

**1984**

**Edinburgh**



**L'Union Franco-Britannique des Architectes  
The Franco-British Union of Architects**

55ème Assemblée Générale  
à Edimbourg  
le 31 Mai 1984

**PROCES-VERBAL**

**1- Introduction du Président:**

Le Président Anthony BECHU accueille les participants à l'Assemblée.

**2- Excusés:**

Divers membres ont téléphoné ou écrit, - MAYER, GENYS, SABATIE, HERVOUET, SAMOYAUULT MÜLLER, BENNETT.....

**3- Nécrologie:**

Nous avons le douleur de vous annoncer le décès de quatre de nos confrères-

Robert AUZELLE évoqué par Marion TOURNON BRANLY  
Urbaniste, architecte et écrivain cet humaniste reste pour nous l'homme de d'équilibre et de la mesure. Son sens de la réflexion et du combat l'ont conduit à défendre notre profession d'architecte. Son sens de l'amitié se manifestait pleinement dans notre Union.

Yves Marie FROIDEVAUX évoqué par Claude DUCOUX  
Yves Marie Froidevaux restera encore longtemps dans la mémoire de ceux qui l'ont estimé et aimé. Il restera par l'élan qu'il a insufflé à toute une génération par son rôle dans la constante élaboration de la doctrine et par l'affinement qu'il a apporté à notre déontologie.

Jean GINSBERG évoqué par Charles RAMBERT  
L'architecte et l'urbaniste dont l'œuvre est immense a toujours suscité notre admiration. Exigeant dans ses créations l'homme était à l'image de celle ci, un homme de qualité. L'UFBA auquel il était si fidèle lui doit beaucoup.

André SCHMITZ évoqué par Henri DAVY  
André Schmitz reste pour nous l'image du courage et de la compétence exemplaire dans le domaine qui était le sien et dans lequel il savait toujours susciter des amis. Beaucoup d'entre eux se trouvait dans notre Union et pensent à lui.

**4- Approbation du Procès-verbal de la 54ème Assemblée Générale:**

Le Procès-verbal de la 54ème Assemblée Générale tenue à Rueil Malmaison le 12 Mai 1983 est approuvé par l'assemblée et signé par le Président et le Secrétaire Général

**5- Compte-rendu sur l'année écoulée par le Président:**

Anthony BECHU fait un rapport de son année d'activité en tant que Président.

**6- Elections:**

Sont élus;

John ROAKE	Président
Elena POPESCO	Vice-Président
Anthony HICKMAN	Secrétaire Général
François MAYER	Trésorier
Montague BOOL	Secrétaire de la Section Britannique
Luc Regis GILBERT	Secrétaire de la Section Française



Le Président John ROAKE remercie l'assemblée de son election.

7- Elections des membres du deux Comités que ne sont pas d'anciens présidents:

Le Comité Français propose ses membres;

Christine ROUX DORLUT  
Jean Louis NOUVIAN  
Claude DUCOUX  
Albert GREGOIRE  
Michel MAROT  
Christine de GRISSAC

Le Comité Britannique propose ses membres;

Mayling HARGREAVES  
Derek MONTEFIORE  
Derek PLUMMER  
Ronald BIGGINS  
Julian St LEGER

8- Nouveaux Membres:

Presentation des nouveaux membres Français par Montague BOOL

Alexandre OKUM  
YARMOLA  
Pierre COLBEC  
Patrice de VERICOURT  
Xavier HENRY  
Pierre LEBOUTEUX

Presentation des nouveaux membres Britannique par Luc Régis GILBERT

Adrian GALE  
Sir Philip POWELL

9-Démissions:

Haines, Maxwell, Kaye.

10- Decorations:

DUCOUX

11- Congrès 1985

Le Comité Français a préparé un programme prévisionnel pour le congrès de Fontevraud en 1985.

12- Etudiants

TOURNON-BRANLY et MANASSEH sont désignés pour étudier les problèmes intéressant les étudiants.

13- Le Programme du Nouveau Président:

ROAKE remercie Anthony BECHU pour son rôle de Président et pour toutes ses nombreuses actions bénéfiques à l'Union - Chambord, Versailles etc. Il rappelle comme le précisait EPSTEIN que 'l'UNION est une Société d'Amitié, dans laquelle il n'est pas nécessaire de faire beaucoup sinon de faciliter les rencontres entre membres'.

14- Questions divers

PASCALL note qu'il est important de rappeler que cette année correspond à l'anniversaire du D-Day et qu'elle nous rappelle spécialement Carpentier.

15- Aucune autre question n'étant à l'ordre du jour, le Président déclare la Réunion levée.



