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THE GLASGOW HERALD BUILDING (1893 - 95)

BY CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH.

a dissertation presented to
the University of Glasgow
by Michael M. Angus
for the Diploma in Architecture.

June 1990
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ABBREVIATIONS

D.o.G.       Dean of Guild
G.A.A.       Glasgow Architectural Association
G.S.A.       Glasgow School of Art
M.S.A.       Mackintosh School of Architecture
INTRODUCTION
Fig. 1: The Glasgow Herald building (1893-95) by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Photograph courtesy of the Glasgow Herald c. 1950
INTRODUCTION

Aside from "Redclyffe", two semi-detached houses in Springburn, the Glasgow Herald building 1893-5 (fig. 1) is the first major built project to be attributed to the hand of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Despite this standing, however, it remains to date little discussed and generally overlooked, particularly in terms of its own individual qualities. This situation may be explained by a number of reasons.

Firstly, as with the Queen Margaret Medical College (fig 2) and the Martyrs' Public School (fig 3), both of 1895, it is immediately overshadowed by the Glasgow School of Art, 1896, both in terms of its design and subsequent appreciation. As a building of such outstanding qualities, and embodying, as it does in a single statement, the principles of Mackintosh's work, the Glasgow School of Art is the focus of analytical attention, instantly reducing the level of interest in previous works, which are frequently considered in the light of their association to and developmental effect on the main work. Being the first of the three early works, the Glasgow Herald building enjoys least comment, and is considered more as a curiosity than anything else.

The situation is further compounded and perhaps more directly created by the lack of documentary evidence, particularly in the way of drawings. Until recently the only drawn material available consisted of three sketches from one of Mackintosh's notebooks and the presentation perspective, which, though well known, is valued more as being the earliest known drawing by Mackintosh from his professional career, and for its demonstration of his draughting originality.
It was on the basis of such little evidence that the major research works, begun in the 1950s by Thomas Howarth and Nikolaus Pevsner, continued by Robert MacLeod and others later, made their 1 appraisals of the Glasgow Herald building. These appraisals concentrated, to varying degrees, on the salient features of the building, namely the Mitchell Street elevation and the tower. As is frequently the case when evidence is scarce, unlike with the later works and even the Queen Margaret College and Martyrs' School, the question was raised of the extent of the design that could be attributed to Mackintosh, causing further clouding of the situation.

It was not until the work of Hiroaki Kimura in 1982 that the situation changed, cataloguing, as he did, some minor alteration works drawings and the first almost complete set of design drawings: the original Dean of Guild submission of 1894. With these one might have expected a proper appraisal. However, on inspection, the key drawings, namely the ground floor plan and the elevations, were missing.

This dissertation was undertaken initially in order to redress the balance in terms of the drawn information available and subsequent analysis of this first work of Mackintosh. Whilst in the process of this research there came to light further consequential evidence, relevant to the question of authorship and to the development of the design from sketch proposals to the finished product.
Fig 2: Queen Margaret Medical College (1895)
Perspective drawn by C.R. Mackintosh, 1894.
Fig 3 : Martyrs' Public School, (1895)
Perspective drawn by C.R. Mackintosh (1896)
NOTES

Robert Macleod, Charles Rennie Mackintosh Architect and Artist, 1968, pp. 40-42
CHAPTER ONE: Context - Professional, Historical and Personal
Context

On account of its industrial and trade basis, Glasgow in the 1890s was undergoing massive economic and, consequently, cultural expansion fuelled by the technological advances of the time. This produced in turn an extensive programme of re-building and development in the city. It was, however, a period of confusion and stagnation within the architectural profession, caused by a lack of genuine direction and subsequent stylistic "wrangles". An almost manic eclecticism ensued, with the resultant architecture drawing on such varied sources as the classic, neo-Gothic and romantic Scottish styles of the past.

In 1893 Messrs. Honeyman and Keppie were a busy commercial practice, producing work not dissimilar to other offices of the time. John Honeyman, by then aged sixty-two, was a well respected Glasgow architect with an impressive history of built projects behind him. These included approximately thirty churches and many domestic and public buildings, collectively demonstrating his architectural versatility and willingness to adopt new forms of building and construction. His partner, John Keppie, could hardly have been more different, being almost thirty years his junior with no built projects to his credit. He was trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, evidence of which can be seen in his later somewhat unimaginative and laborious classical designs, before being employed in the offices of James Sellars. After the death of Sellars in 1888, Keppie entered into partnership with Honeyman, bringing with him much of the work of his previous office.
This possibly included the Glasgow Herald commission, Sellars having been the newspaper’s former architect.

Mackintosh entered this practice, ostensibly as a draughtsman, in 1889 after an exemplary school career and apprenticeship with John Hutchison architect. Mackintosh’s work preceding the Herald building consisted of only one built project, the competent semi-detached "Redclyffe" houses, and several competitions, most notably and relevant, the "Railway Terminus" scheme of 1892-3 (fig 4). Despite their ultimate stylistic differences Mackintosh became a good friend of Keppie and they worked closely together on many designs.

Friendship was also struck up with another fellow student and draughtsman, Herber McNair. The two along with the MacDonald sisters, shared a common interest in design: 'the quest for new decorative forms' which they would make manifest in works of graphics, watercolours and plates. This collusion of "The Four" drew inspiration from the likes of Toorop, and their work immediately recalls the freedom of expression and natural motifs characteristic of the Art Nouveau movement.

However, being primarily concerned with architecture, this artistically stimulating association doubtless contributed to Mackintosh’s dissatisfaction with the current architectural situation - a dissatisfaction made evident by his search for an architecture substantiated by more fundamental virtues than accurate and stylised historicism.
Fig 4: "Railway Terminus", scheme for the Soane Medallion Competition. Drawn by C.R. Mackintosh, (1892-93)
These virtues: "truth" and "reality" in building; "genuineness and utility" were extolled in his speech to the G.A.A. on Scottish Baronial Architecture highlighting as he did, its traditional value, honesty of materials and purpose, and disdain of applied symmetry. These would remain the foundation of his architectural beliefs, capable of incorporating the philosophies of "absorption", "decorated construction" and the later "clothing of modern ideas with modern dress" adopted immediately before the design of the Glasgow Herald building.

