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INTRODUCTION TO THE RECORDS.

The Autotype Company

The Autotype Company was formed in 1876 when an already successful photographer, John Robert Mather Sawyer, with his partners Messrs. Bird and Spencer, purchased the assets of the Autotype Fine Art Co. Ltd. Included in the physical assets was a partly completed factory in Ealing, West London; this was to become the centre for the new company's manufacturing and processing activities.

Autotype Fine Art had itself been a successor to the Autotype Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., which in 1868 had acquired the rights to Joseph Swan's invention of the carbon photographic process (British patent 503/1864). The new Autotype Company of 1876 continued to exploit these rights by photographing works of art, by providing a processing service for photographers using the autotype (carbon) process under licence, and by manufacturing both the basic pigmented gelatine tissue and the transfer papers used in printing. By the time Swan's patent had expired, the company was firmly established under energetic management, with a sound technical and artistic reputation.

J.R. Sawyer, who had been the creative force behind the company's development, died in 1888 and was succeeded by his son Charles. At about the same time, the company began manufacture of its Special Carbon Tissue for use in the newly-introduced photogravure process; henceforth its fortunes were to be linked increasingly with those of the printing industry.

The Company remained a family business until 1923, when it became a private limited company. Its shares were then held by the Sawyer family but it was managed by W.M. Rouse (later succeeded by his sons Edward and Kenneth).

In 1958 the Autotype Company Ltd. was taken over by Norcross Ltd., of which it is now (1980) a wholly owned subsidiary with the name Autotype International Ltd.

The Records of the Autotype Company (AUTYP 1-6)

The core of the collection is a group of records of production at the Autotype Works, Ealing, covering the years 1877-1938 (AUTYP 1, 2 and 3).

The volumes in AUTYP 1 (tissue and transfer record books, 1877-1934) give daily records of the weights of gelatine used and the lengths of tissue and of transfer paper made in the works, with occasional notes on manufacturing methods and drying times. AUTYP 2 (colour and tissue notes, 1882-1924) records the ingredients used in each of the batches of pigment which were needed to produce the differently coloured emulsions. Here a typical entry reads :

"Red Chalk 8 lb.
BJ 10 450 gr.
BSJ 10 800 gr".

AUTYP 3 (tissue department record books, 1928-1938) consists of smaller volumes which were kept in the tissue department itself and recorded the work to be done each day. There is a period of overlap between AUTYP 3 and AUTYP 1 from 31 Dec 1928 - 8 Oct 1934 in which it is possible to compare the AUTYP 3 records with the more formal recording of production in AUTYP 1.

Volumes in each of these three series have been numbered consecutively; where a volume seems to be missing from the sequence the list has been marked thus . . . after the volume preceding the gap.

The remaining records of the company's activities are of a more miscellaneous nature. The single volume of stock records for 1892-1894 which forms AUTYP 4 may have been an experiment in a more sophisticated form of recording which was then abandoned, or it may be the sole survivor of a series of such records. AUTYP 5 contains items relating to three of the company's projects or contracts during World War 2 and AUTYP 6 consists of four items of miscellaneous twentieth-century material, including an aerial photograph of the Ealing works taken in ca. 1938 (item 6/4).

Papers of the Sawyer family

Accompanying the records transferred in 1977 was a bundle of private papers of the Sawyer family, ranging in time from a certificate recording the second marriage of J.R. Sawyer's father in 1830 to a bank book of Charles Sawyer for the year 1904. These papers form AUTYP 7 : they are diverse in form and content and have been arranged and listed chronologically.

OTHER ITEMS DONATED BY AUTOTYPE INTERNATIONAL LTD.

A set of twentieth-century trade literature produced by other firms in the photographic and printing fields has been transferred to the Library's collection of trade literature.

Original examples of photographic processes have been transferred to the Science Museum Photography Collection. They include some fine specimens of carbon prints on opal glass, four autochromes and some samples of mica dials used for making compasses. The latter technique is shown in a film which has been described in this list at AUTYP [5/4/1] but which has now been transferred to the National Film Archive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Kitsy Mitchell of the Science Museum Library is a former employee of the Autotype organisation and has helped throughout with the identification of people, places and record types and with the dating of several of the items.

