

THE MODERN ERA



Row of K8 telephone kiosks, 1970s



K8 telephone kiosks in foundry yard, 1980s



Pillar boxes in the Lion Foundry paint shop, 1984



Type B double-aperture pillar box, Andrew's Square, Edinburgh 1977. The foundry name cast in relief on the base of the pillar box.

The post-war years were presided over by Mr David Miller, a native of Kirkintilloch, who gained experience of foundry management in Yorkshire, before returning as Works Manager of the Lion Foundry in 1945 (the same year that James Leitch Jr became Chief Draughtsman). David Miller was appointed managing director in 1958, at first a joint post, but in his own right from 1962. He retired from this post in 1971.

Mr Miller's period of office was a time of evolution in the output of the foundry. Gone were the spectacular building front panels and most of the ornamental work, but in its place was a range of utilitarian products, including keel blocks for graving docks, oil bubble trays and caps for the petroleum industry, heavy duty frames and cases for the GPO engineering department, floor plates for steel rolling mills, balance weights for forklift and other Hyster trucks, GPO telecommunication cabinets and pillar boxes, and a variety of engineering castings.



Cast iron counter balances for Hyster forklift trucks, c 1970-80s

In 1966 the firm was successful in obtaining one of the first contracts for the distinctive new K8 type of red telephone kiosk. At that date the foundry had been supplying the more familiar multi-paned K6 type of kiosk for many years. At first the Lion shared the orders for K8 kiosks with other foundries, but eventually became the sole supplier and produced the design in very large numbers. Sadly, the foundry became too dependant on this product, and when orders dried up the foundry closed, at the end of 1984.



Bus shelter at Rothesay, made from iron and glass panels.



Keel blocks under liner. These heavy duty cast iron blocks were used to support the weight of large ships.



Stairs for John Wallace and Co Ltd, Kilmarnock, manufacturers of Sunbrite Margarine, 1954

