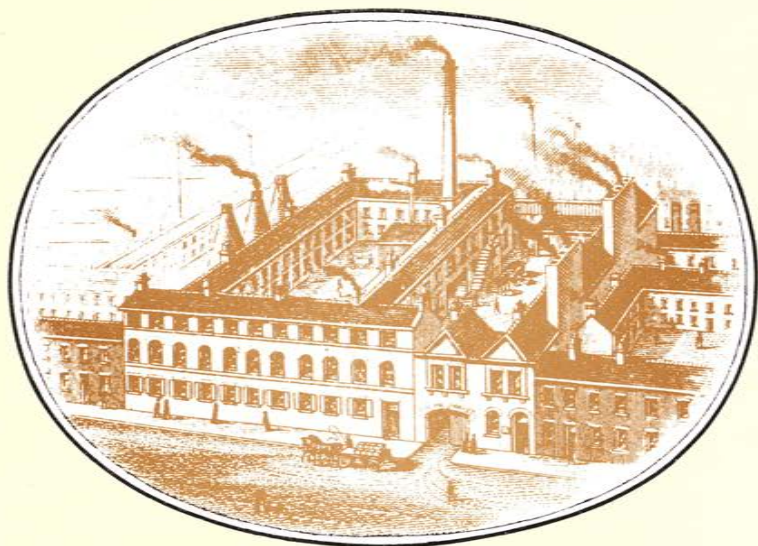




**KUTRITE GROUP**

**SHEFFIELD ENGLAND**

**1902 - 1977**



*"We are but the two halves of a pair of scissors, when apart . . .  
but together we are something."*

Dickens, *Martin Chuzzlewit*,  
Chapter 5

*We acknowledge with thanks the valuable assistance of  
the following:  
Sheffield City Libraries  
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Sheffield Newspapers Ltd.  
Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire.*

# 75 YEARS OF HISTORY

SEPTUAGESIMUS QUINTUS FESTUS  
DIES ANNIVERSARIUS

*by Philip E. Wright*

*Published by  
ERNEST WRIGHT & SON LIMITED  
on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary  
January 1977*

*Ernest Wright & Son Limited  
Kutrite Works, Smithfield,  
Sheffield S3 7AR, England.  
Telephone 0742/21915 & 21620  
Cables Kutrite, Sheffield. Telex 54316*

# Introduction

*Typical of an outworkers' premises in the early part of this century, is this view of Cross Smithfield. The small single storey shed-like building was rented to an outwork putter together (as they are known in the trade). The houses close by and the three storey factory were sited at the back of Scotland Street, Sheffield.*



*The Wright Family have been associated with the boring, hardening and tempering of scissors in Sheffield for at least four generations.*

*The operation of boring, hardening and tempering of scissors was very often carried on by outworkers, as, generally speaking the cutlery industry of Sheffield did not lend itself to large scale production. In fact a typical industrial unit in Sheffield consisted of a smithy at the domestic back door, in which the Master worked with an apprentice. Walter Wright was one of many "Little Mesters" who were outworkers and took on work of a specific part of the manufacture of the article, from a manufacturer, rented a room or workshop and generally worked when and as hard as they pleased.*

*Very little is known of Walter Wright, the Founder's Father, except that he was noted for spending a considerable amount of his leisure time at the beer house. It was hardly surprising that as a result of the heat, hard physical labour, irregular working hours and relatively high wages of the industry at that time, he developed excessive drinking habits. There were reasons however, why he, along with many other cutlery workers developed these habits, as the payment of wages was often made in the manufacturers own public house, where a delay of some hours was quite a common occurrence.*

## How it all began



*On January 7th 1880 Walter Wright's wife, Mary Ann (known as Polly) gave birth to their only son who they named Ernest. They also had three daughters, Bertha, Minnie and Hilda, but as was customary in those days of highly skilled men with a strong sense of trade, Ernest followed in his father's footsteps as a scissors borer and hardener.*

*Their workshop consisted of a room measuring approximately eight feet square in number 7 Court, Leicester Street, Sheffield, rented from the well established company of Brookes & Crookes, cutlery manufacturers of Sheffield*

*Overheads in this workshop were minimal as there was no electricity and an amusing point to note is that the gas meter rarely registered because it was situated behind the coke hearth and the heat had frequently evaporated the water in it.*

*At the turn of the nineteenth century Walter Wright's son realised there were larger gains to be made than just boring and hardening scissors for the trade, and so decided to go into selling completely finished scissors to well-established cutlery firms in Sheffield. This, however did not entail employing additional labour on the premises, as each process was carried out separately by different outworkers.*

*So the year 1902 saw Ernest Wright established himself as a Scissors Manufacturer.*

# The Early Years

**BRITISH MANUFACTURERS**

**E. Wright,**  
Scissors Manufacturer.

**SPECIALITY—MEDIUM TO BEST.**  
Household Scissors all sizes. Nail Scissors all sizes.  
Tailors' Scissors all sizes. Paper Hangers' Scissors all sizes.  
Hair Dressers' Scissors 64 and 7in.

Export Orders through British Shippers will receive prompt attention.

