



Manchester Town Hall.

HISTORIC CITIES

GREAT BRITAIN MANCHESTER

BRIAN ROBERTS



John Rylands Library.



University of Manchester.

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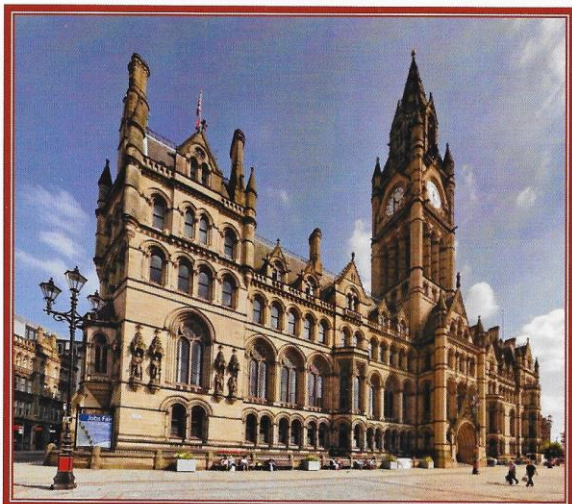
Town Hall, John Rylands Library, University of Manchester, Ship Canal, Exchange Station, Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria Buildings, Royal Exchange, Guardian Building, Exchange Square, Co-op Tower, Royal Infirmary, Piccadilly Station, Sackville Gardens, Art Gallery, Watts Warehouse, Old Town Hall, Town Hall, John Rylands Library, Midland Hotel, Central Station, Piccadilly Station, University of Manchester, Victoria Baths, Holy Name Church, Assize Courts & Strangeways Prison, High Street, Victoria Baths.

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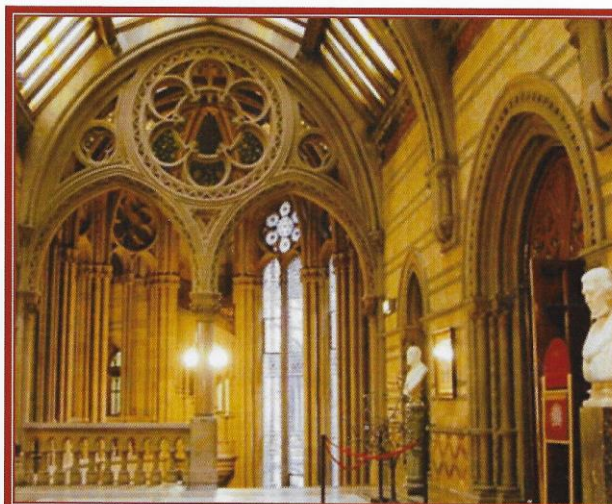
Newsletter No.23 December 2010

