

Saltcoats Literary Society Magazine

Overview

The records for the Saltcoats Literary and Debating Society are housed in Ayrshire Archives Headquarters, Ayr. They include the minutes from 1897 until 1982, along with lists of members, syllabi, cash books, correspondence and newspaper articles for various years. A full study of this society remains to be conducted. The one extant issue of the magazine that this group produced is housed in Irvine Townhouse.

The table of contents lists 22 contributions to this magazine, including the 'Introduction' and 'Answers to Correspondents', and is a total of 80 pages. The authors' names — presumably all male — are given, which is not very common for either manuscript or published literary society magazines.

According to the 'Introduction', the group met on a weekly basis, and its 'primary object' was 'the acquiring of knowledge by mutual effort'. The purpose of the published magazine was prompted by the wish of 'putting into more permanent form some of the work overtaken by the Society during the winter session' ('Introduction', *Saltcoats Literary Society Magazine*, Session 1904-05 (Saltcoats: Archibald Wallace, 1905), p. 3). While the articles are admittedly of a more serious tone — 'It undoubtedly lacks much of the humorous element common to popular magazines' — it reflects the tone and seriousness of the members' collective endeavours.

The introduction asks readers to remember that the magazine is a production of amateurs, and makes no claim for absolute originality. Almost all of the articles were first read aloud at the society meetings, and they appear in the magazine in condensed form so as to limit costs as well as the readers' patience. The magazine's intended audience was to include not only society members but also the public.

In addition to advertisements for local businesses that appear at the front and back, the issue contains a mixture of non-fiction articles, original fiction and poetry. Outwith those that accompany the advertisements, there are no illustrations for any of the contributions.

The 'Answers to Correspondents' is the final contribution in which the Editor replies to letters singly and collectively, as in the case of 'J. M. and Others': 'We were very much surprised at the amount of poetry received for this Magazine. We had room for a very

few of the more suitable ones' (Editor, 'Answers to Correspondents', *Saltcoats Literary Magazine*, p. 79). In addition to providing feedback on the contributions, there are also answers to factual questions posed, often with a humorous twist. For example, the answer to 'K"'s question was as follows: 'Saltcoats is 30 miles from Glasgow and 390 from London. We are unable to compute its distance from Ardrossan. Judging from the remarks of some people we know it must be a long way off indeed' (*Ibid*). (Ardrossan is just under 2 miles from Saltcoats: there appears to have been a rivalry between the two towns during this period.)

To date, it is unknown if any further issues of this magazine were produced.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Saltcoats Literary and Debating Society

Date of Existence

1891-1982?

Date of Magazine

1905 (Session 1904-05)

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Published (Saltcoats: Archibald Wallace, 1905)

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements; Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Poems (original); Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Irvine Townhouse, North Ayrshire

Reference

Local & Family History Collection, GJ8

[West United Free Church Literary Society Magazine]

Overview

This society was most likely based at the Selkirk West United Free Church in the Scottish Borders. The information that we currently have on its magazine comes solely from an article published in the early twentieth century in a local newspaper, *The Border Advertiser*.

According to the article, on 6 March 1905, the society met in the church hall to hear the magazine's editor, Mr W. F. Robertson, read aloud six contributions to the society's magazine. These included: 'An Anomaly'; 'The Power of Music'; 'Britain's Industrial [illegible]'; 'Suggestions'; 'My Window "Serial" Chap. iii'; and 'The Ascent of Man' ('West UF. Church Literary Society', *The Border Advertiser*, 07 March 1905, p. 3).

There were apparently not many present at this particular meeting, but nonetheless, '[t]he articles were well received by a small but appreciative audience'.

Further research in the local newspapers and archives may well bring further information on the group and its magazine to light.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

West United Free Church Literary Society

Date of Existence

1905?-?

Date of Magazine

06 March 1905 (contributions to the magazine were read aloud at the society's 'magazine night')

Number of Issues

(at least) 1 (not extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Serial article/story

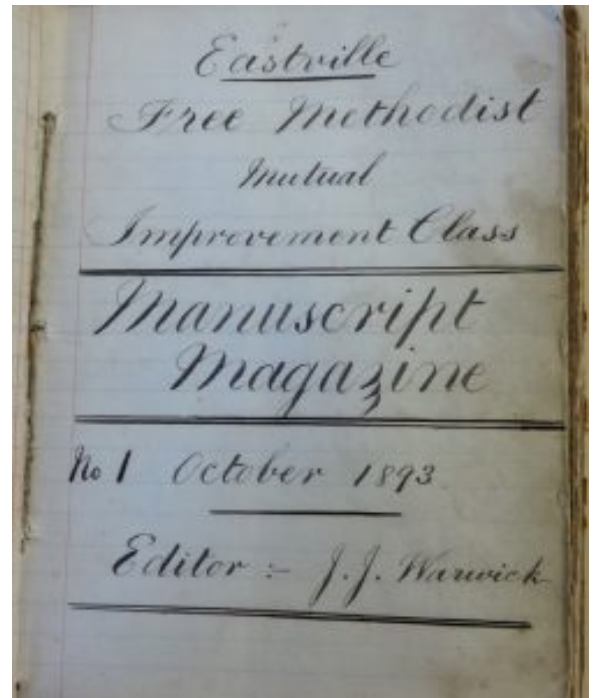
Repository

Library Headquarters, Selkirk

Reference

N/A

**Eastville Free Methodist Mutual
Improvement Class Manuscript
Magazine**



Eastville Free Methodist Mutual Improvement Class, *Eastville Free Methodist Mutual Improvement Class Manuscript Magazine*, ed. by J. J. Warwick, [title page], No. 1, October 1893 (Bristol Archives, 40836/EP/95). Permission to reproduce this photograph has kindly been granted by Bristol Archives.

Overview

This magazine was produced by a mutual improvement class based at Eastville Free Methodist Church, which was located on Fishponds Road in Eastville (northeast of Bristol). (For a brief history of this church see '[Eastville Methodist Church \(now Pentecostal City Mission\), Eastville, Fishponds](#)' on the *Places of Worship Database* website.) The lists of members at the front of the extant 1893 and 1894 issues have 26 and 24 names respectively. It was a mixed-gender class with perhaps a fairly equal number of men and women (there are several names on these lists where only the surname is given). No addresses are given after these names, but these can be found by consulting the entries for the parents in the [church register](#), also available in the archives. The group members were pro-temperance, and two pieces by different authors in their magazine mention attending a Band of Hope meeting. (For more information about the Band of Hope, see the article, '[Band of Hope](#)' on the [Spartacus](#)

[Educational](#) website.)

There are only two extant issues of the manuscript magazine that this class produced. These are roughly A5 in size, with a brown paper cover and are hand-stitched. It is unclear if there was a set production date for each issue (e.g. monthly, bi-monthly, etc.), but it might have been tied to the semester schedule. The format of the contributions vary: some are written solely on one side of the paper, whilst others are on both front and back, which is a bit usual for these magazines. All the contributions — the majority of which are essays on a variety of topics — are in the authors' own handwriting. With few exceptions, all of the contributors and reviewers use their own initials. There is no original poetry and no illustrations or artwork in either issue. Readers were allowed one week to view the magazine.

The issues are compact not only in size but in the number of contributions: there are 68 pages (unpaginated) in total in the 1893 issue with 7 contributions followed by four readers' responses over 10 pages in the 'Notes and Comments' section, and 30 pages with 5 contributions in the 1894 issue. Interestingly, whilst there are also a number of blank pages left for readers to provide their responses in the 'Notes and Comments' section in the later issue, none of the readers chose to use this space.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Eastville Free Methodist Mutual Improvement Class

Date of Existence

1894?-1895?

Date of Magazine

No. 1, October 1893 and No. 5, October 1894

Number of Issues

2 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Annotations; Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Editorials; Essays; Extracts of

published works; Letters to Editor; Magazine Rules; Poems (republished material); Readers' Criticisms; Serial articles/stories; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

Bristol Archives & Record Office

Reference

40836/EP/95-96

The Excelsior Manuscript Magazine



The Excelsior Manuscript Magazine, [title page], No. 7, January 1862 (Liverpool Records Office, H050 EXC). Permission to reproduce this

photograph has kindly been granted by the Liverpool Records Office.

Overview

There are nine extant issues of the manuscript magazine that was produced by this mutual improvement society. The title was taken from the poem, 'Excelsior', written in 1841 by the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and the poem's message of struggling towards a righteous, distant goal was used as the group's own precept. We do not know very much about the group itself as there are no other (known) records. Most likely, the society was associated with a local church in Liverpool as many of the contributions discuss religion and/or the Bible (e.g. a serial essay entitled, 'Praising God, No. 2'), and it was firmly pro-temperance.

We do know that it was a fairly small society: there are 17 members listed in an (undated) magazine circulation list. It was a mixed-gender group, with 13 men and four unmarried women. The members lived in and around the Toxteth area of the city. (For more information about this area, see '[History of Toxteth](#)' on the [Historic Liverpool](#) website.) One of the women, however, lived in London.

Each issue of *The Excelsior* is approximately 100 pages with roughly 20 contributions apiece, and contain a mixture of prose and poetry, articles and essays, a couple of short musical scores, with a small number of original illustrations (mostly pen-and-ink, to which should be added the detailed artwork on the covers on Nos. 7, 8 and 10).

There are a couple of unique elements to this magazine. First, the contributors seemed to particularly like writing serials, both non-fiction and fictional pieces, with pieces commonly running through most of the issues. Second, the members appear to have taken the 'improving' element to heart, as beginning in the sixth issue, a 'List of Errors in Spelling' is added to the back, which ran up to five pages in issue No. 10. Finally, whilst not including a separate section for readers' 'criticisms' *per se*, the Editor none-the-less allowed readers to write in to him with their remarks and he would include them in the next issue, a practice that readers took to with particular enthusiasm, or rather with vehemence; many of these are long letters outlining in detail the particular merits — and by no means neglecting the demerits — of the contributions.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

(currently unknown)

Date of Existence

1860?-1862?

Date of Magazine

No. 1, 1 October 1860; No. 2, 1 November 1860; No. 3, [no date given], December 1860; [No. 4], January and February 1861; No. 5, March & April 1861; No. 6, 1 December 1861; No. 7, January 1862; No. 8, February 1862; [No. 9 no longer extant?]; No. 10, April 1862

Number of Issues

9

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Annotations; Art/Illustrations (original); Article s(non-fiction); Circulation List; Correspondence column; Editorials; Essays; Extracts (previously published works); Fiction/Narratives; Hymn; Letters to Editor; Lists of spelling errors; Music; Newspaper cutting; Poems (original); Poems (republished material); Poems (w/ original illustrations); Prefaces; Puzzle; Readers' Criticisms; Serial articles/stories; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

Liverpool Record Office, Central Library

Reference

H050 EXC

The Spoutmouth Institution Magazine



Spoutmouth Bible Institution (St James' Free Church), *The Spoutmouth Institution Magazine*, No. II, [title page], 16 May 1873 (Glasgow City Archives, CH3/1281/16)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Spoutmouth Bible Institution is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There is only one extant issue of this group's manuscript magazine. It consists of 136 pages with 11 contributions bound in one hardcover volume. There does not appear to be a limit set to the length of the pieces (as was the case with some magazines): the four longest articles and essays are between 20 and 27 pages, with others being between 5 and 10. There are also three original poems (one in dialect), but no artwork appears in this issue.

The contributors either leave their pieces unsigned or they use a pen-name. However,

these may all have been re-written by the magazine's editors (?): it appears that there are only two different handwriting styles in the entire issue.

The first two articles in this miscellany are interesting as they relate the early history of the Institution and, along with a group photograph of the members that is dated 1856, we learn the histories of some of the early members. The last two pieces in the magazine are in fact obituaries of two former members.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

The Spoutmouth Institution (1848-1851), then became The Spoutmouth Bible Institution (22 September 1851-1940?)

Date of Existence

10 June 1848-1940?

Date of Magazine

No. II, 16 May 1873

Number of Issues

1 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Annotations; Articles (non-fiction); Essays; Obituaries; Photograph (members); Poems (original); Serial article/story; Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Glasgow City Archives

Reference

CH3/1281/16

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Spoutmouth Bible Institution](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's](#)

The Literary Magazine

Overview

A summary of the history of the Literary Debating Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

Whilst becoming more proficient in their rhetorical skills at their meetings, the purpose of starting a society magazine was so that members might improve their writing. The preface is in part a manifesto for the magazine, and quotes Lord Bacon: 'reading makes a full man, speaking a ready man, and writing a correct man'. This was to become an oft-used phrase by literary societies more generally over the course of the nineteenth century.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Literary Debating Society (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1845?-1846?

Date of Magazine

Nos. 1-3, 1 December 1845 - 13 February 1846

Number of Issues

3

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Notice (printed); Poem (translation); Preface; Song (vernacular)

Repository

University of Glasgow Special Collections

Reference

The Literary Magazine, ed. by members of the Literary Debating Society, No. 1 (Glasgow: Printed by George Richardson, 1845); *The Literary Magazine*, ed. by members of the Literary Debating Society, Dec. 1845-Feb. 1846 (Glasgow: George Richardson 1846) (Sp Coll Mu1-d.13; Sp Coll RB 3049)

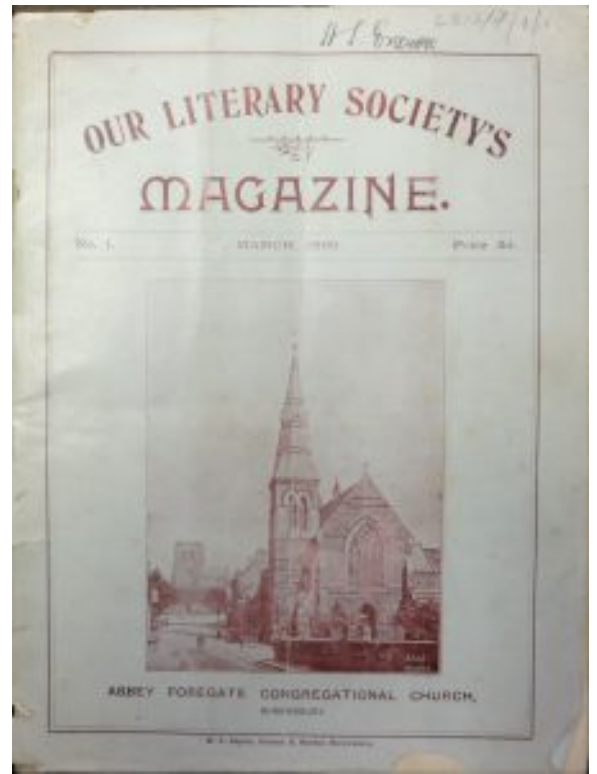
[Note: the University of Glasgow Special Collections holds two copies]

Additional Notes

From the [University of Glasgow online catalogue](#): 'Library holds: No. 1-3, 1 Dec. 1845-13 Feb. 1846. Copy at Mu1-d.13 has front and back covers of no.1 & 2, and front cover of no. 3, bound in. Copy at RB 3049 is item 1 of 5 bound together' [accessed 31 January 2018].

See also entry for [Literary Debating Society](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Abbey Foregate Congregational Church Literary Society's Magazine



Abbey Foregate Congregational Church Literary Society, *Our Literary Society's Magazine*, [cover], No. 1, March 1896 (Shropshire Archives NO4212/7/1/1-2). Permission to use this image has kindly been granted by Shrewsbury United Reformed Church and Shropshire Archives.

Overview

According to the opening article in the first issue of this magazine, the Abbey Foregate Congregational Church Literary Society was founded in 1893. Meetings were held weekly, and it was quite a large society of predominantly young men and women: it was reported that between two and three hundred people often attended, and the number grew to three or four hundred by 1897.

It was three years before they decided to start their own magazine. The first issue was put into print in March 1896 and cost 2d. The second issue appeared over a year later in April 1897, and the cost went up to 3d. It seems that production costs were covered by both the subscriptions and the advertisements for local businesses that are included at the front and back of both issues. Each issue is 18 pages in length.

This miscellany contains a mixture of various non-fiction articles, a few fictional stories, a number of reports on past society meetings and several original photographs that accompany the articles.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Abbey Foregate Congregational Church Literary Society (Shrewsbury)

Date of Existence

1896?-1897?

Date of Magazine

March 1896 and April 1897

Number of Issues

2

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print (Shrewsbury: W. G. Napier, Printer, 1896); (Shrewsbury: W. G. Napier, Printer, 1897)

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements; Articles (non-fiction); Fiction/Narratives; Photographs; Poems (original); Poem (republished material); Reports; Table of Contents; Title pages

Repository

Shropshire Archives (Shrewsbury)

Reference

NO4212/7/1/1-2

Aemulus

Overview

The mutual improvement group that produced this magazine was based at River Terrace Church (River Terrace was later renamed Colebrooke Row), Islington, London. The church was built in 1834 for its Scottish congregation. The River Terrace Young Men's Association later became The River Terrace Bible Class, before changing again to the Islington Presbyterian Church Young Men's Association in 1862.

