INTRODUCTION*

The Manchester Society of Architects has been the most influential and long-lasting professional body of architects in the city. It was established in 1865 and is now in its 128th year. An earlier architectural society, founded by Richard Lane in 1837, appears to have ceased in 1842, leaving the architectural profession in Manchester without any organized society until the formation in 1860 of the Manchester Architectural Association. This later amalgamated with the Manchester Society of Architects.

In the spring of 1865 strikes in the building trade were affecting Alfred Waterhouse's work at the Manchester Assize Courts. He was also discussing with Isaac Holden, William Mangnall, Alexander W. Mills and James Stevens the arbitration of a dispute involving the architect of Todmorden Town Hall. They decided that Holden should call a meeting of the leading architects in Manchester to discuss professional issues. Accordingly a meeting was held on 8 April at the Clarence Hotel, attended additionally by Holden's brother James, Mills's partner James Murgatroyd, William R. Corson, J. Medland Taylor, Edward Salomons, J.A. Brown, P. Nunn, J. Charlesworth and J. Lowe. A committee, consisting of Corson, Mangnall, Stevens and Murgatroyd, was appointed to consider the formation of a society of architects. The committee presented its report to a meeting on 20 June, which became the inaugural meeting of the Manchester Society of Architects. Charles Clegg, J. Knowles and Thomas Worthington were also present on this occasion. W.H. Brakspear, J. Speakman and Alexander Mills were absent, but their names were added to the list of founder members. Isaac Holden became the first president, with Waterhouse the vice-president. Murgatroyd the honorary secretary,

* Most of the information in this Introduction is derived from the Manchester Society of Architects (M.S.A.) annual reports for the relevant or subsequent year. The Kalendar contains the annual report for the previous session. Dates have been verified from minutes, correspondence and papers where possible.

1 M.S.A. 1'2-97 p. 66, historical notes by C. Stewart.
and Charlesworth, Corson, Mangnall, Salomons and Stevens the other council members. The first general meeting was held on 1 October 1865 at the Royal Institution in Manchester, where the Society continued to meet until 1883. Membership was deliberately limited to practising architects ‘to ensure the comparatively exclusive yet influential character upon which the well-being of the society must depend’.

From its formation, the Society aimed to establish a code of professional practice and charges, to arbitrate in disputes involving members and their employers, to ensure fair play in architectural competitions, to promote the status of the architectural profession, and to improve the architectural education of younger members and establish a library. All these areas, with the exception of the last two, were tackled within the first year of the Society’s existence, and its educational programme was begun shortly afterwards.

**Early National and International Recognition**

The Society’s impact was not restricted to the local area. Publications and views were exchanged with many other architectural societies in England and even the one in Chicago. It is an indication of the Society’s renown that the guests at the annual dinner in 1878 included Sir Henry Cole, Anthony Trollope, Charles Barry in his capacity as president of the R.I.B.A., and Ford Madox Brown, who had just completed the Manchester Town Hall murals. The leading French architect, Viollet-le-Duc, had been invited, but was unable to attend.

From its outset, the Society was in regular contact with the Royal Institute of British Architects and can claim to have initiated an alteration in the R.I.B.A.’s constitution. The Manchester fellows of the R.I.B.A. requested postal ballots in 1882 to give better representation to provincial fellows. This was followed by the appointment of a Society committee, which petitioned the Privy Council in 1886 in favour of reform. The R.I.B.A.’s charter was revised in 1887 to allow for the federation of provincial societies. As a result, the presidents of the most important societies were invited to sit on its council, and the R.I.B.A. ‘Scale of professional charges and practice’ was universally adopted. In addition, fellows of the R.I.B.A. were to pay only one subscription for the national body and their provincial societies. Thomas Worthington, an early president of the Society, was vice-president of the R.I.B.A. at the time, and Alfred Waterhouse, who followed him as president of the Society, became president of the R.I.B.A. the year after the new charter.

The Society regularly participated in R.I.B.A. conferences, and

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2 M.S.A. 1/1/14 contains this account of the Society’s formation as well as biographies of the presidents.
3 M.S.A. 1/2/1.
4 M.S.A. 1/2/48, 1904-05 *Kalendar*: president’s address, 1903.
made an unsuccessful bid to host the one in 1887. A special committee was established, but in the event the plans for holding it in London were too far advanced. The idea was raised again in 1890, but allowed to rest on account of the Society’s reconstruction at that time. Drawings by Manchester architects and photographs of their work were frequently requested by the R.I.B.A. for display at international exhibitions, and a Society committee was entrusted with the architectural court at the royal jubilee exhibition in Manchester in 1887.

**Officers in the Formative Years**

The Society’s presidents can be credited with most of Manchester’s finest Victorian architecture, such as the Town Hall and Owen’s College by Waterhouse, Nicholl’s Hospital and the Magistrates Court by Worthington, the Reform Club by Salomons and the School of Art by Redmayne. Medland Taylor was responsible for designing a large number of churches in the Manchester diocese. Waterhouse enjoyed the highest national and international reputation, designing many public buildings in Liverpool and London, as well as country houses, several Oxford and Cambridge colleges, the Natural History Museum in South Kensington and offices for the Prudential throughout the country. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1885 and was president of the R.I.B.A. from 1888 to 1891. Worthington designed many hospitals in Lancashire and Yorkshire, including the Harrogate Bath Hospital, and also Manchester College at Oxford. He was vice-president of the R.I.B.A. from 1885 to 1889. The work of the Society’s other presidents, however, was not restricted to the Manchester area or even to the British Isles. Commissions were undertaken by Stevens for houses as far apart as Yokohama and Sierra Leone and by Salomons for a house in Biarritz.

A complete list of presidents is given in the Appendix to this catalogue. Further details of their careers can be found in a biographical and photograph album in the archives and in the biographical files in the British Architectural Library, which consist chiefly of obituaries from *The Builder*. Other relevant publications are listed in the Bibliography.

