Collections Department
Museum of Science & Industry
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Made in East Manchester

The Museum holds a number of archive collections and many objects relating to manufacturing companies from East Manchester. The archives include photographs, company records, business correspondence, sales literature, films and user manuals.

East Manchester has changed greatly over the last hundred years. Manufacturing industry has almost disappeared and these neighbourhoods have changed dramatically as a result. Many well-known Manchester companies had factories in East Manchester. Some of these buildings are still standing today.

Vulcan Works, Pollard Street, Ancoats.

Ancoats

The textile machinery manufacturer John Hetherington & Sons was founded in 1830. The company gradually expanded and acquired a number of factory buildings in Ancoats. The company established the Vulcan Works on Pollard Street in around 1856. John Hetherington & Sons left these buildings in 1939 when the Lancashire cotton industry was in decline. The company then moved to the Union Iron Works at West Gorton. The Vulcan Works was still used as business premises until 2004, when it was bought by a property developer for conversion into flats.

Gorton

In 1906 Crossley Brothers began to make cars and other vehicles. The subsidiary company, Crossley Motors, was originally based at the main Openshaw factory. As a result of its success, the company moved a year later to new buildings on Gorton Lane and Crossley Street in Gorton. During the First World War, volume production moved to the Errwood Park Works at Heaton Chapel. The company eventually moved all production to Errwood Park and sold the Gorton site in 1947. The Gorton Lane factory was demolished in 2006. The Crossley Street buildings are still in use as business units.

Ferranti was another employer in the Gorton area. In 1956 computer production moved from Chadderton to the former Brooks & Doxey textile machinery factory in West Gorton. This later became the largest computer plant in Europe. Ferranti sold its computer division to International Computers & Tabulators (ICT) in 1963. ICT became International Computers Ltd (ICL) in 1968. It was the only remaining British mainframe computer manufacturer at that time. In 1990 the Japanese corporation Fujitsu took majority ownership of ICL, acquiring the remaining shares in 1998. The business is now known as Fujitsu Services but the faded ICL sign can still be seen on the West Gorton building.

Newton Heath

The engineering company Mather & Platt was originally based at the Iron Works in Salford but moved to the larger Park Works at Newton Heath in the early twentieth century. The site expanded over the years, eventually incorporating a research laboratory, an iron foundry and a sports ground. Mather & Platt was renowned for manufacturing fire sprinkler systems. In 1883 the company purchased exclusive patent rights for the Grinnell sprinkler system outside North America. Mather & Platt therefore enjoyed a dominant market position until these rights expired in the 1970s. In 1978, the firm was taken over by the Australian-based company Wormald International. The Pump Department was later sold to the Scottish company Weir Pumps, which still uses the Newton Heath site today. Most of the original buildings have now been demolished but the foundry and main office building have survived. The main entrance to the Park Works features in the 1943 painting *Going to Work* by Laurence Stephen Lowry.

Humphrey and Alliott Verdon Roe formed A. V. Roe & Company (Avro) in 1910. It was the first company to register solely as an aircraft manufacturer. The demand for military aircraft after the outbreak of the First World War meant that Avro had to rent space at Mather & Platt's newly extended Park Works in order to expand production. The company completed the construction of a new purpose-built factory at Newton Heath in 1919. The Newton Heath Works manufactured a number of famous Avro aircraft, including the Avian, designed by Roy Chadwick. Components for the legendary Lancaster bomber were also produced at Newton Heath. Avro left the Newton Heath factory after the Second World War and it was subsequently used as a storage depot by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Today the building is used by various businesses for storage purposes.

Openshaw

The engine maker Crossley Brothers was founded by Francis and William Crossley in 1867. In 1882 the company moved to Pottery Lane, Openshaw. In 1935 the company changed its name to Crossley Premier Engines, which became part of the Amalgamated Power Engineering group in 1968. APE was subsequently taken over by Northern Engineering Industries. The Crossley brand name has been owned by Rolls- Royce Power Engineering since it acquired NEI in 1989. Rolls-Royce continued to manufacture Crossley Pielstick diesel engines at the Openshaw plant under licence from the French company S.E.M.T. Pielstick until the mid 1990s. The plant is still equipped to manufacture this engine range. Today, part of the Crossley Works is used for training staff, supplying spare parts and, occasionally, for engine overhaul and refurbishment work.

For more information:

Read	Wilson, John F. *Ferranti: A History*. Lancaster, UK: Carnegie Publishing, 1998.
	McNeil, Robina and Michael Nevell. *A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Greater Manchester*. Manchester, UK: Association for Industrial Archaeology, 2000.
Study	The Ferranti and Crossley Archives in the Collections Centre.
Visit	The Manchester Computing Exhibition in the Electricity Gallery.
	The Mather & Platt jam jar filling machine in Collections Centre Store 1.
	The Avro Avian aircraft in the Air and Space Hall.
	The Power Hall, which contains several Crossley engines.