Trades House of Glasgow
Heritage Newsletter No 11
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ARCHIVES

New Acquisitions

Over the summer very little has been added to the Archives, other than completing the Glasgow Aged Women's Society minutes. This is a fascinating series of minutes which follows the development of the Society from 1906 to when it transferred its money and responsibilities to the Trades House.

It is available from:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/the_glasgow_aged_women_s_society_~_1906.pdf

www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/glasgow_aged_women_s_society_~_1925_to_1928.pdf

www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/glasgow_aged_women_s_society_%5Ef_1938_to_1962.pdf

www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/gaws_1962_yto_1991_~_complete.pdf

Retirement

The present archivist, Craig R. Bryce, retires at about the end of September, after having served the House in that position for eight very enjoyable and interesting years. He will be replaced by Carol Parry, who is a very experienced archivist by profession and will take the archives to a new level. As the outgoing archivist, I hope that the House will support Carol as much as they have me.

LIBRARY

A snapshot of Glasgow administration on the eve of the First World War.

The volume *Municipal Glasgow: Its Evolution and Enterprises*, published by the Corporation of the City of Glasgow in 1914 arose from the many requests for information about services etc. received by the Lord Provost and the Town Clerk. The Lord Provost D.M. Stevenson came up with the idea of a compendium of information that would provide the answers to many of the questions and asked heads of departments for details of their work. The result proved to be rather larger than initially planned – a volume of over 330 pages providing detailed accounts and statistics of all the various departments of the Corporation. Reading through the volume, one senses a great sense of pride in municipal achievements. The city was at the forefront in supplying a range of public utilities to its population: water supply from 1855, gas from 1869, electricity from 1891 and tramways from 1894 when the corporation took over the running of the tramways from the Glasgow Tramway and Omnibus Company. The tramways have sadly gone, but many of the buildings described in the book are still in use including the Mitchell Library, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the City Halls. A city cleansing department was instituted in 1868 and, although manual labour was first used for sweeping the streets, this was gradually replaced by the introduction of sweeping machines. The streets were swept every morning before business hours with hose washing after sweeping being introduced

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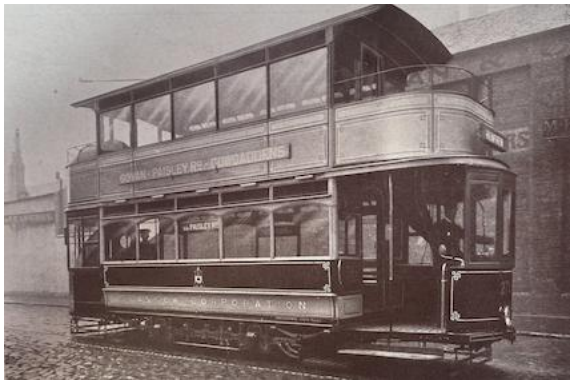
in 1900. Household bins were emptied twice weekly and a morning dust-cart service removed refuse from offices, shops, warehouses and other business premises daily.

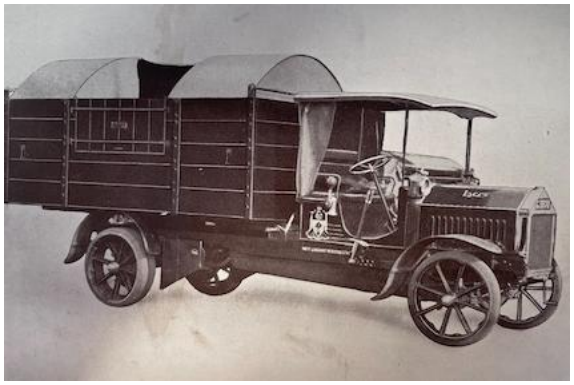


Glasgow City tramway car

Motor street sweeping machine

A City Improvements Trust had been constituted in 1866 to clear the overcrowded tenements in the areas around Gallowgate and Trongate and the Trust took the opportunity to erect seven model lodging houses, one for women and six for men. These replaced privately owned common lodging-houses which were considered 'hotbeds of vice and misery' and 'centres for the propagation of disease'. The lodging houses provided shared facilities for cooking and washing and an enclosed 'sleeping-closet' for each tenant with a comfortable mattress and bedclothes. The seven lodging houses provided 2,235 beds for workers and were emulated elsewhere, most notably in London. The Parks Department ensured that the many green spaces in and around Glasgow were well maintained and these are all described in the volume. Alas, the gymnasium for adults on Glasgow Green is no longer with us!

Portugal Street model lodging house



Motor refuse removal wagon

If you wish to view this volume 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

News from our Honorary Curator, Peter Trowles

Since joining the House as Honorary Curator back in 2023 I've been advocating whether we might actively consider expanding the scope of the current collection. One such suggestion is that we examine whether developing a small contemporary collection of objects via the Incorporations support of Craftex is a possibility although this is still a work in progress.

However, keeping an eye out for what might appear at auction, or for sale via online platforms such as eBay, can often prove to be highly beneficial.

