Trades House of Glasgow
Heritage Newsletter No 7
September 2024

ARCHIVES

New Acquisitions

The Trades House Archives has been donated two new acquisitions. The first is a set of framed photographs and a photograph album previously forming part of Ex Deacon Convener Jack Steele's collection and generously donated by his wife Anne Steele. The photographs are of particular interest as they show the presentation to Prince Charles of an obelisk for his garden.

The second donation is a set of photographs by Past Deacon Bill Young of the Incorporation of Masons which had belonged to his father. This series of photographs depicts, in black and white, a dinner with a lot of guests in their finery. Ex Deacon Convener Hamish Brodie is in the process of examining these photographs and recording the names and positions held by the people in the photographs.

The Archives, Library and Museum are always keen to be offered books and items etc., which can be used to increase our knowledge of the Trades that we are associated with. It is believed that there are numerous artefacts such as tankards, spoons, medals etc., which were given as prizes in various competitions in the Trades House and we would be eager to be given some of these for display either on loan or permanently for the edification of all.

NEW TRANSCRIPTIONS

The Glasgow Aged Women's Society

This Society was absorbed into the Trades House charities and the minute books of the Society are being transcribed. To date the 1906 to 1925 minutes have been transcribed and can be found at:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/the_glasgow_aged_women_s_society_~_1906.pdf

Abigail Watson, one of the Trades House Archives team is in the process of transcribing the 1925 to 1937 minutes and it is hoped that these will be available soon.

The minute book from 1938 to 1962 has just been completed and can be found at:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/glasgow_aged_women_s_society_%5Ef_1938_to_1962.pdf Both of these minute books cover the First World War and Second World War periods and it is fascinating how little attention the wars have on the minutes.

PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE TRADES HOUSE

One of the activities undertaken by the Archives team is to try to better understand the people who have had an influence on the Trades House. To this end we have been researching and writing the biographies of some of the great influencers and some who were not always the best or nicest of people. To date seventeen biographies have been written and more will follow as time permits. To download the biographies, pleas click on the appropriate link below:

Deacon Convener John Alston's
Incorporation of Weavers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/john_alston_story_with_image.pdf

Collector of the House John Bell
Incorporation of Fleshers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/deacon_john_bell.pdf

Deacon Convener William and Francis Beattie
Incorporation of Bakers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/francis_beattie_story.pdf

James Buchanan
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/james_buchanan_biography_v2021.pdf

Deacon Convener Francis Crawfurd & Clerk George Crawford
Incorporation of Wrights
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/george_crawford_or_crawfurd__3_.pdf

Deacon Convener John Dallas
Incorporation of Bonnetmakers and Dyers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/john_dallas_story_v2021.pdf

Rev. John Howison
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/john_howison_biography.pdf

James Inglis
Incorporation of Weavers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/james_inglis_story_final_version.pdf

James Kirkwood
Incorporation of Coopers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/james_kirkwood.pdf

Harry Lumsden ~ Clerk to the Trades House
Incorporation of Weavers
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/harry_lumsden_story__3.docx

Deacon Convener Sir Thomas Mason
Incorporation of Masons
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/sir_thomas_mason_story.pdf

Deacon Convener Manasses Lyle
Incorporation of Skinners
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/manasses_lyle_article.pdf

Deacon Convener John McAslan
Incorporation of Gardeners
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/john_mcaslan_~_final_story.pdf

Deacon Convener William McLean (1827-28)
Deacon of the Bonnetmakers and Dyers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/deacon_convener_william_mclean_research.pdf

Deacon Convener Archibald McLellan
Incorporation of Hammermen
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/deacon_convener_archibald_mclellan_v2.pdf
Deacon Convener James McLennan
Incorporation of Maltmen
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/james_mclennan_life.pdf

Deacon Convener Andrew McOnie
Incorporation of Hammermen
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/andrew_mconie_story.pdf

Deacon Convener Duncan Niven (1760 and 1761 : 1777 and 1778)
Deacon Incorporation of Barbers (1747 : 1755 : 1758)
Deacon Convener Walter Ferguson (1813 and 1814)
Deacon Incorporation of Barbers (1797)
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/deacon_convener_walter_ferguson.pdf

Deacon William Searcy
Incorporation of Bonnetmakers & Dyers and the Incorporation of Wrights
https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/william_searcy_biography.pdf

Deacon William Tassie
Incorporation of Skinners, Furriers and Glovers
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/amendments_tassie_mortification__updated_march_2023__~_skinners.pdf

Deacon Alexander Walker C.B.E., D.L., J.P., F.S.I.
Incorporation of Cordiners
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/deacon_alexander_walker.pdf

Cathcart Cemetery Report
The Trades House took on the responsibility of looking after the memorials of a number of people who left funds to ensure that their loved one's memorials were maintained. Cathcart cemetery holds five such memorials. The report gives a background to the people and monuments of the following people and monuments:

John Dallas Memorial
William Hood Memorial
Mary Garrow Monument
George Ferguson Memorial
William E Scott Monument

The Report can be found at:
www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/cathcart_cemetery_report.pdf

The Archives team would be interested in receiving recommendations about writing biographies for more people connected to the Trades House. If you would like to propose

a name, please send details such as name of person, when they held office, date of birth or death if known to craig_bryce@hotmail.com

LIBRARY

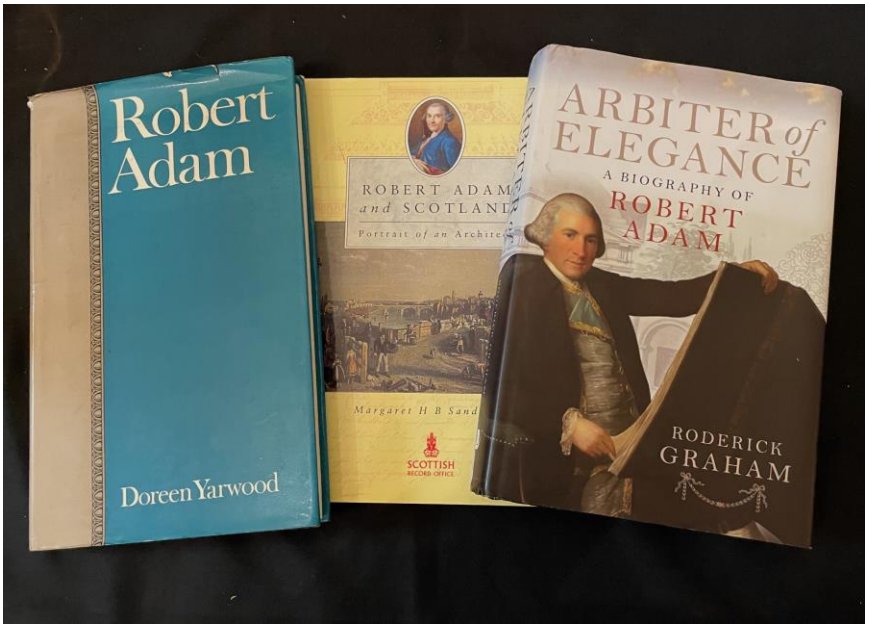
Books on Tailoring

A fascinating collection of books on tailoring formerly belonging to Andrew Davidson McLay(1891-1975) has been donated to the Library by Scott Aitken. These will be of interest not only to members of the Incorporation of Tailors but also to social historians and those researching the history of costume. They illustrate many designs and processes dating from the late Nineteenth to early Twentieth Century.

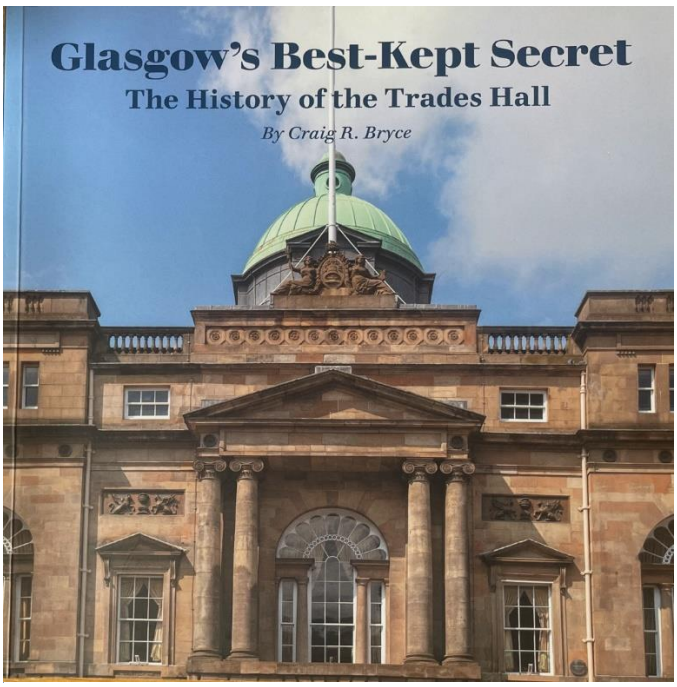
Illustrations from *Direct System of Ladies' Cutting* by T.H.Holding, 1897.

Robert Adam (1728-1792) – architect of the Trades Hall

The Trades House Library has recently acquired three books about Robert Adam, the architect of the Trades Hall: *Robert Adam* by Doreen Yarwood, published in 1970; *Robert Adam and Scotland* by Margaret H.B. Sanderson, reprinted in 1993; and *Arbiter of Elegance, A Biography of Robert Adam*, by Roderick Graham, published in 2009. Between them they provide a comprehensive account of the architect and his works and were donated to the Library by Ex-Deacon of the Incorporation of the Gardeners, Nick Parry.



