





FOREWORD

We commissioned this booklet to help us showcase the history and unique character of 1-19 Albion Street; the home of Fraser Suites Glasgow. With such an iconic property and remarkable history we felt passionately that the building's heritage should be encapsulated for all to enjoy.

The person who must be credited for this booklet; including all of the research, content and design is our very own Malcolm Ferguson, Night Receptionist at Fraser Suites Glasgow. Malcolm has a passion for Glasgow's history and we would like to thank him for this great work.

So, please take pleasure in reading this in the comfort of your apartment and allow all future guests to benefit from it by leaving it in the room.

Booklets can be purchased at Reception.

Heather McNamee Area General Manager, Frasers Hospitality UK

HOSPITALITY

When Fraser Suites Glasgow opened its doors in October 2004, it was the first Scottish property for Frasers Hospitality, in the homeland of the founders of our former parent company Fraser and Neave.

Scots John Fraser and David Chalmers Neave formed Fraser and Neave Ltd in 1883 after travelling to Singapore where – after being involved in a number of business ventures, including setting up the Singapore Free Press - they set up the Singapore and Straits Aerated Water Company.

Fraser & Neave Ltd went from strength to strength, diversifying into a number of different commercial sectors. Today, Frasers Hospitality is a world leader in serviced apartments and residences with a number of properties across the globe.

INTRODUCTION

Born in Glasgow's East End and as a young child I stayed in the local Townhead area just north of the Merchant City. Here I witnessed the wrecking ball swing from building to building street to street and family after family move away to the new housing estates in the outskirts of the city.

Those empty rubble grounds soon became a beehive of activity as workmen after workmen arrived and the building of the high rise flats began. This was our playground, mountains of sand, bricks and scaffolding. We would wake up each day and watch the buildings get higher and higher and higher...

I have been working at Frasers Suites for 13 years and have take great pride in getting to know more about the city, it's streets and it's buildings. In 2014, Frasers Suites Glasgow underwent an extensive refurbishment and part of this was also to establish our heritage within the Merchant City. To do this Fraser Suites Glasgow wanted to name several rooms that would reflect on our prime position within the Merchant City and offer a brief history on the names and why they were chosen.

> Malcolm Ferguson Night Receptionist, Fraser Suites Glasgow



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1 7 3 9 - 1 8 0 6 THE HERD LADDIE

The term herd laddie was used to describe a young lad who tended cattle in the fields. He would escort the herd along the muddy and foot trodden dirt roads to the market towns. The son of an Ayrshire shop keeper, David Dale, was such a young man.

Leaving the dirt roads behind him, Dales' next journey lead to the town of Paisley where his next step in life was an apprentice weaver. From weaver to shop keeper Dale moved to Glasgow in 1763 and set up shop in the city's High Street trading in linen and textiles imported from Europe. He shared the shop with a watch maker to cover his costs and opened the first branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Dale was a religious, just man and well respected through out the city. His generosity and goodwill were appreciated none more so than by the poor. During times of hunger and hardship, Dale was known to have ships laden with food dock and be distributed among the poor at no extra cost. His footprint on the city can be found amongst the many investments and contribution he made, the city's Royal Infirmary amongst them. He built cotton mills up and down the country and in 1784 he built the New Lanark cotton mill on the outskirts of the city. Today New Lanark is the much celebrated world heritage visitor centre and is testimony to his foresight and just ambition.

David Dale lies buried with many of the city's great merchants in the Ramshorn Kirk at the top of Albion street.



HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATION OF NEW LANARK MILLS

William Cunninghame THEGALLERY

With most merchants marrying into fellow merchant families in order to strengthen and secure their wealth. With both his parents coming from rich and prosperous families William Cunninghame was sent to Virginia, North America to learn the tobacco trade.

At the age of 15 this was the ideal opportunity for a young wealthy man with no commitments. Working his apprentice to the Cochrane and Murdoch tobacco Company he quickly proved a fine apprentice and by the age of 21 was in total control of all Murdoch and Cochrane settlements in Virginia. With a network of representatives and outlets he would buy the tobacco from the colonies and stock pile till the ships would arrive. Turning the company into one of the wealthiest and biggest traders of tobacco in the country and through out Europe.

