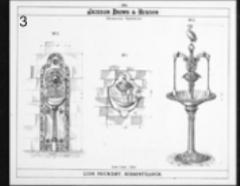
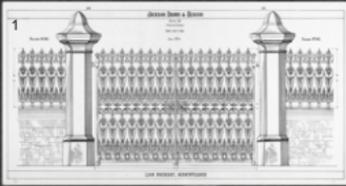


EARLY YEARS



Cast iron bath, from a Lion Foundry catalogue of about 1895

The Lion Foundry published its first trade catalogue in 1881 under the name of Jackson, Brown and Hudson. Like many of its contemporaries, the Lion's early cast iron products included gates, railings, weather vanes, finials, pipes and gutters, rain water heads and lamp pillars. The building boom in the suburbs meant that trade in these products was good, and the order books soon filled up.

The opening of the foundry coincided with the mushroom growth of communities like Lenzie and Bearsden, where many large villas were built with extensive ornamentation in cast iron, including gates, railings, finials and weather vanes. Sadly, many of the local garden gates and railings were removed for scrap during World War Two, but a great deal of ornamental ironwork survives at roof level on the villas of East Dunbartonshire.

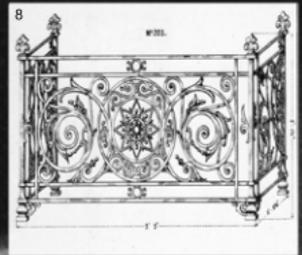
The foundry's early trade catalogues illustrate the variety of items once produced in cast iron and the decorative detail then applied to everyday functional objects. Such was the range of the Lion's products that by 1905 they were able to mount an impressive exhibit at the Scottish Hardware and Allied Trades Exhibition held in 1905 at St Andrew's Halls, Glasgow.



Lavatory stand (wash hand basin), c 1895



(1), (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (10). Pages from first published trade catalogue 1881. Foundry's early product catalogues to advertise the range of castings that they could manufacture. These typically show the designs that were available and the dimensions of the castings. Often, separate catalogues for particular types of goods (such as decorative street or garden fittings) were produced. Products such as gates and railings all had their own 'house number', so that the different pieces could be matched up to meet the customer's specific needs.



Lion Foundry exhibit at St Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, 1905

