

The French connection:
From Scotland to the Somme:
Maberly, Baxters',
Carmichaels, St Frères and
back again

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From Aberdeen to Amiens: the flight of John Maberly, 1830-45

- Technological transfer or selling one's country down the river?
- Effect of import tariffs on establishment of industry in France with UK assistance



The lost world of Broadford Works, Aberdeen with AIA playing “urban explorers” in 2013



Richards PLC, Broadford Works, Maberly St, Aberdeen in 1988



Old Mill
built in
1808

(c)Crown copyright RCAHMS



The best mill for the spinning of flax in France (1844 exhibition jury)



Why did an Aberdeen mill fall into hands of London bankers?

One of the very few C19 enterprises to be controlled outside of Scotland, namely by:

- 1811 John Maberly, (manager Stephen Pellatt, lived in Golden Square, died in 1839)
- 1831 passed to John Baker Richards, who had loaned £100,000 into the business in 1825. But 'Mr Leader' [maiden name of Maberly's 2nd wife] kept an interest.
- 1833-1890s managed by Frederick Holland (and others in family).
- Joint stock co from 1898, after Holland failed: 'a singular example of the failure of the financial experts, who reported adversely', so reverted to local investors.

John Maberly 1770-1840

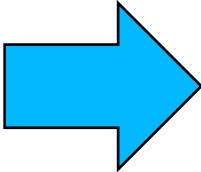
- Son of currier Stephen Maberly
- 1816-31 was MP for Rye and then Abingdon
- Shirley country estate at Croydon
- Master of Old Surrey Foxhounds
- 1818 Exchange and Deposit Bank
- Bankrupt 1831
- Died in Amiens, France, 1840 (or 1845 or 1849?)
- His eldest son William Leader Maberly, joint secretary of the General Post Office, bitterly opposed Rowland Hill's reforms.

Maberly resurfaces in France

- “Some of these immigrants are what we would today call executives, combining managerial and technical skills, thus John Maberley who in 1838 became director of a joint stock company making flax-spinning machinery in Amiens” (David Landes, *the Unbound Prometheus*)
- “John Maberly, linen manufacturer and smuggler...their selfishness was clear to all” (Alfred Dunham, *The Industrial Revolution in France*, 1955)
- Mechanics' Magazine and Journal of Science, Arts, and Manufactures, Volume 32 quoting “Sheffield Iris”:

Flax Spinning at Amiens- *Mechanics' magazine and journal of science, arts, and manufactures, Volume 32 (Sheffield Iris)*

- There is at present a joint-stock flax spinning company at Amiens, at the head of the management of which was the late John Maberley Esq, whose salary was over £1000 per annum and the engagement for 21 years.
- Before his death he had completed arrangements with an eminent flax-machine maker, in Manchester, to make the whole machinery on the spot, he being resolved that not a single machine should be imported from England. **Mr M's hatred to this country was known to be extreme.**



Flax Spinning at Amiens.—There is, at present a joint-stock flax-spinning company at Amiens, the head of the management of which was the late John Maberley, Esq., whose salary was 1000*l.* per annum and the engagement for twenty-one years. Before his death, he had completed arrangements with an eminent flax-machine maker, in Manchester, to make the whole machinery on the spot, (Mr. M.) being resolved that not a single machine should be imported from England. Mr. M.'s interest to this country was known to be extreme. The master mechanist's agreement is a most beneficial one; for instance, if a machine cost, say 100*l.* Leeds, and the carriage and commission 15 per cent., and the insurance against smuggling 30 per cent., then the price paid for the machine, Amiens, was to be 145*l.*, or 50 per cent. above the English price. The number of spindles are understood to be 25,000. The two engines are by J. Fairbairn, of Manchester, and of eighty horse each. Another flax mill of equal magnitude was commenced at the same place in 1838, and is now fast approaching completion.

