

The Voice



Queensferry Heritage Trust February 2020

Burgh Provost's Lamp

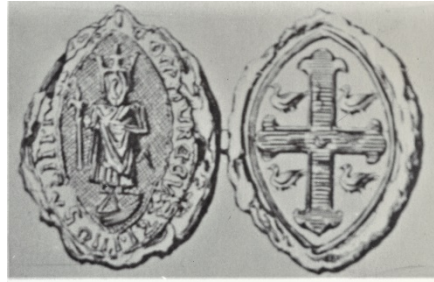
At the end of last year one of our members brought to our attention the fact that the Insignia on the glass of the Provost's Lamp on Villa Road had significantly deteriorated and almost disappeared.

The lamp stands outside the former home of James Milne, the last Provost of Queensferry. The tradition of lighting the Provost's house goes back many years, and signifies his availability, as a public servant, to any resident of the Burgh, day or night. It was usual for the serving Provost to have two lamps, one remained in place when he retired.



The Heritage Trust, with the help of City of Edinburgh Council Lighting Department, has agreed to the replacement of the four glazing panels which include the above insignia of the former Royal Burgh.

Frank Hay has noted that the Burgh Council considered this insignia to be its official seal. After the Act of Parliament of 1672 requiring all 'arms and signs armorial' to be matriculated in the Lyon Register, only the pictorial obverse (and not the armorial reverse, see below) of the seal was registered. The Lyon Office, having no other way of recording a seal, converted the pictorial image into a coat of arms, which was never used by the Council.



At the present moment the panes, cut to shape, are with an engraver. When finished, they will be passed to the Council who will fit them into the lamp frame.

This project is one of a number of on-going and future projects which Queensferry Heritage Trust has agreed to undertake.

Project team: Mike McDowall, Stuart Ridge, with help from Graham Clarkson and Frank Hay.

Congratulation to Paul Hogarth

QHT would like to congratulate The Paul Hogarth Company based in South Queensferry which has just landed the top UK Landscape Architect's award for their 'What's Growing On The Greenway' a community engagement project. "The Connswater Community Greenway" has created a 9km linear park through east Belfast, following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, connecting the open and green spaces. The Greenway has created vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation, community events and activities.

A whole new greener environment has emerged to link local residents to parks, leisure facilities, businesses, shopping centre, schools and colleges.

The Connswater Community Greenway is a £40 million investment in East Belfast. It was funded by the Big Lottery Fund, Belfast City Council, the Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure. An £11 million flood alleviation scheme incorporated into the project has helped to reduce flooding to 1700 properties.

The Company's hope now is to replicate this project in South Queensferry and elsewhere.

February Talks

5th February: Clare Meredith: Restoring St Margaret – the painted frieze at Mount Stuart, Bute



On Wednesday 5th February I will talk about a project with which I was involved at Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute.

Following a devastating fire in 1877, the fabulously wealthy 3rd Marquess of Bute commissioned the leading architects and artists of the day to rebuild his family home as a stupendous Victorian Gothic fantasy. A stunning feature of the intricately decorated bedroom, created for the deeply religious 3rd Marquess and his wife, was a frieze made up of 15 paintings on canvas depicting the life of Queen (and Saint) Margaret.

However, in the 1920s, pipes burst in the attics above and water ran down the surface of many of the paintings. All 15 were taken off the bedroom walls, rolled up and remained untouched until the 1990s. The current and 7th Marquess is Johnny Bute (the former racing driver), and the reinstatement of the Bedroom Frieze was the first major project in the House he instigated after inheriting the title in 1993.

I was commissioned and, in the course of a couple of years or so, led a team of conservators to carry out the necessary conservation and restoration treatments. The project was finally completed in 2000. Significant logistical as well as technical challenges were part and parcel of the project from the outset. I will explain these challenges, and share what went on behind the scenes to get the 15 restored paintings back on public display in their precise original positions.

Clare Meredith

25 Feb: John Mason's Legacy .

The History and Future of Queensferry Museum. Trevor Whittleby

In early January Committee Members of the Queensferry Heritage Trust visited Linlithgow to see their award winning, new museum. This example of success was led by the Linlithgow Heritage Trust with support from the local council and museums service. Key enabling features were a strong Vision, extensive community outreach, also recruitment of a keen group of over 40 volunteers.

Queensferry Heritage Trust is looking at ways to support and develop our projects and our own museum. We are seeking opinions from the town's folk as to what is thought of our current museum and how you might like to see it develop.

Our talk on February 26th which is about Museum founder, Dr. John Mason, will have time at the end for discussion on our museum's future.

Do send in advance any reminiscences about Dr. Mason or your thoughts about the past & future of our museum, including ideas for new exciting projects to widen interest.

Trevor Whittleby

Post Office

For the four and a half years of the war, hundreds of thousands of families were separated. There were no phones at the front, and no modern social media. Letters were the only way for families to keep in touch.

