

ALLDAYS & ONIONS

ADVERTISEMENTS

CIBSE Heritage Group

ALLDAYS & ONIONS

The Alldays & Onions Pneumatic Engineering Company of Birmingham was founded in 1889 by the merger of the long established Onions (formed by John Onions in 1650) and William Allday & Company (founded by William Allday in 1720).

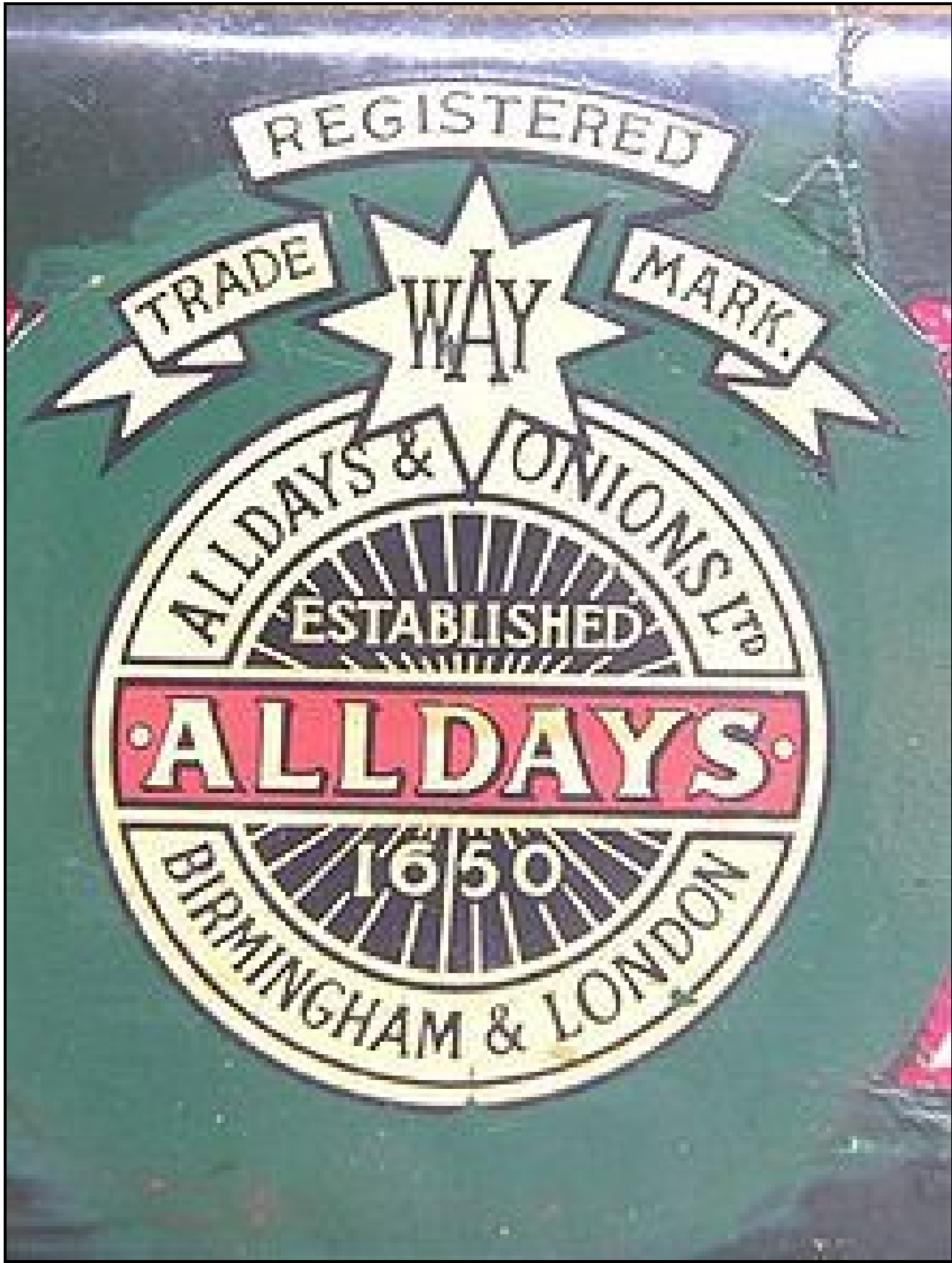
From beginnings as engineers and blacksmiths, they turned to bicycle manufacture before producing their first car, the *Traveller*, in 1898. The company started making motorcycles in 1903 and commercial success with car production came from 1905.