There are two minute books (also housed in the London Metropolitan Archives) and three extant volumes of a manuscript magazine from this later group (see also [LMA catalogue](#) for the records of the earlier River Terrace groups). From these, we know that the association was made up of young Scottish men that met weekly at the church between December and June, a session that was a bit unusual for this type of society. The object of the association was the 'moral, intellectual and religious improvement of the Young men connected with the church'. Women were allowed to join as full members in January 1891. Four years after its founding, the group started its own manuscript magazine for its members.

In 1866, the first issue of *The Aemulus* was produced. The contributions to the issue were previously read aloud at the society's 'Magazine Nights'. 'Magazine Evenings' or 'Magazine Nights' were meetings that were devoted to the reading of original essays (or occasionally poems) written by group members that were submitted to the Magazine Editor beforehand. The Editor would be responsible for collecting, occasionally selecting, and reading the pieces aloud to the group (more rarely this was done by the contributor him/herself) on the appointed night. This would be followed by 'criticism' — or discussion on the piece's positive *and* negative points — by the group members.

After the meetings, these contributions were sometimes bound and saved in the society's library (if they had one) or would be kept by one of the office bearers. In these cases, it was intended that the magazine was to be preserved and that group members would have access to it at a later date. It is of note that literary and mutual improvement groups used the term 'magazine' to refer to the oral as well as the material medium.

The 1866 volume serves as a 'typical' example of the later volumes. There are 35

prose pieces, 14 poems (of which two that are listed as such in the front 'Index' are acrostics), one musical score for piano and one voice, three illustrations, and six photographs of Office Bearers. According to the 'Preface', the pieces were produced over the course of one year, and nineteen members and two non-members contributed.

As the Editor, Thomas William Thacker, wrote at the beginning of the volume, '[t]his manuscript magazine was started to give the members of the Islington Presbyterian Church Young Men's Association a means of committing to paper thoughts more or less matured. It is strictly anonymous: and few beyond the fellow members have seen the parts as they were issued month by month.' While the group continued to meet until 1894 (at least), it is currently unknown if they continued to produce their magazine after 1878.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Islington Presbyterian Church Young Men's Association (London)

Date of Existence

1862-1894?

Date of Magazine

Vol. I, '(Parts IX)', 1866; Vol. III, 1868-1869; Vol. III [sic], 1878

Number of Issues

3

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Editorials; Essays; Indexes; Lists of Office Bearers; Magazine Rules; Music; Photographs (members); Poems (original); Prefaces; Puzzles; Title pages

Repository

London Metropolitan Archives

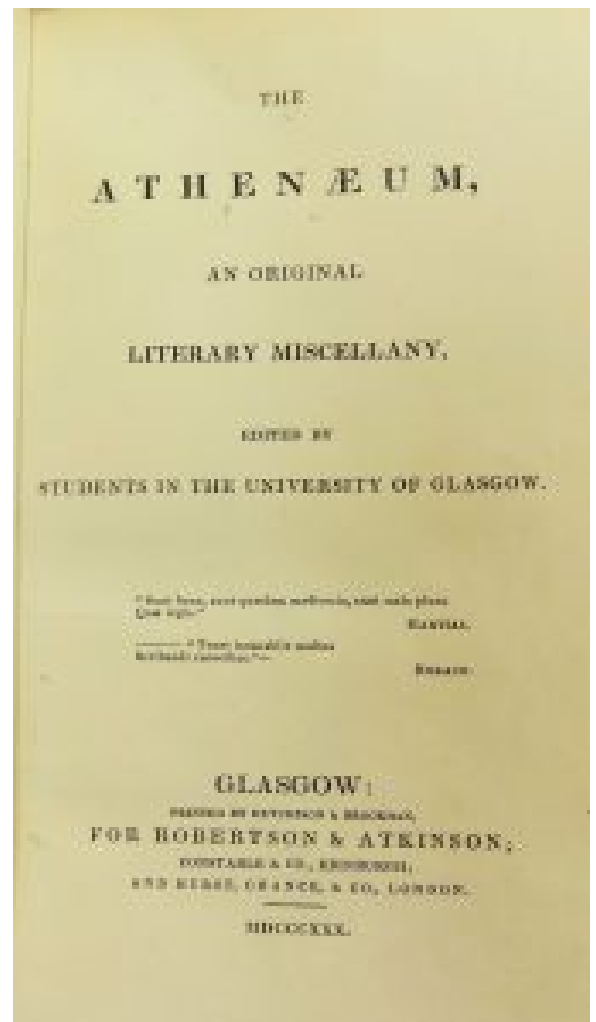
Reference

LMA/4303/E/04/015;

LMA/4303/E/04/016;

LMA/4303/E/04/017

The Athenaeum: An Original Literary Miscellany



The Athenaeum: An Original Literary Miscellany, 1830 [title page] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, Mitchell (GC))

Overview

Like *The College Stethoscope*, this magazine was founded by and for the students of the University of Glasgow (see 'Additional Notes' below).

In the 'Preface', the purpose of the magazine was set out: 'Our aim has been to relieve the severities of academical study, by furnishing a volume, in which instruction should be combined with amusement' ('Preface', *The Athenaeum, An Original Literary Miscellany*, ed. by Students in the University of Glasgow (Glasgow: Printed by Hutchinson & Brookman, For Robertson & Atkinson; Constable & Co., Edinburgh; and Hurst, Chance & Co., London, MDCCCXXX [1830]), p. v).

There are 242 pages with 45 contributions in this magazine, which consists of essays and poems. There are a few translations of poems into English, but also a couple translated from English into Latin and Greek. There is roughly an equal mix of poetry and prose.

Authors sometimes chose to identify themselves, but in a number of cases either their initials or a pen-name was used. Original pieces appear alongside works by (more) established authors and poets. For example, several of Thomas Atkinson's poems appear in this volume. (For more information about Thomas Atkinson (1801?-1833), see the article, '[Atkinson, Thomas \(1801?-1833\)](#)', by Thomas Finlayson Henderson in Volume 2 of the *Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900*, which is available on the [Wikisource](#) website. See also the entry for '[Atkinson, Thomas, ? 1801-1833, poet and writer, bookseller](#)' on the [University of Strathclyde Archives](#) website.)

According to the 'Preface', contributions were accepted from various quarters and not just from the students nor just from men: 'extra-collegiate friends' were thanked, as was one Mrs. Grant of Laggan for her poem.

It is currently unknown if any further issues were produced.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

(Students of the University of Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1830-?

Date of Magazine

1830

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print (Glasgow: Printed by Hutchinson & Brookman, For Robertson & Atkinson; Constable & Co., Edinburgh; and Hurst, Chance & Co., London, MDCCCXXX [1830])

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Dedication page; Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Poems (original); Poems (republished material); Poems (translation); Preface; Reviews; Table of Contents

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections (MLSC)

University of Glasgow Special Collections (UGSC)

Reference

Mitchell (GC) 311821 (MLSC)

Sp Coll Bh12-g.39; Sp Coll Mu21-d.22 (two copies available) (UGSC)

Additional Notes

See also [The College Stethoscope and Literary Index](#).

Barony M.S. Magazine



Barony MS Magazine, August 1863, [title page] (University of Strathclyde Archives, GB 249 T-MIN/18/1/2)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Barony Mutual Improvement Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

The society was formed in 1863 by young men from the congregation of the Barony Church (Church of Scotland), which was built in 1799 and located near the Glasgow Cathedral. The group later changed its name to the Barony Young Men's Association.

This society produced manuscript magazines by and for their members between 1863 and 1875. There are six volumes housed in the [University of Strathclyde Archives](#) (GB 249 T-MIN/18/1/1-6): July 1863; August 1863; September 1863; August 1864; March 1869; and 1873-1875. The earliest magazine that we have, the July 1863 volume, is actually the third that they issued.

The August 1863 issue of the *Barony M.S. Magazine* is fairly typical of mutual improvement society magazines, which are almost always miscellanies, containing a mixture of prose and poetry, fiction and non-fiction pieces on various topics, along

with original artwork and even music. A unique feature of this genre is the readers' 'Criticisms': readers would write their comments about the articles into the back of the magazine after they were done reading it. This society was unusual, however, in that they had a very active critical community of readers. The August 1863 issue, for example (a digitised copy of which is available, see below), contains a remarkable 25 pages of criticisms.

Their [August 1863 issue](#) has been digitised courtesy of the University of Strathclyde Archives and is available on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Barony Mutual Improvement Society (later became the Barony Young Men's Association) (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1863-1875?

Date of Magazine

1863-1875

Number of Issues

6

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Club notices; Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Poems (original); Readers' Criticisms; Serial articles/stories; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

University of Strathclyde Archives

Reference

GB 249 T-MIN/18/1

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Barony Mutual Improvement Society](#) on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds*.

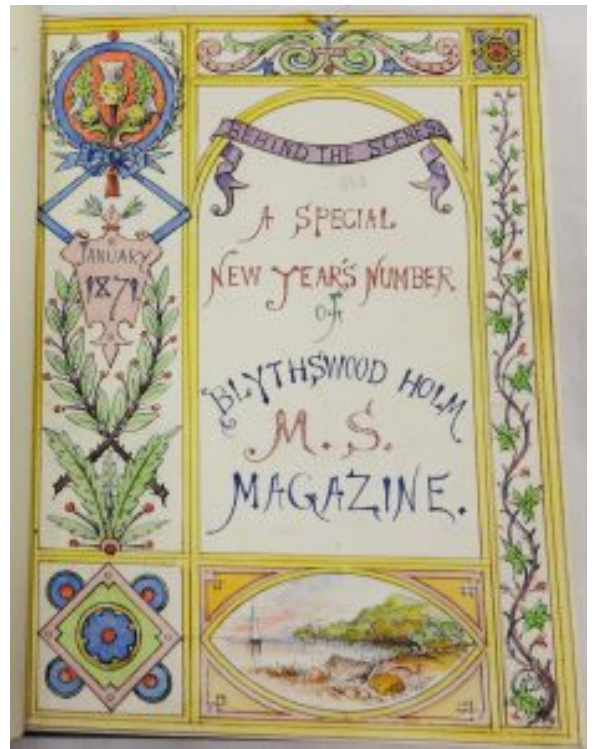
This is not the same as the Barony Free Church Literary Society. For more information about this society, see entry for [Barony Free Church Literary Society](#) on *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* website.

From the [University of Strathclyde Archives online catalogue](#):

'Scope and content

Manuscript magazines issued under the auspices of the Barony Mutual Improvement Society, later the Barony Young Men's Association. Subjects include religion, local history, natural history, travel, natural philosophy, mechanics. The editors were Thomas Martin, Archibald Campbell, John Goldie, Edward Railton Catterns, George Smeaton Rodger, W. Ferrie Anderson and James Meek. The contributions were bound on the premises of Robert Nelson, Princes Court, Buchanan Street. All volumes carry the bookplate of the Barony Association's Library' [accessed 21 January 2018].

**Blythswood Holm M.S. Magazine,
'Behind the Scenes', A special New
Year's Number; later Free St Peter's
Literary Society Magazine**



'Behind the Scenes', A Special New Year's Number of Blythwood Holm M.S. Magazine, January 1871, [title page] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, 321129, GO52)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Free St. Peter's Young Men's Association is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

The earlier manuscript magazine dates from January 1871, and is a bit smaller than other periodicals of this type (approximately A5 size). According to the Editor, this was the third magazine that the society had produced in the 1870-71 session, thus it was a monthly periodical.

The magazine has 118 pages and includes 11 contributions. This issue is framed within a report on the meeting of the society regarding the production of the current issue, which quickly breaks down into a story-telling and singing session, with members taking it in turns. The contributions are mostly prose, with only three poems. However, many of the prose contributions include a combination of poems, songs and illustrations. The contributors are all anonymous. The illustrations are pen-and-ink,

and the title page is pen-and-ink and watercolour.

The later print magazine from 1883 is housed in the University of Glasgow Special Collections. According to the Editor's 'Preface', the contributions to the magazine are by the current members of the congregation or those who were formerly connected with it. The illustrations are, however, almost entirely by 'outsiders'.

This magazine has 80 pages with 19 contributions. Including the frontispiece, there are 10 illustrations, all of which are not included in the pagination (this number does not include the illustration of the church on the title page). There are slightly more prose pieces than poems, numbering 11 and 8 respectively. Five contributors use pen-names and there are two unsigned pieces. The rest of the essays and poems are signed with either the authors' own name or initials. There is one article that is possibly by a woman entitled, 'Lords of Creation', a piece which challenges men's so-called superiority, and is signed by 'Female Modesty'.

This literary society magazine is of note as at least three of its contributors were—or were to become—men of some import in the community. The first contribution in the magazine is a nature poem called 'A Wild Geranium', and is written by Hugh Macmillan. Macmillan was the then current minister of the church, and the poem reflects his keen interest in botany. (For more information about Macmillan, see '[Hugh Macmillan](#)' on *The Glasgow Story* website).

The second piece, a review of a new biography of James Clerk Maxwell, which includes an overview of his life, is written by James Brown. This was probably Reverend James Brown. (For more information about Brown, see '[2nd Lieutenant Alexander Brown](#)' on *The University of Glasgow Story* website.)

The last example is an article entitled 'Some Glasgow Churches' that was written by A. M'Gibbon and was accompanied by his wonderfully detailed drawings of the churches he discusses. The author/illustrator was almost certainly Alexander M'Gibbon (alternatively McGibbon) (1861?-1938), who, at the time of the publication of this magazine, was working as a draughtsman for John Honeyman. M'Gibbon later became an influential teacher at the Glasgow School of Art. (For more information about M'Gibbon, see the entry for '[Alexander McGibbon](#)' on *The Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1660-1980* website.)

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Free St. Peter's Young Men's Association (later became Free St. Peter's Literary Society) (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1871?-?

Date of Magazine

January 1871; 1883

Number of Issues

2 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript (January 1871); Print (1883) (Glasgow: Dunn & Wright, 1883)

Contents and Contributions

Annotation; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation list (1871); Editorial (x2) (1871); Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Fiction/Narrative (vernacular) (1871); Frontispiece; Poems (original); Preface; Table of Contents

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections (MLSC) (Jan. 1871 issue)

University of Glasgow Special Collections (UGSC) (1883 issue)

Reference

321129, GO52 BLY (MLSC)

Sp Coll Robertson Bf68-b.23 (UGSC)

Additional Notes

The *Free St Peter's Literary Society Magazine* (1883) housed in the University of Glasgow Special Collections is part of the Alexander Robertson collection, and is item 8 of 9 bound together.

See also entry for [Free St. Peter's Young Men's Association \(later became Free St. Peter's Literary Society\)](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Bridge Street United Presbyterian Literary Society's Magazine

Bridge Street U.P. Literary Society's Magazine
Volume II.

Index

| Date | Article | Author | Page |
|--------|--|----------------|------|
| Aug 7 | Aggression | Editor | 1 |
| " " | Life of Sanderson | A. H. Solomons | 11 |
| " " | The Disestablishment agitation | "Episcopus" | 17 |
| Nov 11 | Reminiscences of the China War 1841 | "Old Salt" | 27 |
| | Knot | "East" | 33 |
| | Autism | "Sandersonism" | 31 |
| | Knots | "Hans" | 37 |
| Nov 22 | Appendix of Letters to 1872 | Editor | 41 |
| | A. Haynes's view of the Abolition of Slavery | A. H. Solomons | 47 |
| | Reminiscences of the China War 1841 | "Old Salt" | 48 |
| | Society Exhibition Notes | Anonymous | 71 |
| | A Roman Holiday | "Yours Truly" | 81 |
| | The Glasgow Argument for Home Rule 1872 | Editor | 87 |
| Dec 30 | Appendix of Letters to 1872 | Editor | 107 |
| | Recent Condition of the People | A. H. Solomons | 103 |
| | A Sketch | "Yours Truly" | 109 |
| | The Inquest | M. V. R. | 116 |
| | Letter to the Editor | Anonymous | 119 |

Bridge Street United Presbyterian Literary Society, *Bridge Street United Presbyterian Literary Society's Magazine*, [Index page, title page missing], Vol. II, 1890-1891 (National Records of Scotland, CH3/1495/12).

Overview

Members of this literary society were part of the congregation of Bridge Street United Presbyterian Church, located in Musselburgh, East Lothian, to the east of Edinburgh. (For a brief history of the church, see the [National Records of Scotland catalogue entry](#).)