Editor Brian Roberts

In September, the Heritage Group visited two Manchester Landmark Buildings

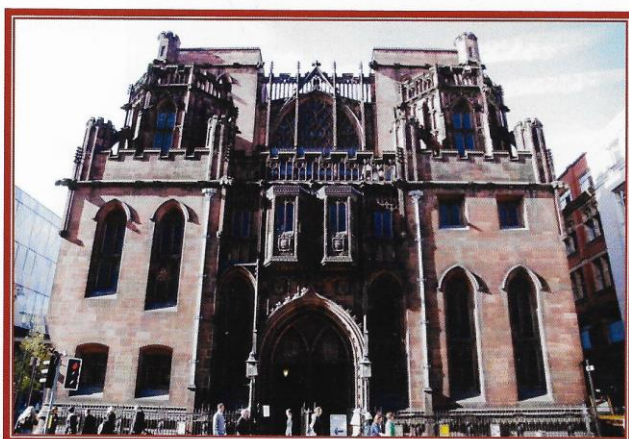


Manchester Town Hall, opened 1877

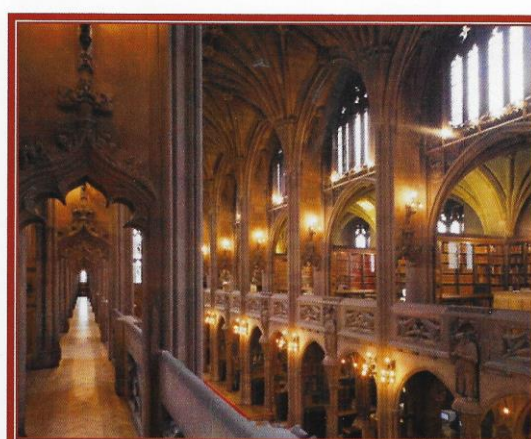


The Town Hall interior

The Town Hall. The architect was Alfred Waterhouse. The heating and ventilating engineer was G N Haden and Sons who provided a hot water heating system and ventilating shafts. In addition, there was a telegraphic system, coal storage, some 80 water closets, hydraulic lifts and gas lighting. . A description of the elaborate services is available on our website at pages 30-31 of the Electronic Book "**Building Engineering Services Heritage Revisited.**"



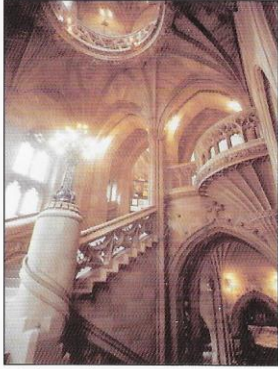
The John Rylands Library, Manchester, opened 1900



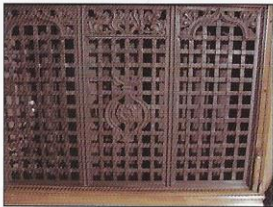
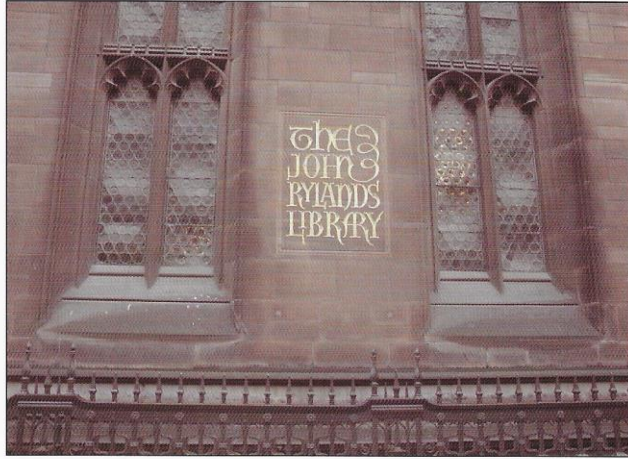
Inside the Library

The Library. John Rylands, a successful cotton magnate, died in 1888 and his widow had this magnificent public library built in his memory. It was one of the first in Manchester to have electric lighting which was generated in an annex by three Crossley gas-engines, each driving a 45 kW Edison-Hopkinson dynamo to provide a 110 volts DC supply to some 1450 16-candlepower carbon filament vacuum lamps. For more information see pages 16-17 of the Electronic Book "**Building Services Heritage**" on our website.

JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, MANCHESTER



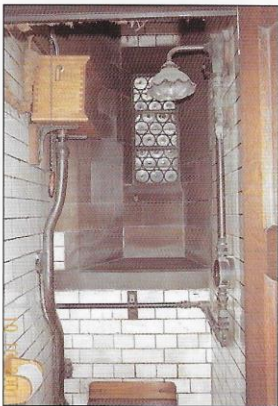
Main staircase



Radiator grille



Electrical distribution board

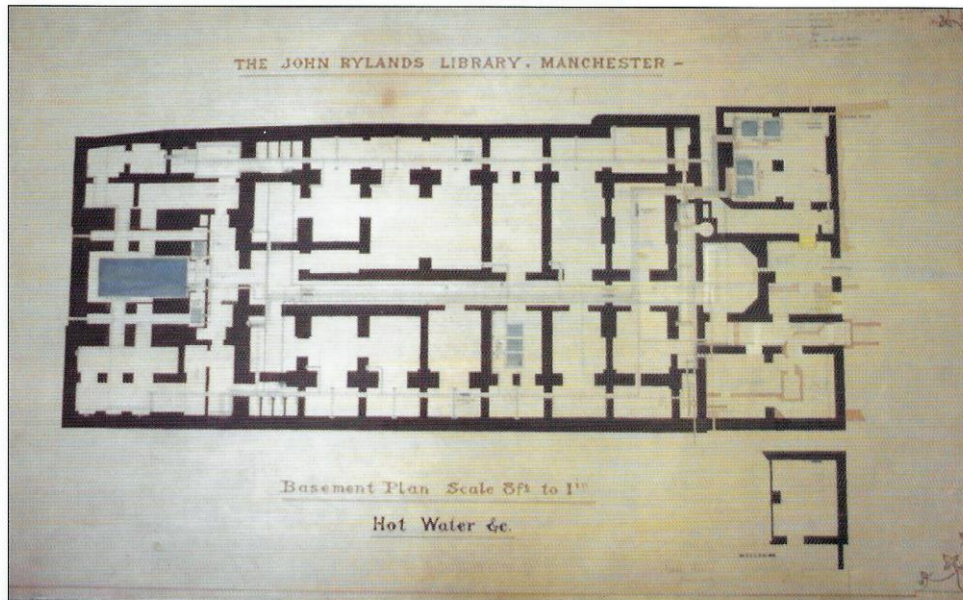


Lavatory

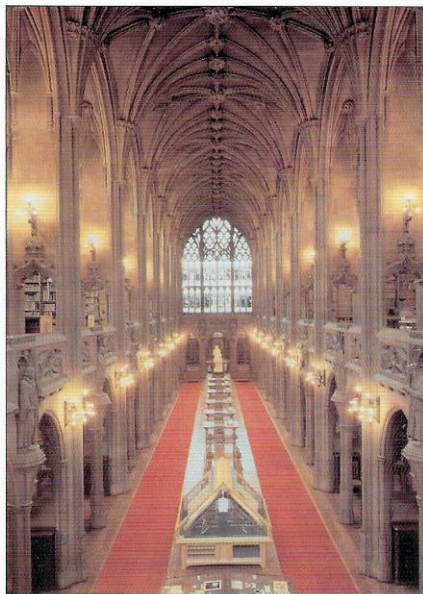
The John Rylands Library, Manchester, 1890-99

John Rylands was born in St Helens in 1801 and became Manchester's most successful cotton magnate. He died in 1888. None of his children survived him and his widow Enriqueta decided to build a magnificent public library in his memory. Basil Champneys was appointed architect. The engineering consultant was Charles Hopkinson. Work began in 1890 and the building was formally dedicated in 1899. The library was one of the first public buildings in Manchester to have electric lighting. This was provided to a standard much higher than the Phoenix Fire Office Rules. Initially, electricity was generated on site in an annexe housing three Crossley gas-engines, each driving a 45 kW Edison-Hopkinson dynamo to provide a 110 volts DC supply to some 1450 16-candlepower carbon filament vacuum lamps. Electric switches resembled gas taps and those in the main library are set in large bronze plates finished with an ornamental scroll. Cables were manufactured by The India Rubber Gutta-percha & Telegraph Works Ltd of Silvertown and were all replaced during the 1990's re-wire. Wires and cables are encased in solid drawn copper tubing with conduit accessories of gunmetal or bronze. Surface cables are encased in trunking made of coinage metal with ornamental covers. A mechanical ventilation system used a distribution system of twin ducts, one of warm air, the other unheated, allowing mixing to be accomplished by dampers on the inlet to each room. Other services included an hydraulic lift, a telephone in the librarian's office and speaking tubes to other rooms, plumbing and drainage. The original ventilation proved unsatisfactory, due to the inadequacy of the propeller fans used, and fan capacity was increased in 1911 by adding a centrifugal fan. A sympathetic restoration of the services is currently being carried out under the direction of Gifford & Partners.

