Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery Annual Report
August 1995 - July 1996
The past year has been one of consolidation as the Hunterian has built upon and strengthened many of the innovations it has made in the last three years. Work continued to improve the galleries of the Museum, and the Mackintosh House, a major visitor attraction within the Art Gallery, was fully refurbished. A number of exhibitions were successfully mounted in the Museum and Art Gallery and the Hunterian is also the largest lender to the international exhibition on Charles Rennie Mackintosh at Glasgow City's McLellan Galleries.

Work to increase the accessibility and use of the collections continued with improvements to the two outside stores for reserve material and there was a steady input of details of specimens into our computerised catalogue. The Education Officer has increased the number of children using the Museum. The Hunterian's World Wide Web pages have been improved and extended and during the year they have been looked at by approximately 20,000 people. Staff have continued to teach for the University and carry out research and publication; they also play a considerable role in outside bodies. More and more use is being made of the Museum, Art Gallery, and the Zoology Museum for receptions and staff are increasingly providing advice as paid consultants to government agencies and private organisations.

As always, much remains to be done. The fabric of the Art Gallery gives great cause for concern and a study must be carried out to establish the extent of the problem. More resources must be found to complete the redevelopment of the Museum; access to the latter for disabled people is particularly bad and it must be improved. Resources are tight but the retiral of two long-serving staff members may allow for some changes in our staffing arrangements to assist in achieving these and other objectives.

Exhibitions

In the Art Gallery four temporary exhibitions were held during the period of the report following the closure of *Whistler: Prints, Drawings and Watercolours* on 2nd September.

*Mackintosh Flowers* (9th September - 4th November) was selected by Pamela Robertson and explored Charles Rennie Mackintosh’s use of plant forms in his designs for buildings, interiors, textiles and graphics. While the majority of the exhibits were drawn from the University’s Mackintosh collection, the exhibition was enhanced by loans from George Smith MA, Glasgow Museums, Glasgow School of
Art, The Special Collections Department of the University Library and a private collection. The exhibition coincided with the publication of *Art is the Flower* by Pamela Robertson

*The Christmas Story* (11th November - 13th January) showed the wealth of imagery artists have used in depicting the Nativity. It was selected entirely from the University’s collections by Martin Hopkinson.

*We Got Rhythm! - Images of Music and Dance* (1st June - 3rd August) explored the important role that music and dance have played in visual art from the fourteenth century to the present day. It was selected from the Hunterian’s collection by Jane Lindsey, author of the accompanying catalogue. A very successful day of dance and music workshops was held in the Gallery to coincide with both the exhibition and the West End Festival.

*The Jubb Collection: Works by Frances and Margaret Macdonald and J. Herbert MacNair* (18th May - 26th September) was organised to form part of the city-wide celebrations centred on Glasgow Museums’ exhibition *Charles Rennie Mackintosh* at the McLellan Galleries. The works, by Charles Rennie Mackintosh’s closest associates, were mostly drawn from a recent generous bequest to the University by Miss Maureen Jubb. The exhibition was selected by Pamela Robertson.

In The Mackintosh House Gallery designs for and photographs of Mackintosh’s first house, Windyhill, Kilmalcolm were exhibited between 28 July and 2 November.

In the Museum most effort was concentrated on creating the new Coin Gallery and organising the major new exhibition it will house. Despite his heavy work load on this project Dr Bateson mounted *The White Cockade - An exhibition of Jacobite Medals* between October 1995 and May 1996. *Beauty and the Banknote - Images of Women on Paper Money*, a British Museum loan exhibition, was shown in the Main Gallery from late January to early April. A photographic exhibition on the restoration of Pavlosk Palace, created for Catherine the Great by the Scottish architect Charles Cameron (1745-1812) was opened on 22 May. This loan exhibition was organised in conjunction with Central European Research Development Unit. It closed on 28 June. In the Zoology Museum a small exhibition was mounted to mark the eightieth birthday of Dr Ray Crawson, and to celebrate his major contributions to etymology.
Attendances

Attendances at the Art Gallery numbered 111,587, although approximately 40,000 of these were students attending lectures in the building. There were 62,157 visitors to the Museum, of which nearly 11,000 were school children. Over 4,000 people attended the set96 activities in the Museum and the Kelvin Gallery served as the venue for 'A Kaleidoscope of Nations'; this two day event involved 1,700 children from the Glasgow area. Over 80 researchers visited the Gallery’s Print Room to consult the reserve collection. A large number of these visitors were from overseas, notably from the USA, Sweden, Bulgaria, Germany and Japan. The Print Room also hosted a number of seminars and tutorials involving the History of Art Department, the Christie’s Decorative Art Course, the Department of Adult and Continuing Education and the printmaking departments of both Glasgow School of Art and Edinburgh College of Art. The Gallery was visited by 47 organised groups, some of which were given a guided tour. 130 people visited the Museum store at Thurso Street to study the collections there.