I recently came across a small selection of very affordable early 20th century bakers' medals on eBay, including one awarded to a Glasow baker and confectioner, J Craig (see below), who after a bit of cross-referencing seems to have been accepted into the Incorporation of Bakers. I passed this information on to the Bakers and Lisa Ross, as Deacon, was able to purchase this particular medal and two others associated with Glasgow as an addition to the Incorporation's own collection.

Here's to the next discovery!

Obverse and reverse of the medal awarded to J. Craig

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.

26th October 1673 ~ First Soap Factory in Glasgow
There was a desire to build a soaparie and houses and yards next to the Candleriggs. The Magistrates and Counsel granted them permission.

"*Prior to 1619, soap was imported to Scotland from foreign countries, chiefly from Flanders, but in that year one Nathanial Uddart erected a soapwork at Leith, and obtained a monopoly for supplying soap throughout the country. On the expiry of Uddarts' patent in 1634, "Patrick Mauld of Panmuir" acquired from the King, the sole privilege of making soap within the Kingdom for the space of 31 years."*

24th January 1674 ~ Act affecting poor boys
An act was passed whereby all poor boys who were put to trade as apprentices and had their apprenticeship fines paid for them by the town, a clause shall be entered into their indenters stating that they would pay back the apprenticeship fine to the town if they became able tradesmen.

21st March 1674 ~ Survey of orray persons and strangers
A person connected to each minister in each quarter of Glasgow to take note of strangers, beggars and orray women who were dwelling in the town, with powers to the said persons to punish, fine or banish said persons and to imprison them or their landlords as they think fir and to report.

1st October 1674 ~ Clay for tobacco pipes
William Hyndshaw, merchant, burges asked for permission to dig for clay for tobacco pipes, in any part of the town's common land. The Magistrates and counsel agreed to give him permission as long as he paid for any damage and that all holes were filled with earth.

16th March 1675 ~ Quartering of soldiers in the town
The Bailies and five others were appointed to make a list of persons in the town who think that they may most conveniently quarter soldiers that are coming here; and appoints Gawine Listoune to be quartermaster, and to quarter the said soldiers as the said person shall order him.

13th April 1675 ~ Maltmen Charter
There was a charter of resignation and confirmation of the lands of Balgray subscribed in favour of the Maltmen calling; and the entire thereof passed to them, being for the use of their poor.

24th April 1675 ~ Money to be lent to soldiers
The magistrates and council, taking into consideration the condition of the soldiers of the new levied companies in the town, are in threw want of pay, they have appointed the magistrates to cause pay to each one of the said new companies ten pounds sterling weekly, to be given on receipt by their officers for repayment thereof back to the town on demand, or the same shall be allowed to the town by Sir William Sharp of the excise; and approved of twenty pounds sterling lent by the magistrates upon the accompt foresaid.

Visit of their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra to Glasgow, 14th May 1903

The Trades House has had, on several occasions presented an address to the monarch of the time.

The privilege of presenting an address in person to the monarch was granted to the House in 1822 and again in 1842 on the first state visits to Scotland after coronations of King George IV and Queen Victoria respectively. In 1822 The House had the honour of first presenting in person an address to King George IV and subsequently attending by deputation a levee held by His Majesty in the Palace of Holyrood House.

Deacon Convener Matthew White presenting the address to His Majesty King Edward

The deputation travelled to Edinburgh along with deputations from the Magistrates and Council and the Merchants' House. The total cost on that occasion exceeded fourteen hundred pounds; the share paid by the House for conveyances, residence, and servants' liveries amounting to two hundred guineas.

In 1842 the House had again the honour of attending by deputation a levee held by Her Majesty Queen Victoria in Dalkeith Palace.

On that occasion the deputation proceeded to Edinburgh alone. A carriage and horses were taken through from Glasgow along with liveried coachmen and footmen, as had been the case in 1822, and the cost of the presentation amounted to one hundred pounds.

For full details and of the address and reply by the King, please visit:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/king_visit_1903_003.pdf

For those interested in the visit of King George V in 1914 please visit:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/king_george_v_002.pdf

The casket containing the Address was of solid silver heavily gilded, and the design was unique, being a replica of the Deacon-Convener's Charter Chest made in 1761. The lid was plain, bearing in relief the Royal Arms Scottish with thistle decorations at each corner. On the front panel in the centre was the Trades House coat of arms, supported on the left by the arms and mottoes of the Hammermen, Tailors and Cordiners Incorporations, and on the right by

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those of the Maltmen, Weavers and Bakers Incorporations. On the reverse panel was the Royal Monogram, supported three on each side by the arms and mottoes of the Incorporations of Skinners, Wrights, Coopers, Fleshers, Masons, and Gardeners, and at each end of the casket by the arms and mottoes of the remaining two Incorporations, the Barbers, and Bonnetmakers and Dyers. The chasing was very rich, standing out in bold relief against the burnished background. The Casket was designed and made by Mr. Robert Scott, Manufacturing Goldsmith, 8 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, past Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners, and was enclosed in a case of royal purple velvet.

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