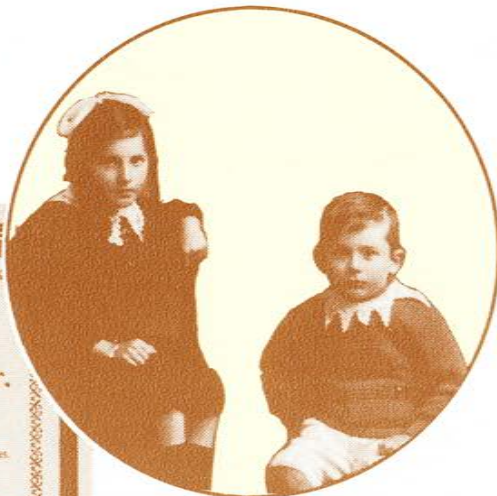
**102a, Weston Street, SHEFFIELD,**  
ENGLAND.

---

**E. WRIGHT.**      **E. WRIGHT.**  
**FABRICANT DE CISEAUX.**      **FABRICANTE DE THERAS.**

**Specialité.**      **Especialidad.**  
Ciseaux médium à la meilleure.  
Ciseaux de ménage, de toutes grandeurs.  
Ciseaux à rigoles, de toutes grandeurs.  
Ciseaux pour tailleurs, de toutes grandeurs.  
Ciseaux pour barbiers, de toutes grandeurs.  
Ciseaux pour coiffeurs, de 4, 5 et 6 pouces.  
Les commandes pour l'étranger par l'intermédiaire  
d'Exportateurs British qui envoient  
directement.

**102a, WESTON STREET,  
SHEFFIELD, Angleterre.**      **102a, WESTON STREET,  
SHEFFIELD, Inglaterra.**



Walter Wright lived long enough to see his Son's business grow enough to warrant moving to larger premises, situated at No.102A Weston Street, Sheffield, where two workshops were rented at the rate of five shillings per week inclusive of rates. Electricity had still not been installed, so the hand bellows were transferred from the old premises in Leicester Street to blow the furnace, the lighting being gaslight and coal for heating purposes had to be fetched for the stove. He also lived to see his son's first wife Florence give birth to his only grandson, who was also named Ernest after his Father.

The date of Ernest Wright junior's birth was January 29th 1912 and now as Chairman of Ernest Wright & Son Limited celebrates his 65th birthday in the same year as the Company celebrates its 75th year in business.

After leaving school at the age of fourteen, Ernest Wright junior was sent to Whiteley's Business College in Surrey Street, Sheffield for a one year course to learn shorthand and typing, after which he quickly found a job at Brown Bayley Steel Co. Ltd., to be just as quickly sacked by his superior, a Scotsman with a broad accent who didn't take kindly to having his dictation typed exactly as he spoke it!

After a further period back at business college and another somewhat longer period of employment at Brown Bayley's they suggested that he might like to join his father in business, to see if he could make any more of him than they could!



The years between 1935 and the start of the Second World War saw quite a lot of changes take place and quite by chance a sideline to the manufacturing process developed. Ernest Wright junior had overstocked on screws for the scissors and had the opportunity of selling some of his surplus stock at a small profit to other local manufacturers and outwork scissors putter-togetherers as they are known. This practice soon snow-balled and "Wrights Noted Scissors Screws" soon became famous throughout Sheffield. It was not uncommon to see the newly married Ernest Wright and his wife, spending their evenings counting out screws, to supply the trade the following day.



## Son Joins Father

So in 1928 at the age of sixteen, he left his eight shillings a week job to join his father, making the total number of persons on the payroll into three, as Ernest Wright Senior had previously engaged a part-time female bow-dresser.

Most of the work was still carried out by outworkers and this meant carrying the scissors blades from one outworker to another. It was this particular task that gained Ernest Wright Senior the reputation of being the person who could carry more scissors on his shoulder than any one else engaged in the trade. It was estimated that he could carry well over seven gross of scissors at a time and when it is considered that a scissors makers dozen was fourteen pairs and there are two blades to every pair, this meant a load of well over two thousand blades at a time. The scissors makers dozen (fourteen pairs) stems from the days when all scissors were hand forged individually out of a single piece of steel and a quite common costing system at that time was to allow one pair for breakage and one pair for profit.

It was not exactly an ideal time when the young Ernest Wright joined his father as it was in the middle of the slump of the late 1920's and at the time Ernest Wright Senior was only finding enough work to keep himself busy three days a week, the rest of the week he filled in by repairing wireless sets.

During the years that followed, trade picked up and Ernest Wright and Son gradually added more and more processes into their own premises therefore avoiding sending as much work out to be processed and making their own business more profitable into the bargain.

This enabled Ernest Wright junior, now earning the princely sum of Two Pounds Ten Pounds Ten Shillings per week in 1935 to marry Marian Fisher, a local girl from Crookes. Unfortunately as it was common practice in those days not to receive holiday pay, they could only afford to have two days honeymoon in the nearby village of Whitwell especially considering that the week previous had been a "short" week because of Easter and the week following would also be a "short" week because of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the coronation of King George V.



