Sheet No.5

Other Printers in Watford

While these developments in gravure were taking place at Sun Engraving, other print shops were contributing to the town’s prosperity.

1. Voss & Michael (1917 to 1955) Eventually in Market Street. A “Jobbing” business producing almost anything they could: e.g. Invitations, Business Cards, Menus, Programmes, Orders of Service, etc.
2. Waterlows (1917 to 1934) in Milton Street. Printed Bank Notes for the Treasury from 1920 until 1928. This contract was awarded to Waterlows after David Greenhill’s involvement in the design of “unforgeable” notes. The Bank of England took over production in 1928.
3. Curtis Bros. (1902 to 1949) and Harry Lawrence Castle (1899 to 1969) Were two more general Jobbing printers in Watford - Curtis Bros. in King Street, and Castles in High Street and Water Lane until 1962 and later in Hill Farm Avenue, Leavesden.
4. Watford Printers (1928 to 2015) at Premises in Vicarage Road. A worker’s co-operative owned by its employees. Produced, amongst other things, Programmes for Watford Football Club.
5. Hills & Lacey (1942 to 1966) In Carey Place, off High Street; this site is now under the INTU Shopping Centre. They printed “Draper’s Record”, cigarette cards, and glossy advertisements as used on the London Underground.
6. Greycaines – Moved to Watford from Islington in 1926. Founded by Frank Grey and Ralph Hall Caine in the early 1900s. Principally a book printing and binding business. The site in Bushey Mill Lane covered twenty acres and had its own railway siding. Greycaines had its own Publishing Business called “The Reader’s Library” and produced hardback editions of many classic novels, eg. “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”; “A Tale of two Cities”; and “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”. These sold at Woolworths for 6d (2½p). Greycaines collaborated with Odhams, in Long Acre, London, on the production of a sixteen volume collection of the works of Dickens, and on a twelve volume encyclopaedia.

(Greycaines Livery Image)