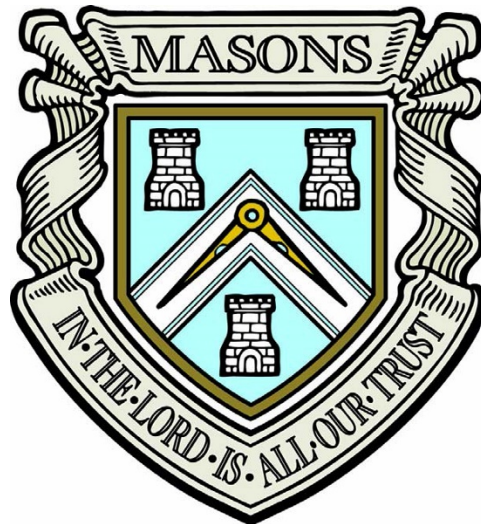


Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow

Customs and Traditions Members Version



by

Craig R Bryce MSc., Med., FRSA.

MMXVI

PREFACE

At a Deacon's Choosing Lunch in 2015 a few of the Past Deacons expressed a view that the Incorporation were in danger of losing some of their traditions and customs as they were not being passed on completely from Deacon to Deacon. It was for this reason that it was agreed to compile a document which would become the defacto record of our customs and traditions.

Deacon David Bannerman asked Late Deacon Craig R Bryce to pull together a discussion document for consideration by the Master Court. A number of documents have been in use for some years but none fully record all the traditions and customs of the Incorporation.

It is likely that a few customs or traditions may be missed in the first version of this document and it is therefore intended to be initially an electronic document.

The layout of the document will primarily be based on the sequence of meetings and events etc. that occur from the Deacon taking office in September to demitting office. As a number of traditions take place at more than one event, it was decided to have a second section which would contain these elements.

On writing the document, it became clear that a historic note might be useful to place some of our traditions in a historical context. A number of notes have been added to the document but it may be felt some were omitted. With such a great history, full of remarkable events and points worth noting, a balance had to be struck otherwise there was a danger that a history of the Incorporation would be presented, rather than simply its traditions and customs.

The document was sent to Past Deacons and the Master Court for comment and any suggestions received were then implemented prior to adoption of the final document.

At the Master Court meeting held on the 19th January 2016, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the document and it was suggested that a slightly abridged version would be better suited to publishing on the Internet for all members. This resulted in the production of this document.

Craig R Bryce
Past Deacon
January 2016

CONTENTS

The Title of Deacon	Page 1
Addressing the Deacon and Queen of the Masons	Page 2
Deacon's Choosing Meeting ~ September	Page 2 to 3
Deacon's Choosing Dinner	Page 4 to 6
Deacon's Choosing Lunch	Page 6 to 7
Pension Paying Luncheons	Page 7 to 8
Master Court Meetings	Page 8
Mason's Social Outing	Page 9
Candlemas Court and Social Evening	Page 9 to 10
Box Opening	Page 10 to 11
Lammas Court Meeting and Craft Get Together	Page 11
Pear Eating	Page 12 to 13
Procedure from membership to Past Deacon	Page 14 to 18
Becoming a member of the Incorporation	Page 14 to 15
Historic Note	Page 14
Burgess and Guild Brethren	Page 14
Ancient Privileges and Responsibilities of being a Burgess	Page 14 to 15
Modern Times	Page 15
Becoming a Member of the Master Court	Page 15
Historic Note	Page 15
Modern Times	Page 16
Becoming the Collector	Page 16
The Late Collector	Page 16
Deacon	Page 16 to 17
Historic Note	Page 17
Modern Times	Page
Deacon Convener	Page 18
Trades House Meetings	Page 18
Legend of the Incorporation	Page 19 to 20
Rapping the Shed	Page 20
Besir	Page 20 to 21
Tradition of the Pear Eating	Page 22
New Laid Stanes	Page 22
Stranger in the Midst	Page 22

Supporting Education	Page 23 to 27
Ancient Apprenticeship Training	Page 23
Reformation	Page 23
Trades Free School	Page 23
Education Today	Page 23
Lady McDonald Bursary	Page 23 to 25
Lady McDonald Scholarship	Page 26 to 27
Lady McDonald Award	Page 27
Lady McDonald Bricklaying Competition	Page 27
Lady McDonald Plastering Competition	Page 27
Lady McDonald Burgess Award	Page 28 to 29
Office Bearers List and Calendar	Page 30
Dean of Guild Court Liners	Page 30
Master Court Progression	Page 30 to 31
Incorporation's Mark	Page 31
Incorporation's Regalia	
Deacon's Chain	Page 32
Collector's Chain	Page 33
Sir John Train Medallion	Page 33
Late Collector's Silver Medal	Page 34
Silver Cradle	Page 34
Sir John Train Dress Sword	Page 35
Lord Blythwood Burgess Ticket Casket	Page 35
Deacon's Bell	Page 36
Deacon's Mallet	Page 36
Deacon's Goblet	Page 36
Deacon's Trowel	Page 37
Mason's Box Keys	Page 37
Past Deacon's Medal	Page 37
Mason's Stick	Page 37

Incorporation's Silver

Deacon Taylor Trophy	Page 38
Marley Trophy	Page 38
Guild of Bricklayers Advanced Trophy	Page 39
Gild of Bricklayers First Year Trophy	Page 39
SNIPEF Trophy	Page 39
Historic Scotland Quaich	Page 40
Incorporation Quaich	Page 40
Lady McDonald Medal	Page 40



Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow Customs and Traditions



THE TITLE OF DEACON

The head of the Incorporation has not always been called the Deacon. Various titles such as Deakon, Maister Men, Kirk Maister and even Visitor have been used over the centuries. The title of Deacon has also been outlawed. The following dates may be of interest:

1425, King James I of Scotland is the first to record that Deacons should be elected to ensure that the lieges were not cheated by craftsmen.

1426, the office of Deacon was totally prohibited as being of general prejudice to the kingdom and all licence to elect Deacons was revoked, and the former meetings of the Deacons condemned as the assemblies of conspirators.

1483, James III again permitted the crafts to have Deacons.

1493, under James IV, the office of Deacon was again banned as being dangerous and the cause of great trouble in boroughs – “and because it is clearly understandin to the King’s Hieness and his three estates that the using of Deacons of men of crafts in Boroughs is richt dangerous, it is therefore ordained that all Deacons shall cease for a year at least (**especially masons and wrights**), except to examine works.”

1555, Queen Mary (Mary of Guise, Regent), the office of Deacon was abolished as being the cause of commotion and unlawful combinations amongst the Crafts themselves, and betwixt Burgh and Burgh, deserving of grater punishment. This statute ordains “that there be NA DEACKONS chosen in tymes cumming within the Burgh,” and the Provost, Bailies and Council of the Burgh, “are to chuse the maist honest man of craft, of gude conscience, ane of every Craft to visie their craft that they labour sufficiently, and thir persons to be called *Visitours* of their craft, and to be elected an chosen yearly at Michaelmas, and thir *Visitours* chosen, sworn and admitted to have choosing of officers and other things, as the Deacons voted before. Na craftsman to bruik office in the Burgh Council except two of the most honest and famous persons to be chosen yearly”.

16th April 1556, the Queen Regent granted a general charter in favour of all the craftsmen in the Burghs and Cities within the Realm which rescinded her previous Act of 1555. This gave the Crafts new powers and favour.

In **1605** the letter of Guildry finally established the authority of the Merchants House, Trades House and the Incorporations and from 1556 all of the crafts have had Deacons except the Maltmen who have retained the title of Visitor.

ADDRESSING THE DEACON AND QUEEN OF THE MASONS

As the Deacon has reached the highest office of his/her craft it is important that s/he is addressed accordingly. When addressing the Deacon of the Incorporation of Masons, s/he should be addressed as Deacon or Deacon [Surname] or if in an informal position Deacon [Forename].



If the partner of the Deacon is a lady, then she is referred to as “The Queen of the Masons” and should be addressed as “Queen” or “Queen [forename]”. The Queen may wear the Incorporation’s “Queen’s Jewel” during her time as Queen and it is common for the Deacon to purchase a replica jewel for the Queen after he demits office. The Clerk retains a number of Queen’s Jewels which may be purchased.

DEACON’S CHOOSING MEETING ~ SEPTEMBER

Prior to the Deacon’s Choosing meeting the Collector should collect a replica medal from the Clerk and arrange to have it engraved with the Deacon’s name and year of office. The Deacon’s **name** should be engraved on the upper bar and the year of office e.g. **2014 – 15** on the lower bar. In the unusual event of a Deacon having held office for more than one year, a second bar should be purchased and engraved with the Deacon’s subsequent year/s. The Collector should arrange for the bar to be attached to the medal. The medal is worn by Past Deacons at all occasions that the Deacon wears his chain.



