

**REPORT ON THE
MITCHELL LIBRARY,
GLASGOW, 1887**

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Report on the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, 1887 by Various

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VARIOUS

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MITCHELL LIBRARY,
GLASGOW, 1887**

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GLASGOW.

1887.



GLASGOW:
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1888.

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**GENTLEMEN WHO SERVED ON THE COMMITTEE
PREVIOUS TO 1886.**

JOINED.		LEFT
1874	Lord Provost The Hon. Sir James King, LL.D., 1874-6, again from 1886,	Remains 1878
1874	Ex-Lord Provost Sir James Watson,	1877
1874	Ex-Lord Provost Sir James Bain,	1882
1874	Ex-Lord Provost Sir William Collins,	1883
1874	Ex-Lord Provost John Ure,	1883
1874	Baillie James Salmon (Sub-Convener 1874-78),	1878
1874	Ex-Preceptor William Weldon (Convener 1878-86),	Remains
1874	Ex-Preceptor A. G. Macdonald,	1879
1874	Ex-Preceptor Thomas A. Mathieson (Sub-Convener 1878-84),	1884
1874	Baillie James Adams,	1880
1874	Baillie William Clark,	1879
1874	Baillie Hugh Colquhoun,	1883
1874	Baillie John Neil,	1882
1874	Baillie Edward J. Scott,	1880
1874	Ex-Treasurer William Miller,	1877
1874	Deacon-Convener William Smith,	1875
1874	Councillor William E. Egan,	1879
1874	Councillor Henry Emerson,	1884
1874	Councillor Alexander Mackenzie,	1875
1874	Councillor William R. W. Smith,	Remains
1875	Baillie James Moir,	1880
1875	Baillie James Morrison,	1876
1875	Deacon-Convener Archibald Gilchrist,	1877
1876	Baillie William Brown,	1882
1877	Baillie James L. Selkirk,	1884
1877	Baillie James Torrens,	1881
1877	Deacon-Convener R. A. Bogue,	1879
1878	Baillie Archibald Dunlop,	1882
1878	Baillie George Jackson,	1885
1878	Dean of Guild Patrick Flanagan,	1879
1879	Baillie Peter Strath,	Remains
1879	Baillie Duncan MacPetersen,	1881
1879	Baillie Alexander McLaren,	1882
1879	Dean of Guild J. B. Mirreles,	1881
1879	Deacon-Convener Andrew M'Onie,	1881
1879	Councillor Andrew S. Budge,	1881
1880	Councillor W. M. Stewart,	1882
1881	Baillie James Gray,	1884
1881	Dean of Guild Alex. Stephen,	1883
1881	Deacon-Convener Thomas Reid,	1883
1881	Councillor James M. Forrester,	1883
1881	Councillor John R. Miller,	1883
1882	Baillie Hugh S. Thomson,	1884
1882	Councillor C. D. Rankin,	1884
1883	Ex-Lord Provost Wm. M'Onie,	1886
1883	Baillie James McFarlane,	1884
1883	Baillie John Shearer,	1884
1883	Deacon-Convener Hugh Kennedy,	1884
1883	Baillie James Colquhoun (Convener from 1886),	Remains
1883	River Guild James H. Martin,	1884
1883	Baillie Michael Simons,	1884
1884	Councillor Robert Graham (Sub-Convener from 1886),	Remains
1884	Councillor Thomas Cumming,	1886
1884	Councillor David Logan,	1886
1884	Councillor Walter Paton,	1885
1885	Dean of Guild W. G. Blackie, LL.D.,	1887
1885	Councillor William Pettigrew,	1886

COMMITTEES ON LIBRARIES.

1886-87.

Hon. SIR JAMES KING, LL.D., Lord Provost.	Councillor HUGH BRECHIN.
Dean of Guild W. G. BLACKIE, LL.D.	Councillor ROBERT GRAHAM.
Bailie JAMES COLQUHOUN.	Councillor J. URE PRIMROSE.
Councillor PETER BERTRAM.	Councillor W. R. W. SMITH.
Councillor WILLIAM BELSLAND.	Councillor WILLIAM WILSON.

Bailie JAMES COLQUHOUN, *Convener.*

Councillor ROBERT GRAHAM, *Sub-Convener.*

1887-88.

