

M210 Extension to Paisley Free Library and Museum

Introduction

Opened in 1871, Paisley Free Library and Museum was designed by John Honeyman in an austere Greek Revival style. The original building has been extended several times. In 1902–4 Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh added a large E. wing to provide additional accommodation for the Library.

Authorship: According to W. S. Moyes, who worked in Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's office at this time, Paisley Library (i.e. the 1902–4 extension) was designed by John Keppie. The exterior of the extension faithfully reproduces the details of Honeyman's original building.

Cost from job book: £6870 17s 10d

Cost from other sources: 'Over £7000' ¹

Status: Standing building

Current name: Paisley Central Library

Current use: Library (2014)

Listing category: A

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 39025

RCAHMS Site Number: NS46SE 322

Grid reference: NS 47931 64012

Chronology

1871

11 April: Public opening of Paisley Free Library and Museum, designed by John Honeyman. ¹

1882

First extension completed to Honeyman's designs. ²

1899

6 November: John Honeyman & Keppie receive £30 for unspecified work in connection with Paisley Free Library, probably for designs for an extension. ³

1902

July: Revised drawings for extension produced by Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh and submitted to Paisley Dean of Guild Court. ⁴

1904

16 April: Payment to Alexander McGibbon for perspective drawing. ⁵

1 December: Extension opened. ⁶

Description

Paid for by the Paisley thread manufacturer Sir Peter Coats, the Paisley Free Library and Museum was completed in 1870 and opened to the public the following year. ¹ The building was designed by John Honeyman in a chaste Greek Revival style: a portico of four Ionic columns leads to a central hall, flanked originally by a lecture theatre on the left and reading room on the right, with the museum straight ahead. More accommodation was soon required, and in 1882 Honeyman completed a large rear extension, again funded by Coats. ² In 1899, John Honeyman & Keppie were paid £30 for unspecified work in connection with the library. ³ This was probably for a design for a further extension, recorded as having been made in that year. ⁴ Work did not proceed immediately, however, and it was not until 1902 that the idea was taken forward. The 1899 proposals were then superseded by a new design, definitely by Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh. The estimated cost was £7027 (£1527 more than the 1899 scheme), and Sir James Coats of Auchendrane, Sir Peter's son, agreed to

meet it.⁵ The extension opened on 1 December 1904.⁶

According to W. S. Moyes, who worked in Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's office at this time, Paisley Library (i.e. the 1902–4 extension) was designed by John Keppie.⁷ It has been suggested that the drawings submitted to the Paisley Dean of Guild Court in July 1902 show evidence of Mackintosh's involvement.⁸ This is by no means certain, but stylistic variations between different parts of the interior suggest more than one designer may have been involved.

The extension is attached to the E. end end of Honeyman's 1870 building and follows it faithfully in its external details, with a second Ionic portico echoing the original central one. It was envisaged that a matching extension would be added at the W. end in due course, re-establishing the building's symmetry. This never happened, but the intended effect is illustrated in a drawing published in 1912 (possibly the perspective for which Alexander McGibbon was paid by Honeyman Keppie & Mackintosh in April 1904).⁹ The asymmetry was actually increased in 1933 when yet another extension was added at the E. end by Keppie & Henderson.¹⁰



The 1902–4 extension housed a General Reading Room at the front, with the closed-access book stacks of the Lending Library in a large top-lit room at the back. Between them was the Indicator Room, where readers could consult the library catalogue and request books. The Indicator – consisting of columns of small, numbered shelves, one for each book in the library, where readers' tickets were displayed to show if a book was on loan or available – formed a dividing screen between library staff and readers. The Lending Library was single-storey, but it was envisaged that a gallery could be inserted at a future date to increase its capacity (this was eventually done in 1933, when the room was also extended eastward).¹¹ Stairs beside the Indicator Room led to the Ladies' Reading Room and Boys' Reading Room on the first floor.

Despite their external harmony, there are conspicuous internal differences between the 1870 and 1902–4 sections. The downstairs reading room in the extension has Renaissance-style panelling, instead of the neo-classical woodwork found in the original building. It is difficult to imagine this as having anything to do with Mackintosh, who at this date was working on the radically unhistorical interiors of The Hill House, Helensburgh. It seems more likely that the panelling is Keppie's.



Upstairs, however, the timber trusses of the Ladies' Reading Room roof have an elegant simplicity that could be due to Mackintosh or his influence.