Advertisements indicate Alldays & Onions was manufacturing propeller and centrifugal fans in 1918 but information on the following years has not yet been found. It is known the Company had financial difficulties in 1925 and that by 1936 it was part of Mitchell Cotts & Company.

After the Second World War, Alldays & Onions was making *Low Velocity* and *Ultra Quiet* fans. This continued until 1969 when Mitchell Cotts combined the Company with another of its subsidiaries, J C Peacock (Engineers), also involved in industrial fans. The new Company was named Alldays Peacock, which during the 1980s was acquired by the Spire Group. Then in 2005, Alldays Peacock was purchased by the Witt UK Group.



Alldays & Peacock

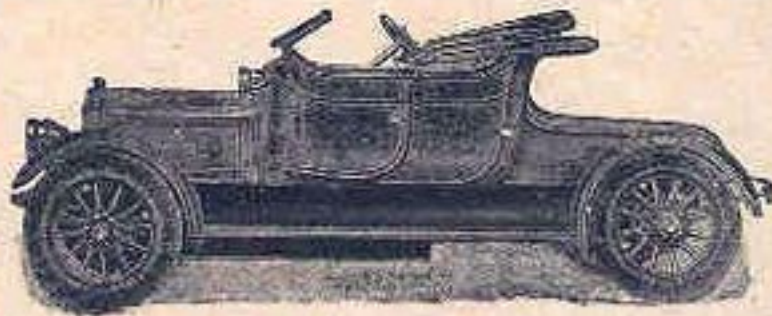


A Great Success!

Record business at the Olympia Motor Show and a splendid reception of our new models and programme for the 1913 Season by both the Public and the Trade.

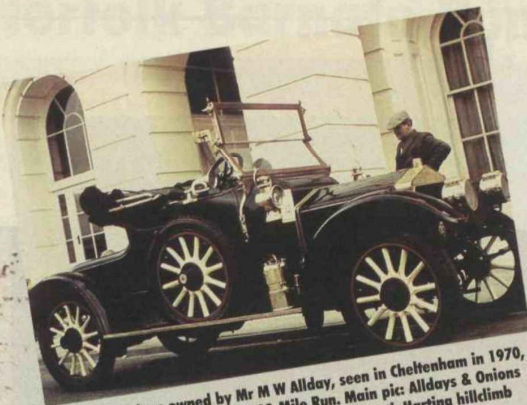
If you were not able to inspect our cars at the Show, please write for our new Catalogue, post free on request. Of interest to every prospective Buyer and Motor Trader.

ALLDAYS



Alldays & Onions PNEUMATIC ENGINEERING Co., Limited, Birmingham,
and 58, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

A26 MENTION OF "THE AUTOCAR," WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS, WILL ENSURE PROMPT ATTENTION.



The 1911 Alldays owned by Mr M W Allday, seen in Cheltenham in 1970, when competing in the VCC 1000-Mile Run. Main pic: Alldays & Onions took part in early hillclimbs. Here is one at South Harting hillclimb around 1905, with lady passenger in suitable attire.

The Alldays & Onions



Alldays & Onions cars may not be all that well remembered, but in their time they had the distinction of being manufactured by the oldest company to turn to motor-car production, and can be seen as a very well designed and constructed make. Indeed, the original ironmongery company dates back as far as 1650, when it made blacksmiths' equipment for Midlands engineering works. It also made bellows for iron-foundries, and this developed into the supply of every conceivable kind of tool, from hand-drills up, for engineering workshops, a profitable line in the busy Midlands.

Later, the specialist industry of fan making, for engineering purposes, became the main outlet, as it has remained to the present-day. The resurfacing of anvils had comprised a large part of the original busi-

ness, but when cast steel came into use for this purpose the work declined, until in 1916 Mr Allday summarily shut down this department. He had owned a De Dion Bouton in 1899, so had some idea of how the motor industry might develop. Inevitably the Alldays & Onions Pneumatic Engineering Co Ltd of Birmingham, while continuing with the production of blacksmith equipment, fans and blowers of all kinds, added at first the inevitable Alldays bicycle, and then motorcycles. But back in 1899 the Traveller quadricycle with 4 hp De Dion engine had appeared, in both private vehicle and commercial-traveller forms.

