



Trades House of Glasgow

Heritage Newsletter No 1

March 2023



Welcome to our first Heritage Newsletter. We are passionate about the history and the care of the objects stored in the Trades House and are keen to promote our amazing collections.

Who are we?

The Heritage Honorary Team comprises the Trades House Archivist, Curator, Librarian and Tour Guide Organiser. The holders of these positions are:

- a. Honorary Archivist: Craig R Bryce
- b. Honorary Curator: **Position vacant**
- c. Honorary Librarian: Carol Parry
- d. Tour Guide Organiser: Jan Dobson

The above all form part of the Heritage Committee which is chaired by ex Deacon Convener Ruth Maltman.

There are also a number of supporters who make up the team and these are:

Ex Deacon Convener Hamish Brodie; Ex Deacon Convener David Dobson;
Bob McDonald; Stana Barr and Abigail Watson

ARCHIVES

New Acquisitions

The Archives is always eager to accept new items and recently we were given a series of pages from the Hammermen of Ayr's Minute Books from circa 1650/1675. These precious documents had been translated from old Scots to modern day language and can be found at the following link on the Trades House Virtual Museum:

http://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/hammermen_of_ayr_of_minutes.pdf

Another item that we have received is a series of framed photographs of Chairmen of the Fleshers Association in Glasgow. The above material is directly related to the Crafts in the Trades House, but they are of interest to members of the Incorporations in Glasgow.

The Archives and Library 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

Arrest book from Glasgow 20th October 1816 to 24th December 1816

The Arrest Book was transcribed by Stana Barr and her son Zac Barr with a little support from the archivist.

Glasgow was the first City to have a police force in the United Kingdom and in 1800 the Glasgow Police Act came into being. Robert Peels Police did not come into being until 1829. We are fortunate in having in the archives a book from the Old Glasgow Club detailing the arrests in Glasgow in 1816. As the Trades House used to Watch and Ward the City, we have a special interest in this book. The duties of the Police Force was rather different then and consisted of:

1. patrolling the streets to detect and prevent crimes during the day, the evenings and at night.
2. detecting house and shop breaking and theft by pocket picking.
3. searching for stolen goods and detecting reseters (receivers) of stolen goods.
4. gathering information on crimes, convicted persons and the public houses they frequent, recording it in a book for the purpose.
5. suppressing riots, squabbles, begging and singing songs.
6. apprehending vagabonds, vagrants, and disorderly persons.
7. controlling carts and carriages.

Some of the things that people were arrested for in 1816 will seem rather strange a frequent charge is for having a foul vent. This was a chimney on fire.

To access the book please use the following link:

http://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/criminal_reports_in_glasgow~_final_small.pdf



Trades House of Glasgow
Bowling Trophy
Presented 1897

Bowling Competition 1896 to 1930

One of the important functions of the archivist is to transcribe books of interest to the members of the Trades House and a recent transcription was that of the Minutes and Scores from the Trades House Bowling Competition ~ 1896 to 1930. This was probably the first competition, at least in modern times that the members of the House organised, and the transcription outlines how the Competition was started by Deacon Ninnian MacWhannel, after a game between the members of the Incorporation of Bakers and a rink of Fleshers.

Deacon Ninnian MacWhannel approached the Platform of the Trades House and through Deacon Convener Ramsay the Platform presented a handsome silver cup as a challenge trophy to be played for annually. (Please see image to the left).

The Minutes list the winners of the Trophy from 1896 to 1930 along with the scores of the winning team. To access the Minutes,

please use the following link:

http://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/minutes_of_the_bowling_competition_1896_to_1930.pdf

Disputes amongst the Crafts

If you are interested in disputes within your own Craft or with others, we could not recommend more highly the following link:

http://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/craft_disagreements~story.pdf This article covers disputes from 1610 to 1773 and gives an excellent insight into what disputes were taking place and how they were resolved and what punishments were handed out to the wrong doers. This is a treasure trove for those who have to give a speech at a Choosing Dinner or other such occasions.

LIBRARY

Favourite Books from the Library

One of the books we love to have out on show for visitors is Annan's *The Old Country Houses of the Old Glasgow Gentry*. The Trades House Library is fortunate enough to have both a first edition (published in 1870) and a second edition of this work (published 1878). Photographer Thomas Annan is perhaps more famous for his images of *The Old Closes and Streets of Glasgow*. This work, created between 1868 and 1871, shows the extreme poverty and overcrowding of buildings in Glasgow before they were cleared under the City Improvement Act of 1866. Annan's work, *The Old Country Houses*, captures buildings at the opposite social extreme – the mansions of the wealthy. Only 120 copies of the first edition of the work were produced and only 225 copies of the second edition. An image of each house is provided with a short history.

Included in the work is a picture and description of Kelvinbank House which was built around 1780. The house and lands comprising 12 acres stood on the north side of Sauchiehall Street, just west of Kelvingrove Street and was sold to the Trades House in 1846 for £19,640. By the time the first edition of *The Old Country Houses* was published, the house was in a derelict condition and some of the land laid out by the Trades House for new tenements. It was to be an excellent investment for the House. By 1878 the Trades House had realised £80,000.



Kelvinbank House

Our Library Holdings

A detailed list of all the books in the Trades House Library can be downloaded at <http://www.tradeshouselibrary.org>. Our library is a great resource for the history of the Trades House and its Crafts as well as the City of Glasgow. Many of the books are available in digitised format on the Trades House Library website.

Missing Issues of *The Craftsman*

Do you have past issues of *The Craftsman*? Stana Barr has been gathering together past copies with the intention of having one set in the Library and one in the Archives. We missing several issues and wonder if you might be able to fill some of the gaps. If you have any of the following issues and are willing to donate them to the Trades House Library and Archives please do let us know:

One issue required:

No 7 (1995) Spring
No 40 (2010) Winter/Spring
No 42 (2011) Winter/Spring
No 45 (2012) Nov
No 48 (2014) Nov
No 49 (2015) Aug
No 50 (2016) Mar
No 51 (2017) Feb

Two issues required of:

No 39 (2009) Summer/Autumn
No 41 (2010) Summer/Autumn
No 43 (2011) Summer/Autumn
No 44 (2012) Winter/Spring

Honorary Curator

We are currently seeking a new Honorary Curator to care for the many beautiful and historic items within the Trades House. Co-ordinating with the Archivist and Librarian, the role of the Curator includes: carrying out background research and cataloguing artefacts; ensuring items are stored and displayed in the best possible way; consulting with expert conservators on any items requiring conservation/repair, and assisting the Archivist and Librarian in the writing of articles for the website and Trades House publications. The role would be ideal for someone with a museum/heritage background.

For further information or if you wish to make a donation of a book or object connected to the Trades House, please contact us via the Trades House Office

at info@tradeshouse.org.uk

Telephone: 0141 553 1603

Tour Guide Training

On Tuesday 28th March 2023, the Trades House will be hosting another evening of Tour Guide Training and if you would wish to join the merry band of tour guides, please come along on the 28th at 6.30p.m. A name badge and a USB will be given to all participants. The USB will contain loads of information about the Trades Hall and initially you can join one of the more experienced tour guides until you feel comfortable to fly alone. To book a place, please email: jackie.mullen@tradeshouse.org.uk.