The 1902 Dean of Guild drawings show Glasgow Style motifs in the ironwork of the staircase balustrade, but this does not survive, the original staircase having been replaced by a new one in the 1933 extension.

People

Clients:

- Sir Peter Coats
- Sir James Coats

Contractors:

- James Barclay
- James Cormack & Sons Ltd
- Cowan & Stewart
- Matthew S. Dunlop
- John Elliot
- Robert Girdwood
- William Gillespie & Son
- James Ingleton & Co.
- Ketchen & Camduff
- Osborne & Hunter
- William Speirs

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 M210 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 M210 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53062
Page: 4



Job book: 53062
Page: 5



Job book: 53062
Page: 6



Job book: 53062
Page: 7

Client: no data in job book

Measurer: Matthew S. Dunlop

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
James Barclay	mason & brick work	Christie Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£3808 9s 5d	yes (24 July 1902)
John Bryce & Co.	mason & brick work	14 Lady Lane, Paisley	no data in job book	£2823 7s 2d	no
William McGhee	mason & brick work	27 Underwood, Paisley	no data in job book	£4296 13s 3d	no
William Taylor	mason & brick work	Arkleston Road, Paisley		£4322 19s 7½d	no
George Henderson	mason & brick work	21 Oakshaw Street, Paisley		£4252 13s 11d	no
Bell & McLauchlan	mason & brick work	2 Glen Lane, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Galt & Son	mason & brick work	Nethercommon, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Robert Morton	mason & brick work	Weir Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£4009 0s 6d	no
George Robertson & Co.	mason & brick work	11 Townhead Terrace, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Alex Muir & Son	mason & brick work	Eglinton Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Kirkwood	mason & brick work	33 Hope Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Paterson & Son Ltd	mason & brick work	610 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
J. H. White	mason & brick work	133 Albert Road, Pollokshields	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
George Primrose	mason & brick work	Henderson Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£3993 0s 0d	no
D. A. Mackay	wright & joiner work	25 Abbey Street, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Robert Girdwood	wright & joiner work	28 Broomlands Street, Paisley		£1294 19s 5d	yes (11 July 1902)

G. & T. Houston	wright & joiner work	Maxwellton Street, Paisley		no data in job book	no
Alex Craig	wright & joiner work	27 Back Sneddon Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£1575 17s 9d	no
James Boyce & Son	wright & joiner work	10 Hunter Street, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
James Grant	wright & joiner work	Pitt Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Mathew Henderson	wright & joiner work	Grant Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£1627 11s 11d	no
James Boyd & Sons	wright & joiner work	MacDowal Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£1420 0s 9d	no
Charles Wallace	slater work	23 New Smithhills Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£57 5s 1d	no
William Gillespie & Son	slater work	16 New Sneddon Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£53 19s 0d	yes (1 July 1902)
Campbell & McKechnie	slater work	84 New Sneddon Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£54 18s 1d	no
Keenan & Kelso	slater work	Railway arch, Gilmour Street	no data in job book	£57 18s 2d	no
A. & D. Mackay	slater work	Oswald Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£62 16s 2d	no
John Anderson	slater work	Parliamentary Road, Glasgow	no data in job book	£64 16s 2d	no
James Kilpatrick & Son	plumber work	Dyers Wynd, Paisley	no data in job book	£275 2s 3d	no
Wallace Connell & Co.	plumber work	8 Gilmour Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£272 6s 10d	no
Hunter & Goudie	plumber work	5 Causeyside Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£279 1s 3d	no
Young & Risk	plumber work	23 New Smithhills Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£309 3s 0d	no
Alex Forsyth	plumber work	46 Broomlands Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£271 15s 9d	no
Archibald Robertson	plumber work	9 Broomlands Street	no data in job book	£272 17s 4d	no
N. G. Haran & Sons	plumber work	100 Causeyside Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£300 0s 0d	no
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber work	George Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£260 0s 0d	yes (11 July 1902)
Fyfe & Allan Ltd	plumber work	St George's Road, Glasgow	no data in job book	£260 0s 0d	no
William Speirs	plaster & concrete work	Bridge Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£307 7s 1d	yes (11 July 1902)
D. T. Hutcheson & Son	plaster & concrete work	25 Gauze Street, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Campbell & McKechnie	plaster & concrete work	84 New Sneddon Street	no data in job book	£318 6s 9d	no
William Forbes	plaster & concrete work	167 West Graham Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£311 8s 3d	no
R. A. McGilvray	plaster & concrete work	West Regent Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£318 5s 10d	no
George Rome & Co.	plaster & concrete work	Waterloo Street	no data in job book	£310 1s 9½d	no
James Boyd & Sons	heating work	MacDowal Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£192 10s 0d	no

