



History Group

Our Christmas event was held on the 27th December – the subjects being “**Miss Cranston’s Tearooms**” and “**Charles Rennie Mackintosh**” - and it was a great success.

Bruce Cannon gave a most interesting talk on the life of Miss Cranston, as well as the history of the era and the influence of Charles Rennie Mackintosh on the décor of her tea room empire.

Philip Glen brought along some of his craft work, including models of Mackintosh furniture in woodwork, and a history of the life of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.



Continued at top of next column)

MISS CATHERINE CRANSTON (A very brief biography)

- * Kate Cranston was born in Glasgow in 1849.
- * Her father, a baker and pastry cooker, had bought a hotel situated in Glasgow city centre. After some renovations he finally renamed it “Cranston’s Hotel and Dining Rooms”.
- * Kate’s brother, a tea-dealer, had already opened several tea shops offering sandwiches to their customers when Kate launched herself in the business, carrying it a step further.
- * With the opening of her ‘art tearooms”, Miss Cranston became a leading figure in the development of the social phenomenon of tea rooms. She was the first to offer men and women a beautiful and cheerful place to meet in a city where industrialisation was making life for people more and more difficult and grim.
- * Charles Rennie Mackintosh was born in Glasgow in 1868 and was only 28 when Kate Cranston first commissioned him to design the wall murals of her Buchanan Tearooms. This was the beginning of a long partnership between them.
- * The Willow Tearooms opened at 217 Sauchiehall in October 1903. For the first time, Charles Rennie Mackintosh was given the opportunity to fully express his art, designing not only the interior fittings, but also the

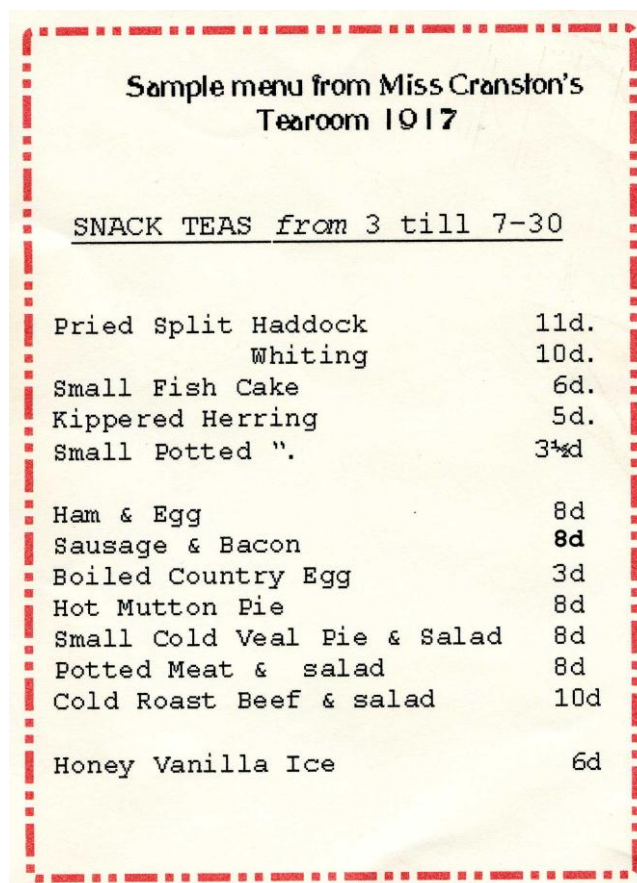
The enthusiasm Bruce and Philip brought to the evening was a delight

Supper – ‘Miss Cranston Style’ – was served, and members and friends mingled, passing on Christmas cheer and good wishes for the coming New Year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 31st January, and will be a talk from John Reid of Falkirk Local History Society about Bo’ness & Kinneil.

We look forward to welcoming present and new members in 2012.

Margaret Slater



exterior and internal layout of the building. The Willow Tearooms quickly became a favourite meeting place in Glasgow.

- Kate Cranston very successfully opened 4 tearooms:
- 1878: The Crown Luncheon Room, Argyle Street
- 1886: Ingram Street Tearoom
- 1896: Buchanan Street Tearooms
- 1903: The Willow Tearooms, Sauchiehall Street.

- * Kate married John Cochrane in 1892. Kate Cranston was greatly distressed when her husband died in 1917. She sold off her tea-rooms and other businesses, and withdrew from public life.
- * She had no children, and when she died in 1934 her will left two thirds of her estate to the poor of Glasgow.