Flax Spinning at Amiens- *Mechanics' magazine and journal of science, arts, and manufactures, Volume 32 (Sheffield Iris)*

- The master mechanist's agreement was a most beneficial one ; for instance if a machine cost say 100L at Leeds and the carriage and commission 15 % and the insurance against smuggling 30% then the price paid for the machine at Amiens was to be 145L or 50% above the English price.

Flax Spinning at Amiens- *Mechanics' magazine and journal of science, arts, and manufactures, Volume 32 (Sheffield Iris)*

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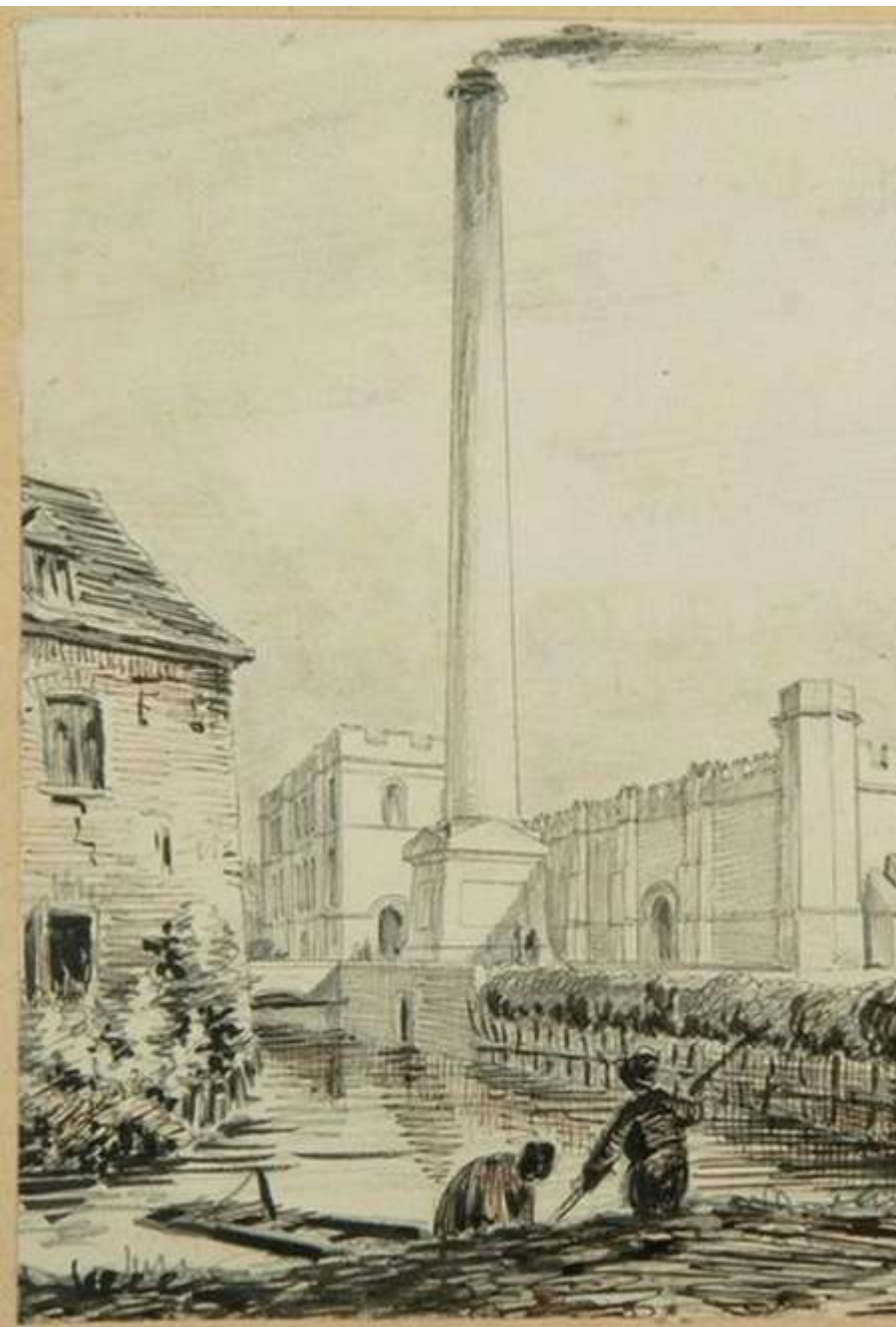
But not a smuggler