# Growing in Strength

*Business continued to flourish, so much so, that in 1938 it was again necessary, through a very large contract they had received, to move to larger premises in Talbot Works, Reed Street, Sheffield 3, taking with them the telephone number, Sheffield 21915, which is still used as their main line to day.*

*At the same time as moving, it was also decided that the business engagements of the Company should be put in better order and so the two Ernest Wright's, senior and junior, decided to register the Company in London, trading under the name of Ernest Wright & Son Limited, each partner taking out 400 £1 shares.*

*Unfortunately directly after their removal to Talbot Works, circumstances took a turn for the worse. They had made one big mistake - a mistake never to be repeated at all costs. They had put all their eggs in one basket. The large contract they had received was not renewed. All seventeen employees had to be put on the dole. However it was not too long before new business was gained from both home and overseas markets and the Company was soon to regain its prior strength.*

*In 1938, the same year the Company became registered, Marian Wright, secretary to the Company, gave birth to a son, John Graham, on October 19th.*





# The War Years

During World War II, the manufacturing process had to be turned over to making surgical instruments to avoid merging with a large company as a nucleus firm under Government legislation, but as the war progressed, household goods became extremely scarce and so Ernest Wright junior carried on producing scissors at night in between his fire watching duties and voluntary service in the A.R.P.

The year 1940 saw the Senior of the two Ernest Wrights start semi-retirement, whilst at the Reed Street premises a further room was rented to enable the hand grinding of the blades of the scissors to be carried out, instead of having to rely so much on outworkers. Further rooms were subsequently rented, so bringing in the electro plating processes, of dull nickel plating and chromium plating, final warehousing and space for a small amount of finished stock.

On January 8th 1943, Philip Ernest, the second son of Ernest and Marian Wright was born.

During the decade following the end of World War II, trade was good and exports, especially to the Commonwealth countries formed a good proportion of sales.

The Sales Day Book shows that in 1939, sales were still predominantly to Companies within the Cutlery trade and an average months figures were just over £400 whilst the year's turnover finished at £4,957.8s.6d.

1939

1	Wm. ...	10	3	19	W. ...	10	12
2	...	10	4	20	...	11	17
3	...	10	5	21	...	12	18
4	...	10	6	22	...	13	19
5	...	10	7	23	...	14	20
6	...	10	8	24	...	15	21
7	...	10	9	25	...	16	22
8	...	10	10	26	...	17	23
9	...	10	11	27	...	18	24
10	...	10	12	28	...	19	25
11	...	10	13	29	...	20	26
12	...	10	14	30	...	21	27
13	...	10	15	31	...	22	28
14	...	10	16		...	23	29
15	...	10	17		...	24	30
16	...	10	18		...	25	31
17	...	10	19		...	26	
18	...	10	20		...	27	
19	...	10	21		...	28	
20	...	10	22		...	29	
21	...	10	23		...	30	
22	...	10	24		...	31	
23	...	10	25		...		
24	...	10	26		...		
25	...	10	27		...		
26	...	10	28		...		
27	...	10	29		...		
28	...	10	30		...		
29	...	10	31		...		
30	...	10			...		
31	...	10			...		



A letter from Littlewoods Stores of Liverpool 38 years ago, requests Ernest Wright's to bring the cost of their 6½ inch chromium plated scissors down from 11/- per dozen to 9/6d per dozen pairs to enable them to sell them at 1/- per pair (5p). The same scissors today would retail at approximately £1.90 per pair

An average week's wage bill in 1942 was £63.7s.11d whilst the total wages for that year came to £3,296.14s.4d. Notice the two Directors drew £8 per week between them, whilst the National Insurance Stamps came to 5/8d per week.

1942

Jan	...	...	...
9	...	...	...
10	...	...	...
11	...	...	...
12	...	...	...
13	...	...	...
14	...	...	...
15	...	...	...
16	...	...	...
17	...	...	...
18	...	...	...
19	...	...	...
20	...	...	...
21	...	...	...
22	...	...	...
23	...	...	...
24	...	...	...
25	...	...	...
26	...	...	...
27	...	...	...
28	...	...	...
29	...	...	...
30	...	...	...
31	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...

