

# JOHN WORRALL OF OLDHAM, DIRECTORY-PUBLISHER TO LANCASHIRE AND TO THE WORLD, 1868-1970

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Many local historians will be familiar with town directories and with the type of information which they contain. They may however be less familiar with those specialised directories which served the needs of particular trades and covered a widening range of occupations. Information upon such directories was indeed not readily available until 1966 (A.L. Smyth, 1966). The following article focusses attention upon one textile directory which first served the needs of the cotton industry and then became a source of abundant raw material for historians.

## John Worrall as Printer and Publisher

In 1868 John Worrall (1829-1904) established a printing business in Blackburn where he published two town directories, of Wigan and Blackburn. Then in 1870 he moved to Oldham.

There he established a printing works in Marlborough Street off Waterloo Street which, with an adjoining warehouse, remained the base of operations of his firm for almost a century. During the boom of 1870-73 Worrall extended the range of his operations and published a series of local directories for eight more cotton towns. For eight years from 1869 he produced on average two directories per annum. He survived the severe depression of 1877-79 and was even stimulated by its influence to pioneer the publication of a textile trade directory in a creative response to the onset of hard times.


In 1882 Worrall published for the first time a directory of cotton spinners and manufacturers and so sought to provide the ancillary industries of Lancashire with a reliable guide to the market for their products. The need for such a guide had become acute during the 1870s. The cotton industry had reached the peak of its greatest importance in the world market during the year 1871 and had thereafter begun to experience a marked decline in the rate of its expansion. That process of deceleration inevitably checked the expansion of the market for its subsidiary industries, which numbered some 150 by 1870. One response to that market-crisis was the appearance of a range of printed publications intended to increase the range of outlets for the products of the auxiliary industries. The patterns of commercial culture were changing from the oral tradition to the print technology and from personal recommendation to impersonal advertisement. Worrall's new venture was designed as an advertising medium, specifically targeted upon the potential customers of mill suppliers and was intended 'to bring into immediate communication the millowners and occupiers and those whose business is in any way connected with mills' (*Yorkshire Textile Directory*, 1883, p.xii). The directory listed only users of steam or motive power and excluded hand loom weavers, so 'differing from all previous directories issued by other publishers'.

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### The STEAM USERS' DIRECTORY,

FOR MANCHESTER, AND THE  
TEXTILE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS of LANCASHIRE and YORKSHIRE.

The Work comprises a list of the Engineers, Machine Makers, Iron and Brass Founders, Boiler Makers, Tool Makers, Colliery Proprietors, Corn Millers, Steam Saw Mills; Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Silk and Flax Spinners and Manufacturers; Bleachers, Dyers and Calico Printers; Cloth Finishers, Paper Makers, and other Users of Steam Power.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY  
JOHN WORRALL, Central Works, Marlborough Street, OLDHAM.

## Worrall's printing works pictured in *Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Directory for 1889*

In order to indicate the potential purchasing-power of a firm the directory printed details of its spindles and of its power looms in a major departure from established practice. This was the first listing of machines operated by individual firms. The initiative proved acceptable to the business world because circulation of the directory was restricted 'wholly amongst firms connected with the trade' and 'no objectionable publicity is given' (*Yorkshire Textile Directory*, 1889, p.3). The new work was especially adapted to the needs of engineers, machine-makers, iron and brass founders, oil refiners and mill furnishers. Its full title was in fact *The Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Directory and Engineers' and Machine Makers' Advertiser*.

Worrall had found a niche in the market. The work proved an immediate success and four more annual editions followed in 1884-87. He soon realised that the publication of textile directories was more profitable than that of local directories. He abandoned the printing of regional directories after 1881, of commercial annuals after 1883 and of town directories after 1885, so recognising his

