



# FROM THE Deacon Convener's DESK

**FEBRUARY 2017**

### **Schools Burns Festival**

While attendance this year was down it did not detract from the quality of the participants. It was good to see the Great Hall packed with pupils, teachers and parents. I enjoyed Burns poems, music and songs in the various rooms spread out through the Trades Hall.

There will be a concert given by the winners on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm at Trades Hall. All are welcome.

### **Business Dinner**

Over 140 people attended the Business Dinner on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Two first class speeches were given by Hugh Aitken CBE, Director of the CBI Scotland and Donald Brydon CBE, Chairman of the London Stock Exchange. The evening was a great success from the quality of the speeches and also raised over £5,000 for the DC Charity Appeal.

### **Loch Lomond Golf**

This prestigious event takes place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We are immensely privileged to be able to organize a charity golf day at this renowned course. The event is at a premium price reflecting the quality of the event which includes a Gala Dinner. Please contact John McKnight [jamck42@virginmedia.com](mailto:jamck42@virginmedia.com) for further details.

### **'The Glasgow Experience'**

During the course of the year I will be hosting groups from London and the south attending events at Trades Hall and visiting historical sights in the City. One such group were from the Coronation Masters Association who, like me, were all Masters of their Livery Companies in 2002/3. They visited and were given a tour of Glasgow Cathedral. They were received by the Depute Lord Provost at the City Chambers and were given a tour of Trades Hall and made a city bus tour. They experienced the excellent Christmas dinner of the Weavers. Other groups are planning visits and this will raise the profile of Glasgow and the House.

### **Fashion Show**

The next fund raising event for the DC's Charity will be on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This stunning show is being organized by Rosemarie McNally, wife of the Collector and will start at 12.30. Tickets are priced at £35, to include fizz and afternoon tea and are available from Janet Olverman at the Trades House office or email [janet.olverman@tradeshouse.org.uk](mailto:janet.olverman@tradeshouse.org.uk)

### **Trades House Lecture**

This year will be held at Strathclyde University and given by Professor Graeme Roy, Director of the Fraser of Allander Institute. The date is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Details will follow.

### **Trades House Library**

Carol Parry recently took over the position as Honorary Librarian. She has done a great deal of work in cataloguing all the books and the details below give you some idea of the gems we have in our possession.

Tucked away beside the Deacon Convener's Office is the Trades House Library.

The library was originally established in 1897 following the gift of a large oak bookcase by David MacLean Esq. which had belonged to his brother, late Deacon-Convener William MacLean. Members of the house were invited to contribute books on the topic of guild life and history and the history of Glasgow. From the beginning the library was a reference library only. The largest early donors to the library were Deacon-Convener Robert Ramsey and the Incorporation of Weavers. The library today keeps to very much the same collecting policy established in 1897 and has now a substantial and important collection of books relating to the Trades House and the City. The original oak bookcase has been replaced by purpose-built shelving. Many of the original donations were deposited in the Mitchell Library in the 1960s and the books in the Trades House now consist mostly of more recent donations and the extensive collections of the Old Glasgow Club and the Colquhoun Library, the library of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Several of the books from the Colquhoun Library come from the collection of C.A. Oakley, the author of the very well known *The Second City*, first published in 1946. Charles Oakley (died 1993) took a prominent part in the creation of Glasgow Junior Chamber of Commerce and was elected president of the Senior Chamber in 1963.

As one would expect, the Library houses copies of the main early histories of the City, including Pagan's *Sketches of the History of Glasgow*, 1847 and Denholm's *History of the City of Glasgow*, 1798. The early rise of the Clyde, its navigation and use as a port is represented in *Reports on the Improvement and Management of the River Clyde and Harbour of Glasgow from 1755 to 1853*, printed in 1854. The area was rapidly becoming a tourist destination in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as illustrated by Lumsden and Son's *Steamboat Companion and Stranger's Guide to the Western Islands and Highlands of Scotland*, printed in Glasgow in 1828. The era of the Clyde steamer had begun sixteen years earlier when Henry Bell's Comet began a passenger service on the

Clyde and steamers soon became a common sight on the Clyde. For travelling within the City of Glasgow, trams were first established in 1872 and the City was to have one of the largest urban tramway systems in Europe. There are several books about the trams in the Library including *An Illustrated Description of the Tramway System* dating from 1911.

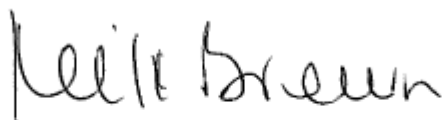
The books in the library were often published locally and many famous Glasgow publishing houses such as Blackie and Collins are represented amongst the holdings. There is also a two volume edition of *The Poetical Works of James Thomson* (author of *Rule, Britannia!*) published by the famous Foulis Press in 1784. The Foulis Press was internationally renowned for its fine typography and the fine appearance of its works, eventually ceasing production in 1800.

One of the earliest printed works in the Library, however, does not appear to have any obvious Glasgow connections. It is a copy of *The Life and entertaining adventures of Mr Cleveland, Natural Son of Oliver Cromwell*, Volume 2, 1734. This work by the French author Abbé Prévost has been described as a "piece of religious propaganda in which Prévost seeks to prove the superiority of religious faith to philosophy in meeting adversity". Cleveland experiences all kinds of tragedies including, in his travels in America, capture by hostile Indians, the massacre of his infant daughter and her nurse and the violent death of his sweetheart's father. This work is amongst several religious and moralising texts from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century including John Bunyan's *The Holy War*, printed in Glasgow in 1720 and John Anderson's *Defence of the Church Government*, printed in Glasgow in 1714.

The library's main holdings date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and include histories of individual firms, churches and organisations as well, of course, of the individual crafts. Douie's *Chronicles of the Maltmen Craft, 1605-1879* was one of the original donations to the library in 1897 and is still available for consultation in the Library. Archivist Craig Bryce has also made it available along with other craft histories on the Trades House Museum website.

A full list of holdings of the Library is due to be published on the Trades House Museum website during the course of this year. In the meantime, the Librarian welcomes any enquiries.

Email: [carol.parry24@gmail.com](mailto:carol.parry24@gmail.com)



**KEITH C. BROWN OBE**  
DEACON CONVENER OF THE TRADES OF GLASGOW