

## Aircraft Construction Industry: Sources

### How to use this list of sources

This is a list of some of the collections that may provide a useful starting point when researching this subject. It gives the collection reference and a brief description of the kinds of records held in the collections. More detailed lists are available in the searchroom and from our [online catalogue](#). Enquiries should be directed to the Duty Archivist, see contact details at the end of this source list.

#### **Barr & Stroud Ltd; optical instrument engineers, Glasgow, Scotland (GUAS Ref: UGD 295)**

Specialising in naval and military rangefinders, Barr & Stroud had also been a major supplier of periscopes, binoculars and signalling equipment and continues to be one of the world's leading military optics firms. Their range included bombing, gunnery and photographic sights for aircraft; anti-aircraft fire control equipment; aircraft gun mounts and indicating equipment. Plans and records of orders for such equipment survive with the collection.

Advice books	1870-1961
Agreements (unlisted); property records	1917, 1929
Cash books	1888-1956
Certificates of examination and guarantee	1931-75
Correspondence	1892-1975
Directors' papers, including those of:	
• Dr W Strang	1892-1974
• Dr Barr	1898-1930
Journals	1895-1966
Ledgers	1897-1970
Letterbooks	1893-1984
Management committee minutes	1977-83
Memorandum and articles of association	1912-64
Negative and photographs of products and employees 20th century; plans (product 770 onwards, incomplete series)	1902-72
Optical division minutes	1980-88
Orders and contracts	1900-88
Organisational papers	1920-77
Outward invoice books	1952-74
Patent records	1860-1982
Pilkington PE minutes	1979-80
Publications	1890-1997
Scrapbooks	1895-1954
Share records	1913-77
Staff club minutes	1918-20
Summary accounts	1912-88
Technical specifications, progress reports and related papers	1855-1989
Tracing books vols. 24-31	
Wage and salary records	1895-1974
Visitors' books	1898-1981

**Beardmore, William & Co Ltd; steel manufacturers and engineers, Glasgow, Scotland (GUAS Ref: UGD 100/1 and UGD 179)**

Beardmores were heavy engineers who supplied tanks, artillery and aircraft in the two World Wars, as well as the naval ordnance and armoured plate in which they specialised. Evidence of their aeroplane and airship production can be found in photographs and magazine articles as well as in the firm's ledgers.

Agenda books	1903-29
Annual general meeting and press reports	1930-48
Armour plate extension files	1936-57
Catalogues	c1914-27
Directors' attendance books	1913-40
Financial records	1901-65
Minutes	1902-76
Miscellaneous volumes and files including legal agreements, correspondence, financial and printed ephemera	1864-1969
Photographs	c1910-32
Plans of diesel locomotive	1930
Press cuttings	1900-65
Salary records	1902-37
Visitors books	1914-68

**Morris Furniture Co Ltd; furniture manufacturers, Glasgow, Scotland (GUAS Ref: UGD 335)**

Morris's wood processing skills were impressed during the Second World War for the production of aircraft fuselages and components and rifles. They pioneered the development of composite propellers for training and second line aircraft. Records of their wartime production include drawings, reports, cost and order books and correspondence files.

Correspondence	1918-80
Diaries	1949-75
Director's minutes	1914-70
Finance records	1934-82
Photographs and glass negatives	c1920-93
Plans and drawings	1925-92
Production records and order books	1936-78
Publications and publicity	c1850-c1990
Title deeds	1833-1959
Trade magazines and catalogues	1914-97
Valuations	1933-46

**Napier Collection; engineers and shipbuilders (GUAS Ref: DC 90)**

The Napier shipbuilding firm produced military aircraft during the First World War. Some photographs survive in the collection.