

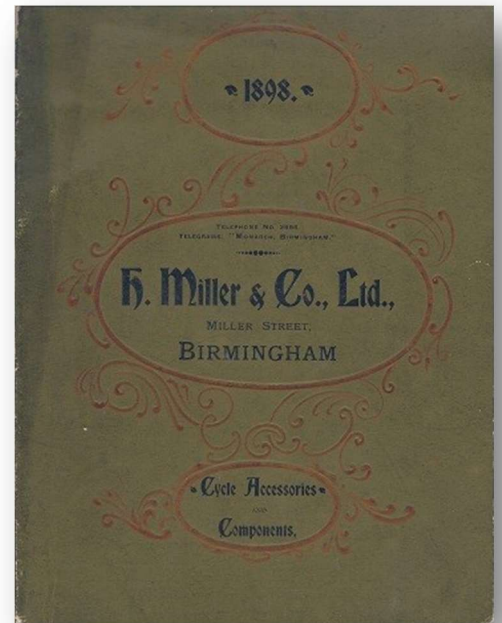


**H Miller & Co. Limited**  
Established 1869





- H Miller and Co was founded in 1869, in Birmingham
- Henry Miller was a plumber from Lubeck in Germany. He emigrated to the UK and worked as a tin plate worker, initially making lamps for carriages, before moving into the bicycle lamp business
- Two of the company's early successes were the Bell Rock, an oil lamp, which was sold all over Europe in the 1890s, and the Cetolyte, an Actylene Gas Lamp, which was the stand out product in 1899.
- The company's initial premises were in a lane that became known as Miller Street, in Aston, Birmingham. By the end of the 19th Century the firm also had a factory in Whitehouse Street
- The business was moved to it's Aston Brook Street site in 1919 and an additional factory was opened in Lanarkshire on the Newhouse Industrial Estate in 1949. In 1964 a factory was opened in India. The Aston Brook Street building was bombed in 1941
- The company went public in 1898, but the Miller Family owned over 80% of the equity
- In 1977 the business was sold to Dartmouth Investments, and subsequently dissolved in 1994





Infanterie-Contingent der



freien Hansestadt Lübeck.

## A b s c h i e d.

Inhaber dieses, *Johann Möller*, *Herrn Friedr. Daniel* geboren i. J. 1826 zu *Lübeck*  
welcher seit dem *17 April* 1848 als *Dienstpflichtiger* in der *Zweiten Compagnie*  
des *Lübeckischen Bataillons 3 1/2 Jahre*, *namlich 1 Jahr 3 Monate* *activ* gedient hat,  
nunmehr nach abgelaufener *Dienstzeit* am heutigen Tage entlassen und demselben dieser *ehrenvolle* Abschied  
Erster Classe ertheilt. *Lübeck, d. 1<sup>ten</sup> Novemb. 1851.*

### Signalement.

Größe: 5 Fuß 8 1/2 Zoll

Haare: blond

Augen: grün

Besondere Kennzeichen: *Keine*

Gewerbe: *Handwerker*

er bescheinigt durch seine Namens-Unterschrift, daß er keine Forderung  
einer Art, weder an den Staat, noch an die Compagnie zu machen hat.



## The Miller Family

well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.  
The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pension  
les.

PROFESSION or OCCUPATION Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	
Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	
This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Village. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the District, Colony, etc., and the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea". NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England, Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.
11.	12.	13.	14.
<i>669</i>	<i>Worker</i>		<i>Birmingham</i>
			<i>Barbours</i>
			<i>Oxfordshire</i>
			<i>Edington Warwick</i>
<i>390</i>	<i>C</i>		





- Born in Lübeck, Germany in 1826
- Received certificate of honourable discharge first class from the German army in 1851.
- Emigrated to the UK and changed his name to Henry Miller
- Reputedly worked as a tinsmith and lived on a barge in Wolverhampton
- Founded H Miller & Co in 1869, aged 43, and moved into the bicycle lamp and accessory business
- 5 Daughters and 4 sons (Helen, Christina, Ada, Clara, Albert, Frederick, Ernest, Florence, Henry)



