

# **Trades House of Glasgow**

## **INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HOUSE AND HALL**



By

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# **Trades House of Glasgow**

## **Information Concerning the House and Hall**

The following booklet was created to support guest speakers who may be invited to say the toast to the Trades House. It may also prove useful for Deacons and Visitor when giving toasts at different functions.

The booklet is designed to be accessed digitally, but can be printed out if the reader prefers.

The information comes mainly from the Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, many can be found in the Digital Library at the Trades House Museum by using the following link: [www.tradeshousemuseum.org](http://www.tradeshousemuseum.org) or by appointment with the Trades House librarian or archivist.

The file is in P.D.F. format and this allows the reader to search and copy text and to paste the section copied into Microsoft Word.

The House archivist and librarian are always happy to assist Deacons and Visitors in their research for new and interesting stories to recite at their Dinners.

If you spot an error or typo, or have any suggestions for improvement please let the archivist know and he will update the document for future users.



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# TRADES HOUSE OF GLASGOW

## INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HOUSE AND HALL

### CHAPTER 1

### DEACON INFORMATION

#### The Title of Deacon

The head of the Incorporation has not always been called the Deacon. The Statute of James I in 1425 is the first recorded time that “Deakons” or “Maister men”, handicraftsmen in their different branches in every town of the realm being thereby being empowered to elect a Preses, who was called a “Deakon or Maister man over the laife for the time” so that the lieges be not be defrauded in time to come as they have been in time bygone through untrue men of crafts. Here we also find reference to the Deacon ensuring that the craftsmen behave in a fair and honest manner. Other terms for the Deacon have been Kirk Maister.

In 1426 another statute from James I also required that “Deacons of ilk craft” to be elected.

Strangely in, 1426 in another statute, the office of Deacon was totally prohibited as being of general prejudice to the kingdom and all licence to elect Deacons was revoked, and the former meetings of the Deacons condemned as the assemblies of conspirators.

In 1483 James III again permitted the crafts to have Deacons.

In 1493, under James IV, the office of Deacon was again banned as being dangerous and the cause of great trouble in boroughs – “and because it is clearly understandin to the King’s Hieness and his three estates that the using of Deacons of men of crafts in Boroughs is ticht dangerous, it is therefore ordained that all Deacons shall cease for a year at least (especially masons and wrights), except to examine works.”

Disturbances in the kingdom had become frequent between the merchants and craftsmen. In 1553, there had been a disturbance in Edinburgh, having an origin in a dispute between Tradesmen and Merchants, the envy of the crafts excited by the power of electing magistrates exclusively for a long time in the hands of the merchants, of whom alone the Town Council was originally composed.

In 1555, Queen Mary (Mary of Guise, Regent), the office of Deacon was abolished as being the cause of commotion and unlawful combinations amongst the Crafts themselves, and betwixt Burgh and Burgh, deserving of grater punishment. This statute ordains “that there be NA DEACKONS chosen in tymes cumming within the Burgh,” and the Provost, Bailies and Council of the Burgh, “are to chuse the maist honest man of craft, of gude conscience, ane of every Craft to visie their craft that they labour sufficiently, and thir persons to be called *Visitours* of their craft, and to be elected an chosen yearly at Michaelmas, and thir Visitours chosen, sworn and admitted to have choosing of officers and other things, as the Deacons voted before.

Na craftsman to buik office in the Burgh Council except two of the most honest and famous persons to be chosen yearly”.

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 1556, the Queen Regent granted a general charter in favour of all the craftsmen in the Burghs and Cities within the Realm which rescinded her previous Act of 1555. This gave the Crafts new powers and favour.

Disputes between the Merchants and Trades rank continued and many appeals were being made to the Supreme Court. The merchants of Glasgow had exercised the whole sway, monopolised the Magistrates, and assumed the sole right of managing the Funds. The Trades who were more numerous, insisted on a participation of office. This led to the parties going to arbitration and on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1605 the arbiters issued their decision called the “Letter of Guildry”, which contained the constitutions of the Merchants House, Trades House and Crafts.

In December 1675 the House reviewed the old rule that no Deacon should hold office for more than one year without the approval of the house as this had been ignored by a number of Deacons. It was decided to fine anyone who continued in Deaconship without this approval would be fined £100 scots.<sup>1</sup>

In October 1751, the House ruled that if a person elected as Deacon, refused to take up office he would be fined £5 sterling and the Incorporation would then have to select a new Deacon.<sup>2</sup>

### **Date for electing Deacons**

In September 1809, the House ruled that in order to prevent misunderstandings with regard the day of election of Deacons to take place, on a motion to the House by Mr. William Rodger which was seconded unanimously. They ruled that in all time coming the election of Deacons shall take place on the first Friday that falls after the fifteenth day of September.<sup>3</sup>

To this day the head of each craft is called Deacon with the exception of the Maltmen who have retained the title Visitor.

### **First Free Election of Deacon Convener**

October 1833 must have been a happy time for the Trades House as on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1833, the Deacon Convener called a meeting to elect the Deacon Convener for the following year under the recently enacted Bye Laws. Bailie McLean moved and Mr. Fowler seconded that Mr. McLellan, the present Deacon Convener should be re-elected. Bailie Wilson moved and Mr. Alston seconded that Mr. James Graham should be elected Convener. 28 people voted for Deacon Convener McLellan and 29 members voted for Mr. Graham. The House therefore appointed Mr. James Graham as Deacon Convener.

[The privilege of electing their own Deacon Convener came about due to the alteration in the Borough Reform Bill]<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lumsden, Records of the Trades House of Glasgow 1605 to 1678, page 500, December 1675.

<sup>2</sup> Lumsden ~ Records of the Trades House, Volume 2, page 382, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1751.

<sup>3</sup> Trades House Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> September 1809.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1833.



Up until this auspicious date the House had selected three potential Deacon Conveners and the Provost and Magistrates elected the Convener from one of the three.

The following day was another important day for the Trades House as on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1833, the Trades Bailies ceased to be members of the House and it was resolved that the Late Convener and the Present Collector should occupy the chairs to the right and left of the Deacon Convener hitherto occupied by the Bailies during meetings of the House.<sup>5</sup>

### **Storage of Weapons**

The Deacons and Burgesses of the Trades House have had a long tradition of defending the town against enemies and to this they were required to deposit their weapons in the Almshouse. The following is an extract from the minute of 10<sup>th</sup> August 1649: "*The said day the deikin conveyiner, deikins of crafts and their counsell which for the maist pairt being present for many and good causes moveing thame it is in acted statut and ordanit be them all in ane voyce that everie new elected deikin shall give in to ye hospitall in place and sted of his muskett ane sufficient sword and belt worth the sowme of ten merkis money and that everie new elect it deikine conveyaner the first year of his electioun shall give in to the said hospitall in place and sted of his corsslatt ane pick and sword and ane belt.*"<sup>6</sup> This makes it clear that the Trades House retained the need to defend the town in times of war or threats of civil disobedience. There are numerous mention of Deacons and Conveners delivering their arms to the Trades Hospital or Almshouse over a long period of time. The Trades Hospital and the Almshouse are the same place and the titles are interchangeable.

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<sup>5</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1833.

<sup>6</sup> Harry Lumsden's Records of the Trades House of Glasgow 1605 - 1678. Page

## **Deacons' Choosing Dinners ~ Visitations**

In 1898 the tradition of visitations was formalised as follows:

### **DEACONS' CHOOSING DINNERS.**

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### **CUSTOM OF VISITING BY DEPUTATIONS.**

*RECOMMENDATION OF 19th AUGUST, 1898.*

WITH the view of ensuring some uniformity of practice in the custom of visiting by Deputations which prevails at the Deacons' Choosing Dinners, and in order that the proceedings at each dinner may thereby be better regulated, the Deacon-Convener, Collector, and late Convener, with the concurrence of the Deacons, Visitor, and late Collectors present at a meeting held on *19th AUGUST, 1898*,

### **RECOMMENDED**

That each Incorporation send a deputation to one other Incorporation annually, beginning with the Incorporation next it in precedence, or the next again if that Incorporation be not dining, and so on in rotation from year to year.

That the order of the visitation be intimated annually, a week before the Deacons' Choosing Day, by the Clerk of the House to the Clerk of each of the Incorporations. That the hour of the visit should, so far as convenient, be nine o'clock p.m. The Meeting further recommend that no additional Deputation be sent unless special considerations exist to make this desirable. That in any case these additional Deputations should not exceed one in number.

Any further exchange of courtesies might be conveyed by a telegram or letter of congratulation and good wishes.<sup>7</sup>

### **Changing Choosing Dinner Tradition**

In 1912 the Deacon of the Incorporation of **Masons** indicated that his Master Court had observed with regret the gradual breaking away of the old custom of all Incorporations dining on the same evening. Two Incorporations had that year having dined on evenings subsequent to the Deacons' Choosing-and suggesting that some effort should be made to maintain uniformity of practice.