Education Service, Special Events and Projects

The Education Officer's post continued to be funded from income although it is hoped that it can eventually be established on a more secure basis. During the year the Officer further developed the Hunterian's services to schools and during the period approx. 11,000 school children in nearly 500 parties visited the Museum an increase of 10% over last year. New work-sheets were produced for use by school parties visiting the Hunterian and a teachers' pack on Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his collections in the Art Gallery was printed and distributed. The Museum was also heavily involved in science education. The Deputy Director organised the University's contribution to set96, and the Museum housed several of the set96 science shows and demonstrations, including 'Arcs and Sparks', 'Swings and Roundabouts' and the Electronic Fun Lab., these attracted 4,000 visitors in a single week. Dr Durant also ran the Saturday Science Club for children and gave science shows as part of the West End Festival. The 'Cyberscience' initiative, by which people can ask questions about science by telephone, fax or e-mail and have them answered rapidly, is based in the Museum. In April the Museum hosted 'A Kaleidoscope of Cultures' organised by Variety Initiatives for Special Needs Access and the City Education Department. In this 1,700 school children, representing eight cultures, participated. As a contribution to the City's West End Festival Hunterian curatorial staff held a well-attended open day on 22 June at which members of the public could have objects identified. In the Art Gallery Miss Lindsey organised a popular event combining dance and music to complement the print exhibition 'We Got Rhythm'.
Both the Museum & Art Gallery continue to be used for evening receptions by groups within and outwith the University, the numbers of these during the year were 32 and 22 respectively. In the Zoology Museum there were 28 receptions or meetings. The West of Scotland branch of the International Herpetological Society met there six times, and other users included the West of Scotland microscopy group, the British Parasitology Society, the Glasgow Natural History Society and the Scottish Tropical Biology Group.

**Computerisation**

Steady progress has been made with cataloguing the collections using the INCA system developed by Dr Faithful, who has also improved the system further during the year. The total of entries during this period was 11,126, of which 2,480 concerned the Art Gallery's collection. Most of the latter relate to prints created after 1880 and to works by James McNeill Whistler. Easily consulted short line catalogues generated from the database have been lodged in the library of History of Art Department for the use of students and staff. In tandem with this a complete re-organisation and rationalisation of the print storage has been carried out.

**Accommodation**

The steady refurbishment of the Museum has continued during the course of the year. Following the completion of the first phase of work on the Upper Hall most of our activity was concentrated on the creation of the new Coin Gallery in the Main Hall. Good progress was made, despite problems with suppliers, and the project is on course to be finished in November 1996. This work is supported by funding from the Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund; without that help it could not take place. Once it is completed we will be able to display far more effectively a greater range of material from what is, after all, the third best coin collection in the United Kingdom. I am also pleased to report the construction of a new lavatory in the Museum for use by people with disabilities.

Detailed improvements have also been made to the Thurso Street and Balmore stores but it is important to note that there is very little space left in either.

The fabric of the Art Gallery continues to give cause for grave concern. It is hoped that a study can be carried out soon to see what needs to be done to bring it back to an acceptable state. Some improvement was, however, made in the Art Gallery: between 27 November and 2 March the Mackintosh House was completely
refurbished. This was done to ensure that it was in the best possible condition before the May opening of the international Mackintosh Exhibition at the McLellan Galleries and the consequent increase in the number of visitors to the Hunterian.

Conservation

Conservation in the Zoology Museum improved in the course of the year because Scottish Museums Council grant-aid allowed work to begin on the large bird-skin collection. In the Museum the rolling programme of work on the archaeology and ethnography collections continued as planned and, happily, no items were found which were in need of emergency treatment. Regular monitoring of conditions at the Thurso Street store, using electronic data loggers, established that the environment was extremely stable and very close to the optimum levels of temperature and relative humidity.