- (The late) Mr Maberley was opposed in principle to smuggling... We made the whole on the spot, both that which we might have got a license for [£3000] and that which we could not have got without smuggling [£27,000].
- *Evidence of Thomas Marsden, Machine-Maker, Salford, to Parliamentary Committee 11 March 1841*

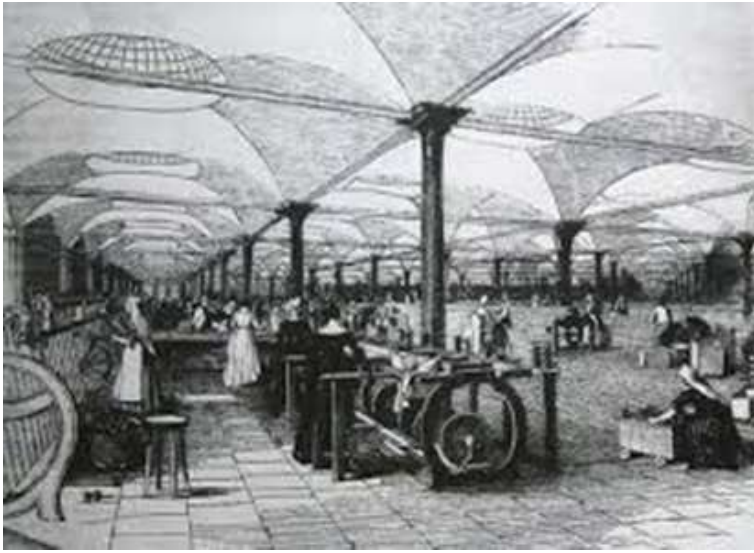
Maberley's Second Mill in Amiens, 1838, started 1839

Spinning
mill





Marshall's Temple Mill in Leeds, 1838



Amiens (west)

- Cosserat, a jute then velvet factory to the north still exists, part empty, part a dyeworks with a collection of machines
- A road cuts through the Maberly Mill
- Houses survive in curved Rue Maberly



Rue Maberly Amiens

The Mills were demolished and a road runs through them, but the workers housing survives.





