

Peduzzi & Co.

Peduzzi & Co. was an important firm of barometer makers whose founders came from Lombardy in northern Italy. The Museum's collections include a barometer made by the company.

The business was set up by two brothers, Antonio and James, who came to Manchester in the early years of the nineteenth century. Their brother, Joseph, followed a few years later, probably in the early 1820s. Antonio Peduzzi was born in 1773. He came to Manchester and opened a shop as a picture dealer in Spear Street in around 1810, probably in partnership with James, whom records show to have married in Manchester at the same time. Antonio later moved to Tib Street before settling at 31 Oldham Street. By this time, he was trading as a carver and gilder, and maker of looking glasses and picture frames. Oldham Street in the 1820s was a wide street containing "some very elegant shops and houses". Antonio's shop was above a confectioner's on the right-hand side from Swan Street. Here he framed and glazed needlework, drawings and pictures; re-gilded and silvered old frames and mirror plates; and made and repaired barometers, thermometers and hydrometers. Antonio sold goods wholesale to other shopkeepers as well as retailing to ordinary customers. He also had premises at 44 Deansgate in the early 1820s. He married Jane Brown in Liverpool in 1826, but she died in 1833.



In about 1831, Antonio moved to larger premises at 33 Piccadilly, opposite the Infirmary. Like his previous shop, this one was on the first floor with a flight of steps leading up to it. The shop extended quite a long way back and had two long counters and a little sitting room beyond. There were also workshops on the premises. Antonio married Sarah Daniels in 1835 but she also died only a few years later. Records show that he applied for British citizenship in 1835. Only full citizens could pass on and inherit businesses and he may have hoped that his second marriage would provide him with a son to take over the business. He had "some repute in his particular branch of manufacture" and carried on the business here until just before his death in 1846. He died in Chorlton Union workhouse having been certified insane. A descendant believes that Antonio's mental health may have suffered as a result of the loss of both his wives; he had no children from either marriage.

Antonio's brother James was born in 1787 and may have worked with Antonio in Manchester in the 1810s. He married Jane Reddish and his first son, John, was born in 1811. His second son, Francis, was born in around 1815, and his third son, James, in around 1823. In around 1818, James set up a business on his own account as a picture-frame maker at 51 Spear Street, but shortly afterwards moved to Oldham Street. James also applied for citizenship, in 1846, presumably so that he could inherit Antonio's business. He certainly expanded his business into barometer and thermometer manufacture. This involved other skills to those of carving and gilding - such as glass blowing - and Antonio's equipment and craftsmen may have contributed to this. Jane had died by then as the records show that James was a widower with six children. By becoming a citizen, he could also buy property. In 1848, he bought premises including a workshop and engine in Foundry Street, off Oldham Road, which was a mixture of small works, houses and shops.

The third brother, Joseph, may have worked in James' workshop when he came to Manchester. He married Mary Glossop in 1826 and set up his own looking-glass and picture-frame business in Tib Street, behind Oldham Street. He and Mary had four children, none of whom followed him into the business. By 1845, his address had changed to 22 Stonehewer Street, which is a house. Later addresses given for him in the directories are also houses and he may have worked with James, as his address in 1855 is given as Foundry Street. He died in 1864.

James' second son, Francis, set up on his own as a carver and gilder on Oldham Road after his marriage to Elizabeth Ward in 1835. He may have learnt his trade in his father's workshop. He and Elizabeth had five children, none of whom followed him into the business. Francis joined his father at Foundry Street in about 1850, allowing him to retire, and was then joined by his younger brother, James. Francis died in 1866, and his wife Elizabeth took over the business. The Peduzzi family business came to an end in 1870 when Elizabeth died. Records do not show what James did afterwards.

For further information:

Read Butterworth, James. *The Antiquities of the Town and a Complete History of the Trade of Manchester*. Manchester, UK: C. W. Leake, 1822.
"Notes & Queries" section, *Manchester City News*, 1 November 1879.