



Trades House of Glasgow

Heritage Newsletter No 5

March 2024



NEW BOOK SCANNER

The book scanner purchased thanks to the donation of The Society of Deacons and Free Preseses has proved to be a fantastic boon to the continued development of the archives.



Left to right
Grant MacLeod and Roddy Young

We have been amazed at the speed that the scanner digitises the books, (1½ seconds per 2 pages) and to a very high standard for the text and images. We have been fortunate in being assisted by Deacon Grant MacLeod of the Incorporation of Masons and ex-Visitor Roddy Young of the Maltmen. In the short time that they have been scanning they have managed to scan in two Association of Deacons record books which contain a fantastic amount of information about past Master Courts and members of the Association as well as copious copies of *The Bailie*, a superb set of books much like *Punch*,

published in Glasgow. These books have now been uploaded to the Trades House Virtual Museum and can be found at:

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/association_of_deacons_book 18 58 to 1894 ~ small.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/association_of_deacons_book_18_58_to_1894~small.pdf)

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/association_of_deacons_from 1907 ~ small.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/association_of_deacons_from_1907~small.pdf)

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/association_of_deacons_book ~ 1947 to 58 ~ small.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/association_of_deacons_book_1947_to_58~small.pdf)

and:

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie volume 1.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie_volume_1.pdf)

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie volume 2.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie_volume_2.pdf)

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie volume 3 and 4 ~ small.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie_volume_3_and_4~small.pdf)

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie volume 11.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie_volume_11.pdf)

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie volume 12 ~ small.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/bailie_volume_12~small.pdf)

ARCHIVES

New Acquisitions

Mrs Anne Steele has recently donated the extensive archives that her husband the Late Deacon Convener Jack Steele had amassed as Deacon of the Incorporation of Masons and during his time on the Platform and later as Deacon Convener. Jack was meticulous in retaining and filing virtually all the correspondence and minutes of meetings that he attended over the years, and this will be a great addition to the archives and help those in later years to understand the vast amount of work carried out by a Deacon Convener. We would like to extend once again our thanks to Anne and to record our deepest condolences for her sad loss.

The archives are always happy to accept relevant material from past Deacon Conveners, Deacons and Visitors to add to our collection.

Transcriptions update

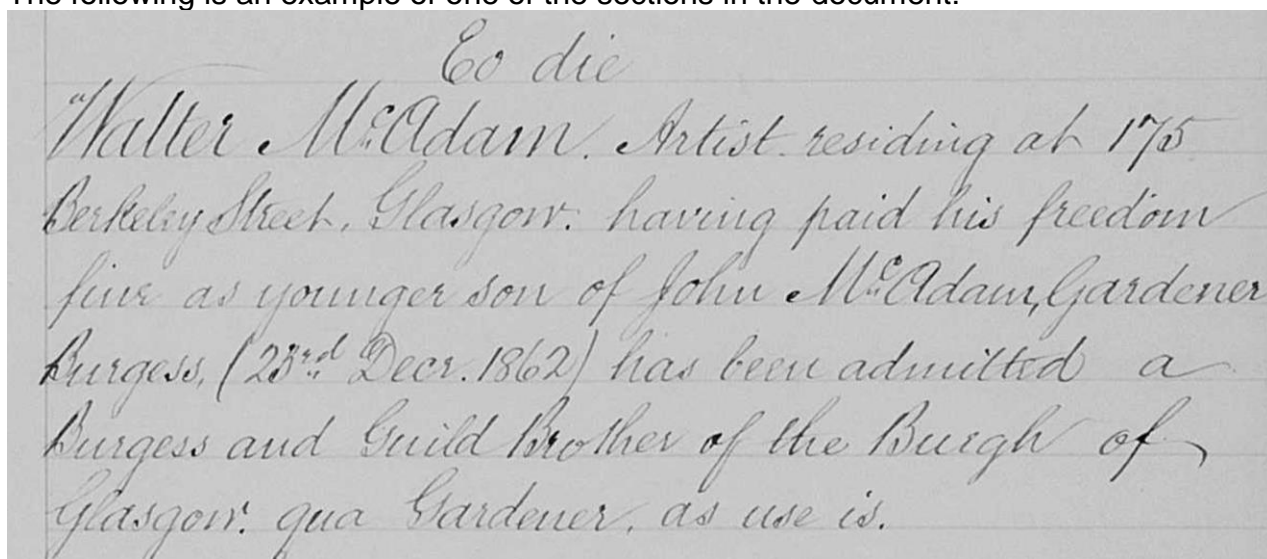
The following links will take you to a series of files containing the Burgess Rolls of Glasgow from 1846 to 1904. These give a great more detail about the names of the parents, wife etc., and makes tracing your ancestors and members back very much easier. For a look at these records, please visit

www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/burgess_roll_1846_to_1904~final_date_order.pdf

www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/burgess_roll_1846_to_1904~final_surname_order.pdf

www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/burgess_roll_1846_to_1904~final_craft_order.pdf

