



**MONUMENT TOOLS**

Professional Quality Plumbing Roofing & Drainage Tools

Manufacturing in Britain since 1932

# A proud history

For five generations, family-owned Monument Tools has manufactured professional quality tools for plumbing, roofing and drainage. Based in Hackbridge, Surrey and named after the Monument to the Great Fire of London in 1666, Monument's hallmark of innovation and investment in manufacturing processes and product design have made it one of the largest hand tool manufacturers in Europe.

Monument traces its history back to 1880, when George Collier started trading as a tool merchant in London's Cornwall Road, Brixton. As George's son, Arthur Collier Snr took over the business, moving it to Electric Avenue, Brixton, his brother Alfred started selling plumbing tools as A Collier & Co in King William Street, close to the Monument to the Great Fire of London. In 1908 Monument was listed as a registered trademark along with the 'device', a representation of the Monument. Export became an important part of the business, even moulding planes with this brand have been reported by a museum in South Africa.

During the First World War, Arthur Collier Snr produced tools that no other manufacturer had. He did this by inventing

tools himself or buying patents or obtaining licences to manufacture and sell from patent owners. He also made tools for the Ministry of Supply for the War Effort, producing amongst other things, wing compasses, examples of which still come to light. In 1924 he bought the patent to the Shetack Saw from the inventor and in 1930 he designed the Shetack Basin Wrench. Trading commenced as The Shetack Tool Works on Brixton Road.

In 1931 Shetack and Monument Brand tools were exhibited at the Building Exhibition in the National Hall Olympia for the first time. In 1933 The Shetack Tool Works Ltd was incorporated and became a separate company. Products sold by Colliers were incorporated in the Shetack Tool Works plumbing tool range. Arthur Collier Jnr started to sell products throughout the country, determined only to sell only high quality tools.

Since the 1930's Monument continued to design, manufacture and market tools with a highly skilled workforce. The business moved to Balham Hill in 1969 until 1996 which saw the move to Hackbridge with John, Arthur Collier Jnr's son, working with his son Jonathan, the 5th generation of Colliers.

The year 2000 saw the first order of automatic pipe cutters from the USA.

Export sales continued to increase as markets in Europe opened up, now accounting for around 20% of total sales. The last twenty years have seen product development high on the agenda. With many lines designed and manufactured in-house and investment in CAD and CNC mill turn machinery, the future of Monument is assured.

To this day, the majority of Monument's products ranging from small pipe cutters to manhole cover lifters are proudly Made in Britain and references to a 'Shetack' or a 'Monument' within the industry are well understood, testament to the company's enduring reputation for quality and brand. Monument Tools remains an innovative, UK based, privately owned company, managed by the Collier family offering quality, craftsmanship and a legacy of manufacturing experience.

© 2016 Monument Tools Ltd



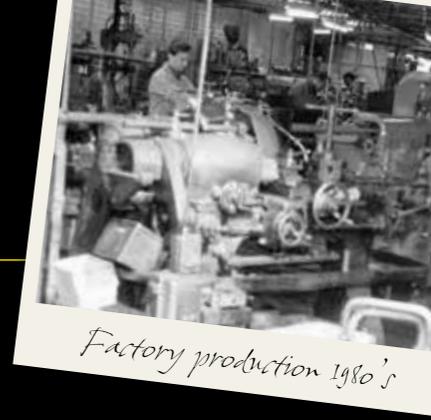
*The original Shetack Saw*



*Factory in the 1940's*



*Shetack Toolworks 1930's*



*Factory production 1980's*



# QUALITY & SERVICE

## Quality & service

For generations operating within the UK Hand Tool sector the Monument and Sheffack brands have been synonymous with quality and service.

The Collier Collection, one of Europe's foremost assemblages of Hand Tools dating back as far as the 17th century, is a constant reminder as to how quality endures.

Continuous investment in machinery and tooling has enabled the business to offer products that meet the exacting requirements of today's professional plumbers at prices that offer value for money.