Report for the year 1983 - 1984 by the retiring President, Anthony Bechu.

À la suite de l'approbation du rapport de la dernière assemblée générale qui se tenait à Rueil-Malmaison par notre secrétaire général, je suis heureux de prendre la parole, une dernière fois, en tant que Président de notre Association pour faire le point de notre activité durant l'année 1983 - 1984.

Le Comité de liaison s'est réuni traditionnellement: le 19 Novembre à Paris, au siège de la Société Française des Architectes, le 31 Mars 1984 à Londres dans l'Hôtel de Wellington, à l'Oriental Club. Précédé des réunions de la Section Française; les 29 Septembre 1983, 2 Février 1984, puis le 3 Mai; de la Section Britannique les 27 Juin et 3 Octobre 1983, puis les 23 Janvier, 5 Mars, 30 Avril 1984.

Nous n'oublierons pas ces fins de réunions se poursuivant dans les demeures personnelles, et je n'insisterai jamais assez sur le rôle essentiel de nos épouses dans la cohésion d'amitié de notre Union.

Je remercie également tout particulièrement Derek Montefiore de nous avoir insérés, pour un jour, dans la vie de son Club en la demeure du Duc de Wellington. Ce déjeuner, dans la 'library' du XVIII siècle, accueillis autour d'une table ornée de camélias, se situait dans un cadre de magnificence digne de celui de Versailles.

Le détail de ces réunions sera développé ultérieurement par nos secrétaires, futurs présidents.

Qu'il me soit toutefois permis d'insister sur la spécificité de notre Union, à l'écoute des transformations que nos Gouvernants veulent imposer à notre profession, et nous considérer comme mobilisés pour aider nos jeunes étudiants à parfaire leurs connaissances et leur transmettre notre expérience.

Stages et visites sont à promouvoir en nos deux pays.

Notre nouveau conseiller culturel de l'ambassade de France à Londres, Gilles Chouraqui, en est très conscient.

Nous avons rendu hommage à nos confrères disparus. Je ne voudrais pas oublier Jean Prouvé, créateur de techniques nouvelles, qui vient de décéder en France. Prouvé a maîtrisé la structure et a été un tremplin de la créativité pour nos nombreux confrères de l'Union depuis plus de cinquante années. Notre ami Rogers en a été le bénéficiaire à Beaubourg.

Je termine en vous remerciant de m'avoir choisi pour vous guider durant cette année. John Roake va reprendre le flambeau à son tour.

Nos statuts qui doivent être officialisés, restent identiques, et mis en forme sur le plan administratif. Eléna Popesco est déjà sur le rails.

Je remets mes pouvoirs de Président à mon successeur: John Roake.



Th year ahead - John Roake President

I would like to say thank you to you all for the great honour you have given me by making me your President for the coming year. It is an honour which I truly appreciate and I hope that I shall be able to follow successfully in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors. Amongst these I must include my friend Anthony Bechu who has really created for me the high points in my life as a member of the FBUA, starting with my second reunion at Tours, where he made the arrangements ofr that magnificent banquet at Chambord which so many of us enjoyed, and again last year with his equally magnificent creation at Versailles. I am sure these two evenings will always be happy memories for those of us who were present and I for one, will be eternally grateful to Anthony for the pleasure that he gave me on those two occasions.

I have been told that I should expatiate on the activities which I propose to set in train during the coming year. However, my mind always goes back to the presidential address made by Gaby Epstein when he set out his view of the FBUA as being a friendly society, une société d'Amitié. For such a society it is not necessary to plan many detailed activities, only to arrange possibilities for members to meet and enjoy the company of one another, perhaps to visit buildings and to discuss them, perhaps to enjoy a glass of wine and some good food- in any event to converse and to enjoy the friendship of fellow members.

Having said that I should report that we are hoping to present an exhibition of the work of Le Corbusier in London in the summer of 1985. We shall certainly have two Joint Committee meetings during the coming year together with two cocktail parties to which all members are welcome and I am sure we shall all look forward to the Reunion in 1985 which is to be held at Fontevraud.