The following is an example of one of the sections in the document:



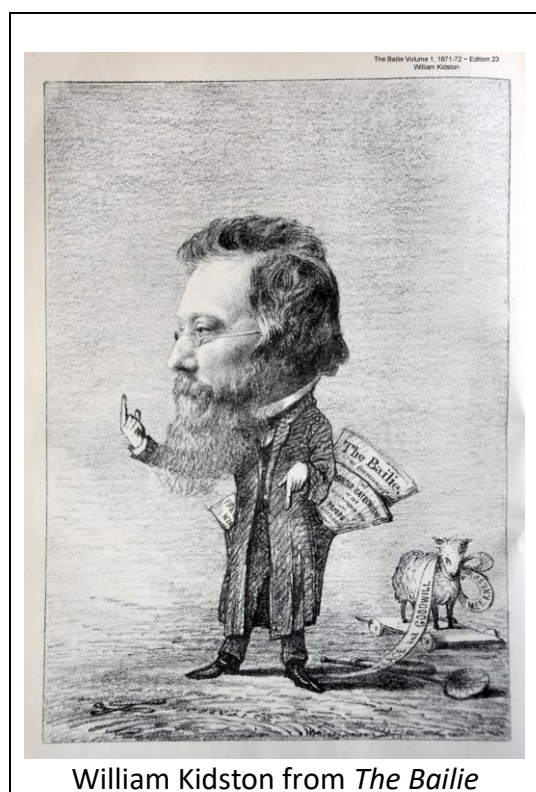
Looking for a good read?

A recent donation of a bound copy *Black's Ancient Craft Guilds* from the 1920s has now been digitised and uploaded onto the website. The volume is a series of articles from *The Scots Magazine*, and contains a fantastic amount of information on each of the Incorporations and the Trades House. It can be downloaded from:

[www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/blacks_ancient_craft_guilds~sm](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/blacks_ancient_craft_guilds~small.pdf) [all.pdf](http://www.tradesouselibrary.org/uploads/4/7/7/2/47723681/blacks_ancient_craft_guilds~small.pdf) . I am sure that you will find information about your Craft that you are unaware of.

LIBRARY

The Trades House Library has been gifted a recently published book entitled *William Kidston: Letters from the Winding Nile: In 1857 William Kidston writes home*, edited by David Bruce and Monica Thorp.



William Kidston from *The Baillie*

William Kidston (1813-1889) was a Glasgow merchant who moved from Glasgow to make his home in Helensburgh. He was a man of strong convictions; an ardent Conservative, a founding member of the Free Church of Scotland and involved in the Temperance movement. He went on a journey to Egypt and the Holy Land at the age of 44, travelling via France and Italy on the way out, returning via Constantinople, Trieste and Vienna. The transcribed letters are to William's sister Catherine (Caty) of Queen Street, Glasgow.

With the building of railways, more and more wealthy Glaswegians travelled abroad and William mentions several of his acquaintances that he met along the way. He was a seasoned traveller in Europe but on reaching Egypt his letters clearly show his excitement in visiting a land he had never

been to before. A trip to the great Pyramid, 'the nearest thing to a mountain ever formed by man' involved being hoisted to the top and he 'gazed with rapturous awe' on the 'mutilated face' of the Sphynx. Despite all the wonders of Egypt the journey was for William, a biblical quest, with the Holy Land as its high point and he admitted to feeling a 'degree of Sadness' when leaving the 'Holy City' of Jerusalem (although found Samaria 'a miserable place').

The editors have 'unpacked' each letter providing information about the people Kidston met, the places he stayed and the transport undertaken etc. This information puts the letters in context and provides a helpful guide. Thus, we learn about 'Mr Tennant's yacht', the *St Ursula*, moored at Beirut. It was owned by Hugh Tennent (1780-1864) of the Glasgow brewing firm who were, at that time, the largest exporters of bottled beer in the world.

