Sheet No. 3

Sun Engraving Co:- The Early Years

In 1919 Sun Engraving employed approximately 1,000 people. The population of Watford at this time was a little over 40,000. David Greenhill was general manager and moved the company towards the production of periodical magazines, in order to establish a regular pattern of work and income for the company. The first such periodical was the Draper’s Organiser, a weekly letterpress printed magazine with a number of colour illustrations. Day and night work was introduced to produce the magazine.

[ *Illustration possibly Draper’s Organiser*]

In the early 1920s Sun Engraving pioneered colour gravure printing using black and one other colour. In 1924 this enabled them to produce Picturegoer magazine as the first ever all gravure printed publication delivered complete off the press – it contained 32 pages with a two–colour cover. This had not previously been possible using other printing methods available at the time.

[*Picturegoer*]

The early success of two-colour gravure printing encouraged David Greenhill to explore the possibility of printing three and four colours on both sides of the paper. The presses to enable this to be achieved were built for David Greenhill by Messrs John Wood of Ramsbottom, Lancashire.