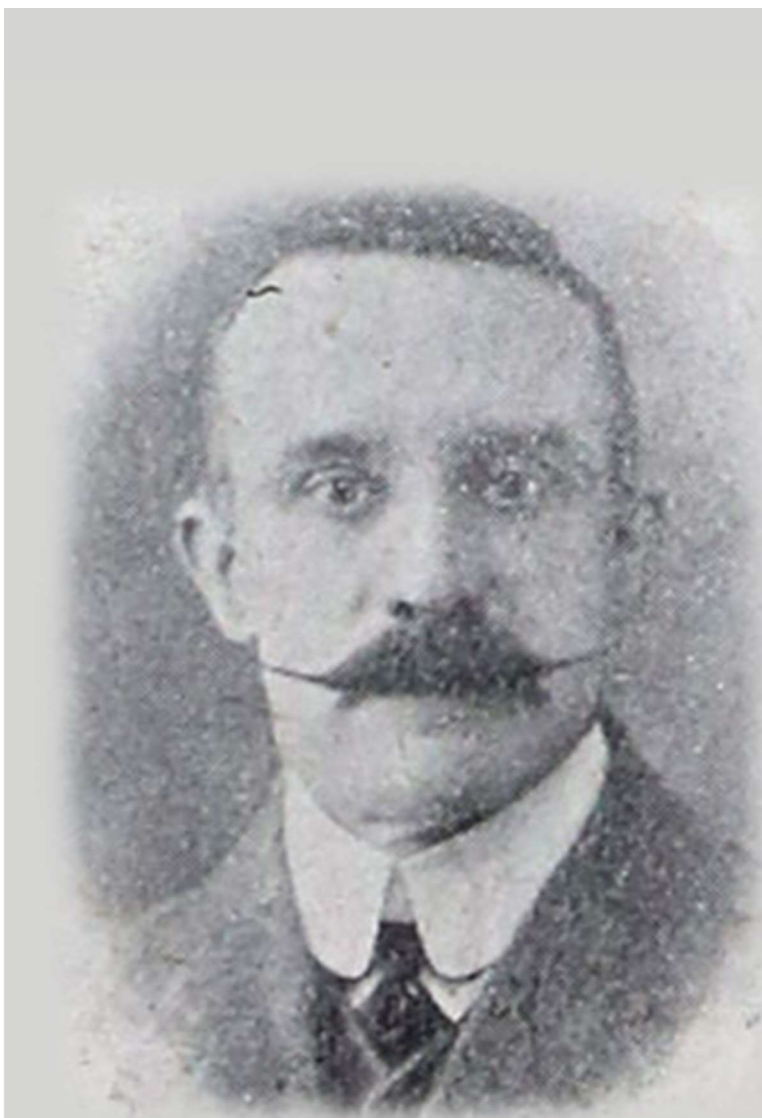


### **Charles Albert (Albert) Miller (GG), Managing Director**

Born in Birmingham in 1864

### **Frederick (Fred) Miller, Director**

Born in Birmingham in 1866



#### **Captains of Industry Mr. ALBERT MILLER**

-

One of the most flourishing businesses in the trade is that of Messrs. H. Miller and Sons, of Miller St., Birmingham, over whose destinies the brothers Albert and Fred have presided for many years. In all the years of prosperity and slump the firm of Miller has steadfastly adhered to the principle that quality must tell in the end, and the success of their manufactures is proof positive of the high value of that policy. Mr. Albert Miller, whose portrait we give, has control of the works in Miller Street, while Mr. Fred Miller is in charge of the sales.

*Courtesy of Grace's Guide*







### **Maurice Miller, Managing Director**

Born in Birmingham in 1894

*(right)*

### **Gordon Miller, Director**

Born in Birmingham in 1900

Facing right, with

**Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, *(below)***







**Michael (Mick) Miller**

Born in Birmingham in 1930

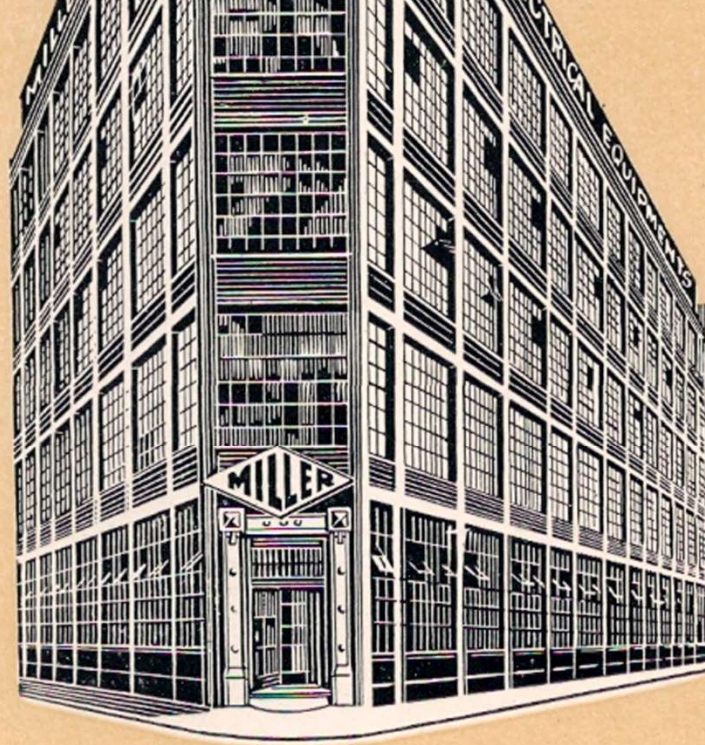
**Michael Miller** (4<sup>th</sup> from right),

**Gordon Miller** (3<sup>rd</sup> from right),

**Anthony Eden**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1955 to 1957 (2<sup>nd</sup> from right).







# H. MILLER & COMPANY LIMITED

*Head Office and Factory:* ASTON BROOK ST., BIRMINGHAM, 6  
 Telephone: Aston Cross 1575 (5 lines)      Telegrams: "Monarch, Birmingham"