Family ties

Correspondence between

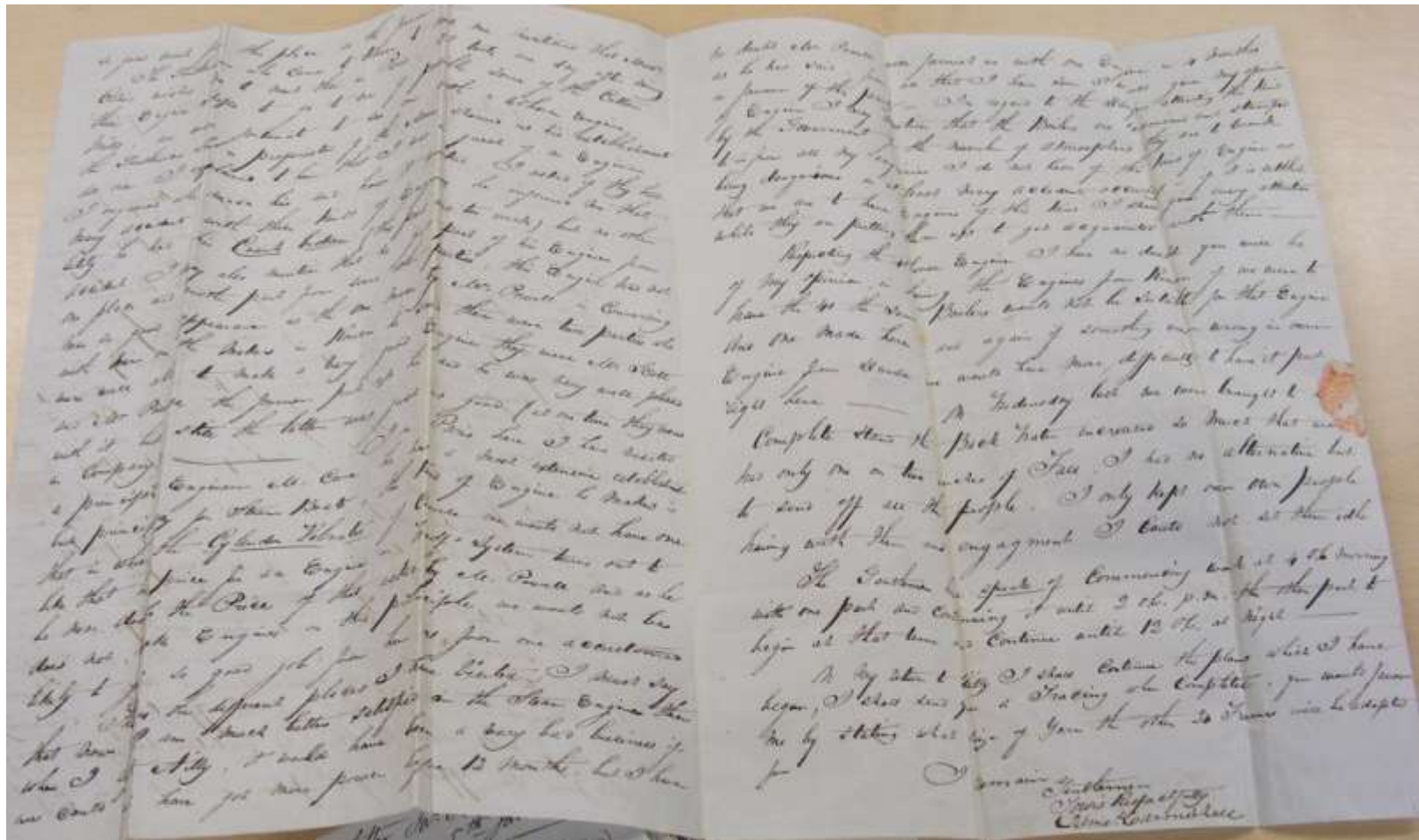
- James Carmichael
(Ailly-sur-Somme)
- Peter Carmichael,
(Dens Works, Dundee)



- Baxters' sell yarn to Saint Frères, 1836-46
- 1845-6 send James Carmichael, brother of manager Peter Carmichael, to France
- He dies there in 1875



Dundee University Archives: engine discussion, 1846



James Carmichael, Ailly, writing to Baxter Bros
Dundee, 25 October 1845

- To my Dear Brother, ...One of my Scottish women had Messrs Baxter pay the sum of £1-10-0 to James Vannett, High Street, Arbroath. The money was not received there, so please pay”

Cohin et Cie, 1847-50

(after Cohin's death in 1846)

Boucquet et Cie 1851-68

Carmichael Freres 1881-

the Engines from
this Engine has not
Powell. in Conversing
were two parties who
were Mr. Scott
was very well pleased
at one time they were
I have visited
extensive establishments
engine he makes is
would not have one
turns out to
Powell and as he
wants not be
one accustomed
I must say
Steam Engine than
has business is

Respecting the 40 horse Engine I have no doubt
of my opinion, in having the Engines from Row
have the 40 the same Boilers would not be suitable
And one made here, and again if something was
Engine from Dundee we would have more difficulty
right here —

On Wednesday last we were
Complete stand the Back Water increased so
had only one or two inches of Fall, I had
to send off all the people, I only kept
having with them an engagement I could

The Gentlemen we speak of commencing
with one part and continuing it until 2 o'clock
begin at that time and continue until 12 o'clock

On my return to Lifford I shall continue the
begun, I shall send you a tracing when I
me by stating what size of Yarn the other

Black-birds - 10000
20000
(Spartan)

(Scotland)

