Sir Titus Salt’s Daybook. Description

Archive reference: GB 0532 SAL

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# INTRODUCTION

This notebook documents the experiments of Bradford entrepeneur Sir Titus Salt in working with different wools, resulting in his success in exploiting alpaca wool and his eventual creation of the industrial village, Saltaire.

Discover more about Sir Titus and his notebook in Number 3 of the 100 Objects exhibition: *One Bag Peruvian Wool*.

<http://100objectsbradford.wordpress.com>

This description was written in 2003 for the Archives Hub. It is being made available with minor edits as part of our Quick Wins programme to publicise key archives by putting existing catalogues online.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# description

## Reference code

GB 0532 SAL.

## Title

Sir Titus Salt’s Daybook.

## Dates

1834-1837.

## Level of description

Collection.

## Extent

0.02 linear metres.

## Name of creator

Sir Titus Salt, 1803-1876, textile manufacturer.

## Biographical history

Titus Salt was born in Morley near Leeds on 20 September, 1803. He joined the family firm of woolstaplers in 1824 and became the firm's wool buyer. Daniel Salt & Son prospered and became one of the most important textile companies in Bradford. When Daniel Salt retired in 1833, Titus took over the running of the company. Over the next twenty years Titus Salt became the largest employer in Bradford.

In 1834 he saw some “Peruvian wool” (alpaca) in Liverpool and became interested in its use. The hair of the alpaca, a relative of the llama, had been used for weaving as a warp or with a worsted warp but the resultant cloth had little to recommend it. Titus Salt and his assistants spent over a year working on the problems involved in spinning alpaca, then pioneered the use of alpaca weft with cotton or silk warps ; this produced a durable lightweight fabric with a sheen.

Moving his business out of Bradford, in 1853 he established the new Salt’s Mill, the centre for the model industrial village of Saltaire. Salt was elected to Parliament in 1859 and was created a baronet in 1869. He died on 29th December, 1876.

## Archival history

Obtained by Dr. J. Iredale, a lecturer at Bradford University.

## Immediate source of acquisition

Presented by Dr. Iredale to the Archaeological Sciences Librarian (Mr. K.B. Tidswell) for the Bradford University Library.

## Scope and content

Notebook in the hand of Sir Titus Salt, containing entries dated 1834-1837. It appears to contain personal notes of special transactions and experiments. These include a page headed ‘27 June 1835. 1 bag Peruvian wool’ (i.e. alpaca), and another headed ‘October 1836. 2 packs of Alpaca’; the latter entry gives a breakdown of the costs of combing.

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## Language of material

English.

## Publication note

*The Great Paternalist: Titus Salt and the growth of nineteenth century Bradford* by J. Reynolds (Hounslow : M. Temple Smith in association with the University of Bradford, 1983).

## Archivist’s note

Described by John Brooker, minor edits by Alison Cullingford.

## Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

## Date(s) of description

September 2003 (minor edits May 2013).

## Indexing

### Persons

Salt, Titus, Sir, 1803-1876

### Subjects

Woollen and worsted manufacture – England – West Yorkshire - History

Alpaca (Textile) – History

Wool industry - England – West Yorkshire – History

### Locations

Bradford – West Yorkshire – England

London – England