The strength of these beliefs is revealed in one of Mackintosh's notebooks from his grand tour of Italy in 1891, regarding the cathedral in Sienna. He comments unfavourably on its "fraudulent" nature with respect to its denial of interior/exterior relationship to the extent of windows being "painted" onto the side elevation.

The Italian trip was generally favourable and inspirational and is of particular relevance to the Glasgow Herald because of the study of the Italian campaniles. Of the several drawings in the one remaining sketchbook the most notable is that of the Campanile Palazzo del Ragione in Verona (fig 5). Mackintosh's diary also reveals his appreciation of the Campaniles in Sienna, especially the "dignity of its severe plainness" and the relationship of fenestration to structural necessity. Considering this and the nature of the finished Herald building, it is hardly surprising that its preliminary sketches (figs 6, 7 and 8) appear at the back of Mackintosh's Italian sketchbook.
Fig 5: Campanile Palazzo del Ragione, from C.R. Mackintosh's Italian sketchbook, 1891.
Fig. 6: Preliminary sketch no. 1 for the Glasgow Herald building from C.R. Mackintosh’s Italian sketchbook. Undated, c. 1893.
Fig 7: Preliminary sketch no. 2 for the Glasgow Herald building from C.R. Mackintosh's Italian sketchbook. Undated, c.1893.
Fig 8: Preliminary sketch for the Glasgow Herald building presentation perspective from C.R. Mackintosh's Italian sketchbook. Undated, c. 1893.
NOTES

1. Thomas Howarth, Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh_and_the_Modern Movement, 1977, p. 59


3. Thomas Howarth, Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh_and_the_Modern Movement, 1977 p. 58

4. Ibid. pp. 3-4

5. Ibid. pp. 22-23

6. Ibid. p. 58

7. Ibid. p. 18

8. Robert Macleod, Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh_Architect_and_Artist, 1968 p. 28

9. Ibid. p. 27

10. Ibid.


12. Ibid. p. 16 re: "We must clothe modern ideas with modern dress - adorn our designs with living fancy" C.R. Mackintosh, from his paper on "Architecture" read to the Glasgow Institute, February 1893.

13. Robert Macleod, Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh_Architect_and_Artist, 1968 p. 28

14. Ibid. p. 42
CHAPTER TWO: Analysis.

2.1: Introduction
2.2: The Building
2.3: Form
2.4: Tower
2.5: Mitchell Street Elevation
2.6: Mitchell Lane Elevation
2.7: Chimney
2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this analysis is to appraise the original completed building as a whole and its component parts, with reference where appropriate to Mackintosh's unexecuted intentions, as revealed on various extant drawings, to the various historical, contemporary and personal influences and to his later built works.
2.2 The Building
2.2 The Building.

Honeyman and Keppie received the commission for the extension of the Herald building from George Outram & Company a year after completing a much smaller extension to one of the newspaper's existing buildings. This marked the Glasgow Herald's last major architectural expansion with the two previous being the "front" offices on Buchanan Street, by James Sellars in 1879 (fig 9) and the functional middle buildings by J.W. Beaumont and Son, to house the presses. The commission was essentially for warehouse space, not all necessarily for the Herald's use. Indeed, the commercial nature of the development is made apparent by the shops on the ground floor, completely independent of the one specific Herald requirement, the despatch offices.

The site (fig 10) at the corner of Mitchell Street and Mitchell Lane, occurs where the long north-south grid generated West Nile Street bends slightly, causing a "kink" in the urban fabric created by a collision of the left-over medieval planning with the later Victorian grid iron. The finished building respects the significance of this urban juxtaposition by the placement of the tower at its focus, the corner of the site, and further emphasises it by an extension of the building line, previously adhered to by the property of J. Rosshill, out into the street and proud of the neighbouring building. This would suggest that the "awkward" corner was created, and that the tower was an intentional feature, not a compromised design solution.
Fig 9: Glasgow Herald 'front' offices, designed by James Sellars, 1879. Photograph, c.1940 courtesy of the Glasgow Herald
Once past this focal point, the street gradually diminishes to a lane to meet Argyle Street, effectively reducing the status of this city centre site to "service." This, combined with the hierarchy of the _Herald_ building's development from Buchanan Street and its relative position within the city block (fig 11) accounts for the 1893 development being known as the "back" building.

Economic and commercial pressures dictated the form of many developments of this period, requiring buildings to fill sites completely for maximum return. The _Glasgow Herald_ building is certainly no exception. The body of the building rises through a full seven stories (including a basement) with the tower unit over and above that, creating a dramatic chasm-like effect on the narrowing Mitchell Street.

The general impression given by the _Glasgow Herald_ building is one of solidity and mass, recalling traditional Scottish architecture, with high quality sculpture effectively and sparingly located. Its mass is emphasised by the deeply recessed bay windows on the first four floors, a technique to be used to great effect in the library windows of the Glasgow School of Art. As noted by Gomme and Walker, it is all "surprisingly vigorous and unfussy" perhaps best summarised by "The Builder" in July 1898, in its comparison of the "correct Classicism" and wealth of detail of the Sellars designed 'front' building to this "curious plain but interesting building by Honeyman and Keppie in the very latest entirely original style, with its big, simple mouldings, long flat curves and heavy angle tower.
surmounted by ogee roof”.