inability to compete with such firms as Tillotson's or Barret's. In his new sphere of production Worrall sought to ensure accuracy, utility and ease of reference. He claimed that his directories 'are unique in their arrangement, and contain more reliable information than is to be found in any other directory of the Textile branches of industry' (*Yorkshire Textile Directory*, 1887, p.xii). The claim was justified because Worrall used local agents who had been earlier employed to secure the information for his town directories. The correctness of the printed details of spindleage may be verified by referring to the order-books of the machine-makers, Platt Bros. of Oldham. So reliable was the information that it was plagiarised by rival firms such as E.B. Woods of Manchester in his *Wood's Cotton Spinners' and Textile Diary* for 1888. Worrall sued Woods for breach of copyright and, after a four-day hearing in the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster, Manchester Division, was granted an injunction on 16 November 1888. Woods continued to publish his *Textile Diary* for another twenty years. Worrall was nevertheless freed from competition within his own field for almost forty years. Kelly's textile directory of 1880, 1885 and 1889 did not become a regular publication. Nor did Slater's textile directory of Europe, first published in 1894. Worrall's success may even have aborted an attempt to publish more regular and more detailed official factory returns, as recommended in 1895: the last such returns were made in 1885, in 1890 and 1903-5.

The first issue of the directory in 1882 was 'not so complete as we could have wished it to be': it lacked the necessary information for 111 firms or for 5.7 per cent of a total of 1948 and was especially weak in the detailed statistics of the five towns of Oldham, Rochdale, Manchester, Leigh and Preston. In the second edition of 1884 the contents were made more complete and more accurate by including missing firms and by avoiding duplication. As a result the number of firms was reduced by 105, or by 5.4 per cent, a reduction which was especially marked in the cases of Leigh and Rochdale. The total number of spindles listed rose by 2.1 millions or by 5.5 per cent and the number of looms by 49,139 or by 10.1 per cent. In certain towns the difference between the 1882 and the 1884 returns was dramatic.

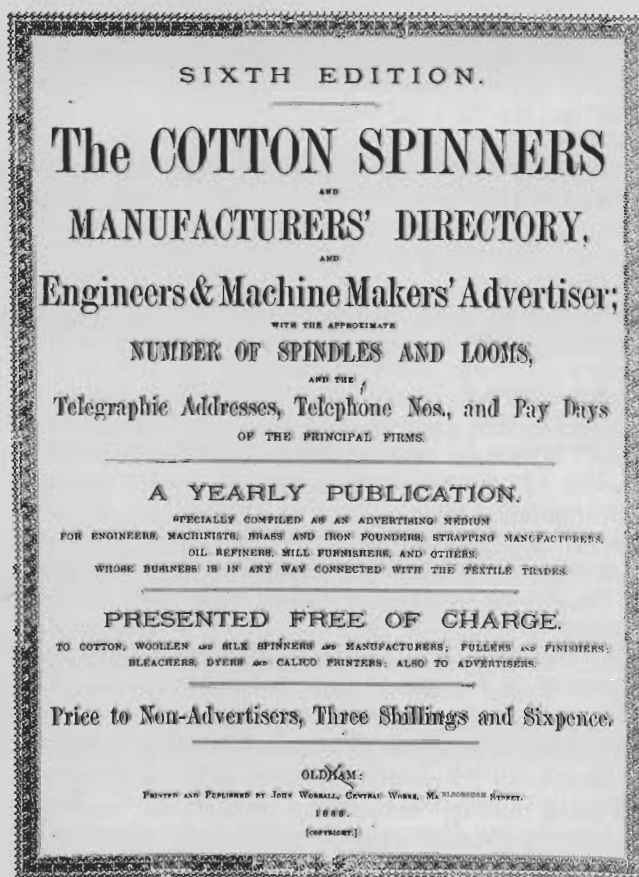
**Proportionate Increase in Machinery in Five Towns between 1882 and 1884 (%)**

	Spindles	Looms
Leigh	28	80
Rochdale	52	43
Manchester	5	185
Oldham	11.6	17.5
Preston	-4.7	16.1

Worrall was inspired by the success of his Lancashire directory to publish a similar one for Yorkshire from 1883, including statistics in the second edition for 1885. From 1889 he began to publish two more textile serials, a directory covering the remainder of the U.K. outside Lancashire and Yorkshire and a textile and engineering diary for the Indian and Japanese markets. This initiative led the firm to develop a special interest in catalogue work for the engineering trades. From 1891 Worrall also produced pocket editions of his three main directories for the use of salesmen, and began to earn public praise from the textile press (*Textile Manufacturer*, July 1891, 312).