## The Miller Factories

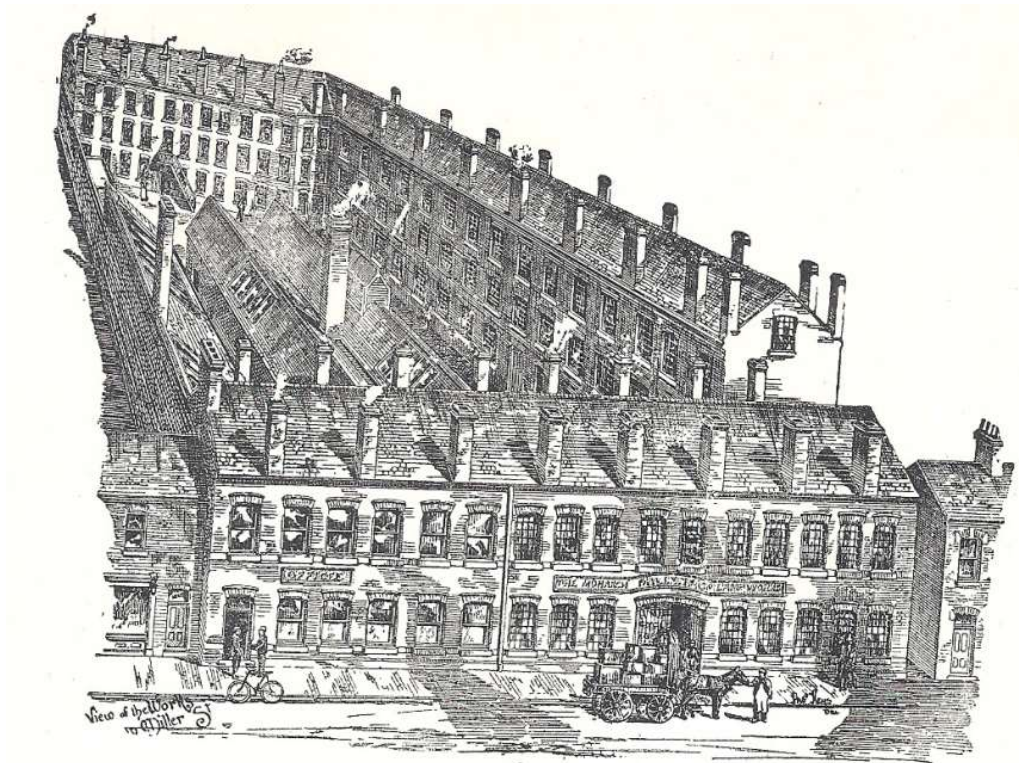


View of Miller Street Works.

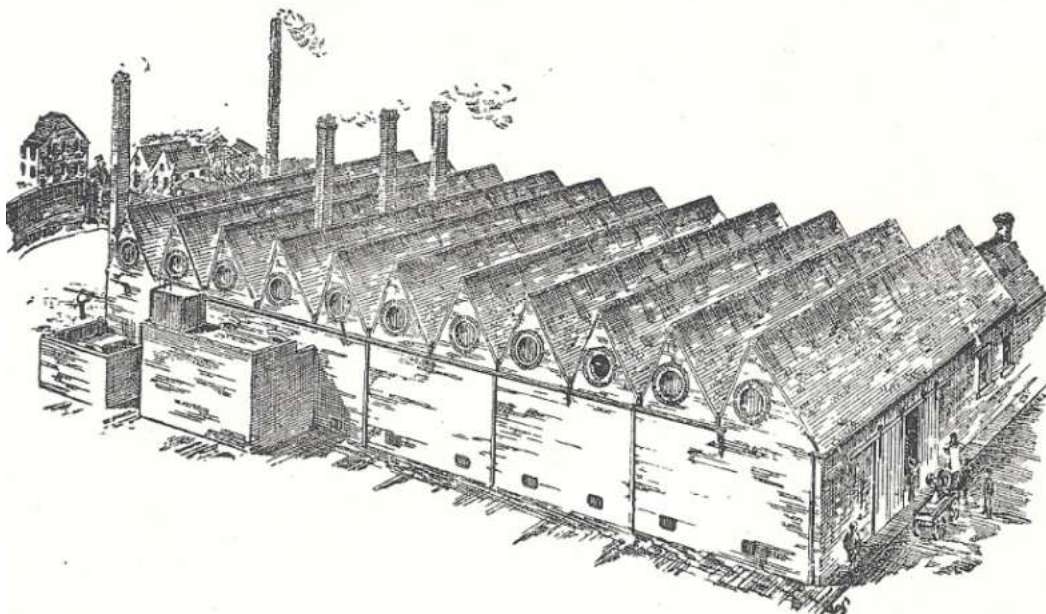




# The Factories in 1896



View of Miller Street Works.



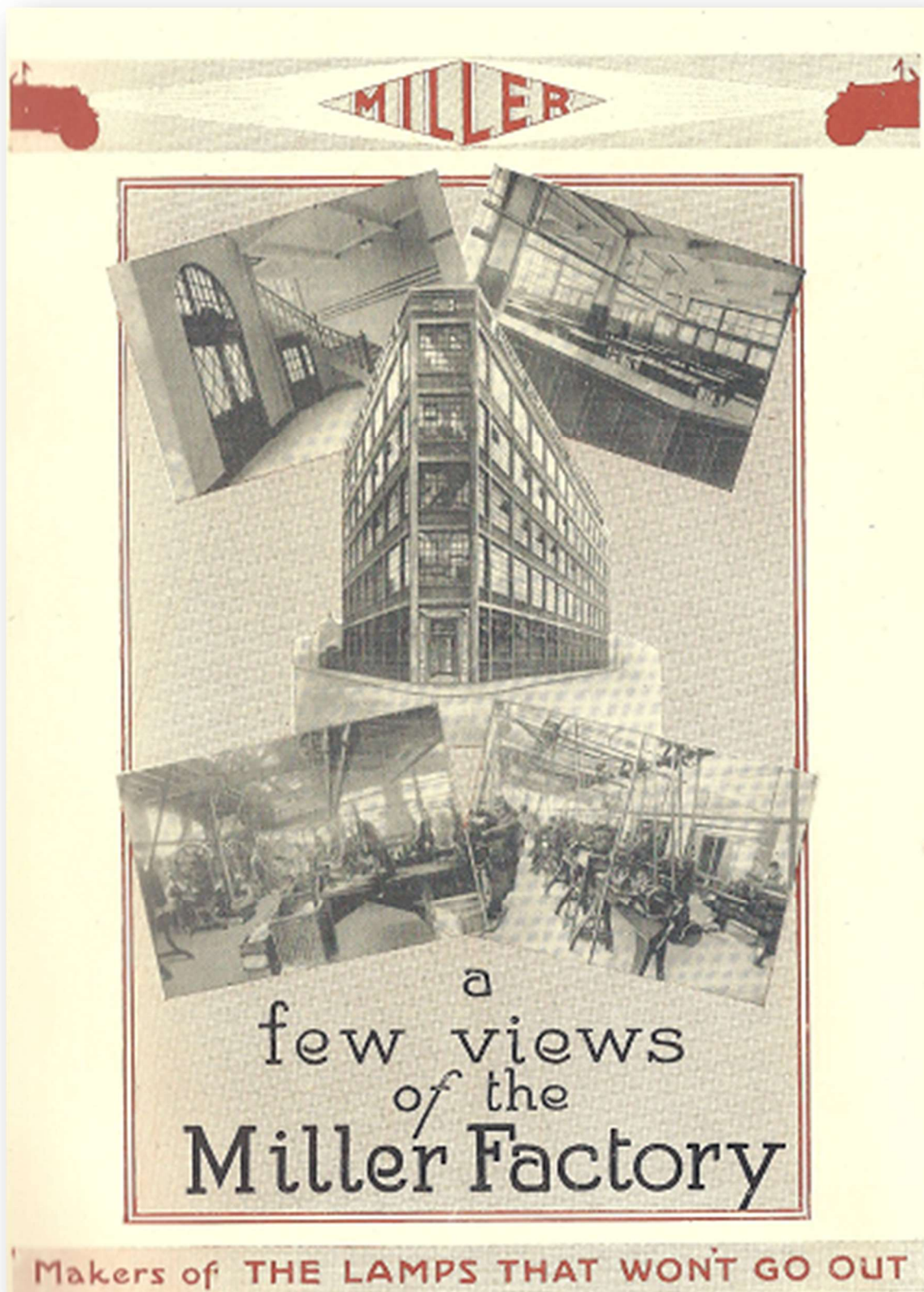
View of Whitehouse Street Works.







