

BICKERT WEAVING FACTORY (1880-1955)

The Bickert brothers, manufacturers of velvet and plush fabrics, opened their factory in 1880 on the site of the old wheat mills, a hemp beater and a loom production facility.

The factory was successful for several reasons: it was in the town centre (the workers could walk to work) and accessible via main roads and railways. The Moulins canal also passed through the factory, providing essential hydraulic power.

On the cusp of the 20th century, the Bickert factory grew from a family-run business to an industrial production scale following its merger with the Lyon company, Jean-Baptiste Martin, specialised in the manufacture of pile fabrics (velvet and plush).

Following the opening of subsidiaries in the UK, the USA, Argentina and Mexico, the Moirans factory became the centre of operations for a vast international network of industrial sites.

In 1914, 430 people worked at Bickert: 320 women, 80 men, and 30 children.

The women were responsible for weaving the fabrics, velvets and silks; they were creelers, warpers, bobbin carriers, etc. The men, of which there were fewer, were generally loom setters, responsible for maintaining both the weaving looms and the building.

However, the crisis that struck France's textile industry in the 1950s and competition from artificial and synthetic materials led to the closure of the plant, and the loss of the skilled, meticulous expertise of its workers.



Velvet production requires expert labour and considerable investment in machinery (one loom per worker before 1930). Few factories in the Dauphiné region were prepared to take the risk of setting about the preparation and weaving of velvet, ribbons, lace and muslin.

LYON - 25, PLACE DE L'OPÉRA
PARIS - 132, RUE MONTECAPELLI

BICLERT & FILS - LYON

LONDRES - 12, OAT-LANE
NEW-YORK



VUE GÉNÉRALE DES USINES DE MOIRANS (ISÈRE)



MACHINE À VAPEUR



SALLE DES DYNAMOMÈTRES



DÉVIAGE



ATELIER D'APPRÊT



MUNDSINGE



ATELIER DE RASAGE



CARROSSAGE



FINISSAGE ET FINISSAGE



SALLE DE TISSAGE