After the death of the founder's only son, Arthur Worrall (1867-1909) the firm became, in 1909, a private limited company and launched a series of new publications upon an eager market. The Edwardian boom had added 15 million spindles, or 35 per cent, to the productive capacity of the industry in ten years (1900-1909), including 4.26 millions in the single year 1906, and had stimulated from 1905 the publication of *Cotton Year Books*, sponsored by the textile journals. From 1911 Worrall's published a *Year Book and Diary for the Bradford and Huddersfield Exchanges*. In 1912 the firm first published its *Continental Textile Directory* with a text in four languages (French, German, Spanish and Italian) and with details of 3971 firms in thirteen states: it increased the number of entries by 28 per cent to 5100 for the third edition of 1914-15. Finally Worrall's entered the competitive field of textile journalism and published its own *Monthly Textile Gazette*, which included articles by William Tattersall and by J.A. Todd but which lasted for only six issues from July 1914 to February 1915.

The Great War undermined the new ventures of the firm and also brought to an end the expansion of the cotton industry itself: the directory for 1916 noted (p.21) the absolute decrease in spindles during 1915 for the first time since 1897. Thenceforward the firm was to experience a gradual decline from its prewar apogee. A permanent new competitor appeared in the form of Skinner's *Cotton Trade Directory of the World* from 1923, followed by its *Wool Trade Directory of the World* from 1928. From 1924 Worrall's published a list of company directors in imitation of Skinner's directory, which remained superior in its coverage of the whole cotton world in all its branches of activity within the confines of a single volume. Seyd & Co. also published in 1927 and 1930 confidential directories of credit ratings which



*Title page of 1888 Directory*



*John Worrall, Ltd.,*

CENTRAL WORKS,  
MARLBOROUGH STREET, **OLDHAM.**

Telegrams, "DIRECTORY, OLDHAM." Telephone No. 427.

QUOTATIONS FORWARDED ON APPLICATION.

*Worrall's printing works, c1912*

were better suited to the commercial needs of the time than details of a firm's productive capacity. The depression of 1929-32 induced some minor changes in the format of publication. From 1931-32 the three main directories were retitled respectively *The Lancashire Textile Industry*, *The Yorkshire Textile Industry*, and *The British and Dominion Textile Industry*. From 1932 *The Lancashire Textile Industry* included a brief annual survey of trade and a textile machinery supplement entitled 'Among the Advertisers'. From 1933 the firm began to insist in print upon its copyright to its own statistics. It also inaugurated a textile addressing service, covering the whole of the British Isles.

From 1943 Worrall's reduced the size of the directory under wartime pressure to save paper to an octavo format. During the 1950s the firm increased the amount of information in its directories and sought to diversify the range of its publications as the cotton industry continued to decline. By 1963 the number of firms included in the *Lancashire Textile Industry* had declined by 70 per cent from the peak of 2,011 in 1914 to 598. There had occurred a corresponding decline in the number of mill suppliers, in their advertisements and in the revenue earned by the firm. Worrall's failed to tap alternative markets and could find no relief in employment as a jobbing printer in a town struck by acute depression. The firm experienced rapid decline during the 1960s.

In 1964 Brown & Swapp Ltd. of Failsworth bought the firm from John Tipping Worrall, who had retired to Porlock where he died in 1981, leaving an estate of £68,240. The new proprietors sought to widen the range of publications, marketing from 1965 *Dog's Life*, 'an illustrated monthly magazine for all who own or are owned by dogs'. Those initiatives met with only temporary success and the firm finally wound up in 1970 (*Oldham Chronicle*, 22 January 1970). The 85th and last edition of the *Lancashire Textile Industry* appeared in 1970 under the imprint of Thomas Skinner & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. of Croydon, being printed at Tonbridge in Kent. In 1971 followed the final editions of *The Yorkshire Textile Industry* and of the *British Textile Industry*. One of the firm's original titles survived in India. There *Worrall's Textile and Engineering Directory* continued to be compiled by Vadilal Dagli and to be published by Commerce Publications Ltd. of Bombay, appearing in 1985-86 for the ninety-second year of publication.