There are three extant volumes of the manuscript magazine that this society produced. The 'Index' at the start of the 1890-1891 volume lists the contributions by the date of the meeting at which they were read aloud. This tells us that the society held regular 'Magazine Nights' during their yearly sessions. Thus, almost all of the contributions included in the magazine were intended to be heard first and then read later.

'Magazine Evenings' or 'Magazine Nights' were meetings that were devoted to the reading of original essays (or occasionally poems) written by group members that were submitted to the Magazine Editor beforehand. The Editor would be responsible for collecting, occasionally selecting, and reading the pieces aloud to the group (more rarely this was done by the contributor him/herself) on the appointed night. This would be followed by 'criticism' — or discussion on the piece's positive *and* negative points — by the group members.

After the meetings, these contributions were sometimes bound and saved in the society's library (if they had one) or would be kept by one of the office bearers. In these cases, it was intended that the magazine was to be preserved and that group members would have access to it at a later date. It is of note that literary and mutual improvement groups used the term 'magazine' to refer to the oral as well as the material medium.

The 1890-1892 volume is a 'typical' issue containing a mixture of prose non-fiction articles and essays, original poems, along with a few letters to the Editor. There is no artwork in any of the issues. Interestingly, readers' criticisms — the comments written into the magazine by readers on the various aspects of the contributions and/or the magazine itself — are not included in this magazine, but a regular feature entitled 'Appendix' (later called 'Editor's Remarks') written by the Editor works in a similar manner. This reports on the society's magazine nights and provides us with some indication of the reception of each piece that was read aloud. In addition, it discusses the 'Appendix of Criticism' that was also read aloud at the meetings, which did include comments about the previous issue of the magazine.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Bridge Street United Presbyterian Literary Society (Edinburgh)

Date of Existence

1890?-1901?

Date of Magazine

Vol. II, 1890-1891; Vol. IV, 1892-1893; 1899-1901

Number of Issues

3

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Editorials; Essays; Indexes; Letters to Editor; Poems (original); Reports; Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

National Records of Scotland

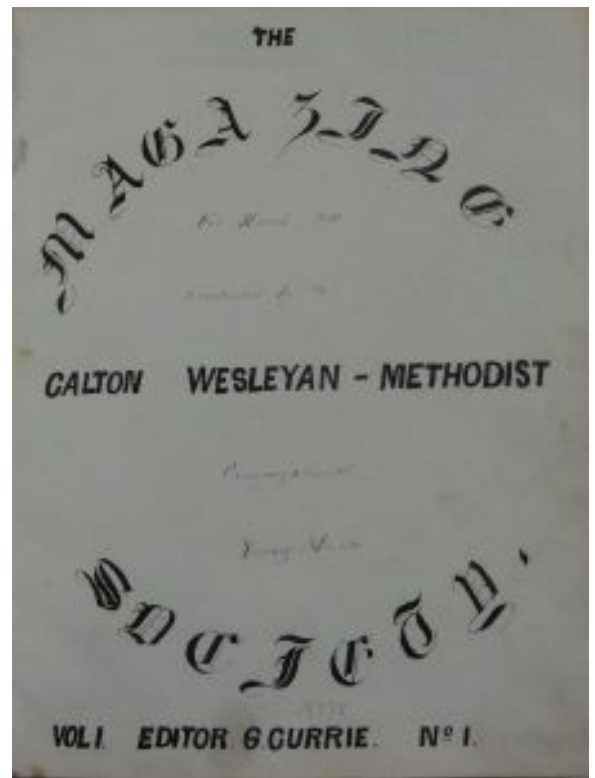
Reference

CH3/1495/12;

CH3/1495/13;

CH3/1495/14

**The Magazine, conducted by the
Calton Wesleyan-Methodist
Congregational Young Men's Society**



The Magazine For March 1839
Conducted by the Calton Wesleyan-
Methodist Congregational Young
Men's Society, Vol. I, No. I, March
1839 [title page] (©CSG CIC
Glasgow Museums and Libraries
Collection: The Mitchell Library,
Special Collections,
585510-585510a)Overview

Overview

A summary of the history of the Calton Wesleyan-Methodist Congregational Young Men's Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There are fifteen issues of this monthly magazine bound into one hard-cover volume. This includes the *Supplement to the Magazine for December 1839* (Vol. I, No. XI), and contains an Index (pp. 282-4) to all the previous issues, including the supplement. The volume is paginated from pages 1 to 329, but is unnumbered in the March through May 1840 issues. Each issue is between 25 and 30 pages.

The March through December 1839 issues are all edited by Gilbert Currie. Interestingly, all these pieces appear to be in his own handwriting. The remaining

issues — perhaps under a different editor — also appear to be written by one or two different hands. This was an uncommon practice in mutual improvement and literary groups. It was usually done to try to maintain the anonymity of the authors as their respective handwriting was presumably recognisable by other group members. This practice also helped to give a uniformity to the magazine, which, for some societies was of some import. In this case, it appears to have been to preserve anonymity *and* uniformity, as the authors of some of the original articles and poems used pen-names, and the handwriting gives the issues a consistency in appearance.

Like other mutual improvement (including church) societies' magazines, this is also a miscellany. However, while other society periodicals generally include contributions written on a wide range of topics, many of the pieces in this magazine are on religious issues and doctrine, and there are a number of reports on missionary activities abroad. Similarly, most of the essays and poems are moralistic in flavour. It appears that this magazine acts more as an extension and means of broadcasting the church's work rather than being an object for facilitating 'improvement' and providing amusement, which was more the norm.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Calton Wesleyan-Methodist Congregational Young Men's Society (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1839?-1840?

Date of Magazine

Mar. 1839-Jan. 1840, with Supplement to Dec. 1839; (no February 1840 issue; not extant?), Mar. 1840-May 1840

Number of Issues

15 (includes supplement)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Address; Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Didactic works (reproduced); Essays; Hymns; Letters; Letters to Editor; Poems (original); Poems (republished)

material); Preface; Reports; Table of Contents

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

NFF124/6/81, 5585510-585510a

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Calton Wesleyan-Methodist Congregational Young Men's Society](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Crescent Chapel Literary and Debating Society Magazine



Crescent Chapel Literary and Debating Society, *Crescent Chapel Literary and Debating Society Magazine*, [title page, with Editorial and Office Bearers], February 1906 (Lancashire Archives, CULI 6/54). Permission to reproduce this photograph has kindly been granted by Lancashire Archives.

Overview

The only information we currently have on the Crescent Literary and Debating Society comes from the magazine it produced. Members were most likely part of the congregation of the Crescent Congregational Church, which was located on Everton Brow in Liverpool. (Along with this society's magazine, the records for this church are

also housed at Lancashire Archives. Please refer to their [catalogue](#) for further details.)

From the magazine, we know that the society met in the Assembly Rooms, which were located at the back of the chapel. How frequently they met is currently unknown. This may have been a relatively small group: instead of a list of readers and/or members at the front, there is a list of 12 contributors, two of which were unmarried women.

The magazine has 14 contributions including the 'Editorial' and is 64 pages in total. Like other society magazines, it is a miscellany containing a mixture of non-fiction essays and fictional stories. In terms of subject matter, it may be that the Editress assigned each contributor a subject, as is suggested in the 'Editorial' (p. 1). There are no original poems in this issue, but, interestingly, at the close of several articles are quotes from a variety of published authors including Ellen Hooper, Henry Ward Beecher, François de La Rochefoucauld, Samuel Johnson and Cicero, to name a few.

The magazine was originally produced in manuscript and was read aloud at a society meeting at what was generally called a 'Magazine Night'. 'Magazine Evenings' or 'Magazine Nights' were meetings that were devoted to the reading of original essays (or occasionally poems) written by group members that were submitted to the Magazine Editor beforehand. The Editor would be responsible for collecting, occasionally selecting, and reading the pieces aloud to the group (more rarely this was done by the contributor him/herself) on the appointed night. This would be followed by 'criticism' — or discussion on the piece's positive *and* negative points — by the group members.

After the meetings, these contributions were sometimes bound and saved in the society's library (if they had one) or would be kept by one of the office bearers. In these cases, it was intended that the magazine was to be preserved and that group members would have access to it at a later date. It is of note that literary and mutual improvement groups used the term 'magazine' to refer to the oral as well as the material medium.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Crescent Chapel Literary and Debating Society (Walton, Liverpool)

Date of Existence

1906?/?

Date of Magazine

1906

Number of Issues

1 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Typescript (previously in manuscript)

Contents and Contributions

Annotations; Articles (non-fiction); Caricatures; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Letter to Editor; Poem (republished material); Republished materials; Table of Contents; Title page

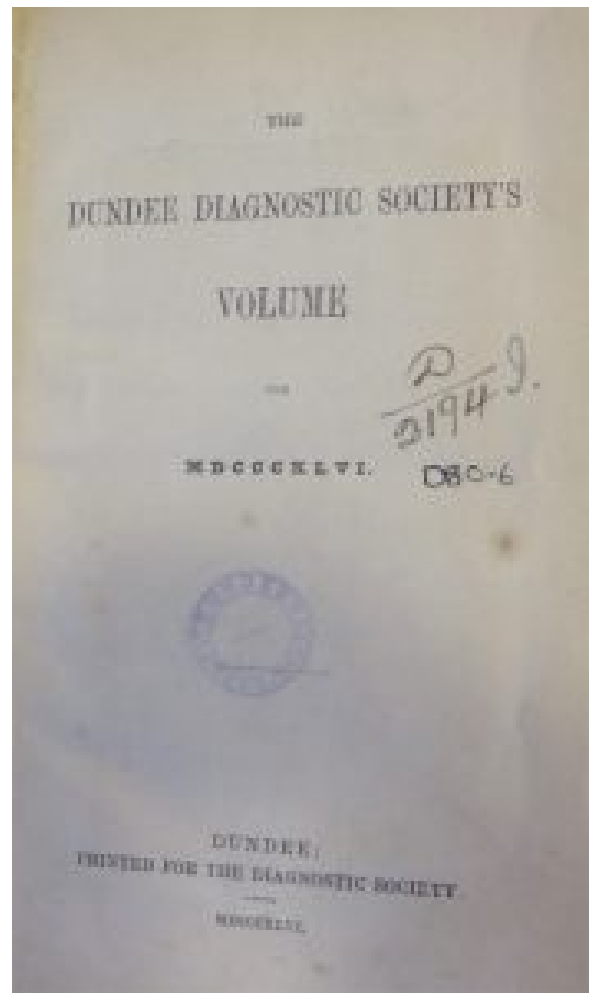
Repository

Lancashire Archives (Preston)

Reference

CULI 6/54

Dundee Diagnostic Society's Volume for 1846



Dundee Diagnostic Society, *Dundee Diagnostic Society's Volume for 1846*, [title page], 1846 (Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee, D80.6). Permission for the use of this image has kindly been granted by Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee.

Overview

Unusually, *The Dundee Diagnostic Society's Volume for 1846* was published in the 'traditional' manner, printed specially for the society by McCosh, Park & Dewars. The content is partially highlights from the society's MS magazine, and partially pieces specially composed for the printed volume. The contents are a mix of essays and poetry.

The contributors are anonymous, but correspondence in the *Dundee Advertiser* in 1904 revealed that they included William Baxter (later a politician based in Montrose), Jane Elizabeth Baxter, Peter Greenhill, Robert Matthew and Jessie Scott (who later

married the above William Baxter). Some of the pieces have been retrospectively attributed to their authors - for example, William Baxter contributed an essay on "The Legislative Policy of Great Britain," perhaps foreshadowing his career plans - but several are still unknown. Those by female contributors are marked as 'by A Lady,' indicating that different factors were taken into consideration when assessing women's writing as opposed to men's.

The Dundee Diagnostic Society operated between 1844 and 1847. During the 1840s, many societies were founded in Dundee, and many others also found themselves short-lived.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Dundee Diagnostic Society (**Note:** this might be a different society from the Diagnostic Society (1848?-?))

Date of Existence

1844-1847

Date of Magazine

1846

Number of Issues

1 published (earlier MS magazine(s) not extant?)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print (**Note:** 'Prefatory Notice' states that 'The Volume is composed partly of articles which were originally contributions to the society's M.S. Magazine...')

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Essays; Poems (original); Title page

Repository

Dundee District Central Library, The Wellgate

National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

Reference

D80.6 (Dundee)

Jac.IV.4/2 (Edinburgh)

Additional Notes

These magazines were collected in the 1860s by A.C. Lamb, a Dundee temperance hotelier. Many of the societies represented met on premises owned by either himself or, in earlier decades, in his father Thomas' coffee house. Lamb was often involved in society life himself, and his collection of over 450 boxes covers a wide range of material relating to literature, poetry, culture and politics in Victorian Dundee. For more information on this material, please contact local.history@leisureandculturaldundee.com.

Dundee Literary and Scientific Institute Magazine



Dundee Literary and Scientific Institute, *Dundee Literary and Scientific Institute Magazine*, [title page], Vol. II, 1846-47 (Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee, D22022, Lamb Collection, 265(17)). Permission for the use of this image has kindly been granted by Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee.

Overview

George Tawse, one of the founding Literary and Scientific Institute members, wrote a

light-hearted and affectionate recollection of the society's early days in 1846, in which he depicted its humble beginnings as eight or ten "mere lads", meeting on Monday evenings in a "mere garret - and a very poor garret - as garrets go[.]" This garret was the attic of the Cramb family house, shoemakers "of a political and intellectual cast, as shoemakers often are," and was located at the east end of Dundee High Street (barely five minutes' walk from Lamb's Coffee House in the Murraygate, where the [Dundee Literary Society](#) met).

Their first concerns were in discussing literary and scientific affairs, but their minds soon turned to the prospect of a manuscript magazine, as a way to 'vent' their energy and intelligence. As well as Tawse and two brothers from the Cramb family, the original members included geologist and journalist James Adie, who emigrated to Canada around four years after the society's foundation. At the time, Adie was known among his friends for his love of verse, 'if in rhyme,' and his recitations of poems by Scott, Byron, and in particular James Hogg, from which he gained the nickname 'Kilmeny.'

An earlier recollection of the beginnings of the Literary and Scientific Institute was written by James Barnet, mostly in memory of Adie, and appeared in the periodical *The Scottish American* in 1890. He describes himself and three other boys 'just in their teens,' including Adie, who "took it into their heads that they would form a mutual improvement society." At the time of publication, Barnet said this took place 'around fifty years ago,' placing the events described around 1840.

Their meetings took place domestically at first, in Barnet's house and then in Adie's, before the "first mutual improvement society in town" grew from the small group. If Barnet joined the group for the transition to Cramb's garret, Tawse does not seem to remember him. Similarly to the Literary Institute, the young members of this group took turns at presenting an essay each meeting, but in the early days this did not have to be original work. Barnet, when nominated for the first essay, found a story about Genghis Khan in the *Chartist Circular* to read, despite a total prior lack of knowledge on the subject.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Dundee Literary and Scientific Institute

Date of Existence

1844 -1848

Date of Magazine

1844-1847 (or possibly 1855?), Vol. 1?-Vol. 2

Number of Issues

2

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Editorial; Essays; Letter to 'Critic'; Letter to Editor; Magazine Rules; Poems (original); Title page

Repository

Dundee District Central Library, The Wellgate

Reference

D22022, Lamb Collection, 265(17)

Additional Notes

See also [*Dundee Natural History and Literary Magazine*](#).

These magazines were collected in the 1860s by A.C. Lamb, a Dundee temperance hotelier. Many of the societies represented met on premises owned by either himself or, in earlier decades, in his father Thomas' coffee house. Lamb was often involved in society life himself, and his collection of over 450 boxes covers a wide range of material relating to literature, poetry, culture and politics in Victorian Dundee. For more information on this material, please contact local.history@leisureandculturaldundee.com.

Edinburgh Collegiate Magazine

Overview

Members of this literary club were enrolled at Edinburgh Collegiate College. Opened in 1868, the College was located at Nos. 27/28, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. From a photograph of the group in the 1871 magazine, the club was quite small (if all members were indeed present), there being only five boys in the photo.

The number of contributions to this magazine is unusually large: there are 51 pieces, and 39 illustrations that are listed separately in the table of contents at the front. The entire issue has a hefty total of 694 pages, particularly considering that it only had 13 contributors that included non-members of the group (see below). It may be that the pieces were written over a number of months and were collected and bound into one volume for a Christmas number.

According to the magazine's list of rules, contributors did not have to be a member of the club. Although anonymous contributions were permitted, many of the authors signed their names at the end of their pieces. The order of the contributions was determined by the date when they were received by the Editor, who could reject any unsuitable material. Swearing and 'bad language' was not allowed.