In 1770 with wind of the American war of Independence Cunninghame set up his own company, Cunninghame and CO and began to stockpile vast quantities of tobacco and demanded the highest price when demand was at its highest. He retired before he was fifty and began to invest his vast fortunes into land and property.

In 1778 he built his own home the much celebrated town house on Queen Street costing a staggering £10,000.

After his death(1799) and almost forty years after it was built the building was bought by the Royal bank of Scotland (1817). Ten years later it became the Royal Exchange. During this period additional work was added to the building by the world renormed architect David Hamilton (1768 - 1843) in 1827 the dome and then 1832 the Corinthian pillars.

In 1996 the building was taken over by the city council, refurbished and turned into an art gallery.

The Gallery of Modern Art is one of the city's main attractions with its location in the heart of the city hosting local, national and international artists. Exhibitions by Howsen, Warhol, Hockney, Currie and Riely to name but a few.

Over two hundred and thirty years old the building is a fine example and reminder of the huge wealth and legacy of the tobacco lords links and importance to the city.



VIEW OF GOMA PRESENT DAY AT ROYAL EXCHANGE SQUARE



F I S H E R S G A I T

Fishersgait was a small fishing settlement that lay on the bank of the river Clyde. The word gait was commonly used in medieval Glasgow to describe a route or road to a particular place.

Fishersgait was a known reference as the route to the fishing village.

It is claimed that the first ever foot crossing of the river was here. This crossing can only be described as a felled tree that lay across the river.

What is known for sure is that in 1286 there was a timber bridge (Glasgow Bridge) that lay at the foot of Stockwell Street formerly Fishersgait.

Through time the wooden bridge had rotted away and in 1345 a new bridge was ordered to be built by the Bishop (Rae).

This bridge was to be made of stone (Bishops Bridge) and spanned across the river for the next five hundred years.

The Bishops Bridge was replaced by the Victoria Bridge in 1851 and remains Glasgow's oldest bridge. Stockwell Street is also one of the original and oldest streets in the city. There is many a tale of how the street acquired its name, but for certain there was a well and a wooden stock was used to gain water.



HISTORICAL MAP ILLUSTRATING THE FISHERGAIT AREA

Sir John A Macdonald



THE CANADIAN

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Canada's first prime minister Sir John A Macdonald was born in the near by church parish of St Davids now the Ramshorn Kirk on Ingram Street Glasgow. His father was an unsuccessful shop keeper and with the family in debt in 1820 (aged 5) John MacDonald's family set sail for Canada. They settled amongst family and friends in the Kingston area.

MacDonald attended the near by local Grammer School and with ambitions to become a lawyer, studied hard.

Leaving school at the age of fifteen and with enough qualifications to persue his ambition, Macdonald joined local lawyer and mentor George McKenzie and quickly rose to prominence within the practice. Macdonald though not yet qualified opened up his own practice and began to attract celebrity status winning high profile cases.

Over the next thirteen years Macdonald continued to be successful, and now working mainly as a corporate lawyer, he joined the conservative party and went on to become a leading politician.

In 1857 he became party leader and ten years later 1867 was to become Canada's first prime minister.

He held office for the first six years, losing the next term due to political scandal.

He returned to office in 1878 and remained there till he died in 1891.



UMENT MONUMENT DEDICATED TO MACDONALD, WHICH STANDS IN PLACE DU CANADA IN MONTREAL

THE INGRAM

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Archibald Ingram was one of Glasgow's leading tobacco merchants. Very little is known of his early life other than he was born in the Parish of Dalserf, Larnark and started business as a street vendor at an early age.

He was to marry twice, first to miss Janet Simpson who died 1742. His second marriage was to Rebecca Glassford the sister of one of the city's if not Europes most powerful tobacco merchant, John Glassford (1715 - 1783).

Ingram and Glassford were to embark on many business ventures together. The Glasgow Arms Bank, the Pollokshaws Print Company and the Linen trade, bleaching and the Inkle factory.