Janet Cole
14/3/80

AUTYP	AUTYP 1. TISSUE AND TRANSFER RECORD BOOKS, 1877-1934	
	Bound volumes; 32 cm	
1/1	1877 Aug. 30 - 1878 Aug. 29 . . .	
1/2	1879 Aug. 15 - 1881 May 19	
1/3	1881 May 20 - 1883 Feb. 15	"No. 3" on cover
1/4	1883 Feb. 16 - 1884 Oct. 16	"No. 4" on cover
1/5	1884 Oct. 17 - 1886 June 3	
1/6	1886 June 4 - 1888 Feb. 2	
1/7	1888 Feb. 3 - 1889 Nov. 14	
1/8	1889 Nov. 15 - 1891 Aug. 13	
1/9	1891 Aug. 14 - 1893 May 25	
1/10	1893 May 26 - 1895 Mar. 7	
1/11	1895 Mar. 8 - 1896 Dec. 3	
1/12	1896 Dec. 4 - 1898 Sept. 1	
1/13	1898 Sept. 2 - 1899 June 14 . . .	
1/14	1900 June 15 - 1902 July 24 . . .	
1/15	1902 July 25 - 1907 Jan. 9	
1/16	1907 Jan. 11 - 1908 Oct. 22	
1/17	1908 Oct. 23 - 1910 Aug. 11	
1/18	1910 Aug. 12 - 1912 May 30	
1/19	1912 May 31 - 1914 Mar. 18	
1/20	1914 Mar. 19 - 1917 Sept. 6 . . .	
1/21	1924 Feb. 6 - 1927 Oct. 5	
1/22	1927 Oct. 6 - 1930 Jan. 21	
1/23	1930 Jan. 22 - 1932 July 8	
1/24	1932 July 11 - 1934 Oct. 8	

AUTYP	AUTYP 2. COLOUR AND TISSUE NOTES, 1882-1924	
	Bound; 32 cm.	
2/1	1882 June 29	- 1884 Sept. 2
2/2	1884 Sept. 4	- 1886 Aug. 19
2/3	1886 Aug. 20	- 1888 June 13
2/4	1888 June 14	- 1890 Jan. 22
2/5	1890 Jan. 22	- 1891 Oct. 5
2/6	1891 Oct. 5	- 1893 May 4
2/7	1893 May 5	- 1894 Sept. 25
2/8	1894 Sept. 25	- 1895 Dec. 4
2/9	1895 Dec. 4	- 1896 Oct. 28
2/10	1896 Oct. 28	- 1897 Sept. 8
2/11	1897 Sept. 9	- 1898 June 22
2/12	1898 June 22	- 1899 Mar. 11 . . .
2/13	1899 Nov. 23	- 1900 Oct. 16
2/14	1900 Oct. 17	- 1901 Oct. 9
2/15	1901 Oct. 10	- 1902 July 10
2/16	1902 July 11	- 1903 Apr. 28
2/17	1903 Apr. 29	- 1904 May 5
2/18	1904 May 6	- 1905 May 31
2/19	1905 June 1	- 1906 June 30
2/20	1906 July 2	- 1907 Aug. 8
2/21	1907 Aug. 9	- 1908 Oct. 27
2/22	1908 Oct. 28	- 1909 Dec. 17
2/23	1909 Dec. 20	- 1911 Mar. 6
2/24	1911 Mar. 7	- 1912 June 26
2/25	1912 June 28	- 1914 Feb. 3
2/26	1914 Feb. 4	- 1924 Jan. 24
	Blank pages after last entry	