One of the driving forces behind the Society’s early achievements was its first honorary secretary, James Murgatroyd, whose forthright comments are a feature of the archives. At his death in 1894, colleagues paid tribute to his integrity and clear judgement. He was succeeded as honorary secretary in 1873 by John Holden, who was the younger son of Isaac Holden, the first president, and author of several publications on easements. He generously donated the presidents’ album as well as the nucleus of a library. His successor at the end of
1883 was John Ely, who took the Society through its period of reconstruction.

Many architectural practices in Manchester have passed through successive generations of the same family, all of whom have played a prominent part in the Society. The Worthingtons are undoubtedly the most famous of these. In 1909, the year of Thomas's death, his elder son Percy became president of the Society and his younger son Hubert was chairman of the students' committee. Percy won the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1930 and was knighted in 1935. Hubert began his career as assistant to Lutyens, and proceeded to professorial posts, first at the Royal College of Art in South Kensington in 1923 and then at Oxford in 1929. He was knighted in 1949 and made a Royal Academician in 1955.

First Reforms in Professional Standards
At the inaugural meeting in June 1865, the founder members approved the first 'Scale of professional charges and practice'. Much of the Society's work in this field concerned architects' relations with builders. October 1866 saw the beginning of many years of discussions with the Manchester branch of the General Builders' Association over the vexed question of quantities. The architects disagreed with the builders that quantities should be incorporated into the contract, in case insufficient care was taken in their calculation. In 1872 they stipulated that if the architect supplied the quantities to the builder, it should be with the consent and at the expense of the proprietor rather than the builder. This point was later incorporated into the R.I.B.A. regulations. The inclusion of quantities in the contract was finally conceded in 1894, but the subject was still under discussion in 1925, when the Society and the master builders decided to form a committee of four architects, four builders and four quantity surveyors to tackle the issue. Discussions had also been held with the master builders in 1868 over machine-made bricks, but the Society did not commit architects to using them in all buildings.

In addition to preventing architects taking any irregular fees from builders, the Society was anxious to prevent builders and other unqualified persons from practising as architects. It petitioned Parliament against the proposed Architects', Engineers' and Surveyors' Registration Bill in 1888, because it did not want architects to be associated with the other professions. Opposition was still expressed against the amended version of the Architects' Registration Bill in 1890, and the issue was not resolved until the next century.

The problem of irregularities in competitions for public buildings was one of the main reasons for the foundation of the Society. Isaac

7 Dictionary of National Biography.
9 M.S.A. 1/2/49.
Holden, the first president, pointed out the need to stop architects bidding against each other for patronage and sending in drawings when a winner had already been selected. The Society's suggestion of holding a preliminary competition of sketch plans to avoid any unnecessary expense for the competitors was not taken up by the R.I.B.A.\textsuperscript{10} By 1866 the Society had produced guidelines for patrons planning competitions, and it provided specific advice on the rules for many competitions, including Manchester Town Hall in 1867. It was called on by the Liverpool Architectural Society in 1878 in the case of C.O. Ellison, who had won the competition for improvements at Douglas in the Isle of Man, but who found that his plans were to be used by another architect employed by the town commissioners. In this case the Society proposed arbitration. Some of the disputes involved the Society's own members. In 1883 R. Knill Freeman won the competition for the Natural History Museum in Dublin, but was disqualified because he was not an Irish architect. In spite of an appeal to the R.I.B.A., his case was not successful.

The consolidation of Manchester's building regulations into one clear code was a major aim of the Society from October 1866. It was finally achieved in 1890 after years of effort by the Society's officers. A report was first sent to the city council in 1867, but lack of progress led to the Society drawing up its own proposals in 1873. At Corson's request, the Society established a building bye-laws committee, which prepared a report on the wide variation in local board bye-laws in 1876.\textsuperscript{11} By that time the Local Government Board was preparing model bye-laws. The Manchester Corporation Bill of 1882 was a disappointment, and in 1887 the Society issued a joint publication with the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association,\textsuperscript{12} with which it had been working since 1881. The Society's assistance in preparing the new bye-laws in 1890 was fully acknowledged by the city surveyor.

\textbf{Development of Architectural Education}

Four years after its foundation, the Society started to develop an educational programme when members began teaching architectural assistants at the new Workmen's Technical Education Institute (later the Building Trades Technical Education Institute) in 1869. The Society awarded annual prizes at the Institute until its closure in 1884. Responsibility was gradually handed over to the Master Builders' Association.

The first provision for student architects was a booklist and prospectus of R.I.B.A. prizes and facilities at the School of Art and Free Library in Manchester in 1870.\textsuperscript{13} The Society decided to offer its

\textsuperscript{10} M.S.A. 1/28.
\textsuperscript{11} M.S.A. 3367
\textsuperscript{12} M.S.A. 3 3/1.
\textsuperscript{13} M.S.A. 2 1 15.
own prizes in 1871, but student interest fluctuated over the years and almost waned completely when classical drawings were requested, leading the council to deplore the students' tendency to 'sensational design'. In spite of discussions in 1879 about the possible discontinuation of the prizes, the council decided to persevere, and a new prizes committee was appointed the following year to revive the competitions.

As a variation on the usual monetary prizes, a committee was appointed in 1876 to consider establishing a fund of £50 for a travelling studentship. The first winner was J. Nixon Horsfield, who visited France and Italy in 1878. The experiment was not repeated until 1889, when the prize went to Philip E. Barker, who travelled in Belgium and France. During their time abroad, the students made sketches of cathedrals and other public buildings which they dispatched to the Society's officers.

In 1885 the Society was involved for the first time in holding examinations on behalf of the R.I.B.A. The following year's examination was in Leeds, and the Society did not host another one until 1888. Society officers assisted the R.I.B.A. representatives in assessing the students' papers.

In addition to the educational programme for students, the Society provided an opportunity for practising architects to exchange views and visit new buildings. In 1879 a visit to Manchester Town Hall was arranged with Ford Madox Brown, who had painted the murals. The Society also gave its approval to an interesting proposal by Charles H. Sidebotham to establish a museum of building appliances and decorative arts in Cooper Street in 1885.