In the Art Gallery much work was carried out to ensure the items for loan to the Mackintosh exhibition were in the best possible state. The rolling programme to conserve works on paper also proceeded according to plan.

World Wide Web

In 1995 the Hunterian became one of the first museums in Britain to have its own World Wide Web pages. The Education Officer, working with the University's Department of Computing Science, has added to and improved the pages throughout the year and they have now been opened by approx. 20,000 people. Thus far they contain sections on the history of the Museum and Art Gallery, on Capt. Cook's Pacific collections and on the Romans in Scotland. More pages are in preparation. Our expertise in setting up Web pages has proved attractive to outside bodies and is now starting to provide a useful source of consultancy income. The Museum has recently produced the pages for the Glasgow International Festival of Design and it will soon begin to create those for 'Glasgow 1999, City of Architecture and Design'.

Grants

The Hunterian depends greatly upon grants to carry out many necessary improvements to the building and the collections. Glasgow City Council continued to provide support for extended opening hours by granting £16,000 and also gave £5,000 towards the cost of refurbishment of the Mackintosh House. The Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund allocated £50,000 towards the construction of the new Coin Gallery. The Scottish Museums Council awarded a grant of £4,172 for improving storage at Balmore, £406 for materials to improve the storage of bird skins
in the Zoology Museum and £5,300 to employ someone to work on the same material, and £2,600 for the Conservation of ethnographic material. £766 was allocated for a conservation survey of the textile collection in the Art Gallery.

Accessions

In the Art Gallery a major bequest brought several important items to the collection, the finest of which was the gesso panel 'The White Rose and The Red Rose' by Margaret MacDonald Mackintosh which is now re-united with other fittings created for the Mackintosh's own house. The bequest included works by Margaret's sister Frances Macdonal MacNair and the writing desk, settle and chair designed by her husband Herbert MacNair.

Over 50 other art works were gifted to the Hunterian over the course of the year, the majority being prints. Notably the Gallery benefited from two generous gifts of American twentieth century prints; from the artist Jacob Kainen a fine selection of his own work and from Rosina Feldman a collection of her late husband Eugene Feldman’s prints. One of Eugene Feldman’s energetic portraits of Rudolf Nureyev featured in the exhibition We Got Rhythm! In addition over 20 works were purchased, the more expensive of which attracted matching grants form the National Fund for Acquisitions. Mrs Ailsa Tanner deposited on long term loan a very interesting colour wood-block by the Scottish artist Viola Paterson.

In the Museum major acquisitions included a gold five europino coin (the europino was a proposed pan-Europe currency unit). This coin was struck in 1952 specifically for the late King Farouk of Egypt and sold in the famous auction of his property held in 1954 after his death. Other numismatic acquisitions included a group of six medieval European coins, a vary rare Scottish dollar of 1680 and a group of late nineteenth and early twentieth century medals, including a trial piece by Herbert MacNair. A further thirty-two specimens were added to the collection of Scottish nineteenth and twentieth century medals. The geology collections were strengthened by the acquisition of a dinosaur rib bone and a dinosaur footprint trackway from Skye and a collection of early fish and 'sea-scorpions' (eurypterids) from Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire. Other geological acquisitions included a small but fine example of alexandrite in schist from Russia and a fine display specimen of scheelite crystals from China. Both these acquisitions were made with support from the National Fund for Acquisitions. Among donations were a green spodumene crystal, a specimen of the extremely rare mineral otavite from Bishopton, a jean-bandyte from Cornwall, unusual specimens of strontianite from near Inchnadamph and barite crystals from
Greenhill Quarry in Ayrshire. We continue to receive scientific instruments and related items from a wide range of University departments. Notable among this year's crop were a selection of fungal cultures made by Professor Pontecorvo in the 1950s, and transferred to us from archives, and a selection of unusual chemical x-ray diffraction standards used by Professor Cooke of the Chemistry Department.

The most notable accession in the Zoology Museum was the donation of entomological and related material by Dr Ron Dobson, upon his full retirement. He presented a large amount of teaching material, specimens and books, and some of his Scottish research collections eg a cited collection of spiders from the Isle of Muck.

