

This 'OPEN DAY' marks the completion of our most recent expansion at Mitcheldean. It thus gives us a chance to say a very hearty "welcome" to the residents of Mitcheldean and a chance to thank them for putting up with the inconveniences that must automatically occur with the sort of work that has taken place here over the past few years.

We should also like to welcome the families of Rank Xerox employees many of whom are having a look at Mitcheldean Plant for the first time.

The activities that take place within the Plant can be read about elsewhere in this programme and which you will be able to see for yourselves in detail on the way round. Suffice it for me to say here that Rank Xerox has just won the Queen's Award to Industry for the third time for export achievements. It is a mark of congratulation to everyone here this afternoon that most of the machines in all parts of the world that enabled us to win that Award are stamped "Rank Xerox, Mitcheldean."

Thank you for joining us and I hope you enjoy 'OPEN DAY.'



P.M. Salmon General Manager, Mitcheldean Plant

Rank Xerox Mitcheldean Open Day



Peter Salmon, General Manager,
Mitcheldean Plant.

Machines made at Mitcheldean spend
their working lives in all parts of the
world. Our front cover shows a
selection of console buttons in many
languages.

Rank Xerox is a multi-national company, making and marketing xerographic copiers and copier-duplicators, together with other graphic communications devices and operating in 79 countries.

Formed in 1956, the company had a sales rental income of £207.1 million in the year which ended October 1971 (compared with £163.4 million the previous year). The rapid growth of the company is based on the process of xerography, which enables dry prints to be made on ordinary bond paper.

Mitcheldean is the headquarters of the company's manufacturing group which is responsible for the production of machines and supplies for 24 Rank Xerox operating companies. The 67 acre site employs over 3500 people. The most recent addition to this site is the new International Distribution Centre which covers 330,000 square feet of space and cost £2 million to build.

Whilst mainly concerned with the production of xerographic copiers and copier-duplicators, Mitcheldean is also the home of the principal unit of Design Engineering Division. This division is responsible for the adaptation of American designed machines to meet the different marketing and technical requirements of non-American markets and it also undertakes some original design and development of new xerographic products and accessories. Small teams of Rank Xerox engineering personnel are working with Xerox Corporation in the United States on new product development.

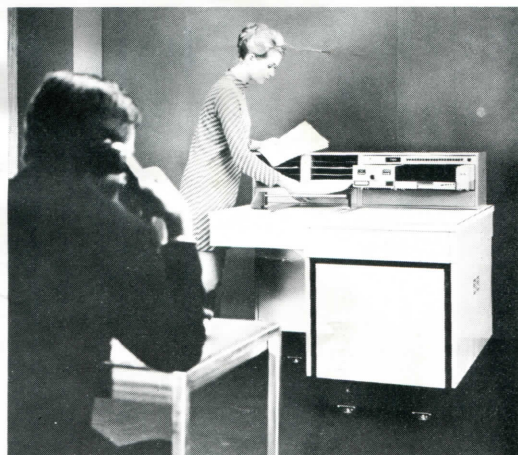
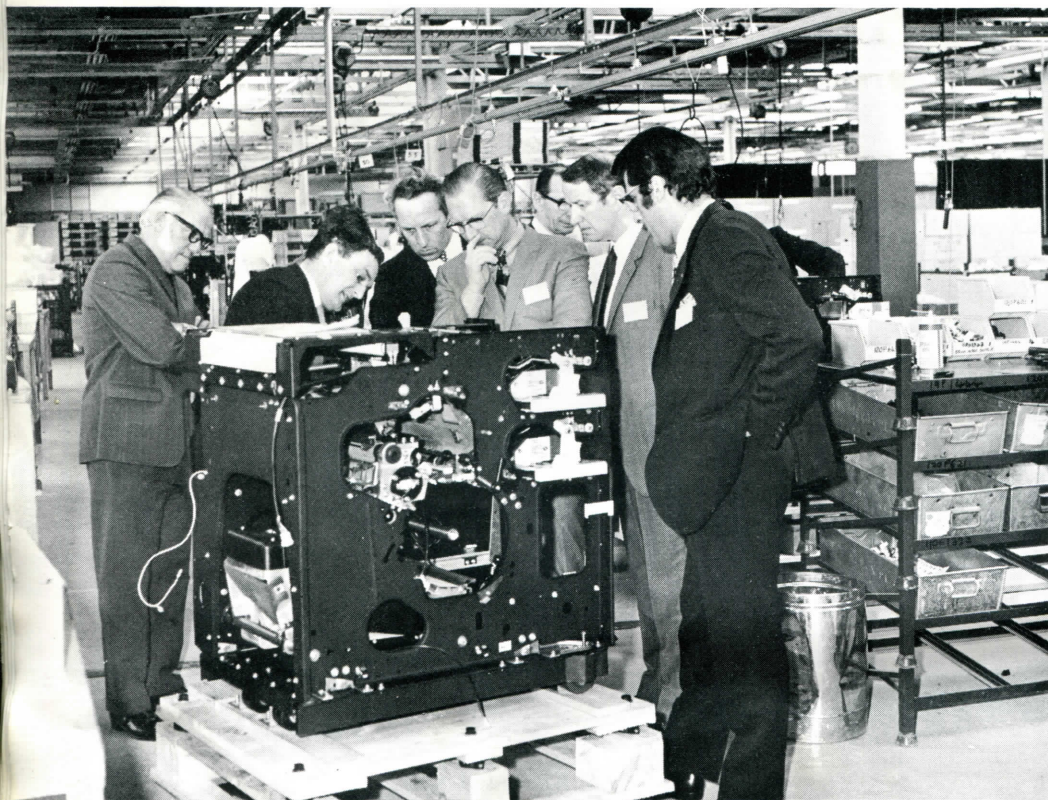
The machine production operation at Mitcheldean, which occupies 885,000 square feet, contains machine and press shops together with assembly and test areas for each product. It combines the flow-line principles of mass production with the rigid attention to extreme accuracy demanded by precision engineering. The machines produced here—the 660, 720 and 3600 copier-duplicators and the new 4000 copier—are complex combinations of several branches of modern technology—optics, electronics and mechanics.