# Aston Brook St Factory in 1924



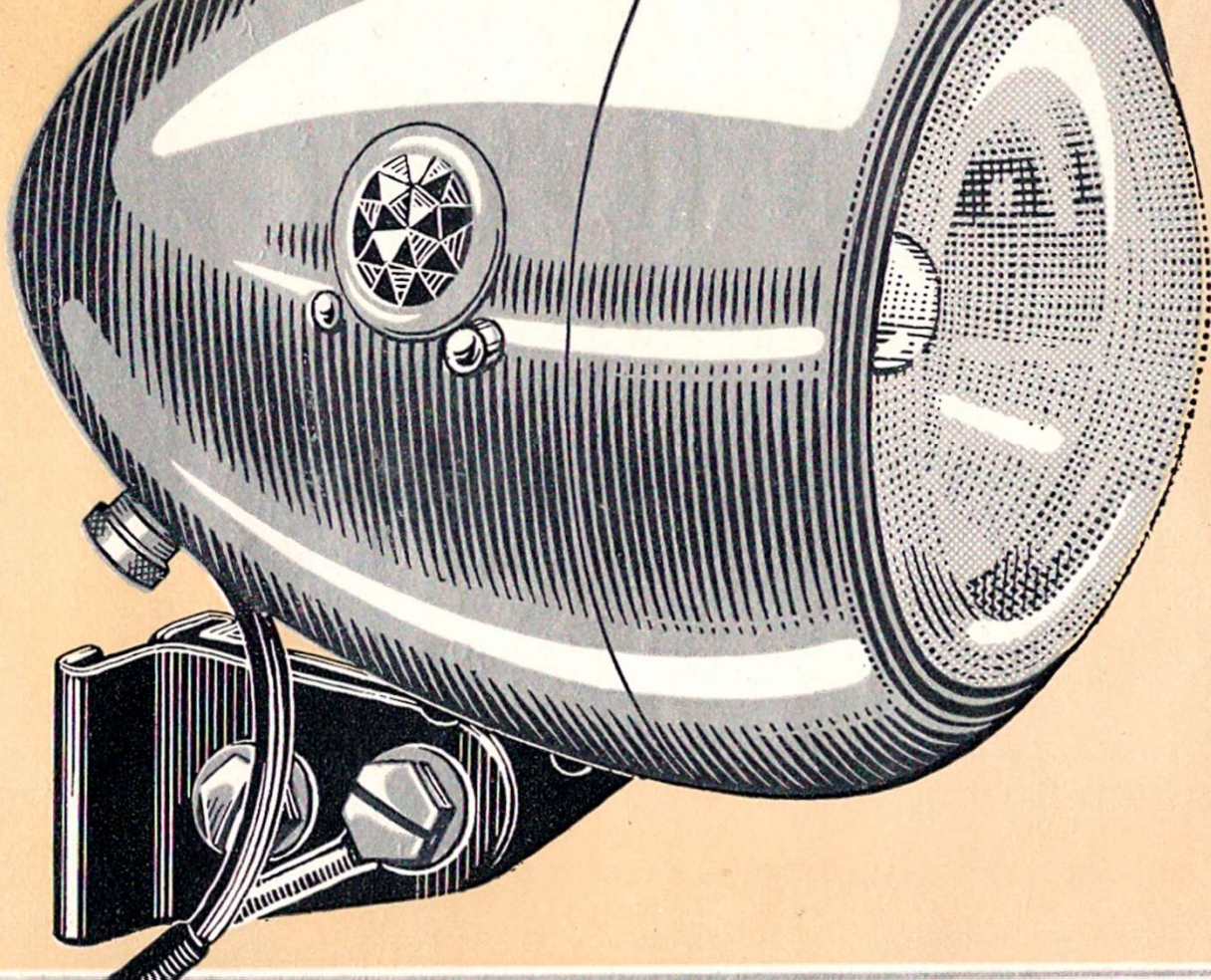




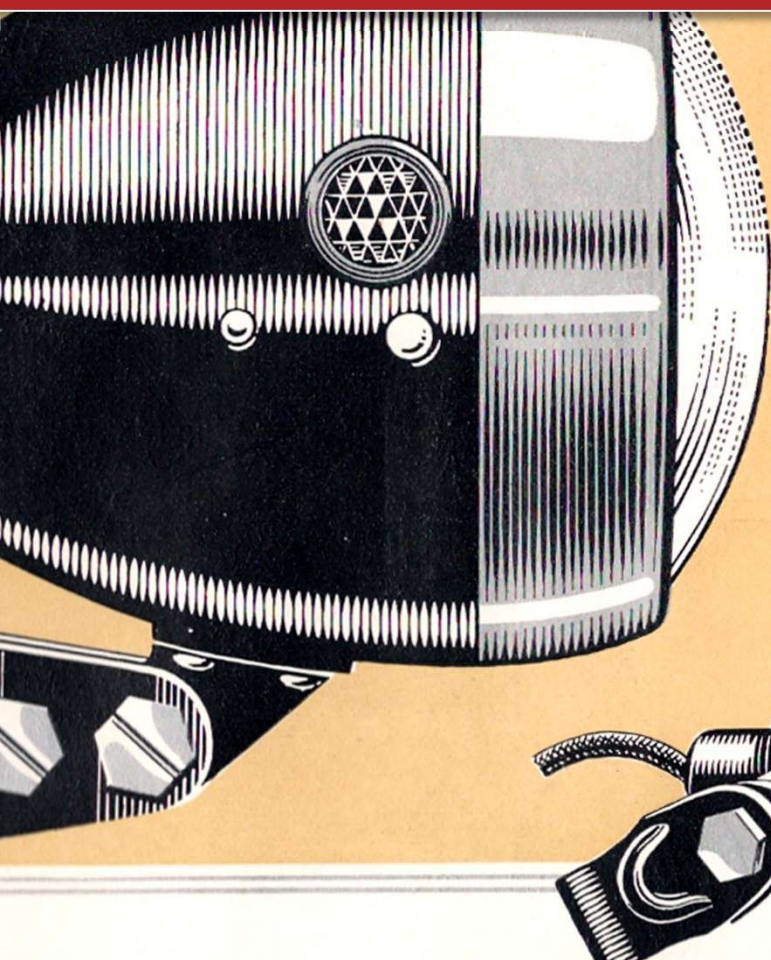
# Aston Brook St Factory in 1938







## Miller Products



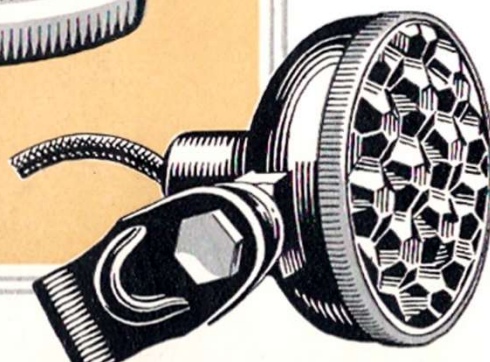
# No. 526 and 526T CYCLE DYNAMO SETS

### DYNAMO.

6 volt 3.24 watt. Weighs only 4.75 ozs. per watt. Attractively finished in high lustre ebony. Can be adapted for either front or rear wheel drive and used with or without tail lamp.