**Staff**

Two long-serving members of staff, Mr C Allan, Deputy Director (Art Gallery) and Mr R Harrison, Designer in the Museum, decided that they wished to take early retirement from August 1996. Both have contributed much to the Hunterian and they will be severely missed.

The Director ceased to be Head of the Academic Services Planning Unit consequent on its reorganisation at the start of the academic year, but he will become Head of the External Relations and Marketing Division of the Central Administration in September 1996. He served as the consultant for the creation of the Manhyia Palace Museum, Kumasi, Ghana which opened in August 1995 and he attended the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the King of Asante, Ghana, as the King's guest. He also visited Zimbabwe to teach a course on exhibition mounting for curators from Southern Africa. He served as a member of the Board of the Scottish Museums Council and is Depute Convenor of the University Museums in Scotland Group. He delivered a paper on the future of Museum Collecting to an international conference at the University of Leicester.

Dr Durant, Deputy Director, (Museum) was responsible for organising the University's contributions to set96; he served as a member of the Scottish Science Centres Millenium bid team and as the Staff President of the University's Science Journalism Society. He attended the first Science Centres World Congress in Helsinki and the European Science Communication Teachers' Conference in London.

Dr Keppie was Hugh Last Fellow at the British School in Rome between March and May where he also lectured on 'The Changing Face of the Roman Legions: from
the Rubicon to the Rhine Frontier'. He continues to work towards the publication in 1998 of his catalogue on the Hunterian's Roman inscribed and sculptured stones, consulting many public and private archives. In this research he was greatly assisted by Elizabeth Bell, a long-standing volunteer worker in the Museum. He continued to serve as Reviews Editor for Britannia and acted as Convener of the Scottish Museum Archaeologists' working group on the Antonine Wall.

Dr Bateson delivered the Bank of Scotland Lecture at the British Association of Numismatic Societies' Congress in April, he also lectured to the Edinburgh Numismatic Society in April and ran in the Museum a one day practical on 'Coins for the Museum Archaeologist', organised jointly with the National Museums of Scotland and Scottish Museum Archaeologists. He continued as the Secretary of the British Numismatic Society and is on the Editorial Board of the Co-ordinating Committee for Numismatics in Britain. He was supported in his work by Mr Ian Campbell, who continued to work as a volunteer on the Classical collection. Miss Sally-Anne Coupar was employed as a temporary part-time assistant in the Coin Cabinet.

Dr Ingham completed his complex and painstaking reconstruction of the early hominid 'Lucy', from Ethiopia's Afar Valley, a major endeavour which has attracted considerable interest from palaeontologists. The reconstruction is now on display in 'Earth...Life'.

Dr Faithfull was elected the Recorder of the Geological Curators Group Committee and was a member of its Terminology Working Party and designed its WWW pages. He continued to develop INCA, the Hunterian's computerised cataloguing system and produced a booklet on 'INCA in Use', to assist users within and outwith the University.

Dr Clark discovered Scotland's first dinosaur trackway on Skye in January. The event brought him and the Hunterian wide publicity, perhaps increased by the fact that he broke his leg while working on the track and had to be flown to hospital by helicopter. He lectured on dinosaurs in France to the Anglo-French Medical Society and in Galway to the Irish Palaeontological Society as well as to groups in Aberdeen and Glasgow. Mr Jeff Liston was appointed to a temporary post to work on the geology collections.

Mrs Robertson spent much of her time preparing the Mackintosh exhibition of which she is one of the two co-curators. She continued to serve on the Council of the
Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society and presented papers to the European Society for the Study of English and the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland's annual conference. She gave talks to the Society of Decorative Artists, the National Trust and the Glasgow West Conservation Trust, she also lectured in New York in the series related to the Mackintosh exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum. She spent some time in Vienna carrying out research on the music room designed for Fritz Warndorfer by the Mackintoshes.

Mr Hopkinson continued to carry out research on the British Museum's exhibition about Picasso and his Contemporaries, *Printmaking in Paris 1905-1970*, of which he is one of the three selectors. He also continued to serve as Curatorial Adviser to the Glasgow Print Studio and as Deputy Director of the Centre for Whistler Studies.