Late Deacon’s Medal

The Clerk will send a letter to all members inviting them to attend the Deacon’s Choosing meeting. All Master Court members, Past Deacons and ordinary members who are available should endeavour to attend this very important meeting to support the outgoing and incoming Deacons and Collectors. New members are also be invited to the meeting and this gives them the opportunity to meet the Master Court and other members.

The meeting will normally take place in the Grand Hall of the Trades Hall. The Hall will be laid out as for a Master Court with a top table where the Deacon sits central and with the Deacon Elect on his/her left hand side. The Clerk will sit to the Deacon’s right hand side a chair will be left next to the Clerk for the most senior Deacon present to sit. The Late Deacon will be seated to the left of the Deacon Elect. Past Deacon Masters will sit down the left hand side of the table and the non-Deacon Masters will sit on the right hand side.

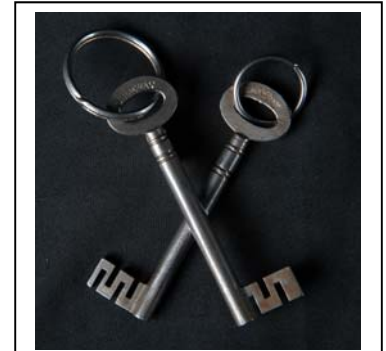
During the meeting the following items will be required:



Masons Bell



Masons Mall



Box Keys



Staff



Late Collector's Jewel



Deacon's Chain and
Collector's Chain

At the end of the meeting all present congratulate the new Deacon and Collector and disperse in preparation for the evening's Deacon's Choosing Dinner.

On leaving the Grand Hall the Deacon should join the Association of Deacons and male Deacons normally purchase a Deacon's Association tie and cufflinks whilst lady Deacons purchase a small lapel badge instead. Only people who have held the post of Deacon are entitled to wear these items.

DEACON'S CHOOSING DINNER

This is the most important event in the Incorporation's calendar and all Master Court Members; Past Deacons and ordinary members should make every effort to attend.

The following Guests will be normally invited at the expense of the Incorporation via the Collector's funds:

Deacon Convenor; Collector of the House; Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons of London; Master of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers of London; Chain Gang; Presses of the Grand Antiquity Society; President of the Deacon's Association; RWM of Trades House Lodge, RWM of the Lodge of Glasgow St. John No 3bis, Clerk Proposers for the following Toasts: Trades House; Incorporation of Masons and a person, (usually a Past Deacon) to reply to the toast to the Incorporation of Masons. The Deacon Convenor will reply to the toast to the Trades House. If any invite guests wish to bring their partner they will be invited to do so on payment of the cost of the meal plus £10.00. This information should be sent with the invitation to the guests.

Prior to the Choosing Dinner, the Masters of the Worshipful Companies should be contacted and invited to the Dinner and the Pear Eating. At the same time they should be offered free membership of the Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow and this can be presented at a convenient opportunity whilst they are in Glasgow.

A pianist should be arranged to play music during the meal, for the various songs and visitations through the evening. A Master of Ceremonies should also be arranged to ensure that the Dinner and toasts etc. goes well. The pianist and Master of Ceremonies are paid from the Collector's fund.

Preparations for this event starts a few months prior to the evening and it is normally the Collector of the previous year that makes all the arrangements as the new Collector who has just taken post will not have the experience to carry out this duty effectively.

As the Late Collector arranges this dinner it is advisable for the Collector elect to offer him/her assistance. The caterers will lay out all the tables and tableware but it is the job of the Collector to put out the name cards, menus and artefacts belonging to the Masons. Often the artefacts have not been used for a year and are consequently rather dirty and in need of a good polishing. The Collector should bring silver metal polish and polishing cloths to assist the Late Collector.

Items to be laid out for the Choosing Dinner:



Deacon Murdoch's Presentation



Lord Blythswood's Casket



Deacon Convener Train's Sword



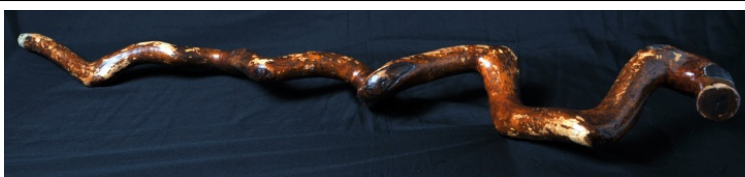
Deacon's Goblet



Masons Bell



Masons Mell



Staff



Trowel

The above items should be placed on the top table.

Dinner Arrangements

Prior to the meal the Collector should introduce him/herself to the catering manager and inform him/her that as Collector, s/he will be responsible for signing for any drinks consumed by the prize winners and their partners. It is important to agree the level of drink which is to be placed on the tables and to inform the catering staff that the Collector should be consulted prior to further refreshments being placed on the tables. (This is to ensure that the Incorporation only pays for what is consumed).

The Collector will normally be seated at the bottom of the table containing the prize winners and their partners. Normally the Collector of one of the visiting crafts will be seated next to the Collector.

The Collector should lay out the trophies, medals and certificates in an agreed location which will make the presentations quick and be able to be seen by the majority of the people at the dinner. A photographer should be on hand to record the success of the winners.

At the end of the toast, the toast the song "The auld hoose" is sung. And after the singing the toast "The Trades House of Glasgow" is given. The words to the Auld Hoose are as follows:

Oh, the auld hoose, the auld hoose,
Wha tho' the rooms were wee,
Oh, kind hearts were dwelling there
And bairnies fu'o'glee.
The wild rose and the jessamine
Still hang upon the wa',
How mony cherished memories
Do they sweet flow'rs reca'.

At the end of the evening the Deacon gives gifts to his speakers less the Deacon Convener who traditionally does not receive a gift as this would demean his office.

Normally the Deacon will retire to the Saloon where the prize winners may wish to have further photographs taken with him/her.

All present are invited to join the Deacon in the Steps bar for a small libation before journeying home.

DEACON'S CHOOSING LUNCH

In the past, the Deacon's Lunch took place after the Deacon's Choosing Meeting and prior to the Deacon's Choosing Dinner, for many years this took place in the Royal Automobile Club and later the Merchants House was used and a few other locations. In 2009 it was decided that three events (Deacon's Choosing Meeting; Deacon's Choosing Lunch and Deacon's Choosing Dinner), on the one day was too much and caused too much stress on the Deacon and other members of the Master Court and Past Deacons who attend all three events. The Deacon's Choosing Lunch is now held a week or two after Choosing Day.

Once again it is the duty of the Late Collector to arrange this luncheon which is now normally held in the Trades Hall. All members of the Master Court and Past Deacons are invited to this luncheon as are the partners of the Deacon, Late Deacon, Collector and Late Collector.

No name cards are used at this luncheon and Past Deacons should sit amongst the newer Masters. It is normal that a menu card should be placed at each sitting. Any New Laid Stanes should be seated at the corner positions if a square table layout is used.

Prior to dining, the Deacon will call upon the Collector to say Grace.

After the meal the Deacon will ask the company to stand and say the Loyal Toast. "Ladies and Gentlemen, The Queen" the company reply "The Queen"

The Late Deacon will stand and Toast the Deacon, this should be a short and humorous toast looking back on his time as Collector/Late Collector and forward to what great works s/he will do.

The Deacon will then respond and thank the Late Deacon for his kind remarks and possibly comment on his vision for his/her year to come.

If the Deacon's partner is present, the most Senior Deacon present will de-chain the Deacon and chain his/her partner. If the Collector's partner is present, the next most Senior Deacon present will de-chain the Collector and chain his/her partner. The Deacon's partner will then be invited to say a few words.

The Deacon will then introduce the New Laid Stanes and comment on them. Each New Laid Stane present will respond with a few words.

The Deacon will then toast the Collector, who will reply to his toast with a short reply.

As the luncheon draws to a close the most Senior Deacon present de-chains the Deacon's partner and re-chains the Deacon, likewise the next most Senior Deacon present will de-chain the Collector's partner and re-chain the Collector. The assembled company will then have an opportunity to make polite contributions and/or observations.

To close the meeting the Deacon's partner will "Rap the Shed".

PENSION PAYING LUNCHEONS

The Pension Paying Luncheons are a vital way of keeping contact with the Past Deacons. They occur four times per year and consist of a two course meal, (normally soup and a main course), and have for many years been held in the Western Club in Glasgow. All Past Deacons and the Platform of the Incorporation are invited. The Platform consists of the Deacon; Collector; Late Deacon and Late Collector.

The reason for this luncheon, where all participants cover the cost of the luncheon, is to report that the pensions have been paid to the Incorporations Beneficiaries. Each beneficiary receives a quarterly payment to make their lives a bit more pleasant, hence the quarterly luncheons.