Robert Adam was in Scotland during the summer of 1791 and his design for the Trades Hall was accepted in preference to those of two other architects. The foundation stone for the Hall was laid on 9 September that year. The Hall was built towards the end of Robert Adam's life, and he did not live to see its completion. The original plans for the building are kept at the Sir John Soane's Museum, London, and are illustrated in Craig Bryce's book *Glasgow's Best-Kept Secret, The History of the Trades Hall*. Robert Adam also accepted work for other buildings in Glasgow; the Assembly Rooms in Ingram Street, built 1792-6 and Glasgow Royal Infirmary, both of which have now been demolished. The main entrance to the Assembly Rooms, known as the McLennan Arch, was preserved and can be seen at the Charlotte Street entrance to Glasgow Green. Glasgow Royal Infirmary was completed by Robert Adam's brother James, with the first patients being admitted in 1794. The building was demolished to make way for a new building designed by James Miller which was officially opened in 1915. Thus, the Trades Hall remains as the only Robert Adam designed building still standing within the City of Glasgow.



If you wish to purchase Craig Bryce's book *Glasgow's Best-Kept Secret, The History of the Trades Hall* (£20) or view 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).

MUSEUM

James Hannan Casket

Over the summer, the Trades House archives team were gifted with some new items to add to its growing collection of art and artefacts. Firstly, a most splendid silver/silver gilt casket, decorated with images of significant Glasgow buildings. The casket was presented to James Hannan in 1886 by the Trustees and Directors of the National Savings Bank of Glasgow. Hannon had served as chairman of the National Savings Bank of Glasgow between 1857-1884 and he was also a respected Baillie of Glasgow, and we are fortunate to have also received his Baillie's medal. Both items are currently displayed in the glass-fronted cabinet adjacent to the Robert Adam Room in the Trades Hall and thanks are due to Henry N Watson for his generous gift.

The other donated items are slightly more intriguing – a pair of small, silver gilt medallions,

Mason and Craft Medal

decorated with symbols related to the Incorporation of Masons. So far, we have no idea as to when they were made, by whom, and for what purpose. There are no markings on either, but verso, both seem have been scraped clean. Was this possibly to remove adhesive - perhaps they were fixed onto something else, maybe a chain of office, or could they have been badges or lapel pins and the clasps have been removed and if so why – we simply don't know but if anyone can enlighten us then please do get in touch

Thanks are due here to Iain Smith, Past Deacon of the Incorporation of Masons for the gift of the medallions which were formerly in the possession of his late father, James 'Jimmie the Pie' Hamilton Smith who was himself a Past Deacon of the Incorporation of Masons.

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.

13 June 1663 Featuring the Fleshers practice

Considering that all sorts of blowing of mutton is discharged, and that now the Fleshers, slayers of mutton, does not make holes in the foremost leg and works in wind and through the whole body, to the great grief of the beholders, and cannot avoid to be dangerous to these who make use thereof, and therefore it is declared by the said Magistrates and Counsell that such working of mutton shall be punished conform to the blowing of mutton; and ordains intimation hereof to be made to the whole of the Fleshers.

15 October 1663 Crafts' Hospital
Ordains the Deacon Convener to be satisfied in the name of the poor of the Crafts' Hospital of the 8/- of annual rent that they had to be uplift out of the Flesh market yearly, and that conforms to seventeen years purchase.

15 October 1664 Featuring Bakers, Fleshers
[The 12d loaf to weigh 16oz; the tron stone of rough tallow to be sold for 46/-, and the tron stone of well-made candle for 54/-]

It is stated and ordained that one bank be sent through the town to command all manner of persons to remove and away take their red, stones and timber off the High Street, between and Wednesday next, under the pain of 20 pounds and ordains that no Flesher not others suffer their cattle to stand on the High Streets in the night time, under the pain of 20/- a piece.

Trades Hall Tours
Deacon Convener's Suite Notes

- Next to the Library is the Deacon Convener's Suite, which comprises the Deacon Convener's room where visiting dignitaries to the Trades Hall are received. The room is oak panelled and houses many artefacts gifted to the House.

- The main feature of the room is the carpet, which displays the Coats of Arms of the fourteen Incorporations and the House. This was donated by the family of the Late Convener T. Kenneth Campbell in 1974/75.

- Also within the room is the Deacon Conveners' Chest dating from 1761 and two pewter Alms dishes from the old Alms house that once stood at the Top of High Street beside the Cathedral.

- Two broadswords can be seen on the wall to the left as you enter the room. This is due to the close connection the House has with the Royal Highland Fusiliers. At the beginning of World War I, the Trades House donated a Regimental Colour to the Highland Light Infantry, who later became the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

- Adjacent to the Deacon Convener's room is the Deacon Convener's Lady's room, which is used as a reception room for lady visitors and also contains items gifted by Past Deacon Conveners to mark their year of office.