



Salts Mill: The Owners and Managers 1853 to 1986

By Maggie Smith, Colin Coates

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Sir Titus Salt built a mill and village in 1853 that continues to be named after him. Already a successful worsted manufacturer in Bradford, his decision to build a huge ‘vertical’ mill housing all processes from treating raw wool to finishing quality worsted materials, alongside houses and community amenities for his workers, commenced a pattern of intertwined fortunes between Salts Mill and Saltaire’s residents that has continued. Ownership of Salts Mill initially passed to Salt’s seventh son but went into voluntary administration in 1892. The Mill was rescued and prospered under the ownership of Sir James Roberts until 1918 when family and business tragedies resulted in his sale of Salts Mill to a consortium of Bradford businessmen. During lean times for the textile trade in the 1920s, the private company of Salts Mill was floated as a public company and success returned to the mill. This led to record dividends in 1956, resulting in a dramatic take over by Ilingworth, Morris – a company founded by the Ostrer family who grew a global, multi-national textile company, retaining their headquarters at Salts Mill until textile production ceased. The twists, turns, dramas and events at Salts Mill are recounted in this book.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Maggie trained as a nurse in 1960s Bradford. Due to lone parenthood she helped set up a day care charity in the 1970s, later becoming a senior manager for education/care in children's early years. A passionate interest in human dramas has driven her research into people's lives in Saltaire.

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