AUTYP	AUTYP 3. TISSUE DEPARTMENT RECORD BOOKS, 1928-1938
	<p style="text-align: center;">Bound; 18 cm. or smaller</p> <p>3/1 1928 Dec. 31 - 1929 June 25</p> <p>3/2 1929 June 26 - 1930 May 31</p> <p>3/3 1930 June 2 - 1931 Feb. 11</p> <p>3/4 1931 Feb. 2 - 1931 Oct. 23</p> <p>3/5 1931 Oct. 26 - 1932 Aug. 16 . . .</p> <p>3/6 1934 Jan. 17 - 1934 June 26 . . .</p> <p>3/7 1935 Jan. 28 - 1935 Nov. 1 . . .</p> <p>3/8 1936 Sept. 7 - 1937 July 2</p> <p>3/9 1937 July 5 - 1938 Mar. 25</p> <p>3/10 1938 Mar. 28 - 1938 Dec. 30</p>
	<p>AUTYP 4. <u>[OTHER STOCK RECORDS]</u></p> <p>4/1 <u>[Tissue department: stock manufacture]</u>. - 1892-1894 92 leaves, bound; 32 cm. Gives length of tissue or of transfer paper made in each batch. Arranged by colour of product for tissue and by weight of paper for transfer, with an index</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 5 <u>[WARTIME MANUFACTURING PROJECTS]</u> 1942-1945
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ship recognition instructor for the RAF, 1942</u></p> <p>5/1 Ship recognition cabinets. - 1942 Nov-Dec. ca. 20 items in original file; 32 cm. or smaller. Preparation of Autotype's quotation to the RAF for construction of the complete cabinet, with draft of a detailed costing. Quotations from suppliers for components; wood, board, mirrors, fittings and textiles, including 2 samples of black-out material</p> <p>5/2 Drawings <u>for the</u> ship recognition instructor/ S.T.D.U. Royal Air Force. - 1942 Nov. 24 59 technical drawings: dyeline copies; 69 x 101 cm. or smaller, folded to 27 x 38 cm. Each drawing also marked "Phillips and Powis Aircraft Ltd., Woodley, Reading, Berks." Accompanied by: Ship Recognition Instructor, STDU 10, schedule of drawings and issues. - <u>[3]</u> sheets; this lists drawings 1-58. Also accompanied by: a complete duplicate set of schedule and drawings</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Range factor computer for the USAAF, 1944</u></p> <p>5/3/1 <u>[Supply of range factor computer to the Eighth Air Force, USAAF]</u>. - 1944 Mar.-Apr. ca. 15 items in original file; 29 cm. Correspondence with USAAF London, the RAF and the Ministry of Aircraft Production concerning the supply of 250 computers, with draft costings. One finished range factor computer, 26 x 25 cm. and a bombing angle computer, 21 x 21 cm, both of stiff board with moveable circular scales, attached at the front of the file. Accompanied by: 5/3/2 and 5/3/3 below (found loose in this file)</p> <p>5/3/2 Key to lantern slides showing subdivision of transparency sections and areas covered <u>[cartographic material]</u>. - Scale 1: 1 000 000. - <u>[1944?]</u> 1 ms. grid chart; 77 x 101 cm. folded to 25 x 19 cm. Drawn over a dyeline copy of a 1:1,000,000 map of the United Kingdom issued by: "Geographical Section, General Staff" <u>[Purpose not known. Possibly a key to aerial photographic material used in bombing training?]</u></p> <p>5/3/3 <u>[Grid system for the United Kingdom]</u> <u>[cartographic material]</u>. - Scale 1:4 700 000. - <u>[1944?]</u> 1 map overprinted with grid system: on card; 26 x 24 cm. In pocket envelope 26 x 26 cm; envelope front bears aerial photograph, scale 1:205,000, of the Bristol area. <u>[Purpose not known. Possibly for use in bombing training?]</u> <u>Note</u> Grid systems in 5/3/2 and 5/3/3 are different</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 5 contd.
<p>[5/4/1] trans- ferred to the National Film Archive</p>	<p><u>Compass dials [for the Admiralty?] 1945</u></p> <p>The technique of manufacturing mica dials for compass, liquid, prismatic Mark III [motion picture] // [The Autotype Co. Ltd. and the Australian High Commission, London]. - [1945?]</p> <p>1 film reel (13 min.): sd., b&w; 16 mm.</p> <p>With note on container recommending silent projection at 24 frames per second as the film is "out of sync."</p> <p>Shows sequence of manufacture, principally in the Autotype Works, with a technical commentary. [Probably made for Australian manufacturer[s] about to begin production of these dials]</p>
<p>5/4/2</p>	<p>[Letter] 1945 Aug. 2, Australia House, London [to] E. Rouse [at the] Autotype Works, Ealing / G.M.Singleton [1] sheet; 18 x 21 cm.</p> <p>Typescript signed.</p> <p>Concerns the film listed at 5/4/1 above.</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 6 [MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS]
6/1	<p>[Note] 1931 Nov. 24 [to] Mr Clayden [for the information of the workforce] /W.M.Rouse [1] sheet; 26 cm. Typescript signed The Company cannot afford wage increases; business is "seriously depressed" with the Printing and Studio departments on two-thirds time; economies will be needed to avoid a 10% decrease.</p>
6/2	<p>[Sales material for Autotype Five Star Film]. - 1963 [4] items; 30 cm. Print and typescript In German, Dutch and Turkish</p>
6/3	<p>Die Präparation von Pigmentpapier und das Ätzen von Tiefdruckzylindern/von H.M.Cartwright. - [196-?] 86 leaves; 30 cm. Typescript A manuscript German version of: Technical notes on the preparation of pigmented gelatine resists and the etching of rotogravure cylinders/H.M. Cartwright. - London, The Autotype Company Ltd, [1965?]</p>