Regular 'focus' groups consisting of professional end users, ensure that both existing and new product development remain relevant to the market place.

In house manufacture ensures that service levels are kept to a high level and that we can be completely flexible to customers' requirements.

'From its early days as a tool shop in 1880, to one of Europe's largest hand tool manufacturers, follow the story of family-owned Monument Tools and discover a remarkable history of manufacturing and innovation spanning over five generations.

# MONUMENT IN TIME

## Monument in time

### 1880: Beginnings

Monument traces its history back to 1880 when George Collier starts trading as a tool merchant in Cornwall Road, Brixton, London SW.

### 1905: Brothers in business

Arthur Collier takes on the Brixton business after George's death. His brother Alfred sets up 'A Collier & Co' in King William Street, close to the 'Monument' to the Great Fire of London, selling lead dressers, plumbing and roofing tools.

### 1908: First branding

Monument is first listed as a registered trade mark along with the 'brand device' - a representation of the 'Monument'. Export plays an important role and branded moulding planes have been found in South Africa. Arthur Snr moves the business to Electric Avenue, Brixton.

### 1914 - 18: WW1 war effort

Arthur Collier Snr installs machinery, inventing and producing tools that no other manufacturer has, making tools for the War Office. He makes wing compasses, examples of which are around to this day.

### 1924-1930: Shetack

In 1924 Arthur Collier Snr buys the patent to the Shetack Saw from the inventor. Then in 1930 he designs the Shetack Basin Wrench and trading commences as The Shetack Tool Works on Brixton Road.

### 1931: New chapter

Arthur Collier Snr buys 'A Collier & Co' and with son A Collier Jnr, sells tools from Brixton Road. 'The Shetack Tool Works Ltd', selling only high quality products, is incorporated, and both brands Exhibit at The Building Exhibition National Hall Olympia.

### 1939 - 45: WW2 production line

Small parts made for the Ministry of Supply for the War Effort including thousands of sets of instrument screwdrivers.

### 1955 - 60: Invention

First copper pipe cutters designed and produced in-house. The Monument professional adjustable basin wrench is invented and patented. John, son of Arthur Collier Jnr, joins the business - determined to move and improve it after Arthur Collier Snr's death in 1955.

### 1969: Growth

The business moves to Balham Hill, London SW12 and to twice as much space.

Investment is made into more up to date manufacturing processes and the first automatic lathe is installed to cope with demand for turned components for pipe cutters.

### 1973: Computers

Installation of a 0.8mb disc based computer system, one of the first in the UK.

### 1976 Brand recognition

Company changes name to 'Monument Tools Ltd' to enable better brand recognition

### 1982 - 84: Awards and patents

Launch of the Size 0 Pipe Cutter, for cutting 4-22mm copper pipe. It wins award at the 1982 Spring Hardware Show.

Design and patent of the Monument DIY Tap Reseater.

Plastic injection moulding started in house.

### 1996: 5th Generation

The business moves to Hackbridge and the total space is again doubled. Jonathan Collier becomes the 5th generation to join the company.

### 2004 - 2011: New future

Investment in CNC Automatic Mill Turn machines starts as major drive to improve productivity begins.

In-house design of the Stiffnuts range of products. It wins top product 2 years later.

### 2015: Grip+

Launch of the Monument Grip+, the innovative advancement to the best selling Professional Adjustable Basin Wrench