However, the first breakthrough on the car front came with the successful 10/12 hp vertical twin-cylinder introduced in 1908, and which was to remain a well-liked Alldays car up to 1911, when it was super-

ceded by the larger four-cylinder cars. In 1908 the Enfield Autocar Co had been taken into the Alldays group, and these long-established engineers were making cars in their two factories, one in Studley, another at Small Heath in Birmingham. So by 1911 motor-car production was in full swing at the Matchless and the Great Western works: up to the outbreak of the Kaiser War some 400 to 500 cars had been made of one model. Meanwhile, Allday & Onions continued to make a wide range of engineering products, of which the Duplex fan was very successful. I was fortunate in being able to meet Mr Michael W Allday, whose father Percy managed the Company and whose great-uncle William and grandfather Edmund were on the board of the car companies, and had united the Onions business with Alldays. The other Directors

N^o 1431

£1 Share

ALLDAYS & ONIONS

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the *Sixteenth* day of *July* 1917

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Walter H. Goodwin SECRETARY

Edward Smith

DIRECTORS.

Alldays Patent Pneumatic Forging Hammer.

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Photograph of 10 cwt. Motor Driven.

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ENGINEERING

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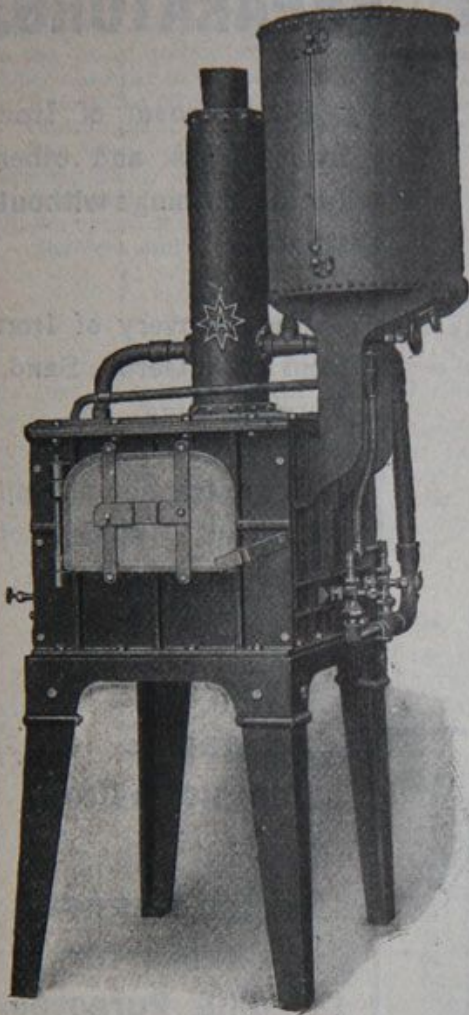
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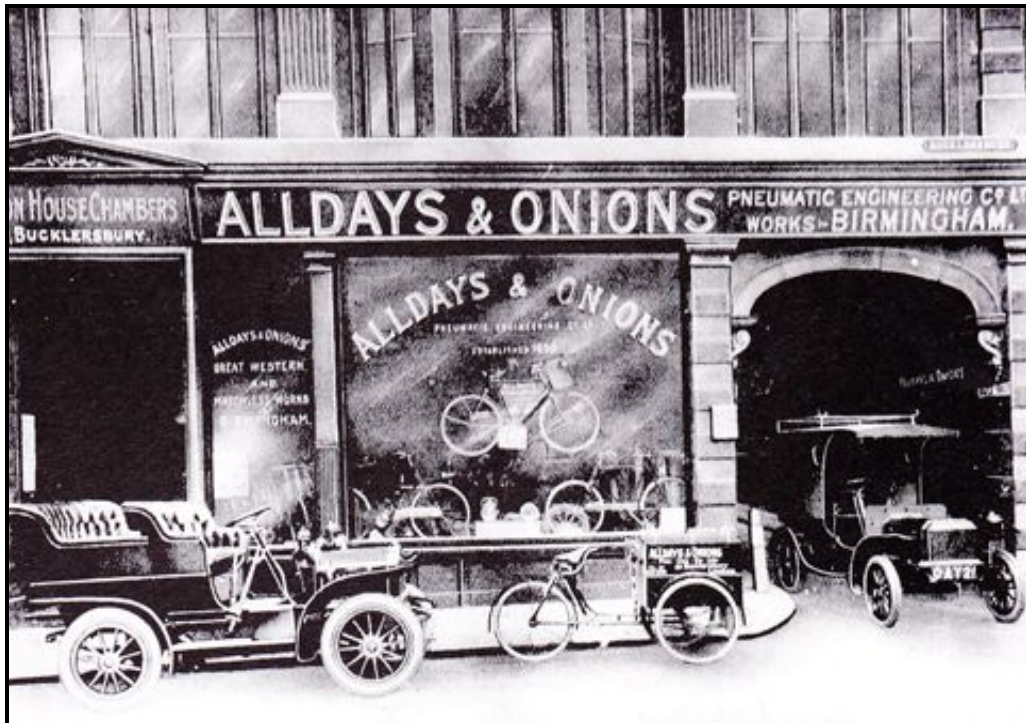
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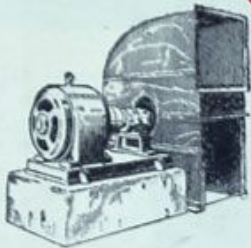
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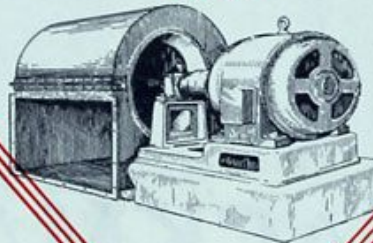
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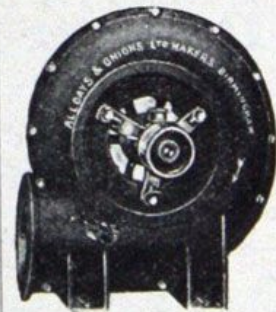
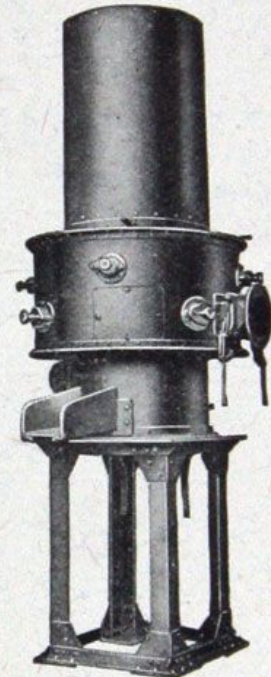
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'Phone. Victoria 2251-4. 'Grams. 'Alldays, Phorfe, Birm.'

