



The business of archives

A labour of love

Compiled and edited by
Tony Slaven and Kiara King

Ballasttrust

Understanding Technical Records



Preview Edition

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Cover image: Boiler plan for ST Flying Scotsman built by J P Renoldson & Sons in 1898, The Ballast Trust.

Chapter opening photographs © 2018 Greg Smith

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- John R Hume – Trustee; Professor; Industrial Historian; former Chief Inspector of Historic Buildings and former Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
- Kiera King – Archivist and Manager of the Ballast Trust
- Lesley Richmond – Trustee; former University Archivist and Deputy Director of the University of Glasgow Library
- Tony Slaven – Trustee; Director of the Ballast Trust; Emeritus Professor of Business History at the University of Glasgow, President Business Archives Council of Scotland
- Cheryl Traversa – Brand Archive Manager for The Macallan and former Business Archives Surveying Officer at the Ballast Trust

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TS Queen Mary II built by William Denny and Brothers in 1933.
Dan McDonald Collection.

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Foreword



A labour of love

'Bill Lind' just had to be the first two words in any introduction to this tribute to the Ballast Trust, past, present and future. Bill and the Ballast Trust were and are synonymous. The Trust was Bill's inspiration and it lives on as a vital and relevant testament to his vision and generosity. If he had not founded the Trust and attracted enthusiastic and loyal support from those who shared his vision the world of business history and archives in Scotland would be a poorer place.

I knew Bill from my early years in McClure Naismith where Bill was a valued client and good friend of my senior partner James Sutherland. I like to think that in later years Bill became my friend too. Bill was formidable and kind, generous and careful, conservative and visionary, politically incorrect and public spirited – a unique figure who commanded respect and loyalty.

Today the Trust is effectively led by Tony Slaven and Kiara King with the support of an excellent team which includes many volunteers and a Board which is committed to the future success of the Trust. My thanks to them all. As in so many organisations it is the people who make the difference. There is no shortage of challenging and relevant work and we look forward to the next 30 years with confidence. Bill would be justifiably proud to read what follows.

Kenneth Chrystie
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Dr William Lind. 1988.

Chapter 10

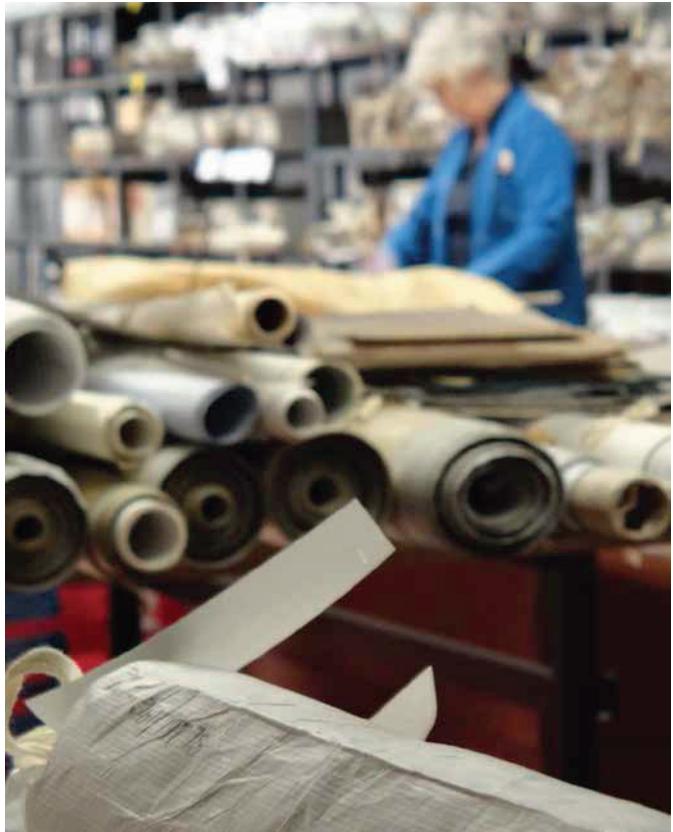


missed by his friends in the Ballast Trust, and by his family. The other strengthening of the professional staff came in 2014 with the appointment of Cheryl Traversa as Surveying Officer, this post continued in a new appointment in June 2018 of Chris Cassells.

While the core staff has remained small, the operational work of the Trust has been driven and expanded by the experience, skills and untiring commitment of a regularly renewing band of volunteers. These are mainly retired men who have worked in the great companies of Clydeside, and bring their knowledge to the listing, cataloguing and description of the technical records being processed day by day. In recent years they have been complemented by placements of an increasing stream of short-term graduate archivists. Over the three decades of its existence this work has attracted the service of some 75 volunteers. At the present time eight volunteers assist the core staff on a regular long-term basis. The value of their work is beyond measure and is appreciated greatly.

Through the passage of time, and the inevitability of death, retiral and resignations, only two individuals have had a continuous connection to and involvement with the Ballast Trust from its foundation in 1988. Professor Slaven, first as Trustee and subsequently as Director, and Delaine Colquhoun, first as Bill Lind's secretary in his days in his transport business at W H Malcolm's in Bridge of Weir, and then as his personal assistant and archive assistant throughout the three decades of the Ballast Trust. After Bill's death in October 2007 Delaine almost unconsciously began to fulfil and deliver another and crucial role. She was, and is, the living memory bank of all things relating to Bill and his activities. Nothing and no one have escaped her memory and her opinion.