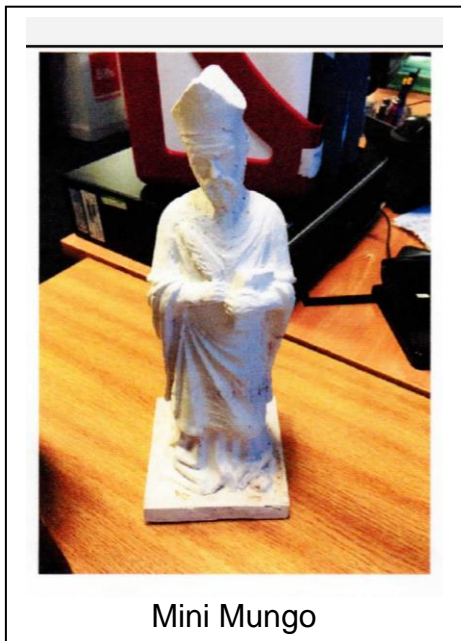
The book was kindly gifted to the Library by Mrs Penelope Johnston (née Kidston) and can be viewed on request by emailing info@tradeshouse.org.uk. It can also be purchased from www.renaissancepress.co.uk

The Librarian is happy to accept books relating to the Trades House and the City of Glasgow that do not already form part of the Library's holdings. A list of all the books in the Library is available at <https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org> (scroll down the page).

MUSEUM UPDATE

Work continues to improve and upgrade the general look of the building where elements of the Trades House archive and collection can be displayed. Some small repairs have been made to a couple of painting frames on the main staircase landing and to an important piece of decorative moulding in the Saloon. A suite of framed pictures depicting each of the Crafts, which had been languishing in store, have been installed on the back stairs enhancing the overall space. In the upper floor corridor leading onto the North and South

galleries, the existing paintings have been rearranged and properly secured with mirror plates, reducing the risk of potential damage/loss. Space has also been found for a couple of additional archive items and all these works are now labelled for the first time. The next step will be to move into the Museum to see what simple, visual improvements can be made to the current labelling and interpretation.



Looking further ahead I have been considering ways to develop and expand on the existing collection. At present, this is seen very much about 'things' from the past but as the Trades House continues to thrive in the 21st century I think it would be invaluable to consider an enlarged collection that is representative of more recent times and its ongoing roles and engagement. The recent donation from the Incorporation of Masons of a so-called 'Mini Mungo' by Roddy McDowall (a scaled-down maquette based on the full-sized version installed at the City of Glasgow College in 2015 and funded by the Incorporation of Masons) is a case in point. Future donations do not have to be substantial, rather they should reflect current partnerships and support, but in time this could form the basis of a 'public' exhibition that would be a perfect celebration of all the good work that the Incorporations do.

TOUR GUIDE TRAINING

Recently Jan Dobson organised a very successful Tour Guide training event where 6 people attended. It is vital that we continue to grow our Tour Guides to enable the Hall to be seen by the public and tourists. If any Incorporation wishes to have a special training session either for their members, Master Court or for tour guides, please contact the Trades Hall Office for suitable dates. Some Master Courts have benefitted from such training as it makes the members more aware of the history of the Hall, House and Crafts.

HISTORY OF THE TRADES HOUSE AND CRAFTS

The Trades House and Hall's Connection with Football

The history of the House and Hall's connection to football goes back into history when the city's accounts for 1573-4 show that on 12th February, 12s, was paid for "futt balls." In the following year "sax fut-ballis" were again purchased for 12s. The annual supply of six footballs at the expense of the Common Good was continued until 1589-90, when a Cordiner named John Neill, in return for remission of fees on his admission as a burgess, undertook to furnish, yearly, during his lifetime, "upon Fastrinis [Shrove Tuesday] even, sex guid and sufficient fut ballis", or else 20s as the price thereof. Under this arrangement the City Treasurer for the time was relieved from the necessity of purchasing footballs at the annual festival, and perhaps his successors did not resume the practice.

Fleshers Haugh was used as the pastureland for the Incorporation of Fleshers' animals, and it is located on the bend of the river Clyde and is part of Glasgow Green. In 1792 the City Council purchased the land for the price of £4,000 and from at least Victorian times, it was used as an area for playing football.

Rangers Football Club's first season in 1872 was played in Fleshers Haugh and this was the most favourable playing corner of Glasgow Green which allowed the club to forge its early reputation among the casual observers as one worth watching.

Rangers Football Club used the Trades Hall from its inception, with their first annual meeting in 1873 being held there and monthly meetings were regularly held in the Hall. Ancell's restaurant, located at the right-hand side of the entrance to the Trades Hall, also hosted the after-match banquet with Preston North End to celebrate the opening of the first Ibrox Park in 1887.