Miss Mary Parker

The Oldest sugar estate (Jamaica) to present
 A Business of the same kind, 30 days long, I want to see the
 same Machine of Engines there, in a way, the place we want
 the Machine working by Messrs. Cline & Co. has a very good
 to see an engine man & a lot of Bunkers, in his business he
 stops with every one of 3000 Bunkers, in his business he
 stops justly in view of the Engines in 3000 Bunkers
 I am in the hope, but Engines of each & every power where
 he is making a 3000 opening, since 1800, & 1800, & 1800
 is to be put up with the Engines of 1800, he has not
 in an Engine, but he has been to work, & a 1800 Bunkers
 a 1800, the Engines appear perfectly like those in every respect
 they resemble the 1800, being 3000 Bunkers, for 1800, for 1800
 it was 1800, in his 1800, Bunkers, with him, in
 the 1800, of the 1800, of 1800, in his 1800, in his 1800
 he has 1800, than they have in England, & 1800, the
 time for 1800, two Engines of 1800, in 1800, he will give
 us one, and 1800, in 1800, and the 1800, in 1800
 3 months, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800
 to the Engines, stop of 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800
 of the Engines, which you have heard is mostly, in 1800, in 1800
 the 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800
 so far, with the 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800, in 1800
 that from the appearance of the place we want, we will be likely to be



Ailly



Ailly-sur-Somme shed

- Slim columns, circular and rectangular sections
- Cast and wrought iron tie roofs, narrow spans,
- Later lattice girders of wrought iron- typically French





Housing at Ailly-Sur-Somme



SAINT FRERES

SACS

CORDAGES

BACHES





Lower floor of jute factory (weaving
above like in Forfar and Kirriemuir?)



