

# M037 Memorial to Dr William Chrystal in Glasgow Cathedral

## Introduction

William Chrystal LLD (1776–1830), rector of Glasgow Grammar School, drowned in tragic circumstances in the Firth of Clyde. A memorial in Glasgow Cathedral was commissioned by Grammar School alumni in June 1830, a 'bust surmounted by a Gothic canopy, said to have been of beautiful design', located in the Cathedral's N. transept. Following the installation of stained-glass and painted windows in the Cathedral in 1859–64, the Gothic canopy was removed as it was thought to interfere with the view of the new windows. The bust and pedestal remained *in situ* but were apparently hidden by barricades for up to 30 years during the mid-century Cathedral restoration work. <sup>1</sup>

In 1890 John Honeyman & Keppie designed a new canopy and pedestal in stone and polychromatic marble. A brass plaque with Chrystal's initials was added to the bust and the face of the pedestal was carved with a memorial inscription. The memorial was dismantled in 1953 and a simple brass plaque in the Cathedral records its former location. The bust and pedestal were given to the High School of Glasgow, successor to the Grammar School, and are now displayed in the High School's newest buildings at Anniesland. <sup>2</sup>

**Authorship:** The Renaissance style of the monument suggests the work of John Keppie; its canopy recalls his 1886 drawing of the S. door of S. Alessandro in Lucca, which was published in the *British Architect* two years later. <sup>3</sup> The style of the drawing, however, particularly the lettering and the memorial inscription, suggest Mackintosh may have been the draughtsman. Similar lettering can be found on later drawings by Mackintosh for Craigie Hall, Glasgow Art Club and the Inn at Lennoxtown.

**Cost from job book:** £330 0s 0d

**Status:** Monument partly extant in new location

**RCAHMS Site Number:** NS66NW 17.00 (Glasgow Cathedral; original location) ; NS56NW 432 (The High School of Glasgow; 2012 location)

**Grid reference:** NS 60248 65577 (Glasgow Cathedral; original location); NS 54551 68455 (The High School of Glasgow; 2012 location)

## Chronology

### 1890

22 December: Contractor tenders accepted. <sup>1</sup>

### 1891

13 October: Contractors paid. <sup>2</sup>

## Description

## People

### Clients:

- no data in job book

### Contractors:

- Galbraith & Winton
- R. A. McGilvray & Ferris

## Job Book

The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. The name of a project and/or client is usually at the top of the left-hand page, followed by information about tradesmen who tendered. The name

of the measurer (quantity surveyor) is usually at the top of the right-hand page, followed by information about payments to contractors and suppliers. All of the data for M037 is entered in the tables below.

Page numbering is not consistent in the job books. Sometimes a single number refers to a double-page spread and sometimes each page is individually numbered. Here, each image of a double-page spread is identified by the number given at the top of the left-hand page. (Images of all of the pages from the four job books can be found at [Browse Job Books, Visit Book and Cash Book.](#))

The following information about M037 has been extracted from the job books:



**Client:** no data in job book

**Tenders:**

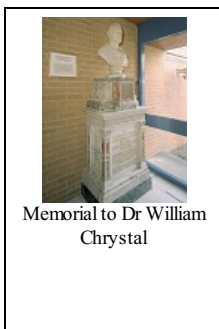
Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Galbraith & Winton	mason	no data in job book	no data in job book	£170 0s 0d	yes (22 December 1890)
R. A. McGilray & Ferris	carver	no data in job book	no data in job book	£153 10s 0d	yes (22 December 1890)

**Payments (trades):**

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Galbraith & Winton	marble & mason	<b>Payment date:</b> 13 October 1891 £172 0s 0d <sup>1</sup>
R. A. McGilray & Ferris	carver	<b>Payment date:</b> 13 October 1891 £158 10s 0d <sup>2</sup>

## Documents

## Images



## Bibliography

### Published

- George Eyre-Todd, ed., *The Book of Glasgow Cathedral: A History and Description*, Glasgow: Morison Brothers, 1898, pp. 435–6; Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 111

Notes:

1: George Eyre-Todd, ed., *The Book of Glasgow Cathedral: A History and Description*, Glasgow: Morison Brothers, 1898, pp. 435–6; Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 111.

2: See RCAHMS' site-record page for the High School of Glasgow Anniesland buildings: RCAHMS, site number NS56NW 432. The monument was photographed there by RCAHMS in 2004. Biographical information on William Chrystal: The University of Glasgow Story, [www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk](http://www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk) [accessed 20 July 2012]; National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh: RHP6503/1; George Eyre-Todd, ed., *The Book of Glasgow Cathedral: A History and Description*, Glasgow: Morison Brothers, 1898, p. 436. The description of the monument in Eyre-Todd suggests the 1890 work consisted only of a new canopy, but the style of the pedestal suggests it was designed at the same time.

3: *British Architect*, 30, 19 October 1888, p. 283.

4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 133.

5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 133.

6: Payment includes £2 0s 0d for 'gilding of inscription'.

7: 'including inscription £5'.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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