On plan (figs. 12-16 inc) the building is split into halves of warehouse accommodation, separated by an internal wall of service facilities stretching from the front wall to the main staircase/service core and associated octagonal chimney. This separation is generated by the somewhat tortuous cartway route at ground level, required by the Glasgow Herald for distribution of its papers. As it is at this level that the main staircase terminates, a separate service stair is included to link the basement to the existing Herald offices. There is little of note on this basically pragmatic planning arrangement apart from the slightly perverse positioning of a water closet on the front elevation, a feature repeated on the Glasgow School of Art at the Director’s room.

Structurally, in order to maximise free floor area, the Glasgow Herald building employs a cast-iron grid and load bearing core and external wall system. These walls are constructed of the then popular red sandstone, with the rear elevation being of white glazed brick, a feature typical of many Glasgow buildings of the period on account of its light benefits. As with the tapering chimney and the cast iron columns, this wall reduces in weight as it rises, from being thirty two inches thick to eighteen. At the eaves level the external face corbels to accommodate the gutter, introducing in the detail the yellow brick that ultimately caps the chimney (fig 17). Mackintosh would later develop the decorative qualities of brick to greater effect on the Daily Record building which, incidentally, would share the same cast iron construction and steel pinned trusses (fig 18)
The section (fig 19) without any of the volumetric modulation seen on Mackintosh's later works, fills the site. Every floor runs complete from front to back, supported on cast iron beams which, for stability, alternate their direction at each level. Each column capital splays in accordance with each beam (fig 20) a detail seen in profusion in the supporting structure of the main staircase in the basement.

NOTES

1. See Appendix 11, drawing nos. 04 and 05, (1892, May; Dean of Guild Degree)

2. The legend "J.W. Beaumont and Son, Architects & Surveyors, 10 St. James Square, Manchester" appears on a number of drawings held in S.R.C. Archive relating to alterations and extensions to the Glasgow Herald middle buildings (See Appendix 11). There is no current record of said firm.

3. See Appendix 11, drawing no. 04 (block plan)


5. Ibid


7. See Appendix 1, drawing no. 13
Fig 10: Location plan of the Glasgow Herald building by C.R. Mackintosh. Drawn by M.M. Angus, 1988
Fig 17: Corbelled eaves detail on the rear elevation. Photograph 1988.
Fig 18: Truss details from drawing no. 15, Dean of Guild submission, 1894.
Fig 20: Capital of cast-iron column from drawing no. 15, Dean of Guild submission, 1894.
2.3 Form
2.3 Form.

The overall form of the building can be assessed in two ways: as physical reality and architectural allegory.

The reality is a thick wall or skin stretched tightly around the site, from the neighbouring building in Mitchell Street to the cartway in the lane, leaving the top unit of the tower as a completely separate component. One becomes fully aware of this when approaching the building from the top of West Nile Street. The distinctive silhouette of the tower rises clearly above the street, impressively taking command of the vista. The impact of this silhouette is achieved primarily by the original positioning of the tower and then assisted by its bulging out. As one nears the building this impact reduces until the tower unit disappears, effectively merging with the skin (fig 21). The tower therefore acts truly as a beacon. Once one has arrived, its purpose is served and its physical presence is no longer required.

Allegorically, the building can be seen to be made up of three completely independant components: two elevations separated by a tower, each of individual merit and composition. The tower illusion is successfully achieved by the use of interrupted slender pilasters at the physical and impiled angles (a measure of this success may be seen in the Herald building's representation as a tower on the currently popular illustration for Glasgow 1990 (fig 22) by Randak Design)
These pilasters are carefully modelled to curve out from the face of the wall, implying a continuity of the wall plane and therefore reconciling this part of the tower with its role as part of the external "skin". This implication is reinforced by the repetition of the detail at the top floor balconies on the Mitchell Street elevation and at the curved sills of the uppermost windows on the tower.
Fig 21: The 'reducing' silhouette photographs by M.M. Angus, 1988.
Fig 22: 'Glasgow 1990', illustration of tower, courtesy of Randak Design.
2.4 Tower
Fig 23: The upper tower and chimney
Photograph by M.M. Angus, 1989.
2.4 TOWER

The corner tower, like the chimney, adopts the fundamentally octagonal form, inspired, in general, by traditional Scottish architecture and specifically by the Italian campaniles, and would appear in many of Mackintosh's later works, including the Glasgow School of Art; in the centre piece of the main facade and East elevation and, most effectively at Queens Cross Church. As a separate component, it can be split into two sections: the lower level and the upper tower unit.

The lower level, defined by the uninterrupted pilasters, is of plain, massive construction punctuated by various openings. Decoration is confined to key points, the most interesting of which are the masks applied at the junctions of string courses and pilaster, and the sculpted panel of sinuous lines above the door (fig 24). The campanile inspired triple window of the Dean of Guild scheme on the angled face was built as a double window with single decorated mullion and full arch (fig 25). At this level the octagonal form of the tower is immediately compromised by a most obvious infringement: the angle of the site. The octagon is aligned with the principal street plane, consequently sacrificing the external expression of its face to the lane. Its true form, however, is maintained by the windows which, by continuing to adhere to the street line, create the same juxaposition at detail level as at the urban level, as well emphasizing the idea of "skin" versus "tower". This idea is further highlighted by the window arrangement altering above the cornice level, having been consistent on all three external faces to that point.
Fig 24: Corner door showing decorative stonework. Photograph c.1972 courtesy of the Glasgow Herald.
Fig 25: Double window with arch
Photograph 1988.
Without doubt the most interesting and obviously Mackintosh designed part of the whole building is the tower unit, inspired, it is believed, by both the proposed cathedral at Victoria, British Columbia (1893), by Henry Wilson and the angle turret of the High 4 School at Stirling by the London/Scottish architect, J.M. Maclaren (fig 26). The similarity of the latter and the tower lessens, however, as one compares the preliminary sketches through the DoG drawings to the final built form (fig 27,28) the early "squatness" being replaced by an elegance more beneficial to its commanding location. This is a further development from the "Railway Terminus scheme" of 1892, its intentional nature being evident in the emphasis placed on the soffit of the roof in the final presentation perspective. Certain general points are worth consideration before detailed analysis.