After due discussion all agreed that every effort should be made to have all the Dinners on the evening of the Deacons' Choosing, to conform to the ancient custom.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 19<sup>th</sup> August 1898.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Platform, Deacons and Visitor of the Trades House of Glasgow, 25<sup>th</sup> October 1912.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE EARLY YEARS

#### **Ordinance Concerning the Poor in the Hospital**

In September 1614 at a meeting of the Trades House in the Craft Hospital, a rather unpopular statute was enacted which was designed to prevent the poor of the hospital from working or drinking in the town. They also had to keep the Holy Days and preaching days also burials and any money gained had to be split equally among the poor of the hospital.<sup>9</sup>

#### **Trades House Purchases Grain in face of National Shortage**

In December 1756 the Deacon Convener reported that he had read in the London Gazette and other newspapers that the nation was under great fears of scarcity of grain. The Deacons agreed to the purchase of 4450 bolls (1 boll equals 211.664 litres) of meal should be purchased and 120 bolls of oats should be imported from the town of Danzig to prevent the exorbitant rise of victuals in Glasgow. The cost of the oats should not exceed 13/6d sterling including all charges when it arrived at the Clyde.<sup>10</sup>

Nine years later there was again a grain shortage and the House empowered John Jamieson the Deacon Conover and George Buchanan, junior Baillie to meet and discuss with the magistrates and Dean of Guild about ways of purchasing grain with the Town Council responsible for the cost of half of it, the Merchants House a quarter and the Trades House also a quarter. The House would be responsible for three twelfths of any loss on the quarter share and the Incorporations be responsible for the other nine twelfths. The Incorporations were asked to meet with their members to agree upon the above.<sup>11</sup> The Incorporations when they met agreed to pay nine twelfth of the quarter share loss.<sup>12</sup>

In November 1741 there was a shortage of food available and the poor were suffering as they could not afford to buy sufficient food for their needs. The House paid £300 for a quarter of the food purchased for the city.<sup>13</sup> In January 1742 the House contributed more cash for the purchase of victuals for the poor provided that common begging be restrained. The Collector paid the House's contribution to the Kirk treasurer.<sup>14</sup>

#### **House's view of the Post Office being opened on the Lords day**

In May 1760 the House discussed the information that the Post Master General had ordered that a packet had to be delivered to the City on a Sunday and that the Post Office would be kept open on that day. **House's view of the Post Office being opened on the Lords day** This was viewed as very nearly a heretical event and the following are the some of the views expressed at the meeting: "*shaking off all reverence to God, His laws touching the Sabbath sanctification, do from a mistaken notion of promoting their own secular interest dare and presume to call at the office for letters and newspapers read the same,*" and "*which occasions great crowds of people to walk unnecessarily to walk up and down the streets and the Lords day is,*

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<sup>9</sup> Lumsden, Records of the Trades House of Glasgow 1605 to 1678, page 2, September 1614.

<sup>10</sup> Lumsden ~ Records of the Trades House 1713 to 1777, Volume 2, page 412, 9<sup>th</sup> December 1756.

<sup>11</sup> Lumsden ~ Records of the Trades House 1713 to 1777, Volume 2, page 497, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1765.

<sup>12</sup> Lumsden ~ Records of the Trades House 1713 to 1777, Volume 2, page 498, 8<sup>th</sup> January 1766.

<sup>13</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1741, page 286.

<sup>14</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, 14<sup>th</sup> January 1742, page 287.

*or will be, turned in a great measure to a day of civil business,” also “to be a daring sin but a very ungrateful return to God for the manifold mercies he has conferred on this city.”* The tenor of the discussion continued in like manner and the Deacons and Visitor of the Hammermen, Tailors, Cordiners and Maltmen asked that the House to apply to the Lord Provost and Magistrates to suppress the profanation of the City.<sup>15</sup>

## **Early Craft Halls**

### **Bakers Hall**

The Bakers' Hall, so frequently mentioned in the minutes of the trade between 1718 and 1772, was situated in a close directly opposite to Baker's Wynd, now St. Andrew's Street, off Saltmarket Street. This wynd or street, in 1736, reached east from Saltmarket to the Molendinar Burn; and, according to McUre, the hall " was in length 9 ells, and 5 ells wide." The Incorporation met to do business in this hall for many a long year; and here was the scene of almost all their balls and other festive assemblies. In this hall, the entrance to which was by Gibson's Wynd, now called Princes Street, there were several boards containing the names of those who had left donations for the benefit of the Baxters. This was discontinued as a place of meeting shortly before the opening of the present Trades' Hall in Glassford Street, in the year 1792.<sup>16</sup>

### **Flesher's Hall**

The last hall which any of the individual corporations possessed was the fine Fleshers' House of Assembly in King Street.

*“At the present moment tradesmen are defacing its old emblems, including the gilded Ten Commandments; and, by the approaching Whitsunday, it will, we believe, be converted into a public place of refreshment, alias a tippling saloon”.*<sup>17</sup>

### **Bakers Rule**

In April 1801, one of the rules that the Bakers had to abide by was not being allowed to sell a loaf of bread until it was 24 hours old.<sup>18</sup>

## **Evolution of the Term Trades House**

The Trades did not meet together as a rank except for wapenshaws or public processions. Each craft was a separate organisation with self-government, but the general affairs of the Guild brethren for the whole crafts were from the first managed by representatives of each craft on the Deacon Convenor's Council.

The Deacon Convenor's Council became occasionally known as the “Deacon Convenor's House” after 1668. The title “Councillors of the Crafts House” occurs in 1676. Later on we find “Convenors House” or “Crafts House” and gradually the title “Trades House” came into existence. By September 1713, the “The Convenors House” and the “The Trades House” were in common usage. Eventually the title “The Trades House of Glasgow” became the accept form of address.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1760, ~ Page 451.

<sup>16</sup> Glasgow Past and Present Volume 1, 1884, page 74.

<sup>17</sup> Glasgow Past and Present Volume 1, 1884, page 74.

<sup>18</sup> Glasgow Past and Present Volume 1, 1884, page 76.

<sup>19</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Vol 2, Historical Introduction, page xv.

### **New Box for the Trades House**

In February 1644 a new box was produced having three outer locks and an inner lock and the inner lock key was given to the Deacon of the Hammermen and the outer lock keys were given to the Deacons of the Tailors and Cordiners and to the Visitor of the Maltmen and the three keys of the old box were put in the new box.<sup>20</sup>

In June 1761, John Cuninghame the Deacon of the Wrights was employed to make a mahogany box or chest with two locks for holding the House writs.<sup>21</sup> Deacon Cuninghame was paid £10 19s 9d to repair the old charter chest and to make a new one.<sup>22</sup>

### **Early Mention of a Trades School**

In September 1649, at a meeting of the Trades House they discussed a motion made a number of times concerning the setting up of a school and schoolmaster for instructing the poor children whose parents were not able to pay for their education. The Deacons of the Hammermen, Tailors, Cordiners, Visitor of the Maltmen, Deacons of the Baxters, Weavers, Masons, Chirugeones, Fleshers, Skinners, Coopers, Wrights, Bonnetmakers and Gardeners agreed to pay different amounts to support the school.<sup>23</sup> In November 1649 John Patersone was elected to be the school master and was payed accordingly.<sup>24</sup> John Patersone was instructed to carry himself and his charge to conform to instructions by the ministers.<sup>25</sup>

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 1651 the House met and discussed the remuneration of the schoolmaster and decided that they were content with his fee and decided to pay John Fultoune elder Skinner £3 and [ ] Sempl, daughter of the deceased [ ] Semple £3.<sup>26</sup>

In April 1652 John Patersoune, the schoolmaster, complained that some poor are not able to pay for their tuition. Walter Neilson, George Broome, Patrik Clerk, John Patson and John Weir were tasked with visiting the school to determine which poor could not pay their schooling. It is this reference which makes it clear that the school was located at the Wyndheid. Precisely where this is, is still a mystery.<sup>27</sup>

### **Poor Boys**

In June 1652 the Trades House proposed an act whereby they decided to fund poor boys, born in the city, apprenticeships.<sup>28</sup> The Deacons met with their Crafts and agreed this would be a good and pious thing to do and agreed to support it.<sup>29 30</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, 10 February 1644 ~ page 232.

<sup>21</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1761 ~ page 461.

<sup>22</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Collector's Account, 15 September 1761 ~ page 464.

<sup>23</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, 10<sup>th</sup> September 1649 ~ page 270.

<sup>24</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, November 1649 ~ page 277.

<sup>25</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, November 1649 ~ page 278.

<sup>26</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, November 1651 ~ page 296.

<sup>27</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, January 1654 ~ page 300.

<sup>28</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, January 1652 ~ page 297.

<sup>29</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, January 1652 ~ page 297.

<sup>30</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, January 1652 ~ page 298.

### **Act giving the Town Council consent to borrow not more than £500**

In October 1715 the House unanimously agreed to the Town Council borrowing up to £500 for defraying the expenses of the exigencies of the time. {This was the time of the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion}.<sup>31</sup>

### **First Chaplain for the Trades House**

In March 1734 the Trades House decided that it would be very useful to have a qualified person, a preacher named to be chaplain to the House and each of the Trades for saying prayers at each of their meetings and for visiting the poor men in the hospital once each week and to visit the sick in the Trade when they wished for one. It was proposed to give him a salary of £20 sterling and that the House pay £6 sterling and each of the Incorporations decided what they could afford.<sup>32</sup> Master James Cullen preacher was named as the new Chaplain.<sup>33</sup>

### **Fines imposed on latecomers and non-attenders at House meetings**

There must have been quite a number of people arriving late at meetings or absenting themselves because in January 1766 the House made the following ruling: If any member was more than 15 minutes late they would pay a fine of 6d and if they failed to appear they would be fined 1/- If the clerk or Convener was late or absent, they would pay double the above fines. A few exceptions were agreed such as sickness or not being warned of the meeting. If anyone refused to pay the fine they would be debarred from being a member or having a vote in the House.<sup>34</sup>

### **Donations for the Relief of Suffering**

#### **India Famine 1897**

A special meeting of the Trades House met to discuss contributing funds to the relief of sufferers in India by the famine which was spreading over large areas of the country. It was stated that in 1874 and 1877 sums of £200 and £250 respectively had been contributed towards similar objects.

