



# Trades House of Glasgow

## Heritage Newsletter No 3

### September 2023



Welcome to our third Heritage Newsletter. We received some feedback from the last newsletter where there was a request for more photographs about the Trades House and people connected with it. This request has been actioned and hopefully the photographs in this edition will prove popular with our readers.

#### ARCHIVES

##### Trades House Outings

In the past the Trades House used to go on outings to various locations around Scotland, details of these can be found in the Minutes of the Trades House at: <https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/trades-house.html>. The outings were not small affairs with a few people attending, on the contrary, wives were prominent in the photographs as was Trades House Clerk, Harry Lumsden who appears in quite a few of the photographs along with the House officer in his uniform with top hat, a rather dashing chappie.



Deacon Convener Andrew MacDonald is sitting left of centre and Collector Andrew Graham Service is to his right plus one.

The House Officer is standing to the left with his top hat.

Plans are in place to have this, and other photographs hung in the downstairs cloakroom areas. To see other photographs of outings, please visit:

<https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/trades-house-outings.html>

##### Scottish Socialist Sunday School Minute from 1906 to 1911

One of our Archivists, Abigail Watson has recently transcribed the above book which was given to the Archives by the Old Glasgow Club. This is a fascinating book and gives an insight to the Scottish Sunday School movement of the time. Many of their

meetings started with a hymn and ended with the singing of "The Red Flag". The way in which religious teaching and the socialist beliefs intermingled is interesting and can be downloaded at:

[https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/scottish\\_socialist\\_sun\\_day\\_schools\\_1906-1911.pdf](https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/scottish_socialist_sun_day_schools_1906-1911.pdf)

### **Grand Antiquity Society**

This ancient Society which was founded on 16th November 1756, by a number of persons, all Burgesses, for the purpose of uniting the old Burgess families of the City, preserving the continuity of Burgess-ship amongst them from generation to generation, and of affording relief to each other and their widows. The Society is still in existence and those who hold a Burgess ticket and one from their parents or in-laws, plus one from their grandparents or grand-in-laws can become a member. The Society, by ancient tradition still holds its AGM in the Glasgow Cathedral Session House each year.

Prior to the AGM, the members present enjoy having their photographs taken and this has been the practice for over a century. Below is one of the early photographs of the members in front of the Cathedral. If you look at the centre of the rear row, you may note that Harry Lumsden is also at this event as he was the Clerk to the Grand Antiquity Society, along with other organisations.



The Grand Antiquity Society of Glasgow  
Annual Meeting in Glasgow Cathedral  
1st June 1923  
Preses: George H. Laird  
Treasurer: William McCall

To see more photographs of the Grand Antiquity Society members, please visit: <https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/grand-antiquity-society-artefacts.html>. Anyone who has three consecutive Burgess tickets and wishes to join the Society should contact their Clerk Tom Monteith at: [tom@monteithsolicitors.com](mailto:tom@monteithsolicitors.com) .

To find out if you have ancestors who were members of the Grand Antiquity Society, please visit: <https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/grand-antiquity-society-members-to-1942-3.html> where you will be able to check members from the past, alternatively please contact the Archivist, Craig R Bryce at [craig\\_bryce@hotmail.com](mailto:craig_bryce@hotmail.com) who will be happy to check all records for you.

## Genealogy Research

Anyone doing their family tree and wishes help to check family members connected to any of the Incorporations, please contact the Archivist, Craig R Bryce at [craig\\_bryce@hotmail.com](mailto:craig_bryce@hotmail.com) who will be happy to check all records for you.

## Trades House Regimental Flags

The Trades House has a long tradition of connections to the military. As Burgesses we formed an army in time of war, and this can be seen at the Battle of Langside when we supported the Prince Regent against Mary Queen of Scots. We also helped to fund a Regiment that fought in the American War of Independence and after that when the fear of invasion from the French was strong, we formed a Battalion to defend the City and surroundings. During this time, we paid for the clothing and weapons of the Battalion and presented Colours to them. These colours are now about 225 years old and in need of repair. The Heritage Committee are seeking funding from various charities to bring these vitally important historical flags back to a condition where they can be displayed.



Regimental Colour of the Trades House Battalion



Regimental Colour of the Trades House Battalion



King's Colour of the Trades House Battalion

For more information on the Trades House Battalion, please visit:

<https://www.tradeshousemuseum.org/trades-house-military-heritage.html> and for

those interested in the connections the Trades House and Incorporations have had with the military, please visit:

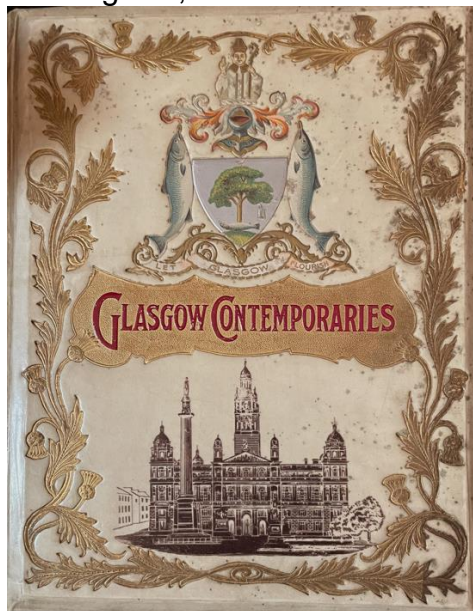
[https://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/final\\_trades\\_house\\_military\\_story.pdf](https://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/final_trades_house_military_story.pdf)

## LIBRARY

### Glasgow Contemporaries

There are several books in the Trades House Library that provide descriptions of prominent people (almost entirely men) in Glasgow at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>/beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. These include the two volume *Memoirs and Portraits of One Hundred Glasgow Men* published in 1886; *Glasgow Men and Women*, 1905, and *Prominent Profiles*, 1902. Glasgow was rightly proud of its city fathers and wished to extol their work and lives.