By the initial alignment of the octagon with Mitchell Street, the top of the tower in its capacity as a beacon, subtly signals to the uncompromising grid-generated West Nile Street the existence of another urban order.

Although basically octagonal the more complete nature of which is gradually expressed as it is freed from the constraints of the site, the tower unit is actually multi-faceted. It has a very definitive "front" and "back" effected by the appearance of the square edged chimney stack.
Fig 26: The High School at Stirling (1887) by James MacLaren. Photograph 1989 courtesy of Dr. James Macaulay.
Fig 27: Elevation of the upper tower by C.R. Mackintosh
Drawn by M.M. Angus, 1989.
Fig 28: Plans and section of the upper tower by C.R. Mackintosh. Drawn by M.M. Angus, 1989.
The upper section begins above the nameless badges capping the pilasters (fig 29). Recognising its new found freedom, it swells out in true Baronial fashion in three courses of stone facilitating in section the base for the internal brick octagon. From this point, the external stone skin is purely cosmetic, decorated in the seductive forms applied - the "elephantine" sculptures at the angles (fig 30); the window sill treatment; and the undulating coping (fig 31).

These, along with the elegant ogee form of the roof and the heavy weather vane, which also appear on the Railway Terminus scheme, the Queen Margaret College and the Martyrs’ School, all display early characteristics of Mackintosh, especially in their continuous use of flowing lines and curvilinear form. The brick, rising through various stages of arches and openings to terminate in a corbelled detail is the structural element, supporting the keystones for the vertical posts and ultimately the roof tie-beams. The external skin is therefore tied back at various points by stone anchor pieces to ensure structural stability. The final stage of the roof is of timber construction using carved rafters to create the ogee form.

As the idea of the tower at the lower level is illusory, so in a sense is the upper unit by its necessity and accessibility. Its primary function is to house an eight thousand gallon water tank - a requirement that could have been satisfied at much less expense and fuss, with greater constructional ease elsewhere in the building.
This becomes particularly apparent when it is compared to the previous basic square, white-glazed brick water tower (fig 32) and even slightly more elaborate unbuilt tower by Sellars for the middle buildings.

Furthermore, no direct access is provided from within the body of the building: one must crawl over the roof to a small door behind the pedimented window head on Mitchell Street to gain entry. As with the chimney, therefore, the tower would appear to be an exercise in pure design, and, taking into consideration the campanile drawings and the building line extension, would appear to suggest a predilection on Mackintosh's part for designing a tower. This would seem to be contradictory to the doctrine of 'truth in building', making an 'envelope without contents'.

However, when confronted by its dramatic contextualism from the top of West Nile Street (fig 33) one can recognise the true aesthetic value of the tower, and appreciate that the prominence of its location was a more important consideration than the function it served.

NOTES

1. See Appendix 1

2. See Chap. 3.3. - "Form"

This "ogee" form capping a corner appears on a number of buildings in Glasgow of this time, including: the Caledonian Mansions (1897) by James Millar; Lion Chambers (1905) and Anderson Savings Bank (1899-90) by James Salmon 11; McConnel’s building (1905-6) by John Keppie; and 7-23 Kirklee Road (1900) by John A Campbell.


See Appendix 11

Robert Macleod, Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh_Architect_and_Artist, 1968. p.38

Thomas Howarth, Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh_and_the_Modern Movement, 1977, P.16

J. Opfer and A Millar, Scotland Street School - A new survey, 1980 re: "Rainwater Collection Box, West Elevation"; Nikolaws Persner, Pioneers of Modern Design, 1949 p.102 re "The esthetic value of the straight slender shafts into which the windows are inserted is entirely independant of their function".

A.M. Doak and A.M. Young, Glasgow at a Glance, 1971. fig. 141
(in the same text, Doak and Young also suggest that the Glasgow Herald building is a development from the 1891 "Scots Baronial" style competition by Mackintosh. This view is also held by J. Cooper, ed., Mackintosh Architecture the Complete Buildings and Selected Projects, 1980. p.16. Drawings are held by the University of Glasgow Mackintosh Collection.)
Fig 29: Badge surmounting pilaster
Photograph 1989.
Fig 30: 'Elephantine' sculpture.
Photograph 1989
Fig 31: Window sill and undulating cope.
Photograph 1988
Fig 32: White glazed brick water tower to middle buildings. Photograph 1988.
Fig 33: View of the Glasgow Herald building from the top of West Nile Street.
Photograph by M.M. Angus, 1988
4.5 Mitchell Street Elevation
Fig 34: Elevation to Mitchell Street by C.R. Mackintosh
Drawn by M.M. Angus, 1989.
2.5 Mitchell Street Elevation

Compared to the practically unadorned lane elevation, the Mitchell Street elevation (fig 34) is highly ordered and decorated.

The fenestration, by adhering to the floor levels and structure, initially establishes a regular pattern of large openings generated by the need for a maximum of uniform light. This essentially horizontal pattern, assisted by the adoption of a slightly different window type at each level, is then articulated by the application of vertical surface modulation in the form of pilasters and planar relief. This is then overlaid by the uninterrupted horizontal cornice and string course.

By being applied to an elevation which can only be seen at an angle, these horizontal elements, therefore, have the greatest power of articulation over the building. The upper cornice is the most effective. By overstepping the line of the vertical pilaster next to the tower, it ensures the illusion of the independance of the elevation. Its sheer weight, aided by its large overhang, effectively reduces the scale of the whole elevation, and in turn, along with the undulating parapet, creates the illusion of recession of the upper two storeys. The lower string course’s function is similar, but in some ways less successful. It effects an isolation of the ground floor, therefore accommodating the various openings and maintaining human scale, although by lack of weight it cannot hold up the oppressive mass of building above.
This bears comparison with the heavy base of the elevation of the Daily Record Building (fig 35).