## Use of Worrall's Directories by Historians

*The Lancashire Textile Industry* remains the most valuable of the series of Worrall's textile directories. It embodies a remarkable achievement by John Worrall in overcoming the resistance of the trade to the publication of any information which might benefit rivals. That success was due to the capacity of the directory to serve as an aid to the more efficient marketing of mill supplies. Each annual volume was presented free of charge to all listed firms, Worrall's recouping its outlay from the advertising revenue. The directory supplied up-to-date, easily accessible and classified lists of firms, buyers, trades, textile fabrics and mill officials. From 1891 on it divided spinning firms into spinners of coarse, medium and fine counts. The area covered by the directory comprised the whole of the Lancashire cotton region and included the districts of Glossop in Derbyshire, Stockport and Hyde in Cheshire and Todmorden in Yorkshire. Each issue included details of the spindles, the looms and the products of every firm in each cotton town and village. Such information was available nowhere else and did not usually appear in Worrall's town directories. The range of information was extended by the successive inclusion of such additional features as:

1. a list of district holidays from 1897.
2. an abstract of the annual statistical summaries from 1898, showing a decline in spindleage between 1894 and 1898 and provoking considerable contemporary discussion.
3. particulars of railway communication from 1899
4. the year of formation of limited companies from 1907
5. a graph of the fluctuations in the numbers of firms, spindles and looms since 1882, from 1933.

The annual statistical summary includes information upon the number of firms in the other textile industries of the region, especially in the silk, smallware and woollen and worsted trades, whose numbers increased during the twentieth century as the number of cotton firms declined. These specialised manufacturing directories also include valuable illustrations and advertisements, which remain a relatively unexploited source of information. In consulting these volumes one should remember the function they were designed to fulfil and understand how this function determined the type of information included and the type excluded. Amongst the deliberate omissions from the directories are any details relating to:

1. mills as distinct from firms.
2. room and power companies, which did not purchase mill supplies. (*The Yorkshire Textile Directory* for 1911-12 did in fact include, between pages 56 & 57, a list of owners of room and power in the West Riding, a precedent which was never followed in the *Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Directory*).
3. the consumption of raw cotton or of coal.
4. the capacity to generate steam power.
5. the employment of labour or of capital.
6. the number of ring spindles as distinct from mule spindles, although aggregates of doubling spindles were included from 1912.
7. the average counts of yarn spun by each firm or within each district.

It is also necessary to remember that the nominal date of each issue differs from the date of compilation of the information it incorporates, since printing and distribution followed compilation and directories always appeared as near to the beginning of a year as possible. One may

thus assume that information was usually correct up to the December preceding the year of publication, the 1914 directories containing information gathered during the period down to December 1913. This difference in date may be confirmed by reference to the date of the preface in each directory and by reference to published reviews in the trade press.

In making use of the annual statistical abstract one must take account of two reservations. Firstly, the summary of machinery as reprinted by Robson (1957) and by Mitchell (1988) includes throughout doubling spindles as well as spinning spindles. Secondly, the particular townships included in any one district might change from time to time, so invalidating incautious comparisons between different periods. At least five such changes are worth mentioning:

1. Nelson was included with Burnley up to 1889 and listed separately only from 1890.
2. Read and Sabden were included with Blackburn up to 1896 but were transferred to Padiham from 1897.
3. Hollins Vale was included with Bury up to 1897 but was transferred to Radcliffe from 1898.
4. Barnoldswick, Earby, Kelbrook and Salterforth were included with Skipton in the *Yorkshire Textile Directory* until 1935 but were transferred to Colne in the *Lancashire Textile Industry* from 1936 and were included in the Colne summary from 1945.
5. Mossley was shown separately down to 1959 but was grouped with Stalybridge from 1960.

Such qualifications accepted, the directories remain an indispensable and authoritative source for any student of history. They are wholly free from the imprecision of the factory returns and provide a continuous annual census of the same population of firms and towns. Such an immense source of raw material enables scholars to make their own calculations, to generate their own aggregates, ratios and coefficients, to undertake their own comparisons, to draw their own conclusions and to support such inferences with an impressive mass of statistics.