Reconstruction of the Society in 1891
In spite of the deliberately exclusive character of the Society's membership, numbers had increased from nineteen in 1865 to fifty-four in 1889. On 18 October of that year the council decided to amend the constitution, in order to amalgamate with the Manchester Architectural Association and admit junior staff and students to membership. The Association had been refused affiliation by the R.I.B.A. in May 1888, and whilst expressing 'surprise and profound regret' at this, members of the Association accepted the inevitability of there only being one society to represent the architectural profession in Manchester. A reconstruction committee was appointed, consisting of four representatives from the Society and three from the Association, to effect the amalgamation. New bye-laws were agreed at a general meeting of the Society on 17 April 1891, and the reconstructed

14 M.S.A. 1/2/11.
15 M.S.A. 2/1/22.
16 M.S.A. 1/2/26 contains an account of the reconstruction.
17 M.S.A. 5/1/2.
society was incorporated under the Companies Acts on 27 June. It continued to be known as the Manchester Society of Architects. Members of the Association had previously abandoned the idea of calling it the Manchester Institute of Architects. The Society’s emblem consisted of a ship on the central shield, surmounted by a Corinthian column and a globe, and flanked by torches and snakes. The accompanying motto was ‘Build strong: art is long’. Several leading members of the Association went on to become presidents of the reconstructed society.

The new memorandum of association specified classes, lectures and prizes for the advancement of professional education and the acquisition of designs and drawings as well as books for the library. The Manchester Architectural Association, originally founded in 1860, had had an active programme of architectural history lectures and had run student classes since 1867. It had also held joint outings with the Liverpool Architectural and Archaeological Society. In addition, the Association had sent representatives to the Architectural Alliance in London, which had been founded in 1862 to discuss questions of professional practice.

The Society had been meeting in the Diocesan Chambers in King Street since 1884, but a new home was found at the end of 1891 at the Literary and Philosophical Society in George Street. Knill Freeman continued as president until the first general meeting of the reconstructed society on 22 October 1891, and then handed over to Salomons. John Ely stayed in office as honorary secretary, but within a year handed over to Paul Ogden, who had been his assistant. The number of members increased substantially to 130 with the amalgamation. Now that the Society was much larger, a clear structure of standing committees was needed. An education in architecture committee was appointed to organize the student classes, competitions and visits, while the sessional papers committee was to arrange lectures on practical and aesthetic themes by members and outside speakers. The library management committee developed the library established by Holden’s donation in 1891. The Society’s business increased to such an extent that, by 1901, a secretary was needed in addition to the honorary secretary to handle the demands of more than 180 members. Numbers continued to increase rapidly so that, by the outbreak of the Second World War, there were ninety-six fellows, 164 associates and 164 students.

A period of instability in the Society’s premises ensued. By 1896 it had started to use the Standard Chambers at 65 King Street for its meetings, then by 1901 moved to the Chamber of Commerce at 44 Mosley Street and again in 1904 to the Chartered Accountants Hall at

18 M.S.A. 12 103.
19 M.S.A. 5 1 1.
20 See M.S.A. 5/2 1-358.
60 Spring Gardens. The instability only came to an end in 1906 when money from Alexander Mills’s generous bequest to the Society was used to obtain its own premises at the Geographical Buildings, 16 St Mary’s Parsonage. The premises, which were administered by a house committee, included the library, space for exhibiting members’ drawings and a lunch room. The Society stayed there until 1963. The rest of Mills’s bequest was invested by trustees appointed in 1907.  

New Initiatives in Education
The Society’s council continued to examine candidates for the annual R.I.B.A. examinations. Student classes and competitions continued after 1891, but the programme of lectures and visits was greatly developed. The Society attracted some distinguished speakers. Basil Champneys, for example, gave a paper in February 1898 entitled ‘A comparison of the claims of the Gothic and Renaissance styles’, the full text of which was reproduced in the Kalendar, and in November 1920 H.S. Goodhart-Rendel spoke on ‘Fashion in architecture’. Some joint lectures were held with the University and the Builders’ Institute. In addition conversaziones were held periodically with other architectural societies. Visits included not only historical buildings, but also new ones, such as Temple Moore’s church of St Anne, Royton, which was visited in 1910. It was decided in 1903 to publish a sketch book biannually, incorporating drawings made on the outings, and, after some initial problems, one was published the following year. The travelling studentship was revived in 1898, and, in spite of a disappointing response, a winner, J.H. Gibbons, was chosen. Although illness curtailed his visit to Italy, he resolved to travel in England.

The students formed their own committee in 1900, and arranged meetings at which they read papers under the chairmanship of one of the fellows. They began in 1913 to use a room in the Society’s premises as an architectural studio, which was intended to form the nucleus of a Manchester school of design. However, the advent of the First World War halted the students’ events. The education committee exhorted them to begin again in 1920. No record of the students’ committee exists after 1923, but the education committee invited the students to a hot-pot at the end of November 1929 and held a students’ evening every three months. By 1931 a students’ association had been formed, and its continuing success was noted in the annual report for 1931–32. Its constitution was redrawn two years later to link it more closely with the Society. The students sought representation on the Society’s council in 1937, and on the education, library and house committees in 1941. The students’ association was

21 M.S.A. 1/1/12.
22 M.S.A. 2/1 47.
23 M.S.A. 2/1 45.
24 M.S.A. 1/1 6.
still active in the 1960s. Associates had not been admitted to student meetings, but in 1939 a junior members' committee, later the associate members' committee, was established to provide for them. Following the lead of the R.I.B.A., which started to admit women as members at the end of the First World War, the Society took Miss A.M. Faraday from Isaac Taylor's practice as a student member in 1918. By 1925 there were four women members.

The most exciting development in architectural education was the opening in 1903 of a School of Architecture at Owen's College, now part of Manchester University. A joint committee of the Society and the College made recommendations for its establishment, and funding was provided partly by Manchester City Council. The chair was held first by Professor Stewart H. Capper, formerly of the McGill University of Montreal and Edinburgh University. He was immediately admitted a fellow of the Society. The syllabus of the University course was regularly published in the Society's Kalendar along with that of the Municipal School of Architecture, latterly the College of Art and Design. Members were asked to subscribe to the University School, and an official Society fund was established in 1921. Two members, J. Bradshaw Gass and A. Winstanley, bequeathed money for the foundation of scholarships there. One of the School's professors, R.A. Cordingley, was the Society's president from 1959 to 1961. The close association between the Society and the University continues to the present day.