James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating work	Abercorn Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£179 0s 0d ¹	yes (30 October)
James Kilpatrick & Sons	electric lighting work	Dyers Wynd, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Robertson & Co.	electric lighting work	55 Back Sneddon Street, Paisley	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Hunter & Goudie	electric lighting work	5 Causeyside Street, Paisley	no data in job book	£180 0s 0d	no
Osborne & Hunter	electric lighting work	93 Waterloo Street, Glasgow	no data in job book	£130 10s 0d	yes (25 January 1904)
Claud Hamilton Ltd	electric lighting work	247 St Vincent Street	no data in job book	£138 0s 0d	no
Paterson, Bell & Co.	electric lighting work	65 Bath Street	no data in job book	£137 0s 0d	no
Osborne & Hunter	electric lighting work	no data in job book	no data in job book	£14 17s 6d ²	yes
Robert Girdwood	furniture	no data in job book	no data in job book	£310 8s 9d ³	yes (April [1904])
no data in job book	fitments at indicator	no data in job book	no data in job book	£78 15s 0d	yes (26 April [1904])
John Elliot	indicator	Free Library, Wolverhampton	no data in job book	£80 10s 0d ⁴	yes (26 April [1904])
David Murray & Sons	painter work	15 Gilmour Street	no data in job book	£170 0s 0d	no
David Bett	painter work	41 Wellmeadow Street	no data in job book	£180 0s 0d	no
Cowan & Stewart	painter work	6 Wellmeadow Street	no data in job book	£134 9s 6d	yes
David Wilkie & Son	painter work	39 High Street	no data in job book	£187 15s 0d	no
Ketchen & Carnduff	grates	no data in job book	5 September 1904	£27 2s 6d	yes (13 September 1904)

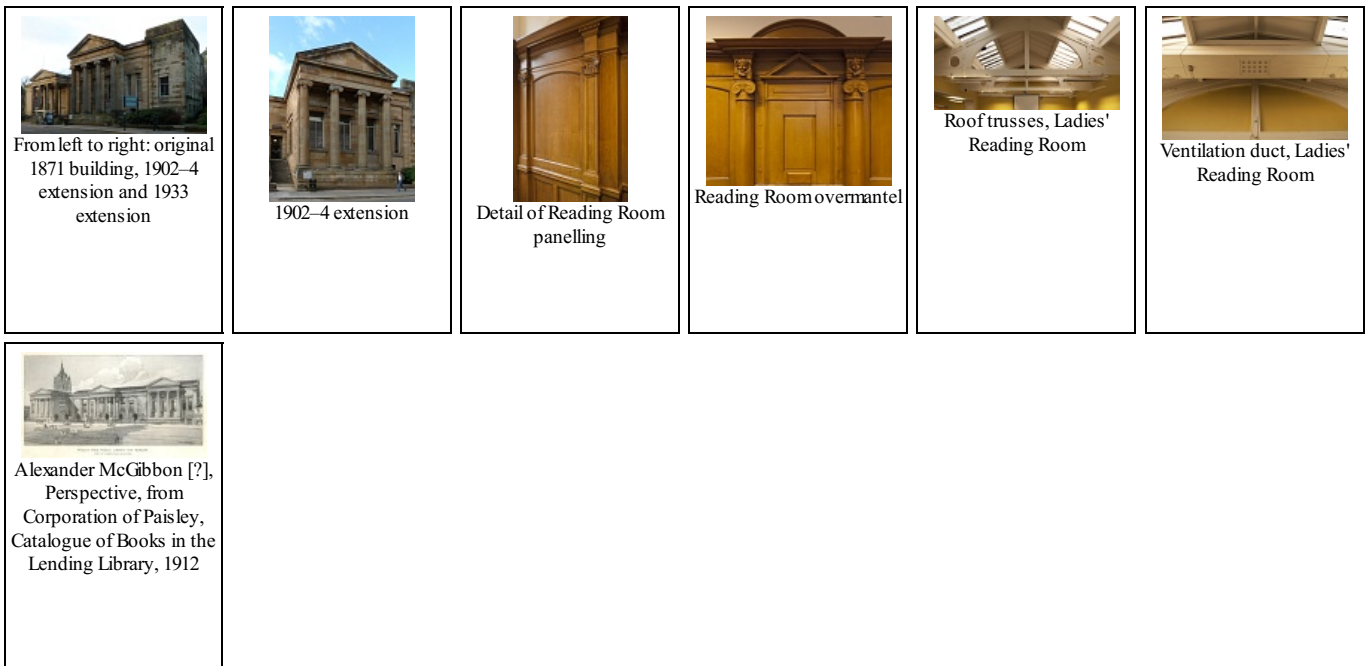
Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
James Barclay	mason & brick work	First installment: 26 November 1902 Final installment: 28 April 1905 £3531 8s 9d
Robert Girdwood	wright & joiner work	First installment: 4 March 1903 Final installment: 28 April 1905 £1908 19s 3½d ⁵
William Gillespie & Son	slater work	First installment: 20 January 1904 Final installment: no data in job book £74 19s 2d ⁶
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber work	First installment: 1903 Final installment: 27 April 1905 £287 19s 7d ⁷
William Speirs	plaster & concrete work	First installment: 18 April Final installment: 10 February 1905 £310 16s 3½d
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating work	Payment date: 27 April 1905 £179 10s 0d
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating work	Payment date: January [1906] ⁸ £1 11s 9d ⁹