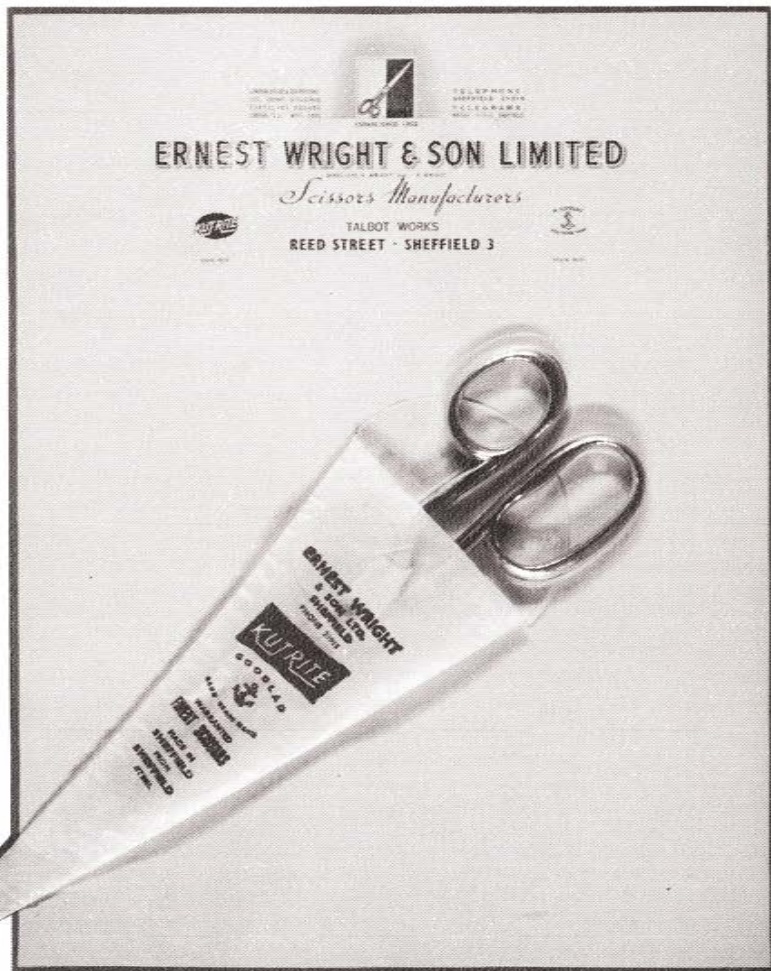
# The **KUTRITE** Name is Born

Shortly after the death of the Founder in 1954, the Kutrite trade name was first marked on the scissors and many years later, after proven usage was registered through the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire.

Selling under the trade name Kutrite enabled Ernest Wright & Son Limited to establish their own brand named scissors in both the home and export markets making their products easily distinguishable from those of their competitors.

Today, the Kutrite name along with the Horse's Head registered trade mark, are being registered in various main selling areas throughout the World.

The name "Sheffield" always forms part of the mark as it is protected Worldwide and is synonymous with quality which is reflected in all the products manufactured by Ernest Wright & Son Limited.



# KUTRITE

# Fourth Generation

*John Graham Wright started working for his father, after first having a six months secretarial course at College. He was also encouraged by his father to join the newly formed Cutlery Apprenticeship Course and duly won 1st. Prize, three years in succession, which enabled him to visit West European Cutlery manufacturing centres and so expand his knowledge of the industry.*



*In 1960 Philip Wright decided to abandon his career in commercial photography in order to join his father and brother, as the former was forced to take life easier due to ill health. Philip learned the trade as his brother had done, by working his way through each department, and also visiting foreign cutlery centres, as part of awards won through the Cutlery Apprenticeship Scheme in Sheffield.*



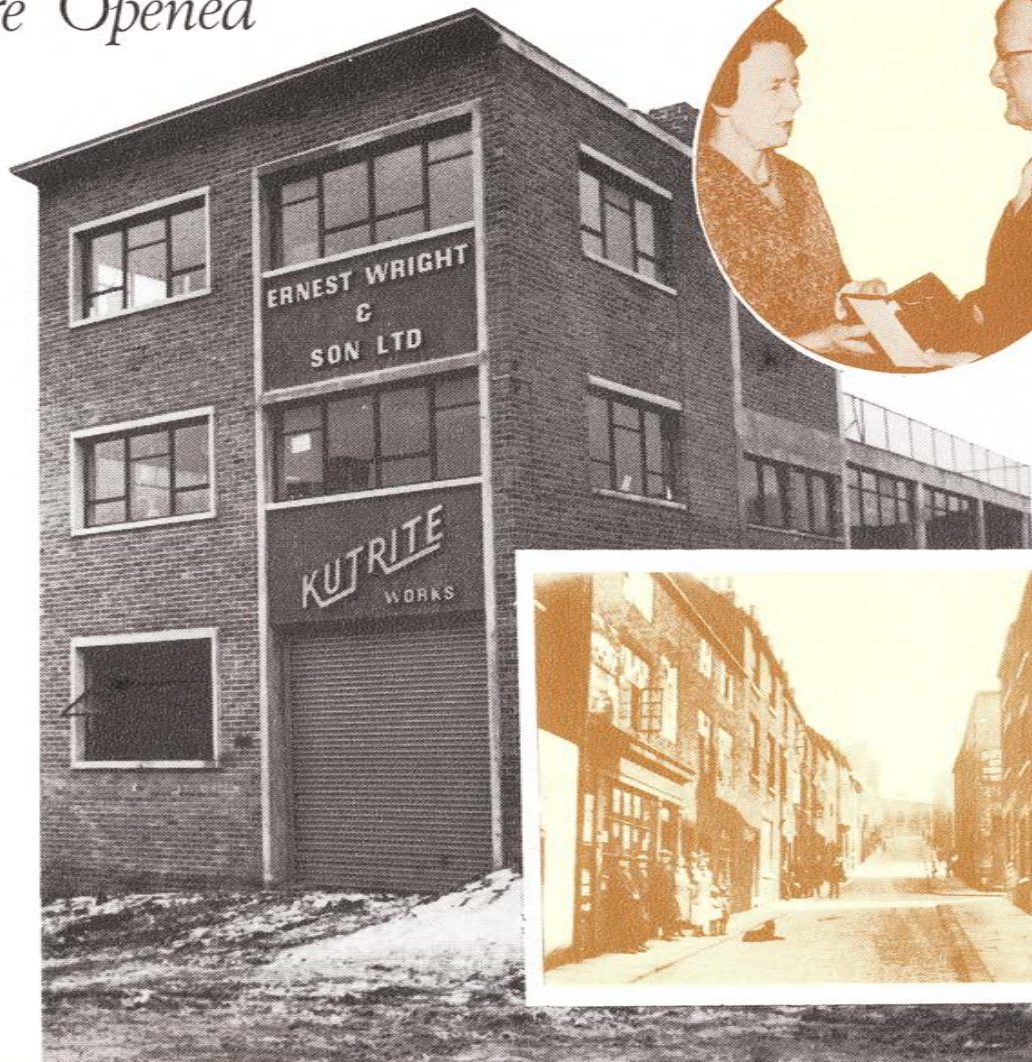
*The Founder, Ernest Wright Senior, with his two young grandsons' Graham & Philip.*