They also invested, planned and forged ahead with many ideas to improve and build a city to be proud of.

Ingram more the politician was at the heart of change and became Lord Provost in 1762.

He died in 1770 and Ingram Street was named after him. Ingram Street provides the backbone for the merchant city. Running east from city centre Queen Street to Glasgow's High Street, Ingram Street boasts some of the city's finest older buildings, the Corinthian, City Bank Building, Lanarkshire House, Hutcheson Halls, Campbells Warehouse, The Italian Centre, Ramshorn Kirk and the old city fire brigade building.

As we walk along Ingram Street, once known as Back Cow Lane, the image of the grazing fields and meadow's seem so far away... yet a freshly spray paint wall mural depicts a rural scene that reflects the fields and meadows of the Back Cow Lane.



THE CORINTHIAN BUILDING, INGRAM STREET

THE COCHRANE

The son of an Ayrshire merchant, Andrew Cochrane arrived in Glasgow in his late twenties in 1722.

A year later he was married to Janet Murdoch (1699 -1786), and like most merchants of the time, married into a fellow merchant family.

He set up business with his brother in law John Murdoch (1709 - 1776) and began to trade in the North American tobacco trade. They set up the Cochrane and Murdoch Company and became one of the most successful and powerful companies trading in tobacco.

In 1744 he became Lord Provost of Glasgow and during his term in office, in 1745 had to endure the difficult task of the unwelcome arrival of Bonnie Prince Charlie. With little support for Charles claim to be king and his army camped at Glasgow Green, Bonnie Prince Charlie was intent on burning the city to the ground After a few days of much discussion and diplomacy, Cochrane along with others negotiated with the none to happy Prince. With his army now clothed and fed, and himself with several thousand pounds in his purse, the Prince marched north.

... the only guy ae cum ae Glesga looken fir a square go an noa getin wan...

The following year Prince Charles was defeated at Culloden in 1746. Credited to having saved the city from disaster, Cochrane has gone down in history as a fine Lord Provost and in his honour Cochrane Street is named after him.

Cochrane Street originally known as Cotton Street runs east from George Square along side the City Chambers.



THE SHIP BANK

In the mid 18th century with Edinburgh largely in control of banking in Scotland. The now rich and powerful Glasgow tobacco merchants wanted to challenge this monopoly.

They wished to create and set up their own banking system, forcing competition to the financial status quo.

With huge invostments from the Dunlop and Houston families and other leading tobacco merchants. The Ship Bank was the first of the Glasgow banks to emerge, followed shortly by the Arms Bank and The Thistle Bank.

They began to print their own notes, which was viewed as an attempt to undermine banking in Edinburgh.

In response the Edinburgh banks withheld Glasgow notes and circulated coins in exchange. Glasgow replied and withheld Edinburgh notes forcing the country into a banking note war. After much to and fro things were resolved.

In 1775 - 1783 the American war of Independence broke out and brought a massive strain on the tobacco lords forcing many into bankruptcy. This was also a heavy burden on the banks especially in Glasgow. During this time of much difficulty The Ship Bank was managed by Robert Carrick (1821) He was an odd and strange character who overseen every loan and transaction with an aye or nae with a series of signals and strange gestures. Despite this unusual behaviour Carrick managed The Ship Bank over the next forty years. Steering The Ship through the muddy waters to a position of great strength.

When Robert Carrick died in 1821 he had amassed a personal fortune of over a million pounds. He had never married nor left any of his vast fortune to the city's charities, trust or worthwhile causes.

With new pressures now arising from the quickly growing stock markets. The Ship Bank merged with The Glasgow Bank to form the Glasgow Ship Bank (1836). Banking continued to changed and with the rise of the stock markets The Glasgow Ship Bank was eventually absorbed into the Lloyds Banking Group.