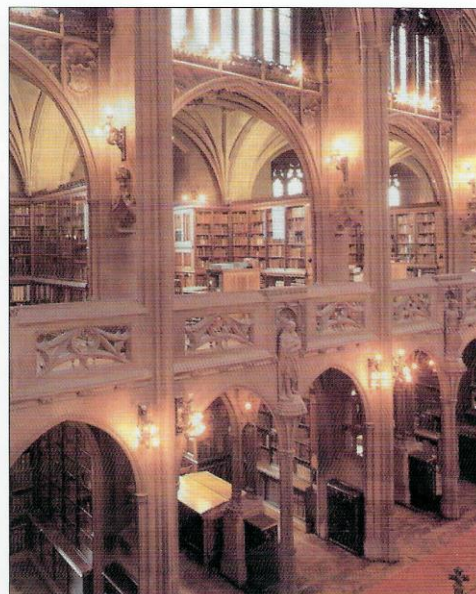
An illustrated guide to the present building is "The John Rylands Library," The University of Manchester, 2000.



Basement plan for hot water heating 1899



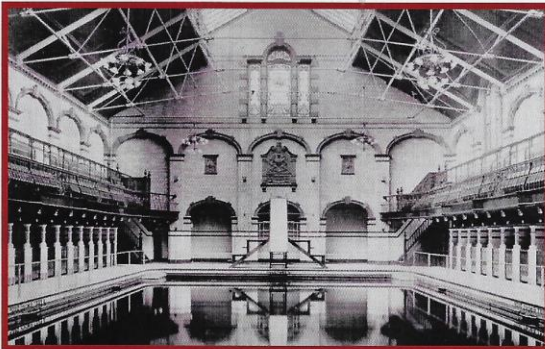
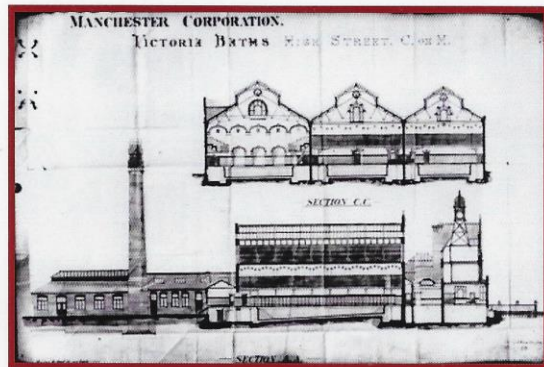
The Reading Room



Gallery & Alcoves in the Reading Room

Victoria Baths in Manchester

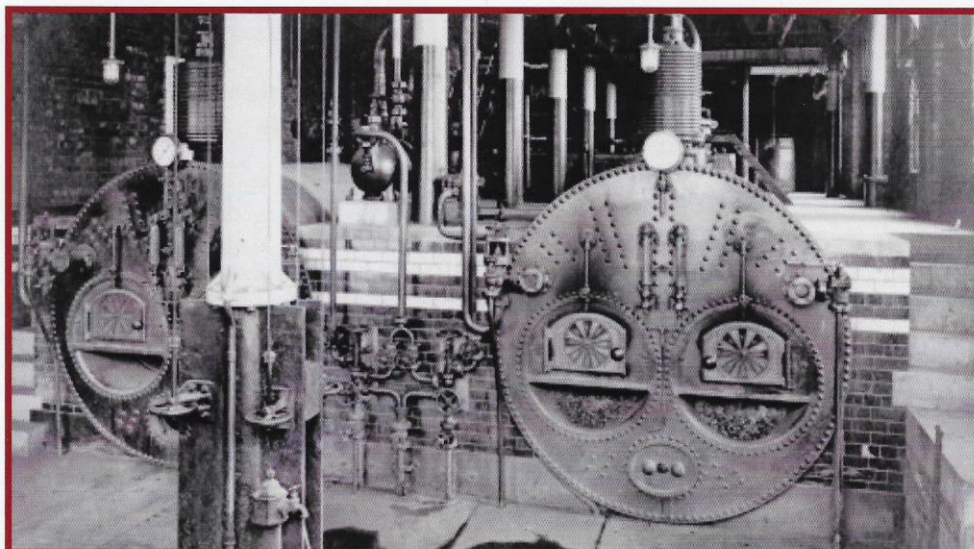
On 17th October 1900, the City Surveyor estimated the cost of providing the Baths would be £57,000, but the Council considered this excessive and approved an expenditure of £39,998. On 6th May, 1902, the tender of Normanton and Sons at £39,316 10s 0d was accepted; though the Council may have been unaware this was for the building alone. The plans included three swimming baths (one Female and 1st & 2nd Class for Males), 64 wash baths, Turkish and Russian baths, boilers and calorifiers, etc. The costs rose: £4,788 for engineering work (including the plant for the pools), the lighting £1000, plus the considerable costs of stained glass windows, ornamental ironwork and tiling. Then a Laundry was added for £2,100, making the probable final cost £59,144. The foundation stone was laid in 1903. The Victoria Baths were opened by the Lord Mayor on 7th September, 1906. The Baths closed to the public on 13th March, 1993. After many difficult years of trying to find money, a £3.5 million Restoration Fund enabled a Gala Pool re-opening on the 14th May, 2017.



