

A SHORT HISTORY OF PALINTEST LTD

Although now trading under the name 'Palintest Ltd' the Company was previously named 'Wilkinson & Simpson Ltd'.

The origin of the Company can be traced back to about 1870 when Wilkinson became involved in an apothecary business in Newcastle on Tyne. In 1875, Wilkinson was joined by Simpson and they commenced a wholesale business. This business continued to thrive and develop in Newcastle on Tyne and eventually became a manufacturing chemist and pharmaceutical wholesaling business.

This business continued to the 1950's and during the 1950's the Company was approached by Dr Thomas Palin, a water scientist and chemist of world renown whose achievements included the development of breakpoint chlorination for water and the invention of the DPD method for the determination of chlorine. Dr Palin's method became the standard method of chlorine determination throughout the world. Dr Palin also developed a system of chemical reagents presented in the form of reagent tablets and intended for use in the determination of chemical constituents of drinking water. He approached Wilkinson & Simpson Ltd to manufacture the reagent tablets and Dr Palin and the Company formed a partnership. Eventually Wilkinson & Simpson Ltd became sole owners of the tablet reagent system developed by Dr Palin and Dr Palin became a consultant to the Company. During the 1970's the pharmaceutical and wholesaling and manufacturing business was sold and the Company's business became exclusively that of chemical reagent manufacture.

In 1983 the Company Wilkinson & Simpson Ltd was purchased by a British Corporation, Halma plc and considerable investment was made in Wilkinson & Simpson Ltd to improve the manufacture of its tablet reagent system and to develop a complete range of analytical equipment to be used in association with the reagent tablets. The reagents were marketed under the brand name 'Palintest'.

The Company was renamed 'Palintest Ltd' in May 1989 to reflect both its registered trade mark and its association with Dr Palin, the father of the DPD method.

Palintest Ltd now serves the water industry in Europe through its manufacturing site in the UK and also through a network of distributors. The Company has overseas branches in the United States, China, Australia and France. As a member of the Halma plc Group its connections with the water industry are enhanced by its association with other Group companies who offer ultraviolet sterilisation equipment for water and leak detection equipment.