After discussion Deacon Glen moved that a contribution of £250 from the Trades House and that and that a recommendation should be made to the Incorporations to co-operate in making a joint contribution. The motion was seconded by Mr David Tullis.<sup>35</sup>

Again in 1900, the Deacon Convener proposed a donation of £150 to the Indian Famine Fund. The sums contributed by the Incorporations were included with the amounts from each Incorporation mentioned.<sup>36</sup>

### **Donations to alleviate suffering in the South African War**

In 1899 the war in South Africa was being waged and the Deacon Convener commented on "*on all hands a ready response was being given to the appeals for assistance in relieving the distress amongst the refugees from the Transvaal, and in alleviating the sufferings of the wives, widows, and children of the brave men who had gone to the front to fight their country's battles.*" He then moved that the House

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<sup>31</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, October 1715 ~ page 26.

<sup>32</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, March 1734 ~ page 197.

<sup>33</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, May 1734 ~page 198.

<sup>34</sup> Lumsden ~ Records of the Trades House 1713 to 1777, Volume 2, page 498, 30<sup>th</sup> January 1766.

<sup>35</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 27<sup>th</sup> January 1897.

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1900.

should vote a sum for the refugees and one sum for the soldiers' families. £50 was voted for each cause.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 7<sup>th</sup> November 1899.

## CHAPTER 3

# DEACON CONVENER

### Deacon Convener's Attire

In October 1751 the House met to discuss and consider the attire that should be worn by the Deacon Convener. The following is an extract from that minute which established the dress that the Deacon Convener would wear.

*"The House considering that the Deacon Convener is head or first person of the Incorporated Trades, judge it decent that he should be distinguished in his habite and garb from the other members of the trades rank as is the tradition of the City of Edinburgh and therefore do statute and enact that the person who shall this day elected deacon convener and all ensuing conveners shall wear and use a black velvet upper coat at all public meetings and appearances and as often as such deacon convener shall think proper and for encouraging the deacon convener for wearing such habite, the House ordains their collector present and to come, to pay out of the House funds the sum of £15 sterling to the deacon convener after his election and to every ensuing convener the like sum and declare that the deacon convener is to have no further demand off the House although he be continued two years in his office on account of the said velvet coat and in case he do not wear the said coat, he is to have no claim to the foresaid sum."*<sup>38</sup>

### Deacon Convener's Gold Chain and Medal



Deacon Convener's First Medal 1767  
Now worn by the Collector of the House  
© Trades House

At a meeting of the House on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1766, the House was informed that the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Dean of Guild had resolved to wear gold chains and medals as badges of their offices. It was agreed that the Deacon Convener should also wear a gold chain and medal as a badge of his office. It was agreed that the arms of the Incorporations should appear on the chain and the medal and the cost

should be borne by the House. The House empowered the Deacon Convener, James Clark, Baillie George Buchanan junior, John Miller and James Buchanan, late baillies, the Deacons of the Hammermen and Tailors with the Collector of the House to select an artificer who would make the chain and medal based on their instructions.<sup>39</sup> The medal and chain were made by Messrs Napier & Bayne and cost £40 10s 1½ d and a further £3 1s 0d was spent at the Beveridge of the Deacon Convener's chain.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1751, page 381.

<sup>39</sup> Lumsden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, 31<sup>st</sup> December 1766, page 504.

<sup>40</sup> msden ~ Minutes of the Trades House, Volume 2, Walter Lang's Accounts, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1767, page 507.



## Presentation of First Deacon Conveners' Miniature Medal



In November 1893, Late Deacon Convener Copland 1891-2 (**Tailor**) expressed his intention of presenting a die to the House to enable a Deacon Convener's Medal to be struck on his retiral. The medal would be a reduced scale of the medal worn by the Deacon Convener.<sup>41</sup>

In 1897 the Clerk produced two old Conveners' medals and that he had obtained a valuation from Messrs. R. & W. Sorley. The value of the medals were: the one dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 1861, at £14 10s, and that the date circa 1840-45 at £7 10s.<sup>42</sup> [So clearly medals must have been given medals and possibly by 1893, the die may have become worn and a new one required.]

## New Chain for Deacon Conveners' Medal of Office



In 1925 Late Convener Sir John Reid presented the House a new chain for the original medal (of 1767) of the Deacon Convener of the Trades of Glasgow.

Sir John recalled that for many years this medal had been dispensed with, but a few years ago had been again made use of to be worn by each Late Convener during

his two years' service in the House before retiring. He explained that the links of the new, chain were varied with fifteen shields, the centre one for the House and seven on each side of the medal for the fourteen Incorporations. These shields had engraved on one side the Coats of Arms of the House and Incorporations as in use in 1767, and on the other side the Coats of Arms as granted and registered by the Lord Lyon King-at-Arms. The Chain (which was of solid gold, 18-carat) had been modelled and decorated by Messrs. R. & W. Sorley, Glasgow.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 7<sup>th</sup> November 1893.

<sup>42</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, Platform Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1897.

<sup>43</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925.

### Deacon Conveners' Social Medal

In 1926 the Incorporation of **Tailors** Master Court had thought that the Deacon Convener of the Trades, when representing the Trades House at social or other gatherings, might be invested with some ornament emblematic of his office which would on such occasions allow greater freedom of action than can be enjoyed when the Convener is decorated with the heavy gold medal and chain of the House. The suggestion, when formally submitted to the Members of the Craft, was unanimously approved and a very handsome jewelled insignia had been fashioned to what was thought a most appropriate design.



In presenting the jewelled ornament, the Members of the Craft wished it to be known that there is no intention that it should in any way displace the historic insignia of office of the Deacon-Convener, but rather be worn by him as a lesser ornament when the chain, for greater personal comfort, might be laid aside. The Members of the Craft desired the House to accept the gift as a token of their high appreciation of the noble work gratuitously performed by the Members of the House and as recognition of the helpfulness of the House, in various directions, extended towards the Craft beneficiaries.

Deacon Alex. Collie, on behalf of the Incorporation of Tailors, thereupon formally presented the jewelled Insignia to the House.

On the Motion of the Deacon Convener, the House accepted this gift.

Collector Train invested the Deacon-Convener with the insignia and described it. The medal is of platinum with gold back, containing seven large diamonds on the platinum border, the centre consisting of the Trades House Coat-of-Arms highly enamelled with the House Crest, the whole being done in thirty small diamonds and thirty-four sapphires. The inscription on the back is follows:- Gifted by The Incorporation of Tailors in Glasgow to The Trades House of Glasgow, 12th July, 1926.<sup>44</sup>

### Deacon Convener's Replica Jewelled Medal

In 1928, Visitor John Wright, on behalf of the Incorporation of **Maltmen**, presented to Late Convener Dallas, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him to the House, a jewelled replica to be worn by him in place of the usual replica presented to Deacon-Conveners on their demitting office.

He also presented to the House the die for the replica so that replicas similar in design might be given to future Deacon-Conveners.

Late Convener Dallas, in accepting the replica and returning thanks, intimated that with the permission of the House he proposed to present to Ex-Convener John Reid an additional replica made from the die. This was unanimously agreed to, and the Late Convener was accorded the thanks of House for his kindly thought.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 12<sup>th</sup> July 1926.

<sup>45</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 29<sup>th</sup> February 1928.

### **Design of the Deacon Conveners' Jewelled Replica**

In 1929 the question of the design of the jewelled replica to be presented to the Deacon Convener on retiring was considered. A small plain gold replica (exactly reproducing the Deacon-Convener's Medal) struck from the die presented by the late Sir William Copland, was submitted, and also three separate styles of jewelled replicas struck from the die recently presented by the Incorporation of **Maltmen** but differing in ornamental detail and surrounds. The Committee recommend that the latest form of the jewelled replica struck from that die be adopted for the replica to be presented to retiring Deacon-Conveners, as that style approaches nearest to the form and detail of the Deacon-Convener's jewelled badge presented to the House by the Incorporation of **Tailors**.<sup>46</sup>

### **More discussion on the Deacon Conveners' Replica Jewel**

In September 1929 the Finance Committee considered the three styles of jewelled replicas struck from the die presented by the Incorporation of **Maltmen**, the Committee recommend that the third and latest form of the jewelled replica (struck after making some slight alteration on the die) be adopted as the most suitable to be presented to retiring Deacon-Conveners, it being the nearest to the form and detail of the jewelled badge worn by the Deacon-Convener when in office. It was thought that as the small gold replica formerly presented was an exact miniature of the Convener's large medal, it was appropriate that the new jewelled replica should approach as near as practicable to the Convener's jewel.<sup>47</sup>

### **Badge for the Lady Deacon Convener**

At a meeting of the Deacons, Visitor and Platform on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1952, it was agreed that the Platform should consider utilising a Gold and Enamelled Badge which had been bequeathed to the House by the Late Convener John Dallas, as a badge to be worn at House and Craft functions by the wife or partner of the Deacon Convener. The Platform had made an alteration to the badge so that it could be worn as a brooch or pendant. The meeting of the House invited Mrs Dixon to join the meeting and accept the badge.<sup>48</sup>

### **Replica Lady's Badge**

Late Deacon Convener, Allan S. Dixon at a House meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1953 raised a discussion caused by a letter from Late Deacon Convener Agnew asking that the Deacon Convener's Lady should be rewarded by a gift from the members of the House for her work during the Deacon Convener's term in office. Late Deacon Convener Dixon and Collector James Stirrat retired from the meeting and Deacon David Sim was asked to take the chair.