Prior to about the year 2000, the Deacon and Collector used to meet in the Clerk's office to sign cheques for the beneficiaries. This practice has now ceased and the Clerk sends the cheques and reports to the Collector that the pensions have been paid. This allows the Collector the opportunity to report to the luncheon members that the pensions have been paid.

The layout of the table is that the Deacon should sit at one end of the table with the most Senior Deacon present on his left hand side. The Past Deacons then sit in order of Deaconship around the table with the senior working down from the most Senior Deacon present to the Late Deacon to the right of the Deacon. Collector and late Collector sit at the bottom of the table facing the Deacon.

The order of the proceedings are as follows:

The Deacon welcomes all present to the luncheon and then calls on the Collector to say Grace. After Grace, the meal is consumed along with wine.

After the meal is cleared away, the Deacon stands and asks those present to stand and join him/her in the Loyal Toast. Where possible, all stand and the Deacon says the Loyal Toast "Gentlemen (Ladies and Gentlemen when ladies are present),

The Queen". All reply "The Queen" and toast the Queen. In the event of there being a King, the toast would reflect this.

The Late Deacon (in the absence of the Late Deacon then the next most recent Deacon present) will toast the Deacon, highlighting some of his/her good works. The Deacon will then respond by thanking the Late Deacon for his/her kind words and then report to those present what s/he has been doing and what plans were on the go and update them on anything of interest.

The Deacon will toast the Collector, highlighting his/her good points and achievements. The Collector will then be invited to respond and s/he will reply, and most importantly announce that the pensions have been paid. At this point the Past Deacons will normally cheer.

The Deacon will normally ask the Past Deacons present if they have any comments or observations to make. S/he will have asked a Past Deacon to lead off with a question or observation prior to the meeting.

At the end of the meeting the Deacon thanks all present for their attendance, help and advice and then ask the most Senior Deacon present to "Rap the Shed". It is quite common for one of the assembled to give three cheers to the Deacon and one for his fireside.

Pension Paying Luncheon 4 is slightly different as the Clerk and the Collector elect are invited to attend. As the Collector elect is not a member of the Platform s/he is jokingly ignored during the luncheon. In reality they are most welcome and enjoy this occasion.

Master Court Meetings

There are normally six Master Court Meetings per year and dates are set prior to September each year. Prior to a meeting taking place the Clerk sends out the agenda to all Master Court Members and shortly before the meeting, the Deacon receives an extended agenda containing further details to enable him/her to prepare for the meeting.

The Platform, consisting of the Deacon, Collector, Late Deacon, Late Collector and Clerk meet at 5pm in preparation for the full Master Court. The aim of the earlier meeting is to discuss ideas and topics and to clarify points prior to the full Master Court meeting.

The layout for the Master Court is: the Deacon sits at one end of the table with the Collector at the far end facing him/her. The Past Deacons sit to the Deacons left and the ordinary members of the Master Court sit to his/her right. The Clerk always sits to the Deacons right hand side to enable him/her to offer guidance and advice. The Late Deacon sits to the Deacon's immediate left and the Late Collector sits to the Collector's right hand side.

At the end of the meeting the Late Deacon will make some kind remarks about the Deacon.

MASON'S SOCIAL OUTING

Once or twice a year, the Collector will arrange a social outing in consultation with the Deacon. The outing can be whatever the Deacon and Collector think that would be enjoyable to the members of the Incorporation. The dress for these events is based solely on the activities being undertaken.

In the past outings have been to the theatre, distilleries, the Necropolis, Wine tasting etc. The ideal is for the Deacon and the Collector to come up with some exciting and novel outing.

The cost of the events should be based on the event financially clearing itself and the Clerk will notify the members of the Incorporation to enable the maximum numbers to participate.

CANDLEMAS COURT AND SOCIAL EVENING

The term "Candlemas" is very old and is one of the four Quarter Days they are: Candlemas ~ 28th February: Whitsunday ~ 28th May: Lammas ~ 28th August and Martinmas ~ 28th November.

Nowadays, the Incorporation Rules state that Candlemas falls on the first week in February.

These were the times when rents fell due for payment and when leases and other payments would cease. Hence we renew the Clerk's contract at this time of year. Candlemas was also in pre-reformation times the feast time when candlelit processions took place to celebrate the presentation of Jesus to the Temple.

All members of the Incorporation are invited to attend Candlemas Court and Social Evening. The Clerk sends out an invitation to everyone who is on the Long Roll and this is an opportunity for the Deacon to send a letter updating the members on developments in the Incorporation. The dress for the evening is lounge suit with no medals. The Deacon and Collector of the Incorporation of Masons will wear chains of office as will the Deacon Convener and the Collector of the House, no one else will be expected to wear chains.

The Collector should invite the Deacon Convener; Collector of the House and the Chain Gang to the Candlemas Court Social Evening. They will not be expected to pay, but those attending who wish to bring their partners may do so on payment of cost plus £10.00.

The Candlemas Court meet prior to the Social Evening and all members present should attend. The meeting will normally take place in a committee room in the Trades House. The room will be arranged as for a Master Court meeting.

The meeting is normally short and after which all present retire to the Grand Hall where the Social part of the evening will take place.

Social Evening

Prior to the evening, the Collector will arrange entertainment for those present. It has been normal for a number of years to support the students at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire by inviting some to come to entertain us.

To help to make the cost of the evening affordable, a raffle is drawn and the prizes have normally been gifted by the members of the Master Court. Envelopes are

used in the raffle to hold the donation and the record the name of the donor. These will be placed in a container for drawing at a later stage. The raffle normally moves the evening from a loss making one to a profit making one.

A buffet should be arranged and the evening will typically consist of the following:

- 1) Welcome by the Deacon
- 2) Musical Interlude
- 3) Buffet and selling of raffle
- 4) Drawing of raffle
- 5) Swearing in of new members
- 6) Musical Interlude
- 7) Vote of thanks from the Deacon

BOX OPENING

Historical Note

The Incorporation's Box has always been an important item to us and the minutes of 1st November 1619 indicated the following: *"That any Key Keeper "tyneing" (losing) the key of the Incorporation Box, shall provide a new key at his own expense."*

In the minutes of January 1658, the following was recorded: *"That the Craft's Box shall at no time be opened unless the Deacon, his four Masters, and two other Brethren of the Calling are present."*

Present Day



Masons' Box from 1684

The history of the Box Opening goes back beyond living memory and no one knows when or why the tradition of the Deacon placing items in the box to represent his/her year began.

The Box that we still use was built in 1684 and requires two keys to open the box. This was to ensure that no one person could steal the legal papers, treasures or money of the Incorporation. We still have two key keepers who are the Late Deacon and Late Collector.

A new box was presented by Deacon Craig Bryce at his box opening in 2015. The old Box was now so full that it was unlikely that any further items would be able to fit into the box. The new Box was made by a student at City of Glasgow College who was studying furniture manufacture and design. The box was made from oak and was of a modern design. The top of the box had an Incorporation Crest laser cut



Masons' Box ~ Top

onto the wood. The front to the box had various buildings in Glasgow burned onto the surface using pyrometry.

The Box Opening evening is a black tie event where medals and chains of office are worn. The Collector invites the following as guests of the Incorporation, Deacon Convener; Collector of the House; Deacon of the Wrights; Collector of the Wrights; and the Clerk. Past Deacons; Master Court; and ordinary members are invited to attend but pay the cost of the evening for themselves and guests. The evening is sometimes used to present new members with their membership certificates and to swear them in. The Master Court do not pay for this event as it is included in the Master Court Levy which all Master Court members pay (excluding the honorary members).

Part of the ceremony consists of these two key keepers opening the box with feigned difficulty. Each year the Deacon places some items which represent his/her year in office and relates to the audience the reasons for the items being placed in the Box.

After the ceremony of the Deacon placing his/her items in the Box, those in attendance are seated at the tables provided and enjoy the meal with its musical interludes. The Collector should have provided menus and name cards for the tables.

LAMMAS COURT MEETING AND CRAFT GET TOGETHER

The main business at this meeting is the election of the Deacon, Collector and Master Court Members. The Craft representatives to the Trades House are nominated at this meeting. The Lammas Court meeting takes place early in the first or second week in August. The dress for this occasion is lounge suit. Only Past Deacons and members of the Incorporation attend this meeting. The Clerk will send invitations to all qualified members on the Incorporation's Roll.

The layout for the Lammas Court meeting is as for the meeting of the Master Court at the Deacon's Choosing meeting.

The Collector will arrange tea, coffee, water and biscuits for those likely to attend. The room is laid out for a Master Court as in the Deacon's Choosing Lunch above.

Prior to the meeting there will be a Master Court meeting followed by a short Lammas Court Meeting where those present chat and catch up on news etc.

