Trades House of Glasgow
Heritage Newsletter No 10
July 2025

ARCHIVES
New Acquisitions
Two Incorporations are now sending their Newsletters for publication on the Trades House Library website. The Newsletters of the Incorporation of Masons and the Incorporation of Bonnetmakers and Dyers can be seen at https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org (scroll down the page). If any other Incorporations would like their Newsletters displayed on the website please send a digital copy to Carol Parry via the Trades House Office at info@tradeshouse.org.uk.

A few new biographies of well kent faces in the Trades House past have been added to the Trades House Digital Library and they are:

Deacon Convener James Graham 1863 to 1864
Deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights 1857 to 1858
Available at:
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/ex_dc_james_graham.pdf

Thomas Struthers Biography
Principal Teacher ~ Trades House Free School
Available at:
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/thomas_struthers_~_final_biography.pdf

Deacon John Ure
Incorporation of Bakers
Available at:
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/john_ure_and_jane_ure.pdf

Ex Deacon Convener David Dobson has completed another great work of indexing the Old Glasgow Club Album No. 2 and it is available at:
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/th_archives_-_the_old_glasgow_club_-_archive_no_2.pdf

Glasgow Bibliographical Society
The Society produced lots of interesting booklets on various topics and those in the Trades House Library have been digitised by Past Deacon Grant McLeod. Volume 1920-1921 is of particular interest to members of any of the 14 Incorporations as there is a section by Harry Lumsden on the Guilds of Glasgow. This is an excellent introduction to anyone interested in the Glasgow Trade Incorporations.
The volumes now online are: 1913-14 Part 1; 1913-14 Part 2; 1914-1915; 1915-1916; 1916-1918; 1918-1920; 1920-1921; the Foulis Exibition,1913, and can be accessed at https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org (scroll down the page).

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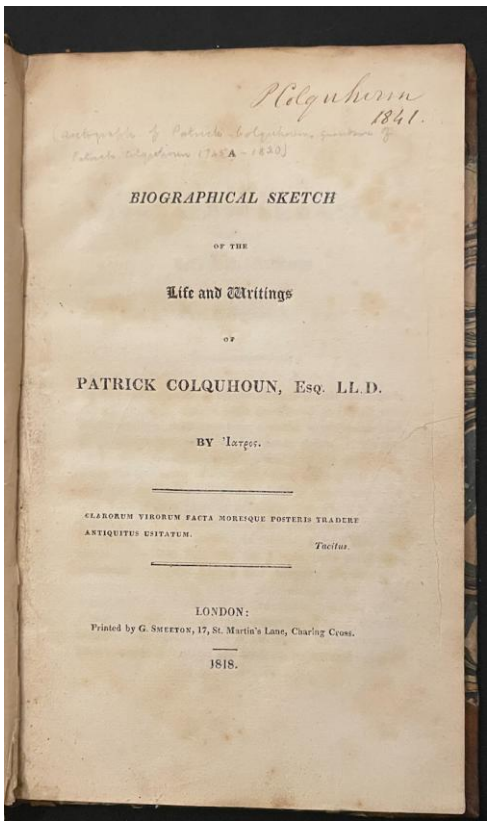
Streets of Bridgeton and Dalmarnock
After giving a talk to the Bridgeton Historical Society the Honorary Archivist was presented with a digital copy of the Streets of Bridgeton and Dalmarnock and this has now been uploaded to the Trades House Digital Library at:
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/streets_of_bridgeton_and_dalmarnock_main_text.pdf

Old Glasgow Club
This is the second version from the Old Glasgow Club and contains information on some of their documents and is available from:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/th_archives_-_the_old_glasgow_club_-_archive_no_2.pdf

LIBRARY

The Colquhoun Library

The Trades House Library comprises books from the library of the Old Glasgow Club, the Colquhoun Library of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and individual donations. The Colquhoun Library was named after Glasgow merchant Patrick Colquhoun (1745-1820) who founded the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures in 1783; the first such chamber in the British Isles. Colquhoun was Lord Provost of the City from 1782 to 1784 but subsequently moved to London where he made his name as a statistician and founder of the Thames River Police. Two early books from the Colquhoun Library are *A Biographical Sketch of the Life and Writings of Patrick Colquhoun, Esq LLD*, London, 1818 and *Progress of Glasgow, A Sketch of the Commercial and Industrial Increase of the City during the Last Century as Shown in the Records of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Other Authentic Documents* by George Stewart, Late Librarian of the Chamber, Glasgow 1883.


Colquhoun
1841.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE

Life and Writings

OF

PATRICK COLQUHOUN, Esq. LL.D.

BY Ἴαχος.