The drawing office (above left) in the Engineering block is responsible for technical refinements to machines which have to operate reliably for many years with minimum service needs.

The assembly line of the Rank Xerox 4000 (above). This addition to the Rank Xerox range of copier/duplicators requires thousands of sophisticated components which are assembled here into the complete machine.



Many hundreds of visitors come to Mitcheldean every year. This group (top left) came from Volvo, Sweden—big customers of Rank Xerox. The Rank Xerox 660 is a desk top copier whilst the 720 is a variable speed copier producing up to 960 copies per hour. The 3600 (bottom left) is a large copier/duplicator which can have an automatic document feeder and linked sorter as attachment. The Rank Xerox 4000 provides high class copies of all originals including photographs, with a facility for two-sided copying. The new aerial picture of Mitcheldean (above) was taken at the end of May.



Great importance is placed on quality and reliability in Rank Xerox machines as the machines are owned by the company for the whole of their working lives, and responsibility does not end after a guarantee period.

A substantial proportion of the components for the machines are bought from outside suppliers who are chosen for particular skills in their own fields, and who are subject to the same exacting requirements as the plant imposes upon itself.

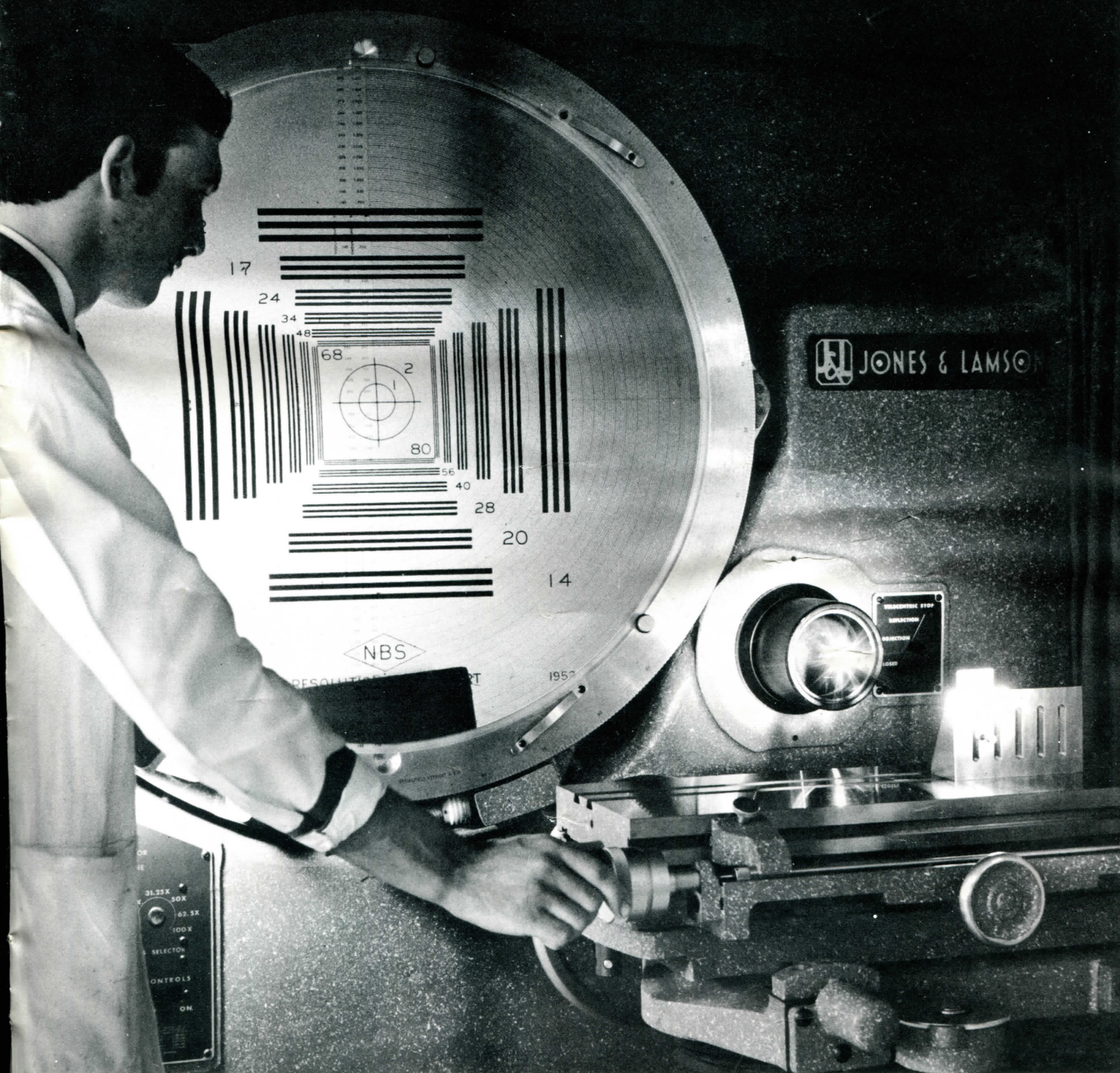
The assembly operation carried out at Mitcheldean is a highly complex process, demanding great precision in such matters as the alignment of optical paths and paper feeds. The facility for two-sided copying provided by the Rank Xerox 4000, for example, could not be achieved without great care in assembling the machine.

During manufacture of the machines, the alignment of key components is carried out by means of jigs to which are attached accurately calibrated gauges. These jigs and gauges, together with other tools used in the manufacturing process, are subject to stringent checks in the Mitcheldean standards room. Parts from outside suppliers are also checked against the exacting specifications which are set by Rank Xerox.

The standards room has a controlled environment, and contains some of the most accurate measuring instruments in use in a manufacturing establishment anywhere in the world. Reliability of components is further checked in a laboratory where the working operations of a lifetime may be simulated over a relatively short period.