In its continuation beyond the elevation, subtly linking it to the tower and overall skin, is the true strength and purpose of the string course.

On the vertical plane, the compositional theme is of blatant asymmetry contained by apparent symmetry. The asymmetry is created by the powerful expression of the service wall, achieved by heavy mass punctured by gradually increasing decorated windows. This appropriately links the body of the building to its "front door".

The symmetry on the other hand is created in a much more gentle fashion by the two slightly protruding end features, which spring from the lower string course on thin pilasters, to terminate in decorated pedimented window heads.

The combination of both the horizontal and vertical is respected and mirrored in the final layer of the composition, the rain water pipes. They do not interrupt either the string course, which is consciously detailed round them (fig 36), or the cornice. Furthermore, the alignment of their bracket fixings being different on the outer two than the inner three, creates a symmetry, which, combined with their inherent form, relates them to the vertical.
Fig 35: Elevation of Daily Record building (1901) by C.R. Mackintosh. Drawing c.1900.
Apart from the recessed bay windows, there are a number of features which are characteristic of Mackintosh: the five rain water collection boxes (fig 37) displaying the high level of attention to detail, equally evident in the brass fire grating from the editor's room; the two free-flowing sculptured pedimented window heads, each being different but based on the same sinous ogee form; the upturned coping detail at the top of the centre-piece (fig 38) and the top storey window heads (fig 39) which are repeated on the Queen Margaret College, the Martyrs' School, and most literally on the proposed National Bank Buildings of 1898 (fig 40). These windows also feature the "tongue-like embellishment" typical of many Honeyman and Keppie buildings, both before and after the Herald buildings, although it would gradually disappear from Mackintosh's own work.

NOTES

1. See Appendix 111

Fig 36: String course/rain water pipe detail. Photograph 1988.
Fig 37: 2 no. rainwater collection boxes.
Photographs 1988
Fig 38: Upturned cope on centre piece
Photograph 1988
Fig 39: Top storey window
Photograph 1988
Fig 40: Proposed National Bank Buildings (1898) by C.R. Mackintosh. Drawing c. 1898.
2.6 Mitchell Lane Elevation
Fig 41: View of the Glasgow Herald building from Mitchell Lane. Photograph by M.M. Angus, 1989.
2.6 Mitchell Lane Elevation.

Being to a lane, this elevation (fig 42), unlike the street elevation, is subject to less stringent demands, which it recognises and takes advantage of in its comparatively informal composition.

Although its fenestration pattern remains regular, there is an overall impression of "weight" being given to the corner. This is achieved by the use of the single vertical element in relief stone being capped by the only piece of sculpture on the elevation, the pedimented window head. This is detailed in a similar fashion to those on the street elevation, and incorporates the familiar "blossoming flower" detail (fig 43).

Further weight is also added by the asymmetrical "leaning" of the blank chimney stack at the top of the elevation.

This elevation, however, is particularly noteworthy for its examples of "honest" detailing. These include the puncturing of the "skin" and associated detail and rainwater pipe directly relating to the principal valley gutter, the stepping out to accommodate the corbelling of the rear elevation and the curving of the first six courses of stone at the corner of the lane and cartway.
Fig 42: Elevation to Mitchell Lane by C.R. Mackintosh
Drawn by M.M. Angus, 1989.
Fig 43: 'Blossoming flower' detail
Photograph 1989.
2.7 Chimney
Fig 44: Chimney plans section and elevation by C.R. Mackintosh. Drawn by M.M. Angus, 1989.
2.7 The Chimney

The service chimney (fig 44), located in the lightwell adjacent to the main staircase, adopts, as with the tower, the traditional octagonal form. It rises from the basement to an overall height of approximately forty meters, gently tapering over this distance. Its construction is of common brick within the body of the building, changing to yellow glazed brick with yellow sandstone inserts once above the roof line. Like the wall of the rear elevation, it reduces in structural "weight" as it rises, from six bricks thick to one.

Unlike the Dean of Guild design, the upper section truly "caps" the chimney by the use of long vertical "fingers" dropping down each face from the underside of the protruding sill. The vertical emphasis is continued by tall, arched openings which terminate in novel, slender curved keystones stretching up to meet the corbelling above. Of note in the final stages are the delightful sandstone spouts, introduced in place of the "tower roof" form which was originally intended. These, and the sinuous metal brackets (fig 45), now missing, are the most obvious examples of Mackintosh's handiwork.

When considering, however, the extent of design input for the completed chimney, which includes openings onto a solid metal flue, versus its function, the question of artistic integrity is raised and again suggests a desire on Mackintosh's part to excercise his architectural skills..
NOTES

1. See Appendix 1, drawing no. 10
Fig 45: Metal brackets to chimney from working drawings c. 1894.
CHAPTER THREE : The Drawings

3.1 : Dean of Guild

3.2 : Working Drawings

3.3 : The Perspective
3.1 Dean of Guild
3.1 Dean of Guild.

The Dean of Guild was the equivalent of today’s Building Control Department, and as such required a full set of design drawings and relevant construction information for approval immediately prior to commencement on site. For record and historical reference purposes therefore, these drawings are invaluable especially in terms of tracing the development of a design.

The introductory drawing of the Glasgow Herald building Dean of Guild submission of 8th February, 1894 indicates that a total of eighteen drawings were originally submitted. Of these, the Glasgow City Archives retain eleven of which five at scale 1:96, are minor plans (including basement, first floor, attic and roof plans) and the remainder, at scale 1:24, are construction plans and sections of the principal elements. Apart from indicating the extent of the proposed works and their basic construction, there is little of interest on these drawings, except the unusual stone detail terminating the spine wall of the service stair (fig 46) and the inclusion at this stage of two chimneys, one connected to the main core and the other located at the south-east corner of the development.

