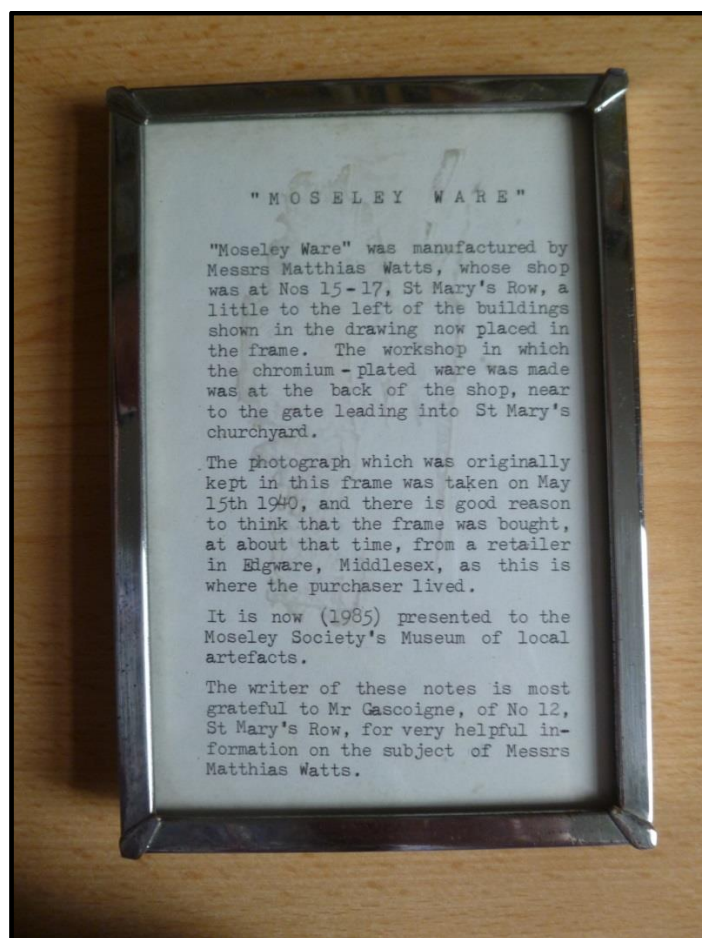


'Moseley Ware'

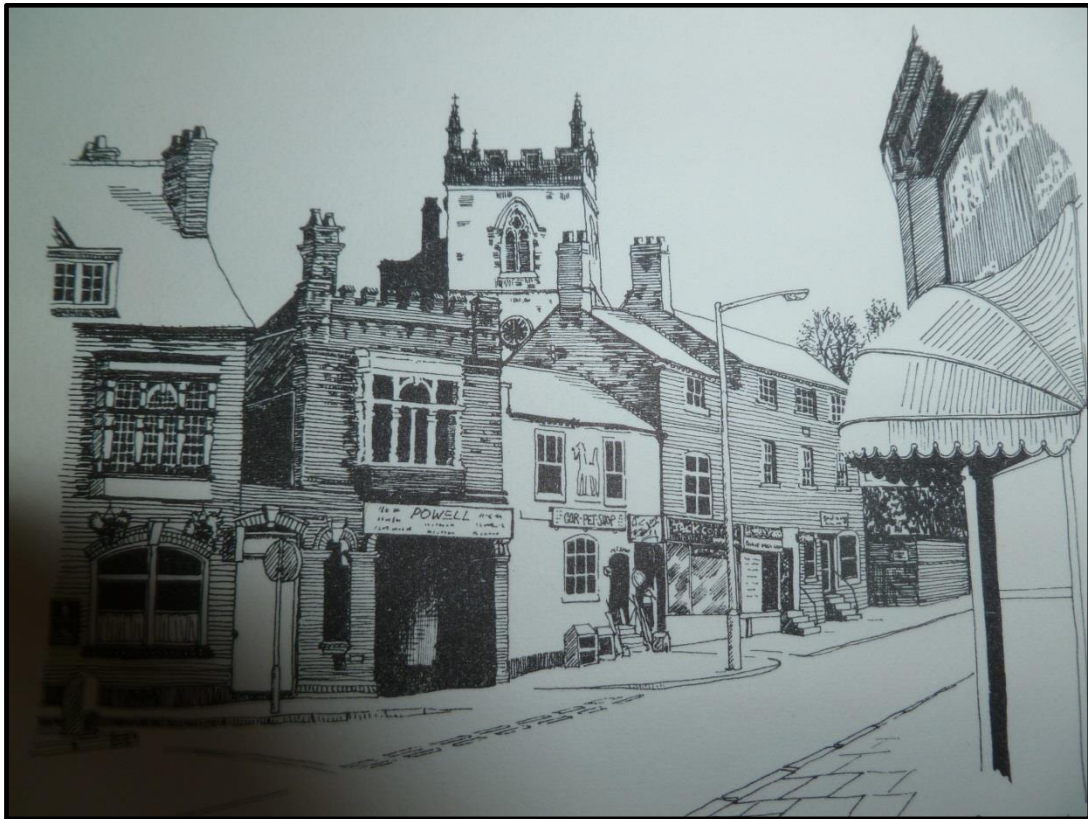
'Moseley Ware' was chromium plated-ware picture frames. They were manufactured by Messrs Matthias Watts, an Art Dealer and framer who had a shop at 15-17 St Mary's Row, a little to the left of the Bull's Head. The workshop in which the chromium plated-ware was made was at the back of the shop, near to the gate leading up to the churchyard. Chrome plating, often referred to simply as chrome, is a technique of electroplating a thin layer of chromium onto a metal object. The chromed layer can be decorative, provide corrosion resistance, ease cleaning procedures, or increase surface hardness.