In 1914, the Post Office was the largest single employer in the world, with a workforce of 250,000. During the war, some 75,000 of its employees joined the forces. Thanks to a quarter of its employees being on active service, thousands of temporary workers, many of them women, were employed to make up the loss of the men to the forces.

Censorship

Many of the new workers were employed on the censorship of all postal items which helped the Government identify some enemy spies, and prevented the leakage of any information which might have assisted the enemy.

The homecoming post sent by the soldiers was also censored by officers before it was dispatched to their families. During the war, letters sent home by the troops were often published in the local papers. Some soldiers self-censored their letters in order to spare their families the worst horrors of the war but some of the letters gave the public a more realistic idea of the hardships and tragedies of war than could be found in the official communiqués and photographs of life at the front.

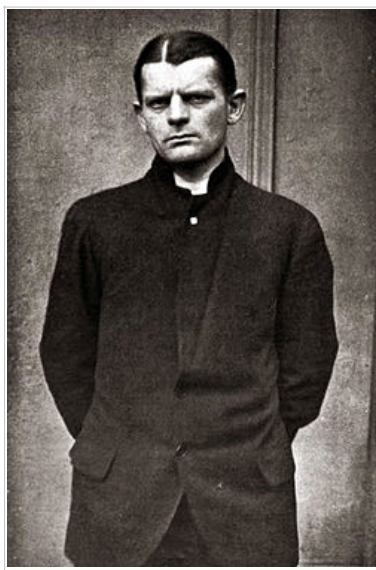
12 million letters a week

According to the British Postal Museum and Archive, the Army Postal Service handled 2 billion letters and 114 million parcels during the First World War. Some 19,000 mailbags crossed the Channel every day, delivering 12 million letters to soldiers every week. The Government bore the expense of this huge operation, knowing that letters from home did more than anything else to keep up the morale of the troops.

West Lothian Local History Library

Carl Hans Lody

Carl Hans Lody, alias **Charles A. Inglis** was a reserve officer of the Imperial German Navy who in the first few months of the First World War was sent to the United Kingdom with orders to spy on the Royal Navy. He posed as an American and used a genuine U.S. passport purloined from an American



citizen in Germany. Over the course of a month, Lody stayed in the North British Hotel and travelled around Edinburgh and South Queensferry observing naval movements and coastal defences in the Firth of Forth.

By the end of September 1914, he was becoming increasingly worried for his safety as a rising spy panic in Britain led to foreigners coming under suspicion. He travelled to Ireland, where he intended to keep a low profile until he could make his escape from the UK.

Lody had been given no training in espionage before embarking on his mission and within only a few days of arriving he was detected by the British authorities. His un-coded communications were detected by British censors when he sent his first reports to an address in Stockholm which the British knew was a postbox for German agents. The British counter-espionage agency MI5, then known as MO5(g), allowed him to continue his activities in the hope of finding out more information about the German spy network. His first two messages were allowed to reach Germany but later messages were stopped, as they contained sensitive military information. At the start of October 1914, concern over the increasingly sensitive nature of his messages prompted MO5(g) to order his arrest. He had left a trail of clues that enabled the police to track him to a hotel in Killarney, Ireland.

At the end of October Lody was put on public trial before a military court in London— the only one held for a German spy captured in the UK in either World War. He did not attempt to deny that he was a German spy. His bearing in court was widely praised as forthright and courageous by the British press and even by the police and MO5(g) officers who had tracked him down. He was convicted and sentenced to death after a three-day hearing. Four days later, on 6 November 1914, Lody was shot at dawn by a firing squad at the Tower of London in the first execution there in 167 years. His body was buried in an unmarked grave in East London. When the Nazi Party came to power in Germany in 1933, it declared him a national hero. Lody became the subject of memorials, eulogies and commemorations in Germany before and during the Second World War. A destroyer ship bore his name.

Tesco

Plastic is choking our oceans and killing wildlife. Eight million tonnes are dumped into our seas every year. While we can do our bit by reducing the plastic we buy and embracing reusable items, we also need producers, businesses and governments to face their responsibilities. Tesco currently sells 183,000 tin multipacks daily, most of which are housed in plastic shrink-wrap

The supermarket has announced that it will replace all of its own-brand multipacks, and Heinz brand multipacks sold in store, with loose tins. When multiple tins are scanned at the checkout the customer will be given a multibuy discount, equivalent to that offered by previous

multipacks. Customers will first notice the new format from 2 March, when the first loose multibuy tins will be rolled out. In order to minimise waste, Tesco will sell all their existing tin multipacks housed in plastic – but once they run out, the retailer has vowed not to order more.

The move comes after Waitrose & Partners removed plastic shrinkwrap from several of its most popular tin multipacks, in response to shoppers calling the packaging “unnecessary”.