The 1st Class Males / Gala Pool in 1906



An example of the original decorative tiling



Galloway Lancashire coal-fired steam boilers

The Manchester Guardian, 8 September 1906.

MANCHESTER NEW BATHS OPENED BY THE LORD MAYOR

The Lord Mayor (Mr. J. Herbert Thewliss) opened two new baths yesterday in Manchester, one at Moss Side and the other – the Victoria Baths – at High-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. Both baths have been described in the “Manchester Guardian,” and it is now only necessary to say that they are probably not surpassed by the public baths of any municipality in the kingdom. The Moss Side Bath, which has been built in the centre of a new and thickly populated district, has cost nearly £13,000. The larger and more important bath in High-street has been built at a cost of £59,000.

After luncheon at the Town Hall, where Mr. Alderman Rothwell, chairman of the Baths Committee, presided, the members of the Council went first to Moss Side Baths, the main door of which the Lord Mayor opened with a gold key presented to him by the Chairman of the Committee. ...

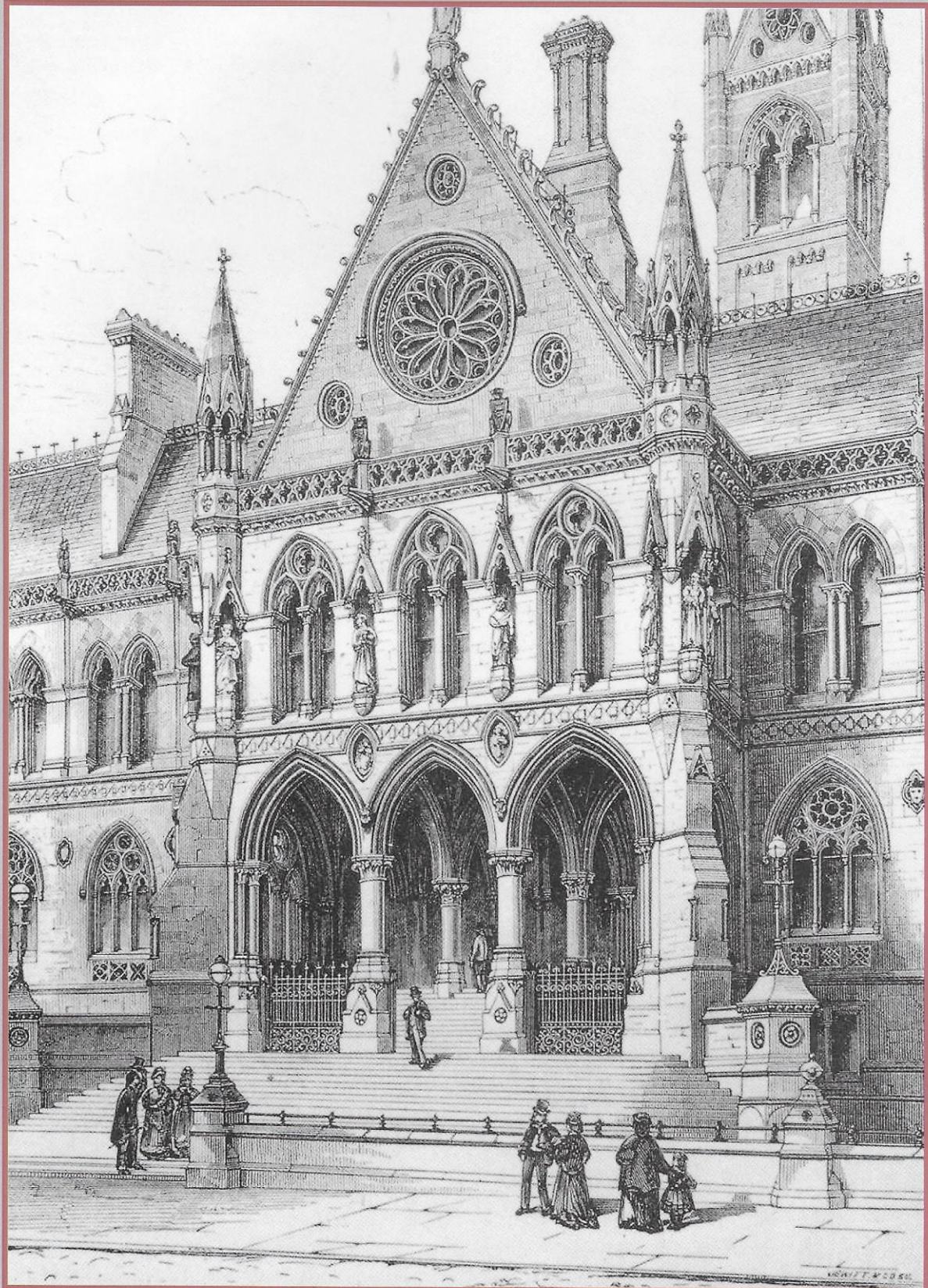
After an inspection of the buildings the members of the Corporation were driven to the Victoria Baths, where a large crowd had assembled. Here, with another gold key, the Lord Mayor opened the door, and the company passed in to the men’s fine swimming bath.

