

Grout's Limited
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Accession 1990/0345

This silk manufacturing company was begun at Norwich in the opening years of the nineteenth century by the brothers George and Joseph Grout, the inventors of "Norwich crape". About 1814, the Yarmouth factory was established. One thousand, one hundred hands were employed there in 1838 and about one thousand in 1907. At various times during the nineteenth century, the Company possessed, besides the Norwich and Yarmouth factories and a London warehouse, plant at North Walsham and Ditchingham in Norfolk, Bungay and Mildenhall in Suffolk, Saffron Walden, Bocking and Sible Hedingham in Essex, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex and at Manchester, Glasgow and Paisley. In 1819-1820 a reeling establishment was set up at Bhartiparra near Calcutta. Following a financial crisis in 1890, the Company was concentrated at Yarmouth and the other factories were closed. At the same time a Limited Company was formed. In 1923-1924, a Subsidiary was established at St. Catharine's, Ontario, and duplicates of its minutes and other records are preserved with those of the parent company.

The history of the Company is summarized in F. Warner, *Silk Industry of the United Kingdom* (1921), 285-290, and in the journal *British Warehouseman* (Winter 1907).

The records are housed in the Norfolk and Norwich Record Office, Central Library, Norwich.

Microfilm

Selected volumes have been filmed from that portion of the Grout and Company collection (Volumes 248 to 377) which relates to the firm's Canadian subsidiaries, Grout's Ltd., (St. Catharines, Ontario) and Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. (Valleyfield, Quebec).

Access

Researchers are advised that references to operations in Canada are also found scattered through sections of the records of the parent company (Volumes 1 to 247). This latter material has not been filmed.

No reproduction of or published quotation from the following documents will be made without the express permission of the County Archivist, Norfolk Record Office, to whom enquiries regarding the documents and requests to quote should be addressed.

Notes on filming

The Grout and Company records have been microfilmed in a fashion similar to most North American microfilm, that is to say that the material appears on the reel moving from the left

spool to the right.

<u>Reel Number</u>	<u>Volume and File Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A-1948	Y/D50/248-251	Director's Minutes; letters patent incorporating Grout's Limited, company by-laws and prospectus, ca. 625 pages.	1923-1948
A-1948	Y/D50/252	Shareholders' Minutes beginning with first annual general meeting of shareholders in 1925 and ending with the 1940 annual general meeting, ca. 100 pages.	1925-1940
A-1949	Y/D50/252	Remaining three pages of last report, annual general meeting.	1940
A-1949	Y/D50/253	Grout's Limited - Canada: Executive Committee Minutes, 310 pages.	15 April 1924 to 6 September 1932
A-1949	Y/D50/254	Grout's Limited - Canada: Executive Committee Minutes, pages 311-583	1934-1938
A-1949	Y/D50/255	Grout's Limited - Canada: Executive Committee Minutes, pages 584-868	1938-1940
A-1950	Y/D50/256	Grout's Limited - Canada: Canadian balance sheets and audited accounts; assets and liabilities, with related correspondence.	1925-1942
A-1950	Y/D50/257	Grout's Limited - Canada: extracts only. Balance sheet	1 Sept. 1934

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Vol. & File</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A-1950	Y/D50/258	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	1 Sept. 1934
A-1950	Y/D50/259	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	31 Aug. 1935
A-1950	Y/D50/262	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	29 Aug. 1936
A-1950	Y/D50/263	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	29 Aug. 1936
A-1950	Y/D50/264	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	29 Aug. 1936
A-1950	Y/D50/266	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	28 Aug. 1937
A-1950	Y/D50/267	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	28 Aug. 1937
A-1950	Y/D50/268-269	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	28 Aug. 1938
A-1950	Y/D50/270	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet. Includes Comparative manufacturing accounts for three year period, Grout's Limited and Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd.	26 Aug. 1939
A-1950	Y/D50/271	Grout's Limited - Canada: Correspondence, minutes of annual general meetings, inventory, balance sheets, comparative manufacturing accounts, age analysis of piece goods inventories	31 Aug. 1940
A-1950	Y/D50/272	Grout's Limited - Canada:	30 Aug. 1941

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Vol. & File</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		Balance sheet	
A-1950	Y/D50/273	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	29 Aug. 1942
A-1950	Y/D50/275	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet; correspondence	28 Aug. 1943
A-1950	Y/D50/276	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet	28 Aug. 1944
A-1950	Y/D50/279	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet and report on accounts	28 Aug. 1945
A-1950	Y/D50/280	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet and report on accounts	31 Aug. 1946
A-1950	Y/D50/281	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet and report on accounts	30 Aug. 1947
A-1950	Y/D50/282	Grout's Limited - Canada and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	28 Aug. 1948
A-1950	Y/D50/285	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet and report on accounts	28 Aug. 1948
A-1950	Y/D50/286	Grout's Limited - Canada: Balance sheet and report on accounts	27 Aug. 1949
A-1950	Y/D50/287	Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	27 Aug. 1949

A-1950	Y/D50/289	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	26 Aug. 1950
A-1950	Y/D50/290	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	25 Aug. 1951
A-1950	Y/D50/291	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	30 Aug. 1952
A-1950	Y/D50/292	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	29 Aug. 1953
A-1950	Y/D50/293	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	28 Aug. 1954
A-1950	Y/D50/294	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	3 Sept. 1955
A-1950	Y/D50/295	Grout's Limited - Annual Report. Grout's Limited - Canada: and its wholly-owned subsidiary Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd. Consolidated Balance Sheet	1 Sept. 1956