The LORD PROVOST.	Councillor ROBERT GRAHAM.
Bailie COLQUHOUN.	Councillor J. URE PRIMROSE.
Bailie MITCHELL.	Councillor W. R. W. SMITH.
Councillor PETER BERTRAM.	Councillor WALTER WILSON.
Councillor WILLIAM BELSLAND.	Councillor WILLIAM WILSON.

Bailie COLQUHOUN, *Convener.*

Councillor ROBERT GRAHAM, *Sub-Convener.*

Sub-Committee of Visitors.

The Members of Committee in rotation.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

Librarian: FRANCIS THORNTON BARRETT.

Sub-Librarian: JOHN INGRAM.

Senior Assistants: JAMES D. BROWN, ROBERT ADAMS.

Assistants: E. A. HOLME KAY, HUGH M'GUIRE, JOHN HALL,
WILLIAM C. ANDERSON, D. HENRY GEDDIE,
HENRY Y. SIMPSON, CHARLES R. BAPTIE.

Janitor: JOHN WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE LORD PROVOST AND TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW.

1887.

MY LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

The Report of the Libraries Committee this year possesses more than usual interest, from the fact that it deals with the completion of the first decade in the existence of the Mitchell Library, and enables the Town Council to review so long a period of steady progress, gratifying alike in the increased advantage taken of it by the citizens generally, and the valuable additions made to it year by year, partly by purchase, and partly by the thoughtful generosity of kind donors, to whom our best thanks are ever due.

Its unsuitable premises still continue to give rise to complaint and dissatisfaction, and the Committee cannot avoid again pointing out to the Town Council how much greater would have been its progress and its value to the citizens had it been more suitably housed, and its stores of knowledge perused in a fresher and more healthful atmosphere.

The Committee believe that no other consulting or reference Library made so much steady progress in so short a time as ten years. Some such Libraries are indeed larger, but they are also much older, and besides, have had the great advantage of the operation of the Free Libraries Act, in failing to take advantage of which, Glasgow now stands alone among our great communities.

The Committee desire again to acknowledge the liberality of ex-Bailie Neil in continuing, for the ten years just closed, the free use of the upper flat, a grant which was originally made for five years only.

The issue of books is again somewhat less than in 1886, owing probably partly to the fact of many readers formerly idle being now at work, and consequently not spending so much time in the Library, a gratifying state of matters as regards the condition of trade in our city; but, as the Librarian points out, unhappily mainly due, in his opinion, to the want of more suitable accommodation for pursuing literary research, a state of matters which cannot too soon be remedied. The character of the reading continues

satisfactory, and bears evidence of a desire on the part of readers to seek solid information from the abundant resources at their disposal.

Your Committee in last report referred to their attempt to improve the ventilation of the Mitchell Library as having been hitherto practically unsuccessful. The subject, however, is still engaging the careful consideration of the Committee.

The donations to the Mitchell Library during 1887, while not of special importance, were still numerous and very acceptable. Among them the Committee would hereby acknowledge the gift of a "selection from the Library of the late Bailie Craig," sent by Mr. J. S. Craig; and accord their hearty thanks for all donations received, of which a complete list will be found on pages 45-55.

The additions to the Mitchell Library by purchase have not been so numerous as in 1886. They have been made much on the usual lines. The purchases and donations together number in all (after deducting losses) 4,928 volumes. These losses arise from various causes, and while it will be seen that 77 were worn out and 1 lost, 21 were stolen and 2 mutilated and withdrawn. It is not pleasant to notice such unworthy conduct, but doubtless when brought under their notice, the great body of honest readers will join in lending a helping hand to keep their splendid possessions intact, and to assist in bringing to light and punishment such dishonest practices, blemishing the fair fame of our community.

Education has of late been advancing in our midst, and we look to its influence to elevate and improve the position of generations to come, knowing as we do that without the spread of knowledge among our masses, we shall soon be out of the race in the keenly-contested battle for supremacy and success. This being so, it surely is not unbecoming in your Committee to express the hope that nothing may happen to curtail or paralyze the valuable assistance which such a collection as the Mitchell Library in happier circumstances might afford as an educative power among us in all time to come, and so form no small factor in promoting the advancing greatness of our City.

In name of the Committee,

JAS. COLQUHOUN,

Convener.