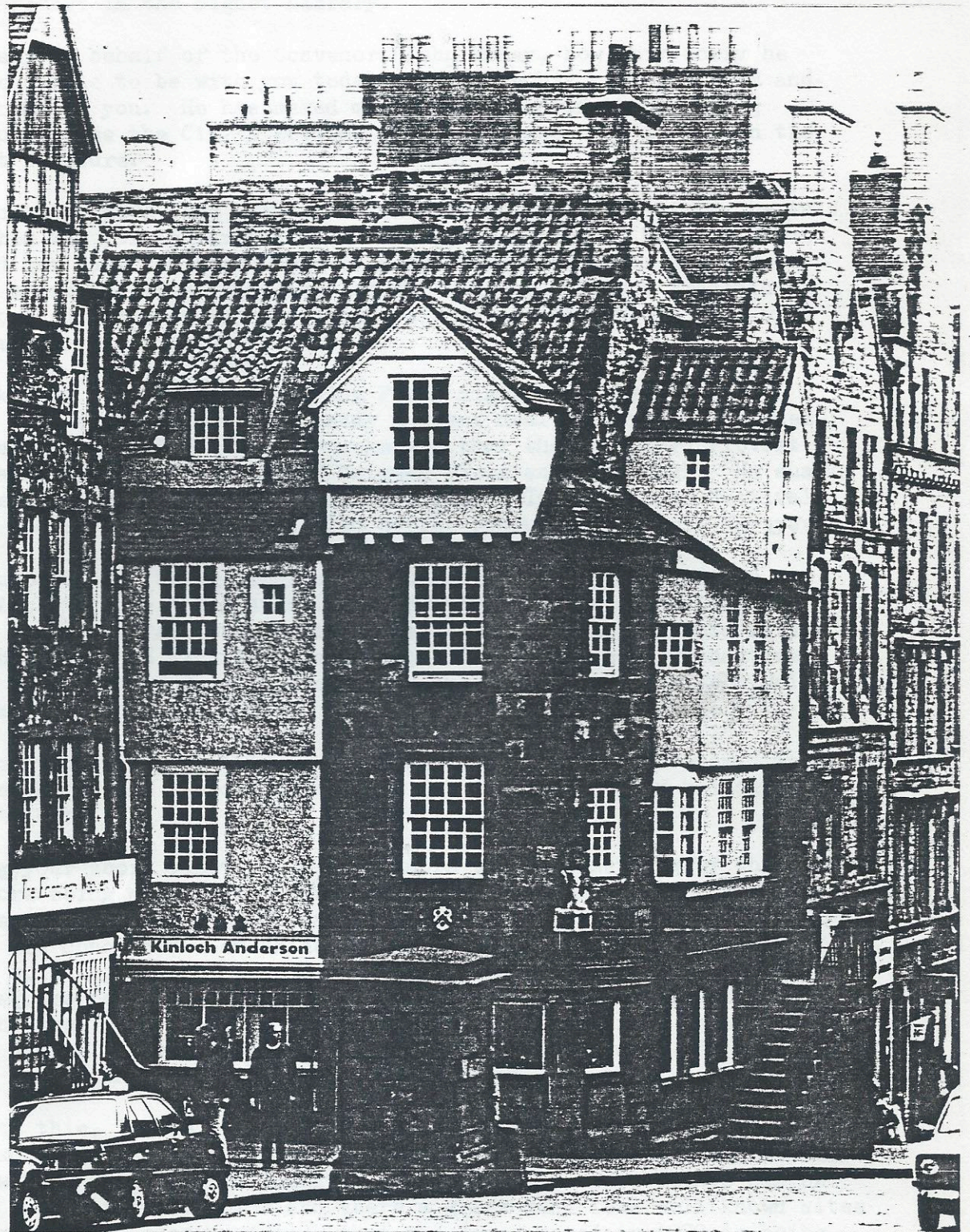
Finally, I would like to welcome our new Vice President, Madame Popesco and to say how much I look forward to working with her during the coming year. Last of all, but not least, I would like to say thank you to Ronald Biggins, without whose hard work and enthusiasm none us would be here tonight. On his behalf, on behalf of the British Committee and of myself, may I welcome you all to the 1984 Reunion and to Edinburgh and express the hope that you will all enjoy a very pleasant Reunion.

John Roake





John Knox's House Edinburgh.



Un homme avec Dieu est toujours dans la majorité.  
A man with God is always in the majority.

John Knox 1505 - 1572.



Speech of welcome by the Chairman on the Town Planning Committee on behalf of the Lord Provost in the Signet Library.

May I first say on behalf of the Convenor, John McKay, how very sorry he is that he is unable to be with you today to express his own very warm and personal welcome to you. He has asked me, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, to express the City's welcome to you all and this I do with the very greatest pleasure.

France and Scotland have long enjoyed a friendly relationship since the Auld Alliance. This was particularly strong during the period of Mary de Guise of France and her daughter Mary Queen of Scots. They and their descendents have exerted a great deal of influence on our language and our traditions. This is epitomised today in the partnerships which Edinburgh has made with cities in Europe.