6/4	<p>Autotype Works, West Ealing, W.13 [graphic]. - [1938?] 1 photo.: glass photonegative, b&w; 22 x 17 cm. An aerial view of the neighbourhood With second glass plate and template outlining the extent of the Autotype Works Accompanied by a positive print on paper, 1980, and an explanation of our reasons for the suggested date</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 7. [SAWYER FAMILY PAPERS] 1830-1904
<p>7/1</p> <p>[7/2] shelved at MSL 5</p>	<p>[Certificate of marriage] 1830 Apr. 10 [between] John Sawyer, widower, of Sheffield and Jane Dixon, widow, of Bermondsey/J.E.Gibson, Rector of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey</p> <p>[1] sheet; 19 x 23 cm. Printed form with ms. insertions</p> <p>[Indenture] 1844 Mar. 14 [apprenticing] John Robert Mather Sawyer [to] William Ward Brumby [and] William Middleton, merchants and factors of Sheffield</p> <p>[1] sheet; 34 x 42 cm. Printed form with ms. insertions and signatures Signed also by John Sawyer [father]</p> <p><u>A photographer's impressions of European travel, 1863-1881</u></p>
<p>7/3</p>	<p>Notes on a run through Belgium/[J.R.Sawyer]. - 1863 June</p> <p>[12] leaves; 21 cm. Holograph A travel diary, with comments on art and architecture</p>
<p>7/4/1</p>	<p>Diary of a Swiss tour/[J.R.Sawyer]. - 1864 June-July [30] leaves, some blank; 22 cm. Holograph Accompanied by: 7/4/2 Similar in style to 7/3</p>
<p>7/4/2</p>	<p>[Letter] 1864 July 24, Hackney [to] J.R.[Sawyer] / [John Sawyer]</p> <p>[3] leaves; 19 cm. Holograph signed Describes the progress of the Swiss holiday party [as in 7/4/1] after J.R.S.'s return to London; written on his own homecoming</p>
<p>7/5</p>	<p>Holiday notes [written at] Rigi Scheideck/J.R.S[awyer] - 1881 Aug. 18</p> <p>[4] leaves; 22 cm. Holograph signed</p>
<p>7/6</p>	<p>A mes amis/J.R.Sawyer - [between 1860? and 1880?] [1] sheet; 18 cm. Holograph signed Draft introduction [to a projected book with photographs?]; endorsed "Notes of a Rhine Tour"</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 7 contd
	<p><u>Charles Sawyer grows up, joins the Autotype Company and becomes established in life, 1882-1886</u></p> <p>7/7 Copy 1882 Dec. 21 / of the certificate of the birth of Charles Sawyer / on / 1861 Dec. 28 / General Register Office /1/ sheet; 20 x 39 cm. In standard form</p> <p>7/8 /Letters to Charles Sawyer on his coming-of-age/ . - 1882 Dec. 4 items; 25 cm. or smaller From his father J.R.S., his father's colleague W.S.Bird of the Autotype Company, Mrs Bird and an unknown well-wisher</p> <p>7/9 /Letter/ 1883 Dec. 24, Autotype Company /to/ Charles Sawyer /J.R.Sawyer/ /1/ sheet; 26 cm. Holograph signed Expresses satisfaction at C.S.'s work and encloses a bonus</p> <p>7/10 /Letter/ 1884 Jan. 1, Autotype Company /to/ Charles Sawyer, Ealing/W.S.Bird /1/ sheet; 26 cm. Holograph signed With envelope Praises C.S.'s work and raises his salary to £200 per annum</p> <p>7/11 /Letter/ 1884 June 16, Christ Church Rectory, Elizabeth N.J., USA /to Charles/ Sawyer/H.H.Oberly /2/ leaves; 22 cm. Holograph signed Suggests a joint holiday in Switzerland</p> <p>7/12 /Letter/ 1884 Aug. 27, Bristol /to Charles/ Sawyer /in/ Ealing/James Henry la Trobe /2/ leaves; 18 cm. Holograph signed Encloses visiting card and business circular. With envelope Is glad to renew their previous correspondence; gives news of his architectural career</p> <p>7/13 /Letters to Charles Sawyer on his marriage/. - 1885 Apr.-June 4 items; 33 cm. or smaller From Jack Deane, H.H.Oberly, Emile Moreau and from the Autotype Works employees at Ealing Dene, the latter with 64 names</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 7 contd
7/14	<p>[Letter] 1886 Apr. 13, Mussoorie [India to] Charles [Sawyer]/Emile Moreau [2] leaves; 17 cm. Holograph signed Congratulates C. on the birth of his son in March</p> <p><u>J.R.Sawyer: autotypes in book illustration, 1887</u></p>
7/15	<p>[Letter] 1887 June 14, East Dereham [to J.R.] Sawyer/ Augustus Jessopp [2] leaves; 18 cm. Holograph signed Discusses J.R.S.'s career, their collaboration and the use of autotypes in book illustration [for Jessopp's The autobiography of Roger North]</p> <p><u>Family affairs, 1889-1892</u></p>
7/16	<p>[Letter] 1889 Feb. 10, Angers [to Charles Sawyer] / [F. or T.] Henry [2] leaves; 12 cm. Holograph signed In French From an aunt or uncle; refers to C.S.'s recent sad journey [to Naples?]</p>
7/17	<p>[Correspondence between] J.V.Moles, Cheltenham [and] Charles Sawyer, [London]. - 1889 May 17-24 4 items; 28 cm. or less Concerns the proposed marriage between Moles' son Will (an apprentice to the Autotype Company, and C.S.'s sister</p>
7/18	<p>[Letter] 1890 Aug. 29, Autotype Company [to] Eva [Mrs. Charles Sawyer], Ealing/W.S.Bird [1] sheet; 28 cm. Holograph signed With envelope An affectionate discussion of C.S., the Autotype Company and the Sawyer children</p>
7/19	<p>[Letter] 1892 Aug. 26 [to] Charles [Sawyer]/W.S.Bird [1] sheet; 13 x 21 cm. Holograph signed Urges C.S. to forget his work on holiday</p>
7/20	<p>[Letter] 1892 Nov. 11, Naples [to] Charles Sawyer, London/A.M.Holmes [2] leaves; 21 cm. Holograph signed Discusses a proposed monument to J.R.Sawyer, who is buried in Naples; encloses suggested inscription and a sketch of the tombstone</p>