Further, the group voted for those who were allowed to contribute, and could democratically dismiss them as well. Contributors had to submit a piece of not less than four pages to every other issue of the magazine. The order of reading was determined by the order in which the contributions were received, and each reader only had 2 nights to keep the issue. Emphasis was placed on original stories and artwork. Interestingly, the group wished to underscore the seriousness of their endeavours and of their club's rules by punishing transgressors: Rule XI states 'That Punishment be determined by ballot.'

Perhaps not surprising for this age group, this magazine is more of a boys' adventure magazine, with serial fictional stories by the contributors, with simple accompanying illustrations of ships, campfire scenes, or of imaginative exotic places, many of the stories even having their own illustrated title page at the start. Other contributions include filler materials like enigmas and riddles.

The next extant issue of *The Edinburgh Collegiate Magazine* dates from March 1890

and is a print magazine. According to the 'Editorial', the College magazine was being revived after lapsing around 1885. This is a slimmer volume with 12 contributions including the editorial, 'Correspondence' and 'Notice to Contributors' features. Primarily, it reports on the College's activities and this issue focuses on the sports clubs. The next extant issue dates from February 1891 and also contains college news and sports, but includes articles on Emily Bronte and a couple of travel stories.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Edinburgh Collegiate Club

Date of Existence

1871?-1891?

Date of Magazine

Christmas 1871; No. 1, March 1890; Vol. II, No. 1, February 1891

Number of Issues

3 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript (Christmas 1871); Print (No. 1, March 1890; Vol. II, No. 1, February 1891)

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Editorials; Essays; Letter to Editor; List of contributors; Magazine Rules; Photograph (members); Poems (original); Puzzles; Riddles; Serial articles/stories; Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Edinburgh Central Library (ECL) (Christmas 1871; No. 1, March 1890; Vol. II, No. 1, February 1891)

National Library of Scotland (NLS) (Vol. II, No. 1, February 1891)

Reference

ECL reference for Christmas Number: Class No. YLF 1135 E23 C; Book No. C5564;

ECL reference for 1890-91 print magazines: Class No. qYLF 1135 E23 C; Book No. 21311

NLS reference for Vol. II, No. 1, February 1891: Q.50

GENII, A Monthly Circulating Magazine



GENII, A Monthly Circulating Magazine, edited by F. J. Osborn, [title page], No. 1, March 1904 (Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, DE/FJO/A11/1). Permission for the use of this image has kindly been granted by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

Overview

This literary group was a bit unusual in that the members formed solely for the purpose of producing a magazine of original works. While they referred to their group as an 'Association' and collected subscriptions, it appears that they did not hold any formal meetings. It started as a group of 10 young men (women were allowed later) that were initially asked to join by F. J. Osborn, who would act as the magazine's Editor.

Osborn, in his 'Editorial' in the first number, explains his methods of persuasion to elicit contributions: after convincing one young man to contribute an article, he would then approach another acquaintance and tell him that 'Fizgog' has sent in his contribution. He would then go on to say it was such a poor production that surely he (the acquaintance) could produce something better. This 'harmless subterfuge' appears not to have been necessary after the launch of the first issue as contributors

were more forthcoming thereafter.

According to the magazine's rules in the first number, each member of the group was to aim for contributing an article every month, but was certainly to do so at least every three months. The magazine was to be kept for four days only (this would later change to 48 hours) and then passed on to the next member on the list or he would have to pay a fine of 1d per day. Friends were allowed to read the magazine, but the listed member was responsible for its condition. Later on, contributions were accepted from non-members. In the first issues, the Editor re-wrote each of the pieces submitted, and the authors' artwork was cut and pasted in.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

(Currently unknown) (Hertford)

Date of Existence

1904?-1911?

Date of Magazine

March 1904 - May 1911

Number of Issues

70

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript and Typescript

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements (humorous); Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Jokes; Letters to Editor; Magazine Rules; Notices; Prefaces; Puzzles; Readers' Criticisms; Sketches; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) (Hertford)

Reference

Glasgow Border Counties' Literary Society's Manuscript Magazine

Overview

A summary of the history of the Glasgow Border Counties' Literary Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

This magazine is unlike most other mutual improvement and literary society magazines that we have seen to date in the sense that it has an 'unprofessional' appearance: the letters and articles that are bound together in this one extant volume are on various sizes of paper. Also, it is unclear where the division is between Volumes I and II as this is not formally marked by a new title page, nor is there another editorial to help mark the distinction.

This group's magazine is a good example of a society's 'Magazine Night', but in this case either a standard-sized paper was not issued or not available to contributors, and the decision to collect and bound the contributions in a single volume was probably not made until much later, as the date of the 'Contents' page suggests (see below).

'Magazine Evenings' or 'Magazine Nights' were meetings that were devoted to the reading of original essays (or occasionally poems) written by group members that were submitted to the Magazine Editor beforehand. The Editor would be responsible for collecting, occasionally selecting, and reading the pieces aloud to the group (more rarely this was done by the contributor him/herself) on the appointed night. This would be followed by 'criticism' — or discussion on the piece's positive *and* negative points — by the group members.

After the meetings, these contributions were sometimes bound and saved in the society's library (if they had one) or would be kept by one of the office bearers. In these cases, it was intended that the magazine was to be preserved and that group members would have access to it at a later date. It is of note that literary and mutual

improvement groups used the term 'magazine' to refer to the oral as well as the material medium.

At the front of this magazine, there is a 'Contents' page with a list of 44 contributions and the pen-names of their respective authors, followed by the signature of the volume's Editor (John Wallace) and the date (30 March 1887). As the 'Editorial' of the first issue — which appears to be written partly as a set of notes — lays out:

'Our Magazine is not limited to any branch in Literature. Its articles are of the grave, gay, social political [sic], the scientific, and we are gratified to state that the Poetry is not neglected in its pages' (A. Lang, 'Editorial', *Glasgow Border Counties' Literary Society's M.S. Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 1, 16 December 1885, [p.1]).

This volume also appears to have served as a kind of scrapbook, in the sense that there are various newspaper clippings (from much later dates) tucked into the book at the front.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Glasgow Border Counties' Literary Society

Date of Existence

1885-1887?

Date of Magazine

Vol. I, No. 1 (16 December 1885); Vol. I, No. 2 (10 March 1886); Vol. II, No. 2 (2 March 1887)

Number of Issues

(at least) 3?

(**Note:** these are bound together as Vols. I and II)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Editorials; Essays; Letters to Editor; Poems (original); Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Centre (Heritage Hub, Hawick)

Reference

GB1097/SC/M/28

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Glasgow Border Counties' Literary Society](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

La Bouquet



La Bouquet, [title page], Vol. I, No. 1, 1848 (Libraries, Leisure and

Culture Dundee, L266(2), Lamb Collection). Permission for the use of this image has kindly been granted by Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee.

Overview

The only surviving manuscript magazine from an all-female society in Dundee. The Editorial Preface pre-empts criticism by giving a very modest account of the work: "However much ladies in general, are disposed to self delusion, we can not imagine that our book or magazine, which has nothing to recommend it, can be recommended by the editor's preface."

The magazine evidently had an interested readership awaiting it, though, as indicated by the inside cover bearing a warning that readers who keep the volume longer than two days will be fined. The contributions are very much in keeping with what other societies were producing at a comparable time, including essays, poetry, and short reflections on topics including Literature and Slavery. Like several other magazines, the entries have all been written out by an editor so the handwriting is consistent.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Diagnostic Society? (**Note:** it is currently unclear if this is the group that produced this magazine) (Dundee)

Date of Existence

1848?-?

Date of Magazine

Vol. I, No. 1, 1848

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Editorial; Essays; Magazine Rules; Poems (original); Title page

Repository

Dundee District Central Library, The Wellgate

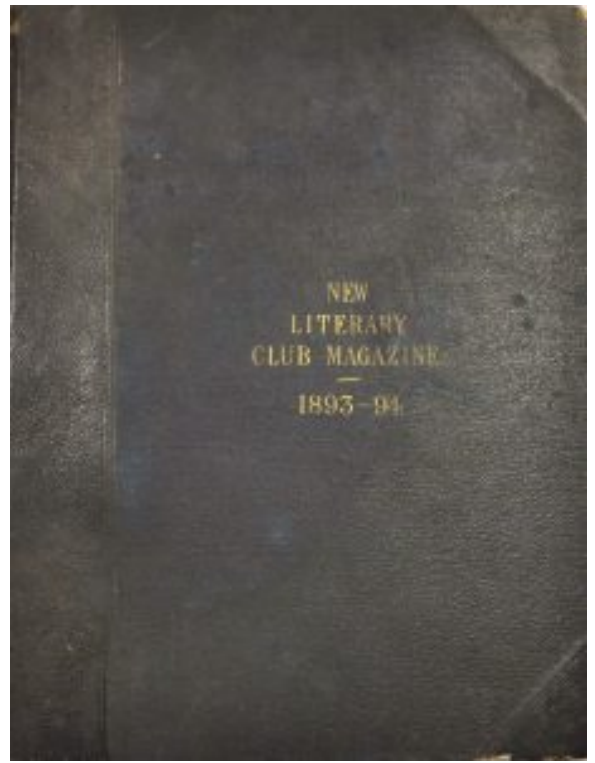
Reference

L266(2), Lamb Collection

Additional Notes

These magazines were collected in the 1860s by A.C. Lamb, a Dundee temperance hotelier. Many of the societies represented met on premises owned by either himself or, in earlier decades, in his father Thomas' coffee house. Lamb was often involved in society life himself, and his collection of over 450 boxes covers a wide range of material relating to literature, poetry, culture and politics in Victorian Dundee. For more information on this material, please contact local.history@leisureandculturedundee.com.

New Literary Club Magazine



New Literary Club Magazine,
January 1893, [cover] (©CSG CIC
Glasgow Museums and Libraries
Collection: The Mitchell Library,
Special Collections, 891047)

Overview

A summary of the history of the New Literary Club is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

The first issue of this magazine was produced in January 1893, four months after the club was founded. According to its Editor, the magazine was 'instituted in order to allow those who are not public speakers or orators to contribute in writing original pieces of Literature' (Andrew Ross, 'Editorial', *New Literary Club Magazine*, 18 January 1893, p. 3). At that point, the club had not yet worked out what pieces to include within it, but members generally agreed that these should be on subjects 'which are common and instructive to all' (*Ibid*).

There are 9 issues of this (mostly) monthly magazine bound into four volumes. With the exception of one poem in typescript in the December 1893 issue, all of the pieces are in manuscript.

Most of the issues run about 40 pages each with between 9 and 17 contributions (including the frontispieces). The largest issues were those produced in Summer 1894

and Spring 1895, which average about 130 pages and just over 20 contributions apiece (the largest, the Summer 1894 issue, having 27 contributions).

These issues contain mostly prose works with about ten percent of the contributions overall being poems, all of which are in the authors' own handwriting, with most choosing to sign their own names. There are also a small number of puzzles and games throughout.

While this club was restricted to men, from the editorials, we know that women contributed a few pieces (a small percentage overall) of artwork to its magazine. The artwork is in a variety of media, but a sizeable percentage of the illustrations are in pencil, which is a bit unusual.

There is one (extant) issue of the magazine that the club produced under its new name, the Literary Twenty-One Club, which clearly carries on the format and style of the previous issues that were produced by the group as the New Literary Club, with several of its old members staying on (see 'Additional Notes' below).

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

The New Literary Club was formed in 1892. In 1896, it became the Literary Twenty-one Club. Even later, it amalgamated with the Holyrood Literary Society and took its name on 24 September 1897. On 3 October 1899, it changed its name to The Holyrood Literary Club, then to The New Holyrood Literary Club. Later it was simply known as The Holyrood Club. (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

9 September 1892 - 21 April 1896; 21 April 1896 - 24 September 1897 (as Literary Twenty-One Club); on 24 September 1897 it amalgamated with Holyrood Literary Society and took its name

Date of Magazine

January 1893; [February?] 1893; [March?] 1893; October 1893; November 1893; December 1893; January 1894; Summer 1894; Spring 1895

Number of Issues

9 issues in 3 bound volumes

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Annotations; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation List; Club notices; Editorials; Epilogue; Essays; Frontispieces; Jokes; Letters to Editor; Maps; Music; Photographs; Poems (original); Poems (republished material); Poem (translation); Prize competition; Puzzles; Readers' criticisms (unused section); Serial articles/stories; Sketches; Song (original); Table of Contents

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

(Note: The records for this club are housed together with the records of The Holyrood Club (891047))

Additional Notes

See also entry for [New Literary Club](#) on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds*.

See also [The Literary Twenty-One Club Magazine](#) and [The Holyrood Magazine](#).

Newington Literary Magazine

Overview

The young men's association that founded this magazine met on Friday evenings in the 1860s at least. It is currently unknown if it was connected to the Newington United Presbyterian Church. The church was opened in 1848 and located on the corner of Grange Road and Causewayside in Newington, Edinburgh. (For a history of this church, see [Newington United Presbyterian Church: Jubilee memorial, 1848-1898](#) (1898), available on the [Archive.org](#) website. See also the article, 'Salisbury Church (Newington South Church)' on the [Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church](#) website.)

According to the Editor, the group had very modest aims for its new production, and he himself foresaw no great literary benefit to posterity. Rather, its purpose was to help society members improve their writing skills, as well as for the 'edification of its readers'. The group apparently desired only a limited reading community with 'merely a local circulation'. If its readership did extend beyond the group, it was hoped that their youthful, inexperienced productions would not be too harshly judged. The contributors were to include both current as well as former members as a means of keeping their ties to the association.

This miscellany has a total of 358 pages and includes 32 contributions. These consist mostly of essays and articles on a range of subjects with a few original poems, along with extracts of published poems in a couple of the essays, one example being a paper on 'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and His Works'.

Interestingly, in a letter to the Editor from 'One who takes an interest in Young Men', the writer suggests that the magazine could be improved by the inclusion of blank pages in each issue so that readers might be able to criticise the contributions (in the sense of discussing the piece's positive *and* negative points). The writer refers to the practise in other magazines: 'I have heard of this being done in other magazines and I believe the plan had a salutary [sic] effect in helping keep down the conceit of the young men' (p. 274). The Editor's note after the letter indicates that he would leave the decision with the association. The practice of leaving blank pages in these society magazines was a trend that was just beginning in the 1860s, and would become one of the defining features of this genre of magazine.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Newington Young Men's Association (Edinburgh)

(Note: currently unclear if this is the same association as the Young Men's Association in connection with Newington United Presbyterian Church)

Date of Existence

1869?-?

Date of Magazine

Vol. 1, 1869

Number of Issues

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles; Editorial; Essays; Letters to Editor; Poems (original); Poems (republished material); Table of Contents

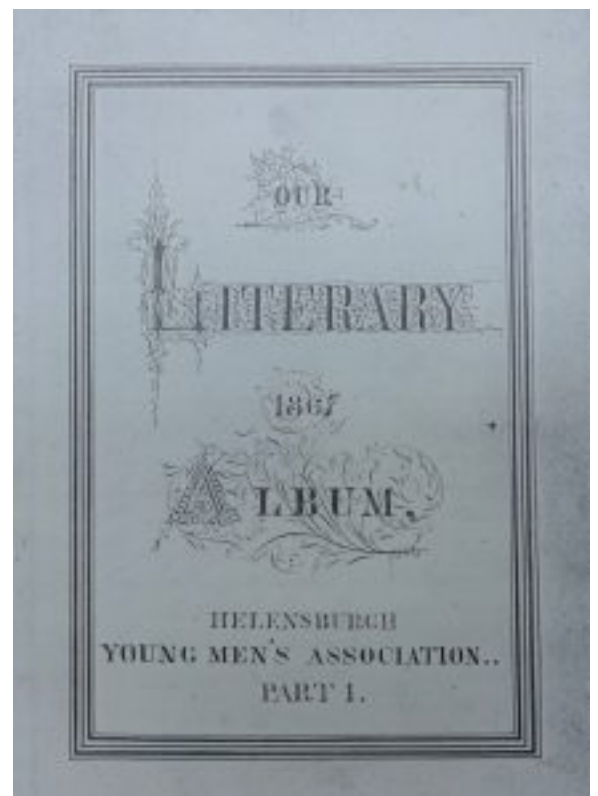
Repository

Edinburgh Central Library

Reference

From the card catalogue in Central Library: Class No. YAS 122 N54; Book No. 81426
A

Our Literary Album



Helensburgh Young Men's Association, *Our Literary Album*, Part 1, January 1867 (Live Argyll, DR/1/200/8). Permission to use this photograph is kindly granted by Live Argyll.

Overview

The one (extant?) issue of this magazine currently housed in Argyll and Bute Archives is a photocopy of the original manuscript.

