

WILLIAM W WOOD, (1879-1963) Steel manufacturer
Given to the Company by S G Meggitt in 1970.

Born in 1879, William Wood was the son of William Wilkinson Wood and Emily Bassett (of Liquorice Allsort fame). He began his career in a Sunderland marine engineering works.

For many years, he held a controlling interest in Wardsend Steel Co, founded by his grandfather in 1860. When it was acquired by Darwins in 1944, he remained on the board and became, in addition, a director of Darwins and of Andrews Toledo Ltd.

He was Master Cutler in 1924 and, at the outbreak of the Second World War, was re-elected to serve during the war years, 1940-45. He was a bachelor and Mrs Ashley Ward became his Mistress Cutler until her death in February, 1942. Mrs Ward was the wife of Ashley Ward, who was Master Cutler in 1938.

William Wood was knighted in 1959. He died on 12 December 1963, aged 83.

Artist - Dennis Fildes