

Northamptonshire Record Office

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Records of Barnett and Soans (Northants) Ltd.
Electrical Engineers and Contractors, of
12, Market Street, Kettering

Accession 1978/42

The firm of Barnett and Soans Ltd. began in 1903, at Burton-on-Trent. When the company worked on a contract in 1905, for electrically wiring the library and museum at Kettering, Mr. R.C. Soans, supervising the contract, decided to form a branch of the company in Kettering, at 12, Market Street.

A branch was also opened, about 1912, at 54a, Park Road, Wellingborough and one at Market Harborough about 1920.

In the early years of this century, most of the contracts undertaken by Barnett and Soans were for wiring new and existing houses and public houses in towns, for example in 1904, Barnett and Soans were responsible for the new electric lighting in St. Andrew's church, Kettering - the total cost being £120.

By the 1920's, generating plants and batteries were being installed in country houses and electric power was replacing steam engines in factories.

Throughout the 1930's, the majority of the company's work was for large industrial concerns, for example the complete electrification of three cement works, the original steel works and offices of Stewart and Lloyds, Corby and several boot and shoe factories. During World War II, the firm worked on Government contracts, including army barracks, airfields and ordnance depots.

Since the war, Barnett and Soans have worked upon several important country houses, such as Deene Park and Drayton House, many churches and industrial concerns, such as the Golden Wonder crisp factory in Corby and Baxters the Butchers complex at Wootton. Most of the contracts undertaken are done locally, however, a contract further afield is always being worked upon at any one time.

Today, the Kettering branch of Barnett and Soans also has a retail lighting shop. The company was re-organised by Mr. J. Soans in August 1977, when he purchased the Kettering branch of Barnett and Soans to form his own company, Barnett and Soans (Northants) Ltd.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Barnett and Soans (Northants) Ltd.

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|---|--|-----------|
| 1 | Customers Accounts Ledger:
A-C
Gives names and addresses of all customers,
with amounts paid for work or goods. Front
index. | 1940-1974 |
| 2 | Customers Accounts Ledger:
D-K
Gives names and addresses of all customers,
with amounts paid for work or goods. Front
index. | 1940-1974 |
| 3 | Customers Accounts Ledger:
L-Z
Gives names and addresses of all customers,
with amounts paid for work or goods. In
the case of work for Northants County Coun-
cil the name of the building worked upon
is given. Front index. | 1940-1974 |
| 4 | Bundle of invoices, statements, remittance
advice notes and sub-contractor receipt
forms, concerning work on Corby Grammar
School (Kingswood), Oundle School Art Block
and others. | 1961-1968 |
| 5 | Brochure giving a history of Barnett and
Soans Ltd. | 1977 |

January, 1978.