PEAR EATING

The Clerk will send out information which should be supplied by the Collector, informing the members of the Pear Eating, the Deacon's Choosing Meeting and the Deacons' Choosing Dinner well in advance of the events. It is important to include on the invitation an opportunity for attendees to indicate any dietary requirements.

There should not be a seating plan for this dinner as it should be a relaxed evening where attendees can sit where they choose. It is normal for the Deacon; Deacon Convener; Masters of the Worshipful Company of Deacons; most Senior Past Deacon present and some senior Deacons and partners to sit on the top table.

About March, the Deacon should write to the Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers, inviting them to join the Incorporation and informing them of the dates of the Pear Eating and Choosing Dinner to enable them to plan for these events. Membership forms and Burgess ticket forms should be sent to the Masters and these should be presented to the Master Court as soon as possible to enable certificates to be prepared.

All members of the Craft are invited and pay. The Deacon Convener, Collector of the House, Deacon of the Wrights, Collector of the Wrights, Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons, Master of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers and Clerk should be invited at no cost to themselves. If any of the above, free invitees wish to bring their partner, they would be expected to pay for their ticket.

It is important that the Deacon asks a member of the Master Court to be available to look after the two Masters on the day of the Choosing Dinner and to consider if they require attention on the Saturday.

The Collector should book a pianist. The House has a short list of pianists who have proved to be very good.

The Collector should arrange entertainment by asking some of those attending to sing or say poetry etc. to entertain the gathering. Past Deacon Ian Macpherson is often happy to lead on this.

The Collector should discuss a suitable menu for the Pear Eating. The tradition has been that pies, sausage rolls, sandwiches, tea/coffee with cheese and biscuits should be arranged with the Caterers at the Trades House. It is often necessary to supply appropriate food for vegetarians etc.

The Collector should arrange with the Trades Halls Caterers the amount of beer, wine and soft drinks for the evening. A table plan should also be given to the caterers to enable them to lay the Saloon (the normal place for the venue) out for the evening. Menu/programme cards should be printed prior to the event and laid on the table, one per person.

A vital part of the evening is the eating of the pears and the receiving of a small basket of pears and a sprig of heather at the end of the evening. The Collector should arrange to have these prepared and delivered to the Trades Hall on the day of the event.

The food will be brought in and laid on the tables; tea and coffee will be laid on a side table.

As the Deacon will demit office the next morning the Deacon to be is called the Besir and s/he will supply a suitable Besir cake and sing the Besir song.

Prior to the actual Pear Eating there is a short Master Court Meeting. The members will retire to a separate room, leaving the non-members in the Saloon.

At the end of the evening, the Besir normally invites everyone to join him/her in the Steps Bar for the Besir's Party.

PROCEDURE FROM MEMBERSHIP TO PAST DEACON

Becoming a member of the Incorporation

Historical Note

Burgess and Guild Brethren

- Prior to the 1600's only the rich merchants had the vote and this had caused a great deal of conflict and strife.
- King James 6th of Scotland encouraged the creation of Trades Organisations such as Trades Houses in Scotland and Livery Companies in England. There was a general trend across Europe for the creation of Trade Organisations.
- In the late 1500's the Merchants and Trades People were often in conflict over who could do what. The general principle was that if Trades People made articles, then they could sell them. This is fairly obvious for Bakers and Fleshers. But arguments over who could sell clothes, boots etc. could become quite controversial.
- To make matters more complicated, sellers of small items by itinerant travellers such as tinkers etc., were not included in the control of Craft Guilds.
- In the late 1500's the Craftsmen were allowed to become Burgesses and Freemen of the City. Only the wealthy craftsmen were able to become Burgesses and these were generally the owners/sons of owners who were able to join.

The following are some of the Privileges and responsibilities of being a Burgess in Glasgow over the centuries:

Ancient Privileges and Responsibilities of Being a Burgess

Privileges of Being a Burgess	Responsibilities of Burgesses
Enabled the individual to vote for Magistrates, Councillors and Craft Offices, the vast majority of the population still had no vote.	As the wealthier members of the city, burgesses had to pay taxes both local and national.
Being able to stand for office in the Incorporation.	Could be forced to stand for Craft Office or receive a fine.
Having access to the market place in Glasgow.	Had to obey the rules of the Incorporation and the Trades House or face punishment.
Quality brand due to Craft inspection of work	The hours, charges and rules governing the Crafts work were laid down by the craft to ensure fairness and quality of work.
Have access to charity if needed for themselves, wives and children	Contribute to the Alms Hospital and other charities in the Craft/city
Prior to 1605 burgesses had ability to vote on tax raising legislation in Council, after 1605, Deacon Convener had this duty.	Had to have their own arms to defend the town and attend wapponschaws. As the wealthier, it was felt that they had more to lose than the poor in the event of the city being attacked.
Could influence political thinking through Craft (eg. Parliamentary delegations etc.)	Patrol the streets at night, until police force started.
If arrested could insist on being placed in a cell with a fellow freeman or on their own.	Contribute bucket money (for firefighting) prior to fire brigade being started
Could hang washing out on Glasgow	Showing respect to the Deacon was

Green and also graze their sheep on it.	mandatory and failure to do so could mean a substantial fine and not be allowed to work in the city until the fines etc., had been paid.
Ability to train apprentices.	Prior to the reformation part of membership included paying for a pound of candle wax for the Saint's altar in the Cathedral.
From 1808 when the Trades Free School was set up, the burgesses had access to education for children.	In 1847 the exclusive powers of the house were abolished and it became more of a charitable and social organisation

In the past membership of the Incorporation took a great deal more effort and cost than today. In a minute from 1620 it was noted that "*the Candidate "has given his essay, made his oath of fidelity to the Craft, paid his upset or freedom fine, and the expenses of the banquet to the Craft."* In 1551, all craftsmen were also obliged to pay a weekly amount of one penny to the altar. This was for the upkeep of the Altar of St. Stephen in Glasgow Cathedral.

In a minute of 11th August 1603, the following comment was recorded: "*That whatever persons shall hew ane rigging stone, shall pay of every pound twelve pennies, and that to be bestowed upon the aged, impotent, and decriped persons, freemen of the Craft, in all time hereafter*".

Modern Times

Joining the Incorporation can be by various routes. A friend or business colleague may invite a prospective candidate to join, a member of the public may apply for membership via the Trades House or the Incorporation's website, or s/he may apply to the Collector of Clerk after hearing about the Incorporation at a dinner or some other manner.

The application form should be sent to the Clerk along with a cheque in payment of the membership and proof of age and address. The Clerk will acknowledge receipt of the application and pass it to the Collector. The Collector will present the application to the Master Court at the first available opportunity. The Master Court will then determine if there is any reason to reject the application. It is very rare for an application to be refused.

Becoming a member of the Master Court

Historic Note

The number of members on the Master Court is sixteen plus Master Court Members. At present the positions on the Master Court are: Deacon; Collector; Late Collector; Late Deacon and twelve elected by the trade. The key keepers are always the Late Deacon and the Late Collector. In 1601 the Master Court consisted of the Deacon; six Quarter Masters; two Key Keepers; one Officer and one Clerk. In 1660 two of the Master Quarter Masters were titled Master of the Trade or sometimes Master of the Craft

Up until 1658, the old, or previous Deacon acted as Collector

The Key Keepers or as they were sometimes styled, Key Masters, were first called Box-Masters in 1660.

Modern Times

After a year and a day, a new member may be asked if they would be interested in joining the Master Court. This time limit was introduced a very long time ago to prevent prospective Deacons trying to bring in new members to vote for them. Nowadays it gives new members an opportunity to see what the Incorporation does and to determine if they wish to join the Master Court who govern our great craft. If the new member is interested then their name would be put forward at the Lammas Court Meeting in September. At this meeting new members are voted to become members of the Master Court. When elected new members are called "New Laid Stanes" and are expected to attend and say a few words at the Pear Eating evening or if unavailable then at the Deacons Choosing Lunch.

Becoming the Collector

After a number of years (which can be very short to several years), the Member of the Master Court may be approached by the Late Collector or Deacon and ask if they are ready to become Collector. This discussion normally takes place at a lunch where the possible Collector, Late Collector and Deacon are present. Sometimes the Collector or Late Deacon may be present. The duties of Collector should be explained in detail and an overview of the Late Collector's and the Deacon's duties should also be covered. It is vital the prospective Collector is aware of the time and financial commitments that s/he will have to undertake.

Once the prospective Collector agrees to be put forward for the position, s/he will be nominated and voted on at the Lammas Court Meeting in September.

In summary the Collector's roll is to collect new members and money for all functions organised by him/herself. In the Incorporation of Masons, the Collector organises all of the social events for the Incorporation.