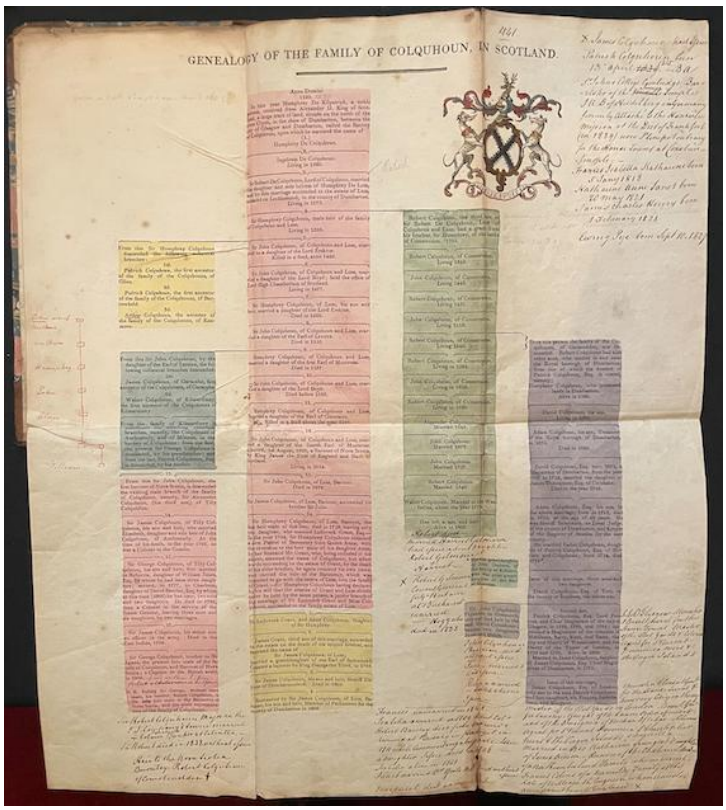
CLARORUM VIRORUM FACTA MORESQUE POSTERIS TRADERE ANTIQUITUS EGITATUM.

Tacitus.

LONDON:
Printed by G. Sheeton, 17, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross.

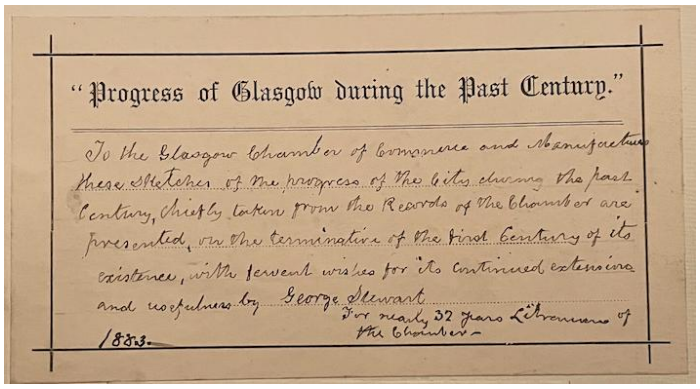
1818.

A Biographical Sketch . . of Patrick Colquhoun


GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF COLQUHOUN, IN SCOTLAND.

Genealogy of the Family of Colquhoun, Scotland, 1841

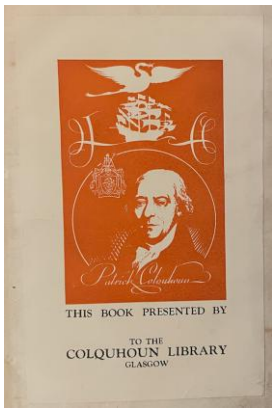
The Biographical Sketch . . . of Patrick Colquhoun, bears the signature of Patrick Colquhoun's grandson (also named Patrick) on the title page. At the front, attached to the front paste-down, is a genealogy of the Family of Colquhoun in Scotland, dated 1841. The *Progress of Glasgow* is similarly distinctive in having been presented by the author and has a label attached to the front paste-down reading: "To the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures these sketches of the progress of the city during the past century, chiefly from the Records of the Chamber are presented, on the termination of the first century of its existence, with fervent wishes for its continued extension and usefulness by George Stewart for nearly 32 years Librarian of the Chamber". Both books bear a distinctive bookplate which was initially suggested by William Morrison who was a member of the first Council of the Glasgow Junior Chamber of Commerce (founded in 1937) and adapted by D. Bruce Maceachern. The bookplate is full of symbolism. The stork, representing Commerce, carries a piece of flax in its beak signifying the chief manufacturing activity of Glasgow at the end of the eighteenth century. The sailing ship was the symbol of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and was inspired by the model on the dome of the Merchant's House. The scroll work incorporates the initial letters of "Junior Chamber". There is a formalised outline of the Arms of the City of Glasgow and a likeness of Patrick Colquhoun which was copied from a portrait presented to the Chamber of Commerce in 1883.


"Progress of Glasgow during the Past Century."

To the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures these Sketches of the progress of the City during the past Century, chiefly taken from the Records of the Chamber are presented, on the termination of the first Century of its existence, with fervent wishes for its continued extension and usefulness by George Stewart For nearly 32 years Librarian of the Chamber.

1883.

Label pasted inside *Progess of Glasgow*, 1883



Bookplate of the Colquhoun Library

If you wish to view these or any of the books in the Library, please contact the Trades House Office at info@tradeshouse.org.uk. Details of the books in the Trades House Library are available online at https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org (scroll down the page to download a PDF list).

