

Memories of stamp printing *Growing Up in High Wycombe: Chairmaking and the Stamp Factory* is the title of a new book which gives an account of what it was like to grow up in the Buckinghamshire town of High Wycombe in the 1920s. It describes author Hubert Albert Berry's progress from childhood to his working life within the town. Affluence in the 1920s turned into near poverty in the 30s, as the depression hit hard. After the war in the 40s came a career in the 'Stamp Factory' (as folk from Wycombe called Harrison and Sons Ltd) at a time when opportunity was open to all, when business in the 50s was changing rapidly and new methods and technology were appearing at a rapid pace.

The initial 36 pages relate to early memories, school, family and chair-making, and offer a most interesting read, but it is not stamp-related. It is pages 37 to 60 that will interest readers of the *Bulletin* the most, for Mr Berry recalls the period when he started at the company in 1947 through to 1960 when he moved on internally.

It is a worthwhile purchase for anyone with an interest in the late lamented Harrison and Sons who seeks first-hand reminiscences from a man who spent around five years managing the stamp production area. It fails to reveal anything new about production techniques or methods, for that was never the purpose of the book. What it does do so well is to clearly reveal to readers the human side of what it meant to work at Harrison and Sons. The book concludes: 'Sadly at the time of recalling these memories, neither the High Wycombe factory nor the company of Harrison's is any longer in existence.' Sad, indeed.

This hardback book, with its protective dust-jacket and more or less A5-sized pages is well printed and is illustrated with eight black-and-white images relating to the stamp factory, together with a further 32 images in section one. A useful book list brings the publication to a close.

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