CENTRAL IMAGE ABOVE IS THE SHIPPING BANK EMBLEM. IT IS FLANKED BY PAINTINGS DEPICTING TYPICAL MERCHANT SHIPS

THE GLASSFORD

After much success as a merchant in the textile industry John Glassford turned his attentions to the lucrative tobacco trade. Born in Paisley in 1715 the son of a wealthy textile merchant John Glassford sailed on to become one of Glasgow's most powerful merchants. With a fleet of over twenty ships and lands in Maryland and Virginia John Glassford was considered the greatest merchant of them all.

With his vast wealth and fortune, Glassford invested and encouraged business ventures through out the city. He was amongst the leading figures in the development of banking in Glasgow, investing heavily in both the Arms Bank and The Thistle Bank. He was instrumental and helped finance the deepening of the Clyde. Glassford embarked on many land and property ventures and took great pride in their developments. None more so than his estate at Dougalston. Here he landscaped the surrounding fields and turned them into fine flowing gardens.

Glassford was married three times and fathered fourteen children. Each marriage was a progression of his rise in status. His first wife was a merchant's daughter, his second wife was a Baronet and his third wife was the daughter of an Earl. Glassford died in 1783 and is buried in the near-by Ramshorn kirk. A small church graveyard and the resting place of many of Glasgow's leading families and merchants.

His epitaph could not be more fitting

He who has seen the sunrise and dawn of the tobacco trade from start to finish.



JOHN GLASSFORD, AND HIS FAMILY BY ARCHIBALD MCLAUCHLAN

THE TEMPLETON

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James Templeton was born in 1802 in Campbeltown on the west coast of Scotland. Working as a draper in Glasgow, Templeton moved to Liverpool to work for a leading merchant. He was shipped to Mexico buying and trading cloth and textiles. After three years he returned to Scotland and set up business in Paisley where he made and sold sharvls.

In 1839 Templeton moved to Glasgow with his friend William Quigley. They had been working and experimenting with the fabric chenille. They refined and patented the technique to use the fabric to make carpets. This was a new, quicker and cheaper way to produce more colourful carpets than the Axminster that still had to be hand tied.

Templeton set up his first factory in King Street in 1843 and selling to stately homes, ocean liners and exhibiting on all grand and state occasions. Templeton's was to become the leading manufacturer exporting carpets throughout the world.

After fire destroyed his factory in King Street 1856, he moved to the near by cotton mill in William Street later to become Templeton Street. He was joined in business by his brother Archibald and brother in law Peter Reid. Templeton's oldest son John Stewart joined the company to be followed by his younger son James jur. James Templeton retired in 1878.

In the late 1880's The Templeton's embarked on the simple tasks to build a new factory on the nearby Glasgow Green. With their plans being constantly rejected by both the council and wealthy town house owners, Templeton urged his designer William Leiper to produce a design that was so grand that would satisfy the most stubborn critic of his plans. Leiper based his design on the Doges Palace in Venice, one of Europe's leading buildings.

Work began in 1888 and during construction in 1889 the factory façade collapsed killing 29 women working in the sheds below. The building was completed in 1892 and with its colourful brickwork and design remains one of the city's most icomic buildings. More deaths were to follow during a fire in 1900.

Despite these set backs the Templeton company went on to produce carpets for the coronation in Westminister Abbey in 1911, 1937 and the Queens coronation in 1953. They produced carpets for the Titanic and with the worlds leading designers and artists producing unique one off designs, Templeton carpets were well sought after by the rich and famous, movie stars, singers and Kings & Queens throughout the world.



BUILDING WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT AS A CARPET FACTORY FOR JAMES TEMPLETON & CO.



THE MERCHANTS

The Tobacco Lords, Tobacco Lairds and The Virginia Dons; these were the Glasgow merchants who made vast fortunes trading in tobacco. And with this wealth they would invest, plan and build estates, town houses, churches, banks and warehouses. They would govern and shape their city and in their honour have city streets named after them. Glassford, Buchanan, Ingram, Cochrane.

With both English and Scottish parliaments agreeing to be one (the act of the union) 1707 opened up the English colonies of North America to the Scottish Merchants.

