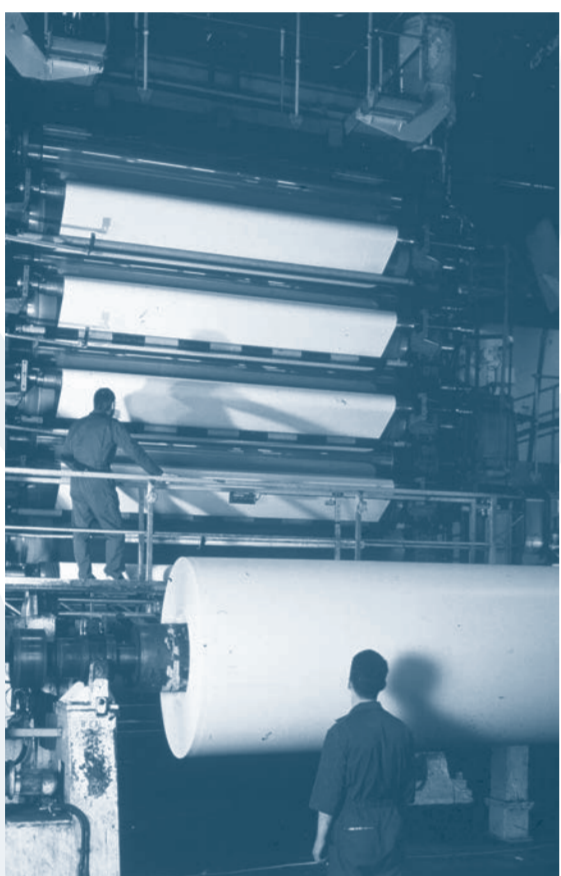
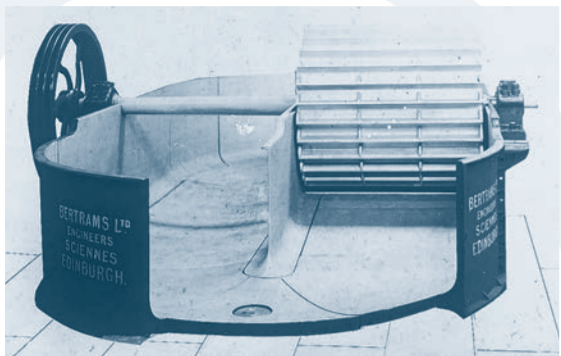


Bringing the Page to Life

Ancillary Industries



The growth of the papermaking industry in Scotland meant that associated industries emerged and prospered. Papermills had to be kept supplied with new machinery. Items such as machine felts, wires, steam boilers and industrial rolls were also needed and were provided by Edinburgh firms such as Miller and Co, Cochranes of Annan and United Wire. The needs of the mills ensured the emergence of an allied papermaking machine industry that expanded to service both national and international markets. Among the best known of these firms were James Bertram and Sons Ltd and Bertrams of Sciennes.



Bertrams of Sciennes was founded in 1821 by George and William Bertram and the Leith firm James Bertram and Sons was established in 1845 by the third brother James Bertram. Though owned by members of the same family the firms were quite separate. These two factories led the world in the production of papermaking machinery. They were innovative in machine research and development and also in the use of esparto grass and other diverse raw material such as eucalyptus for papermaking.



Bertrams made machines for many types of paper and board including: artist watercolour, airmail, banknote, bank and bonds, cartridge, cigarette, crepe tissue, dyeline, security, tracing, teabag tissue, chipboard and wallpaper base. The firms were involved in every aspect of papermaking production and could survey, design, supply and install everything in the mill from the prime mover, stock preparation, paper machines to the finishing equipment. They also played an integral part in the servicing of mill machinery and assisting mill engineers with essential maintenance during the annual shut.

With the demise of the British papermaking industry in the late twentieth century, firms such as Bertrams began to look abroad for their market and also to diversify into other materials. By the early 1970s, 80% of Bertrams business was in exports and they had begun to develop into new areas such as the production of cellophane machines. However, this market could not support the firms indefinitely and by 1980 both Bertrams of Sciennes and James Bertrams ceased trading.