### HEAD LAMP.

Streamlined, lightweight Lamp with press-button front opening. Provision for stand-by battery. Car type main bulb, gas filled. Finished with high gloss scratchproof black enamel, with brass front chromium-plated and specially treated to prevent rusting.







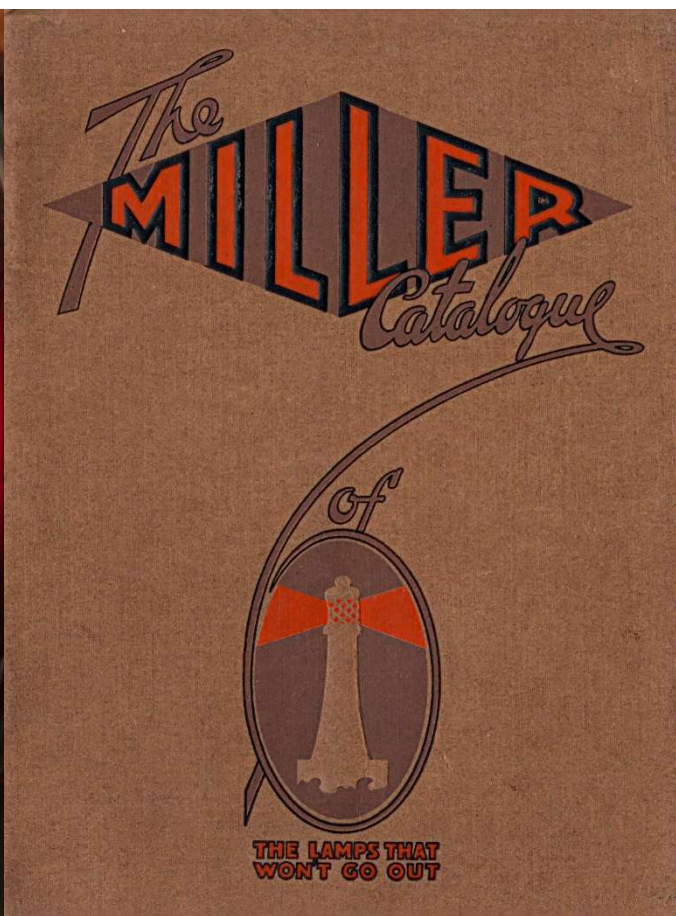




**The Bell Rock Lighthouse**, off the coast of Angus, Scotland, is the world's oldest surviving sea-washed lighthouse. It was built between 1807 and 1810 by Robert Stevenson.