On becoming Collector, the Late Collector should give the Collector any items in his possession that are necessary for the Collector to carry out his/her duties. One of the old traditions is the passing over of the Collector's Box. The Collector's Box is a black Jappaned Box and contains records of previous Collectors. The Collector should examine the contents to see what others have placed in the box and leave similar items as a record of his/her year.

The Late Collector

The Collector starts his/her year at the Deacon's Choosing Day in September. This is an automatic transformation as long as the Collector's Intromissions have been accepted prior to the Choosing Day Meeting.

The Late Collector now has a fallow year where s/he has it fairly easy. Attendance at all Incorporation functions and Master Court meetings is expected. If the Collector is unable to attend a meeting or function, then the Late Collector will stand in for him/her. The Late Collector's roll stops at the next Deacon's Choosing Day when s/he will become Deacon.

Deacon

Historic Note

Back in 1551, disobedience or disrespecting the Deacon was a punishable offence and the following extract from the minute of that period indicates the dire consequences of such disobedience: "*That any Craftsman disobeying the Deacon, shall also pay a pound of wax to the altar-be punished by the Provost and Bailies*"

"with all rigour "-be excluded from working till he pays a new upset or entry fee, "and also shall pass to his curate at the Greyfriars and recounsell his oath and faith, and fulfil penance enjoined to him therefor".

The election of the Deacon was not always a simple affair and at various times the term Deacon has been outlawed. Cromwell outlawed the term Deacon as he felt that it was not of his faith. Prior to this date, Mary Queen of Scots reinstated the title Deacon as it had been outlawed as Deacons throughout the realm had been agitators in an attempt to gain the vote for their members.

Modern Times

After having been Late Collector (normally for one year) the Late Collector is normally elected as Deacon at the Lammas Court Meeting and will take up his/her duties at the Deacon's Choosing Day in September. To become a Deacon it is necessary to have been Collector and either have a place of work in Glasgow or live in Glasgow.

The Deacon's participation is no light easy matter, s/he has numerous functions and events to attend, such as:

- Deacon's Choosing meeting and Choosing dinner
- Deacon's Choosing lunch
- Six Master Court meetings per year
- Numerous Chain Gang meetings
- Candlemas Court; Lammas Court and Box Opening
- Four Pension Paying Luncheons
- Thirteen Incorporation Dinners
- Deacon Convener's Dinner
- Grand Antiquity Society Dinner; Association of Deacons Cocktail Party; Trades House Lodge Dinner
- Worshipful Company of Masons Dinner; Worshipful Company of Plaisterers Dinner
- Meetings with Historic Scotland
- Meeting with Colleges
- College prize givings
- Incorporation's Plastering and Bricklaying competitions
- Plus numerous other events
- Four Trades House meetings per year

'The Deacon, if he is a freemason, is invited to affiliate to The Lodge of Glasgow St. John No. 3 bis if he is not already a member of that lodge. He would then be installed into the office of Depute Master of the Lodge.'

Clearly if the Deacon and the Master are the same person, as was the case in the year 2015/6 when Deacon David Bannerman held both offices, the Deacon cannot sensibly be both Master and Depute Master simultaneously. In such a case the current Depute Master would remain in post. If the Deacon is not a freemason the current Depute Master will remain in office.

The reason for this connection to Lodge 3bis is that in the mid-1800s, the Incorporation had close links with this Lodge which have over time weakened considerably. It is important to be aware that not being a Freemason is in no way detrimental to becoming the Deacon.

Deacon Convener

If any Past Deacon wishes to become Deacon Convener, this option is open to them. A prospective Deacon Convener requires to be nominated for the position and be elected at a meeting of the House.

TRADES HOUSE MEETINGS

The Incorporation of Masons sends to the Trades House meetings four members. These members are the Platform and are trustees of the Trades House. Whilst at the Trades House meetings they must cast their votes for what is best for the Trades House. It is vital that the House Representatives do not believe that they have to follow the best interest of the Incorporation or follow instructions of the Incorporation.

Prior to being permitted to vote all Trustees have to be sworn in. To be eligible to be sworn in the new member must show the Trades House staff their Burgess ticket and sign the appropriate documentation indicating that they have no conflicts of interest.

The Trades House representatives vote in the new Deacon Convener whose role is to guide the House and chair its meetings. The Deacon Convener is **NOT** the boss and has the same value of vote as everyone else. Nowadays the Deacon Convener does not have any authority over any of the Incorporations.

At House Meetings, the Deacon sits on the Incorporation's Chair, in our case at the left hand side of the Deacons Table and second from the end furthest from the Deacon Convener. The Collector sits behind the Deacon with the Late Collector behind the Collector and furthest to the rear is the Late Deacon.

When the Deacon Convener retires s/he is presented with a miniature medal of their chain of office and one for his/her partner. This medal is paid for by all the trustees in the House and an invoice will be sent to all trustees of the House.

After House Meetings, it is common that the members of Chain Gangs go for a meal afterwards. There is no requirement for everyone to attend these dinners.

LEGEND OF THE INCORPORATION

Legend has it that the Incorporation received its first charter from Malcolm III., on 5th October, 1057. The charter reads:

MALCOLM the III, by the grace of God King of Scots, wishes health and safety to the Bishops, Princes, Earls, Barons, Ministers, and Administrators of our law, and all good men of the nation, both clergy, laicks, or common people, and to all where these presents shall come, greeting. Whereas our trusty and well-beloved friends, the operative masons in the City of Glasgow hath, by their petition humbly represented to us that the inhabitants of this city has been imposed upon by a number of unskilled and insufficient workmen, that has come to work at our Cathedral, and other parts of the city, and also has elected Lodges contrary to the rules of Masonry; and being desirous of putting a stop to such unskilled and irregular Brothers, most humbly pray us to grant them our Royal License and protection for stopping such irregular disorders; and we, being willing to give all due encouragement to so reasonable a Petition, are graciously pleased to condescend to their request, and we do by these presents ordain and grant to our Petitioners to incorporate themselves together in one Incorporation, and we strictly discharge any Mason within the foresaid city to work in it, until he serves his time as an apprentice for the space of seven years, or be married to a freeman's daughter, and he or they shall be examined anent their skill and knowledge on the Mason craft by three of the ablest of the Mason trade, and if he or they be found of cunning or knowledge, to be received into the Incorporation. Each shall pay Twenty Pounds Scots to the Common Funds, and Three Pounds to the Altar, and Clerk's and Officer's dues, which the foresaid incorporation shall always be allowed to be the judges of that and other laws made for behoof of the foresaid Incorporation. Item, that the free Incorporate Masons of Glasgow shall have a lodge for ever at the City of Glasgow, none in my dominions shall erect a lodge until they make application to the Saint John's Lodge, Glasgow, and they, considering their petition and examining their character and behaviour, grant them a charter conform to their regulations. Item, that all the members of said Incorporation shall have liberty to quarry stones lime sand, and other materials from the grounds of persons, for paying the damages of what they occupy, or damage for building of the foresaid Cathedral. But if the owners of the said lands and the foresaid workmen do not agree, each party is to choose an honest man, to value the expense of the foresaid damages. Item, and that any having power from me, maintain my peace firm and stable against all other pretenders and usurpers who encroach on me or my subjects, to disturb our peace. Item, and that you and all my subjects m this obey the Magistrates in all things relating to my peace and the good of the city. Item, and that you instruct and teach apprentices, and that none take or employ any man's apprentice when their time of apprenticeship is not completed, under the pain of paying Twenty Pounds, the one-half to the Incorporation, one-fourth to the Lodge, and one-fourth to Saint Thomas's Altar to say mass for their souls. Item, and I strictly charge and command that none take in hand to disturb the free operative Masons from being Incorporated freemen, or to have a free Lodge: to take away their good name or possession, or harass or do any injury to my freemasons and petitioners, under the peril of my highest displeasure, and we order that notice be taken that disobedience may be rendered to our pleasure herein declared. Given at our Court at Fordie, the 5th day of October, 1057 years, before these witnesses: Earl David my son, Earl Duncan, Earl Gilbert of Monteith, Sir Robert of Velen, Adam of Stenhouse, and Andrew Hamilton, Bishop of Glasgow.

Crawford in his "Sketch of the Trades House", states that the charter came to light at the beginning of the 19th century. It was an old musty paper and was found in the charter-chest of the Glasgow Freemen Operative of St. John Lodge

In 1999 enquiries were made by the Master Court with the Lord Lyon's Court and no record of this charter could be found. Furthermore, the earliest record of granting a charter that could be found was 1551. The Lord Lyon did not rule that the charter was invalid, only that his office had no record of it. It is therefore important to use phrases such as "*Legend states*" or "*it is believed that*" when claiming that the Incorporation first received its charter in 1057.