The Glasgow Merchants already with a global shipping net work of family connections and wealthy friends were in a prime position to seize this new opportunity. With a direct sailing wind, the Glasgow ships had a two week sailing advantage to America.

With all other ships the cost of two or three weeks sailing time soon mounted for the shipping companies.

The Glasgow merchants would send over their sons and young male relatives to deal direct with the growers, buy and invest in their own plantations. And with no agents or middle men, the Glasgow merchants soon had total control of the tobacco trade. This was further endorsed when France gave the rite of passage to the Glasgow ships to supply France and Europe.

With this wealth the Merchants would plan and build a city to be proud of. Build their homes, estates, churches and warehouses.

The Tobacco Lords dominated this trade for the next fifty plus years and it wasn't until the American war of independence (1775) that their strangle hold on the market was to come to an end. Some Merchants had moved to cotton, and textiles others came home to retire and invest but many lost everything and faced bankruptcy.

Today the wealth left behind in the rich architect, the churches, the town houses, estates and warehouses can be shared by all. The streets to shop, the place to eat, the gallery to visit and above all the somewhere to sleep.



GLASGOW MERCHANT N TRADITIONAL DRESS

THE ARCHITECT

John Thomas Rochead was born in Edinburgh and was educated at George Herriot's School. Founded in the early 17th century, today it remains one of Scotland's leading independent schools.

He studied and served his apprenticeship under the guidance of David Bryce (1803 - 76) an Edinburgh architect of note.

In 1837 he move from Edinburgh to Glasgow to become head draughtsman for David Hamilton (1768 - 1843) considered to be the finest architect in Scotland. Working alongside other fine architects and designers. Rochead decided to move on and in 1841 set up his own practice in Glasgow.

He began to work on designing town houses, villas banks, terraces and warehouses. He designed the first Free Church in Glasgotu(1843 - 1968) and with a list of other Free Churches throughout the city. Rochead began to make his mark. The grand terrace houses over at the city's Great Western road, the United Presbyterian Church John Street and here on the Trongate the City of Glasgotw Bank (1855).

This former Bank was converted into serviced apartments and to date, over the last 10 years has flourished as home to all here at Fraser Suites. Rochead's finest hour arrived when his design for the world acclaimed National Wallace Monument (1861) was successful. Despite this land mark design controversy erupted and Rochead was never paid.

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Thomas Roched

Rochead continued to work and with much of his early architectural design covering both Gothic and Baronial. It is considered that he was at his best when he choose to reflect on the influence of the early Italian renaissance designers. This is very

much in evidence with his design of the Bank of Scotland (1869), George Square Glasgow.

He returned to Edinburgh in 1870 building and designing his oton home in the Morningside district of Edinburgh. On the 7th of April 1878 John Thomas Rochead died and was buried in the Grange cemetery Edinburgh.



WALLACE MONUMENT STIRLING



THE TOLLBOOTH STEEPLE

Throughout medieval Scotland many major towns would require a toll house or tollbooth. This was an official governing building. It would deal with all local and civic issues, meetings would take place and the collections of taxes would be made.

The Glasgow Tollbooth was built in the early 17th century (1626) by stone mason and builder John Boyd. The Tollbooth was an impressive and imposing building and was consider the finest of its time.

The Glasgow tollbooth also served the city has both court house and prison and many a public hanging would be held. The Tollbooth would continue to stamp and impose it's authority over the city for the next two hundred years.

With local markets trading near by and roads running north south east and west High Street to cathedral north, Saltmarket to the fishing south, Gallowgate to the east and Trongate west. The Tollbooth formed the city's hub and cross.

With Glasgow expanding and an ever growing population, new and larger premises were required. The civic duties were transferred to the near by new build in the Saltmarket. And with new city courts and city prisons built, the Tollbooth was closed in 1814. Sold to business, over the years the Tollbooth functioned as an auctioneers and second hand shops.

Sadly after much neglect, rot and ruin the tollbooth was demolished in 1921.

The steeple clock tower was saved and is all that remains of

this once fine medieval building. Many of the steeples medieval stone carvings,

a ancient city coat of arms, thistle motifs and a stone carved crown apex, are amongst the oldest in the city.