Vacancy for Honorary Librarian

We are seeking a new Honorary Librarian to join our Heritage Team. This voluntary position would suit a Librarian/Information Professional who can spare one day a week (currently Tuesdays) to maintain and develop the Trades House Library. The Library, which is reference only, principally collects items relating to the House and its Crafts and the City of Glasgow. If you are interested in this role, please get in contact with Carol Parry via the Trades House Office at info@tradeshouse.org.uk We look forward to hearing from you!

MUSEUM

Museum Store

Some weeks back we were informed that the small, vaulted room in the basement, that had long been used by the caterers for storage, would soon become available and it was agreed that this would be a suitable, secure, and dry area for the various items from the museum and archive collection. During May this space was cleared and shelving units from the Archives office were repurposed and since then these shelves have been populated with various items from the collection. In doing so this has freed up space in the otherwise increasingly crowded archive office. This new store also provides the Heritage team with room for growth as it continues to look at ways to increase the breadth and scope of its collections, both historic and contemporary.

HISTORY OF THE TRADES HOUSE AND CRAFTS A few wee interesting stories taken from *Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow* 1663 to 1690 edited by J.D. Marwick, 1905.

12th November 1670 ~ Register of the Dead
The Provost Baillies and counsell, finding it necessary and requesit, that ane register be keeped of all persones and happiness to decease within this burgh, they hereby appoint Samwell Birs to keep said register and to have fortie shillings scotis weekly for doing thereof.

7th January 1671 ~ Fleshouris
Receommendis to Baillie Colhoun to discharge the fleshhouris to kill any bestial on the hie streit or within the mercat, and to cause tak doun their toofall at the end of the Candle Streit, and to discharge them to lay any filth or dirt ather ther or theraboutis or ony part of the hie streit.

19th August 1671 ~ Maxwellis right of Burges and Guild Brothership
Alexander Maxwell applied to the Counsell that Ninian Davidsoune, merchant, had married his daughter Jane Maxwell and had two children by her, Jonet and Isobel Davidsounes, and that he had deserted her and left the children many years, whereby it is likely that they will lose their right of burges and guild brothership, the father never having entered by right of his wife. The magistrates and counsell being loth that the children would lose their right and freedom, decreed that the children would receive their burges and guild brothership at the perfect age and free gratis.

16th August 1673 ~ Absence from Kirk Services
Ordaines ane intimatioune to be on Sunday next in the respective churches that these who keep not the kirkis will be most severely punished.

[*It is likely that this rule was introduced due to the Privy Counsel passing stringent rules for the observance of the laws against conventicles and withdrawal from public meetings for divine worship.*]

13 August 1673 ~ Persons appointed to note those absent from kirk.
One person for each of the west, north south and east quarters, to go through the town and take notice of those who absent themselves from the kirk,

11th October 1673 ~ First Coffee Shop in Scotland
Colonel Walter Whiteford asked for permission to set up a coffee shop and this was granted for a period of nineteen years and no other stranger would be allowed to set up a coffee shop in Glasgow.

GRAND HALL
and its HIDDEN MURAL

An updated text concerning the mural in the Grand Hall has been researched and written by Dr. Beverly Bergman. This new documented information changes what was previously believed and how wonderful it would be if at least part of the mural could be revealed to show the grandeur of the Grand Hall in the past:

The Grand Hall has a hidden mural beneath the woodchip wallpaper which was discovered in 2003 during renovation work, when the photographs below were taken. Unfortunately, due to ongoing Hall commitments at the time, it was not possible to undertake a full investigation so the small areas of the mural that had been exposed were covered with conservation materials and papered over again.

At the time, it was believed by experts that the mural had been painted in the 1830s by the celebrated painter David Ramsay Hay (1798-1866), who had developed an innovative theory of colour harmony and had carried out the interior decorations at Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott. Fresh evidence has recently come to light that it was in fact painted between September and December 1855 by Campbell Tait Bowie (1825-1896), who had been apprenticed to David Ramsay Hay as a young man but who had established his own business in Glasgow in 1850. Bowie was a talented and successful painter and decorator who also worked with Alexander “Greek” Thomson on buildings including Holmwood House, where his artwork has recently undergone restoration.

A contemporaneous description of the mural reveals that it comprises a series of large painted panels depicting allegorical figures representing Charity, Science, Justice, Plenty, Commerce and Peace, separated by smaller panels with images of birds, one of which can be seen in the photographs, and much else. It was regarded as a work of great beauty, reflecting “the highest credit on the artistic skill” of Mr Bowie. It is clear that the modern plasterwork conceals one of the finest surviving examples of the work of this important artist, and we hope that it can be properly examined and restored in due course so that visitors to Trades Hall can again enjoy what was once a magnificent work of art.

Beverly Bergman
2025

The picture below shows the location of the revealed section of the Mural.

© Trades House of Glasgow

One of the birds mentioned above.

Part of the body of a person as indicated above

For more photographs of the mural, please visit: https://www.tradeshousemuseum.org/hidden-mural.html