In asking the Lord Mayor to declare the bath open, Mr. Alderman Rothwell said he might advance one or two considerations in justification of the action of the Baths Committee in the building of these baths. The baths were intended to serve three great wards – Longsight, Rusholme, and St. Luke’s. In 1901 those wards had a population of 72,444, and he thought it might fairly be assumed that at present their population was not less than 80,000. Their rateable value at present was £392,681. The object sought to be obtained in the building of the baths had been durability and cleanliness, and with that view the best materials had been used. Under those circumstances the Committee were justified in expecting the cost in repairs and the inconvenience arising from the carrying out of those repairs would be small by comparison with other baths in the city. He had been asked whether, had it been his own business, he would have spent as much money as had been expended upon the baths. He would recommend the Baths Committee to do nothing that he would not do on his own account, and he had gone so far as to say, in answer to these criticisms, that if the Manchester City Council should happen to be dissatisfied with that institution, and should pass a resolution to the effect that it was on sale, the City Council had a purchaser to-morrow who would pay them every penny it had cost. – (Hear, hear.)

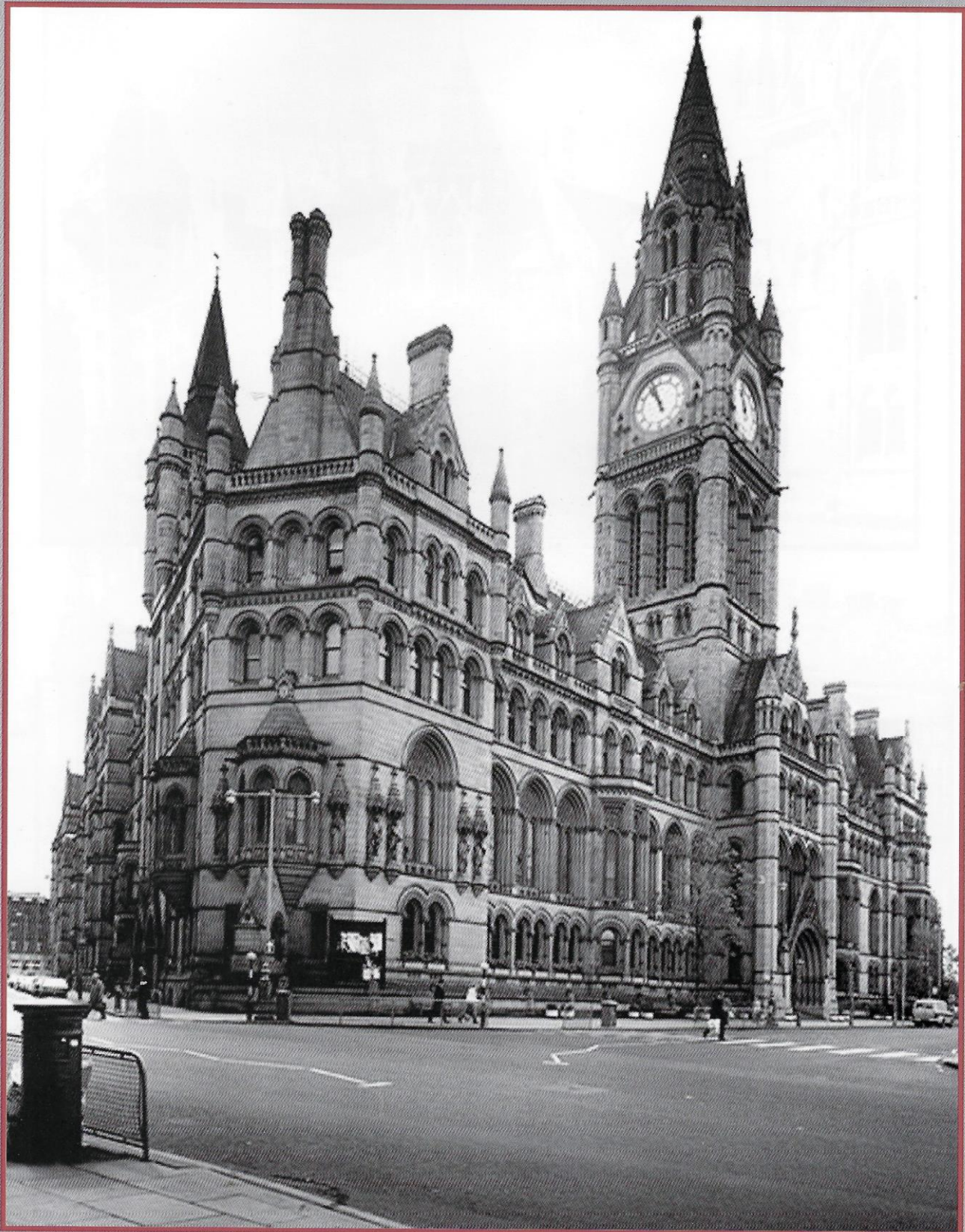
The Lord Mayor expressed the pleasure with which in the ward he represented – St. Luke’s – he opened a “water palace”, of which, he took it, every citizen of Manchester was proud. Speaking of the expenditure on the baths, the Lord Mayor said it was hoped to avoid the experiences of the Committee in relation to other baths in the city, where, owing to the extensive use of wood and plaster, large sums had had to be expended in alteration and repairs.

Other speeches were made by Mr. Councillor Sutton, deputy chairman of the Baths Committee, Mr. Councillor Marsden, and Mr. Councillor Scott, M.P. – who urged that swimming should be made a compulsory subject of education, – and the Lord Mayor was thanked for his attendance.

Under the direction of Mr. J. Derbyshire, general superintendent of the Corporation baths, an entertainment was afterwards given by a number of children from elementary schools, the women teachers of swimming in the employ of the Corporation, and several well-known swimmers.



