

## SIR TITUS SALT'S DAYBOOK : collection description

*Special Collections, J.B. Priestley Library*

### **Reference code**

GB 0532 SAL

### **Title**

Sir Titus Salt's Daybook

### **Dates**

1834-1837

### **Level of description**

Fonds

### **Extent**

1 notebook

### **Name of creator**

Sir Titus Salt, 1803-1876, textile manufacturer

### **Administrative/biographical history**

Titus Salt was born in Morley near Leeds on 20th September, 1803. He joined the family firm of woolstaplers in 1824 and became the firm's wool buyer. Daniel Salt & Son prospered and became one of the most important textile companies in Bradford. When Daniel Salt retired in 1833, Titus took over the running of the company. Over the next twenty years Titus Salt became the largest employer in Bradford.

In 1834 he saw some "Peruvian wool" (alpaca) in Liverpool and became interested in its use. The hair of the alpaca, a relative of the llama, had been used for weaving as a warp or with a worsted warp but the resultant cloth had little to

recommend it. Titus Salt and his assistants spent over a year working on the problems involved in spinning alpaca, then pioneered the use of alpaca weft with cotton or silk warps ; this produced a durable lightweight fabric with a sheen.

Moving his business out of Bradford, in 1853 he established the new Salt's Mill, the centre for the model industrial village of Saltaire. Salt was elected to Parliament in 1859 and was created a baronet in 1869. He died on 29th December, 1876.

### ***Archival history***

Obtained by Dr. J. Iredale, a lecturer at Bradford University.

### ***Immediate source of acquisition***

Presented by Dr. Iredale to the Archaeological Sciences Librarian (Mr. K.B. Tidswell) for the Bradford University Library.

### ***Scope and content***

Notebook in the hand of Sir Titus Salt, containing entries dated 1834-1837. It appears to contain personal notes of special transactions and experiments. These include a page headed '27 June 1835. 1 bag Peruvian wool' (i.e. alpaca), and another headed 'October 1836. 2 packs of Alpaca' ; the latter entry gives a breakdown of the costs of combing.

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### ***Language of material***

English.

### ***Finding aids***

Not applicable.

### **Publication note**

Reynolds, J. : The great paternalist, Titus Salt and the growth of nineteenth century Bradford (Hounslow : M. Temple Smith in association with the University of Bradford, 1983)

### **Archivist's note**

Described by John Brooker

### **Rules or conventions**

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

### **Date(s) of description**

September 2003

### **Indexing**

### **Persons**

Salt, Titus, Sir, 1803-1876

### **Subjects**

Woollen and worsted manufacture – England – West Yorkshire - History

Alpaca (Textile) – History

Wool industry - England – West Yorkshire - History

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