

M253 Abbey Close United Free Church, Paisley

Introduction

Originally built in 1827, this church in the centre of Paisley contained later furnishings by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson (1817–1875).¹ In 1905–6, Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh added a pulpit, screen, font and electric light fittings. The church was demolished in 1965. James Begg, who is named in the job book in connection with the church, appears to have been with John Jackson & Co., grain, flour and produce importer, at 79 Hope Street, Glasgow.²

Authorship: The job book entry is written entirely in Mackintosh's hand, and the style of the surviving font is clearly his. Mackintosh included Abbey Close in his submission to become a Fellow of the RIBA in 1906. Though included in the job book, this was essentially a furnishing scheme, not architecture.

Cost from job book: £519 12s 6½d

Status: Building demolished; font in the collection of the Glasgow School of Art

RCAHMS Site Number: NS46SE 177

Grid reference: NS 48494 63955

Chronology

1827

Church built.¹

1905

1 May: Tenders for painting.²

15 September: Tender for building organ chamber.³

24 October: Tender for font.⁴

1906

2 July: Payment for font bowl.⁵

16 October: Final payment to painters.⁶

1965

Church demolished.⁷

Description

People

Clients:

- Abbey Close U. F. Church, Paisley

Contractors:

- James Boyd & Sons
- James Bryce & Sons
- Cowan & Stewart
- Hunter & Goudie
- Andrew Hutcheson
- Jesson, Birkett & Co.

- G. Primrose

Other:

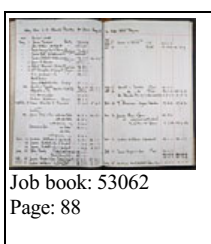
- James Begg

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 M253 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 M253 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53062
Page: 88

Client: Abbey Close U. F. Church, Paisley, per James Begg, 79 Hope Street, Glasgow

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
James Gardener	painter	Paisley	1 May 1905	£260 0s 0d	no
John Wilkie	painter	39 High Street, Paisley	1 May 1905	no data in job book ¹	no
David Murray & Son	painter	15 Gilmour Street, Paisley	1 May 1905	£144 16s 4d ²	no
David Bett	painter	41 Wellmeadow, Paisley	1 May 1905	no data in job book ³	no
Cowan & Stewart	painter	1 Wellmeadow	1 May 1905	£140 5s 5d	yes
James K. Thomson	painter	Paisley	2 May 1905	no data in job book ⁴	no
Robert Thomson	painter	1 Bridge Street, Paisley	2 May 1905	£208 11s 11d ⁵	no
William Douglas	painter	West George Street, Glasgow	3 May 1905	£145 18s 5d	no
H. L. Anderson & Co.	painter	Glasgow	1905	£159 0s 0d	no
James Kilpatrick & Sons	electrician	Paisley	1905	£75 0s 0d	no
Hunter & Goudie	electrician	Paisley	1905	£160 0s 0d ⁶	yes
Robertson & Co.	electrician	Paisley	1905	no data in job book ⁷	no
N. G. Haran & Sons	electrician	Paisley	1905	£67 13s 3d	no
Andrew Hutcheson	electrician	Glasgow	1905	£78 0s 0d	no
G. Primrose	builder	no data in job book	15 September 1905	£15 12s 6d	yes
James Boyd & Sons	heating	no data in job book	1905	£80 15s 0d ⁸	yes
Cormac & Sons	heating	no data in job book	1905	£83 0s 0d ⁹	no
Andrew Hutcheson	lighting	no data in job book	29 June 1905	£38 0s 0d ¹⁰	yes
Jesson, Birkett & Co.	lighting	no data in job book	29 June 1905	£33 12s 0d ¹¹	yes
John Craig	furniture	no data in job book	27 July 1905	£34 0s 0d ¹²	no
John Craig	furniture	no data in job book	27 July 1905	£44 1s 0d ¹³	no
James Bryce & Sons	furniture	no data in job book	24 October 1905	£55 10s 0d ¹⁴	yes
James Bryce & Sons	furniture	no data in job book	24 October 1905	£4 7s 6d ¹⁵	yes

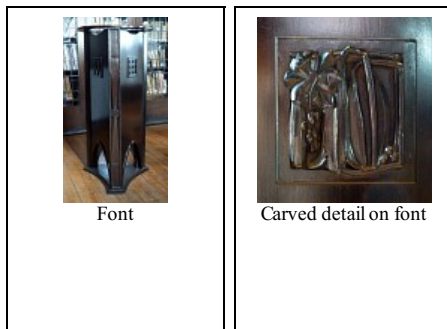
Andrew Hutcheson	metalwork	no data in job book	26 March 1906	£2 0s 0d ¹⁶	yes
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Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Cowan & Stewart	painting	First installment: 4 September 1905 Final installment: 16 October 1906 £141 13s 4d
Hunter & Goudie	electrician	First installment: 21 September Final installment: 16 October £126 6s 10d
Hunter & Goudie	plumber	Payment date: 16 October £21 5s 3d
G. Primrose	builder	Payment date: 4 December £17 10s 2d ¹⁷
James Boyd & Sons	heating	Payment date: 16 November £87 2s 8½d ¹⁸
Andrew Hutcheson	lighting	Payment date: 6 September £38 0s 0d ¹⁹
James Bryce & Sons	furniture	First installment: 19 December [1905] Final installment: 1906 £85 14s 3d
Andrew Hutcheson	metalwork	Payment date: 2 July [1906] £2 0s 0d ²⁰

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 225
- Thomas Howarth, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Modern Movement*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 2nd edn, 1977, pp. 182–3

Notes:

- 1: *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, www.scottisharchitects.org.uk [accessed 12 July 2012].
- 2: *Glasgow Post Office Directory, 1905–6*, p. 137.
- 3: *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, www.scottisharchitects.org.uk [accessed 12 July 2012].
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 88.
- 5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 88.

- 6: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 88.
- 7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 88.
- 8: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 88.
- 9: *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, www.scottisharchitects.org.uk [accessed 12 July 2012].
- 10: 'returned'.
- 11: Includes £13 8s 4d 'for stencils & lines'.
- 12: 'returned'.
- 13: 'returned'.
- 14: Includes £18 15s 0d for 'stencils'.
- 15: Includes £100 for 'electric fittings'.
- 16: 'returned'.
- 17: Includes £6 10s 0d for 'underpinning'. An alternative tender of £56 5s 0d, 'with old Boiler', was also submitted.
- 18: Includes £6 10s 0d for 'underpinning'.
- 19: For '8 pendants'.
- 20: For '21 brackets' and '3 pendants'.
- 21: For pulpit in pine; an alternative tender of £44 was submitted for the pulpit in oak.
- 22: For 'Bound lining' in pine. An alternative tender of £57 1s 0d was also submitted, presumably for the same work in oak.
- 23: For 'Pulpit; screen etc'.
- 24: For 'new font'.
- 25: For 'Silver Basin'.
- 26: For 'Organ Chamber'.
- 27: Includes £6 7s 8½d for 'additional work ordered by Mr. Kerr & Mr. Gibson'.
- 28: For '8 pendants'.
- 29: For 'Silver font'.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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