After a full discussion, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposal, and that as Mrs Allan S. Dixon was the first lady to wear the lady's badge, she should be the first to receive the gift which should be in the form of a Badge or Brooch, but should be so modelled so as not to be easily confused with any other badge or replica worn by members of the House.<sup>49</sup> By May 1954, four alternative designs for the Lady Deacon Convener's Badge were submitted. The Late Convener, Deacons and Visitor chose a 9 carat gold enamel pendant complete with handmade bow bar and collarette at a price of £31 10s. The die for the brooch cost £23 10s which the Late

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<sup>46</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1929.

<sup>47</sup> Minutes of the Finance Committee of the Trades House, 6<sup>th</sup> September 1929.

<sup>48</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 27<sup>th</sup> May 1952.

<sup>49</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1953.

Collector J. Percival Agnew paid for and donated it to the House. Two brooches were order and it was agreed that one was to be presented by Mrs Dixon to Mrs Sloan Smith and the other was presented to Mrs Dixon on her husband's retiral from the chair.<sup>50</sup>

At a meeting of the House on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1979, Ex Convener Agnew presented to the House the broach which had been bequeathed by Mrs Agnew to the House for the Deacon Convener's Lady during his term of office. He then asked the House for permission for the badge currently being used by the Deacon Convener's Lady (Deacon Convener Dallas's gift) to be made available for the use of the Collector's Lady during the Collector's term of office. The proposal was agreed.<sup>51</sup>

### **Clerk's Badge**

At a House meeting in September 1955, the Deacon Convener intimated that the Clerk had been bequeathed with the badge that had been presented to the late Dr. Lumsden in 1933 by Dr. Lumsden's wife. The House instructed the Clerk to wear the badge at all ceremonial occasions. They also remitted to the Platform the question of whether or not a bar with the present Clerk's name, should be added to the badge.<sup>52</sup> The Deacon Convener reported that a bar had been attached to the Clerk's Badge which had been bequeathed to Mr. Allison.<sup>53</sup>

Mr Norman Biggart, on retiring as Clerk to the House, made a presentation to the House of a jewelled badge to be worn by the Clerk of the House. The Deacon Convener directed that it should be suitably inscribed and he then invested the new Clerk, George Wyllie with the new badge.<sup>54</sup>

### **Badge of Office for 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Lord Provost of Glasgow**

The Trades House held a reception in the honour of Lady Warren to present her with a badge of office to be worn by Lady Lord Provosts of the City of Glasgow. The Badge of office was presented by the Merchants and Trades' Houses on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1951. The Badge was made of white gold enamelled in heraldic colours and bears the Glasgow Coat of Arms in the centre, supported on either side by the Coat of Arms of the Merchants House and the Trades House and has on the reverse side the following inscription:

"Presented by the Merchants House of Glasgow and the Trades House of Glasgow to the first Lady Provost of Glasgow (Lady Warren), to be worn by her and her and her successors in office. 12<sup>th</sup> March 1951."

The badge is suitable to be worn as a brooch or pendant in evening wear.

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<sup>50</sup> Minutes of the Late Convener, Deacons and Visitor of the Trades House, 26<sup>th</sup> May 1954.

<sup>51</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 8<sup>th</sup> February 1979.

<sup>52</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1955.

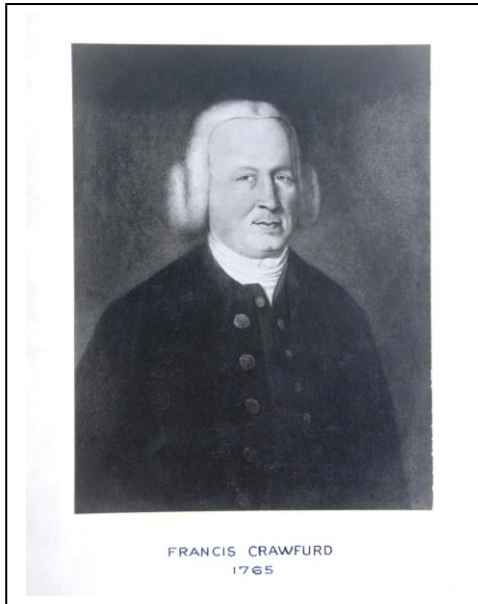
<sup>53</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 12th October 1955.

<sup>54</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1988.

## CHAPTER 4

### PAINTINGS AND BUSTS

#### Deacon Convener Francis Crawford's Painting (1762 ~ Wright)



In 1896 the House was offered a copy of Mr. Francis Crawford, a former Deacon-Convener, who had died during his tenure of office in 1762. The gift was from Mr. Francis Crawford, Helensburgh.<sup>55</sup>

#### Deacon Convener Archibald McLellan's Portrait

In 1906 the Sub-Committee of the Corporation and Art Galleries wrote to the Trades House indicating that they were very desirous to have a portrait for their Galleries of the late Ex-Deacon-Convener Archibald McLellan, who was the donor of the McLellan collection, and enquiring if the House will grant the necessary permission for having a copy of his portrait by Graham-Gilbert now in the Trades' Hall made for the Corporation.

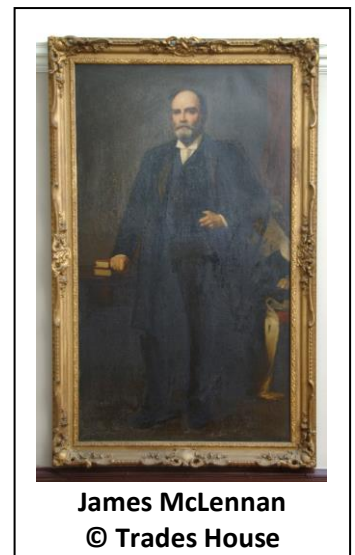


The House unanimously agreed to the request.<sup>56</sup>

#### Deacon Convener James McLennan's Portrait (1893-94)

In 1933, Ex Deacon Convener Andrew McLennan along with other members of his family, offered the House a portrait of his father Ex Deacon Convener James McLennan. The portrait in oils had been presented to his late father when he was the senior Magistrate in the City.

Ex-Convener McLennan had been responsible for the saving of a part of the frontage of the old Athenreum, of



<sup>55</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1896.

<sup>56</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 18<sup>th</sup> May 1906.



which Adam was the architect. He paid the cost of its removal and re-erection at the entrance to Glasgow Green. After standing there for more than twenty years its removal was thought necessary, and this work was done at the expense of the House. "The Adam Arch," as it is called, is now in the vicinity of Charlotte Street, where several Adam buildings once stood.

Convener James McLennan sat on the floor of the House, after passing through the Chair, until the time of his death in 1899. He had sat continuously from 1890.

His eldest son, Mr. Andrew McLennan, who was Visitor of the Maltmen in 1902, passed through the Chair in 1909 to 1910. It was he who was instrumental in persuading the House to institute the Matriculation Fee which has been the means of augmenting the guildry fines received from the Town Clerk and bringing in an extra sum of from £400 to £500 per annum from the Guild Brethren who enter the different Incorporated Trades.<sup>57</sup>

### **Donation of Two Portraits and Two Busts of Deacon Convener and Mrs James Buchanan**



In 1938, a Mr. James B. Hall offered the House the life-size portraits and two marble busts on wood grained pedestals of Mr. and Mrs. James Buchanan, also an autographed engraving of Mr. Buchanan.

It was agreed to remit this matter to the Platform Committee, with powers.<sup>58</sup>

In October 1938, the Buildings Committee met and agreed to accept the offer from the Glasgow Educational

Trust, the portraits in oils of Mr. and Mrs James Buchanan, who founded the Buchanan Bequest, and also the marble busts of Mr. and Mrs Buchanan and a signed engraving of Mr. Buchanan.<sup>59</sup>

Generous gifts often come with other difficulties as the Building Committee discovered in December 1938. The oil paintings were too large for any spaces in the main staircase. The Committee examined the practicability of (a) reducing the size of the portraits, or (b) providing smaller and lighter frames.<sup>60</sup>

At a meeting of the Platform in January 1939, the Clerk read a letter from Messrs. T. & . R. Annan & Sons, suggesting that the Buchanan portraits should be hung on the right and left of the door entering the Large Hall, after cutting down the canvases to fit the spaces and substituting a three-inch "old gold" frame instead of the present enormous frames.

As cutting off from the sides would make the pictures very long and narrow, Messrs. Annan also suggested that the lengths should be cut down as well, to make each

<sup>57</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 7<sup>th</sup> November 1933.

<sup>58</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1938.

<sup>59</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 21<sup>st</sup> October 1938.