Seven drawings, then, remained missing, until in 1988, the author approached the offices of Keppie, Henderson and Partners (Honeyman and Keppie) in order to establish what, if any, drawn information remained. It was then that six of the seven outstanding drawings were discovered, along with an amended plan of the roof (c.1894), two sections of the Sellars designed front offices and two later alterations drawings.
As the six D.o.G. drawings have additional information on them, it would appear that they were retrieved from the Dean of Guild at some time after the submission in order to be worked upon and subsequently were never returned, thus remaining in the possession of Honeyman and Keppie. As well as the two formerly absent plans, namely the ground and second/third floor plans, there are, as expected, the elevations and sections all drawn on tracing linen in pen, with materials colour-coded in watercolour paints. Although not necessarily draughted by Mackintosh, the value of these drawings in relation to the design process is self-evident especially as there are a number of features of particular note.

The ground floor plan, besides clearly illustrating the cartway route (complete with steel rails) also reveals, contrary to the Macleod belief that the corner did not act as a main entrance, but was separate and presumably let as a small shop. Even after incorporation into the Glasgow Herald's use this remained the case, as is evident from the 1934 alteration drawing.

The elevations, drawing nos. 11 and 12 reveal many details common to the perspective, particularly the triumvirate window on the tower, the iron gates to the cartway and the weather vane, all of which would be altered or deleted at a later date.

Of the two chimneys, one is fully elevated for the first time on drawing no. 10, with the one in the south east corner being indicated but incomplete, presumably remaining so until its later complete deletion. A fanciful gable treatment is also evident also to be deleted at a later date.
NOTES

1. See Appendix 1
2. See Appendix 11
3. Ibid. (Drawing no. App 11-36)
Fig 46: Stone detail terminating service stair spine wall from drawing no. 17, Dean of Guild submission 1894.
3.2 Working Drawings
3.2 The Working Drawings

In addition to the Dean of Guild drawings, Keppie Henderson also held numerous later alteration and extension drawings and blueprints as they remained the Glasgow Herald architects until its departure to new premises in 1980. It was while unrolling a set of blueprints that the wrapping paper was discovered to be a part elevation of the Mitchell Street facade (fig 47). Further research uncovered two more drawings of similar nature, a part elevation of the Mitchell Lane facade (fig 48) and a drawing showing plans, section and elevation of the chimney (fig 49) all at scale 1:24, drawn on heavy layered paper in pen, and completely coloured using watercolour paints. These are clearly working drawings obviously supplementary to the other 1:24 scale drawings of the Dean of Guild set. On the two elevations dimensions are marked in red, almost every stone course being individually sized, with plans at each level overlaid and picked out in darker tones of colour. The draughting is unmanne red yet accurate and direct, particularly in the remarkably fine unfinished pencil work of the top of the tower on the Mitchell Lane elevation. Apart from minor differences in coursing and detailing, these drawings show the building as built, and illustrate the production information techniques circa 1894.

There are a number of free-hand pencil additions to these drawings that are of particular interest, regarding the question of authenticity.
These include the upturned stone cope to the chimney, the "blossoming flower" detail in stone on the pedimented window head on the Mitchell Lane drawing subsequently executed (fig 50), and the iron gates proposed on the Mitchell Street drawing (fig 51).

Being primarily derivative of natural forms, these sketches bear a marked resemblance to the early graphic work undertaken by Mackintosh, whilst at the same time illustrating the search for new decorative styles to be executed in stone and wrought iron for building application.

NOTES

Fig 47: Mitchell Street part elevation, 1:24 working drawing c. 1894.
Fig 48: Mitchell Lane part elevation, 1:24 working drawing c.1894.
Fig 49: Chimney plans, section and elevation, 1:24 working drawing c.1894.
Fig 50: Details of free-hand pencil additions to working drawings. Upturned stone cope to chimney and 'blossoming flower' detail to Mitchell Lane part elevation.
Fig 51: Free-hand pencil addition of iron gates to Mitchell Street part-elevation working drawing.
3.3 The Perspective
3.3 The Perspective

The perspective of the Herald building, executed confidently in pen on paper, was first published in the *Academy Architecture* in 1894, and remains one of the best known of Mackintosh's drawings. Based on the Dean of Guild scheme of the same year, it reveals a keen sense of drama in presentation, generally achieved by its focussing on the building without the distraction of any "streetlife", and emphasised by the distortion of the top of the tower, itself highlighted by the omission of the roof shown on the preliminary sketch (fig 8). It has been suggested that the excellent draughtsman and illustrator Alexander McGibbon was instrumental in the development of Mackintosh's early illustrative abilities, teaching him a great deal about pencil and ink technique. The styles of the two, however, are quite distinct, which is evident when one compares McGibbon's drawing of Honeyman and Keppie's Royal Insurance Building project (fig 52) with the perspective (fig 53).

NOTES


2. Ibid. pp.55-56
Fig 53: Presentation perspective of the Glasgow Herald building by C.R. Mackintosh. 1894.
CONCLUSION

In terms of style and originality, the Glasgow Herald building does not compare to Mackintosh’s later, highly inventive major works. It remains most definitely an early work from a progressively developmental artistic career, displaying an interest but as yet an unresolved ability in a number of architectural devices and doctrines including: the search for new decorative forms and their application; the idea of symmetry versus asymmetry; and the appropriateness of architectural reference. Combined with the limitations of the brief, this produced a building that may be seen as a series of well executed exercises in the following: elevational composition by surface modulation and fenestration; cast iron construction; architectural form and attention to detail.

It is perhaps as evidence of Mackintosh’s firm grasp and application of fundamental architectural principles, especially of site response and urban intervention, that the Glasgow Herald’s true value lies.

