

FINISHING



Dressing shop where castings would be taken for cleaning and assembly

After release from the moulding boxes, castings were taken to the Dressing Shop for removal of residual sand and surface impurities, and the smoothing of rough edges by means of grinding and smoothing equipment of various types, latterly including a "wheelabrator". The multiple components of a foundry product were then taken to the Fitting Shop for assembly by fitters into the finished article.

The Paint Shop of the Lion Foundry was always a spectacular place, especially in later years, with serried ranks of red telephone kiosks, red pillar boxes and/or green telecommunications cabinets, set out in symmetrical formation.



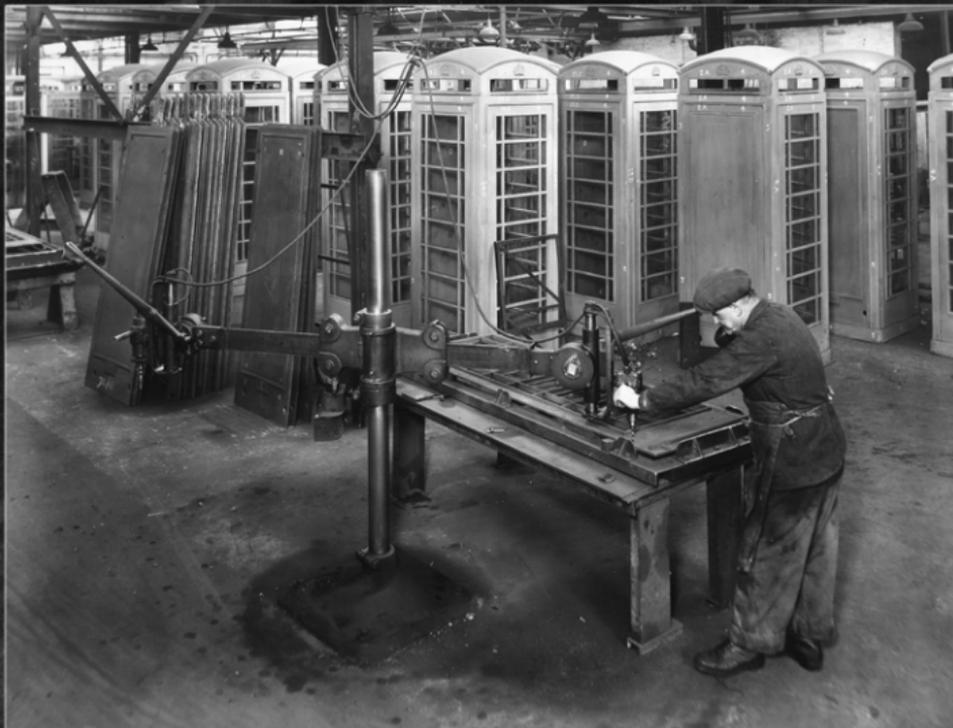
Dresser at work, 1950s



Finishing pillar boxes, 1984



Row of pillar boxes in paint shop with telephone kiosks behind, 1984



Worker drilling a panel of a K6 telephone kiosk in the finishing shop of the foundry, 1950s

A visitor to the foundry about 1980 encountered an English-spoken painter complaining bitterly about the "waste of money" involved in the commissioning of two separate series of pillar boxes - "EIIR" (for England) and "ER" (for Scotland) - but then broke out into a chorus of Sky-High Joe, a Scottish republican song commemorating the destruction of an EIIR box at Liberton, Edinburgh, early in the reign of the present monarch! In Scotland of course, many people are still keen to point out that we have only ever had one Elizabeth as monarch.

Outside in the yard, an accumulation of finished red telephone kiosks often made for a spectacular display, best viewed from the top of Kirkintilloch's famous canal aqueduct, or from the top deck of a double-decker bus on the road up to Hillhead Canal Bridge.



Worker drilling a panel of a K6 telephone kiosk in the finishing shop of the foundry, 1950s



Paint shop with telecommunications cabinets and K6 telephone kiosks, 1950s