



A Notable PSNS Member – G.P.K. Young

George Penrose Kenneth Young, F.R.I.B.A. died in 1933. The son of John Young, C.E., he was the senior partner of the firm of G.P.K. Young & Son, Architects and C.E., 42 Tay Street, Perth. He lived at Union Mount, Glasgow Road. A native of Perth he attended Perth Academy and the Slade School, London after which he joined his father, John Young in the firm that had been founded by his grandfather. G.P.K. Young was a distinguished member of his profession, being one of the first Scottish architects to pass the examination to become an associate member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and indeed served as President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects of Scotland. The firm of Messrs. G.P.K. Young & Son acted as architects to the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Company and Mr. Young himself designed the Headquarters (Tay Street) in Perth. The firm was also involved in the design of the G.A. Sports ground at Rodney. His plans were accepted for the new Fever Hospital at Perth, Friarton and he also designed Northern District School (now Balhousie School).

G.P.K. Young brought the city's architecture into the Edwardian era. The 1901 G.A. Building in Tay Street is constructed of yellow freestone from Woodburn Quarry, Cumberland with polished granite doorways and red stone columns in the colonnade of the second floor. It was described as one of the most elaborate, artistic and, architecturally, one of the finest buildings in Perth. The principal rooms inside are lined with wood panelling. The marble staircase and mahogany panelling of the boardroom are superb.

G.P.K. Young joined the Perthshire Society of Natural Science in May, 1872. His father, John Young was a founder member and an early Secretary of the Society, a post he held for twelve years from 1875-1886. When the Society decided to build in South Tay Street a purpose-built Natural History Museum with a generous donation from Robert Pullar and his family John Young was the architect, taking great effort to view and inspect other museum buildings before deciding on his own design. Robert Pullar acquired the land south from Canal Street and John Young, probably with his son's help, designed Perth Opera House, the Working Boys' and Girls' Club and the Natural History Museum in the Scottish Baronial style. The Perth Opera House later became the Baptist Church, which was gutted by fire in 1984, and the site was used for Quayside Court, Sheltered Housing.