Standing alone rooted in time the steeple clock tower still counts the hours and minutes of the present day.



HISTORICAL PAINTING OF TOLLCROSS



T H E R A M S H O R N

St David's was build on the land known as the Ramshorn. This was a grazing pasture that ran north west of the then Cow Loan now Ingram Street. It was named St David's in honour of King David 1 of Scotland (mid 1100's).

The church yard of St David's was to become the choice burial ground of the many great merchants and esteemed families of this period. Today this church yard remains opened to the public and is one of the city's oldest grave yards.

Almost over a 100 years old and with expensive and much needed repairs, plans were under way to build a new church. This church was designed by architect Thomas Rickman and opened it's doors on January 1824. Ingram Street had been widened and the new church was built further back into the grave yard. There is markings on the pawestones outside the church to indicate graves below.

In the 1840's this was a time of internal conflict within the church and the state. The parish of St David's joined the new Free Church and moved away. St David's remained within the church of Scotland. This was also a time of expansion within the city centre building more commercial buildings, train stations (Queen St) hotels and Strathclyde University Buildings. This forced the congregation further a field. With church attendances dwindling over the years the Ramshorn Kirk as it widely became known closed its doors in 1983.

The church was taken over by the near by University of Strathclyde in 1992 and now functions as a theatre for the University.



INGRAM STREET, AS IT WAS PHOTOGRAPHED IN EARLY 1900'S

THE WILLOWS

Catherine Cranston demanded and provided quality. Born in Glasgow 1849 Catherine Cranston was a pioneer of the Glasgow Tea Rooms.

Like most industrial cities and the rise of The Temperance movement, the Tea Rooms offered an alternative to the many ale houses that stank of tobacco and sold alcohol.

This was also a time were woman began to socialise and the Tea Rooms offered a perfect meeting place.

In 1878 Catherine Cranston opened her first tea room The Crown Luncheon in Argyle Street. Along with her demand for quality, she also demanded the greatest attention to detail. This set her apart.

And in 1903 this demand for design was surpassed when she asked world renowned architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh to design the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street. This remains amongst the finest examples of Mackintosh design to detail and Ms Cranston desire for excellence. In 1917 with the death of her husband Miss Cranston retired from public life and sold her tearooms.

Pranston

They had no children and when Miss Cranston died in 1934 she had donated almost two thirds of her wealth to the poor of Glasgow.

Today you can still enjoy the quality of food and service demand by Miss Cranston by visiting The Willow Tea Rooms Sauchiehall Street Glasgow.



WILLOW TEAROOM SIGN, WHICH HANGS IN SAUCHIEHALL STREET.







HUTCHESON HALLS

George Hutcheson was a wealthy landowner and successful lawyer. With the death of his father in 1594. George was guardian to his much younger brother Thomas 1589 - 1641. George ensured Thomas would have the finest of education and later join him in the family business.

Glasgow in the 17th century was now at the centre of trade in Scotland. A growing city and not without its social problems.

The Hutcheson Brothers along with many merchants looked to change this. They provided funds and set up trusts to tackle the city's social issues.

In 1640 after the death of older brother George, plans to build a hospital for elderly merchants got underway. Thomas lay the first stone only to die the following year. The hospital now included a school wing and provide education for poor and orphaned boys. Built in 1660 on the Trongate the hospital would provide care for twelve elderly merchants and a school wing for the education of 12 orphan boys.

This school wing went on to become one of the city's finest independent schools and today stills bears their name Hutcheson Grammar and now teaches over two thousand girls and boys.

With plans now being proposed to build a street, Hutcheson Street 1795 and name it in honour of the brothers a new hospital was planned.

In 1805 the new Hutcheson hospital was built and was to continue to look after elderly Merchants. Designed by David Hamilton, the new hospital was built on Ingram

Street, looking down the netoly built Hutcheson Street. On either side to the entrance, statues of both brothers proudly gaze down the street and we can only look up and wonder at their contribution to the citu.