The 1892 Annual Meeting took place in the Trades House Lesser Hall [Saloon] the scores reported were:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals Scored	Goals Lost
1 st Team	46	21	9	16	113	91
2 nd XI	27	8	6	13	62	76
Ibrox XI	21	8	6	7	59	55

Ancell's restaurant was used not only for dinners but also for Smoking Concerts and one was held on Tuesday evening in February 1889 where a large attendance of members was particularly requested. *The Glasgow Evening Post* of 22nd March 1889 stated that Rangers Football Club was to hold one of their very successful smokers in Ancell's restaurant, in Glassford Street, listing the artistes who were to perform and concluding that "we anticipate a pleasant musical evening for the Rangers members and friends". Mr. William Wilton was appointed the Club's first manager at a meeting in the Trades Hall on Monday 27th March 1899 where the meeting voted for a £5 proprietary share rather than a £1 share as proposed by the executive. The Club held its first annual general meeting as a limited company there on the 20th August 1899.

Rangers continued to hold their regular monthly meetings and their Annual General Meetings in the Trades Hall and in 1893 they were in the Lesser Hall [Saloon] when it was reported that they had a balance of £3,000 and that they had reached the maximum number on their roll and had a further 50 waiting on any vacancies.

Prior to their Annual General Meeting in the Trades Hall, on 11th June 1900, Rangers Football Club printed their first balance sheet in *The Scottish Referee* where they reported a 5% Dividend and £1,000 to Reserve. The meeting at the Trades Hall on Tuesday 19th June did not go as well when it was reported that they were in a poor financial position. The 1917 Annual General Meeting showed a remarkable turnaround for Rangers Football Club when it was reported that they had made a profit of £2450 19s 6d.

The Scottish Football Authority also used the Trades Hall in the late part of the 1800s to the early 1900s.

Trades Hall Tours

Grand Hall Notes

- **Deacon Conveners Plaques** are round the hall starting at the left-hand corner as you enter the Hall. The first is James Semple a Skipper and Mariner. This craft ceased to be shortly after 1604 possibly because members were away at sea and not able to participate; many also joined the Maltmen as they delivered malt and meal for the brewing process. Litsteris (Dyers) are recorded from 1635 as a craft, they ceased to be listed as part of the Trades House after 1662. In 1762, the Dyers joined the Bonnetmakers and became incorporated as a Craft. Some crafts from the past did not become incorporated in Glasgow such as the Stockingmakers and Candle Makers who did not achieve Burgess status.

Look at the year 2016 and you will see the name of the first lady Deacon Convener, Ruth Maltman (a Flesher) elected since 1604.

- **Robert Adam's Fireplace** is located in the Grand Hall, there used to be a second one on the facing wall, this was removed to the Saloon in 1915, when the Saloon was undergoing refurbishment by John Keppie.
- **The Dome** is seven metres in diameter and round it are the Coats of Arms of the 14 Incorporations and their mottos. The Trades House bell from 1794 is above the dome in its own belfry and this is rung once per year at 12 noon when the new Deacon Convener is elected.
- **The Old Merchants House**, from 1843 to 1877, used to be seen from the Trades Hall central window, before moving to the corner of George Square. The street you are looking down is called Garth Street after its old name Garthland. Glassford Street is named after John Glassford who along with Colonel McDowall of Castle Semple and Garthland, owned Shawfield Mansion, on which the Trades Hall was built on the orchard.
- **The Frieze** which was painted by Belgium artists in 1903 in a romanticised style. It was painted onto silk and then hung in its present location and cost £362 16s. 4d. It has 161 people on it (only 4 females have been identified on the frieze) and 2 sheep, 2 pigs, 1 cow and 1 donkey. All the animals except the donkey can be found on the Fleshers part of the frieze. The donkey is on the Gardeners section. The females appear in: 2 in the Fleshers; 1 in the Barbers and 1 in the Cordiners sections.
- **The Hall symmetry** was part of Adam's design and was designed initially to cover the whole of the first floor. The building was a tee shape with the double staircase forming the other leg of the tee.
- **Clock above central door** is the most important item in the hall during the Deacon's Choosing Dinner as this enables the new Deacon to constantly check that he/she is running on time. A late dinner does not bode well for a new Deacon.
- **The Ceiling** in the Grand Hall has been replaced twice, the first time was in 1840 by the architect David Hamilton and the second time was in 1953 by Underwood, this time it was replaced after the Hall's annual inspection to ensure that it was safe as the building was used as a public hall. The present ceiling is made from waxed and fireproofed avodire wood from West Africa.
- **The Electroliers** came from the former Grosvenor Restaurant in Gordon Street after it was destroyed by fire in 1970
- **Mahogany Panelling** was added by James Sellars in 1888 when he was carrying out work on the Grand Hall. The floor was also replaced at this time.
- **Paintings around the Grand Hall** - a laminated handout is available with details of each painting.