Flixecourt



Jute baron mansion of Stephanie, widow of Jean baptiste Saint Flixecourt, 1882-4



Beauval

- Home town of Saint Frères
- St Nicholas, 1888



Beauval



Beauval
Co-Op
“La Prevoyance”
mill 1899



Harondel, factory est. 1861 mill 1870, curved roofs



Harondel,
steam from 1867
mill 1870: 3000 spindles
new factory 1890



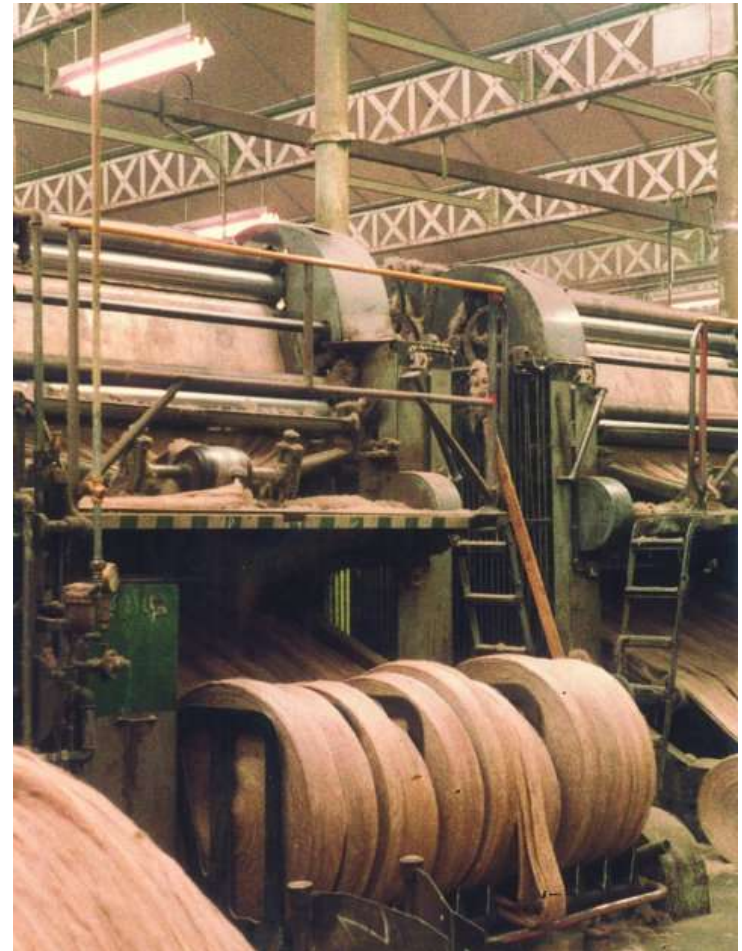
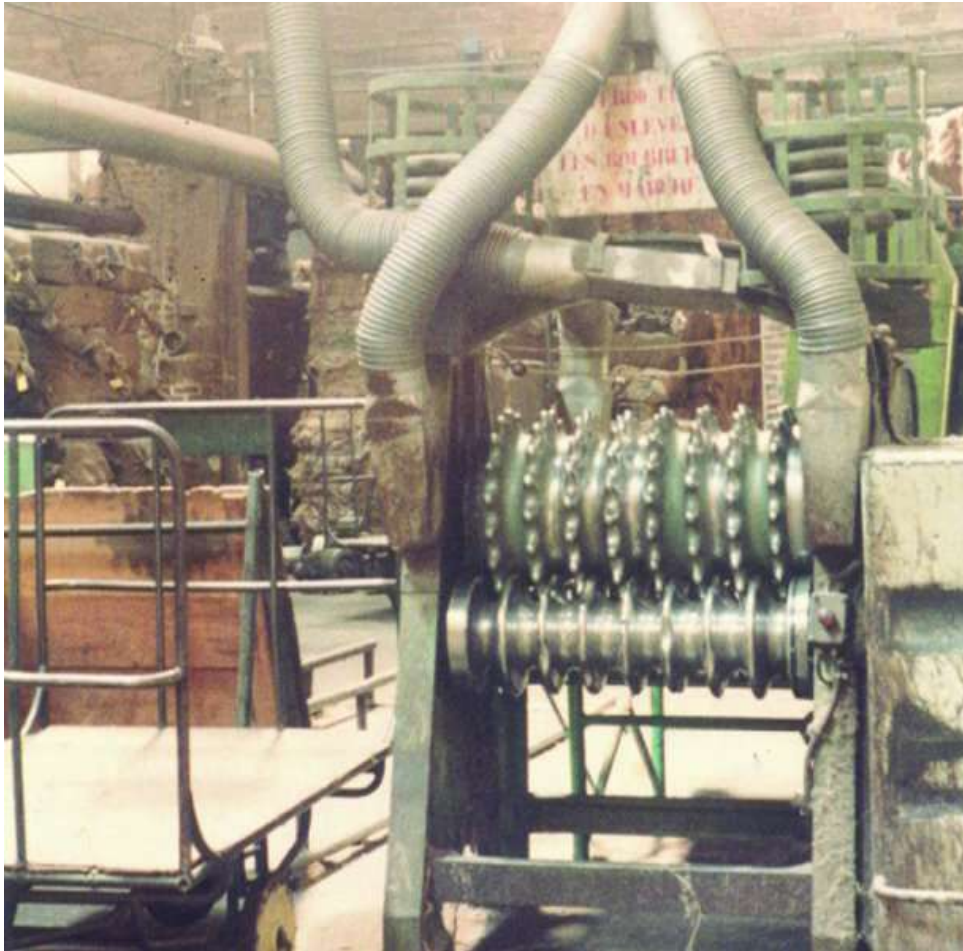
La Gendarmerie investigates