The Moseley Society History Group has Matthias Watts frames in its 'Collection'. One frame is thought to have been bought in 1940 from a retailer in Edgware, Middlesex and was presented to us in 1985. Two other frames have been donated to us. They belonged to the donor's grandfather, a brush manufacturer who lived in Balsall Heath and Kings Heath from 1891. The ornate label on the back shows that Matthias Watts was a Photo Frame Manufacturer at The Art Works, Moseley Village and that they had showrooms in Moseley, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

An example of Moseley Ware held by the Moseley Society History Group



An Image included with one of our Matthias Watts' Frames



On the back of the Frame





In Autumn 2019 Jenny Owen contacted us. She found the frames when she was clearing out a relative's home and was writing a family history. She kindly donated the frames to the Moseley Society History Group.

Jenny Owen and her husband kindly donated two other frames





In October 2020 we were contacted by Krsitine Lidaka who lives in a village called Pilsrundale, in the Rundale region of **LATVIA**. It is near Rundale Palace (<https://rundale.net>) and is the second largest tourist attraction in Latvia. Her husband is a restorer as well as both his parents; they work at Rundale Palace. She found a mirror with the mark 'Moseley Ware' in her local second hand shop.

Krsitine Lidaka



Krsitine Lidaka's 'Moseley Ware' Mirror



British Industries Fair Catalogue of the Art Works, Moseley Village, Birmingham. Also at
Oxford Street, London, W1, 1922¹

PHOTO FRAMES "Moseley Ware."



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K. 21.**

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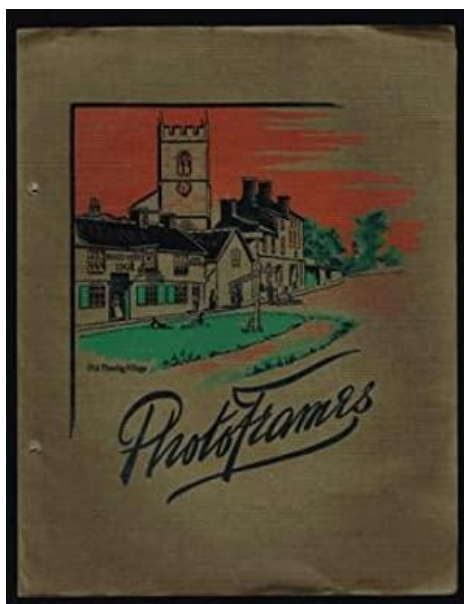


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Moseley Village - - - Birmingham.

¹ http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Matthias_Watts_and_Co

Photoframes: Trade Catalogue, 1933, MATTHIAS WATTS & CO.



We understand that one of the items the business produced was blank postcards made from thick card suitable for watercolours. People would take the blank card with them when they went on holiday, paint a scene and post it home to tell their friends 'I wish you were here'. Before it closed it had a window display with items made by a business that had a workshop at the rear. We think the original Matthias Watts must have occupied the whole of the rear premises which stretches alongside the way to the north gate of St Mary's churchyard. Before they closed the woodworking business used to make brightly coloured children's toys that were displayed in the Matthias Watts shop window. Then they produced some plywood cut out Charles and Dianas with hands fixed on so they moved up and down. The idea was to put them in the windows of the back seats of your car, one on each side, so they would wave their hands as you drive along.

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C. 15 „ 7	8d.	1/-	6d.	9d.	3d.
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15 „ 10	10d.	1/3	8d.	1/-	4d.
17½ „ 9	1/-	¼	9d.	1/-	5d.
17½ „ 13	1/3	—	1/-	—	6d.
21 „ 6	9d.	1/-	7d.	—	4d.
C.O. 20 „ 10	1/3	1/9	1/-	1/3	6d.
21 „ 15	1/9	—	1/6	—	9d.
24 „ 9	1/3	1/6	1/-	—	7d.
C.O. 24 „ 12	1/6	2/-	1/3	—	9d.
24 „ 18	2/6	3/-	2/-	—	1/6
O. 27 „ 12	—	—	1/6	—	1/-
30 „ 13	2/6	—	2/-	—	1/6
31 „ 21	4/6	—	3/6	—	2/6
C.O. 36 „ 13	3/-	—	2/6	—	1/9
36 „ 15	3/6	—	—	—	—
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All Sizes in A. quality Stocked in colour 1 (Sage Green).
 O. denotes shaded oblong „
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MANUFACTURED SOLELY BY
M. WATTS & Co., The Art Works,
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This Oil Tablet shows the oil painting panels – alternatives to canvas - available from Mathias Watts of Moseley Village. 1d in 1900 was equivalent to 33p in 2017. They were available in a wide range of sizes, colours and finishes.

8

An example of an Oil Tablet painting.³



Does anyone know when the shop closed?
Does anyone have any memories of the shop?

Janet Berry

³ Courtesy of Damien Parker.