1666: Great Fire of London

1908: Model T Ford introduced

1947: Sound barrier broken in Bell X-1

1964: Carbon Fibre developed

1976: Concorde flies

1991: World Wide Web developed



MONUMENT TOOLS

# INNOVATION

## Innovation

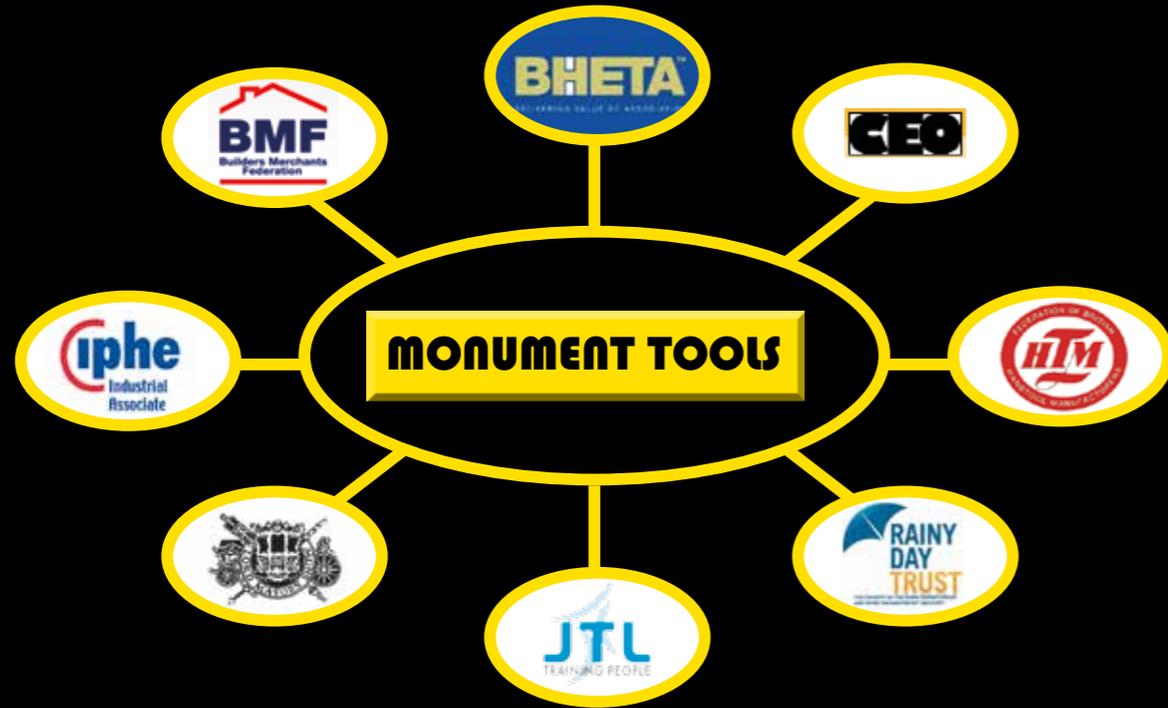
The business has a long tradition of innovation. Whether it be wing compasses for the MOD during World War 1, inventing the Shetack basin wrench, designing site adjustors for the Lee Enfield rifles or introducing the first automatic pipe cutters, investment still continues to either improve existing products or bring new ideas to the market.

As well as focusing on an expanding product range, the company has embraced today's digital marketing requirements with an online catalogue, a business to business web trading platform and communicates with end user customers via Facebook and other relevant digital media platforms.

It is also launching an on-line Trade Counter Staff training programme to assist stockists in maximising their sales potential.

# WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

## Working with industry



Our business philosophy is to be engaged with all aspects of our industry, supporting the people who help our sector flourish and improve standards.

We are active within the Builders Merchant Federation sponsoring members' day and conferences, providing training presentations and active input to the Young Merchants group. We also sit on the plumbing products committee and provide product guidance where necessary.

Jonathan Collier is a Director at The British Home Enhancement Trade Association (BHETA), a BMF Ambassador and the Company is a major sponsor of The Rainy Day Trust, our industry charity. We also support The Worshipful Company of Builders Merchants as well as a number of apprentice training schemes via JTL and Didac.

**MONUMENT TOOLS**

**[www.monument-tools.com](http://www.monument-tools.com)**

Restmor Way Hackbridge Road Hackbridge Wallington Surrey SM6 7AH UK  
t: **+44 (0) 20 8288 1100** f: **+44 (0) 20 8288 1108** e: **[info@monument-tools.com](mailto:info@monument-tools.com)**