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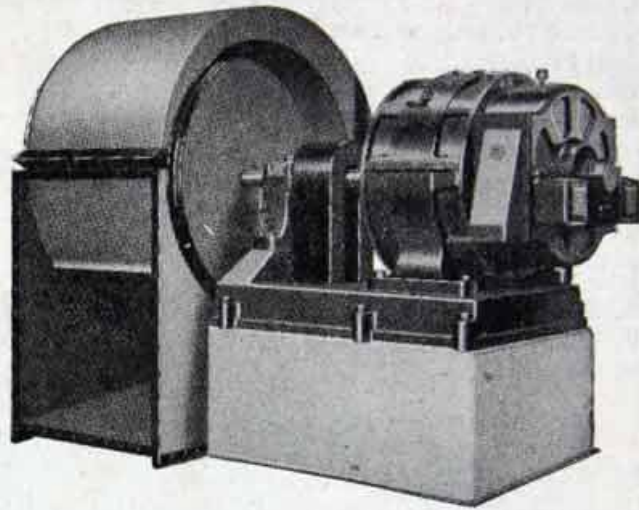
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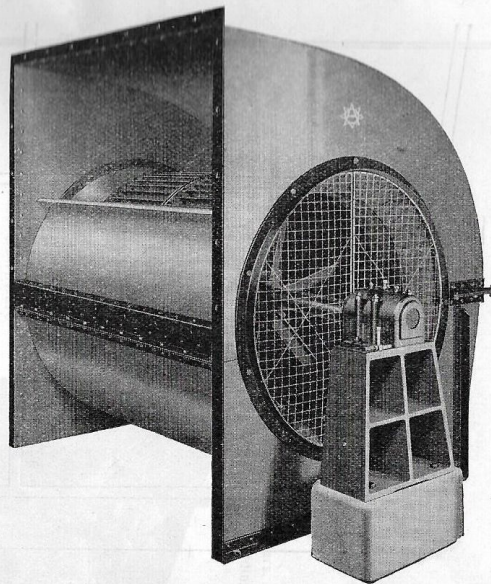
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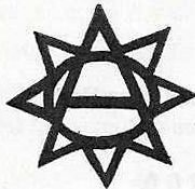
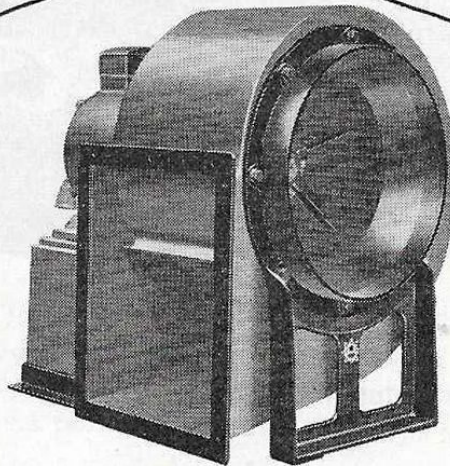
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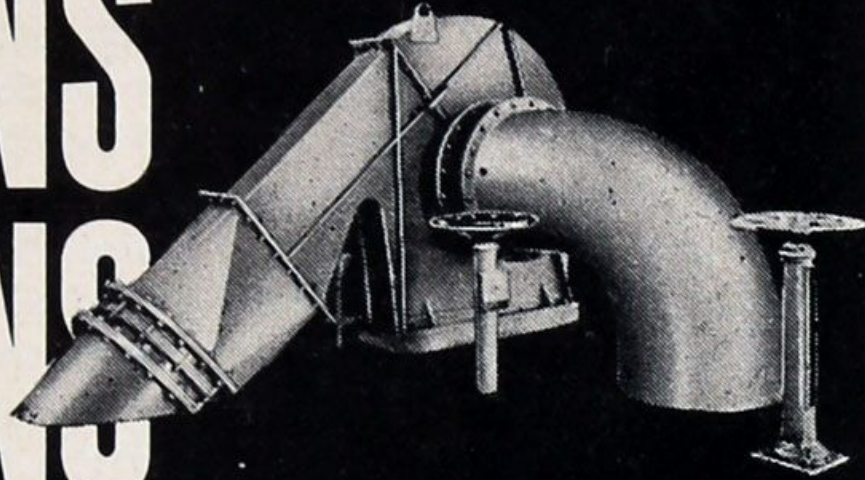
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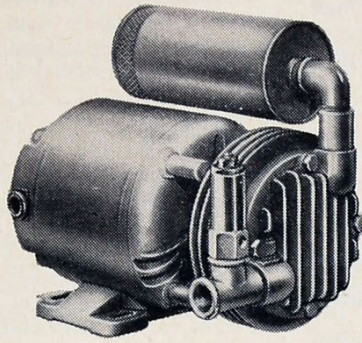