In this way, the average time between random failures of the various components can be assessed—vital information for the planning of maintenance operations once the machines are on customers' premises.





The Standards Room (above left) provides the ultimate check on all quality standards imposed within Rank Xerox manufacturing, and many items of unique equipment are used here.

This projector (above) is used to check profiles of gauges, templates, gears and threads. The resolution chart being measured here is magnified 50 times for accuracy before it is used to set the mirrors and lens of a 3600 machine.

Because of the extent of the international market for Rank Xerox equipment, machines must be able to function correctly over a wide range of temperature and humidity conditions. The environmental test chamber at Mitcheldean can reproduce working conditions in climates from an African summer to a Swedish winter.

The first Rank Xerox machine to be built at Mitcheldean was despatched in 1960. Since then, both the plant and the machines produced have changed almost beyond recognition.

The Plant

During the afternoon, Guides will be on duty in every open area to show you round and to explain things in more detail if you wish.

All the Assembly areas will be open but Office areas will only be open to those employees and families who work in the appropriate office. Similarly, the Apprentices' School will be open only to Apprentices and ex-Apprentices and families.

Tea

Tea will be available from 3 pm in the large Marquee on the Central Car Park. A free ice cream stall for children is nearby.

Toilets

Toilets are well signposted and can be found in nearly every open area.

First Aid

The Medical Centre will be open throughout the afternoon and can be located on the ground floor of Building 40. This centre will also look after any lost children.

Music

The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers will provide music during the afternoon and will be located in the area adjoining the tea marquee.

Transport

Rank Xerox Minibuses will be making circular tours of the plant all afternoon for those who wish to take advantage of this facility.

Balloon Ascent

The Hot-air Balloon can be located in the open area next to the band. This will be inflated during the afternoon and is due for release at 5.0 pm.

Programme

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