Members of the Society also acted as honorary visitors to the Municipal Technical School from 1898 onwards, in order to oversee the education of architects' assistants. Following the Society's reconstruction, the post of registrar of assistants was established to make a list of assistants seeking work available to architects seeking staff. During the economic recession in the early 1930s, the Society encouraged architects to maintain staff numbers.

In 1907 the Society's memorandum of association was altered again. The first aim became 'to promote and encourage the improvement and development of Architecture and the study and acquisition of the artistic, historical and technical knowledge of Architecture and of all ancillary and allied Arts and Sciences'. This was to include the promotion of architectural knowledge among the general public. Professor Cordingley and other members began lecturing to schools in 1935, and courses for teachers were held at the University's Extra-Mural Department.

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25 M.S.A. 1 2/81.
26 M.S.A. 1/2/48, 1902-03 Kalendar.
27 M.S.A. 1 2/74; M.S.A. 1/2 90.
28 M.S.A. 1 2/66.
29 M.S.A. 1 2/104.
30 M.S.A. 1 2/80.
Progress in Professional Reforms
The Society established a practice committee in 1906 to consider questions of professional practice. Stronger guidance was now given by the R.I.B.A., which issued revised regulations in 1907, prohibiting the supplanting of one architect by another and the display of architects' names on hoardings, and providing for the declaration of vested interests in materials or inventions and the payment by the client for taking out quantities. Many of these questions had been considered by the Society in the previous century. Additions were soon made to these regulations to include the prohibition of architects participating in estate agency or advertising and paying fees to others for the introduction of work. The issue of architects' registration was considered for many years, and when the Architects' Registration Act finally became law in 1931, the Society encouraged its members to register. Initially the use of the title 'architect' was not restricted to those on the register, but the position was clarified by a new act of Parliament in 1938. Prominent members of the Society periodically represented the allied societies on the Architects' Registration Council.

The Society achieved closer cooperation with the master builders than would have been envisaged in the previous century. In 1929 a joint consultative board was established with the Manchester, Salford and District Building Trades Employers' Association. It worked initially on a specification for concrete. Three years later the Society held a competition in collaboration with the Builders' Association and House Builders' Association to find designs suitable for use by speculative builders. The R.I.B.A. called for the establishment of regional consultative committees of architects, quantity surveyors and builders in 1954. The committee for the Manchester area had district committees for Stockport, Bolton and Oldham. The first joint symposium was held in 1959, and the Manchester Building Forum, as it was known, has been a regular event ever since.

In 1901 the Society set up a competitions committee. It agreed to adopt the R.I.B.A.'s regulations for competitions, including a requirement for the employment of the successful architect. The committee appears to have ceased by 1934, and two years later a public relations committee was established. An amendment to the Society's memorandum of association in 1907 had provided for advice to be offered to public bodies.

The Society assisted Manchester City Council with the revision of its building bye-laws, which was achieved by 1895. The appointment

31 M.S.A. 3/2/1, June 1907; M.S.A. 12 49.
32 M.S.A. 12 54.
33 M.S.A. 12 68.
35 M.S.A. 1/17, February 1946.
of an official city architect by 1901 produced a generally favourable response, and any initial suspicion of the new department was dispelled by the assurance that commissions for public buildings could still be given to other architects. John Henry Price, the first city architect, was elected a fellow of the Manchester Society of Architects, and more recently two city architects, Leonard C. Howitt and S.G. Besant Roberts, became presidents of the Society in 1955–57 and 1967–69 respectively.

Town Planning and Conservation
The Society went in a new direction when it established a town planning committee to discuss the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 with the city architect. The committee made recommendations for the improvement of south Manchester. Its proposals for the future development of the city were exhibited at the National Housing and Town Planning Council’s regional conference in Manchester in 1916, and when the war ended, sub-committees were entrusted with planning council estates. The Society was represented on the Manchester and District Town Planning Advisory Committee from 1922 and the Civic Advisory Committee, which was set up in 1929 to assist the city council with planning housing estates. During 1943 the Society’s planning committee assisted with work in the north west region on the R.I.B.A.’s national plan for rebuilding Britain after the war, and in 1949 it sent representatives to sit on the jury for the Ministry of Health housing schemes. The Society has also worked for many years with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

After its reconstruction, the Society took an increasingly active interest in the conservation of important historic buildings in the city. In 1912 it supported the preservation of the facade of the old town hall, which was ultimately resited at Heaton Park, and in 1925 joined the Royal Manchester Institution and the Manchester branch of the Institute of Builders in campaigning for the preservation of Plan Hall. By 1969 the Society had formal representation on Manchester City Council’s Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings Panel.

Changing National Role
The Society continued to participate in events at national level. It hosted the R.I.B.A. dinner in 1896 and the R.I.B.A. conference in 1932, at which visits were arranged to include Haddon Hall and Liverpool Cathedral.

A closer relationship was formed with other societies in the north west region. The articles of association were changed during the
1903-04 session to allow for alliances with neighbouring societies. The Blackpool and Fylde Architectural Association was the first to take this opportunity. The district covered by the Manchester Society of Architects included part of Lancashire and Cheshire together with Cumberland and Westmorland. District correspondents were appointed in outlying areas in 1912 to keep the Society in touch with competitions and town planning schemes. In 1963 a regional journal entitled Architecture: North West was published as a joint venture by the Manchester, Liverpool and Preston societies.

The late 1950s and 1960s were a period of rapid change for the Society. The possibility of a building centre in Manchester was first discussed in 1956, but it was at the suggestion of John P. Griffiths, a former Manchester University architecture student, that a limited company of three architects, three builders and one quantity surveyor took a lease of premises in Portland Street and opened the Manchester Building Centre in July 1960. The Society moved there in 1963 after fifty-seven years at St Mary's Parsonage.

