

Upstairs Case 5

The Incorporated Trades of Elgin, 1234 – 2014

1. The Royal Charter

Facsimile of the charter granted by Alexander II to the Guildry of Elgin in 1268, confirmed 22nd October 1396 by Thomas Dunbar, Earl of Moray*

*(*Recent research suggests that the date 1234 is incorrect and added later; the witness Reginald Le Chen was the king's chamberlain from 1267-1269, in the reign of Alexander III. The 20th year of his reign was 1268 and so this charter dates from that year.)*

ELGNM: 1978.263

2. Seal matrix

Design: drum and drumsticks (crossed) inscribed: "*Sigillum Commune de Nova Elgina*" meaning: "*This is the sigil/symbol of the Community of New Elgin*"

ELGNM: 1994.54

3. Squarewrights' Minutes Book

Minutes of the Squarewrights from 28th September 1763 until 17th April 1818. Also includes a list of deacons from 1656 and a list of freemen 1715-1818.

ELGNM: 2004.6.1

4. Deacon's Chain of Office

Worn by Willilam Lyon, of the Hammermen's Incorporation circa 1978.

ELGNM: 2014.39.5

5. Photograph of Lachlan Mackintosh

Lachlan Mackintosh was Trades convener from 1882 until 1888. He was very active in promoting the Trades after a period of inactivity. He designed the banner and the seal, both of which are on display here, and wrote a history of the Trades.

ELGNM:2002.01

6. Conventery seal

This shows the Elgin town drum with inscription “*Sigillium Commune de Nova Elgina*” meaning: “*This is the sigil/symbol of the community of New Elgin*”

ELGNM: 1994.54

7. Coat of Arms of the Incorporated Trades of Elgin

ELGNM: 2012.6.8.3

8. Extract from the Magna Charta

This amendment is dated 1705 and grants representation on the Town Council to the Deacon Convener of the Trades together with two other representatives (the original document dates from 1657).

ELGNM: To be catalogued

9. Photograph of the Incorporated Trades, 1929

ELGNM: 2014.41.4.7

10. Photograph of the Riding of the Marches, 1932

Taken at the Wards, by the White Gates showing Convener Robert W. Forteath and ex-Convener George Clark on horseback. On foot: W. E. Watson, E. D. Jamieson, James Mackintosh and, holding horse, possibly George Forteath. This took place approximately every 2 years at the inauguration of the new Deacon Convener and involved riding or walking the boundaries of the Trades Muir in what is now New Elgin.

ELGNM: 2014.41.8

11. The Weavers' Quarter-pennies book

A quarterly subscription register from 1793 until 2008.

ELGNM: 2014.38.4

12. Photograph

Photograph of the Incorporated Trades at the seventh centenary celebrations of the founding of Elgin Cathedral, September 1924.

ELGNM: 2014.41.4.6

13. Hammermen's Minute Book

This dates from 1812 and continues until the 1900s.

ELGNM: 2014.39.1

14. Deacon Convener's staff of the Hammermen

ELGNM: 2014.39.6

15. Glover's apron

On loan from Ms Ann Forteach, Deacon Convener, 2007-2011.

16. Video

Video film of the inauguration of Norris Austen Paterson as Deacon Convener, and the Riding of the Marches in 2001.

ELGNM: 2015.6.2

Outside the Case

17. Incorporated Trades Conventry Box

This contained the minutes books and other papers of the Conventry. It was repaired by Mr Alexander Fortheath, Deacon of the Glovers; then restored and treated by Mrs C. A. Young. This box originally had four locks, but two have been removed. See also the Weavers' box downstairs, dated 1658, one year after the Magna Charta of the Trades was signed (*in the People and Place 'The Burgh' display case*).

ELGNM: To be catalogued



18. Deacon Convener's chair

The names of the Deacon Conveners from 1746 until 2014 are engraved on two silver plaques on the back of the chair.

ELGNM: 2014.37.5



Above: Inscription on back of Deacon Convener's Chair



19. The mannequin is wearing formal dress of the late Victorian period with a shoemaker's apron and the (incorrect) crest of the Incorporated Trades and the Hammermen's chain, worn in c1942 by the father of William Lyon.

ELGNM: 2015.6.3.1 (apron) and 2014.39.4 (chain)

These exhibits, unless otherwise listed, came from the archives of the Incorporated Trades, donated to Elgin Museum from 1928 to 2014.

For more information and other objects relating to the Trades, please have a look at 'The Burgh' display case in the main gallery 'People and Place' exhibition downstairs, on the left.

Last Update July 2021

Upstairs Temporary Exhibition from 26th March 2016 to 29th October 2016, by Sara Marsh and Roger Pendergast, Elgin Museum Volunteers.