The 'Order of Circulation' at the front of the issue lists 36 male members. From the 'Introductory remarks by the Editor', we learn that the society met weekly on Tuesday evenings.

This group is particularly notable for their very keen desire to found a society magazine, in that they probably produced it within about a week:

'The proposal of having Manuscript Magazine in connection with our Association, first suggested at one meeting, adopted at the next, and the result is in the hands of the members at the third' ('Introductory remarks by the Editor', Helensburgh Young Men's Association, *Our Literary Album*, Part 1, January 1867, [p. 2]).

Contributors to the magazine were also members of this association with one exception: the critical remarks that follow the article, 'God and Chance', credit 'the Lady who wrote it'. It was not unusual for women to contribute to mutual improvement and literary society magazines that were produced by groups composed of exclusively male members.

The magazine consists of 53 pages of contributions — prose articles and essays, poems, illustrations and a musical score — along with an informal introduction to the 'Critical Remarks' (one page), and 13 (unnumbered) pages of readers' criticisms.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Helensburgh Young Men's Association

Date of Existence

1861 or 1862? -?

Date of Magazine

January 1867

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

(Photocopy of the manuscript original)

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation List; Editorial; Essays; Music; Poems (original); Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Argyll and Bute Archives (Lochgilphead)

Reference

DR/1/200/8

Our Magazine. L.Y.M.C.A. A Monthly Journal of Literature & Art



Our Magazine. L.Y.M.C.A. A Monthly Journal of Literature & Art, Part 1, November 1890, [title page] (Glasgow City Archives, TD864/2/1)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Lansdowne Young Men's Christian Association (aka L.Y.M.C.A.) is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

According to the editorial in the first issue produced in November 1890, the idea to found a magazine was raised at a business meeting of the society held the month before. It was felt that a magazine would provide a 'lasting benefit' to the contributors (those young men and women from Lansdowne United Presbyterian Church) as well as its readers. In addition, it was to 'be a means whereby the spark of social interest in one another's affairs might be kept aglow & stimulated' (John G. Miller and James Macfarlane [Editors], 'To Our Readers', *Our Magazine* (Lansdowne Young Men's Christian Association), Part 1, November 1890, p. 1).

Including an issue solely devoted to its members' artwork, there are seven issues of this society's magazine. These are all individually hand stitched (which was not usual

for these magazines), and are in kept in five hardcover, A5-sized binders with imprinted covers. The magazine began as a monthly, but by 1891, had become bi-monthly.

Each issue is roughly between 90 and 120 pages with between 20 and 25 contributions, these being a mixture of poetry and prose contributions, along with original artwork in various media as well as photographs. The authors and artists included members and non-members, men *and* women who mostly left their pieces anonymous, or they signed with pen-names or an initial or initials (presumably with the intention of being identifiable). Only a very small percentage of contributors used their first or full names.

The Art Supplement has 14 contributions that include pen-and-ink drawings, paintings in watercolours and in oil, as well as photographs, including a photo of the group members annotated underneath 'Our Noble Selves'. Of note in the first issue (November 1890), there are photographs identified as being salt paper prints.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Lansdowne Young Men's Christian Association (L.Y.M.C.A.)

Date of Existence

1890?-1892?

Date of Magazine

Part 1 (Nov. 1890); Part 2 (Dec. 1890); No. 3, Vol. I (25 Feb. 1891); No. 4, Vol. I (25 Apr. 1891); Part 1, Art Supplement to Our Magazine (Nov. 1891); No. II (Dec. 1891); Vol. II (Apr. 1892)

Number of Issues

7 (includes Art Supplement) (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Letters to Editor; Poems (original); Photographs; Proverbs; Serial

articles/stories; Sketches; Tables of Contents (located at the back of each issue); Title pages

Repository

Glasgow City Archives

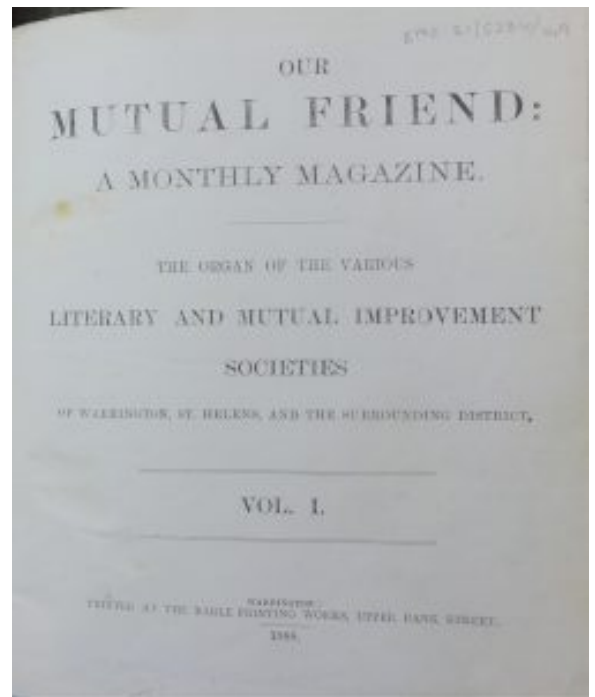
Reference

TD864/2/1-7

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Lansdowne Young Men's Christian Association \(aka L.Y.M.C.A.\)](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Our Mutual Friend: A Monthly Magazine of the Various Literary and Mutual Improvement Societies of Warrington, St Helens and the Surrounding District



Our Mutual Friend: A Monthly Magazine of the Various Literary and Mutual Improvement Societies of Warrington, St Helens and the Surrounding District, [title page], Vol. 1, 1888 (Warrington: Eagle Printing Works, 1888) (Ref: EMC 21/5334/149). Records in the Cheshire Record Office are reproduced with the permission of Cheshire Archives & Local Studies and the owner/depositor to whom copyright is reserved.

Overview

There are 12 issues of this monthly print magazine dating from June 1887 to May 1888 which were bound together in one volume in 1888. The entire volume is a total of 240 pages with each issue having 20 pages.

In the 'Preface', to *Our Mutual Friend* — a title chosen from the work of Charles Dickens — it is stated that the periodical was founded by members of the Bold Street Wesleyan Improvement Society and intended for local circulation, but the group desired to have it preserved in a more permanent form. Members of other 'improving' groups in Warrington and the local region also contributed. The magazine was non-

political and non-denominational, but was more generally framed as a Christian magazine.

Following the 'Preface', there is a 'List of Contributors'. Of the 32 listed, most of them are men, of which there are seven Reverends and one Alderman. There are also four women contributors, three being unmarried women and one married.

The 'Index' at the front lists the contents by month. This miscellany contains mostly prose articles and essays along with serial fictional stories, with about a quarter of each issue being original poetry.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

[Various Literary and Mutual Improvement Societies of Warrington, St Helens and the Surrounding District]

Date of Existence

1887?-1888?

Date of Magazine

1 June 1887-1 May 1888

Number of Issues

Vol. I (12 issues)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print

Contents and Contributions

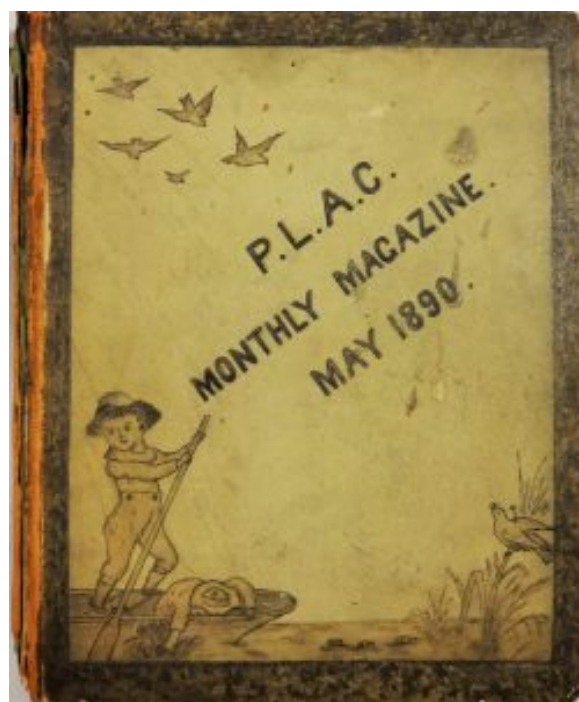
Articles (non-fiction); Ballad (original); Correspondence column; Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Hymn; Index; List of contributors; News (local branches of society); Poems (original); Preface; Title page

Repository

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, held at Cheshire Record Office (Chester)

Reference

P.L.A.C. Monthly Magazine



P.L.A.C. Monthly Magazine [Pollokshields Literary and Art Circle], May 1890, [cover] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, 891359)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Pollokshields Literary and Art Circle is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

Only one issue of this society magazine, 106 pages long, has been located, though as earlier January and February issues are mentioned in members' comments this is probably the third issue of a newly launched effort. The magazine includes a set of prescriptive rules. According to these rules, members had to contribute monthly or pay a 2d fine, and they could keep the magazine for only two days and would be fined

1d for every extra day. Members who failed to contribute for 3 months running would be assumed to have resigned from the society.

Of particular interest is the competitive nature of this magazine: each member had 5 votes and could give up to two of these to their favourite articles. A blank page was included beside each contribution where readers could register their votes, and the magazine also contained a 'Suggestions' page at the end, used for lively critical discussion. Vote tallies for the previous issue were announced in the issue following.

Writers could not contribute either articles or criticism anonymously but pseudonyms were permitted. Whether these rules were followed is doubtful, since the editor expresses disappointment that only 15 out of 30 contributors had submitted a piece for the first issue, and according to the dates recorded in the circulation list, almost no-one managed to pass on the magazine within their allotted two days. Thirteen out of the thirty listed members were women, so this is one of the magazines with the strongest representation from female authors.

As befits a magazine 'of Literature and Art', contributions included drawings, paintings and musical compositions as well as fiction, poetry and factual and descriptive articles. The criticisms under 'Suggestions' are the most engaging aspect of this issue. A number of these express disappointment with the quality of the work submitted and object to its language or form, as in a complaint that a sonnet by 'Dagon' contained twenty rather than fourteen lines. A leading contributor, 'Hecla', also felt that the 'prose contributions savour too much of "Tit Bits" and "Child's Advisor"' - his/her own contribution consisted of a serialized historical religious novel, 'Broken Bonds.'

This magazine contains poetry, fiction, artwork, musical compositions, informative articles on 'Newspapers' and 'Balloons and Ballooning', as well as art criticism.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Pollokshields Literary and Art Circle (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1890?-?

Date of Magazine

May 1890

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation List; Fiction/Narratives; Magazine Rules; Music; Poems (original); Readers' Criticisms; Readers' votes; Serial article/story

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

891359

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Pollokshields Literary and Art Circle](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Sandyford Literary Association MS Magazine



Sandyford Literary Association MS Magazine, 1883, [title page] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, 642424)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Sandyford Church Literary Association is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

This was a first attempt at a magazine from this association, and either it was not a success or further issues have not been preserved. It contains thirteen articles written in different hands, with blank pages at the end of the volume for readers 'to briefly record any remarks or criticism which they may have to make on the various papers' (Preface). These pages are blank, so readers evidently did not respond as hoped. The editorial preface mentions the 'youthful inexperience' of writers and the 'disadvantages against which we strive', asking readers not to view contributions 'in the strong light of professional standards.'

The magazine contains interesting accounts of 'Local Government in India' by a writer who worked in the British civil service and of churchgoing in Canada, in 'On the Verge of the Backwoods'. The unsigned 'Sitting on a Volcano!' is particularly notable: it responds to Rev. Andrew Mearns's famous pamphlet 'The Bitter Cry of Outcast

London' in highlighting the plight of the poor, in Glasgow as well as London, but disagrees with his call for greater mission activity and religious education; arguing that good housing, food and clothing are the primary needs and that religion is secondary.

The magazine also contains a report on the Sandyford Church Literary Association and its activities, highlighting a rise in numbers, improvement in participation, and successful new monthly meetings involving the whole congregation. This report also mentions joint debates held with St George's Literary Association and the Park Literary Institute (see 'Additional Notes' below).

The magazine includes travel writing and accounts of work overseas, description of Scottish places with some illustrations, articles on steam navigation, Shakespeare, 'Newspaper Politics' and a satirical semi-fictional account of poetic ambition, 'A Budding Bard.'

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Sandyford Church Literary Association (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1879-?

Date of Magazine

1883

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Editorial; Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Readers' Criticisms (pages left blank); Report; Title page

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

642424

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Sandyford Church Literary Association](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

See also entries for [Free St. George's Literary Association](#), and [The Park Literary Institution](#) on [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Albion Literary Journal: A Quarterly Magazine of Instructive and Recreative Literature



The Albion Literary Journal: A Quarterly Magazine of Instructive and Recreative Literature, No. 2, April 1862 [title page] (©CSG CIC

Overview

A summary of the history of the Albion Mutual Improvement Union is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There are three extant issues of this quarterly manuscript magazine which are bound individually. This is a relatively slim periodical: the second issue has 111 pages with 18 contributions; the third has 104 pages with 14 contributions; and the fourth has only 80 pages with 8 contributions. Of note is that there is no artwork in any of these issues.

The first page of the April 1862 issue has an 'Order of Readers', which lists 21 names (the July issue only lists 17), presumably all men (some are listed with their first initial only). We know, however, that non-members also read the magazine: a letter to the Editor from a lady named Lizzie can be found in this issue, in which she reviews the previous number. It was not unusual for these magazines to be passed among family and friends outwith the 'official' list of readers.

Underneath this list, readers are told that they are allowed only two nights for perusing the magazine, and that they were to keep it 'as clean as possible'. In addition, 'No writing or scribbling [was] allowed within its pages on any consideration'. This suggests that readers of the previous issue engaged in this practice. Nonetheless, a child's (?) scribbles can indeed be found on pages 90 and 91, and a few corrections to the text in pencil are sparsely distributed throughout the issue.

According to the 'Prefatory', the members were not previously acquainted with the idea of a society magazine, but after reading the first issue, the project caught on. Indeed, the Editor ventured to say that he hoped it might be possible to have the magazine in print one day.

The contributors use pen-names to sign their pieces, but we are told that the Editors have taken the trouble to re-write them (there were reportedly at least two Editors). This was an uncommon practice in mutual improvement and literary groups. It was usually done to try to maintain the anonymity of the authors as their respective

handwriting was presumably recognisable by other group members. This practice also helped to give a uniformity to the magazine, which, for some societies was of some import. In this case, the Editors might have taken it in turns to rewrite it, perhaps even changing Editors within one piece. For example, the handwriting at the start of several contributions begins in neat script, and when one turns the page, the characters are much larger and looser, and appear to be a different handwriting altogether.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Albion Mutual Improvement Union (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

13 September 1860-1863?

Date of Magazine

No. 2 (April 1862); No. 3 (July 1862); No. 4 (June 1863)

Number of Issues

3 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Address; Annotations; Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Correspondence columns; Debates; Essays; Game (acrostic); Letters to Editor; Poems (original); Prefaces; Serial articles/stories; Tables of Contents

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

Mitchell (AL) 891260

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Albion Mutual Improvement Union](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The College News, A Quarterly Magazine

Overview

This magazine was founded by Frances Martin, an influential foundress of the College for Working Women (Queen Square, Bloomsbury) which was to take Martin's name following her death. (For more information about the College for Working Women — later the Frances Martin College for Women — see the article, '[College for Working Women](#)', on the [UCL Bloomsbury Project](#) website.) Twelve years after the founding of the college, Martin decided that there was a need for a magazine for the benefit of its students and teachers. It was also to be open to external contributors who supported the college.

There are two issues of *The College News, A Quarterly Magazine*. There are three (extant) copies of the first issue, one of which is in Martin's own handwriting (she acted as the magazine's Editor for the first two issues). This is only seven pages, six of which comprise Martin's 'Address to the Readers'. Essentially, it is a prospectus for a new journal and lays out the need for a magazine that would act as a means of communication between students and teachers, and to share news about the college and its activities. In addition, she makes suggestions for other features for future issues: a section on the current business climate; the 'News of the Quarter' on college classes, meetings and socials; a 'Personal News' column on marriages, births, deaths, emigrations and promotions; and 'Illustrations and Original Contributions', that would include poetry, prose and artwork. The remaining page announces a forthcoming reading by the actress, Mrs Bernard Beere, that was to be held at the college, and a list of the type of 'Contributions Requested'.

The second issue was produced eight months later and has twenty-one contributions, which include a variety of materials: there are non-fiction articles, essays, various club

and society reports, a travel piece accompanied by original pen-and-ink illustrations, two acrostic puzzles, along with various cuttings from presumably other College printed publications, and a newspaper cutting of an obituary reporting on the death of a senior administrator. There was also a writing contest with prizes of books offered for the best essays. It appears that these were the only two issues produced under by the College for Working Women.

