

# M184 Stand for Francis Smith at the Glasgow International Exhibition 1901

## Introduction

This was a temporary stand for the cabinetmaker Francis Smith to display his furniture at the Glasgow International Exhibition 1901.

**Authorship:** The stand was published under Mackintosh's name during his lifetime, and a drawing for it by Mackintosh was formerly in the collection of Thomas Howarth.

**Cost from job book:** £7 7s 0d

**Status:** Temporary

## Chronology

### 1899

March: Exhibition prospectus published, with application form for exhibitors. <sup>1</sup>

### 1900

1 June: Closing date for receipt of application forms, to include elevational drawings of proposed stands. <sup>2</sup>

### 1901

2 May: Exhibition opens. <sup>3</sup>

9 November: Exhibition closes. <sup>4</sup>

## Description

The 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition was a vast temporary display of art, industry and manufacturing, spread across 73 acres in and around Kelvingrove Park. The successor to an earlier exhibition held on the same site in 1888, it surpassed its predecessor by attracting nearly 11.5 million visitors in its six-month run, from 2 May to 9 November. <sup>1</sup>

The main exhibition building was the Industrial Hall. Here, and in the Grand Avenue leading to the Machinery Hall on the S. side of Dumbarton Road over 800 stands vied with each other for attention. In a review of the exhibition, the *Studio* regretted the 'huddled and unsymmetrical appearance' of the interior, in which the stands were 'crowded together in a manner not conducive to architectural dignity'. <sup>2</sup>



A prospectus published in March 1899 set out the regulations and conditions for exhibitors. The cost of space inside the building was 3s per square foot, with a minimum charge of £5. An 'Application for Space' form accompanied the prospectus and had to be returned to the General Manager by 1 June 1900, accompanied by a 'sketch showing the shape of the space required' and 'an elevation of the stand'. <sup>3</sup>

Mackintosh, whose design submitted on behalf of John Honeyman & Keppie had been unsuccessful in the 1898 competition for the design of the Exhibition buildings, was responsible for the design of at least four of the stands (sometimes referred to as 'stalls' or 'cases'). These were for the department store Pettigrew & Stephens, the Glasgow School of Art, the camera manufacturers Messrs Rae and the cabinetmaker Francis Smith.



Francis Smith's stand, number 299, occupied two bays, each 15 feet wide, between the steel stanchions of the Grand Avenue. Unlike the stands for Pettigrew & Stephens and the School of Art, this was not a freestanding structure, and Mackintosh merely framed the two openings in the manner of a shop front. The uprights were curvilinear, perhaps based on plant forms, and the fascia above each bay incorporated a disc with Smith's name and address. A photograph showing the stand before Smith's furniture display was installed was published in *Dekorative Kunst*.<sup>4</sup>

Mackintosh seems to have designed the stand in his capacity as an employee of John Honeyman & Keppie. His drawing, formerly in the collection of Thomas Howarth, was signed 'Chas R. Mackintosh Arch', but it bore the practice address, 140 Bath Street, and the practice cash book shows that Smith paid £7 7s 0d for the stand (though not until 2 April 1903).<sup>5</sup> This was presumably only the design fee: Smith, who carried out many of Mackintosh's furniture designs between 1897 and 1910, probably made the stand himself at his own expense.

According to Howarth, the fascia was still in the possession of Smith's son in 1950.<sup>6</sup>

## People

### Clients:

- Francis Smith

## Job Book

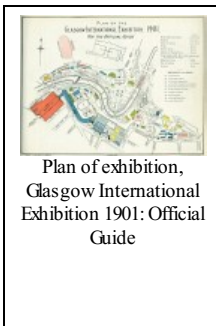
The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. 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 M184 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 M184 has been extracted from the job books:

## Documents

## Images



## Bibliography

### Published

- Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, pp. 119–20
- Thomas Howarth, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Modern Movement*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 2nd edn, 1977, pp. 173–4
- Perilla Kinchin and Juliet Kinchin, *Glasgow's Great Exhibitions: 1888, 1901, 1911, 1938, 1988*, Wendlebury, Oxon: White Cockade Publishing,

1988

- *Glasgow International Exhibition 1901: The Official Catalogue*, Glasgow: Charles P. Watson, [1901]
- *Glasgow International Exhibition 1901: The Official Guide*, Glasgow: Charles P. Watson, [1901]
- 'The Glasgow Exhibition', *Studio*, 23, 1901, pp. 45–8, 165–73, 237–46

## Unpublished

- Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow International Exhibition 1901, Prospectus, March 1899, D-TC 11/4, box 1

### Notes:

- 1: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow International Exhibition 1901, Prospectus, March 1899, D-TC 11/4, box 1.
- 2: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow International Exhibition 1901, Prospectus, March 1899, D-TC 11/4, box 1.
- 3: Perilla Kinchin and Juliet Kinchin, *Glasgow's Great Exhibitions: 1888, 1901, 1911, 1938, 1988*, Wendlebury, Oxon: White Cockade Publishing, 1988, p. 15.
- 4: Perilla Kinchin and Juliet Kinchin, *Glasgow's Great Exhibitions: 1888, 1901, 1911, 1938, 1988*, Wendlebury, Oxon: White Cockade Publishing, 1988, p. 15.
- 5: Perilla Kinchin and Juliet Kinchin, *Glasgow's Great Exhibitions: 1888, 1901, 1911, 1938, 1988*, Wendlebury, Oxon: White Cockade Publishing, 1988, pp. 15, 54–93.
- 6: 'The Glasgow Exhibition', *Studio*, 23, 1901, pp. 45–8, 165–73, 237–46.
- 7: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow International Exhibition 1901, Prospectus, March 1899, D-TC 11/4, box 1.
- 8: *Dekorative Kunst*, 5, March 1902, p. 214.
- 9: Christie's, London, 17 February 1994, 106; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 76.
- 10: Thomas Howarth, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Modern Movement*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 2nd edn, 1977, p. 174.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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