RAPPING THE SHED

The tradition of Rapping the Shed goes way back into the time before memory when the Masons were working in their sheds, cutting stone. At the end of the day when it was time to stop work, the Master mason would go up to the shed and in a loud manner would Rap the Shed.

The rhythm employed from way back has been based on the words:

Stop ~ Stop ~ Stop

Three raps (slow)

All the Mas ons in the Shed

Seven Raps (rapid)

Stop ~ Stop ~ Stop

Three raps (slow)

On hearing the rapping of the sheds the workmen would down tools and head for home.

The Most Senior Deacon present will stand and say the following:

"By command of the Deacon and in accordance with ancient custom, I close the meeting thus"

Rap Rap Rap
Rap Rap Rap Rap Rap Rap Rap
Rap Rap Rap

A round of applause is given after the rapping of the shed.

BESIR

The Late Collector is the Besir for the evening of the Pear Eating. S/he is the Deacon to Be Sir, hence the term Besir. The Late Collector is normally elected as Deacon at the Deacon's Choosing meeting at 10am on the morning following the Pear Eating.

It has been traditional for many years for the Besir to supply a cake to celebrate his/her office. In the past the cake was taken to the Steps Bar for the Besirs's party, but over the years the cake was not consumed and now it is used as a dessert at the Pear Eating and the remaining cake is taken to the Steps Bar where every best effort is made to consume it.

One of the Besir duties is to sing the Besir song at the Pear Eating. The song was written by a Past Deacon of the Wrights, Mr John Laird in 1987 and it has been sung at practically every Pear Eating since then.

The words to the Besir song can be seen below:

**THE BESIR SONG
(John Laird 1987)**

Besir to sing Black then Red verses and then Company to join and repeat the Red verse.

1

In Good King Charles's golden days,
'Bout Sixteen Eighty Three, sir
The Monarch was in failing health
No true born son had he, sir.

Some courtiers asked a Glasgow man
"Would you be Charles the Three, sir?"
But he said "No I'm quite content
For I am the Mason's Besir"

2

When Adam drew the Trades Hall plans
In Seventeen Ninety Three, sir,
He'd problem with the Council Staff
O'er the Regs., Part D and E, sir

Take up your pen and try again
The staircase is too wee, sir
I'm a Lyner to the Dean of Guild
And I've been the Mason's Besir.

3

But now we are in the present day
And gathered here are we, sir
The Merrie Masons are all met
And going on the spree, sir!

The pears are fresh, the Masons canned
As anyone here can see, sir
White heather in my buttonhole,
Yes I'm the Mason's Besir

4

Tomorrow early in the day
The craft will honour me, sir
They'll put on me the Deacon's chain
A splendid sight to see, sir

In raiment fine at night we'll dine
That's just my cup of tea, sir
And I'll think about the happy time
When I was the Mason's Besir.

TRADITION OF THE PEAR EATING

The traditions of the Pear Eating goes way back in time and is now mainly based on legend passed down over the centuries.

It is believed that way back in time, a Deacon who wished to be elected to the highest office in his craft, decided to encourage as many of the members as he could induce, to attend him at his home. His home is believed to be somewhere over there; possibly on the banks of the Moulindar Burn.

This prospective Deacon had a large house and garden and in his garden he grew wonderful pears. The chap fed and offered ample supplies of drink to his guests thereby making them feel indebted to him.

At the end of the evening each person was given a few pears and a sprig of white heather and asked to enjoy the pears and if he could rely on their vote at the election the next day, they were to wear the white heather. The white heather enabled the prospective Deacon to estimate the number of votes that would be cast in his favour.

Tradition has it that the Deacon was elected and since that day we have continued the tradition of holding a Pear Eating evening. Over the years the event has moved from the Deacon Elect's home to the Trades House where rustic fair is provided as is ample supplies of beers and wines. Each person with a vote now pays for the privilege of enjoying a very jovial evening with entertainment provided by the people in attendance.

One of the most Senior Deacons present recites the story of the Pear Eating on the evening to ensure that new members start to learn some of our traditions.

NEW LAID STANES

New members of the Master Court are elected onto the Master Court at the Lammas Court and as new members one of their first social evenings as a member of the Master Court is attendance at the Pear Eating. As new members they are called New Laid Stanes and as part of the Pear Eating evening, are introduced to all present and are expected to say a few words to the audience. The New Laid Stanes are invited to attend the Deacons' Choosing Lunch where, if they could not attend the Pear Eating, they are introduced to the Past Deacons and other Master Court members and have an opportunity to say a few words.

STRANGER IN THE MIDST

Prior to the new Collector being elected to his post, s/he is invited to Pension Paying Luncheon 4 and during this luncheon s/he is jokingly ignored as they do not have an official position at the luncheon.

During the meal the new Collector to-be is called the Stranger in the midst.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Ancient Apprenticeship Training

Since time before memory the Incorporation has been closely linked to education. Our ancient forbearers would have taught their apprentices the skills of building and this would out of necessity have to include reading, writing and numeracy. If the apprentice was to go on to build new and exciting buildings he would also require an understanding of geometry and trigonometry. So from our early years, education has always been important to the stone mason craft.

Reformation

With the coming of the reformation, education was seen as a religious duty and John Knox declared that every parish in Scotland should have a school. This worked very well, but in the late 1700s, Glasgow had grown to such an extent that one school per parish was insufficient.

Trades Free School

In the early 1800s, the Trades House decided to extend the Trades Halls and to create a school for the craftsmen's children. The new extension was completed in 1808 and the first batch of learners attended the school. Initially, sixty boys between the ages of seven and nine were accepted, but in 1838 girls were admitted. By 1844 the school roll had risen to 216, half being boys and half girls. The Trades Free School continued until the Education Act of 1872 made the school no longer necessary. The Trades Free School continued until 1876 when it finally closed.

Education Today

In the days of the Trades Free School, prizes were presented to the top students in the school to encourage all to achieve the best that they could be. This tradition has continued to the present day and at the Choosing Dinner in 2015, prizes were awarded for: Best final year stonemason; Two Lady McDonald Bursaries; 2 Lady McDonald Scholarships; Ceramic Wall and Floor Tiling; Guild of Bricklayers Senior Trophy; Guild of Bricklayers Junior Quaich; Pre-apprentice bricklaying; Pre-apprentice Plastering; Roof Slating and Tiling (Marley Trophy); SNIPEF Trophy for plumbing; Builders Federation Prize and a Lady McDonald Award.

Lady McDonald Bursary

The Lady McDonald Bursary was instituted in 2012 and is normally awarded to two students from any of the trades that the Incorporation look after. The successful applicants will have made a written submission and undergone an interview, normally by the Deacon, Collector and the Lady McDonald Convener. If the Lady McDonald Convener is involved with a College and knows the students then s/he will not participate as part of the panel and the Late Deacon will stand in instead.

Historic Scotland has since 2014, kindly match funded the Incorporation's contribution to the Lady McDonald Bursary with a further £1000, thereby enabling two prizes to be awarded each year.

The Lady McDonald Application form is attached below:

Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow Lady McDonald Bursary Award Bursary Criteria



The Lady McDonald Fund's aim is to support apprentices and trades people by recognising their efforts to improve at their chosen trade and it does this by awarding prizes and a bursary.

Any apprentice or craftsperson in the following trades who work or studied in Glasgow may apply for a Lady McDonald bursary.

Stone Masons
Bricklayers
Wall and Floor Tilers
Plasterers
Plumbers
Roof Slater and Tilers

Applicants should complete a bursary application form and send it to the Clerk of the Incorporation at the following address not later than 1st May.

Mr Tom Monteith
Clerk to the Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow
Harper Macleod LLP
The Ca'd'oro
45 Gordon Street
Glasgow
G1 3PE

A meeting of three members of the incorporation will take place and they will leet the most appropriate candidates from the applications presented. The membership of the Bursary Committee will normally be:

The Deacon of the Incorporation
The Collector of the Incorporation
The Convenor of the Lady McDonald Trust

The criteria for selecting the most appropriate applicant will be based on:

- a. Best value for money as described by the applicant
- b. Most benefit to the individual's development
- c. Past track record of achievements
- d. Long term sustainable benefits that the individual will gain from the bursary
- e. Supportive comments from the applicant's college/employer

It would be expected that FOUR leeted applicants would be called for a 15 minute interview where they would be given the opportunity to present their case for the award of the bursary and this would be followed by questions from the panel. The scoring of the applicants would be based on the above criteria and the actual presentation.

The decision of the selection committee shall be final and no appeals to higher authorities will be available.

The successful candidate will receive a bursary of £1000 and each of the unsuccessful candidates will receive a Lady McDonald Fund certificate.