Another college magazine appeared in print in December 1911 entitled, *A Reminiscence of the College for Working Women*. The 'Introduction' makes clear that it was the first issue and was instigated by the College Chairman so as to compare favourably with other institutions who produced their own journals. While this magazine was getting under way, the two earlier issues were discovered, and a decision was made to reproduce them in print as one (truncated and re-organised) issue. The earlier manuscript magazines were presented as a 'prelude to the new journal.

The first official issue of this new magazine was called *Our Magazine* and appeared in print in January 1913 costing one penny. This issue contains a combination of reports notices of college events and activities, anecdotes and accounts of past events, and only one original story. It is predominantly devoted to correspondence, with 21 extracts from students' letters.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Working Women's College (later became the Frances Martin College for Women)
(London)

Date of Existence

1874-1957 (in 1957, lease expired at 7 Fitzroy Street; moved to working men's college building in Crowndale Road, NW1)

Date of Magazine

The College News, A Quarterly Magazine: Mar. 1886; Nov. 1886; *A Reminiscence of the College for Working Women*: Dec. 1911; *Our Magazine*: Jan. 1913

(Note: another magazine was produced in 1927-28, *Chronicle of the Frances Martin College*)

Number of Issues

4 (total number produced by the college under different titles during the period under study)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript, later issues in print

Contents and Contributions

Address; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Class reports; Clippings (printed material); Correspondence column; Editorials; Essays; Extracts of students' letters; Lists of forthcoming events; Lists of Prizes and Certificates; Newspaper clippings; Notices; Notices (printed); Poem (republished material); Preface; Puzzles; Reports; Report (Debating Society); Tables of Class Attendance; Tables of Contents; Tables of Students' Occupations; Title pages

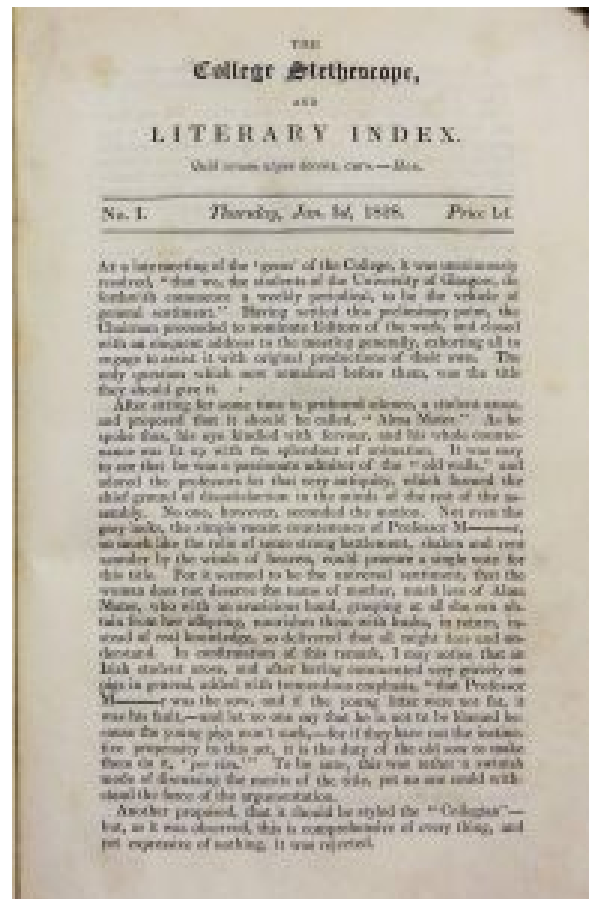
Repository

London Metropolitan Archives

Reference

A/FMC/CM/001; A/FMC/CM/004;
A/FMC/CM/005; A/FMC/CM/006a;
(1927-28 issue: A/FMC/CM/007a)

The College Stethescope and Literary Index



The College Stethoscope, and Literary Index, No. 1, 3 January 1828
(©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, Mitchell (AL) 890768)

Overview

Like *The Athenaeum*, this magazine was founded by and for the students of the University of Glasgow (see 'Additional Notes' below). The idea to start a periodical was raised at a student meeting presumably in late 1827. There are four issues of this weekly magazine, each of which is only four pages. It is unknown if further issues were produced after January 1828.

The students voted unanimously to start a magazine that would contain their original contributions. The difficulty they had was deciding what they would call it. The first issue reports on the discussions that ensued and the few suggestions that were offered, including the 'Stethoscope and Literary Index'. The stethoscope being, apparently, mostly unknown, and the student defines it to his colleagues as he was told it by an acquaintance, a medical student:

'...that it was an instrument, used to detect disease in the internals, by an application of it to the bared breast of the patient, I judged that this would be a most original title for our work, and withal, superlatively suitable' ([Editorial], *The College Stethoscope and Literary Index*, No. I, 3 January 1828, p. 1).

The Chairman then laid out the purpose of the magazine as follows:

'...it will take cognizance of the whole internal arrangement of the University, the Lord Rector, Principal, Professors, and the various classes of students, in the several departments of Divinity, Law, Literature and Medicine, in order that, in cases where diseases shall be found to exist, it may by a timely application of purgatives and correctives, prevent further devastation of the College frame.

As a Literary Index, it will embrace original productions of every kind, whether in prose or verse, serious criticisms, or humorous sketches; in short, every species of writing, except polemical divinity' (*Ibid*).

The magazine was priced at 1d, which was to cover the printing and delivery costs. Generally, each issue has the same layout: there are one or two articles followed by one or two poems or songs, with the correspondence column at the very end. The articles are anonymous and presumably by the Editor/s, but the poetry and songs are signed with the contributors' initials.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

(Students of the University of Glasgow)

Date of Existence

3 Jan. 1828-?

Date of Magazine

3 Jan. 1828

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Editorial; Essays; Poems (original); Reviews; Songs

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

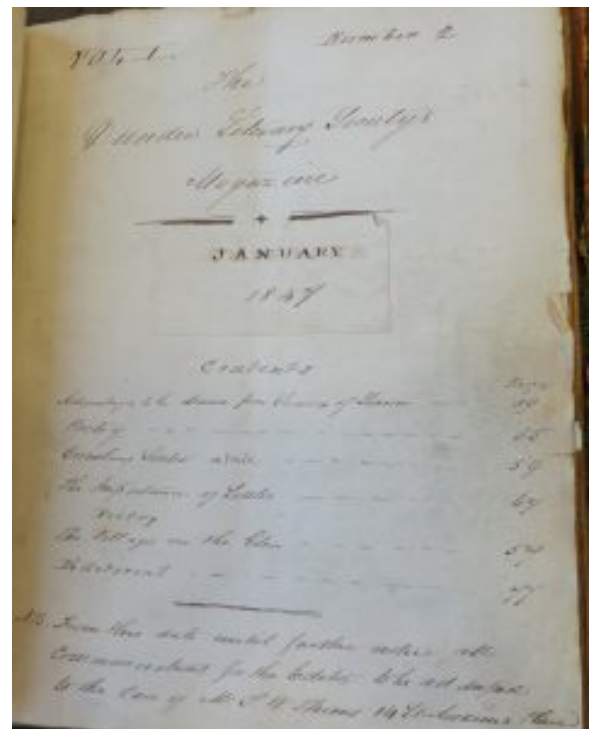
Reference

Mitchell (AL) 890768

Additional Notes

See also [The Athenaeum: An Original Literary Miscellany](#).

The Dundee Literary Society's Magazine



Dundee Literary Society, *The Dundee Literary Society's Magazine*, [title page], Vol. 1, No. 2, January

1847 (Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee, D22021, Lamb Collection). Permission for the use of this image has kindly been granted by Libraries, Leisure and Culture Dundee.

Overview

Dundee Literary Society's decision to launch a magazine in December 1846 was mainly focused on extending the reach of its influence, meaning that those who could not attend meetings because of time or location could share in some of the benefits. Perhaps some of those who benefited from the magazine were prevented from attending meetings due to age or gender restrictions too, but this is not clear from the readers' list. The wider circulation was also intended to make authors try harder in their work, especially with the potential for scrutiny by a "higher class of readers than was to be found in the society itself."

The magazine was published monthly between October 1846 and June 1848, at which point "several factors [...] obstructed its progress." The editor gives no more detail than this, though lack of enough regular contributions seems a likely reason. The magazine's revival, in January 1849, went ahead despite some opposition from members. The latest surviving issue is from 1852, although this does not necessarily mean publication ceased after that year.

On more than one occasion, the magazines were used to reflect upon the benefits of the societies themselves, either in editorials or submitted essays. In 1851, Dundee Literary Society's magazine included a piece entitled "On the Influence of Literary Societies on Particular Aspects of the Character." The author notes the volume of recent public discussion on the benefits of literary societies - reinforcing their popularity - and reiterates the argument that these societies are good for improving members' natural "vigour of mind" and instilling modesty, particularly through the active habit of practicing virtue.

The benefit of the friendly rivalry which these societies can foster is also presented as a benefit (a more formalised version of the Republic of Letters' weekly competitions, see 'Additional Notes' below), as the sense of rivalry was considered to only emerge among equals: "[the] peasant does not envy his wealthy master, yet in the rustic game he will do his utmost to excel." The society was an equaliser on intellectual terms,

encouraging members to apply themselves until they were a match for their most accomplished colleagues.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Dundee Literary Society

Date of Existence

31 Jan. 1845-?

Date of Magazine

1847-1854 (Vol. 1, 1847; Vol. 1, Nos. 1-6, 1849; Vol. 3, Nos. 13-18, 1850; Vol. 4, Nos. 19-24, 1850; various unbound copies, 1851-1854 (Incomplete))

Number of Issues

6 vols.* (*while the 1850 Contents lists 6 issues, there are only 5, the last one not included) = 45 issues

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Editorial; Essays; Letter to 'Critic'; Letter to Editor; Magazine Rules; Poems (original); Table of Contents

Repository

Dundee District Central Library, The Wellgate

Reference

D22021, Lamb Collection

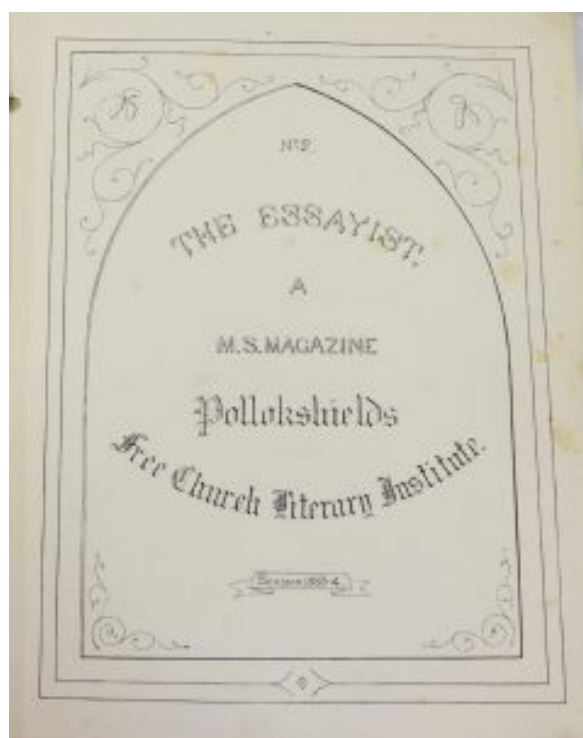
Additional Notes

See also [Dundee Natural History and Literary Society Magazine](#) for more information about The Republic of Letters, and [Dundee Literary and Scientific Institute Magazine](#).

These magazines were collected in the 1860s by A.C. Lamb, a Dundee temperance hotelier. Many of the societies represented met on premises owned by either himself

or, in earlier decades, in his father Thomas' coffee house. Lamb was often involved in society life himself, and his collection of over 450 boxes covers a wide range of material relating to literature, poetry, culture and politics in Victorian Dundee. For more information on this material, please contact local.history@leisureandculturedundee.com.

The Essayist. A M.S. Magazine



The Essayist, No. 2, Session 1883-84, [title page] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, 97615, 285-2/G)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Pollokshields Free Church Literary Institute is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

One 74 page volume (the second) survives of this magazine. The volume is neatly written in the same or very similar hand throughout, and contains a list of members on the inside cover: six names are listed as editors of the M.S. Magazine. The editor's Preface states that contributions show that their writers are 'desirous - nay, determined - to take advantage of the written, as well as the spoken, means of improvement in literary efforts', that they preserve the memory of good talks given at weekly meetings, and that they show the 'degree of literary merit' expressed at these meetings.

Of particular interest in this magazine is the focus in several contributions on the dangers of 'theories of scepticism and infidelity' current in the 1880s ('Stray Reflections' by 'A Moderate'). Hugh Smith, for example, in 'The Advantages of Literary Institutes', notes as one of the additional advantages of literary institutes that they enable young men to 'understand and discriminate between false and true argument', meaning that they are less likely to question their Christian beliefs.

The magazine contains reflective and descriptive essays on various subjects, including 'Stray Reflections on Study', 'The Advantages of Literary Institutes', 'A Day on Scuir-na-Gillean' (Skye), 'Temper', 'Life on the Stage', 'Home Mission Effort' and 'General Knowledge'.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Pollokshields Free Church Literary Institute (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1883?-1887?

Date of Magazine

No. 2, Session 1883-84 (Carbon duplicate of MS)

Number of Issues

1 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Editorial; Essays; List of Office Bearers; Membership list; Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

97615, 285-2/G

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Pollokshields Free Church Literary Institute](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Foundry Boy



The Foundry Boy, The Monthly Magazine of the Wellington Palace Branch, No. 1, January 1886, [p. 1] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and

Overview

A summary of the history of the Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society, Wellington Palace Branch is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

This magazine is printed in double columns and laid out in newspaper format. It is written in the same hand throughout. It was produced by a large Christian workers' association and articles have a strong focus on Christian self-improvement, education, temperance and morality for the young (see below). The magazine is anomalous as although it is a society magazine, it was part of a much larger enterprise and is not clearly part of a collective or shared initiative. A cost of one half-penny is listed and the magazine includes paid advertisements, suggesting that it was in part a commercial enterprise.

There were only twelve (lithographed?) issues of this monthly magazine ever produced, and these are bound together in one hardcover volume. The, apparently, enthusiastic members of the Wellington Branch of the Foundry Boys' Religious Society started the periodical as they felt 'the want of some proper medium for the expression by the Workers of the numberless suggestions and hints that spring up within them and clamour for utterance', suggestions which were not being brought properly to attention at the Council meetings held by the larger parent organisation ('Introductory', *The Foundry Boy*, No. 1, January 1886, p. 1).

The magazine was non-sectarian, being aimed more broadly at Christian readers, and it reported on the various aspects of the branch's work, along with the meetings, activities and events held in local branches across Glasgow, which, presumably, did not have their own magazines. Each issue is eight pages and cost one halfpenny, but by July 1886, this was increased to one penny. Contributions are almost entirely anonymous but a few are signed with the author's name (usually a minister) or a pen-name.

Copies were available either by post or at the Christian Institute and at various local booksellers. (For more information about the Christian Institute, see '[Christian Institute](#)' on [The Glasgow Story](#) website.) In addition, issues could be had at selected

booksellers in Paisley, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Rothesay, Coatbridge, Edinburgh and Dundee ('The Foundry Boy', 'To Subscribers', *The Foundry Boy*, No. 7, July 1886, p. 3). Presumably, the subscriptions did not cover the costs of production, as advertisements can be found amongst the articles and particularly on the last two pages of each issue.

The final issue of the magazine appeared in December 1886, when the Editor/s announced its discontinuation for reasons that are left ambiguous.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society, Wellington Palace Branch

Date of Existence

1867-1914?

Date of Magazine

Jan. 1886-Dec. 1886

Number of Issues

12

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Print (lithograph?)

Contents and Contributions

Address; Advertisements; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Attendance records (totals); Bible lessons; Branch statistics; Correspondence columns; Directories; Editorials; Essays; Hymn; Letters to Editor; Miscellaneous (announcements); News (local branches of society); Poems (original); Reports; Serial articles/stories; Sketches

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

Mitchell (GC) 206 98783

Additional Information

See also entry for [Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society, Wellington Palace Branch](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Highbury Magazine (1901-1911), later The Park Church Literary Magazine (1929-1937)

Overview

This society was based at Park Church, located on Grosvenor Lane, Highbury, London, which was a Scottish Presbyterian church. It had a thriving middle-class congregation, and several active clubs and societies attached to it, including this young men's literary association. The society was founded in 1859, and their later [minute books](#) — also housed at London Metropolitan Archives — still survive.