This is perhaps best summarised in the British Architect of 8 February, 1895, which, in commenting on the perspective, states:

"This admirable drawing sets forth one of the most noticeable modern buildings in Glasgow, a building which may fairly claim to be a genuinely modern development and - what so many clever things miss - not innocent of a quality of proportion and emphasis such as makes architecture a thing independent of mere style".
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Pamphlets:

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British Architect, xliii, 8, February, 1985, P. 94.
The Builder, vol. 72, 6 March 1897, pp. 228-229.

Dissertations:
Appendices:  
I  Dean of Guild Submission, 1894  
II  Glasgow Herald Alterations and Extensions  
III  The Editors Room Interior.
Appendix One: Dean of Guild Submission, 1894.
Dean of Guild submission, 1894.

The submission comprised the following drawings. Each was executed in pencil, pen and watercolour on tracing linen. Certain drawings are clearly numbered. Those which are not were given a number by the author, one the basis of drawn information and logical progression. These are marked with an asterisk. The location of drawing number 6 is unknown, and is assumed to be the fourth floor plan.

Block Plan.

1. Plan of basement, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96), 768 x 1077 mm
   Stored: S.R.C. Archive 107

2. Plan of ground floor, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96), 689 x 1045 mm
   Stored: Keppie Henderson. 108

3. Plan of entresol floor of Front, and first floor of Back building, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96), 702 x 1035 mm
   Stored: S.R.C. Archive 109

4. Amended plan of Front, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 724 x 275 mm
   Stored: S.R.C. Archive 110

5. Plan of second & third floor, scale 1/8" to one foot,
   Found: M. M. Angus 111
   Stored: Keppie Henderson.

6. Plan of fourth floor, scale 1/8" to one foot, unknown dimensions
   Stored: S.R.C. Archive. 112

7. Plan of attic floor, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 714 x 1085 mm
   Stored: S.R.C. Archive. 113

8. Plan of roof, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 772 x 1063 mm
   Stored: S.R.C. Archive. 114

9. Long section AB/ cross section CD scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 695 x 1100 mm.
   Found by M.M. Angus, 1989
   Stored: Keppie Henderson 115
10. East elevation, cross section CD, scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 645 x 980 mm

11. Elevation to Mitchell Lane scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 696 x 1075 mm

12. Elevation to Mitchell Street scale 1/8" to one foot (1:96) 696 x 1070 mm

13. Scale drawings of principle staircase plan of basement and ground scale 1/2" to one foot (1:24) 750 x 1090 mm

14. Plan of principle staircase and chimney: first, second third and fourth; Attic Level, scale 1/2" to one foot (1:24) 722 x 1360 mm

15. Section through external wall, scale 1/2" to one foot (1:24), 772 x 1360 mm

16. Long and cross section through principle staircase, scale 1/2" to one foot (1:24) 716 x 1608 mm

17. Service stair from basement to case room: elevation; section: 3 no. plans, scale 1/2" to one foot (1:24) 770 x 1077 mm

Found by M.M. Angus 1989
Stored: Keppie Henderson

Found by M.M. Angus
Stored: Keppie Henderson

Found by M.M. Angus, 1989
Stored: Keppie Henderson

Stored: S.R.C. Archive.
Drawing no. 3
Drawing no. 9
Drawing no. 10
Drawing no. 14
Drawing no. 17
Appendix Two: Glasgow Herald Alterations and Extensions
Apart from those documents directly relating to the 1894 extension, many other drawings were collated and referred to in the process of research for this document. These are listed here, in chronological order, with brief comment and description where appropriate.
1879 : 28th April : signed by all contractors.

'The Glasgow Herald office No. 11.
Longitudinal Section through Public Office looking North'

Unsuitable : Pencil, pen & watercolour on tracing linen
Reproduction Scale 1/4" to 1 foot (1:48)
675 x 845 mm

Architect : Campbell, Douglas & Sellars
Stored : Keppie Henderson.

June :

App.11-01

'Glasgow Herald Office No. 12
Longitudinal Section through North Entrance & Staircase looking South'
Pencil, pen & watercolour on tracing linen
Scale 1/4" to 1 foot (1:48)
735 x 950 mm

Architect : Campbell, Douglas & Sellars
Found : M.M. Angus, 1989
Stored : Keppie Henderson.

June :

App.11-02

'Glasgow Herald Office No. 13
Transverse Section thro' Public office and Shop looking towards Front Wall'
Pencil, pen & Watercolour on tracing linen,
Scale 1/4" to 1 foot (1:48)
750 x 985 mm

Architect : Campbell, Douglas & Sellars
Found : M.M. Angus, 1989
Stored : Keppie Henderson
1887 : 8th September : Dean of Guild degree :

App. 11-03

'Herald Office Buildings Proposed Brick Tower for Water Tank. 12th Aug. '87

Pencil, pen & Watercolour on tracing linen, Scale 1/4" to 1 foot (1:48)
555 x 718 mm

Architect : Campbell, Douglas & Sellars
Stored : S.R.C. Archive.

1892 : May; Dean of Guild decree,

App. 11-04

'Glasgow Herald Office Proposed Addition Block Plan'
Pencil, pen & watercolour on tracing linen, Scale 1/4" to 10 foot (1:480),
383 x 515 mm

Architect : Honeyman & Keppie
Stored : S.R.C. Archive.

1894 (circa) :

App. 11-06

'Plan of Roof'
Development following D.o.G. submission 1894 (ref Appendix 1)
Pencil over pen & Waterproof on tracing linen, Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)
705 x 1045 mm.