*Trade was booming then in 1957 the Company received a further setback. Notification was received of intent to demolish the Talbot Works in Reed Street, for road widening. New premises were eagerly sought, and eventually Ernest Wright purchased a small plot of freehold land in Smithfield, part of the new light industrial development area of Sheffield at that time. However not entirely satisfied that this was the right answer to the Company's problems, he half-heartedly tried to sell the land. On receiving an offer for three times the original purchase price, he seriously reconsidered the position and called in an architect who set to work designing a new factory. —*

# New Works are Opened

*By the end of 1962 the new factory was completed. However the investments in the stock market, which had been set aside to cover the cost of the building, had slumped to such a low level, that a substantial loan had to be negotiated with the company's bankers. This was put in to the Factory Trust Fund which had been set up by Ernest Wright for his two sons, and so enabled the company to establish itself in its new premises, Kutrite Works, which were formatly opened on January 29th 1963 by Alderman H. Keeble Hawson, a former Lord Mayor of Sheffield.*

*The new building enabled production to be stepped up considerably as workflow problems had been cut to a minimum. New machinery was purchased and Ernest Wright & Son Limited became the finest privately owned scissors manufacturing company in the British Isles.*



**an expert  
ground  
hauling  
service for  
all local  
roads.**

We were pleased to undertake the East Street widening of Highgate in previous years and will also be widening the road this year.

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15, BRIDGE STREET, SHEFFIELD, S.1.

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**  
**G. NARSEN**  
40, BUCKINGHAM ROAD, SHEFFIELD, 1.  
Telephone 244534

**HOW MANY IN A SCISSORS-MAKER'S BOZEP?**  
MICHAEL HATFIELD VISITS ERNEST WRIGHT AND SON LTD., SHEFFIELD, AND IS TOLD THE REASON FOR THE SURPRISING ANSWER...



ABOVE: Ernest Wright and Son Ltd.'s new premises, the Kelvin Works, LEFF. Men at work in the grinding shop.

**New premises in which to celebrate a diamond jubilee**

A DIAMOND JUBILEE celebration is being held at the new premises of Ernest Wright & Son Ltd., the Kelvin Works, Sheffield, S.1. The new premises, which were opened on the 1st of the month, are a fine example of modern industrial architecture and are situated in a prime location in the city.

The new premises are a fine example of modern industrial architecture and are situated in a prime location in the city. The new premises are a fine example of modern industrial architecture and are situated in a prime location in the city.

**Put your thumb and fingers into the handles of a pair of KUTRITE SCISSORS**

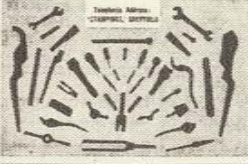


**KUTRITE**  
TRADE MARK REGISTERED

**Ernest Wright's new works**  
From page 1  
The new premises are a fine example of modern industrial architecture and are situated in a prime location in the city.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Mr. ERNEST WRIGHT** on the occasion of the opening of his new factory **SHEFFIELD BLANKS LTD.** 800P STAFFORD HOPE WORKS, WORTHING ROAD, SHEFFIELD, 3



**Congratulations & Best Wishes to Messrs. ERNEST WRIGHT & SON LTD.** on the opening of their new factory. **T. G. LILLEYMAN & SON LTD.** 800P FORBERS CLUB MILL ROAD, SHEFFIELD, 6. Phone 244534

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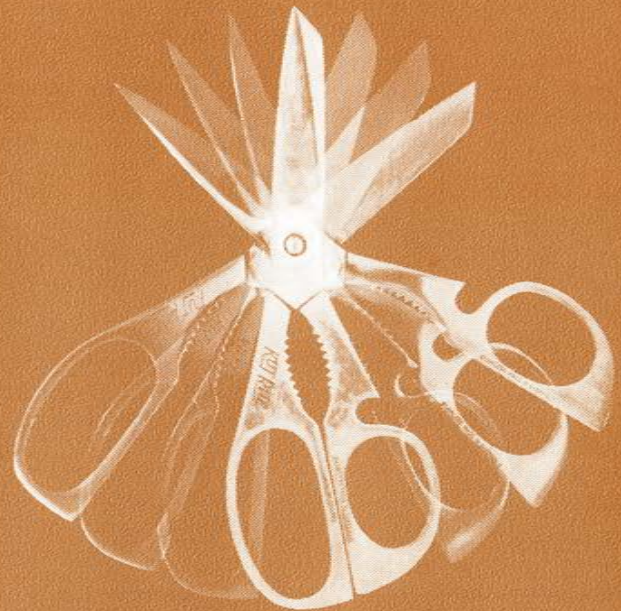
STOCKISTS OF PORTITE SCISSORS  
**H. COBURN WAITE**  
MANUFACTURER OF CUTTING TOOLS  
142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000

**ORNAMENTAL IRON WORK**  
All designs and execution for your premises at low cost. We are pleased to have received the National and British medals and a Royal Warrant for our services. (Price lists upon request.)  
**CHAPEL FABRICATION**  
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**...AND DENNIF'S SUPPLIED THE CONCRETE**

**DENNIF ready-mixed CONCRETE**  
ALAN S. DUNN'S LIMITED  
Works: 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000

**Tiling AND MOSAICS**  
**RIGBYS**  
100, THE CLOVER STREET, SHEFFIELD. TELEPHONE 2714



# The Take Overs

The acquisition of Richard Mather & Son (Scissors) was the first in a series of small takeovers which the company successfully completed. The goodwill purchased from Richard Mather's business in December 1965 put Ernest Wright & Son Limited into selling markets of which they had only scratched the surface before. Industrial manufacturing outlets featured predominantly and brought about a complete turnaround in trade in the space of only five years as the old fashioned hard-ware wholesale outlets were rapidly closing.