You may think that perhaps Edinburgh and Paris might be linked in some formal sense but in fact there is already a great deal of movement between the two cities and it was only a few weeks ago that the then Lord Provost inaugurated a direct flight by Air UK between Paris and Edinburgh. We shall also have the very greatest pleasure at this year's International Festival of welcoming the Paris Opera Ballet, led by the redoubtable Rudolf Nureyev.

However, I suspect that being architects you are here to celebrate the Festival of Architecture. Essentially the Festival is the 150th birthday that will be celebrated all over England, Wales and here in Scotland until December. The Edinburgh Architectural Association is one of six chapters of the Royal Institute of British Architects and is part of this Festival of Architecture.

Here in the city we are promoting 'The Living City' and the Convenor himself will be switching on the floodlighting of a number of our major buildings throughout the city.

I hope during your short visit you will be able to see something of the continuing work being carried out within the city both in terms of new development and a continuing conservation programme. As far as modern developments are concerned I am thinking particularly of the Lothian Road project, the building of the new Sheraton Hotel, the establishment of the first civic square for almost two centuries, the development alongside the North British Hotel, the Waverley Market, the major supermarket development at Lady Road and as I have already mentioned, the establishment of 'The Living City' on Calton Hill.

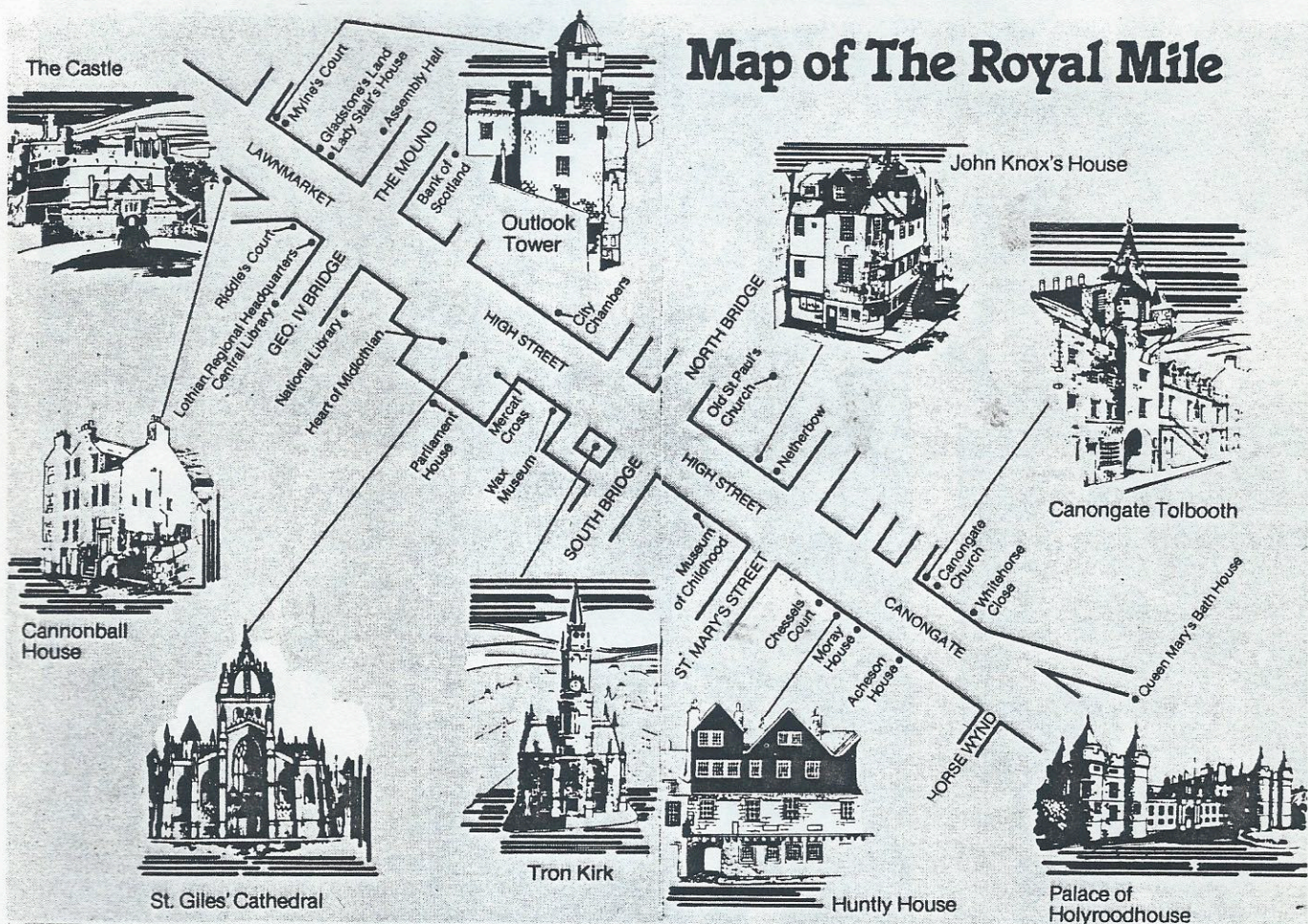
In contrast to this, I hope you will have an opportunity to see some of the restoration schemes started some twelve years ago with the foundation of the Edinburgh New Town Conservation Committee. Spectacular improvements can be seen in such areas as St Stephens and there a great many less well known sites which together provide clear evidence that the decay noted in 1970 is being reversed. I am very glad to say that the Old Town is not being neglected and an important start is being made which includes the restoration of the