AUTYP	AUTYP 7 contd
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Miscellaneous material 1892-1893</u></p> <p>7/21 <u>[Letter]</u> 1892 Sept. 30, Heath's Court, Ottery St Mary, Devon <u>[to]</u> the manager of the Autotype Company <u>[Coleridge i.e. John Duke Coleridge, 1st Baron Coleridge]</u> <u>[2]</u> leaves; 21 cm. Holograph signed Intercedes on behalf of a Herbert Reynolds, who is in debt to the Company. Endorsed with notes on the history of the debt</p> <p>7/22 <u>[Notice to clients]</u> 1892 Oct. 39 <u>[sic]</u> /W.S.Bird for the Autotype Works <u>[1]</u> sheet; 27 cm. Printed form with ms. insertions Suspends operations of the Express Department from Nov. 5 during the "dark days" of winter <u>[apparently, from the form of the notice, a regular annual procedure]</u></p> <p>7/23 <u>[Publicity leaflet for Autotype dry plates]</u>. - <u>[1892?]</u> <u>[1]</u> sheet; 19 x 23 cm.</p> <p>7/24 Admission card <u>[for the]</u> State Opening <u>[of the]</u> Imperial Institute, South Kensington, 1893 May 10 1 card, 21 x 26 cm. folding to 10 x 21 cm. Printed with map and seating plan; apparently unused.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Charles Sawyer, 1898-1904</u></p> <p>7/25 <u>[Records of Charles Sawyer's private account with the Ealing branch of the London and County Banking Co. Ltd.]</u> . - 1898-1904 Includes 2 bank books covering 1898 Aug 1 - 1904 Feb. 29, ca. 220 cleared cheques for 1903, and a letter 1904 Feb. 29 from the manager, regretting C.S.'s closure of the account</p> <p>7/26 <u>[Letter]</u> 1903 Oct. 1, Primrose Club <u>[to]</u> Charles Sawyer, notifying him of his election as a member/ H.Furneaux, Secretary <u>[2]</u> leaves; 18 cm. Printed with ms. insertions, signed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Unidentified</u></p> <p>7/27 <u>[Miscellaneous material of various dates]</u> 3 items</p>