This early 19th century building now long gone as a hospital was taken over by the National Trust for Scotland in 1984 and was used as their head office.



HUTCHESON HOSPITAL



T H E T R O N G A T E

Originally a lane of wooden built houses known as St. Thenew's gate.

All goods from the river would travel up stockwell Street and pass by on horse drawn carts on the way to the Weighbeam at High Street.

The Weighbeam was known as a tron and here all goods would be weighed measured and taxed.

This road was soon to be known as the way to the Tron. A permanent land mark on the Trongate is the Tron Church steeple built as an addition to the Tron Church in 1628. It is all that remains of the old church.



VIEW TRONGATE EARLY 1800'S

The site dates back to 1525 where the original church of Our Lady and St Anne stood mid 17th century it saw two fires in 1652 and 1677 devastating the Trongate and lower town. This led to plans insisting that all future buildings be made of stone

Trongate became Glasgow's first paved street and it's here that the Tobacco Lords would have been seen strutting along the Trongate in their red cloaks, wigs, tri corn hats and canes.



VIEW TRONGATE EARLY 1800'S



TRDH RERBERS FOR OMAURS RDDTRS EMERANT









During the middle ages most towns and city's began to develop a trained and skilled workforce.

This work force was to be overseen by fellow tradesmen. Each trade would be regulated so that those only with the required skill would be permitted to work.



This was also a time of great conflict with many of the rich and powerful merchants governing and controlling trade and prices much to the detriment of the skilled tradesman.

With so many different trades and varied craftsmen, each trade and craft was grouped and organised and formed into a collective body. Each group would be represented and would elect its own spokesman.

Polices and political decisions could now be made or even challenged.

In 1605 The Glasgow Trades House was established and FOURTEEN trades were Incorporated.

The first and early meetings were to take place in church and town halls, peoples homes and public houses.







Amongst the many reforms Education (reading writing and arithmetic) and religion had been established as must for the crafts man and his son.

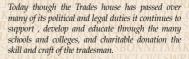


In 1791 Robert Adam (1728 - 92) one of the country's most important architects was commissioned to build The Trades halls in Glasgow. Adams was to die during construction of the Trades Halls. Work was completed



by his younger brothers who continued to work from his practice.

Some forty years later, some additional work and design was carried out by another prominent architect David Hamilton (1768 - 1843). The Trades house is one of the few buildings still in use for what it was originally built.











THE PANOPTICON

The word panopticon means everything to see and Glasgoto's world famed panopticon music hall was the place to see everything. From Stan Laurel's first footsteps on stage, the singers the dancers the musicians this was the ticket to have.

It opened it's doors in 1857 with ticket priced and aimed to attract and entertain the poor working class. A rooftop carnival, a freak show and a zoo in the basement. Audiences would breathe as one as they came to the Panopticon to see everything.

By the 1890's and the introduction of film, the music hall began to lose its appeal and over the next thirty years Glasgow's love of film with it's new picture houses abandoned the panopticon.

Struggling to compete the panopticon final costume change was a struggling picture house and with the final flicker and churn of a movie reel the panopticon closed it's doors in 1938.

Over the next fifty years the music hall was lost to many commercial make overs. Buried deep and locked away from view the panopticon with it's lights out lay hidden in a

dark corner.

During renovation work being carried out on the old Gildard and McFarlane building, in the late 1990's the music hall was uncovered.

STAN LAUREL

This musical magical historical gem is the oldest surviving music hall in the world. And with the help of the many volunteers who sing the songs tell the jokes perform the tricks and dance in the isle. The Panopticon remains open with original costumes, posters and stage its self on display.

Now a registered charity, work continues to restore and keep this vital and historical time piece of Glasgow's social and entertainment is very much alive.

From your window here at Fraser Suites you can look across and can see the old building that houses this once lost and forgotten historical time piece.

Work has been completed to restore the facade of the original building designed by Thomas Gildard & H M Mc Farlane in 1857. And once again stands proudly over looking all on the Trongate. Fraser Suites Glasgow 1-19 Albion St, Glasgow, G1 1LH

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