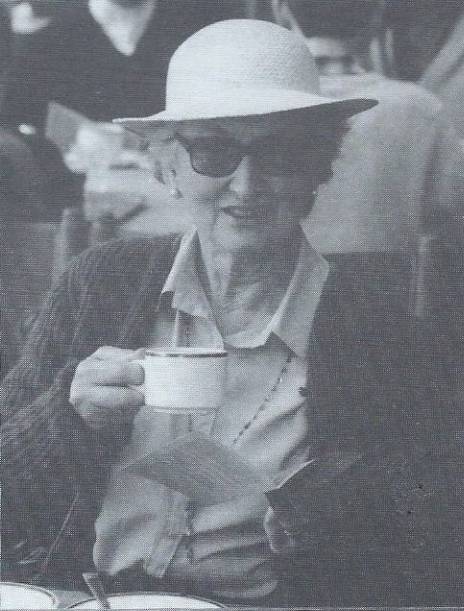
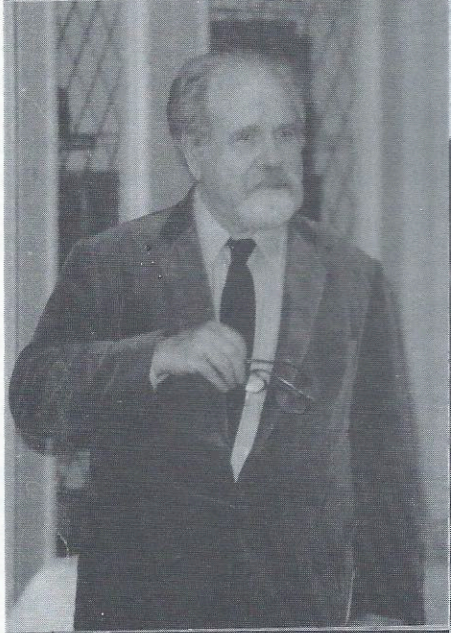
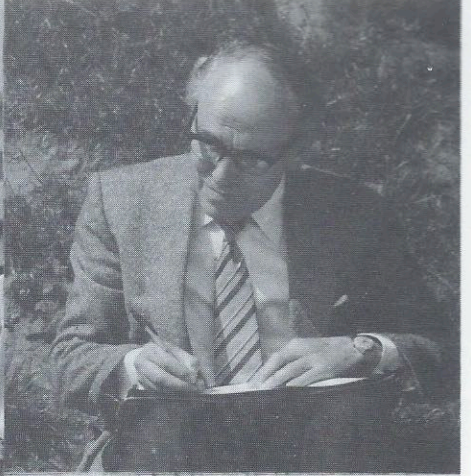
17<sup>th</sup> century tenement opposite St Giles Cathedral.

One area which has caused considerable interest and indeed drawn upon itself a major European Architectural Award is the Lister site at Lauriston Place. It was the City Council who refused to allow demolition as it recognised the potential of these buildings to regain the beauty and elegance of the original design; but quite apart from the City Council, great credit is to be given to the Housing Corporation, the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland, the Architects and the Lister Housing Co-operative Trust for making the scheme possible.

I very much hope that I have been able to whet your appetite and that you will have the chance to see for yourselves something of the City of Edinburgh to which you are so warmly welcomed.









Reunion in Edinburgh - 31st May - 3rd June 1984

Over one hundred people attended the 55th Annual Reunion in Edinburgh. After surmounting problems of travel to the far North, the majority arrived in time for the Reception and Lunch at the Signet Library, an impressive upper room in neo-classical style built in 1822 and housing the Library of the Writers of the Signet, the ancient elite of the legal profession in Scotland.