Miss Lindsey delivered a paper on the work of painter Robert Burns to the Annual Conference of the Scottish Society of Art Historians; she is a member of the Society's Committee and edits its Newsletter. She ran a Department of Adult and Continuing Education course on "1900 Scotland & Europe", and spent much time assisting the Department of Art History's students to mount their Etching Revival exhibition. I am pleased to report that her initial three year contract, funded from a legacy, has been made permanent. In the Art Gallery Mr Fred Callan, an attendant since the Gallery opened, retired in June. His place was filled by Mary Murray. Four temporary part-time attendants were appointed for the period 10 June to 26 September to accommodate an anticipated increase in visitors to the Mackintosh House.

Mrs Reilly continues to be a Committee member of the Natural Sciences Conservation Group and is now serving as Treasurer. She was elected to the Committee of the Biology Curators Group. Dr Ron Dobson fully retired from the Institute of Biological and Life Sciences this session and gave up his honorary post of Keeper of the Entomology Collections. Mr Geoff Hancock of the Natural History Department, Kelvingrove Museum, was proposed as the new Honorary Keeper of the Entomology Collections. In the Zoology Museum Mr James Munro and Mr Francis Neat (postgraduates) continue to assist with the care of live animal exhibits, particularly the aquarium. Mr Alex Ramsay curated part of the British Orthoptera material. The Museum offered one week's work experience to a schoolboy, Jonathan Asbury, who, amongst other things, usefully INCA catalogued a small collection of molluscs.

**Teaching and related activities**
Curators have continued to contribute to the teaching of several Departments of the University. The Director lectured for the Departments of Archaeology and the History of Art Department; he also served as an external examiner at the Institute of Archaeology, Lundon University and the University of Liverpool. Dr Durant developed and delivered a new 'Science Communication' course for the Institute of Biological and Life Sciences. Dr Keppie acted as an external examiner at Trinity College, Dublin and lectured here in the Departments of Archaeology and Classics. Dr Bateson once again taught on 'Coins and Currency' in the Archaeology Department as well as contributing to the teaching of the History and Classics Departments. Dr Ingham allocated over a quarter of his time to teaching in the Department of Geology and Applied Geology, lecturing on a wide range of subjects. Mrs Robertson, Mr Allan & Miss Lindsey taught parts of the Christies Fine Arts Course. Mrs Reilly carried out her usual teaching in the level 3 Biology option and provided materials and support for other classes in life sciences.

A major change has been made to teaching utilising the Zoology Museum. The Scottish Higher Education Funding Council awarded one of its special Regional Initiative grants to a collaborative project on the teaching of biodiversity, co-ordinated by Drs David Houston and Douglas Neil of the Division of Environmental and Evolutionary Biology with the co-operation of the Zoology Museum. The project extensively revises the existing self-teach animal diversity programme and will provide a paper version for use in the 1996-97 teaching session. A multimedia version will be developed subsequently and a cluster of multimedia PC's sited in the Museum will run the in-house application and commercially available CD-ROMs. A unique feature of this project is the side by side presentation of Museum specimens and multimedia units. The materials are made available to the other West of Scotland Universities, our partners in the project.

**Loans Out**

The Zoology Museum made 78 formal loans of specimens, including a number of British and overseas entomology research loans. We also loaned exhibition material to Hunter House at East Kilbride and both live and dead specimens to various TV productions.

The Museum made 54 loans, covering some 422 objects from the geological and scientific instrument collections, 21 of the loans (232 specimens) were to external researchers. Several items were loaned to the newly refurbished Hunter House Museum in East Kilbride. Scientifically, perhaps the most interesting loan was an
undescribed fossil tetrapod from near Glasgow which had been in our collections since 1941 labelled as a fossil fish. Work at Cambridge University has revealed it to be a tetrapod, which appears to be from a long-standing 'gap' the in stratigraphic record.

The Art Gallery loaned 126 works by Mackintosh with representative examples of Margaret and Frances Macdonald's and J Herbert McNair's work to the Mackintosh exhibition at the McLellan Galleries 27 May - 30 September. It also loaned items to exhibitions on David Donaldson and Frances H Newberry.

Publications
Among publications by staff were the following:


'The Praetorian Guard before Sejanus', Athenaeum 74 (1996), 1-25


J Lindsey 'We Got Rhythm' 24 pages, Hunterian Art Gallery (1996)


'Museums: Open to Whom?' in Museums & Late Twentieth Century Culture, University of Manchester, (1996), p. 11-23

P Robertson 'Art is the Flower', Pavilion Books London, pp. 112