The Society's constitution was revised in 1962 to bring it into line with changes in the R.I.B.A., including a new committee structure, comprising an administrative, finance and house committee and other committees for education, professional services, public relations and the library. Changes were also made in subscriptions, as a result of which all R.I.B.A. members in the area automatically became members of the Manchester Society of Architects, and one national subscription covered membership of both. By 1965 there were 1,131 members. The Society joined with several other societies in the north west to consider an even more far-reaching proposal, which was put into effect in 1969, when the Society was reconstituted as a branch of the R.I.B.A. Its district was to cover south and east Lancashire, west Derbyshire and north and west Cheshire. In spite of becoming a branch of the R.I.B.A., the Society has continued to be known as the Manchester Society of Architects.

Archives of the Society
The Society's letters were originally grouped by year and the papers by subject. They have all been rearranged according to the major function of the Society they represent. Records relating to the reconstruction of the Society in 1891 and records of the Manchester Architectural Association have been listed in separate sections at the end of the Catalogue, but records of the Society's administration, architectural education and professional standards have not been divided at 1891.

The formation of the Society is described in an album of

40 M.S.A. 1/2/97: description of the building centre.
photographs and biographies of the presidents, donated by John Holden in 1898. The Society's original aims in 1865 are outlined in the president's address of 1903. Changes to the memorandum of association were made in 1891, 1907 and 1962.41

It is recorded in the annual report for 1920–21 that Paul Ogden agreed to write a history of the Society at the R.I.B.A.'s request, but his work is not among the records deposited in the John Rylands University Library. However, a short history by Cecil Stewart is included in the Kalendar for 1962–63. The historian is aided by the survival of an almost complete set of annual reports. After 1891 these are published in the Society's Kalendar. The earliest surviving volume of the Kalendar is in fact a bound copy of the Society's proceedings from 1875 to 1885, donated by John Holden. An earlier volume covering the period 1865 to 1875 appears not to have survived. The Kalendar includes presidents' addresses, prospectuses of student competitions and reports on professional practice, which can also be found among the papers in the relevant sections of the archives.

A list of members is first given in the annual report for 1877, arranged in order of their election to membership, starting with the surviving founder members. Thereafter the names of members appear in all annual reports and volumes of the Kalendar except 1892–93. At the back of the first surviving Kalendar, John Holden compiled a list of all the members of the Society from 1865 to 1891, giving the dates of their election and of their resignation or death where appropriate. A full list of the presidents from 1865 onwards is reproduced in the Yearbook for 1971–72 and can be found in the appendix to this Catalogue.

The period before the reconstruction in 1891 is documented mainly in council letters and papers. Only one general minute book survives for the period before 1891, but extracts from the minutes of council and general meetings regarding building bye-laws, including some verbatim reports of meetings, have been copied into a separate volume. No council minute books earlier than 1912 have survived. The first minute books for most of the committees established after 1891 are included in the archives, with the exception of the committees responsible for lectures to schools, public relations and town planning. There are very few letters and papers for the period after the reconstruction, the main exception being four correspondence files of the education committee.

Opinions regarding the aesthetics of architecture can be found chiefly in the presidents' addresses and in the lectures reproduced in the Kalendar from 1893 to 1898. Most of the presidents deal with practical subjects, such as the regulation of architectural competitions

41 M.S.A. 1/2 99.
or the operations of speculative builders, but a few discuss the aesthetic side of architecture. Thomas Worthington in 1875 anticipated a grand architectural group from Corporation Street to Peter Street, built by the city council which had commissioned such a fine building as Waterhouse’s new town hall. Alfred Darbyshire, who had been honorary secretary of the Manchester Architectural Association before the reconstruction, spoke in 1901 of the excitement generated by the Gothic Revival half a century earlier.

Much of the surviving correspondence is of a routine nature, but certain sections merit particular attention, especially the correspondence between the honorary secretary and the town clerk, documenting the Society’s efforts to have the building bye-laws rationalized and consolidated. The Society’s detailed recommendations for the bye-laws are included in a memorial to the secretary of state in 1866 and a draft of a memorial to the city council in 1882, based on the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association’s version, as well as in the scrapbook pages for 1873 and 1877. The Society’s memorandum on local board bye-laws in 1876 denounced the boards as ‘composed of Shopkeepers, Warehousemen, one or two Building speculators and perhaps the Agent to the principal Landowner and in all probability two or three Farmers or Tenants who are entirely in the hands of the Agent’. A comparison of the bye-laws of eleven local boards with regard to different constructional features is also included in the archives. An interesting set of papers survives relating to experiments carried out on the newly-invented machine-made bricks in 1868. Murgatroyd’s characteristically forthright comments are found in a draft memorandum, probably written in 1884, on ‘inartistic’ corporation architecture, denigrating the Queen’s Park Museum as ‘a lump of building, well lighted certainly, but without one touch of dignity or refinement’, and criticising the ‘uncouthly designed’ central entrance of the Free Library. He was hoping to persuade the city surveyor’s department to leave the design of public buildings to independent architects.

The correspondence concerning competitions for public buildings contains a letter from Murgatroyd to Ely concerning the first Liverpool Cathedral competition in 1884, pointing out the bias in the regulations towards architects who had already designed large churches and the significant choice of Ewan Christian, a Gothic architect, as the only architectural advisor. An interesting letter from
the honorary secretary of the Liverpool Architectural Society privately informs his Manchester counterpart that the advertisement was so worded as to engineer the appointment of J.L. Pearson. In the event Pearson was unable to compete.

The papers regarding architectural education include the students' written examinations in languages, arithmetic, geography and drawing in 1889 and 1890. Of more interest, however, are the letters written by the travelling students, giving their first impressions of the buildings they were sketching. J. Nixon Horsfield, writing in 1878, claimed to be 'somewhat disappointed with Continental Arch. so far, as compared with our English Caths.', but conceded that the cathedral at Bordeaux was a good example, although the details were so worn he had been unable to measure them. By contrast, he was greatly impressed by the classical buildings in Rome. Philip E. Barker, writing in 1889, also felt that the churches in Belgium compared unfavourably with English cathedrals. He thought the 'small dirty shops and houses . . . piled up against their walls' lent a picturesque quality, but detracted from the architectural effect of the churches themselves. Brussels Cathedral, however, he regarded as an exception to this. Proceeding to Mons and Rouen. he felt himself unable to do justice to the wealth of detail on the church exteriors. Notwithstanding, the Society's officers praised his sketches as admirable and conscientious. The sketches which the students dispatched to the Society have not been retained.