From 1884 one may trace with confidence the pattern of both local and regional industrial development, the history of individual firms, groups and combines and the changes in the concentration of productive capacity in each town. One may also trace changes in the pattern of business organisation, the progress of the joint stock company in the spinning towns and even, with some difficulty, the spread of the room and power company in the weaving towns. It is also possible to gauge the decline in importance of the combined firm and the expansion of specialised spinning and weaving firms. In turn the evolution of the pattern of specialisation by process within the industry may be measured by generating estimates of the concentration of spindles within the spinning district and of looms within the weaving district (Farnie, 1979; Laxton, 1986). One may calculate the ratio of spindles to looms by firm, by type of firm, by towns and by region. Finally, it is possible to trace the influence of foreign competition upon the product-mix of the industry, upon its pattern of organisation and upon its productive capacity in the aggregate and in detail. One may note in particular the precise correlation between the decline of aggregate spinning and weaving capacity during the years 1915-1963.

Worrall's directories were not used in the classic studies



**SPINNERS OF**  
**HIGH GRADE**  
**EGYPTIAN**  
and  
**AMERICAN**  
**Carded Mule Yarns**  
for  
VELVETEENS, SATTEENS,  
LIMBRICS, CAMBRICS,  
POPLINS, SHIRTINGS,  
HAIR CORDS, KNITTED  
FABRICS, ETC., ETC.

**EGYPTIAN**

30/62 Twist; 30/84 Weft; 30/60  
Doubling Weft and Hosiery Twist; Large  
and Bastard Cops.

**AMERICAN**

30/60 Twist; 30/64 Weft; 30/54  
Velvet Weft; 30/60 Doubling Weft  
and Hosiery Twist; Large and Bastard  
Cops.

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**Dukinfield**

Telephone:  
ASHTON 2044

Manchester Royal Exchange daily, HG22

'Grams:  
"Queen Mill, Dukinfield"

Advert in 'Lancashire Textile Industry' (1947)

of the cotton industry penned by Schulze-Gaevernitz (1892) or S.J. Chapman (1904). They have however been used by an impressive number of scholars including Ellison (1886), Ashton (1914, 1926), Ogden (1927), Jewkes (1930), Jones (1933), Beaver (1933), Smith (1941, 1948) and Robson (1957). Statistics have usually been extracted for a limited period of time, eg. for a single year (Gurr, 1985), for a pair of years (Kenny 1982; Laxton 1986), for a discontinuous number of years (Ashton, 1926; Yonekawa, 1982; Haynes, 1987), or very rarely for a continuous series of years (Jones, 1933; Farnie, 1982). The years that have been most frequently chosen for analysis have been 1884, 1896-97 and 1913-14, together with 1924, 1928-29 and 1936.

The type of information derived from the directories covers a wide range of characteristics of the industry: it relates respectively to the number of firms within the industry (Balfour, 1928), to the average size of firm (Ashton, 1914, 1926), to the growth in size of the firm, 1882-1925 (Jones, 1933), to the local distribution of finishing works in 1924 (Ogden, 1927), to the local distribution of spindles and looms, 1884-1928 (Jewkes, 1930; Smith, 1941), to the change in productive capacity, 1884-1914 (Kenny, 1982), to the strength of the local swing towards spinning or weaving 1890-1910 (Laxton, 1986), to the pattern of local specialisation by product, 1887-1908 (Kawakatsu, 1984) and to the local incidence of industrial decline, 1913-26 (Smith, 1941, 1948). The most detailed analyses have been those undertaken by Ashton, by Kenny and by Kawakatsu. Ashton examined the dominant size of businesses within the textile industry on a comparative basis and made a particular study of the industrial history of Oldham, using fourteen editions of Worrall published between 1884 and 1924. Kenny analysed the distribution of firms by size for the year 1900 in six spinning towns and six weaving towns. Yonekawa identified the ten largest spinning firms in Lancashire and in Oldham for five bench-mark years between 1884 and 1938. Kawakatsu pioneered the application of a labour-intensive technique of statistical analysis and demonstrated in convincing detail the dramatic change towards the spinning of finer counts of yarn between 1887 and 1908. Finally, the use of the directories may be extended indefinitely by their use in tandem with complementary sources of statistics generated by employers' associations, trade unions and local authorities. Rewarding international comparisons may also be undertaken by using the textile directories published in the U.S.A. by Dockham from 1873 and by Davison from 1888 (Farnie, 1988).