A-1950	Y/D50/296-297	Valleyfield Silk Mills Limited: Balance Sheets	1934-1935
<u>Reel</u>	<u>Vol. & File</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A-1951	Y/D50/300-318	Valleyfield Silk Mills Limited: Balance Sheets	1936-1949
A-1951	Y/D50/319	Summarized Accounts	1925-1931
A-1951	Y/D50/321	Miscellaneous notes (many rough and in pencil), balance sheets, sales figures for both St. Catharines and Valleyfield. They appear to be sales conference notes given the frequent use of hotel stationery and are roughly grouped by year, ca. 500 pages.	1926-1936
A-1951	Y/D50/322	Similar to volume 321 but for Valleyfield only. Includes stray correspondence concerning 1932 purchase of Brupbacher Company which is renamed Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd., ca. 150 pages.	1932-1936
A-1951	Y/D50/325	Submission to Minister of National Revenue to determine standard profits under Excess Profits Tax Act, ca. 1940. The historical section of this submission gives a useful summary of the company's operations through the 1920s and 1930s, ca 50 pages.	1940
A-1951	Y/D50/327-329	Miscellaneous and correspondence files dealing largely with the establishment of the company. Includes notes,	1923-1927

share applications, by-laws, building and equipment leases, some minutes, as well as correspondence.

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Vol. & File</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A-1952	Y/D50/329-332	Continued from previous reel.	
A-1952	Y/D50/333-336	Ordered annual correspondence files.	1923-1926
A-1953	Y/D50/337-342	Ordered annual correspondence files.	1926-1932
A-1954	Y/D50/343-346	Ordered annual correspondence files.	1932-1936
A-1955	Y/D50/346-347	Ordered annual correspondence files. Files contain originals of letters and reports from the Canadian plants to the Yarmouth headquarters and carbon copies of replies. 1950 pages.	1936-1937
A-1955	Y/D50/348	Six files of letters: Major Ivan McSloy, St. Catharines	1924-1931
A-1955	Y/D50/349-350	A.B. Fisher and Frank Farrell (Grout's Toronto sales agent - 2 files)	1931-1932
A-1955	Y/D50/351-353	3. 3 files of correspondence between parent company president, Frank J. Farrell, and his director, P.M. Elton, during the former's visits to Canada and the United States.	1934-1936

A-1955	Y/D50/354	Correspondence concerning a proposed takeover by Canadian Celanese, ca. 40 pages. (No order to the file)	1937-1938
A-1955	Y/D50/355	Miscellaneous correspondence. (No order to the file) Contains various notes and statements on profit and loss, letters to McSloy, balance sheets, list of shareholders.	1937-1938
A-1955	Y/D50/356	Loose draft balance sheets, correspondence regarding audits, stock valuations and non-payment of dividends. No order, ca. 25 pages.	1937-1938
A-1956	Y/D50/357	Miscellaneous file in 5 parts dealing largely with an agreement with J.S. Wheelwright Ltd. To use their equipment and patented processes of textile printing. Partially without order. ca. 150 pages.	1936-1937
A-1956	Y/D50/358	Loose balance sheet, draft figures, correspondence, no order, ca. 60 pages.	1937
A-1956	Y/D50/359	Comparative manufacturing accounts, Grout's Limited and Valleyfield Silk Mills Limited	1937-1938
A-1957	Y/D50/360	Correspondence regarding Grout's purchase of shares in Valleyfield held by Dominion Securities. No order. Ca. 30 pages	1938, 1944

Microfilm shelf list, reels A-1948 to A-1958

A-1957	Y/D50/361	Correspondence regarding the payment of executive salaries, ca. 25 pages.	1939-1941
A-1957	Y/D50/362	Correspondence, balance sheets, reports.	1943
<u>Reel</u> A-1957	<u>Vol. & File</u> Y/D50/363	<u>Subject</u> Miscellaneous correspondence, ca. 100 pages.	<u>Dates</u> 1939-1944
A-1957	Y/D50/364	Correspondence regarding the possible sale of the St. Catharines mill, ca. 40 pages.	1943
A-1957	Y/D50/365	Correspondence and accounts of both the St. Catharines and the Valleyfield mills, ca. 40 pages.	1944
A-1957	Y/D50/366	Carbon copies of correspondence from Canada to England. ca. 150 pages.	1940-1945
A-1958	Y/D50/367	Fourteen separate docketts with correspondence regarding shares and lists of shareholders, ca. 250 pages.	no date
A-1958	Y/D50/368	Correspondence regarding share offer at time of plant expansion, ca. 20 pages.	1929
A-1958	Y/D50/369	“Mr. Farrell’s Canadian Reports”: miscellaneous correspondence, texts of presidential annual general meeting addresses, reports on the Canadian and American industry, ca. 200 pages.	1931-1937
A-1958	Y/D50/370	Valleyfield Silk Mills Limited:	1934-1936

		notes and correspondence, ca. 75 pages.	
A-1958	Y/D50/371	Loose correspondence and schedules of operating costs. Includes Schedule showing cost estimates of certain qualities produced in year ending 29th August 1936. No order, ca. 30 pages.	1936
A-1958	Y/D50/372	Report: "Grout's Limited and Valleyfield Silk Mills Limited: Report on Financial History and Organization of the Two Companies" Clarkson, Gordon, Dilworth & Nash, Chartered Accountants, Toronto.	April 1940
A-1958	Y/D50/373	Report on Canadian Visit, ca. 200 pages.	1938
A-1958	Y/D50/374	1945 Visit to Canada of the parent company's president: notes, correspondence, ca. 100 pages.	1945
A-1958	Y/D50/375	Photographs: 3 of the St. Catharines Mill and one of the 1929 Second International Technical Raw Silk conference, New York.	1929
A-1958	Y/D50/376-377	Balance sheets of Guaranty Silk Dyeing and Finishing Company Limited, St. Catharines. Grout held a partial interest in this company, ca. 50 pages.	1937-1940