Built on a rock 11 miles from the coast, which is flooded twice a day by 16 feet of water, the lighthouse 35 metres tall, with a light that is visible from 56 km inland

It has rightly been described as one of Seven Wonders of the Industrial World, and was an inspiration to the team at Miller's who wove the image into their marketing and manufacture.







**Cetolite (Acetylene Gas)**



**Bell Rock (Oil)**



**Bolalite (Oil)**



**Lito (Oil)**



**Mito (Oil)**



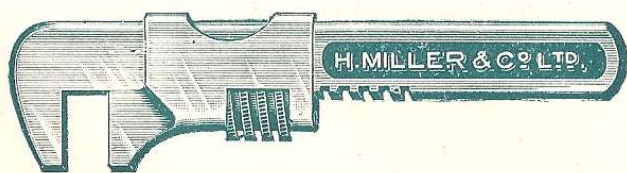
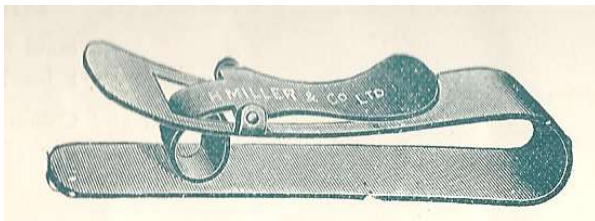
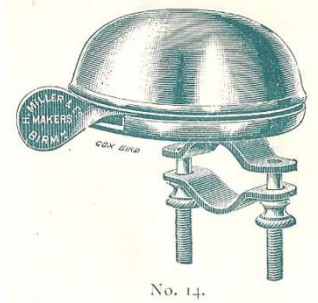
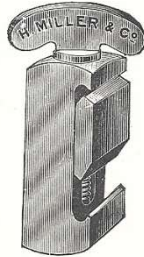
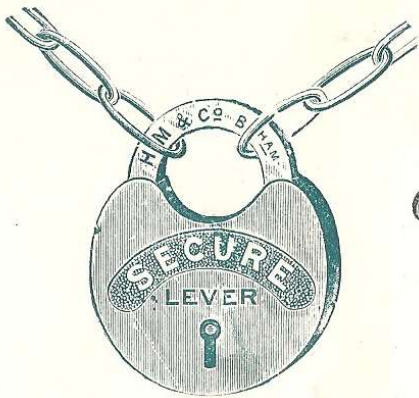
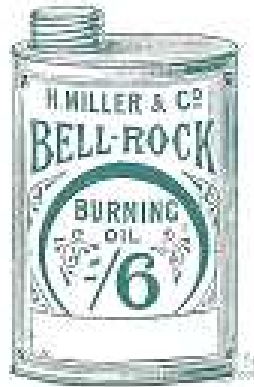
**Jupiter (Oil)**







## Accessories - 1898



### Miller's Tyre Lever.







## ■ 1869 to 1903

- Oil and later Gas (Acetylene) lamps for bicycles
- Accessories
  - Wicks and oil, Acetylene cartridges, Bells, tools, bags, locks, whistles, horns, cleaning products, pumps

## ■ 1903

- “After thirty years of experience we have come to the conclusion that the manufacture of lamps for cycles, and kindred purposes, is an art by itself, and ought not to be mixed up with the manufacture of other goods.” Miller Trade catalogue 1903
- Lights, bulbs, batteries, generators and later dynamos for bicycles, motorcycles and cars

## ■ 1914-1919 Under government control

## ■ 1920s and 1930s

- Continue to manufacture bicycle lights, and add lights for motorcycles and car
- “It was therefore quite a natural evolution that we should apply the knowledge we had gained through that experience to the design and manufacture of lamps for the motor vehicle” Miller Trade catalogue 1926

## ■ 1939 – 1945 Under government control

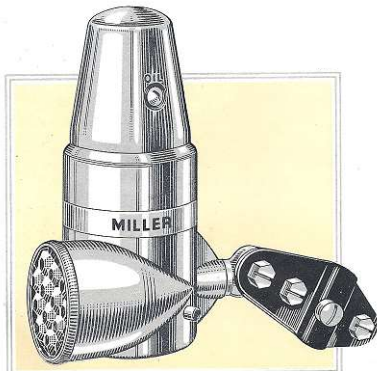
## ■ Post WWII - Focus on cycle dynamos



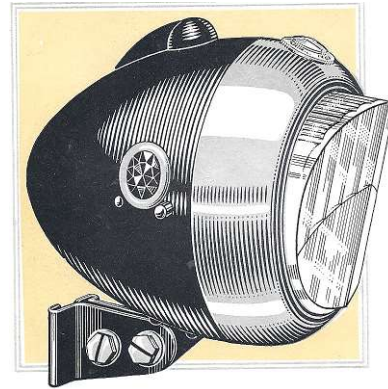




## Dynamos



## Battery Lamps



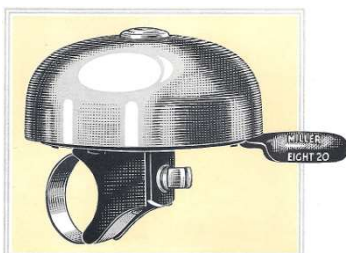
## Reflectors



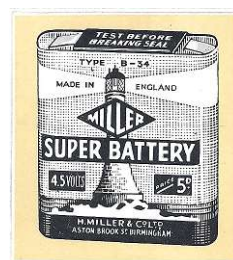
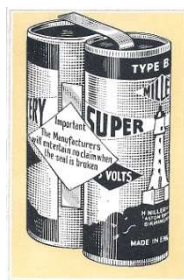
## Oil and Gas Lamps