TWENTY-SECOND EDITION.

# WORRALL'S TEXTILE DIRECTORY

OF THE  
MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS

## Ireland, Scotland, Wales,

AND THE COUNTIES OF

### Chester, Derby, Gloucester, Leicester, Nottingham, Worcester,

AND OTHER MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS NOT INCLUDED IN WORRALL'S  
TEXTILE DIRECTORIES OF LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

WITH THE

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF SPINDLES & LOOMS;

AND THE

Telegraphic Addresses, Telephone Nos., and Pay Days  
OF THE PRINCIPAL FIRMS.

### A YEARLY PUBLICATION

SPECIALLY COMPILED AS AN ADVERTISING MEDIUM FOR ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS,  
BRASS AND IRON FOUNDERS, OIL REFINERS, MILL FURNISHERS AND OTHERS,  
WHOSE BUSINESS IS IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH THE TEXTILE TRADES.

PRESENTED FREE OF CHARGE TO EVERY FIRM WHOSE NAME APPEARS IN THIS DIRECTORY,  
INCLUDING ADVERTISERS.

PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS, NET.

Oldham :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JOHN WORRALL, LTD., CENTRAL WORKS, MARLBOROUGH STREET,

1912  
[ENTERED AT REGISTRARS' HALL.]

*Worrall's Textile Directory... (1912)*

### Location of Worrall's Directories

The firm's set of office copies, complete except for the year 1889, passed into private hands in 1964. The location of other copies published down to the year 1957 was listed by Tupling in 1968: in 1990 selected locations are as follows:

Accrington — 9 vols., 1961-70  
Blackburn — 19 vols., 1936-70  
Burnley — 7 vols., 1940-50  
Liverpool — 2 vols., 1913-24  
London, British Library — 85 vols., 1882-1970  
Manchester, Central Library — 69 vols., 1882-1970  
on microfilm, lacking 16 vols. for certain years between  
1885 & 1921.  
Manchester, John Rylands Library in Deansgate, 1  
vol., for 1935.  
Manchester, Greater Manchester Record Office — 18  
vols., for 1920, 1947-70.  
Manchester University Library — 6 vols., 1911-28  
Nelson — one vol., 1963.  
Oldham — 10 vols., 1889-1941.  
Preston, Lancashire Central Library — 3 vols., 1950-57  
Preston, Lancashire Record Office — 2 vols., 1944-48.  
Rawtenstall — 12 vols., 1956-70  
Rochdale — 2 vols., 1911-18  
Stalybridge — 5 vols., 1896-1937  
Stockport — 6 vols., 1938-70

In some cases copies are catalogued but may have disappeared from the shelves of a library: three libraries have together lost some twenty volumes of this directory. In other cases, as in Nelson, Rochdale and Oldham, the local studies library holds xeroxed copies of sections relating to their locality. Two leading libraries in the region hold no copy at all of this valuable publication.