Architect : Honeyman & Keppie
Found : M.M. Angus, 1989
Stored : Keppie Henderson.
1894 (circa)

App. 11-07 'The Glasgow Herald Building Elevation to Mitchell Lane, Section

Pencil, pen & watercolour on tracing linen,
Scale, 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)
635 x 1050 mm

Architect : Honeyman & Keppie
Found : M.M. Angus, 1989
Stored : Keppie Henderson

1895 (circa) :

App. 11-08 'The Glasgow Herald Buildings, Plan of Ground Floor'
(Shows internal layout of mid and front buildings.)
Pen on tracing linen
Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)
715 x 1040 mm

Architect : Honeyman & Keppie
Stored : Keppie Henderson

1896

13th August: Dean of Guild included interior decoration to Editor’s Room
(See App.111)
'The Glasgow Herald Mid Buildings'

App.11-09 Block Plan
Scale 1/16" to 1 foot (1:192)
526 x 900 mm

App.11-10 'Plan of Basement'
App.11-11 'Plan of Ground floor'
App.11-12 'First Floor of Back Building, Entresol of Front Building'
App. 11-13 'Plan of Second Floor'
App. 11-14 'Plan of Third Floor'
App. 11-15 'Section AB, Section CD'
App. 11-16 'Long Section'
App. 11-17 'South Elevation'
Pencil, pen & watercolour on tracing linen
Scale 1.8" to 1 foot (1:96)
525 x 860 mm
Architect: Honeyman & Keppie
Stored: S.R.C. Archive.

1896 (circa)

App. 11-18
'Section AB. Section CD'.
Preparatory drawing assumed prior to
D.o.G. 1897
Pen & watercolour on paper
Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)
570 x 765 mm

Architect: Honeyman & Keppie
Found: M.M. Angus, 1989
Stored: Keppie Henderson

1897: 14th January Dean of Guild decree:

'The Glasgow Herald Mid Building
Proposed Additional Storey' (each titled)

App 11-19
'Plan of Third Floor No. 1.'

App. 11-20
'Plan of Attic Floor No. 2.'

App. 11-21
'South Elevation, Section AB, Section CD,
No. 3'
Pencil, pen and watercolour on tracing linen,
Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96),
525 x 840 mm

Architect: Honeyman & Keppie
Stored: S.R.C. Archive.

1909: 8th July, Dean of Guild decree:
each titled 'Glasgow Herald New
Building in Mitchell Lane'

App. 11-22
'No. 1 Section CD Basement Plan'

App. 11-23
'No. 2 Basement Plan'

App. 11-24
'No. 3 Ground Floor Plan'

App. 11-25
'No. 4 First Floor Plan'

App. 11-26
'No. 5 Second Floor Plan'

App. 11-27
'No. 6 Third Floor Plan'

App. 11-28
'No. 7 Fourth Floor Plan'
No. 8 Elevation to Mitchell Lane
Section AB
Pencil, pen and watercolour on tracing linen
Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)
420 x 584 mm

Architect: J. W. Beaumont & Son
Stored: S.R.C. Archive.

1911:
3rd April, Dean of Guild decree:
'Glasgow Herald, New Building in Mitchell Lane. Proposed increased height of Water Tank Tower. Elevation to Mitchell Lane'
Pencil, pen on tracing linen
Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)
470 x 565 mm

Unsuitable for Reproduction

Architect: J. W. Beaumont & Son
Stored: S.R.C. Archive.

1912 (circa)

No. 1 Glasgow Herald, etc over staircase. Fourth Floor Plan.
(Front Building)
305 x 488 mm

No. 7 Glasgow Herald, New Building in Mitchell Lane. Plan showing new position of WCs & locker room. Fourth Floor Plan
480 x 610 mm

No. 56 Glasgow Herald, New Building. Roof showing extension over Central Building. Section through Fourth Floor A-A. Roof Plan
1924

October:

App. 11-34

'Plan of Basement'

Pencil, pen and watercolour on tracing linen.

Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)

Architect: J.W. Beaumont & Son

Stored: S.R.C. Archive.

App. 11-35

'Glasgow Herald, Plan of Ground floor'

Pencil, pen and watercolour on tracing linen.

Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)

660 x 840 mm

Architect: Honeyman & Keppie

Stored: Keppie Henderson.

1934

App. 11-36

'Glasgow Herald, Plan of Ground Floor' (showing new machine room extension)

Pen on tracing linen

Scale 1/8" to 1 foot (1:96)

705 x 880 mm

Architect: Honeyman & Keppie

Stored: Keppie Henderson.
App. 11 -02

133
GLASGOW HERALD
OFFICE
PROPOSED ADDITION.

Glasgow 26 May 1932. The undersigned
firms request to receive a copy of this drawing
in the morning. Messrs. Black

App 11 - 04

135
Appendix Three: The Editor’s Room Interior.
The Editor's Room Interior.

The panels and assorted fittings which were designed by Mackintosh for the Editor's Room in 1896 were stripped out when the Glasgow Herald newspaper vacated its premises in 1980. Those which survive are currently held in storage by Mr. A. Borland, of Hurry Bros. (furniture), and are itemised in the following inventory.

INVENTORY

1. Windows:

1.1 four number lower sash timber windows, double glazed, floral motif/Art Nouveau stained glass design over six panels.
Size overall : 1335 x 1030 mm

1.2 four number lower sash timber windows, double glazed, floral motif/Art Nouveau stained glass design over six panels.
Size overall : 1330 x 775 mm

2. Panels

2.1 one number full height timber panel
size overall : 2395 x 520 mm

2.2 two number full height timber framing pieces.
size overall : 3500 mm high.

2.3 two number half height timber panels (two bays)
size overall : 1000 x 820 mm

2.4 one number half height timber panel (four bays)
size overall : 1015 x 1610 mm

2.5 one number timber cornice piece.
size overall : 220 x 1430 mm

3. Assorted Fittings:

3.1 one number timber door (left hung)
size overall : 895 x 2115 mm

3.2 one number timber cabinet (right hung)
size overall : 1000 x 820 x 470 mm

3.3 one number timber cabinet (left hung)
size overall : 1000 x 820 x 470 mm

3.4 one number brass fire surround.

3.5 one number brass fire grate.