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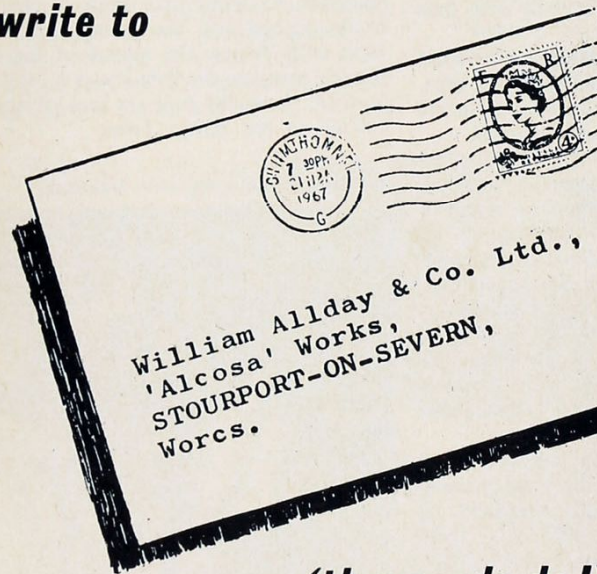
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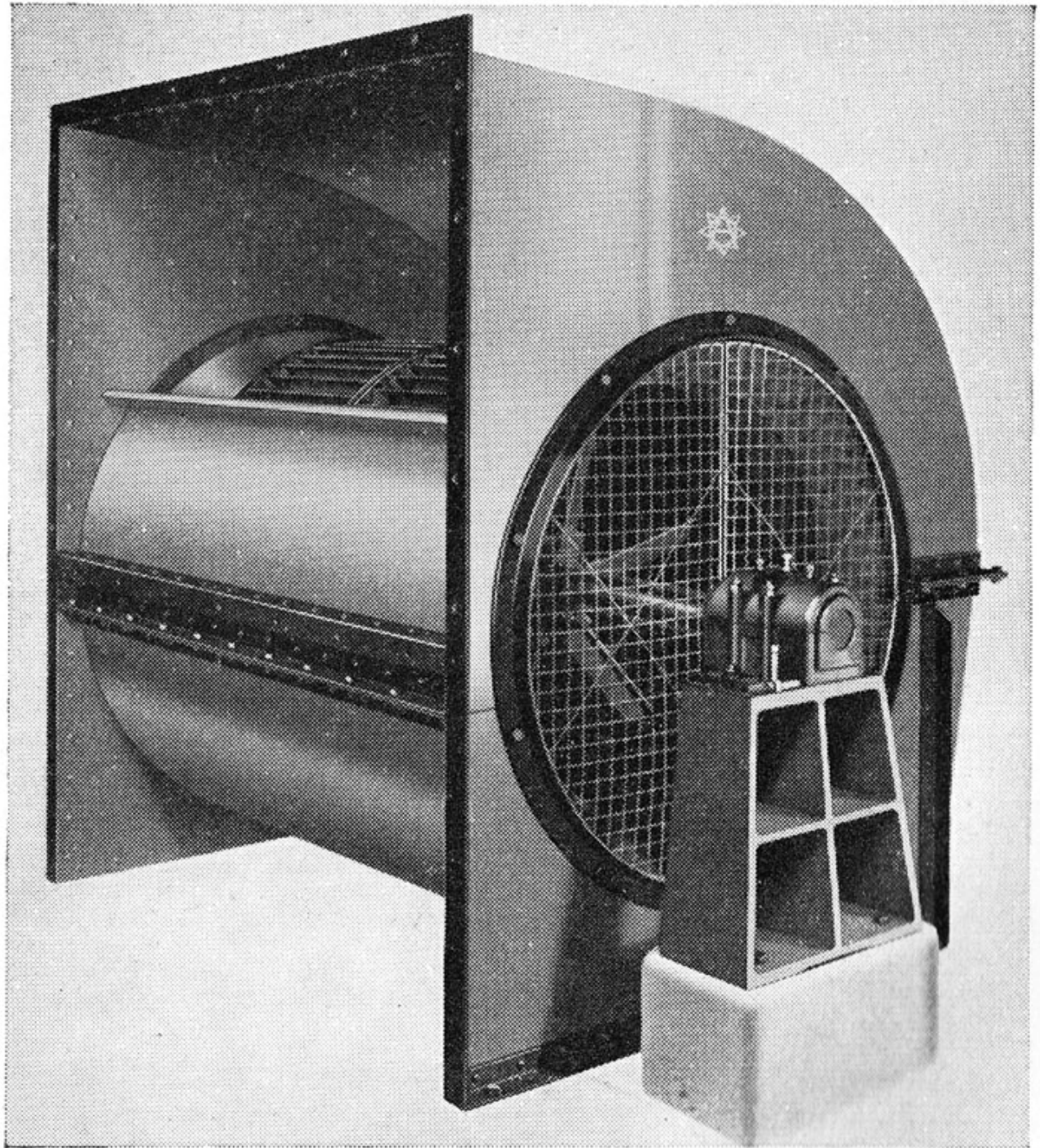


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Alldays & Onions Ltd.

FIG. 1. CENTRIFUGAL FAN



1953

REFERENCES and ILLUSTRATION SOURCES

- *IHVE Journals*, selection of advertisements
- *Alldays & Onions*, Wikipedia
- *Alldays & Onions*, Grace's Guide
- *Alldays Peacock*, Witt UK Group website