The successful candidate will be presented with a cheque, medal and certificate at the Deacon's Choosing Dinner in September of the year of presentation. They will also receive life membership of the Incorporation after the completion of the bursary and supply evidence of expenditure and benefits. This will normally be a short written report of between one and two pages in length,

Lady McDonald Scholarship

Following on from the success of the Lady McDonald Bursary, the Master Court decided in 2013 to award a Scholarship to encourage students and tradespeople to further their learning by studying away from home. The Scholarship enables the successful participant to visit another country to further their skills and experience.

The rules of the Scholarship are listed below:



Trades House of Glasgow Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow

Supporting stonemasonry and allied trades

Lady McDonald Scholarship Application Form

The Lady McDonald Scholarship is aimed at supporting time served tradespersons and third and fourth year apprentices of the following trades to further skills by giving them experiences of working in another country or in the UK on projects which they would not normally have the opportunity to work on.

Funding of the Scholarship will be based on:

- 50% of costs will be paid by the Incorporation.
- 25% of costs will be paid by the student.
- 25% of costs will be paid by the College or employer.

The prize will consist of a ten day work/education experience in discussion with the applicant/College/Employer; Attendance at the Deacon's Choosing Dinner, accompanied by a partner of choice; a Lady McDonald Medal, Incorporation Certificate and membership of the Incorporation.

The trades which we aim to support are:

- Stone Masons
- Bricklayers
- Roof Slaters and Tilers
- Plasterers
- Wall and Floor Tilers
- Plumbers

Applicants will complete the attached forms and have their employers and/or College lecturers to complete the supporting section.

A panel normally consisting of the Deacon; Late Deacon; Collector and anyone else deemed appropriate will interview the applicants. The most appropriate applicant will then have an input in choosing where they will use their scholarship.

The judging criteria will be based on:

- The evidence presented on how this will have a long term benefit to the individual or the firm.
- Previous past history of the applicant in achieving high standards in their trade.
- The maturity of the applicant.
- Evidence of good self-discipline of the individual.
- Supplementary evidence supplied by the applicant.

Lady McDonald Award

The Lady McDonald Award is a catch all award which is very flexible and can be used to support apprentices and tradespeople where and when the need emerges. It was initially designed to support students who became unemployed due to their company going into liquidation etc. An Award would be given to enable the student to continue their studies at college and consisted of travel and subsistence for a period of time to enable the College to support them back into employment. It then became apparent that some students wished to advance their studies but not at the Bursary level and the Incorporation supported a number to attend courses at the Lime Centre. Since then the Incorporation has supplied laptop computers and other learning aids to support students who were disadvantaged.

Lady McDonald Bricklaying Competition

The Lady McDonald Bricklaying competition was inaugurated in 2013 after a meeting with the College staff from City of Glasgow College, South Lanarkshire College and Springburn College who proposed the competition. The Master Court was in complete agreement that we should encourage pre-apprentice bricklaying students from each of the Colleges by supplying a trophy and the Deacon and Collector attending the competition. The first competition was a great success and has continued since then.

Lady McDonald Plastering Competition

After the success of the Lady McDonald Bricklaying competition, it was again proposed by the College Liaison meeting to organise another competition, this time in plastering. The first competition took place in 2015 and it again proved very popular with the College staff and students.

The competitions rotate between the colleges and each college has the opportunity to supply the drawing for the item/s to be made. The colleges supply all materials and the judges come from the college staff also and where possible from C.I.T.B...

LADY MCDONALD BURGESS AWARD

In January 2016 the Master Court approved the introduction of the Lady McDonald Bursary as a way of recognising the good works of people either living in Glasgow or who in some way had contributed to the people of Glasgow's welfare or the reputation of the city.

Introduction

The concept is that the Incorporation would target a person or persons with a strong Glasgow connection and who had been an inspiration or carried out some activity which was to the benefit of the city or people of Glasgow. The chosen person or people would be offered a Burgess and Guild Brother or Sister ticket, which would make them a freeman of Glasgow. They would also become a member of the Incorporation and be presented the Burgess Ticket at a suitable Incorporation event.

The aim of this award is twofold:

- a. To recognise the good works and deed of people with a strong connection to Glasgow.

- b. The awarding of the Burgess ticket would enable the Incorporation to attract new members and gain publicity by so doing.

Approach

The Master Court would meet and decide on a number of possible candidates and draw up a short list of ones that the Incorporation wished to honour. It would be advisable to invite the Past Deacons to propose names of persons that they considered to be appropriate for nomination. The Deacon or Clerk would write an appropriate letter inviting the person or persons to become freemen/women of the city. An outline of the historic background to being a Burgess and the present day meanings would be included in the letter. If the person accepts the invitation then an agreed date for the award would be agreed. The Candlemas Court or the Box Opening events would be the ideal times so that the individual could be focussed on. If they were unable to make these dates then the Pear Eating or Deacon's Choosing Dinner or Lunch would be other alternatives. In the event of none of these being appropriate, then the Master Court could meet the individual/s at a time and place agreeable and make the award.

It would be important to try to get media interest in these events both to praise the individual/s and for the Incorporation to gain some media exposure. It would be important to note that it takes some time to get a Burgess Ticket from the City Chambers and so the whole operation requires delicate planning to ensure that the ticket is ready on the date of awarding.

The chain of event might be as follows:

1. November/December
Invite Past Deacons to nominate possible candidates for the Lady McDonald Burgess Award.
2. January/February
Master Court or sub-committee to select a short list of say four possible candidates.
3. February
Deacon or Clerk would write to the person/s being invited to accept the Lady McDonald Burgess Award

4. When awardee accepts the offer of an award, the Deacon or Clerk would agree a suitable date with the person.
5. The awardee would be presented with the award in the Trades House and with their agreement, the media would be invited to attend.

OFFICE BEARERS LIST AND CALENDAR

Each year the Incorporation supplies a small calendar which is printed on blue card. Each member of the Master Court and each Past Deacon is issued with a copy.

The document contains the names and contact details of the office bearers and the Master Court members. The names of the Key Keepers; Representatives on the Trades House and Nominee for the Trades House Committees are also listed. On the reverse of the leaflet, the dates and venues of all meetings are printed along with the Conveners of the various sporting and education committee.

DEAN OF GUILD COURT LINERS

The Dean of Guild Court traditionally oversaw the planning process for the buildings in Glasgow it was replaced by the Glasgow Planning Department.

The Incorporation of Masons traditionally sent two Liners to the Court as did the Wrights. The remainder of the Dean of Guild Court was made up of members of the Merchants House.

The Dean of Guild Court no longer has any authority to affect planning decisions but it still exists as an active organisation. The Dean of Guild Court now disburses charitable giving to various people and organisations in Glasgow. The Incorporation's two Liners still participate in this important role.

MASTER COURT PROGRESSION

Membership of the Master Court is open to all members after one year and a day of being a member. This time limit was introduced a very long time ago to prevent prospective Deacons trying to bring in new members to vote for them. Nowadays it gives new members an opportunity to see what the Incorporation does and to determine if they wish to join the Master Court who govern our great craft.

To become a member of the Master Court, the prospective member has to be proposed by a member and is then voted onto or otherwise. At this point the new member is called a New Laid Stane.

After a few years, the new member may be asked to become Collector. It is felt that new members require some time to learn the procedures and traditions of the Incorporation prior to taking over a more senior role. Once a Master has been proposed as Collector, they would stand for election and if successful they would become the Collector in late September.

The Collector's duties are twofold, firstly they should try to collect new members and secondly they organise all events of the Incorporation and act as its treasurer for all social functions. The Collector will be in office for one year and should attend a number of official dinners with the Deacon; it is expected that the Collector attends as many of the Incorporation's functions as possible. Whilst attending official functions, the Collector wears the Collector's Chain of Office.

The Collector demits office after his/her year and becomes the Late Collector for one year. This is called their fallow year as they do not have many duties other than standing in for the Collector if s/he is unable to accompany the Deacon to an official event. The Late Collector should use this second year in office to learn the duties of the Deacon and prepare themselves for their coming year in the highest office of the Incorporation. The Late Collector wears the Late Collector's medal at official functions.

After one year as Late Collector it is normal that the person is elected as Deacon. The Deacon chairs the Master Court meetings and leads the Incorporation as well as representing it at numerous dinners and other events. The Deacon's year is normally a very busy one and very varied. At official functions the Deacon will normally wear the Deacon's Chain.

On completing his/her year as Deacon, the Deacon becomes the Late Deacon and is presented with a miniature medal which is a replica of the Deacon's Medal on his/her chain. The Late Deacon should support the new Deacon and toast him/her at the end of any meeting that the Deacon chairs.

The Deacon, Collector, Late Deacon and Late Collector plus the Clerk are members of the Platform and they meet prior to the full Master Court. The reason for the earlier meeting of the Platform is to prepare for the meeting and to discuss ideas that may have arisen. The Deacon as chair must abide by the ruling of the Master Court.