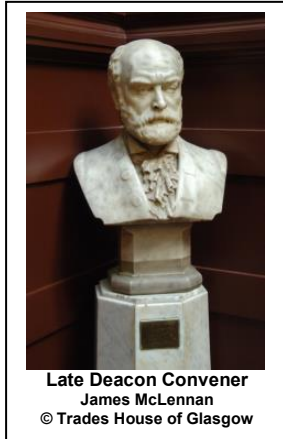
<sup>60</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 16<sup>th</sup> December 1938.

portrait a three-quarter length, nothing of importance being lost, but the proportions thus turning out better. This was agreed to.<sup>61</sup>

### **Donation of Portrait of Deacon Convener Archibald Gilchrist (1875-76)**

In October 1938 the Buildings Committee agreed to accept from the Trustees of the late Archibald Gilchrist, Deacon Convener of the Trades in 1875-76, his portrait in oils.<sup>62</sup>

### **Donation of Bust of Late Deacon Convener James McLennan (1893-94)**



In 1928 Ex Deacon Convener Andrew McLennan offered to the House a pedestal in wood and a bust in marble, by James A. Ewing, of his father, the late Deacon Convener James McLennan (1893-94), as a gift from himself and the other members of the family of the late James McLennan.

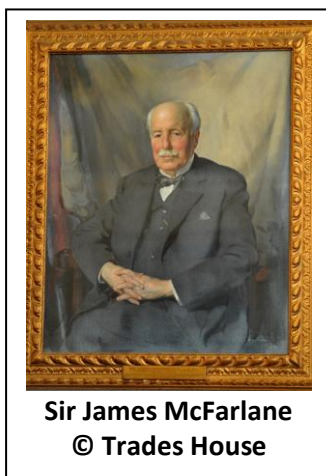
On the motion of the Deacon Convener, it was unanimously agreed to accept the gift and to thank Ex-Convener McLennan for his gift.<sup>63</sup>

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1933, the Buildings committee agreed to purchase of a marble stand with brass plate for the "McLennan Bust," exactly the same as the Maclean Bust, so that both may be placed in the niches on the main staircase.<sup>64</sup>

### **Portrait of Ex-Convener William Beattie**

Mrs Beattie, the wife of the deceased Ex Convener William Beattie, offered to the House a portrait by Maurice Greiffenhagen, which had been completed in 1918, the year before Mr. Beattie died. The Platform Committee at a meeting in August 1951 agreed to accept the portrait, but informed her that due to lack of space in the Hall, it would be stored in the meantime in the Halls Building.<sup>65</sup>

### **Portrait of Sir James Macfarlane**



The solicitors acting on behalf of Sir James Macfarlane's trustees offered to donate to the House a portrait of him by James Gunn. The offer of the gift was enthusiastically accepted by the House members in February 1974.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1939.

<sup>62</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 21<sup>st</sup> October 1938.

<sup>63</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 29<sup>th</sup> February 1928.

<sup>64</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1933.

<sup>65</sup> Minutes of the Platform Committee of the Trades House, 9<sup>th</sup> August 1951.

<sup>66</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 13<sup>th</sup> February 1974.

## CHAPTER 5

# DONATIONS OF ARTEFACTS TO THE HOUSE

### Donation of a Bell for use by the Deacon Convener



In 1902 Ex Deacon J. Miller Reid of the Incorporation of **Fleshers** donated a Bell for the use of the Deacon Convener at House Meetings.

The bell, which consists entirely of brass, was designed and manufactured by Deacon Reid. The gong of the bell has engraved round it the Coats of Arms of the Trades' House and of the Fourteen Incorporations, and also the following inscription:-

"Made and presented to the Trades' House of Glasgow by John Miller Reid, Ex-Deacon of the Incorporation of **Fleshers**, in commemoration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward, 26th June, 1902."

The pedestal of the bell is hexagonal, and on each side is engraved the Coats of Arms of the following six Institutions, with which the Trades' House is closely connected:- Hutchesons' Hospital, the Technical College, the School of Art, the Clyde Trust, the University, and the Cathedral.

The Deacon-Convener thanked Ex-Deacon Reid for his handsome and useful gift, and Mr. Reid briefly replied.<sup>67</sup>

### Donation of a Mace to the House

In 1928 the Master Court and certain Past Deacons of the Incorporation of **Masons** intimated that they wished to present a Mace to the House.<sup>68</sup>

In May 1928, Deacon George Munro, on behalf of the Members of the Master Court and Deacons of Masons and Past Deacons of the Incorporation of Masons, presented to the House a Mace for use at general meetings and for ceremonial occasions, to mark their appreciation of the honour conferred on his Incorporation by the election of Past Deacon John Train as Deacon-Convener of the Trades. He recalled that while the Mace was now being formally presented to the House it had been used for the first time at the admission of His Royal Highness, Prince George, and he expressed the hope that with its acceptance the grace and dignity which had hitherto attended the meetings of the House would be enhanced.



<sup>67</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 25<sup>th</sup> September 1902.

<sup>68</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 29<sup>th</sup> February 1928.



In presenting the Mace, Deacon Munro added :-

"This Mace, which has been carved from a log of walnut, dredged from below the site of the south pier of the King George V. Bridge, has been designed and carried out by Mr. Walter Gilbert.

"The idea underlying the design is to emphasise the spirit which guides the House, and the connection of the House with the City.

"On the head of the Mace on the one side is a figure symbolising Brotherhood, and on the other side is the figure of St. Mungo. Below those figures on the shaft of the Mace are blazoned the Coats of Arms of the fourteen Crafts linked together at the sides by links of a chain, in this way marking their inter-connection through the House. The termination of the shaft is the Glasgow Fish.

"The whole is suggestive of the work carried out by the Trades House."<sup>69</sup>

### **Donation of Gavel**

In 1915 the Late Collector presented the House with an Oak Gavel.

The Gavel is designed in the form of a mason's "mell". On the top of the handle is a cast silver figure of St. Kentigern, the patron saint of Glasgow. Round the body of the Gavel is an enrichment of Celtic ornament, closed in top and bottom with engraved bands of silver, bearing the following- :- " This is the Gavel of the Trades House of Glasgow," and is made from oak from the roof of Glasgow Cathedral."



On the bottom in silver is the Coat of Arms of the Trades House. The oak has been waxed, which gives it a slightly dark colour. The Gavel was carved out by Alexander Proudfoot, sculptor, and was presented by Deacon Convener Beattie.

The Collector accepted these gifts on behalf of the House.<sup>70</sup>

### **Old Almshouse Bell**

In 1937, the Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Town Clerk that the old Almshouse Bell, presented to the Blind Asylum by the House in 1838, would (now that the Asylum is demolished) be returned to the House on application to Mr. Eggleton, Director of the Art Galleries. The Clerk was instructed to arrange with Mr. Eggleton for delivery of the Bell to his office.<sup>71</sup>

At the next meeting of the Building Committee, the Deacon Convener commented on the Almshouse Bell indicating that the Bell had originally hung in the Old Almshouse, and had been tolled on the death of craftsmen. In the year 1837 it had been presented to the Blind Asylum. Many years later it was presented to Late Deacon Stoddart, of the Skinners who was then the manager of the Blind Asylum, and then to the Peoples Palace. It was later moved to the Art Galleries where it had been stored.

<sup>69</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 7<sup>th</sup> May 1928.

<sup>70</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1915.

<sup>71</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House 1<sup>st</sup> December 1937.

When the ground and buildings of the Blind Asylum was purchased by the Royal Infirmary, it had been arranged that the Bell would be handed back to the Trades House, but when the Infirmary obtained possession they found that the ancient bell was no longer there, and some difficulty had been experienced in tracing it.

Negotiations had taken place with the appropriate committee of Glasgow Corporation and this committee had agreed that the Bell should be handed over to the House.<sup>72</sup>

### **Gift of four pewter plates**



Pewter Plate  
© Trades House of Glasgow

In November 1963, the Trades House accepted a gift of four antique pewter plates which had belonged to the father of Mrs Mary R. Henderson of Largs, daughter of the late Ex Deacon John Henderson, who was Deacon of the Barbers in 1900, and Preses of the Grand Antiquity Society in 1897.<sup>73</sup>

### **Fifteen Silver Spoons**

In September 1970 a letter was presented to the House from Mr. James McGregor, of Dunfermline, offering a set of fifteen silver coffee spoons with the Trades House and Incorporations' Crests on them. It was decided that the Platform would recommend their purchase at the asking price of £35.<sup>74</sup>



Silver Coffee Spoons  
© Trades House

### **Presentation of 15 silver Goblets by Lord Forte**

Lord Forte presented the Trades House with 15 silver goblets fashioned by students at the Art School, each representing the House and the Crafts. The Deacon Convener thanked him for his generosity and invited the Visitor of the Maltmen to present Lord Forte with his Burgess Ticket and the scroll regarding his honorary membership of the Incorporation of Maltmen.<sup>75</sup> At a later meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1986, the Trades House agreed that Lord Forte's goblets should be used whenever possible at functions where the Deacon Convener and the Deacons and Visitor were in attendance in official capacities.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Minutes of the Buildings Committee of the Trades House 17<sup>th</sup> December 1937.

<sup>73</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 5<sup>th</sup> November 1963.

<sup>74</sup> Minutes of the Platform Committee of the Trades House of Glasgow 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1970.

<sup>75</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1986.

<sup>76</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1986.

