

CHANCE BROTHERS GLASS

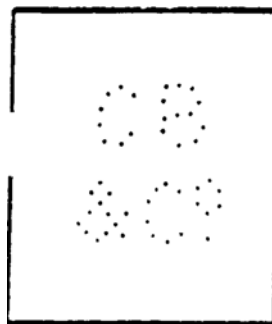
Dave Hill

Member **Frank Brown** put me on to this, he remembered their factory and “Chance Lights”, on the end of runways to guide aircraft. The rest is from Chance Glass website with copious histories. Does that make my shelves of old books redundant?

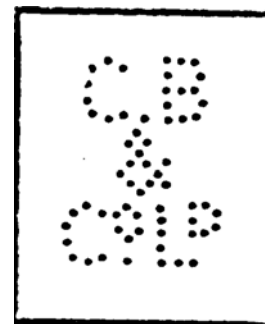
Robert Lucas Chance purchased the British Crown Glass Company in Smethwick near Birmingham in 1824. In 1832 they introduced sheet glass manufacture with French and Belgian workers. It became the best in the world, being used on Paxton’s Crystal Palace at the great exhibition of 1851. They also made coloured glass and developed optical glass. As well as the optics they also made everything else for many lighthouses around Britain, only the stonework being done by others. For a while they diversified into other electro mechanical engineering. By the 1930’s Pilkingtons had an interest in Chances and a shadow plant for optical glass was started at St Helens. Works in Glasgow made rolled window glass whilst at Malvern they made syringes. In 1987 Smethwick closed but in 1992 Chance Glass once again became an independent company. The company is known to have used at least three different perfin dies



C0650.05
1939



C0655.02a
1925



C0700.01
1935