The archives of the Manchester Society of Architects are well worth studying for the personalities and achievements of the Society since its early days. There is scope for further research into the Society's contribution to Manchester's building regulations and town planning, its influence on R.I.B.A. policy, the development of professional education and changes in architectural taste.

After the Manchester Society of Architects became a branch of the R.I.B.A. in 1969 the archives of the Society were deposited in the John Rylands Library. The Society intends to continue to deposit its archives in the Library.

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50 M.S.A. 3 4 78.
51 M.S.A. 2 4 51.
52 M.S.A. 2 4 84.
53 M.S.A. 2 4 86; M.S.A. 2 4 89.
54 The John Rylands University Library of Manchester is grateful to Mr Keith Harnden, president of the M.S.A., 1990-92, for all the help which he has given to Miss Alison Kenney whilst she has been working on the Society's records.
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Presidents 1865–1971

BIBLIOGRAPHY
ADMINISTRATION

Meetings and Officers

1/1/1 Minute book of general meetings, 1879–88.
1/1/2 Minute book of general meetings, 1906–12.
1/1/3 Minute book of special general meetings and annual general meetings, 1911–64.
1/1/4 Minute book of council meetings, 1912–23.
1/1/5 Minute book of council meetings, 1923–33.
1/1/6 Minute book of council meetings, 1933–43.
1/1/7 Minute book of council meetings, 1944–55.
1/1/12 Minute book of the trustees, 1907–24.
1/1/13 Minute book of the war executive emergency committee, 1939–40, and finance committee, 1946.
1/1/14 Album of biographies and photographs of the presidents, 1865–98, enclosing a list of presidents, 1896–1907.
1/1/16 Notice book, 1942–49.
1/1/17–21 Agenda, chiefly for council meetings, 1892.
1/1/22–619 Letters concerning agenda and attendance at meetings, 1865–91.

General Publications

For publications on education in architecture, see also 2/1/1–12, and on professional standards, see also 3/3/1–164 and 3/7/1–54.

1/2/1 Annual report, 1865, including president’s address.
1/2/2 Annual report, 1866.
1/2/3 Annual report, 1867.
1/2/4 Annual report, 1868.
1/2/5 Annual report, 1868–69.
1/2/6 Annual report, 1869–70.
1/2/7 Annual report, 1870–71.
1/2/8 Annual report, 1871–72.
1/2/9 Annual report, 1872–73.
1/2/10 Annual report, 1873–74.
1/2/11 Annual report, 1874–75.
1/2/12 Annual report, 1875–76.
1/2/13 Annual report, 1877.
1/2/14 Annual report, 1877–78.
1/2/15 Annual report, 1879.
1/2/16 Annual report, 1880.
1/2/17 Annual report, 1881.
1/2/18 Annual report, 1882.
1/2/19    Annual report, 1883.
1/2/20    Annual report, 1884.
1/2/21    Annual report, 1885.
1/2/22    Annual report, 1886.
1/2/23    Annual report, 1887.
1/2/24    Annual report, 1888.
1/2/25    Annual report, 1890.
1/2/26    Annual report, 1891, including president’s address.

For annual reports from 1893 onwards, see Kalendar, 1/2/47-102.

1/2/27    Draft annual report and accounts, 1884.
1/2/28    Draft annual report and accounts, 1885.
1/2/29    Draft annual report and accounts, 1886.
1/2/30    Draft annual report and accounts, 1887.
1/2/31    Draft annual report and accounts, 1888.
1/2/32    Draft annual report and accounts, 1889.
1/2/33    Draft annual report and accounts, 1890.

For president’s address, 1865, see annual report, 1/2/1.

1/2/34    President’s address, 1869.
1/2/35    President’s address, 1870.
1/2/36    President’s address, 1875.
1/2/37    President’s address, 1878.
1/2/38    President’s address, 1881.
1/2/39    President’s address, 1883.
1/2/40    President’s address, 1884.
1/2/41    President’s address, 1886.
1/2/42    President’s address, 1887.
1/2/43    President’s address, 1888.

For president’s address, 1891, see annual report, 1/2/26, and for 1895–96, 1898 and 1901–04, see Kalendar, 1/2/47-48.

1/2/44    President’s address, 1955.
1/2/45    President’s address, 1956.

1/2/47    Kalendar, 1891 to 1900–01, including annual reports,
diary of events, prospectuses for student competitions, texts or summaries of lectures 1893–98, annual lists of members.

1/2/48  Kalendar, 1901–02 to 1905–06, same format as 1/2/47 without lectures.

1/2/49  Kalendar, 1910–11, as above.
1/2/50  Kalendar, 1911–12, as above.
1/2/51  Kalendar, 1912–13, as above.
1/2/52  Kalendar, 1913–14, as above.
1/2/53  Kalendar, 1914–15, as above.
1/2/54  Kalendar, 1915–16, as above.
1/2/55  Kalendar, 1916–17, as above.
1/2/56  Kalendar, 1917–18, as above.
1/2/57  Kalendar, 1918–19, as above.
1/2/58  Kalendar, 1919–20, 1920–21, as above.
1/2/59  Kalendar, 1921–22, as above.
1/2/60  Kalendar, 1922–23, as above.
1/2/61  Kalendar, 1923–24, as above.
1/2/62  Kalendar, 1924–25, as above.
1/2/63  Kalendar, 1925–26, as above.
1/2/64  Kalendar, 1926–27, as above.
1/2/65  Kalendar, 1930–31, same format as 1/2/48 with library catalogue.