In 1969 the Wright family were once again wondering how they could expand as they had filled every corner of the works in Smithfield. They decided to approach the company of Hale Brothers Limited whose premises in Moorfields Works, Snow Lane, backed onto their Kutrite Works. In fact it was this Company who had sold the plot of land in Smithfield to Ernest Wright several years previously. As luck would have it, Hale Brothers was already up for sale, a fact unknown to the Wrights at the time. However the trustees of Hale Bros. Ltd., would only sell the property and the business together.



## Fisher's Takeover of old firm as will details fulfilled

By KAYE MACPHERSON

The instructions of a will which dictated a firm's fate for 25 years after the owner died became valid this week when the firm is taken over.

But the takeover is only possible because a fortune teller is to receive some of the present post as director. The five remaining employees are to be made redundant.

The will, made by the late Ernest Wright, of Moorfields Works, Snow Lane, Sheffield, gave the firm in trust for a church and named the trustees. The company was not to be sold until all employees of that time had died.

### Open Books

Fisher said: "The which talks about it... Margaret... I ran my hand had possible approval... because it will... as it happened."

Fisher said he had seen the Trustee's "except that I was... I don't put to land... that it had been said... to his study... and books open to per...

shops "before," said Mr. Ernest Wright, managing director of Wright's, mass-produced manufacturer, recently.

He added Hale Brothers was a firm known throughout the world and just after the last war all employees were involved there in a thriving trade.

In the past five or six years though the business has been gradually run down, although will much use made of machinery. Now we intend to build it up again, under the Hale Brothers name and keep the old famous trade marks in use," he added.

To expand the firm, the old crumble factory in the corner of the Victorian building will have to be destroyed. In their place Ernest Wright will build a machine grading shop.

"The factories are just brick walls and could not be saved unless they were covered brick," said Mr. Fisher.

He added that three employees who were being made redundant—most were on the payroll 25 years ago—will be taken up till last after a week's holiday.

The firm already has 25 employees and an annual turnover of about £80,000.

### Trade mark

It takes the three-story premises, trade marks dating back 120 years and still produce 100,000 of the kind now being retained at Sheffield, Aberdeenshire, Works.

Hale Brothers are manufacturers of files, saws and cutlery including: hand saws, panel knives for pattern, and suction blaws.

The trade marks, which will be retained, include a horse's head from 1862, a fish hook dating back to 1726 and the mark "W" belonging to William Hale in 1761.

It has a flourishing trade as specialist scissor manufacturers.

It recently received a sample order from Japan for 240 pairs of hand-sawing cutters—after supplying the people trimmers of the country with saws for 100 years.

Other recent orders include one from a Pakistan carpet manufacturing one...

## Shut down threat to nation paper dispute

National newspaper Britain are likely to close temporarily if a minute attempt to get inside National Graphical Association members' require normal works fall today.

The Newspapers P... Association said it... statement last night that... national newspapers in a country.

The NPA's appeal meet this morning to take the agreed steps to support the... paper's action, there... normal working conditions, newspaper offers.

The dispute began Saturday night... nearly 50,000 copies of the... were led... of a machine... Already over 1,000,000... the Daily Mirror and... day Mirror... and the... and the...

### Staffing

Last Wednesday the Daily Mirror lost 500,000 copies. The dispute again broke machine-makers—members of the NCA—who applied to the... paper without extra staffing... their recovery.

They are including NCA members—and in other... decided the... the Daily Mirror... earlier this... of an... Mirror from... the Daily Telegraph... and... issues in order... Times did not appear...

### Top band winner

agains  
nder  
d

MOORFIELDS WORKS,  
SHEFFIELD  
(ENGLAND)

19

Steel, Files, Saws, Edge Tools, Cutlery &c.

CORPORATE MARKS GRANTED BY THE CUTLERS COMPANY.

650 W. HALE A.D. 1761

R. BATEMAN A.D. 1728

G. DRAXIN A.D. 1842

TIP H. CROOKES & CO. A.D. 1897

above a big roundabout. Below the roundabout will be

## Man sells 100-year-old tool firm

Morning Telegraph Reporter

An 81-year-old Sheffield man is this week having to sell his century-old tool firm—founded by his father in 1868—to a neighbouring cutlery firm.

Mr. William Ridge, of J B Ridge Ltd, Snow Lane, who has been with the family firm for 64 years, has been forced to sell out to Ernest Wright and Son Ltd, the scissors manufacturers, because his son died before he could take over.

Ridge, believed to be the only firm in Sheffield manufacturing gimlets, will keep on their remaining employees. The firm, which also makes Bradwells, scrapers, screwdrivers and pallet knives, produced nearly 6,000 tools a week.

