter book (wet copy).
A356.02/02	1888-1925	Document book. Contains record of movement of leases, insurance documents and other documents
A356.02/07	1895	Minute of agreement between the Caledonian Railway Co and James Ross & Co concerning a drain pipe in Camelon
A356.02/08	1899	Letter and note relating to lease of land for goods office to North British Railway Co
A356.02/10	1912-1920	Balance sheets and relative accounts
A356.02/03	1915	Inventory and valuation of Lime Wharf Chemical Works
A098.001	1979	Typescript text of lecture "Industrial Archaeology" given to Falkirk Archaeological and Natural History Society about James Ross and tar distillation, in Falkirk area. Contains history of Ross & Co
A098.002	Apr 1981	Photocopy of magazine article "Shall Shale Return?" containing historical sketch of shale oil industry. Includes advertisement for James Ross & Co, Philpstoun Oil Works, Linlithgow.

Scottish Tar Distillers Ltd

Scottish Tar Distillers was formed by the amalgamation of James Ross & Co Ltd, Henry Ellison Ltd and Gas Residuals Ltd in 1929. It became a Public liability company in 1950. Other firms were acquired by Scottish Tar Distillers, notably Richard Smith Ltd and Shettleston Oil & Chemical Co in 1946, and James A Beck & Sons Ltd, Belfast and Dunn Brothers (Manchester) Ltd in the 1960s.

Following diversification of interests, the company changed its name to Ross Chemical & Services Co Ltd in February 1971. The constitution of the company was changed to permit Scottish Tar Distillers to be a subsidiary company.

In 1952 the Scottish Gas Board acquired 25% of Scottish Tar Distillers and sold this in 1972 to Hay's Wharf Ltd, of London who sold it on in 1973 to Kuwait Investment. Shortly thereafter the Lime Wharf works were gutted by fire and the remaining tar distillation work was bought over by British Steel Corporation (Chemicals) Ltd.
(See Calatria Vol 1 pp97-108 for detailed history of company)

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A095.007	1894	Photocopy of article on James Ross & Co. Extract from Stirling, Falkirk & District Illustrated Review
A356.01/01	1929	Memorandum and Articles of Association of Scottish Tar Distillers Ltd
A356.01/02	1929-1938	Scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to Scottish Tar Distillers Ltd, to oil, coal, gas, coke and other fuels, to trade union and employee relations and legislation, and to other related matters
A356.01/03	1930	Certificate of approval of Ross Non Poisonous Liquid Summer Sheep Dip under Sheep Scab Order, 1928
A627.001	(Mid 20th Century)	Plan of Scottish Tar Distillers workshop Lime Road. Photocopies in 8 sheets numbered 1-8 from top L corner to bottom R corner.
A356.01/04	1938	Arrangement for firing Lancaster Boiler with pulverised pitch
A095.002	1947	Notes on the early history of Scottish Tar Distillers prepared by Mr Guy Hamilton (June 1947), Works Manager, Falkirk, of which works he joined the staff in 1903
A095.001	(1960s)	Coal Tar Chemicals. Printed booklet with company history, list of products and specifications.
A095.003	(1960s)	Notes on tar distillation in Camelon
A095.004	(1960s)	Diagram plan of coal tar products
A095.005	(1960s)	Electrode Pitch Still Operator training manual, Falkirk works
A095.006	(1960s)	Wilton plant training manual, Falkirk works
A095.008	(1960s)	Label for carriage of goods
A442.01	(1960s)	Catalogue: Coal tar chemicals. Also contains brief historical sketch of company
A600.003	(Circa 1965)	Catalogue: Coal tar chemicals. Contains specifications and includes brief history of company
A356.01/05	22 May 1973	Plan of Falkirk Works of Scottish Tar Distillers Ltd (Drawing No F/14/2245) Annotated alterations for BSC Chemicals. Scale 1:500