Moreover, as critical new appointments were made to the core staff, and new recruits joined the volunteers, Delaine was the touchstone of information, advice and support. Integrating new young female appointees into a core and volunteer workforce of post retiral males was a delicate business. She managed this with aplomb, first with Kiara King as the new archivist, and later with Cheryl Traversa as the Surveying Officer. They, and a changing flow of new



Delaine Colquhoun and plans at the Ballast Trust, 2012.

volunteers were welcomed, scrutinised, introduced and ultimately approved of once they had passed her test of acceptability. The transformation of work and practice that took place in Walkinshaw Street after Bill's death depended substantially on her support, her knowledge, and her tact and empathy with the new young professional archivists. The Ballast Trust was Bill Lind's creation and hobby, but it also became Delaine's domain. Staff and volunteers alike became part of her Ballast Trust family.

In the world of Scotland's business archives partnerships have been critical to the growth and success of our archive services. These relationships have developed steadily since the 1950s. The Economic History departments at Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities each promoted different aspects of business history and forged links with the Scottish Record Office, activities which soon led to the establishment of the Business Archives Council of Scotland in 1960. From these beginnings other local authority archives emerged. The Ballast Trust was nurtured by these developments and is intimately

linked to them today. The Ballast Trust family consequently includes our partners – the creators and custodians of records – the archive agencies and our client companies. Without their cooperation and trust in our services to transfer their collections to our safekeeping we would not have a role to play. Their records come to us in unsorted disarray, and in large measure in anonymity. Irrespective of the success or failure of these enterprises, the sorting, listing and processing of the collections secures their contribution to our industrial and commercial heritage, and they are the visible evidence of the work and expertise of Bill Lind's Ballast Trust.

The management of the affairs of the Ballast Trust is ultimately in the hands of the Trustees. When formed in 1988 they were six in number, and in total over the three decades since then there have been twelve Trustees. Deaths, retirements, and resignations have seen seven Trustees demit office. At present there are five Trustees of whom Professor Slaven is the sole survivor from the initial appointees. Throughout the life of the Ballast Trust the Trustees have been an unfailing source of support, advice and encouragement, a contribution that has shaped the ambition and the ethos of the Trust in furtherance of Bill's wishes.

The decade since Bill Lind died has witnessed the Ballast Trust being transformed from his small-scale specialised technical records service with limited outreach into a much wider archive service unit. This has been a third seminal change involving both diversification and extensive networking. The outcome is that the Ballast Trust is now well integrated with the main archive sector in Scotland, and through its comprehensive online presence including a website, twitter and its Flickr photographic initiative becoming increasingly visible internationally. The use of these different channels has raised awareness about the Ballast Trust, providing information on its work and services to a global audience and given us new ways to engage with users and custodians of business archives.

At its thirtieth birthday the Trustees can clearly demonstrate that they have more than met Bill Lind's aspirations for the continuation and development of his private passion, his Ballast Trust. The way ahead will be challenging but the Trustees can be confident that the future will be at least as successful as the past achievements.



Prof. Tony Slaven and Kiara King at the Ballast Trust, 2018

Appendix A

The Staff, Volunteers and Trustees of the Ballast Trust

The Ballast Trust owes its success and reputation to a dedicated team of staff and volunteers and the support of our Trustees. An effort which has involved contributions from 87 individuals over the years.

The Changing Personnel

Dr William Lind (Director, 1987-2007),
Delaine Colquhoun, George Gardner,
Matthew Hume, Andrew Pearson, Phil Thomas,
Alex Deveney, Duncan Winning, Hugh Hagan,
Margaret McBride, Elspeth Reid, Captain John Baird,
Andrew Swan, Captain Tom Kelso, Anthony McNeil,
William Kane, Tom McGhie, Jim McIntosh,
Graham Robinson, Ken MacKie, Gordon Beetham,
Captain Black, John Smith, Campbell Cornwell,
Steve Beattie, Kiara King, Naomi Crerar,
Lorna Gibson, Helen Lovell, David Morris,
Stacey Kerfoot, Stephen Hall, James Sloan,
Anna Russell, Claire Fleming, Cheryl Traversa,
Dawn Sinclair, Stuart Rankin, Rebecca Lough,
Andrew Eadie, Adele Tamar, Heather Anderson,
David McDonald, Nicola Maksymuk, Emma Kirkby,
Javier Sáez Alonso, Ruth Adamson, Stephanie Fair,
Danielle McAlloon, Sean Macmillan, Graham Todd,
Cameron Pow, Joanne Savage, Joseph Heffernan,
David Hamilton, Arturo Pinto, Kirsty Menzies,
Craig Osborne, Robert Osborne, Alice Whichelow,
James Loney, Amanda Mackie, Louise Neilson,
Clare Robinson, Ruth Adamson, Emma Raper,
Kirstie Anslow, Jennifer Brunton, William Brown,
Mark McGregor, Thomas Abercromby,
Chris Cassells, Jennifer Lightbody, Jessie Walsh
and Lucy MacIver.

The Present Team

Today the staff of the Ballast Trust is comprised of:

- Professor Tony Slaven
(Director, from January 2008)
- Kiara King (Archivist, from January 2009)
- Delaine Colquhoun (Archives Assistant, from May 1988)
- Chris Cassells (Surveying Officer, from June 2018)

Supported by a team of knowledgeable, enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers: Campbell Cornwell, David Hamilton, Stephen Hall, Craig Osborne, Robert Osborne, Stuart Rankin, Andrew Swan and Graham Todd.

Trustees

The Trustees are presently:

- Dr Kenneth G Chrystie, Chairman (from 2008)
- Professor John R Hume (from 2001)
- Professor Sam McKinstry (from 2016)
- Lesley Richmond (from 2002)
- Professor Anthony Slaven (from 1987)

Previous Trustees have included: Dr William Lind (1987-2007), James Grier (1987-2002), Robert Ewen (1987-1995), Dr James Sutherland (1987-2001), Margaret Lind (1987-2001), Dugald Mackie (1996-2004) and Douglas Corner (2002-2015).