## Gift of Magnificent Wooden Bench



In 1937, the Clerk reported that Ex Deacon Alexander Walker, C.B.E. D.L., had offered to present a wooden bench about ten feet long, beautifully carved by Belgian refugees during the First World War, if the Buildings Committee thought fit to accept it. The Committee recommend that the Clerk should make arrangements with Deacon Walker to have the bench delivered at the Trades Hall at the expense of the Halls Committee and there examined so that the Committee could decide

whether it would be suitable to accept the gift.<sup>77</sup>

At the next meeting of the Building Committee, the committee unanimously agreed to accept the gift and thanked the donor for his generous gift.<sup>78</sup>

In 1938 a letter was received from Mr Alexander Walker C.B.E. suggesting a draft inscription be placed on the oak bench. The matter was continued for further discussion.<sup>79</sup>

The Buildings Committee considered the suggestion of an inscription for the oak benches in May 1938. The committee agreed to a shorter inscription to be inscribed in two silver or stainless steel plates to be affixed to the back of the bench, one on each centre division.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House 1<sup>st</sup> December 1937.

<sup>78</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House 17<sup>th</sup> December 1937.

<sup>79</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House 14<sup>th</sup> March 1938.

<sup>80</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House 18<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

## CHAPTER 6

# TROPHIES GIFTED TO THE HOUSE

### Bowling Trophy Gifted



In 1897, Collector Macfarlane asked the Deacon Convener to accept on behalf of the House a gift from the Platform of the year 1896-97, a Silver Bowling Trophy, the purpose of the trophy was to encourage and maintain amongst the Incorporations an annual Bowling Competition.

Late Deacon Convener Copland from the floor of the House expressed the thanks of the members to the Platform for the handsome presentation.

The Deacon Convener moved a special vote of thanks to Messrs. R. & W. Sorley for the great care they had taken, and the artistic skill they had shown in producing the trophy.<sup>81</sup>

### Golf Shield Donated

In 1906 Collector Macdonald presented the Deacon Convener a Silver Golf Shield from the Platform of the year 1905-06. The purpose of the shield was to encourage an annual golf competition amongst the Incorporations and that the competition would continue to be a very cordial one as it had always been.

The Deacon Convener accepted the shield on behalf of the House noting that the House would of course retain power to make or approve of all regulations for its preservation and custody.



Ex Convener Goldie moved that the House formally approve the Rules of the Annual Golf Game as drawn up by a special committee. This was unanimously agreed to and it was resolved that any alteration made in these Rules from time to time should be intimated to the House for approval.

On the motion of Deacon Lithgow, the Meeting accorded a hearty vote of Vote of thanks to the Donors for their kindness in presenting to the House such a beautiful gift, which he could assure them was very highly appreciated by the Members.

Visitor R. J. Bennett then moved a special vote of thanks to Mr. Peter Rolland for the artistic skill he had shown in the designing and engraving of the Shield, and the great care he had bestowed on the production of the Trophy.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>81</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 11<sup>th</sup> June 1897.

## CHAPTER 7

# GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

### **Divine Service at Glasgow Cathedral**

In 1899 the Deacon Convener proposed the revival of the ancient custom of attending Divine Service in the Cathedral annually on some suitable day after the election of the Deacon Convener. The House unanimously agreed and the Platform arranged the first attendance.<sup>83</sup>

### **Restoration of Old Pulpit in Glasgow Cathedral**

In 1905 an Old Pulpit was restored as a physical link between the Trades House and the Cathedral. The following is an extract from the minute of the Trades House.

## **Glasgow Cathedral Restoration of Old Pulpit**

Within the Cathedral, Glasgow, on Sunday, 29th October, 1905, in the presence of the High Kirk Session, the Deacon-Convener, the Collector and Members of the Trades' House of Glasgow, the Rev. Dr. Muir unveiled, after restoration, what is believed to have been the first pulpit used for Presbyterian worship in the Crypt of the Cathedral.

It has been restored as nearly as possible to its original form by Mr. James Macfarlane in compliment to Dr. Muir, and as a memorial of the link which has been re-established between the Trades' House and the Cathedral. In order to express these two ideas the following inscription has been put upon it:-

**This pulpit, used in the Cathedral, Circa 1596, was  
restored by an Ex-deacon Convener of the Trades  
of Glasgow to mark the first decade of the ministry of  
the Rev., Pearson McAdam Muir D.D. 1905-1906."**

The restoration has been carried out under the supervision of Mr. John Honeyman, Architect, Glasgow, assisted by Mr. Andrew Alston, of Messrs. Cumming & Smith, Ltd., Glasgow.

The history of the discovery of this pulpit may be interesting to many.

On 24th November, 1904, the Clerk of the Glasgow Parish Council (Mr. Motion) informed the Kirk-Session that the Parish Authorities were vacating their premises in Parliamentary Road, and disposing of many articles of furniture which they would not now require, among others a very old pulpit which had been used for conducting divine service. As they understood the pulpit had come originally from the Cathedral, they were prepared to hand it back if such was found to be the case.

On consulting the Church Records there was evidence to show that four pulpits had been in the Cathedral at one time-One in the Inner Church, one in the Vestry, one in the Nave, and one in the Crypt.

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<sup>82</sup> Minutes of the Trades House 4<sup>th</sup> May 1906.

<sup>83</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 29<sup>th</sup> September 1899.

After further search it was also ascertained that one of the pulpits alluded to was in Wellpark Parish Church, one had gone to the late Dr. Graham's Church (in Barrack Street), since taken down to make room for railway extensions, one was at present in the Inner High Church, and the fourth was the one now under review.

Not content with this evidence, Mr. John Honeyman, Architect, a very high authority on the history of the Cathedral, was asked to examine the pulpit and report.

The following extract from his letter gives the substance of his conclusions on the subject:-

*"I have examined the old pulpit with great interest. I have no doubt it was made about the end of the 16th Century - that is about the time when the Lower Church was first occupied by a Protestant Congregation subsequently to 1595."*

Besides reporting as above, Mr. Honeyman confirmed his opinion by going to Edinburgh, where he discovered in the Antiquarian Museum a pulpit belonging to the same period showing many points of resemblance.

The Parish Council, satisfied with the representations made to them, agreed at once to present the pulpit to the Kirk-Session, who undertook to see to its preservation.

To Dr. Muir and the Kirk Session the restoration of such an old memorial of the Cathedral has given special pleasure, and they feel honoured by being associated with the Trades' House of Glasgow in such a historical event.

JOHN HENDERSON, *Session Clerk*

29<sup>th</sup> October 1905.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 7<sup>th</sup> November 1905.

## **CHAPTER 8**

# **RECORDING COATS OF ARMS OF THE TRADES HOUSE AND THE INCORPORATIONS**

### **Trades House Flag**

In May 1911 the Clerk of the Trades House read a reply from Sir James Balfour Paul, LL.D., Lyon King of Arms, dated 26th April, 1911 in answer to an enquiry from the House concerning whether the House Flag or the Union Jack was the proper flag for the central flagstaff on Coronation Day. The letter indicated that if the House and the Incorporated Trades had ever recorded their coats of arms there would be no objection to flying the House Flag, but if not the flag of the Union should be flown.

Following upon the letter, the Meeting took into consideration the advisability of having the coats of arms recorded now at the Lyon Office in Edinburgh, and on the motion of the Convener the matter was remitted to the Public Business and Finance Committees to consider as to the cost of recording, and report to next meeting.<sup>85</sup>

### **Cost of recording House Coat of Arms**

In June 1911 the Committee on Finance and Public Business met and discussed the advisability and cost of recording the Coat of Arms of the House at the Lyon Office in Edinburgh. The Clerk read a letter from the Lord Lyon's Office which indicated the cost of a Grant of Arms for the House would amount to about £44, consisting entirely of fees payable to H.M. Exchequer through the Lyon Office. The procedure would be by Petition in the Court of the Lord Lyon, and the Petition would be signed by the Deacon Convener and Collector on behalf of the House.

It was agreed to proceed with the recording of the House Coat of Arms and that the Clerk should write to the other Incorporations so that they could consider the advisability of recording their own Coat of Arms.<sup>86</sup>

### **Proposal to Display House Coat of Arms in Cathedral**

In 1902 a letter was received from Late Deacon Convener McLennan suggesting some endeavours be made to have the Coats of Arms of the House and the Incorporations emblazoned on the roof or other decorated part of the renewed portion of the Cathedral. The Clerk explained that a request had been received from the H.M. Office of works for a copy of the House Coat of Arms as recently registered at the Lyon Office.

The Clerk also stated that the Cathedral was a State building and that no Coats of Arms would appear on the building unless they had been registered at the Lyon Office. He also reported that he believed that the Merchants House and the Faculty of Procurators were now registering their Arms chiefly for this reason. None of the Incorporations, however, had their Arms registered, and he thought it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to arrange with H.M. Office of Works for these Arms appearing in the scheme of decoration. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should

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<sup>85</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 5<sup>th</sup> May 1911.