After a sit down buffet lunch, which was a fortaste of the gastronomic delights to follow, we were welcomed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, representing the Lord Provost. Refreshed by lunch, we set off for a walk through the Old Town accompanied by Oliver Barratt and guides of the Coburn Association. Passing through the old Government Buildings, adjacent to the Signet Library and last used as a Parliament in 1730, we wandered through the delights of the Royal Mile, ending up at Holyrood Palace where the coaches were waiting to take us to the George Hotel in the New Town, La Nouvelle Ville - not to be confused with New Town in the present day connotation, it having been designed in 1767. The luggage had already been delivered to the hotel and we were able to settle into our rooms without the normal trauma experienced when a large group of people arrive at a strange hotel.

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7pm and the details are reported elsewhere.

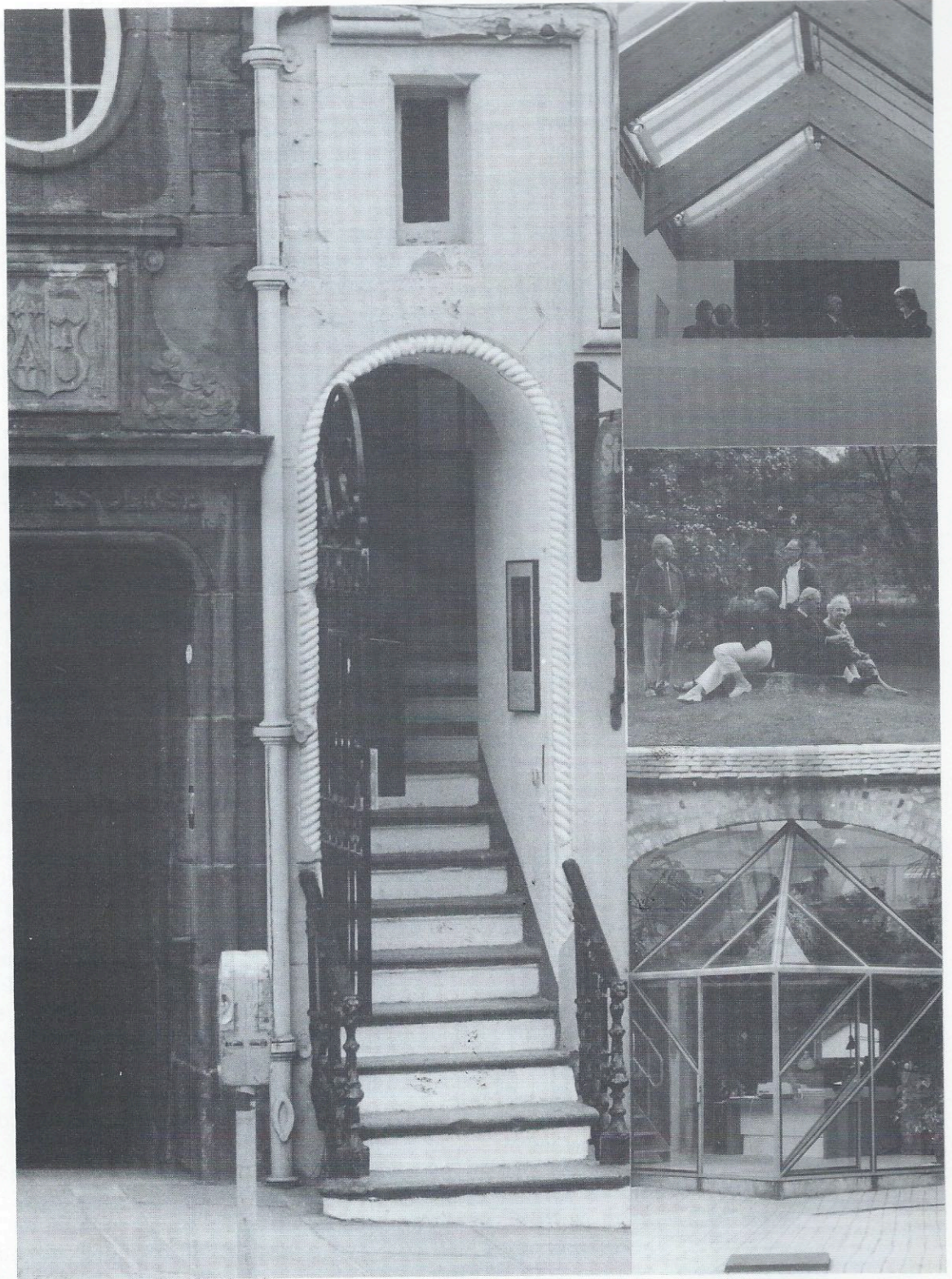
On Friday 1st June we awoke to a traditional 'Haar', a phenomenon experienced in the East of Scotland when the North wind blows from the sea on to the warm land, producing misty hazy conditions which had unforeseen consequences later in the day.