1/2/66  Kalendar, 1932–33, as above.
1/2/67  Kalendar, 1933–34, as above.
1/2/68  Kalendar, 1934–35, as above.
1/2/69  Kalendar, 1935–36, as above.
1/2/70  Kalendar, 1936–37, as above.
1/2/71  Kalendar, 1937–38, as above.
1/2/72  Kalendar, 1938–39, as above.
1/2/73  Kalendar, 1939–40; as above.
1/2/74  Kalendar, 1940–41, same format as 1/2/48 without library catalogue.

1/2/75–76  Kalendar, 1942–43 (two copies), as above.
1/2/77  Kalendar, 1943–44, as above.
1/2/78  Kalendar, 1944–45, as above.
1/2/79  Kalendar, 1945–46, as above.
1/2/80  Kalendar, 1946–47, as above.
1/2/81  Kalendar, 1947–48, as above.
1/2/82  Kalendar, 1948–49, same format as 1/2/65.
1/2/83  Kalendar, 1949–50, as above.
1/2/84  Kalendar, 1950–51, as above.
1/2/85  Kalendar, 1951–52, as above.
1/2/86–87  Kalendar, 1952–53 (two copies), as above.
1/2/88  Kalendar, 1953–54, as above.
1/2/89  Kalendar, 1954–55, as above.
1/2/90  Kalendar, 1955–56, as above.
1/2/91  *Kalendar*, 1956–57, as above.
1/2/92  *Kalendar*, 1957–58, as above.
1/2/93  *Kalendar*, 1958–59, as above.
1/2/94  *Kalendar*, 1959–60, as above.
1/2/95  *Kalendar*, 1960–61, as above.
1/2/96  *Kalendar*, 1961–62, as above.
1/2/97  *Kalendar*, 1962–63, as above.
1/2/98  *Kalendar*, 1963–64, as above.
1/2/99  *Kalendar*, 1964–65, as above.
1/2/100 *Kalendar*, 1965–66, as above.
1/2/101 *Kalendar*, 1966–67, as above.
1/2/102  *Yearbook*, 1971–72, same format as 1/2/74.
1/2/103 Memorandum and articles of association with the standing bye-laws, 1891.
1/2/104 Memorandum and articles of association with the standing bye-laws, 1907–08.
1/2/105–240 Letters concerning the printing of publications, and receipts from other societies for M.S.A. annual reports, 1865–91 (see also 1/3/14–498 for financial letters).

*Publications by Other Bodies*
1/2/242–335 Letters concerning the publication of M.S.A. membership lists and annual reports in other journals and directories, 1873–91.

*Finance*
See also trustees’ minutes, 1/1/12, and house committee minutes, 1/1/11.

1/3/3 Cash book, 1907–12.
1/3/6 Ledger, 1901–24.
1/3/7 Ledger, 1924–67.
1/3/9 Summary of annual expenditure, 1873–74 to 1878.
1/3/11 Summary of the cost of annual dinners, 1873–82.
1/3/12 Draft statement of accounts, 1884.
1/3/13 Statement of accounts, 1890–91.

Membership
For a list of members, 1865–1891, see also Kalendar, 1/2/46, and for annual lists, 1877–91, see annual reports, 1/2/13–26, and for 1893 onwards, see Kalendar, 1/2/47–102.

1/4/1 Membership book, 1865–91, including articles of association, 1891.
1/4/201–254 Nomination forms for the reconstructed society, 1891.
1/4/255–353 Forms of declaration for fellows, 1891.

Annual Dinner
For accounts, 1870–91, see 1/3/11 and 1/3/499–508, and for students’ hot-pot suppers, 1909–12, see 1/3/516–525.

1/5/1–329 Letters and papers, 1865–1891.

EDUCATION IN ARCHITECTURE

Educational Events
For details of educational events, see annual reports, 1/2/5–26, and Kalendar, 1/2/46–102, and for texts or summaries of lectures, 1893–98, see Kalendar, 1/2/47.

2/1/1–12 Papers concerning education, 1865–88, chiefly ‘Address to architectural students’ (booklist and prospectus of courses and prizes), 1875, 1888.
2/1/13–43 Council letters concerning education, 1870–91, including arrangements with Waterhouse and Ford Madox Brown for a visit to Manchester Town Hall, 1876–79.
2/1/44 Minute book of the education in architecture committee, 1891–1908.
2/1/45 Minute book of the education in architecture committee, 1908–51.
2/1/46 Minute book of the sessional papers committee, 1892–93.
Minute book of the students' committee, 1900–23.
Minute book of the students' association, 1942–51.
Letters and papers concerning student meetings, 1906–14, including the report of the students' committee, 1906–07, and lists of meetings.
File of letters and papers of the education committee, 1934–40, including arrangements with speakers, lists of meetings, reports and correspondence concerning R.I.B.A. prize drawings.
File of letters and papers of the education committee, 1938–40, concerning student competitions, R.I.B.A. school prizes and a student competition for a poster for a lecture on post-war housing.
File of the education committee, 1939–40, including arrangements with speakers, lists of visits and accounts.
File of the education committee, 1939–41, concerning lectures, student competitions and grants.

R.I.B.A. Examinations
Papers, 1884–91, including regulations, lists of applicants and examiners, reports and examination papers, 1884–88, 1891, and students' papers in languages, drawing etc, 1889–90.

Student Competitions
For prospectuses and results of student competitions, see annual reports, 1/2/7–26, and Kalendar, 1/2/46–102, and for education committee files concerning student competitions, 1938–41, see 2/1/108–152 and 2/1/303–401.
Papers, 1873–91, including prospectuses and lists of applicants.
Letters from students and council members, 1874–91.

Travelling Studentships, 1878 and 1889
For financial receipts, see 1/3/499–508.
Papers, 1876–78, 1889, including regulations and committee report.
Letters from council members and travelling students, 1876–79, 1889–90.
Building Trades Institute Prizes
For papers, 1876 and 1884, see Kalendar, 1/2/46.

2/5/1–5 Papers, 1876–83, including prospectuses and committee reports.
2/5/6–30 Letters, 1869–84.

Society Library
For books recommended to architectural students, see 2/3/1–65.