Osborne & Hunter	electric lighting work	First installment: 5 July Final installment: 28 December 1904 £165 0s 0d
Robert Girdwood	furniture	Payment date: 4 October 1904 £300 0s 0d
John Elliot	indicator	First installment: 12 July Final installment: 4 October £80 10s 0d
Ketchen & Carnduff	grates	Payment date: 28 December 1904 £30 3s 0d

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- David Stark, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Co.*, Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing, 2004, pp. 82-5
- *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 19 July 1902, p. 5; 3 December 1904, p. 5

Unpublished

- *Paisley Museum, Art Galleries, and Library*, leaflet produced by Renfrewshire Council Department of Planning and Transport, 1996

Notes:

- 1: *Scotsman*, 2 December 1904, p. 7.
- 2: *Scotsman*, 12 April 1871, p. 2.
- 3: *Glasgow Herald*, 23 September 1882, p. 3.
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889-1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 56; *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 19 July 1902, p. 5.
- 5: *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 19 July 1902, p. 5.

- 6: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 83.
- 7: *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 3 December 1904, p. 5.
- 8: *Glasgow Herald*, 29 September 1870, p. 6; *Scotsman*, 12 April 1871, p. 2.
- 9: *Glasgow Herald*, 23 September 1882, p. 3.
- 10: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 56.
- 11: *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 19 July 1902, p. 5.
- 12: *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 19 July 1902, p. 5.
- 13: *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 3 December 1904, p. 5.
- 14: University of Toronto, Robarts Library: letter from W. S. Moyes to Thomas Howarth, 29 April 1947, B96-0028/017 (13).
- 15: David Stark, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Co.*, Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing, 2004, pp. 82–5.
- 16: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 83. The drawing is reproduced as the frontispiece in Corporation of Paisley, *Catalogue of Books in the Lending Library*, Paisley: Public Library Committee, 1912.
- 17: *Paisley Museum, Art Galleries, and Library*, leaflet produced by Renfrewshire Council Department of Planning and Transport, 1996.
- 18: *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 3 December 1904, p. 5; *Paisley Museum, Art Galleries, and Library*, leaflet produced by Renfrewshire Council Department of Planning and Transport, 1996.
- 19: 'extra if all pipes are malleable': £17 10s 0d.
- 20: For 'lamp' and 'fittings'.
- 21: Comprises: 'Bookcases in lending library'; 'Shelving in boys & girls reading Rm upstairs'; 'Counter in [boys & girls reading Rm upstairs] yellow pine & mahogany top'; '6 Sloped tables in General reading room!'; '2 Flat tables in [General reading room]'; '1 [Flat table] in librarian's room 5.0 x 2.6'; 'Shelving against wall at back of indicator east side only'; and 'Magazine case in General Reading Rm. in Americian oak'.
- 22: For 'Indicator for 30600 vols.'
- 23: This sum includes 'fittings'.
- 24: Includes £17 18s 0d 'for rough casting old gables'.
- 25: Includes 'hot water apparatus'.
- 26: Job book says 'January 1905', presumably a mistake.
- 27: For 'alterations'.

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](#)