The Master Court is comprised of the Platform; a number of Honorary Life Members (these are usually Past Deacon Conveners who are members of the Incorporation) and 12 Masters. When Past Deacons finish their time they can either leave the Master Court but most stay on for a few years as Past Deacons to help to guide the new Deacon.

Members of the Master Court are elected for a period of three years and can be re-elected as often as the membership wills it.

Incorporation's Mark



In 2015 the Incorporation adopted a mark which would be cut into all stone projects that it carries out in future. The reason for the adoption was because Roddy McDowall, an ex-stonemason who we had supported through his studies to become a sculptor had completed a one and a half-life sized sculpture of St. Mungo and it was thought fitting the Incorporation should leave its mark on this sculpture. He Mark consists of a Capital **I** on top of a capital **M** with the Roman numerals **MLVII** underneath. The letters **I** and **M**

represent the letters of **Incorporation** and **Masons**. The **Roman numerals** represent 1057, the year that legend has it that the Incorporation received their first charter from King Malcolm the third.

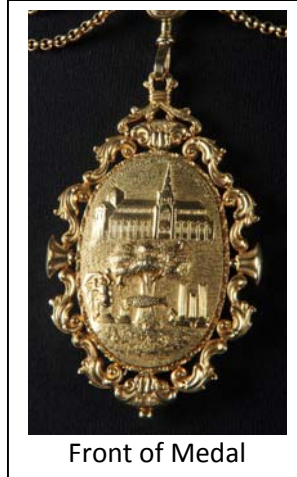
Incorporation's Regalia

DEACON'S CHAIN

The Deacon's Chain was bequeathed by the Late Deacon Alexander Melville on 28th October 1937.



Deacon Alexander Melville held office in 1925 and had joined the Incorporation in 1902. He held the chair of the Deacons Association in 1931. Apparently the original Deacon's Chain had been lost and then later was found, it was therefore used as the Collector's Chain



COLLECTOR'S CHAIN

The Collector's Chain was formerly the Deacon's Chain of Office.



The Collector's Medal and the Deacon's Medal have the same inscriptions.

THE SIR JOHN TRAIN MEDALLION



Front of Medal

The Sir John Train Medallion was presented by Sir John Train who was Deacon of the Incorporation in 1923 and Deacon Convenor of the House 1927 to 1928. Sir John was an M.P. and a Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

Sir John joined the Incorporation in February 1907 as a Far Hand.

The present medal is used as a dancing medal when the Deacon removes his Chain of Office and replaces it with the smaller version.

LATE COLLECTOR'S SILVER MEDAL



Front of Medal



Rear of Medal

The Late Collector's Silver Medal was donated by Past Deacon William Combe.

Past Deacon Combe was Deacon in 1984.

SILVER CRADLE



The Silver Cradle was presented to Deacon and Mrs Murdoch to commemorate the birth of their son during the year of Deacon Murdoch's Deaconship 1922 -23.

Deacon Thomas Clelland Murdoch joined the Incorporation in May 1905.

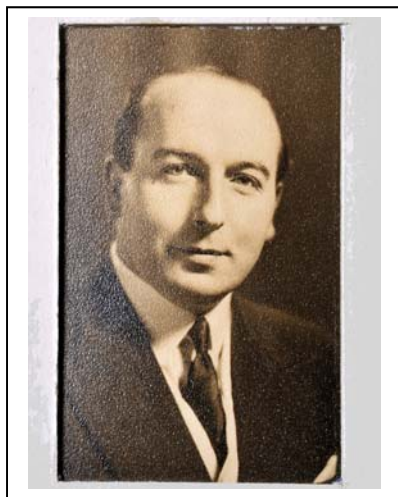


SIR JOHN TRAIN'S DRESS SWORD



The Dress sword was worn by Sir John Train and his son John W Train during their terms of office as Deacon Convenors. The sword was gifted to the Incorporation by Ex Deacon Convenor John W. Train.

Sir John Train who was Deacon of the Incorporation in 1923 and Deacon Convenor of the House 1927 to 1928. Sir John was an M.P. and a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, he joined the Incorporation in February 1907 as a Far Hand.



John W Train joined the Incorporation in April 1924 and was Deacon in 1951 and Chair of the Deacons Association in 1956. He was a Member of the Order of the British Empire and also held a Territorial Decoration. John W Train was Deacon Convenor in 1956.

LORD BLYTHSWOOD BURGESS TICKET CASKET

The Burgess Casket was presented to The Right Honourable The Lord Blythwood K.C.V.O. D.L by the Deacon, Collector and Members of the Master Court of the Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow as a souvenir of his admission as an Honorary Member of the Incorporation. Dated 15th November 1927.



DEACON'S BELL



The Deacon's Bell dates from 1789 and forms part of the ceremony when a new Deacon takes office.

DEACONS MALLET



The Deacon's Mallet also forms part of the ceremony when a Deacon takes his post. It was presented by Deacon George Kean (Deacon 1910) in 1912.

DEACON'S SILVER GOBLET



The Deacon's Silver Goblet is used at each dinner that the Deacon is representing his/her craft. Each of the Incorporations has a Goblet designed to represent the skills or other aspect of the craft.

Each Incorporation received a goblet from Lord Forte.

DEACON'S TROWEL



The Deacon's Trowel represents the craft of the Masons and is laid on the top table at the Deacon's Choosing Dinner and other appropriate occasions.

MASON'S BOX KEYS



The keys to the Masons Box are held by the Late Deacon and the Late Collector. The Box is opened once per year at the Box Opening Ceremony where the Deacon of the year adds a few mementos from his/her year as Deacon.

PAST DEACON'S MEDAL

When the Deacon has completed his/her year as Deacon a replica of the large medal on the Deacon's Chain is presented to them. The person's name is engraved on the top bar of the medal and the years of office on the bottom bar. In the event of a Deacon carrying out the duties of Deacon for a second term, they receive a second bar with the year dates on it and this is attached above the previous year bar.



MASONS STICK



The Masons Stick is laid on the top table each year at the Deacon's Choosing Dinner.

The stick was presented to the Incorporation at Ardlui Hotel on the 19th August 1880 by D Sinclair.

No record of a D Sinclair can be found in the records at this time.

INCORPORATION'S SILVER

DEACON TAYLOR TROPHY



The Deacon Taylor Trophy was presented to the Incorporation by Deacon Robert H Taylor in 2002.

Deacon Robert Taylor presented the trophy to be used to commemorate the best Builders Merchant Student. Deacon Taylor was the first national president of the Builders Merchants Federation from Scotland

Deacon Taylor was Deacon of the Incorporation in 1972.



MARLEY TROPHY



The Marley Trophy is awarded to best Roof Slating and Tiling student.

GUILD OF BRICKLAYERS ADVANCED TROPHY



The Guild of Bricklayers and the Incorporation have a long standing relationship and award the Advanced Bricklayers Trophy to the best student who resides or works in Glasgow.

GUILD OF BRICKLAYERS FIRST YEAR TROPHY



The Guild of Bricklayers and the Incorporation have a long standing relationship and award the First Year Bricklayers Trophy to the best first year student who resides or works in Glasgow.

SNIPEF TROPHY



The SNIPEF Trophy is awarded to the plumbing apprentice of the year who is chosen by SNIPEF. The trophy is jointly presented by Glasgow and West of Scotland Plumbing Employers Association and the Incorporation.

HISTORIC SCOTLAND QUAICH



The Historic Scotland Quaich was originally presented to the Incorporation for the best final year stonemason who worked at Glasgow College of Building and Printing. Since that time the College has merged twice, first to become Glasgow Metropolitan College and then to become City of Glasgow College.

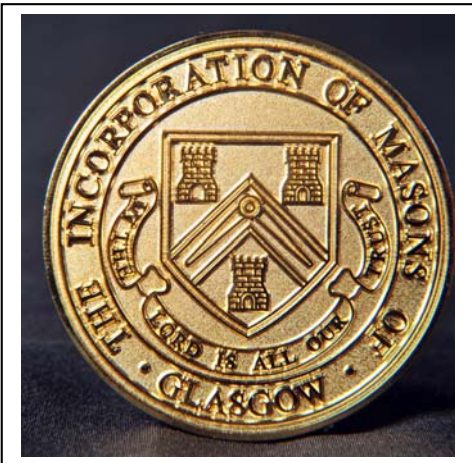
The trophy and a toolbox containing a full set of stonemasons tools is presented to the best final year student in stonemasonry who also receives full membership of the Incorporation.

INCORPORATION QUAICH



A small pewter Incorporation of Masons Quaich is used each year at the Choosing Dinner to mark the award of a prize to successful students.

LADY MCDONALD MEDAL



The Lady McDonald medal is presented to each student who is awarded a prize at the annual Deacon's Choosing Dinner. The prize winner also receives a certificate and a cheque.