For Wrights of Smithfield, Sheffield, this is the second takeover within two months. In September they acquired Hale Brothers Ltd, also of Snow Lane, and now have an interest in many different kinds of cutlery and tools.

## Woman

## Woman

Tomorrow when Britain's powerful trade union will be chair—Mrs Mary Lane, who is the wife of the late Mr. Lane, will be the first woman to be elected to the office of Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

## The

She has the job she is doing and she is doing it well. They will do this and

## FIRM MAKE THIRD ACQUISITION

A Sheffield scissors-manufacturing firm have completed their third takeover of recent months.

Ernest Wright and Son Ltd., of Smithfield, Sheffield, have acquired a business which has existed almost entirely on the efforts of "little men"—Alfred Booth and Son, of Carver Street, Sheffield.

Last September Wrights, established in 1902, took over the Hale Brothers group of companies. In December they took over J. B. Ridge Ltd, the only manufacturer of twist gimlets in the country.

The three takeovers have cost Wrights in the region of £20,000.



## Cost

By the way, the cost of the Sheffield branch taken over by Ernest Wright and Son Ltd. is £20,000.

So Ernest Wright & Son Limited after manufacturing nothing else but scissors for close on seventy years diversified its interests and began manufacturing a wide range of hand tools under the Horse's Head trade mark which Hale Bros. had originally registered in 1842.

Graham and Philip raised the finance for their newly acquired works by raising a mortgage from their father. The company of Hale Brothers Ltd.,—renamed Hale Brothers Tools had not changed its routine since the death of the last of the Hale family, twenty five years previously and so began a slow path to modernisation of the Georgian Works, now listed as being of architectural interest within the City of Sheffield. Much of the antiquated machinery, lifting gear and office equipment was donated to the historical Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet in Sheffield which is run by the City of Sheffield Museums Department and the outside front and rear covers of this booklet picture two of the workshops as they appear in the Hamlet today.

Shortly afterwards in 1969 came the takeover in December of J. B. Ridge Ltd., at that time one of the few companies still manufacturing twist gimlets, and then in the January of 1970 Philip Wright successfully negotiated the takeover of one of their scissors manufacturing competitors, Alfred Booth & Son, whose business was established in 1903. This completed the third takeover the company had made within six months.

So in the space of a little over three years Ernest Wright & Son Ltd., had inherited a manufacturing history of well over a thousand years as the Hale Brothers had themselves taken over numerous smaller concerns during their company's lifetime.

In 1974 a piece of land which had been leased from the Church Commissioners since the takeover of Hale Brothers was purchased outright, the ground rent having been set previously at 12/6d per half year in the year 1772. This meant that all the land on which the properties stood were now freehold.

**THE KUTRITE GROUP OF COMPANIES**

Holding Company ERNEST WRIGHT & SON LIMITED	Established 1902	
W. GOODLAD	Established 1902	
RICHARD MATHER & SON (SCISSORS)	Established 1859	
HALE BROTHERS TOOLS	Established 1842	
HENRY CROOKES & CO	Established 1857	
R. BATEMAN	Established 1739	
J. B. RIDGE LIMITED	Established 1868	
ALFRED F. BOOTH & SON	Established 1903	
GEORGE DEAKIN	Established 1842	
SAMUEL HANCOCK & SON	Established 1779	
S & G. STRINGER	Established 1759	

# Freemen of the Cutlers Company

*In January 1975 Ernest Wright, after spending most of his working life in the cutlery industry was accepted, along with his two Sons, Graham & Philip as Freemen of the ancient Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire in the County of York, founded in 1624 by Act of Parliament.*

*The Master Cutler, Charles Graham Murray, M.B.E., J.P., D.L., is presented with a pair of Kutrite Scissors as a token of friendship and appreciation.*



## Ernest Wright

*Ernest Wright retires officially as Managing Director on his 65th birthday in January 1977 but retains his role as Chairman of the Company for life and whilst his name has appeared on numerous occasions, little has been mentioned of his considerable drive, enthusiasm and dedication that has been the corner stone of the growth of the company over the last four decades.*

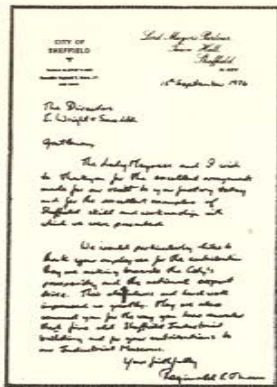
*Although it has been team effort every team needs a leader and he has been that leader. Like his father before him, he has remained modest and unchanged and has preferred to get involved with the action rather than watch from the wings. He has been a man who has rolled up his sleeves and worked alongside his employees. Nevertheless, he can be justly proud of what the company has achieved.*





# Kutrite's Special Visitors

In September 1976, Ernest Wright & Son Limited had a visit from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, Alderman and Mrs R. Munn, who viewed at first hand, the skill and craftsmanship that goes into the making of the Kutrite range of professional scissors and hand tools. They were received by the management, in the newly opened showroom and afterwards took the opportunity of talking to the employees, many with long years of service with the company.