The most beautifully bound of all these works is *Glasgow Contemporaries at the Dawn of the XXth Century*. With a gilt-tooled velum binding the front of the book is decorated with the arms of the City of Glasgow and an image of Glasgow City Chambers framed by a design of gold thistles. Described as ‘the product of an Imperial city at the height of its power and self-confidence’, it was published in 1901 by The Photographical Publishing Co., Sauchiehall Street.



The work begins with a historical sketch of the city which includes an image of the Trades House with the entrance canopy that has long since been removed.



The Trades House c. 1901



James T. Tullis  
Deacon Convener 1887-1888

Short biographies of several past Deacon Conveners such as James Tullis and Sir Thomas Mason are included as well as Deacons of various trades. It has to be said

that the interior of the book is not as magnificent as the binding, but it is a good source of information about the men described within its pages.

### **History of the Trades House and its Crafts.**

New members of the Chain Gang or those newly elected on their respective Master Court may be interested to find out more about the history of their craft. The Trades House Library actively collects items relating to the history of the crafts and the House as a whole. Many of these works have been digitised and are available on the Trades House Digital Library at

<https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/incorporations.html>

In addition, all the print holdings of the Library are listed on a PDF which can be downloaded at <https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org> (scroll down the page). Books relating to the Trades House and the fourteen incorporated crafts can be found under classification number 338.6. If you wish to view any of the books in the library, please email the Trades House office [info@tradeshouse.org.uk](mailto:info@tradeshouse.org.uk).

### **Doors Open Day**

During Doors Open Day a number of people connected with the Incorporations and the Trades House asked if the Heritage Newsletter could include a section on the Trades Hall. To this end we have added a copy of one of the paddles used by trainee Tour Guides.

### **Message from the Chair**

Thanks for reading this far! The volunteers of our Heritage Committee continue their work to reveal and preserve the history of the House and the Hall. Don't hesitate to contact us through Trades House office if you seek information from us, have information to give us, or are thinking about volunteering to help in any capacity. We want to hear from you, and you will be welcome!

Regards,  
Ruth Maltman Chair

# Trades Hall Tours

## Trades Hall & Entrance Vestibule Notes

### Trades Hall

- On the creation of the Trades House in 1604, it was soon decided to take over and co-ordinate an existing scheme being run by some of the Crafts and establish an Almshouse. This was situated near the corner of Cathedral Street and High Street, roughly where the Barony Hall now stands.
- At first the Trades House and Crafts held their meetings in Tron St. Mary's Church or in public houses or the Laigh Session House of the Cathedral.
- Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it was decided that a meeting hall was required and greater good could be better dispensed throughout Glasgow by closing the Almshouse and distributing what was then known as "Outdoor Relief" to the poor. (18<sup>th</sup> century version of "Care in the Community")
- In 1791 three architects James Jaffray, Robert Craig and Robert Adam presented plans for the proposed Trades Hall. Robert Adam's design was chosen and he received 50 guineas for his plans, the two other architects each received 30 guineas each for their plans. The reason for Robert Adam receiving the extra 20 guineas was due to him being accepted as the architect and therefore he was going to manage the building of the new Halls.
- **Objections to the building of the Hall** was made by the Maltmen, when the building was first proposed, the Maltmen objected and claimed it would only be used by dancing masters and hawkers, reflecting that it would be rented out as a public hall and that the shops would attract unsavoury sellers.
- **The Cellars** cover the whole area that the building stands on and goes a further 10 feet under Glassford Street, giving the Hall extra space.
- **The Foundation Stone** was laid on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1791 and the building was first used for Deacon's Choosing Day on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1794. At this event the roof works had not been completed.
- **The Shops** have always been a feature of the design of the building and have been important in bringing in revenue for the Hall's upkeep.
- **The Cost of the Building and furnishings** from 1791 to 1802 was £7,927 18s 6d.
- **Building Refaced** by John Keppie a former Deacon of the Wrights, in 1927,

### Entrance Vestibule

- **Cross-Vaulted Ceiling** was on the original drawings by Robert Adam, His brothers James and William may have altered this after Robert Adam's death in 1792.
- **Current Ceiling** dates from the 1930s when the long narrow passage was reconstructed.
- **The Floor** is an intricate ceramic mosaic, with the Trades House arms in the centre, it was laid in 1889.
- **Trades House Arms** at first sight the arms look like the City of Glasgow Coat of Arms, the red field denotes it as the Trades House Arms. The 14 arrows represent each of the 14 crafts, one arrow can easily be broken whereas 14 arrows would be difficult to break, and hence, "Union is Strength" is the House Motto.
- **The Walls** are panelled in oak under the design of architect John Keppie in 1926.
- **Oak Carved Benches** were designed by refugee Belgium wood carvers during World War 1. Alexander Walker, a former Deacon of the Cordiners donated the two benches in 1937. There are 34 carved back panels each displaying a different crest. These include the crests of the 14 Incorporations, The Trades House, The Merchants House, The University of Glasgow and the arms of a number of different towns. Kirkcaldy sits next to Bruges, Mons and Leige, all Belgium towns and may have been included as a reference to Robert Adam's birthplace.