Desmond Hodges, Director of the Edinburgh New Town Conservation Trust started the day for us at 9am with slides and a talk explaining the development of the New Town. This was followed by a walk through the classical streets and squares to Charlotte Square, designed by Robert Adam who figures continuously in our stay in Edinburgh.

We visited 7 Charlotte Square, a New Town Georgian House, furnished as it might have been by its first owners, it reflects the social conditions of Georgian Edinburgh. We were welcomed by Mrs Sheila Kennedy of the National Trust for Scotland who own the house which provides a fascinating glimpse into how people of the time lived.

The coaches then took us to the Camera Lucida on Calton Hill. This was the first day of showing this wonder of new technology, using a television camera mounted on top of the Nelson Column. Visitors can see the whole of Edinburgh and be given an interesting commentary on the topography of the town. Regretably, in view of the Haar, visibility was down to about 100m and we were shown a rather old and crackly film depicting what we would have seen had the day been clear. From Calton Hill we went on to Prestonfield House for lunch, another gastonomic masterpiece with an unending flow of food.







The house was built in 1687 by Sir William Bruce and although only ten minutes from the centre of the city it stands in twenty three acres of lawn near to Holyrood House and to that outcrop of volcanic rock in the centre of the city known as Arthurs Seat. It presented a fascinating and interesting venue for our lunch. Although run as an hotel and restaurant, the house is furnished with the pictures and furnishings of a private house. Peacocks were walking on the lawn, their long tails drooping in the grass. A small drab peahen walked across to them and their tails rose in a magnificent display.

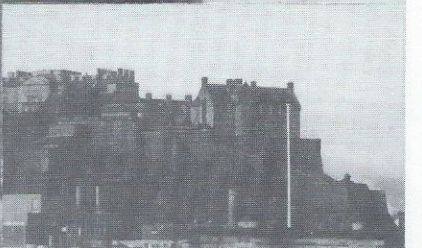
Again refreshed and not deterred by the only heavy rain of the weekend, we were taken on a tour of the Edinburgh Mechanised Letter Sorting Office by Derek Patience of the architects, Sir Basil Spence, Glover & Ferguson. Although nothing more than a huge shed, it was a pleasing solution to the housing of a fairly complicated process. Unfortunately it was not possible to see the machinery in full operation.

In the evening, on the way to Hopetoun House, the coaches stopped between the two bridges across the Firth of Forth. It was misty and the great structures loomed out of the fog, providing for some members one of the unforgettable sights of the visit. Hopetoun House was begun for the First Earl of Hopetoun by Sir William Bruce in 1699 and the work, including enlargements by William Adam were completed in 1721. After Adam's death, the interior decoration was carried out by his two sons Robert and John and completed in 1767. From such a pedigree, one would anticipate a magnificent mansion but the reality far exceeded the expectation. As we approached through the long drive, we saw the house in its lovely setting on the bank of the Forth. There was a piper standing on the steps to welcome us in traditional style and the house was open for us to wander through as we wished. Everyone was enchanted by the rooms, the paintings, sculpture and tapestries and after a tour of the garden we had supper in the state dining room.

On Saturday, the Haar departed and the sun shone again. The coaches took us on the hours trip to Glasgow and the first visit was to the Burrell Collection. Given to the City of Glasgow in 1940 with sufficient funds to house them in a purpose built gallery the works of art had been assiduously assembled by the shipowner Burrell. Due to various circumstances the building was not begun until seven years ago. Now complete and open to the public, standing in an open space in Pollockshaws Park with trees all around, the building was thought by one member to be the finest he had ever seen, a view not shared by everyone. Nevertheless, as one walked round the building, the visual impact was tremendous as one passed from space to space and from room to room. The effect of the building as a setting for the exhibits made a greater impression than the exhibits themselves.

We left reluctantly and the coaches took us to the centre of Glasgow where Professor McMillan and his wife were waiting to greet us at the School of Architecture. We had a jolly picnic in the studios joined by some of the students including Leonard Manasseh's son and we then went next door to visit the Mackintosh School of Art. It is remarkable that after eighty years this building has changed so little and has such power to excite.







I had been planned that the return to Edinburgh should be through the hills by the scenic route but we had spent so much time at the School of Art that this had to be omitted, which was perhaps just as well as most of the passengers in coach number one slept most of the way back to the hotel.

In the evening, the Reception and Banquet were held in the Upper Library of the Old College, another Robert Adam building of great magnificence being over 60 metres long with a barrel vaulted ceiling on enormous pilasters and with alcoves down each side. Again the inevitable piper was there to pipe us in and after a truly Scottish meal our President, John Roake distinguished himself in the mysterious Ceremony of the Haggis. For those who were not present, the ceremony belies description but suffice to say the performance of the President was truly magnificent.