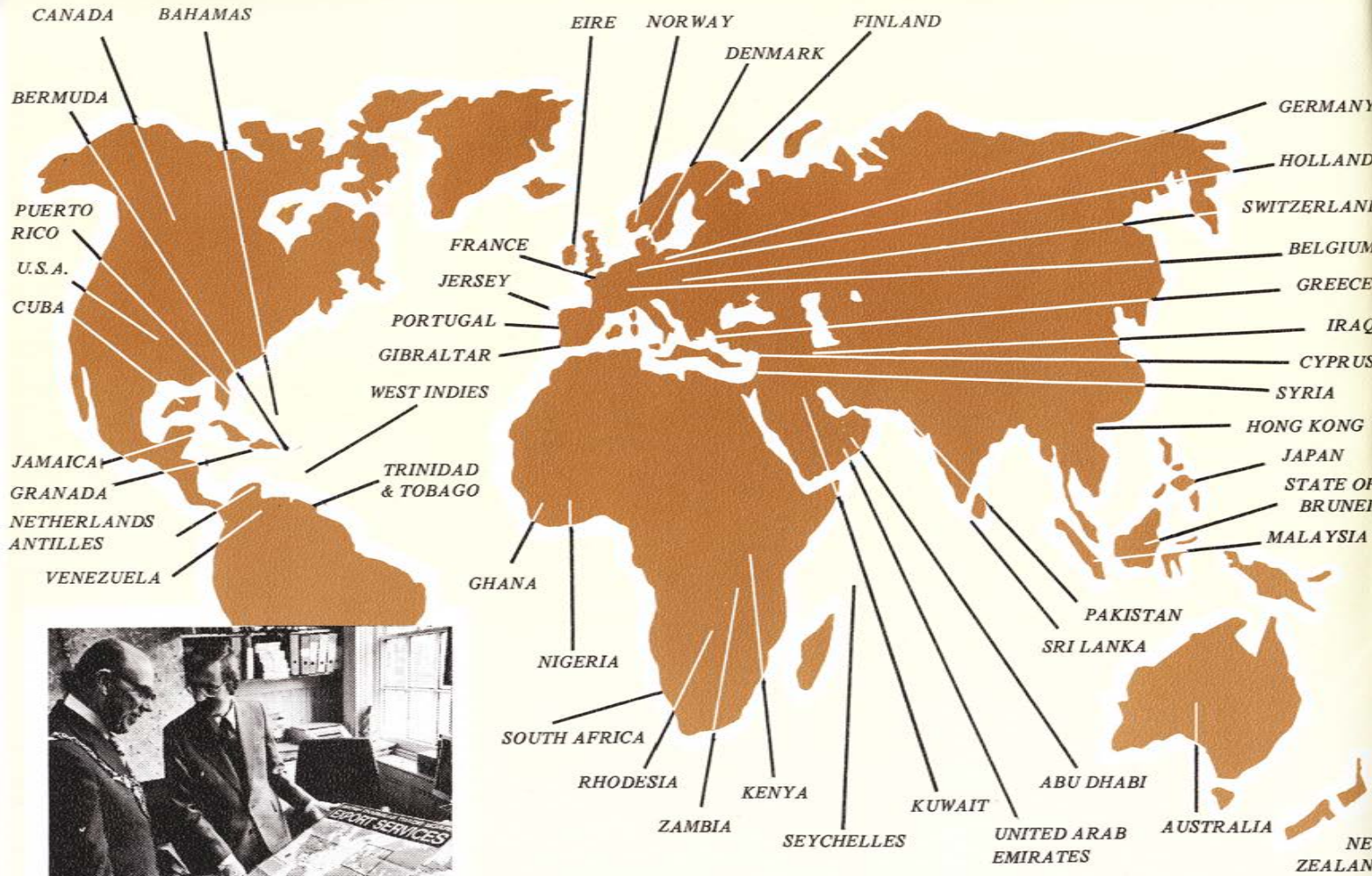


## Acknowledgement

The Directors of Ernest Wright & Son Limited wish to acknowledge with thanks the loyalty and co-operation of its employees, both past and present, many of them able to vividly recall the memories of when they worked in the old Talbot Works. Acknowledgements are also extended to the customers, past and present, many trading with the company for well over forty years and without whose business the company would not have survived and to the manufacturers agents both home and overseas and local suppliers whose continued support over the years has been appreciated.

## Future

Now in 1977 the prospects of Ernest Wright & Son Ltd., or the Kutrite Tools Group as it is becoming known are better than ever before, with dedicated efficient staff, a loyal workforce, and a fifth generation on its way makes the Company's future look very bright.



*Philip E. Wright, sales director shows the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Reg Munn, the company's contribution towards National Export Year. The firm currently exports to 45 different countries throughout the World.*

#### FOOTNOTE

*There is an interesting superstition about cutlery which seems of rather ancient origin. It is said that the gift of a sharp-edged tool will sever friendship. Perhaps it arose in the folklore of peasants who were uneducated in the use of sharp implements and had reason to think of them as inherently dangerous or malevolent. For example, in the courts of law it was the practice to underline a verdict of guilty by the turning of the edges of the guards' halberds toward the prisoner upon his condemnation.*

*This ancient superstition has almost disappeared, although in some lands the recipient of the gift of a pair of scissors or a knife will present a penny to the giver, traditionally a sure way of warding off the curse. However, a Danish jingle tells us specifically:*

*Needles and knives will love drive away,  
But spoons and scissors will love amplify.*

*Designed and printed by:  
South Yorkshire Printers Limited  
Rutland Hall, Rutland Road,  
Sheffield S3 8BP, South Yorkshire.*

*"Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them."*

*Sidney Smith, Lady Holland's Memoir  
Volume I, Chapter 10*