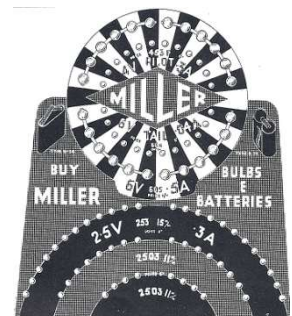
## Bells



## Batteries



## Bulbs







*Images © Alice the Camera 2016*





THE MILLER DIAMOND  
IS THE *Hall-mark of Quality*



STAND 142

MOTOR CYCLE & CYCLE SHOW  
EARLY COURT, LONDON, OCT. 31-29

MILLER Cycle Dynamo Lighting sets  
the style in world design. To millions  
of cyclists throughout the five contin-  
ents, the MILLER diamond is recognised  
as the mark of constant

CYCLISTS  
EVERYWHERE

**Insist  
on**



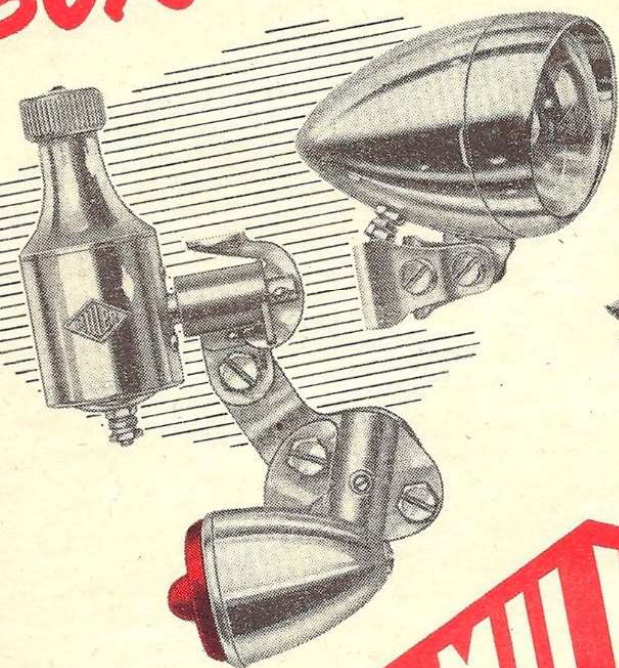
the greatest  
one in cycle  
Dynamo Lighting

that brings you better business.  
We offer the latest styles, highest  
quality finishes and RELIABILITY.



**H Miller & Co**  
**Marketing and Distribution**

AT TRY  
**BOYS OWN BIKE!**



*Lighting Sets*

Your friends  
will all admire  
your

*New*



Here's something NEW to make your cycle  
—and you! — the centre of attraction. A  
modern chrome-finished Miller lighting set  
with a built-in horn! The horn is push-  
button operated, runs economically off a  
battery and, together with the powerful  
dynamo lighting set, makes a brilliant  
new combination. Be bright—get  
the new Miller lighting set. It's as good  
as looks—and sounds!

**DYNAMO  
WITH COMBINATION  
HEADLAMP &**

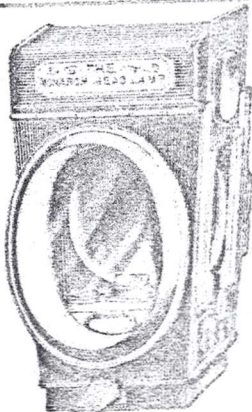





**“Mr Miller begs to inform the public that his new Monarch Safety Lamp and list for 1885 will be ready the 1st of January”**

—◇◇ H. MILLER ◇◇—

Patentee and Manufacturer of all kinds of Bicycle & Tricycle Lamps,  
AND GENERAL LANTERNS,  
96, NEW JOHN STREET WEST, BIRMINGHAM.

			
Monarch Head Lamp.	Winger Hub Lamp.	Winger Head Lamp.	Monarch Hub Lamp.

Mr. Miller begs to inform the public that his new Monarch Safety Lamp and list for 1885 will be ready the 1st of January.





1905 - 1961



**MILLER'S**  
**CETOLITE** BURNS ACETYLENE GAS.

From all Factors.



WORTH STOCKING.  
BRING CUSTOMERS.  
Booklets and Showcards on application from

**H. MILLER & CO., LTD., BIRMINGHAM.**

August 1905

**SEE AND BE SEEN**



There's far more enjoyment to be obtained from cycling when you KNOW you have a trouble-free efficient lighting set. If you have not bought a new lamp for a year or two you will be amazed at the rapid developments that have taken place in cycle lighting—with Miller Cycle Dynamo sets in the lead. Never before has it been the cyclist's lot to ride in the wake of such a brilliant beam. See these new models at your local cycle shop.



**MILLER**  
**DYNAMO LIGHTING**

Manufacturers:  
**H. MILLER & CO. LTD., BIRMINGHAM**

SET NO. 324 : 23/6"

No. 324. Car type headlamp fitted with Dr. G.S. amp. GAS-FILLED main bulb, pilot bulb and 3-way switch. 3 volt rear wheel drive dynamo with BUILT-UP tail lamp and improved mounting bracket. Price 52 s. OTHER MODELS FROM 12/-

July 1936

*Britains Smartest Sets*



537 T

This handsome Miller Lighting Set is finished in Chrome Plating on steel body. The headlamp incorporates NEW and elegant hooded lens right up to date with modern design.

