

BETWEEN THE WARS



Window breast panels, Raleigh Cycle Company, Nottingham, 1930, supplied by C.J. Dawkins, panels better known for their use on the facade of the Liberty building, Regent Street, London.



DETAILS OF CAST IRON WINDOW PANELS



Window breast panels for Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London c 1927-1928



Cast iron building panels, Lothian House, Edinburgh, 1936. The panels depicting the seasons (winter, spring, summer, autumn) and the trades of Edinburgh (ironing, engineering, brewing and banking) were designed by Charles d'Orville Pilkington Jackson, perhaps best known for his design of the equestrian statue of Robert the Bruce at Balmaceuchie.



Detail of plate for centre window, Unilever House, London, c 1932

Despite the Depression the 1920s and 1930s proved a relatively successful period for the foundry as they were able to build on their reputation for quality ornamental castings. The Lion benefited from working with many notable architects and sculptors of the day on architectural ironwork projects, producing building front panels and window surrounds for customers in this country and abroad.

Particularly beneficial was the company's association with the Crittall Manufacturing Company Ltd, the well-known manufacturer of windows. Contracts in conjunction with Crittall included building front panels for the Anglo-Mexican Petroleum Company, Rio de Janeiro (1928); Exeter Co-op (1936); HJ Gower and Co Ltd, London (1937); the Home Brewery Offices, Daybrook, Nottinghamshire (1939); Pyne Brothers Ltd, London (1935); Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai (1938); Savings Bank of Glasgow, Ayr (1936); Unilever House, London (1931); Vintry House, London (1928); and several Montague Burton Ltd shops.;

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the Lion dedicated production to airfield, dockyard, and civil defence castings. Over the course of the war many ornamental gates and railings were taken down, scrapped and sent back to the various foundries to be re-used.



Unilever House viewed from Blackfriars Bridge, 1932



Lothian House, Edinburgh



Cast iron building front for Alexanders Stores Ltd, Ayr, c 1925