### Directories Published by the Firm of John Worrall, 1869-1970

- 1869 1. *The Wigan Directory with all the Parishes, Townships, Villages, and Hamlets in the Wigan Union, and the Village of Golborne* (Blackburn, 1869).
- 1870 2. *Blackburn and Darwen Directory for 1870-71* (Blackburn, 1870).
3. *Bolton and District Directory for 1870-71* (Bolton, 1870).
- 1871 4. *Directory of Bury and Bolton with the parishes and townships of Heywood, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Farnworth, and neighbourhoods* (Oldham, 1871).
5. *Directory of Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Dukinfield, Guide Bridge, Saddleworth and Middleton.*
6. *Directory of Warrington, St. Helens, Prescott, Leigh, Newton-le-Willows, Widnes... and adjoining townships.*
- 1872 7. *Directory of Burnley, Accrington... Haslingden... Padiham, Colne, Marsden, Keighley, Skipton* (copy in the British Library, London).
8. *Directory of Chorley.*
9. *Directory of Stockport, Heaton Norris, Macclesfield and adjoining townships.*
10. *Wigan and district Directory, with Chorley, Ormskirk and adjoining townships.*
- 1873 11. *Directory of Rochdale, Littleborough, Bacup, Newchurch, Rawtenstall, Todmorden and adjoining townships.*
- 1874 12. *North Wales, with Chester, Shrewsbury, and Oswestry.*
- 1875 13. *South Wales, with Newport, Monmouthshire.*
14. *Directory of Oldham, Royton, Shaw, Middleton, Lees, Saddleworth, Mossley and adjoining districts.*
- 1876 15. *Directory of Warrington, Wigan, St. Helens, Widnes, Leigh, Tyldesley, Newton, Earlestown,... and adjoining districts.*
- 1877 16. *The Commercial Annual and General Advertiser for Ashton, Dukinfield, Hyde, Mossley, Oldham and Stalybridge, 1876-78, 3 vols.*
- 1879 17. *Commercial Directory of Lancashire.*
- 1880 18. *Commercial and General Directory of Oldham, Royton, Shaw, Middleton, Lees, Saddleworth and adjoining districts.*
19. *Worrall's Commercial Annual, 1880, a continuation of No.16.*
- 1881 20. *Commercial and General Directory of Wigan and... Wigan Union.*
21. *Commercial Directory of South Wales.*
22. *Worrall's Directory of the North Eastern Counties of Scotland, comprising the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine, Forfar, Fife and Kinross.*
- 1882 23. *Worrall's Commercial Annual and Street Directory of Oldham and Chadderton, copy in the library of W.H. Chaloner.*
24. *The Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Directory and Engineers' and Machine Makers' Advertiser, 1882-1970, 85 vols.*
- 1883 25. *Worrall's Oldham and Chadderton Street Guide.*

26. *Yorkshire Textile Directory*, 1883-1971, 85 vols.
- 1884 27. *Commercial and General Directory of Oldham, Lees, Royton, Shaw, Hollinwood, Saddleworth and Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Dukinfield, and the adjoining districts.*
- 1885 28. *Commercial Directory of Rochdale... with Heywood, Littleborough.*
- 1886 29. *Cotton Spinners' Directory of Great Britain, with cyphers for telegraphic purposes.*
- 1888 30. *Steam Users' Directory, for Manchester and the Textile Manufacturing Districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire.*
- 1889 31. *Textile Directory of the Manufacturing Districts in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Counties of Chester, Derby, Gloucester, Leicester, Nottingham, Worcester and other manufacturing districts not included in Worrall's Textile Directories of Lancashire and Yorkshire*, 1889-1971, 81 vols.
- 1890 32. *Indian and Japanese Textile and Engineering Diary*, 1890-1940, 51 vols.
33. *Worrall's Illustrated Tourists' Guide for North Wales and Hotel Advertiser.*
- 1891 34. *Commercial and General Directory of Oldham, including Chadderton, Hollinwood, Royton, Shaw, Thornham, Lees, Springhead and Saddleworth.*
- 1911 35. *The Year Book and Diary of the Bradford and Huddersfield Exchanges.*
- 1912 36. *Continental Directory of Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers*, 1912-1939
- 1914 37. *Worrall's Monthly Textile Gazette*, July 1914 — February 1915, 6 issues.
- 1931 38. *The Lancashire Textile Industry*, a continuation of No. 24. From 1965 each annual issue has 'Vol. I' stamped on the spine.
- 1932 39. *The Yorkshire Textile Industry*, a continuation of No. 26.
40. *The British and Dominion Textile Industry*, a continuation of No.31.
- 1947 41. *Classified List of the Lancashire Textile Firms*, an emergency pocket issue of the classified sections of the 1946 edition of No. 38.
- 1951 42. *India and Pakistan Wool, Hosiery and Fabrics.*
- 1956 43. *Textile Machinery Index*, 1956-69, 5 vols.
- 1964 44. *The British and Commonwealth Textile Industry*, a continuation of No.40.
- 1965 45. *Directory and Guide to the Manchester Royal Exchange*, 1965-67.
- 1970 46. *The British Textile Industry*, a continuation of No.44.
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