2/6/1 Minute book of the library committee, 1891–1910.
2/6/2 Minute book of the library committee, 1910–46.
2/6/5 Volume containing list of books presented by John Holden in 1891, and letters and papers relating to the bequest of books, furniture and works of art by Alexander W. Mills, 1906–07, including plans of possible premises for the Society, 1906.
2/6/6 Accessions register, 1891–1930, and classified shelf-list. [1930].
2/6/7–21 Letters, 1870–91.

Exhibitions, Conferences and Museums
2/7/1 Minute book of the jubilee exhibition committee, 1886–87 (see also 1/3/14–498 for financial receipts).
2/7/2–43 Letters and papers concerning drawings and photographs to be submitted to international exhibitions, 1871–90.
2/7/44 Minute and letter book of the conference committee, 1887–90.
2/7/45–57 Letters and papers concerning R.I.B.A. conferences, 1874–90, and the Congress of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, 1879.
2/7/58–62 Letters and papers concerning the Royal Architectural Museum and School of Art, London, 1876, and Sidebotham's proposed museum of building appliances in Manchester, 1885.

Professional Standards
Meetings
3/1/1–26 Agenda of council and general meetings concerning professional standards. 1866–73, 1888.

Professional Practice
For publications, 1883 and 1885, see Kalendar, 1/2/46, and for conferences, see 2/7/44–57.
3/2/2–243 Letters and papers concerning general questions, such as builders practising as architects, model contracts and methods of taking quantities, 1865–91, and also individual cases such as James P. Holden against Manchester Cathedral.

Building Bye-Laws
3/3/1 Scrapbook containing extracts from the minutes of council and general meetings and copies of letters concerning building bye-laws, 1867–87, including the Society’s proposals for bye-laws 1873 and 1877, J. Holden’s paper ‘Building byelaws’ from the Health Journal 1884, an article from the same journal 1887, newspaper cuttings 1887, and M.S.A. and Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association (M.S.S.A). ‘Papers on Manchester building byelaws’ 1887.
3/3/2–164 Correspondence with the town clerk of Manchester, the Withington board and other architectural societies, 1866–90, and papers, including petition against Manchester Corporation’s proposed bye-laws 1866, proposals for bye-laws 1873, memorandum on local board acts 1876, ‘Papers on Manchester building byelaws’ 1876, memorial to the corporation [1882], memorandum on corporation architecture [1884], M.S.A. and M.S.S.A. ‘Papers on Manchester building byelaws’ 1887.

Competitions for Public Buildings

R.I.B.A. Constitution
3/5/187–216 Correspondence and maps concerning the boundaries of provincial societies of architects, 1912–14.

Architects’ Registration Bills
3/6/1–14 Papers, 1887–91, including draft bills, reports and petitions.

Inventions
3/7/1–54 Letters and papers relating to experiments on machine-made bricks, 1859–69, including ‘Brick-making pro-
cesses' 1868, and papers relating to smoke prevention in public buildings, 1886–90.

Architects' Benevolent Society

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOCIETY

Minutes
4/1/1 Minute book of the reconstruction committee, 1890.

Correspondence and Papers
For articles of association, 1891, see 1/2/103, and for subscriptions, see 1/4/201–359.


Legal Papers
4/3/1 Certificate of incorporation, 1891.
4/3/2 Certificate of registration confirming alteration of the objects of the Society, 1907.
4/3/3 Trust deed relating to the bequest of Alexander W. Mills, 1907 (see also 2/6/5 for letters and papers concerning the bequest).

MANCHESTER ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes and Administrative Records
5/1/2 Minute book of general meetings, 1876–91.
5/1/5 Draft annual report, 1864.
5/1/6 Draft annual report, 1865.
5/1/7 Draft annual report, 1866.
5/1/8 Draft annual report, 1867.
5/1/10–13 Subscription lists, 1865–67.

Correspondence and Papers
5/2/1–231 Letters and papers concerning meetings, lectures, student classes and joint outings with the Liverpool Architectural and Archaeological Society, 1862–70, including prospectuses and reports for publication.
5/2/232–274 Letters concerning membership and subscriptions, 1863–69.
5/2/275–298 Financial correspondence and receipts, 1862–70.
5/2/299–358 Letters and papers concerning professional practice, competitions for public buildings and representation on the Architectural Alliance, 1862–69.
5/2/359–366 Letters concerning drawings to be submitted to the Paris Exhibition, 1867.

Publications by Other Bodies

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Presidents 1865–1971
1865–1867 Isaac Holden
1867–1869 William Reid Corson
1869–1871 Alexander William Mills
1871–1873 Edward Salomons
1873–1875 James Murgatroyd
1875–1877 Thomas Worthington
1878–1879 Alfred Waterhouse
1880–1881 James Medland Taylor
1882–1883 James Stevens
1884–1885 John Holden
1886 George Tunstal Redmayne
1887 James Murgatroyd
1888–1889 William Alfred Royle
1890–1891 Richard Knill Freeman
1892–1894 Edward Salomons
1894–1896 John Holden
1896–1898 John Ely
1898–1900 Robert Isaac Bennett
1900–1901 Francis Haslam Oldham
1901–1903 Alfred Darbyshire
1903–1905 James William Beaumont
1905–1907 John Henry Woodhouse
1907–1909 Paul Ogden
1909–1911 Sir Percy Scott Worthington
1911–1912 Edgar Wood
1912–1914 John Brooke
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1918–1920 Isaac Taylor
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1929–1931 James Theodore Halliday
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1933–1935 James Robertson Adamson
1935–1937 Lt-Col. George Westcott
1937–1939 William Albert Johnson
1939–1941 Charles Gustave Agate
1941–1945 Henry Thomas Seward
1945–1947 John Sommerville Beaumont
1947–1949 Philip Garland Fairhurst
1949–1951 Franklyn Leslie Halliday
1952–1953 William Cecil Young
1953–1955 Col. Gilbert Burdett Howcroft
1955–1957 Leonard Cecil Howitt
1957–1959 Robert Mackison McNaught
1959–1961 Professor Reginald Annandale Cordingley
1963–1965 Eric Skipworth Benson
1967–1969 Sydney George Besant Roberts

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