St Ouen (Somme)
weaving 1865
1879 rope twine
spinning



Saint Frères crusher bale opener and finisher carding



Weaving shed in Dundee / Weaving shed in Picardie

45 foot span, Tayfield Works



11 foot span, Harondel



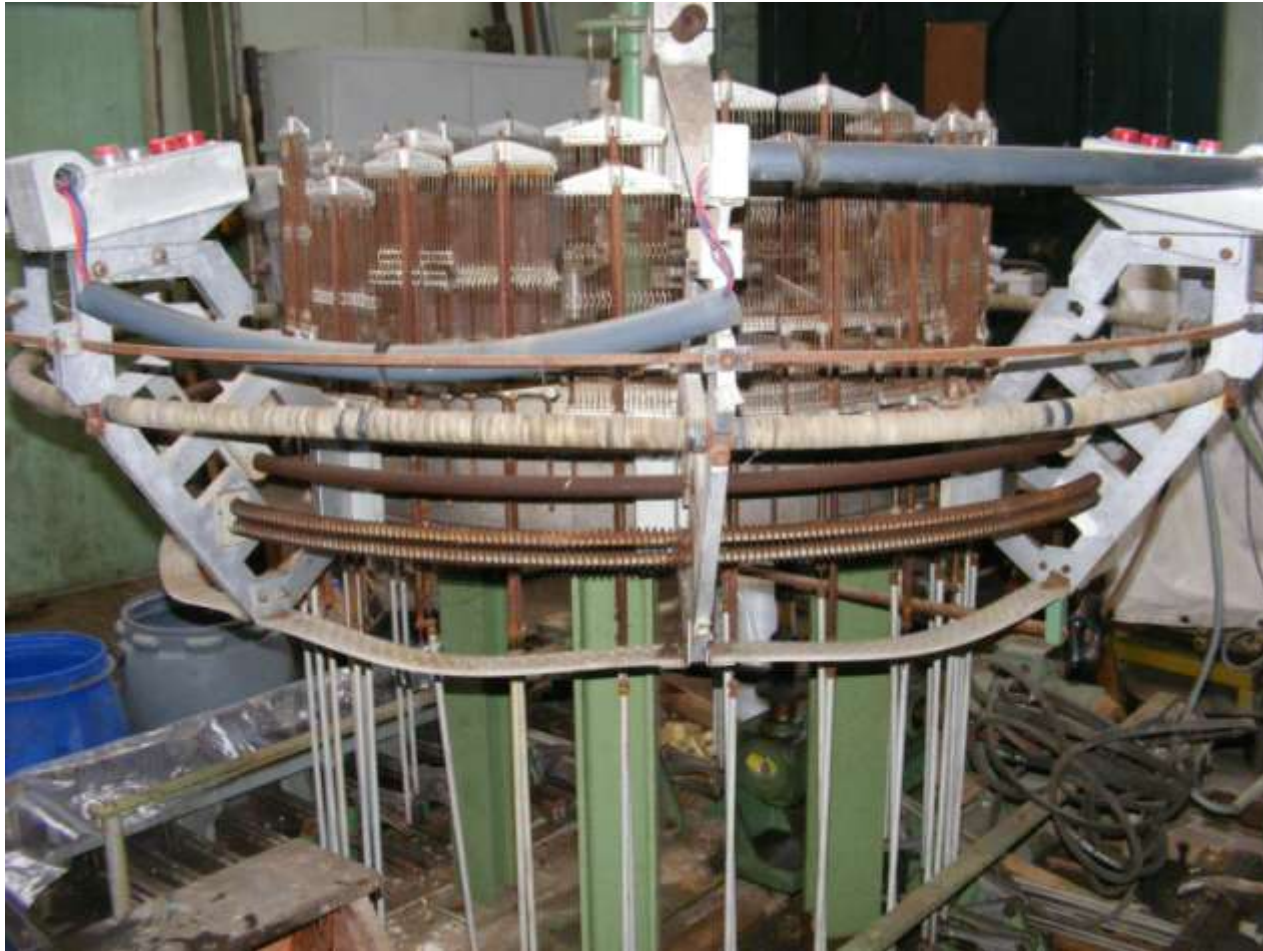
Owner of dyeworks in Amiens at Cosserat



- Trained at Stevenson's Dyeworks, Dundee
- tenant in a big mansion in Broughty Ferry with no heating but a huge bath



Circular loom at Cosserat



Circular loom, curved shuttle









Julia Tarnobila



Романов полиграфический

Dundee factory takes a French idea: tubular sacks.

- Circular looms added in 1950s
- What goes around comes around