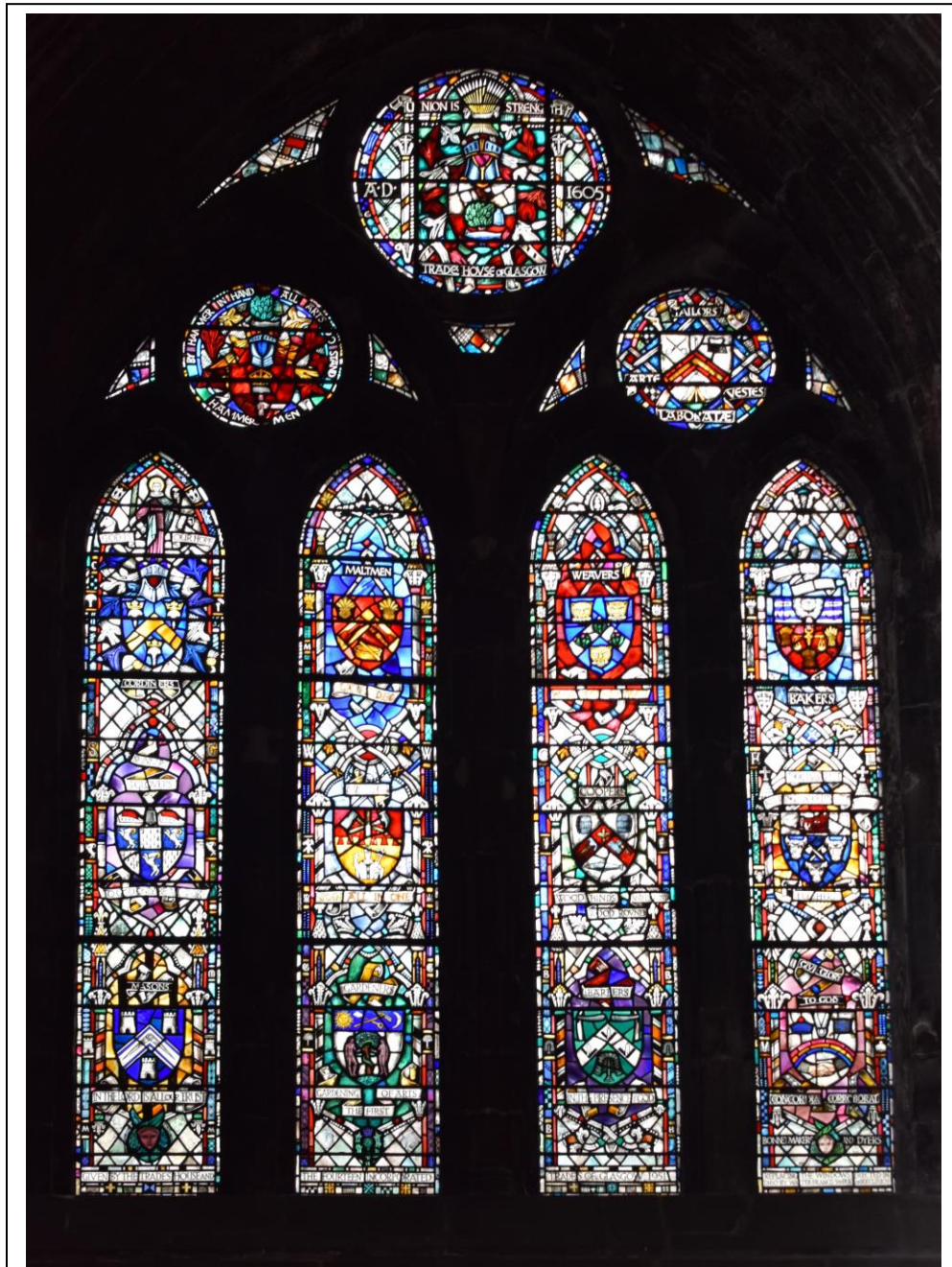
<sup>86</sup> Minutes the Committees on Finance and Public Business of the Trades House of Glasgow, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1911.



write to the Incorporations advising them of the advisability to have their Coats of Arms registered.<sup>87</sup>

### **Stained Glass Window in the Cathedral**

In 1951 the Trades House and fourteen Incorporation presented to the Cathedral a wonderful stained glass window. The window is the second window to the right on passing through the screen. The Incorporation Arms are displayed on the pews adjacent to the window.



**Trades House Window in Glasgow Cathedral**  
© Trades House of Glasgow

<sup>87</sup> Minutes the Committees on Public Business committee of the Trades House of Glasgow, 24<sup>th</sup> April 1912.



## House and Incorporations Arms on the Pews in Glasgow Cathedral

In February 1957, the Platform Committee discussed the pews that had been presented to Glasgow Cathedral by the Trades House and a number of Incorporations. The pews had been installed and arrangements were underway to have the Coats of Arms of the House and the Incorporations concerned depicted on carved tintured plaques. It was proposed by the Architect of the Ministry of works to only depict the Crest of the Incorporations and to omit the armorial bearings on the escutcheon. The Platform agreed to meet with the Architect and inform him that the view of the meeting was to have full Coat of Arms depicted.<sup>88</sup> In February 1957, the Finance Committee approved the payment of £260 to the Society of Friends of Glasgow Cathedral for the four new pews in the Cathedral for which the Finance Committee had agreed to be responsible for at a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1953.<sup>89</sup>



In May 1957, A letter was read at the Platform Committee which intimated that Lord Bisland and the Joint Committee had considered the question of depicting the helmet and arrows of the House Coat of Arms on the new pews gifted to Glasgow Cathedral and on the advice of the Lord Lyon compromised to the extent that the motto would be carved on the end of the pews immediately above the shield bearing the Coat of Arms, thus omitting all surrounding supporters and crests. The meeting agreed to this compromise.<sup>90</sup> Sadly the thousands of people visiting the Cathedral often do not recognise the arms of the Incorporations or the Trades House and it is a real pity that the name of the Trades House and Incorporations are not more prominently displayed on or adjacent to their arms.

Bakers	Barbers	Bonnmakers	Coopers	Cordiners

<sup>88</sup> Minutes of the Platform, Deacons and Visitor of the Trades House of Glasgow, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1957.

<sup>89</sup> Minutes of the Finance Committee of the Trades House of Glasgow, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1957.

<sup>90</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House of Glasgow, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1957.

## CHAPTER 9

# THE TRADES HALLS

### Proposed Restricted Use of the Halls

In February 1933 the Building Committee proposed restricting who would be allowed to hire the Trades Halls. It seems a strange approach, especially considering that we now need to rent out the Halls at every opportunity to make them financially viable. The proposal which was agreed to is printed below:

1. *"In the first place the opinion shared by a great many Guild Brethren that the Halls at some time in the near future should be reserved chiefly if not solely for the purposes of the House and the Fourteen Incorporations.*
2. *Secondly, that no lets to outsiders for dances and balls and other social meetings should be allowed unless in the case of lessees who have some old standing call or other special reason for desiring to occupy the Halls for social and other occasions.*

*The Halls could at all times be let for meetings during the day. The idea is rather that we should discourage letting the Halls in the evenings for dancing classes, club subscription dances, marriages, and such like, and that in the evenings the Halls should only be occupied for social purposes by the House, the Incorporations and Institutions or Societies of a standard similar to our own.*

3. *Thirdly, that the final improvement of the Halls in order to make them one complete unit should be considered now by the Platform and the Hall Buildings Committee, the scheme to embrace the taking in of the restaurant and the tobacco shop and altering these in a fashion that would enable us and our approved lessees, when making use of the kitchen and the service arrangements, to confine these parts wholly to the north portion of the building and thus make it practicable (which is not now the case) for the Deacon-Convener's Room, the Ladies' Room, and the Small Committee Room to be used freely on all social occasions without any inconvenience or obstruction being caused by the work of purveyors, waiters, and restaurateurs' staff.*

*Alternatively, some think the same result could be achieved by keeping the restaurant premises as they are and only taking use of the tobacconist shop.*

*These, roughly, are the ideas in our minds at present, but they should not be put into shape until the Incorporations have been consulted for their views. The Committee could thereafter have a scheme prepared on lines generally indicated by the Crafts and submit it to the House and the Crafts for their approval.<sup>91</sup>*

### The Name of the Trades Hall

In 1938 some debate took place on the name of the Trades Hall and Late Convener Robertson drew attention to the Committee of the variations used at Craft Dinners, on menus and invitations. It was described by its original name of "The Trades Hall," but in Craft functions there were considerable variations, such as "The Crafts

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<sup>91</sup> Minutes of the Trades House, 24<sup>th</sup> February 1933.

House," "The Hall of the Crafts Guildry," "The Crafts Guild Hall," "The Crafts Guild House." After some discussion it appeared that while the representatives of the Crafts were desirous that the name should be uniform, there was a difference of opinion as to what should be adopted as the proper title, and it was agreed to remit the matter to the Platform for consideration and that after their suggestions had been considered by the House, a circular should be sent to the Incorporations asking for their views on the subject.<sup>92</sup>

At a meeting of the Platform Committee of the House in February 1938, the meeting recommended that the term "The Trades House" should be used on all invitations and menus etc. When a room is being used then that should be referred to as: "The Hall of the Trades House:" for the Grand Hall; "The Saloon of the Trades House" for the Saloon etc.<sup>93</sup>

### **Plans of the Hall to be made in anticipation of applying for a dancing license.**

In March 1944 the Platform Committee agreed to obtain a set of plans of the Hall Buildings to the specification of the Master of Works in connection with the granting of a licence for dancing and other occasions. The plans were to be put submitted before the application which would be applied for in May of that year.<sup>94</sup> On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1944 the Dancing License was renewed for the ensuing year.<sup>95</sup>

### **Masonic Bookcase**

On 9<sup>th</sup> March 1945, the Buildings Committee received a request from the Trades House Masonic Lodge to install a bookcase at the foot of the Saloon Stairs. It was agreed to permit the installation as long as the contents were obscured.<sup>96</sup>

### **Upper Premises in Hall**

With the danger of air raids over due to the termination of the war, the blocks above the Saloon were removed. The other upper rooms were now in a position where they could be made habitable and let, but as there were no floorboards in the upper area and there was poor natural light and it was classed as uninhabitable, the meeting decided to remit further investigation and decisions to a Sub-Committee.<sup>97</sup>

### **Disenfranchising Deans of Guild and Deacon Conveners Sitting of Councils**

In February 1965 the House met to discuss the amendment of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1947 where Deans of Guilds and Deacon Conveners would no longer have a vote in local Councils in Scotland. Initially the House had opposed Bill No 1 which would have meant that the Deacon Convener would neither have a vote nor sit in Council meetings. This was amended by Bill No 2 where they would have no vote but be allowed to sit in on Council meetings. The House agreed not to oppose Bill No 2.<sup>98 99</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Minutes of the Platform, Deacons and Visitor of the Trades House, 12<sup>th</sup> January 1938.

