M011 Memorial to James Sellars

Introduction

James Sellars, the noted Glasgow architect who designed the 1888 Glasgow International Exhibition buildings, St Andrew's Halls (today the rear of the Mitchell Library) and the Victoria Infirmary, died aged 45 on 9 October 1888. John Keppie had served his apprenticeship and worked as an assistant at Sellars's firm, Campbell Douglas & Sellars, and was invited to design a commemorative monument to be located in Lambhill Cemetery in the N. of Glasgow, which was paid for by subscription by Sellars's friends and colleagues. Sellars designed a triumphal-arch entrance gate for the cemetery in 1880 and the monument was placed directly in line with it, at the opposite end of the main drive. [1] Sellars' wife, Jane Moodie, who died in Jersey in 1927, is also commemorated on the monument.

Keppie designed a Greek-style aedicule monument, which was executed in red and grey granite, with a central bronze memorial panel and Egyptian details at the pediment and flanking pilasters. [2]

The job-book entry records only contractor tenders, but it is believed the granite work was carried out by Edward Good and the bronze by James Pittendrigh Macgillivray. [3]

Authorship: A drawing of the monument was published under John Keppie's name in the *British Architect*. [4]

Status: Standing monument; bronze panel missing (2014)

Grid reference: NS 5787 7005

Chronology

1888
9 October: Death of James Sellars. [1]

1889
25 January: selection of Keppie's design announced in the British Architect [2]

8 February: Keppie's drawing of the monument is published in the *British Architect*. [3] Contractor tenders are submitted for granite work for the monument. [4]

A drawing of the monument is exhibited at the Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts (972).

1890
20 June: Monument unveiled by Sir James King, Lord Provost of Glasgow, 1886–9. [5]

Description

People

Job Book

The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. The name of a project and/or client is usually at the top of the left-hand page, followed by information about tradesmen who tendered. The name of the measurer (quantity surveyor) is usually at the top of the right-hand page, followed by information about payments to contractors and suppliers. All of the data for M011 is entered in the tables below.

Page numbering is not consistent in the job books. Sometimes a single number refers to a double-page spread and sometimes each page is individually numbered. Here, each image of a double-page spread is identified by the number given at the top of the left-hand page. (Images of all of the pages from the four job books can be found at Browse Job Books, Visit Book and Cash Book.)

The following information about M011 has been extracted from the job books:

Job book: 53059
Page: 95

Client: no data in job book

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Charles B. Grassby	granite work	no data in job book	8 February	£210 0s 0d	no data in job book
J. & G. Mossman	granite work	no data in job book	8 February	no data in job book	no data in job book
Peter Smith	granite work	no data in job book	8 February	£189 0s 0d [1]	no data in job book
Thomson & Kirkpatrick	granite work	no data in job book	8 February	£168 0s 0d [2]	no data in job book
Robert Gray	granite work	no data in job book	8 February	£191 0s 0d [3]	no data in job book
E. Good	granite work	no data in job book	8 February	£163 15s 0d [4]	no data in job book
Pittendrigh Macgillivray	sculpture	no data in job book	no data in job book	£80 0s 0d [5]	no data in job book
Pittendrigh Macgillivray	sculpture	no data in job book	no data in job book	£66 0s 0d [6]	no data in job book

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum

Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service

Images

Perspective of monument, British Architect, 6 February 1889, p. 114

Monument to James Sellars

Dedication to Jane Moodie, wife of James Sellars

Bibliography

Published

- Ray McKenzie, Public Sculpture of Glasgow Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2000, pp. 485; 490
- Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 415

- *British Architect*, 31, 8 February 1889, pp. 105; 114

Notes:

1: *Glasgow Herald*, 10 October 1888, p. 1; 17 October 1888, p. 9; 'James Sellars', *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, www.scottisharchitects.org.uk [accessed 8 March 2013]; *British Architect*, 31, 8 February 1889, pp. 105; 114; Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 415.

2: *British Architect*, 31, 8 February 1889, pp. 105; 114; Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 415.

3: Ray McKenzie, Public Sculpture of Glasgow Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2000, pp. 485; 490.

4: *British Architect*, 31, 8 February 1889, pp. 105; 114.

5: *Glasgow Herald*, 10 October 1888, p. 1; 17 October 1888, p. 9.

6: *British Architect*, 31, 25 January 1889, p. 69.

7: *British Architect*, 31, 8 February 1889, pp. 105; 114.

8: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 95.

9: *Glasgow Herald*, 21 June 1890, p. 6.

10: 'with foundation' £197.

11: 'Foundation' £9.

12: 'Foundation' £8 2s 0d.

13: 'Foundation' £4 10s 0d. 'Amended offer. Monument. 153.15 founds. 4.10.' £158 5s 0d.

14: 'In High relief'.

15: ' low relief .'

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

Led by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council; with additional support from The Monument Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art; and collaborative input from Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

© copyright 2014

Contact us