Whilst initially made up of young Scottish men, after 1895, women were allowed to join as full members. Overall, this was a fairly good-sized group, with an average of 63 members between 1881 and 1897, and its membership appears to have risen slightly in the first decades of the twentieth century to around 77 members.

There are 15 extant issues of this association's magazine, eight of which date from 1901 to 1911 (falling within our study's time frame of 1800 and 1914), and were the sole focus in this project. This miscellany has a variety of fiction and non-fiction pieces on a variety of topics, and the number of original poems is a bit higher than other mutual improvement and literary society magazines. There are also several biographical pieces on canonical authors such as Hans Christian Anderson, Charles Kingsley and Charles Lamb.

A particularly notable feature of this magazine was the elaborate, handcrafted covers and bindings that were used, with most issues having an elaborate outer cover that was attached to the inner magazine with a colourful ribbon. The most elaborate of

these was a needlepoint cover, the design of which was taken from a book cover housed in the British Museum that was said to be made by Queen Elizabeth. This magazine was intended to be saved and was perhaps a treasured production of this society.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Park Church Literary Society (in association with Park Presbyterian Church, Grosvenor Place, Highbury, Islington, London)

Date of Existence

1859-1939?

Date of Magazine

1901-1911; 1929-1937

Number of Issues

The Highbury Magazine, No. 2 (1901); No. 3 (1902); No. 4 (1903); No. 6 (1905); No. 8 (1907); No. 9 (1908); No. 10 (1909); No. 12 (1911); 1 vol (1926-1927);

Park Church Literary Magazine, 1 vol. (1926-1927); 1 vol. (1930-1931)

(Within the date range of this study: 8 issues, 1901-1911.)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements (humorous); Articles (non-fiction); Ballad (original); Circulation List; Clippings (printed material); Correspondence column; Editorial; Fiction/Narratives; List of Office Bearers; Magazine Rules; Music; Poems (original); Tables of Contents; Title pages

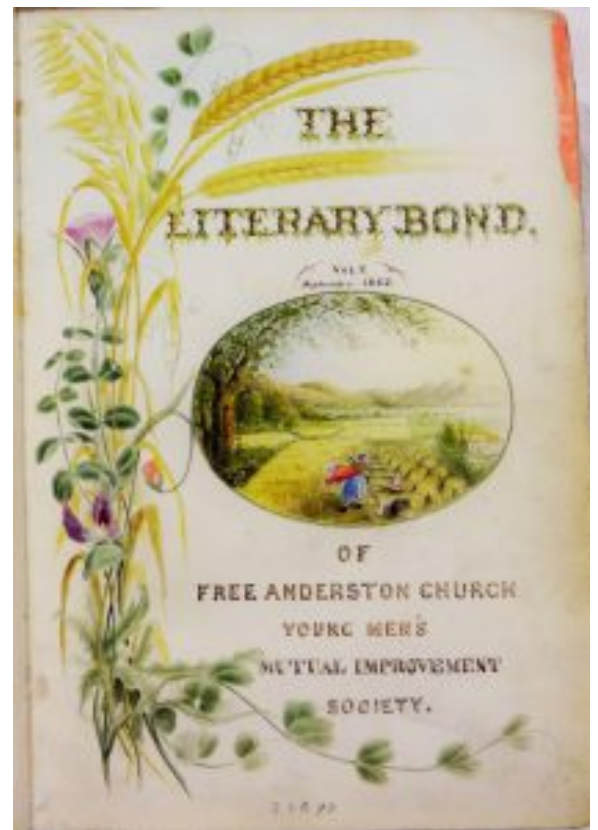
Repository

London Metropolitan Archives

Reference

LMA/4366/B/008-15 (for later magazines, see: LMA/4303/E/02/043;
LMA/4303/E/02/044)

The Literary Bond of Free Anderston Church Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society (later The Literary Magazine)



The Literary Bond of Free Anderston Church Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, Vol. 2, September 1862 (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, Mitchell (AL) 891310-11)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Free Anderston Church Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

This society appears to have had a dynamic group of members that contributed to and supported the production of this magazine for over twenty years. The magazine was issued (mostly) monthly during the yearly session, which ran from October until April; like most societies, there were no meetings held (nor magazines issued) during the summer.

The length of each issue varies a good deal, and is dependent upon the number of pieces and the length of each contribution, which did not appear to have a limit as did some magazines. Each bound volume contains roughly a couple hundred pages (e.g. Vols. II-II, bound into one hardcover book, has 410 pages, while Vol. XIII, one of the slimmest, has approximately 200).

Each contribution is in the author's own handwriting, but the authors are on the whole not identifiable: pieces are either anonymous, signed with a pen-name, or more rarely with an initial or initials. However, when accompanied by artwork and/or other materials, each contributor's individuality and creativity shines through, and the care that was taken in the magazine's production is quite evident. These issues were valued and intended to be preserved.

There is a wide variety of subjects covered in the articles, essays, and poems. There is also a range of means used to illustrate these contributions: each issue (particularly the later ones) includes much good quality, detailed artwork in a range of media (pen-and-ink and watercolour being the most popular, although oil paintings are not uncommon). There are also a number of photographs, swatches of fabric, and cuttings from various printed media, which includes a map that has been folded and bound into one of the volumes. Most issues have an elaborate illustrated cover, as shown in the example of the photograph included here.

It was only in the 1890s in the later issues of the resurrected monthly entitled *The Literary Magazine* that Readers' Criticisms' — the comments that readers wrote into the blank pages of the magazine left for this purpose — were introduced. This section is located at the back of each issue, and readers mostly used pen-names. In a few cases, individual members can be identified by their initials.

The circulation lists for *The Literary Bond* only list men that are presumably members. The lists from the later 1890s issues show that by this time the society allowed women to join, and, from the 'Readers' Criticisms', we know that they contributed many of the pieces to the magazine.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Free Anderston Church Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society (later became the Free Anderston Church Literary Society) (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1849-1897?

Dates of Magazine

The Literary Bond: the Mitchell Library has Vol. 2 (Sept. 1862) - Vol. 13 (Dec. 1875), Vol. 16, No. 1 (Oct. 1876) - Vol. 18 (October 1879), and Vol. 21 (October 1881) - Vol. 22, No. 6 (March 1883) (Vols. 14, 15, 19 and 20 no longer extant?);

The Literary Magazine: the Mitchell Library has Vol. 1, No. 1 (Jan. 1896) - Vol. 2, No. 2 (Feb. 1897)

Number of Issues

The Literary Bond: 15 bound volumes containing a total of 121 issues;

The Literary Magazine: 2 bound volumes. (The total number of issues for this later magazine is currently unknown as Volume 2 was unavailable for viewing at time of research.)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Annotations; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Cuttings (printed materials); Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Letters; Letters to Editor; Magazine Rules; Music; Photographs; Poems (original); Prefaces; Readers' Criticisms; Reviews; Serial articles/stories; Sketches; Tables of Contents

Repository

Reference

Mitchell (AL), 891310 (*The Literary Bond*)

Mitchell (AL), 891311 (*The Literary Magazine*)

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Free Anderston Church Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Literary Twenty-One Club Magazine



[*The Literary Twenty-one Club Magazine*], 1896, 'Contents' [title page not extant] (©CSG CIC)

Overview

A summary of the history of the New Literary Club (which later became the Literary Twenty-One Club) is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There is one (extant) issue of this club's magazine, which clearly carries on the format and style of the previous issues that were produced by the group under its former name, the New Literary Club, with several of its old members staying on. (See entry for [New Literary Club Magazine](#).)

There are 107 pages in this issue. At the front, there is a list of 20 members with their respective addresses. The 15 contributions (see accompanying photo of the 'Contents') are mostly prose pieces with only one original poem; an article on Robert Burns, however, transcribes extracts of several of his poems. The artwork in this issue is in various media, the most common being watercolour. There are also several photographs.

Of interest is a recurring feature called a 'Page of Confessions', which is a list of 'favourite' items that must be filled in (e.g. 'Your favourite Author'; 'Your favourite Book', etc., ending with 'What is the height of your ambition'). There are three examples of these 'confessions' in this issue. While one contributor professed to love Charles Lamb and the Bible, another's reported favourite author was the French Renaissance writer and philosopher, Michael Sieur de Montaigne (1533-1592) and favourite book was *The Compleat Angler* (1653). One example of the 'Page of Confessions' also appears in [The Holyrood Magazine](#), which was produced later.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Literary Twenty-One Club (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

21 Apr. 1896-26 Mar. 1898

Date of Magazine

1896

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation List; Editorial; Essays; Frontispiece; Map; Music; Photographs; Poem (original); Poem (republished material); Readers' criticisms (pages left blank); Sketch; Table of Contents

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

(Note: The records for this club are housed together with the records of The Holyrood Club (891047))

Additional Notes

See also entry for [New Literary Club \(later became Literary Twenty-One Club\)](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Monthly Instructor

Overview

The [London Metropolitan Archives](#) suggests that this Sunday school was connected to a Baptist church that was located on Worship Street, City of London. The church itself was running from at least 1791. It was still running in the 1870s, but by 1896, was

demolished for the expansion of the North London Railway. From 'An account of the rise and progress of the Worship Street Sunday School' in the magazine it produced, we know that the school was established in the spring of 1818 by the minister, John Simpson, and 'the younger members of his family and some other friends' (J. C. Means, 'An account of the rise and progress of the Worship Street Sunday School', *The Monthly Instructor*, V, March 1827, pp. 59-65 (pp. 56-60)).

On April 18th of that year, its first students were admitted. The school had separate classes for boys and girls, and the teachers were made up of 'young persons in the congregation', and later from some of its former pupils. While classes were originally taught in the chapel, by the time of the 'account', they had moved to Dunning's Alley, Bishopsgate.

The first issue of *The Monthly Instructor* appeared in 1823, five years after the school had been founded. Only Volumes V, VI and VIII have survived. According to its Editor, the magazine provided 'useful or interesting information, and tend[ed] to promote in some way the interests of religion and morality' ([Editor], 'The Editor's farewell', *The Monthly Instructor*, VI, December 1828, pp. 287-88 (p. 287)). These moralistic miscellanies consist predominantly of transcribed extracts from various printed materials.

Other features in later issues include moralistic, fictional (original?) stories, non-fiction articles on different animals that included original illustrations and a correspondence column. The correspondence column appears at the very end of the magazine in the majority of the issues. From this feature, we learn about the production process of the magazine. What is interesting about this Sunday school magazine is that the contributions appear to have come from teachers as well as the students.

The 1830 volume of the magazine contains the original pink paper covers of the monthly issues that were omitted in the previous bound volumes. The covers are of interest as they give the subscription price (6d per annum) and a list of the subscribers on the back covers. If each of the (separated) listings represent a class, the magazine might have served as a weekly textbook before being passed to the next class.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Worship Street Sunday School (London)

Date of Existence

1818-1830?

Dates of Magazine

Vol. V (Jan.-Dec. 1827); Vol. VI (Jan.-Dec. 1828); Vol. VIII (Jan.-Dec. 1830)

Number of Issues

36 issues in 3 bound volumes

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Correspondence columns; Extracts of published works; Fiction/Narratives; Indexes; List of Sunday Evening Lectures; Prefaces; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

London Metropolitan Archives

Reference

CLC/229/MS07513A

The Overnewton Whisper



The Overnewton Whisper, No. 2, 26 February 1901, [p. 1] (©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections, GC85380 DON; f072.91443 OVE JH)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Overnewton Literary Club is available on our sister website, Glasgow's Literary Bonds (see 'Additional Notes' below).

This society's magazine (as it was called by its contributors) is unusually presented on single sheets, with articles on both sides presented in two columns, echoing broadside or newspaper format. Its self-presentation as a newspaper rather than monthly periodical is highlighted by the title page illustration, which shows the 'Overnewton Whisper Office' with a newsboy outside selling 'Whisper no. 2'.

Four single sheets survive, including the title page. These may not belong to the same edition as three are undated, and the undated sheets include an article ('Through Feminine Optics' by Genevieve) and a response to it ('Through Masculine Optics' by Savant), presumably written later. Though 'Genevieve' might imply a female contributor, Savant's article mentions 'one who terms "herself" Genevieve', which may

suggest that one of the society's young men is writing under a female pseudonym.

The magazine leans more towards the comic, satirical and entertaining than others, and imitates some popular features of newspapers such as an 'Answers to Correspondents' column by 'Our Own Physician', a gossip column ('The members of this Club are saying') and a poetry column. The first sheet includes a list of meetings held by the society on its reverse.

The contents of this periodical are more akin to other mutual improvement society magazines in having a mixture of (mostly) prose essays (n. 6) and a couple of articles. The first of these is on the then current small pox epidemic in the city, which strangely morphs into an article about the upcoming Glasgow Exhibition.

This magazine was printed in bulk and sold to members of the club (and presumably to paying non-members). Its cost, while apparently being a bit of an issue (quoted from an anonymous member: 'That the best joke in the first magazine was the price'), is not given.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Overnewton Literary Club (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1901?-?

Date of Magazine

1901

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Original in manuscript, then print (lithograph?) (see [The Foundry Boy](#), and [The Magnet](#))

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Essays; Filler; Poems (original); Short stories; Sketch

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

Mitchell (GC) CD f072 91445 OVE

Additional Notes

This periodical is the size of a broadsheet. Interestingly, this group referred to it as their magazine.

See also entry for [Overnewton Literary Club](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Queen's Park Literary Magazine (aka The Queen's Park Magazine)



The Queen's Park Literary Magazine,

Overview

A summary of the history of the Queen's Park, St. George's United Presbyterian, UK Church Literary Institute is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There are three extant volumes of this society's magazine. The first two are in manuscript and the later one was put into print (see details below). The first volume, produced in January 1874, is currently in need of conservation, and the pages suffer from water damage. The information that we can extract from the few pages that are viewable is limited. Nonetheless, from the list of readers, we know that there were at least 33 readers of the magazine (it is not possible to view all the names on the list due to the state of the magazine). It was not unusual, however, for these magazines to be passed among family and friends outwith the 'official' list of readers. There are 150 pages in this volume, which includes a combination of poetry and prose, along with possibly a photograph and original artwork. It is not possible to determine the number of contributions.

The second volume has 179 pages with 14 contributions that include essays, articles, poems on a variety of subjects and some original artwork. Contributors either chose not to sign their names, or used a pen-name, a symbol (↑), or an initial or initials at the end of their pieces.

The 1877-78 volume of this society's magazine is published, and contains the numbers for January, April, July, and October 1877, as well as January, April, July, and October 1878. From the front endpaper, we know that the magazine was part of the Queen's Park East United Free Church Congregational Library. It is possible that the previous volumes were also part of the library's collection. The preface informs us that this volume was put into print as manuscript copies were found to be 'unsuited to the rapidly increasing membership'. In appearing in print, the Editor hoped that the medium would place the periodical alongside other (more established) 'instructive and entertaining' magazines.

The entire volume is 288 pages, with each issue running between 25 and 30 pages each. There is a table of contents at the front for the entire volume, which contains a collection of articles, essays, poems, and original poetry as well as extracts from

published poems by Chaucer, Spenser, and Tennyson (to name a few) in articles that discuss these authors and their works.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Queen's Park U.P. Church Literary Institute (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1872-1927?

Date of Magazine

Vol. 1 (January 1874); Vol. 2 (January 1875); January 1877-78

Number of Issues

10 (extant) (see above 'Overview')

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript, later print (*The Queen's Park Magazine: Conducted by Members of the Queen's Park Literary Institute, Crosshill, Glasgow. 1877-1878* (Glasgow: John Mackie, [1878])

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Article (non-fiction); Essay; Extracts of published works; Fiction/Narrative Fiction/Narrative; Frontispiece; Poem (original); Preface; Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Glasgow City Archives

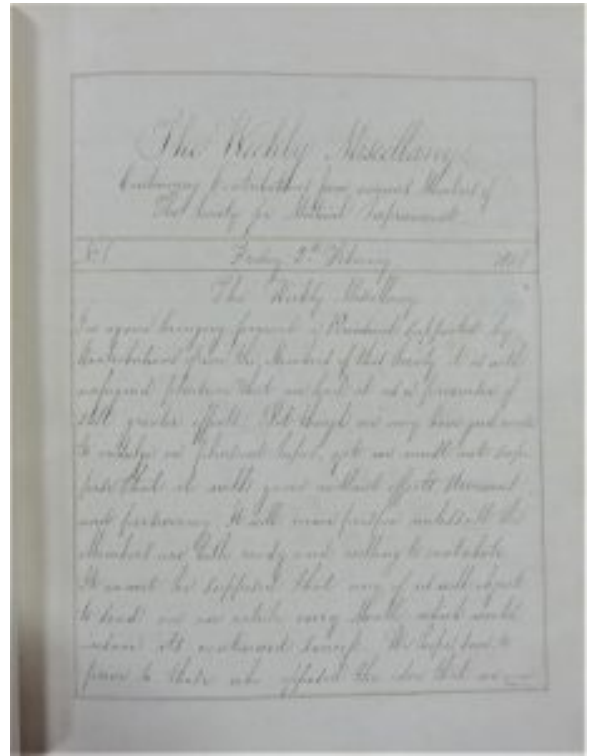
Reference

CH3/1471/42-44

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Queen's Park, St. George's UP, UK Church Literary Institute](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

The Weekly Miscellany



The Society for Mutual Improvement (Edinburgh), *The Weekly Miscellany*, [title page], No. 1, 2 February 1849 (Mitchell (AL) 358075, ©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections)

Overview

According to the 'Preface' of the 1849 volume, The Society for Mutual Improvement was formed in 1846. Since that time, it had admitted 48 men (see below) and had 108 essays delivered at its meetings. The society had its own library for its members' use in which it was estimated there were between two and three hundred volumes. The object of the society was 'the improvement of the Minds of its Members in Useful and Entertaining knowledge' ('Laws and Constitution, 1849', The Society for Mutual Improvement, Edinburgh, in *The Weekly Miscellany*, Nos. 1-26, 02 February 1849 - 25 July 1849, p. viii).