INSIST ON



**Quality**  
CYCLE DYNAMO LIGHTING

STAND 61  
EARLE COURT



H. MILLER & CO. LTD. ASTON BROOK ST. BIRMINGHAM

November 1955

*Hey Fellows! here's SuperNEW styling!*



Yes, the latest version of the 537T model now incorporates the new and attractive hooded front on the headlamp. This adds even further to the overall clean lines of an already very popular lighting set. Other features include two-way switch for battery stand-by and adjustable fixing brackets. Get one now and when you are night riding you'll SEE FOR YOURSELF!



**CYCLE DYNAMO LIGHTING**

H. MILLER & CO. LIMITED  
ASTON BROOK STREET, BIRMINGHAM 6

1961

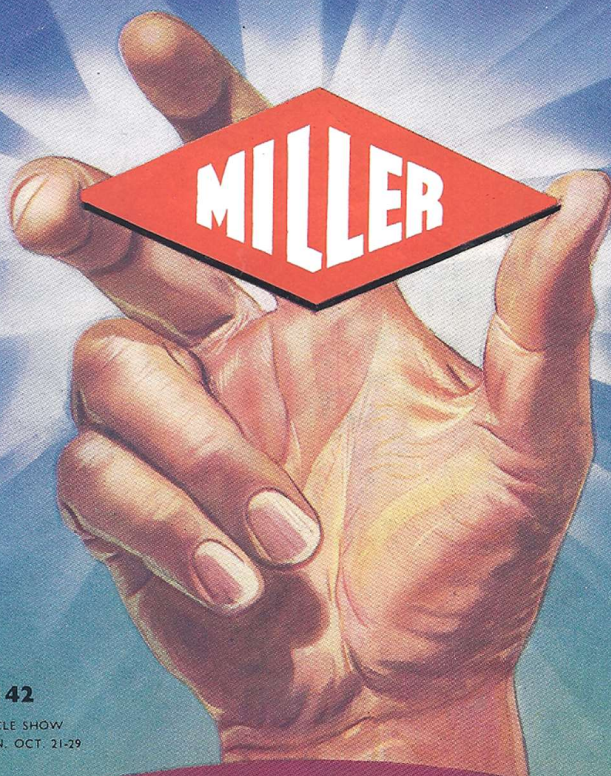




1961

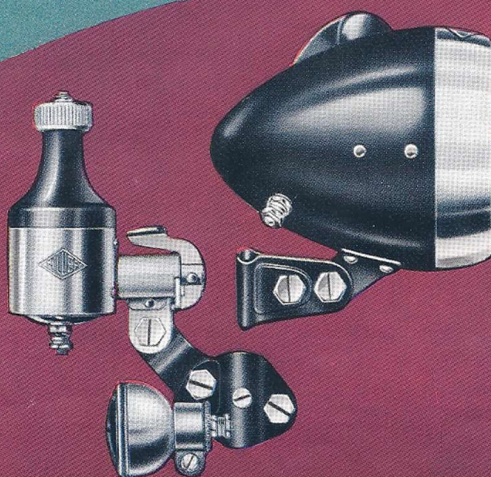


**THE MILLER DIAMOND**  
**IS THE** *Hall-mark of Quality*



**STAND 142**

MOTOR CYCLE & CYCLE SHOW  
EARL'S COURT, LONDON, OCT. 21-29



MILLER Cycle Dynamo Lighting sets the style in world design. To millions of cyclists throughout the five continents, the MILLER diamond is recognised as an unfailing guarantee of constant quality and consistent reliability.



**DYNAMO  
LIGHTING SETS**

H. MILLER & CO. LTD., ASTON BROOK STREET, BIRMINGHAM 6







## Miller Service Stations

### LONDON, W.C.I.

### BIRMINGHAM

and all principal towns  
in the United Kingdom.

### ARGENTINE :

BUENOS AIRES.

### AUSTRIA :

VIENNA.

### BELGIUM :

ANTWERP.  
BRUXELLES.  
LIEGE.

### CANADA :

MONTREAL.

### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA :

PRAGUE.

### DUTCH EAST INDIES:

BATAVIA.  
SAMARANG.  
SOURABAYA.

### DENMARK:

COPENHAGEN.

### EGYPT:

CAIRO.

### GERMANY:

BERLIN.  
COLOGNE.  
LEIPZIG.  
MUNICH.  
NURNBERG.  
STUTTGART.

### HOLLAND:

BILTHOVEN.

### HUNGARY:

BUDAPEST.

### INDIA:

CALCUTTA.  
BOMBAY.

### ITALY:

BOLOGNA.  
MILAN.  
NAPLES.  
PADOVA.  
PISA.  
ROME.  
UDINE.

### POLAND:

WARSAW.

### SPAIN:

BARCELONA.

### SWITZERLAND:

ZURICH.  
GENEVA.

### SOUTH AFRICA:

BLOEMFONTEIN.  
CAPE TOWN.  
DURBAN.  
EAST LONDON.  
JOHANNESBURG.  
MARITZBURG.  
PORT ELIZABETH.

### AUSTRALIA:

ADELAIDE.  
BRISBANE.  
MELBOURNE.  
PERTH.  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

### NEW ZEALAND:

AUCKLAND.  
WELLINGTON.

### U.S.A.:

BOSTON.







**Objects from  
the Miller archive**







**A Miller oil powered commercial vehicle lamp,  
manufactured in the 1920s and 1930s**

*Image © Alice the Camera 2016*







## **A 1942 version Miller bicycle light, with blackout visor**

*Image © Alice the Camera 2016*







## **A Miller light for the General Post Office (GPO)**







## **A Miller electric lamp with visor, and red and white light. Early 1940s, WWII manufacture**

*Image © Alice the Camera 2016*