<sup>93</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1938.

<sup>94</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House, 14<sup>th</sup> March 1944.

<sup>95</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 5<sup>th</sup> May 1944.

<sup>96</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1945.

<sup>97</sup> Minutes of the Building Committee of the Trades House, 15<sup>th</sup> June 1945.

<sup>98</sup> Minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Trades House on Public Business 11 February 1965.

<sup>99</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 26<sup>th</sup> February 1965.

## **House Archives**

At a meeting of the Trades House on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1966, it was agreed to accept the City Archivist's invitation to deposit the House archives with the City as it had been made clear that no change in ownership was proposed. The Clerk was asked to advise the Incorporations of the facilities offered.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow 26<sup>th</sup> May 1966.

# CHAPTER 10

## LADY MEMBERS

### **First Proposal to allow Lady Members**

The Incorporation of Barbers raised the question of the Sex Discrimination Act 1976 at a House meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1976 and how this would affect new membership of the Incorporations and they suggested that a uniform approach would be desirable. The Clerk of the House pointed out that there were two questions raised by the letter, firstly whether the act had any effect on the present sex discrimination applied by the Incorporations and, secondly, whether such discrimination was desirable or not. It was agreed that the House should seek guidance on the legal question and that this should be paid for by the House.<sup>101</sup> The Clerk of the House circulated copies of the opinion of Council on the S0065 Discrimination Bill 1975 to the Clerks.<sup>102</sup>

Ex Deacon Convener J. H. Calder MacLeod could not have been too happy with the way the House and Incorporations were handling the idea of lady members as his letter to the Clerk was read to the House on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1977 concerning the matter. Deacon Convener Robert C. Smith pointed out that the question whether to admit female members to the Incorporations was not strictly a matter for the House, but rather a domestic matter for each individual craft.<sup>103</sup>

In 1980, the Clerk reported to a meeting of the Platform that he had received eight replies to his letter asking the Incorporations views on the admission of lady members. The meeting agreed that he should circulate the letter again to the Clerks of the Incorporations who had not replied, to enable them to put the matter before the House in November.<sup>104</sup>

In January 1981, the question of lady members arose once again, this was caused by the Incorporation of Fleshers proposal to alter its rules to admit lady members. The reason for refusal were laid out by the Clerk and were as follows:

### **Note for the Bye-Laws Committee by the Clerk**

Counsel was asked about the applicability of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. In his opinion (16.9.76) he said, in effect, “if a craft properly exercises its discretion in regard to acceptance of new members, the Act is not applicable.” All Clerks responding to the Clerk’s circular to the Crafts (18.6.80) have stated that their Master Courts do exercise such discretion and accordingly consideration of the issues can now proceed on the basis that the Act is inapplicable (except in the very limited area of female apprentice entrants.)

Accordingly the Committee should proceed to the answers given by the crafts to the question posed to them in these terms:-

“(If the Master Court considers that there is at present a genuine exercise of discretion in regard to admission) then recognising that a decision to admit female

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<sup>101</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1976.

<sup>102</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 14<sup>th</sup> October 1975.

<sup>103</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 9<sup>th</sup> February 1977.

<sup>104</sup> Minutes of the Platform Committee of the Trades House of Glasgow 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1980.

members would require a unanimous agreement by all fourteen crafts to change the “associative principles” of the House, and recognising that failure to reach agreement is undesirable, would then Master Court agree to a change in the associative principles to admit the admission of female members?”

The answers to this question were:-

“Yes” - Tailors, Weavers, Wrights, Fleshers, Barbers

“No” - Hammermen, Bakers, Skinners, Masons, Gardeners

“No but would not go against the majority” - Bonnetmakers and Dyers

In my view the committee should recommend to the House to refuse the request of the Fleshers for approval of their proposed alteration to their Rules (to admit females) on the grounds that such a proposed change would involve a departure from an associative Principle (as the same as identified in the Clerks’ Opinion of 1910) and would accordingly, following that opinion, would only be possible with Parliamentary authority or, at least, with the unanimous consent of the fourteen Crafts and the House which consent is lacking.

Any further action on the part of the Fleshers to implement their proposed alteration is a matter for that craft alone but of course could involve the House who might have a duty to seek to be heard on behalf of those crafts who do not favour such a change and to take action as may then be advised.

T. Norman Biggart  
30<sup>th</sup> December 1980”

In 1985, the question of female members was again raised. The opinion of J. P. H. Mackay, Q.C. (Now Lord Mackay of Clashfern) was taken. All crafts had received a copy of the Memorial and Opinion and the Clerk would put together excerpts from the relative minutes for the Platform and the Craft where the problem arose.<sup>105</sup>

A motion was laid before the House on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1986 concerning the Incorporations being allowed to have female members, this was a permissive proposal and would not force any Incorporation to allow female members if they did not wish to do so. The motion was proposed by Deacon Andrew Primrose of the Hammermen. It was agreed that the motion should be referred to the Master Courts for their consideration.<sup>106</sup> In September the House met again and voted on the motion of Deacon Primrose and the show of hands indicated that 25 were for the motion; 13 against and 3 abstentions. The Deacons and Visitor then reported on the position of their Incorporations as regards to the motion:

Incorporation of Hammermen	- In favour of permitting lady members
Incorporation of Tailors	- In favour of permitting lady members
Incorporation of Cordiners	- Against, but would not oppose any other Craft wishing to adopt the change.
Incorporation of Maltmen	- Would not oppose any other Craft wishing to adopt the change
Incorporation of Weavers	- No firm decision made but would not oppose any other Craft wishing to adopt the change

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<sup>105</sup> Minutes of the Platform Committee of the Trades House of Glasgow 22 November 1985.

<sup>106</sup> Meeting of the Trades House of Glasgow, 7<sup>th</sup> May 1986.

Incorporation of Bakers	- In favour of permitting lady members (By a majority)
Incorporation of Skinners	- No decision had yet been made
Incorporation of Wrights	- Against, but would not oppose any other Craft wishing to adopt the change
Incorporation of Coopers	- The Deacon indicated that he would prefer to await the 9 <sup>th</sup> October meeting before reporting on behalf of his Craft
Incorporation of Fleshers	- Would not oppose any other Craft wishing to adopt the change
Incorporation of Masons	- Against the proposal
Incorporation of Gardeners	- Against, but would not oppose any other Craft wishing to adopt the change
Incorporation of Barbers	- Against the proposal. The Barbers felt that this should be a matter for the Trades House and not for the individual Crafts
Incorporation of Bonnetmakers and Dyers. <sup>107</sup>	- Against the proposal

In January 1988 the question of female members once more became a topic of discussion and at a meeting of the Deacon Convener, Collector with the Deacons and Visitors of the fourteen Incorporations, the Clerk passed round a note on the admission of female entrants and the Deacon Convener asked the Deacons and Visitor present to “test the water” at their Master Courts on the possibility of the Master Courts passing a permissive resolution enabling other crafts to admit women if there should be unanimity on this point by all of the Incorporations. The Deacon of the Coopers pointed out that the present constitutional position is meanwhile is a full answer to any women seeking entry and the Deacon Convener confirmed that without unanimity amongst the Crafts the House would be under a duty to object to any proposals which allowed female entry except through apprenticeship.<sup>108</sup>

Seven years later, in November 1995, the Hammermen and Ex Deacon Convener J. Percival Agnew wrote to the Deacon Convener concerning the admission of women into the Crafts. The Clerk advised that he had sought informal legal advice from senior counsel. When this had been received, the Hammermen were going to be asked to make a proposal for the other Crafts to consider.<sup>109</sup> At a meeting of the Platform on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1996, it was reported that Senior Counsel’s first impressions were that nothing had changed since Lord Mackay gave his Opinion, which was that unless all Incorporations agreed that other Crafts can admit women, none could do so.<sup>110</sup>

<sup>107</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 24<sup>th</sup> September 1986.

<sup>108</sup> Minutes of a meeting with the Deacon Convener, Collector and the Deacons and Visitors 13<sup>th</sup> January 1988.

<sup>109</sup> Minutes of the Trades House of Glasgow, 1<sup>st</sup> November 1995.

<sup>110</sup> Minutes of the Platform of the Trades House of Glasgow, 7<sup>th</sup> February 1996.