The group met weekly on Friday nights at 7pm, but the venue is not mentioned (possibly somewhere in the New Town?). The subscription fee was 4d per quarter. There is no list of readers in this volume, and, with the exception of the Office Bearers — a list of which is found at the front of the volume — we don't know the members' names or addresses. It is unclear if the 48 members stated to have been admitted since the society's founding represented the then current state of its membership: in February 1849, the number of members is given as 22, with only about half of the members attendant at the meetings ('A Correspondent', 'Correspondence', *The Weekly Miscellany*, 9 February 1849, p. 16).

The magazine (the full title of which is *The Weekly Miscellany; Containing Contributions from various Members of The Society for Mutual Improvement*) 'originated in a desire for benefiting the Society with which it is connected by furnishing a medium for the interchange of sentiment between its Members' (James Boyd, 'Preface', *The Weekly Miscellany*, p. iv). There are 26 issues bound together in one hardcover volume. With very few exceptions, each issue is eight pages with between four and five short contributions apiece written by various members of the society using a nom-de-plume, all of which are re-written by James Boyd, the Editor-cum-Treasurer. This was an uncommon practice in mutual improvement and literary groups. It was usually done to try to maintain the anonymity of the authors as their respective handwriting was presumably recognisable by other group members. It also helped to give a uniformity to the magazine, which, for some societies — including this one — was of some import.

The issues contain a mixture of essays and articles on various topics, and some serial fictional pieces along with original poetry. Beginning in May 1849, it also includes a few extracts from published authors (e.g. Samuel Johnson, Saint Basil, William Haslitt) as filler material at the very end of an issue. There is no original artwork in any of the issues.

What is interesting about this magazine is that the society seemed to use it as a magazine-cum-minute book: included in each issue is a piece entitled 'Society for Mutual Improvement', which records the details of the essay given at the previous week's meeting, and includes a summary of the 'criticism' (i.e. the comments made by members) that followed. Debates were usually held after the essays, and a note of the subject and some general comments are included. Typically, these things are recorded in a society's minute book rather than its magazine.

A 'Correspondence' section is a regular feature in these issues. Members wrote letters to the Editor suggesting improvements for various aspects of the society meetings or

the magazine (or both), or indeed for the members themselves. These letters could include criticism of the criticisms. This section thus acted as a dynamic discussion forum for society members.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

The Society for Mutual Improvement (Edinburgh)

Date of Existence

October 1846-1849?

Date of Magazine

Nos. 1 - 26, 02 February 1849 - 25 July 1849

Number of Issues

26

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Essays; Extracts of published works; Filler; Index; Laws and Constitution; List of Office Bearers; Poems (original); Preface; Serial articles/stories; Title pages

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

Mitchell (AL) 358075

(Magazine Evening: Magazine Later Bound)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Renwick Free Church Literary Association is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

At the first formative meeting of this group in October 1889, a proposal was made to have a manuscript magazine for the society, which was 'favorably mentioned by several of the gentlemen present'. An Editor was duly appointed as one of the office bearers. It is of note that this society saw the production of a magazine as an important element to the aims of the group from the very beginning.

The group's magazine would take the form of a 'Magazine Night', and a decision was made later on to have the contributions bound. 'Magazine Evenings' or 'Magazine Nights' were meetings that were devoted to the reading of original essays (or occasionally poems) written by group members that were submitted to the Magazine Editor beforehand. The Editor would be responsible for collecting, occasionally selecting, and reading the pieces aloud to the group (more rarely this was done by the contributor him/herself) on the appointed night. This would be followed by 'criticism' — or discussion on the piece's positive *and* negative points — by the group members.

After the meetings, these contributions were sometimes bound and saved in the society's library (if they had one) or would be kept by one of the office bearers. In these cases, it was intended that the magazine was to be preserved and that group members would have access to it at a later date. It is of note that literary and mutual improvement groups used the term 'magazine' to refer to the oral as well as the material medium.

The association's first Magazine Night was held on 15 February 1890, when the Editor, James McGilvery, read aloud the pieces that were sent to him prior to the meeting. The minutes note that McGilvery took the trouble of re-writing all the pieces into a single document. This was an uncommon practice in mutual improvement and literary groups. It was usually done to try to maintain the anonymity of the authors as their respective handwriting was presumably recognisable by other group members. This practice also helped to give a uniformity to the magazine, which, for some

societies was of some import.

The contributions from that first night were both prose essays and poems. The authors chose pen-names, for example, 'Abbot' and 'Muse'. Most of the titles were not recorded, but it was noted that a paper entitled the 'Evolution of Plants' and a clay pipe's humorous soliloquy drew the most conversation, the substance of which is given. The subjects of the other pieces and the comments they elicited were noted. The first Annual Report for the society described the night a a 'brilliant success'.

At the close of the meeting, it was proposed that the magazine be bound and made part of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Library, and that the literary society members would have have first priority. The magazine was then placed in the YMCA Library, and was the joint property of the society and the YMCA. To date, we have found no evidence of this volume or the second volume, which was also recorded as being bound.

Thereafter, a Magazine Night was held once a session in February. In some cases, the titles and respective summaries are given in the minutes. In the case of some of the poems, it is not possible to determine the subject.

After the society was revived in 1908, the next Magazine Night was held in December 1909, with last being held a year later.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Renwick Free Church Literary Association (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

9 November 1889-1892; 9 January 1908-1913?

Date of Magazine

February 1890, February 1891, February 1892, December 1909, December 1910

Number of Issues

5 (possibly not extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript (magazines appear to be no longer extant)

Contents and Contributions

Advertisement; Articles (non-fiction); Correspondence column; Editorial; Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Game (acrostic); Letter to Editor; Poems (original); Sketch

Repository

(Glasgow City Archives)

Reference

(See: Renwick Church of Scotland [from GCA folder: 'from 1876 Renwick Free Church'], Literary Association, minutes, 1889-1892; 1908-1913)

(Note: these records are listed under different reference numbers in the Glasgow City Archives (GCA) black reference binder, and in the National Records of Scotland (NRS) online catalogue. Both are listed here: (GCA folder:) GCA, TD396/30/1-2; (NRS cat.:.: GCA, CH3/1650/9/3/1-2)

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Renwick Free Church Literary Association](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

(Title currently unknown)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Western Scientific Association is available on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#) (see 'Additional Notes' below).

The members of this all-male group wrote down the papers that they gave at the meetings into a society year book. Thomas Lugton (the attributed author of the 1907 newspaper article from which this information comes) seems to have a copy of the group's 1894 volume to hand, as he gives details on the contributors, a bit of their respective histories subsequent to their membership in the association, and critiques

each contribution. (For more information about Thomas Lugton, see 'Additional Notes' below.)

According to the article, there are 78 articles in the 1849 volume. Most of these seem to be essays, fiction and non-fiction, but there are also a few poems. The volume also includes artwork, of which there is at least one illustration and one etching.

Lugton tells us there are 63 signed and 15 unsigned articles, and in the case of some of the latter pieces, he is able to work out who the author was, and it seems this group had some remarkable members. The contributors to the society year book went on to become notable figures in Glasgow and beyond. To give a couple of examples, the first essay, described by Lugton as '[a] short and lively tale with a long title' called 'The House on the Hill, or The Fratricide, a Tale of the 17th Century," was written by one John Trayner, who was later to become Lord Trayner LLD (1834-1929). (For more information on Trayner see '[John Trayner, Lord Trayner](#)' on *Wikipedia*, the entry for '[John Trayner](#)' on *The University of Glasgow Story* website, and a painting entitled '[John Trayner \(1834-1929\), Lord Trayner](#)', which was painted by George Reid (1841-1913) on the *ArtUK* website.)

The author of another article entitled, 'History', who had his own tripartite classificatory system of 'the fabulous', 'the doubtful', and 'the authentic', signed himself 'M.G.'. Lugton identifies this as Matthew Gass. Gass (1830-?) was a Georgeite reform agitator. Influenced by Chartism in his youth, in his adult life, he was renowned for his influential speeches on Glasgow Green and the many pamphlets he published calling for labour and land reforms. (For more information on Gass, see 'Testimonial to a Veteran Reformer', *The Single Tax*, Vol. VI, No. 69, February 1900, pp. 130-1. See 'Additional Information on *The Single Tax*.)

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Western Scientific Association (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1843-?

Date of Magazine

1849

Number of Issues

1 (unknown if still extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Essays; Fiction/Narrative; Poems (original)

Repository

(Currently unknown if any copies extant)

Reference

-

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Western Scientific Association](#) on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds*.

Thomas Lugton was a member of the Old Glasgow Club in the early twentieth century. This group first met in 1900, and is still running. Members still meet twice a month to read papers and discuss the history of Glasgow. Some of these papers (including Lugton's) have been published. See the club's new website here: [Old Glasgow Club](#). As a member of this club, Lugton himself would have been a scholar of the history of the city. You can see examples of the papers he gave in a list of the Transactions of the club between 1903 and 1908 on the club's old website here: ['Transactions Volume 1 - Numbers 1 to 5 \(1903 to 1908\)', Old Glasgow Club](#).

For more information about *The Single Tax*, see ['The Single Tax'](#) on [Wikipedia](#). This newspaper has not yet been digitised by the [British Newspaper Archive](#). Copies are available at the [Mitchell Library](#), Glasgow and the [British Library](#), London.

(Magazine Evening)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Govan Parish Young Men's Association is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

This association held its first 'Manuscript Magazine Evening' on 6 December 1892. These meetings took place about once a session thereafter. They were specifically 'Members' Meetings', as opposed to those that were open to the public (e.g. lectures, dramatic recitals, concerts and musical evenings), which suggests that the contributions and the discussion that followed were intended solely for this select audience. The titles of the contributions were not always listed in the minutes, and in some cases, it was not possible to discern the subject of the piece from its title. The last Magazine Evening recorded in the minutes took place on 3 December 1907, when only two papers were read, one entitled 'Literary Style', and the other called 'Modern Literature'.

'Magazine Evenings', 'Magazine Nights', or even 'Manuscript Magazine Nights' were meetings that were devoted to the reading of original essays (or occasionally poems) written by group members that were submitted to the Magazine Editor beforehand. The Editor would be responsible for collecting, occasionally selecting, and reading the pieces aloud to the group (more rarely this was done by the contributor him/herself) on the appointed night. This would be followed by 'criticism' — or discussion on the piece's positive *and* negative points — by the group members.

After the meetings, these contributions were sometimes bound and saved in the society's library (if they had one) or would be kept by one of the office bearers. In these cases, it was intended that the magazine was to be preserved and that group members would have access to it at a later date. It is of note that literary and mutual improvement groups used the term 'magazine' to refer to the oral as well as the material medium.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Govan Parish Young Men's Association (later became the Govan Parish Young Men's Literary Association) (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

11 Oct. 1876-?

Date of Magazine

1906, 1907

Number of Issues

Magazine Evenings (unknown if contributions were preserved)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

(Presumably unpublished manuscripts)

Contents and Contributions

(presumably non-fiction articles and essays)

Repository

Glasgow City Archives

Reference

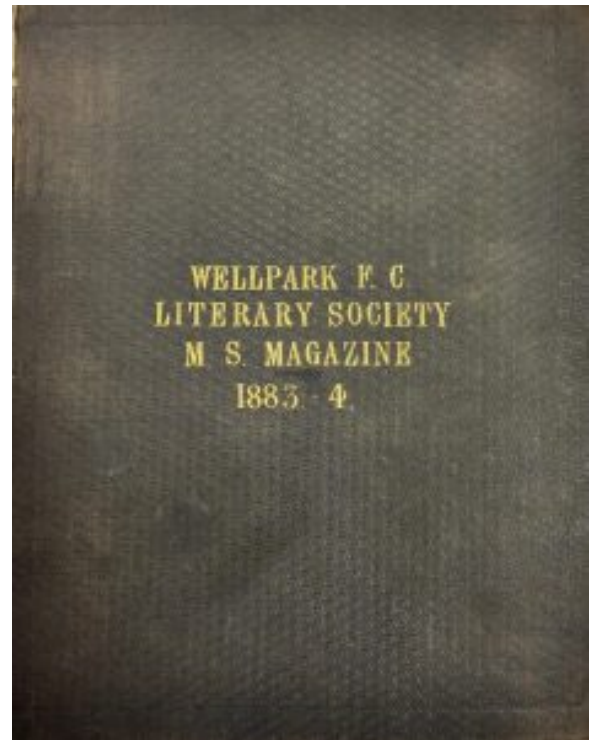
1. Govan Parish Young Men's Association Minute Book, 1886-92 (CH2/1277/50);
2. Govan Parish Young Men's Association Minute Book, 1892-1903 (CH2/1277/51);
3. Govan Parish Literary Association Minute Book, 1903-1913 (CH2/1277/52)

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Govan Parish Young Men's Association](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Wellpark F. C. Literary Society M.S.

Magazine



Wellpark Free Church Young Men's Literary Society, *Wellpark F. C. Literary Society M.S. Magazine*, [cover], 1883-4 (Mitchell (AL), 428697, ©CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections)

On Overview

A summary of the history of the Wellpark Free Church Literary Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There are three extant issues of this magazine, which together contain an eclectic mixture of prose and poetry, original artwork (pencil, pen-and-ink, and watercolour being the most popular media), along with original music compositions.

The 1883-84 issue has 153 pages with 21 contributions. After each piece, there are readers' 'criticisms', or discussions on the work's positive *and* negative points that were written on the blank sheets of paper that were left for this purpose. On pages 146-51 there can be found the society's syllabus, Constitution, programmes for various

meetings and musical evenings, and a notice for a local Parliamentary election. Contributors — which included men and women, members and non-members — used their own names or pen-names to sign their pieces. At the very back there is an index. The later 1887-88 and 1888 magazines are similar in also being miscellanies that include readers' criticisms, with 203 pages and twenty contributions in the former, and 201 pages and sixteen contributions in the latter.

In each of the issues, there is a list of 'Readers' along with their respective addresses. There are 34 readers in the 1883-84 issue, 32 in the 1887-88 number, and 29 listed in the 1888 issue, which means that this group was of a relatively modest size and fairly stable in its membership, if these years can be said to be representative.

A full case study of this society and its magazine was published by Lauren Weiss in 2016 (see Lauren Weiss, 'The Manuscript Magazines of the Wellpark Free Church Young Men's Literary Society', in *Media and Print Culture Consumption in Nineteenth-Century Britain: The Victorian Reading Experience*, ed. by Paul Raphael Rooney and Anna Gasperini (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), pp. 53-73).

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Wellpark Free Church Young Men's Literary Society (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1883?-1888?

Dates of Magazine

Vol. II, No. 1 (1883-84); Vol. II, No. 1 (1887-88); 1888

Number of Issues

3 (extant)

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Constitution; Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Frontispiece; Index; Letter to 'Critic'; Letters to

Editor; Magazine Rules; Maps; Music; Notice (printed); Poems (original); Programme; Readers' criticisms; Sketches; Syllabus; Table of Contents; Title page

Repository

Mitchell Library Special Collections

Reference

1. Mitchell (AL) 428697 (1883-84 magazine);
2. Mitchell (AL), 428698-99 (1887-1888, and 1888 magazines) (Note: there are three manuscript magazines but only two separate listings in the online catalogue)

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Wellpark Free Church Literary Society](#) on our sister website, *[Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#)*.