After the formal proceedings, members sat for a long time talking and there was a tremendous feeling of ease and contentment which was indicative of the success of the evening.

On Sunday the programme had to be cancelled due to transport problems so members said their farewells after breakfast and went their separate ways, thus ending a short but enjoyable reunion.

Ronald Biggins

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
and never brought to mind,  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
for the sake of auld lang syne.

For here's my hand, my trusty frind,  
and here's o' mine,  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
for auld lang syne.

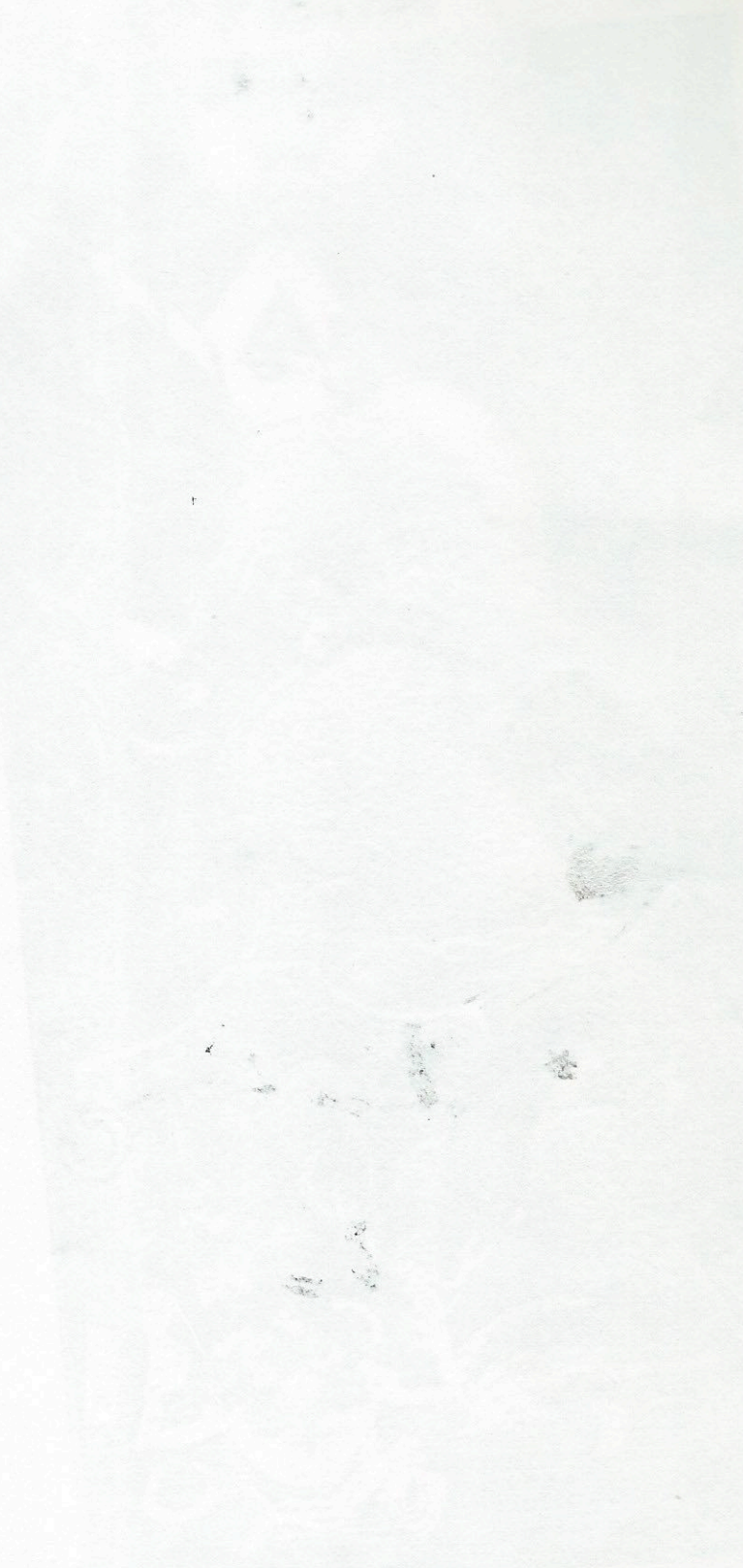
#### Menu

Lewis Brown Trout  
Tweed Kettle  
Haggis - Neeps - Tatties  
Sutherland Red Deer Venison  
Vegetables in Season  
Crannachan  
Coffee

#### Wines

Mâcon Villages Blanc 1979  
Chateauneuf du Pape 1979  
Cognac, Port





Edinburgh