1865 Manchester Assize Courts
Heating and ventilating with an early air washer by G N Haden & Sons
Architect Alfred Waterhouse
[Wiltshire Record Office 1325/216]



*1877 Manchester Town Hall
Hot water heating by G N Haden & Sons Ltd
Architect Alfred Waterhouse*

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL c.1954



EXCHANGE STATION & CATHEDRAL c.1946



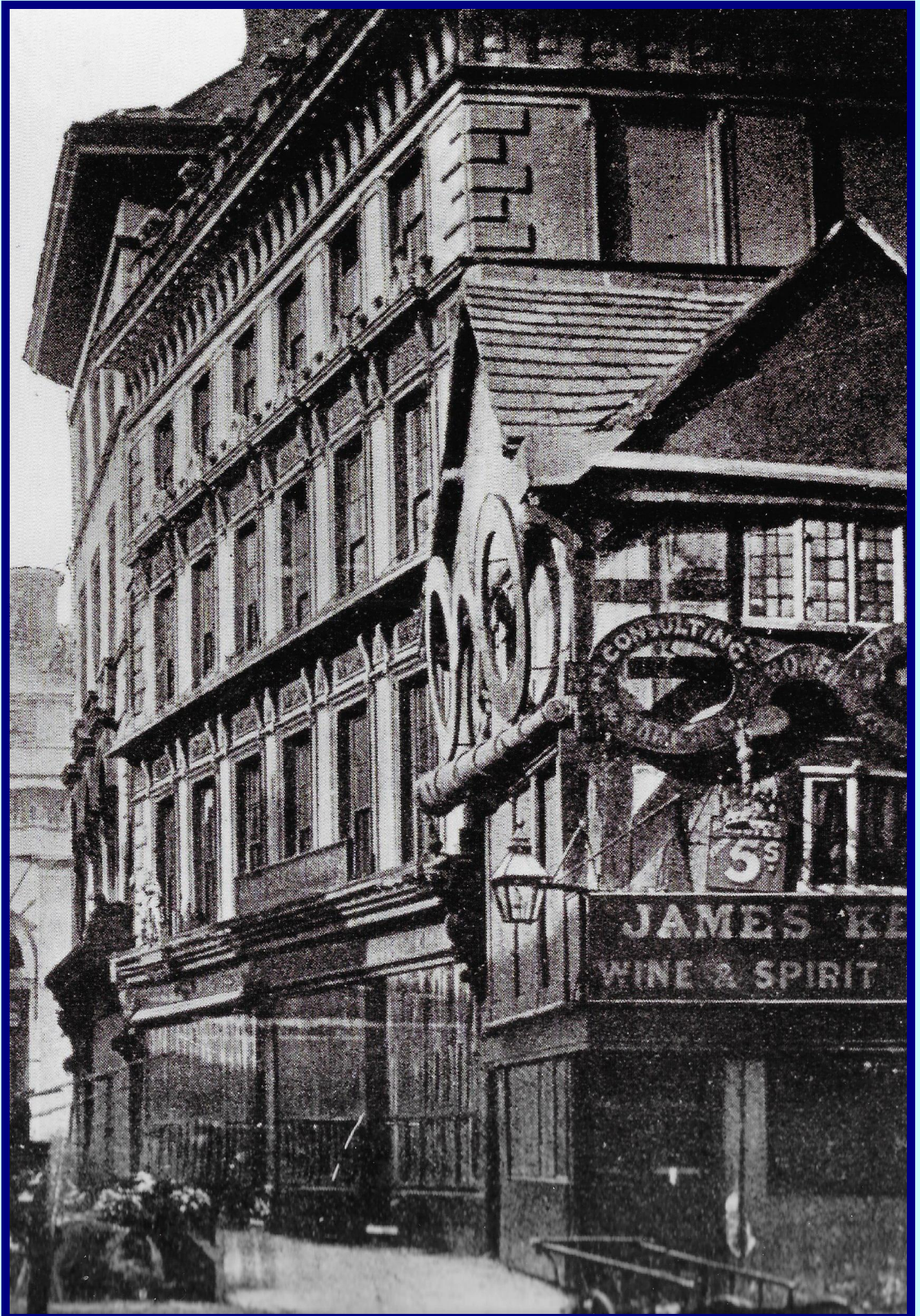
GROSVENOR HOTEL c.1904



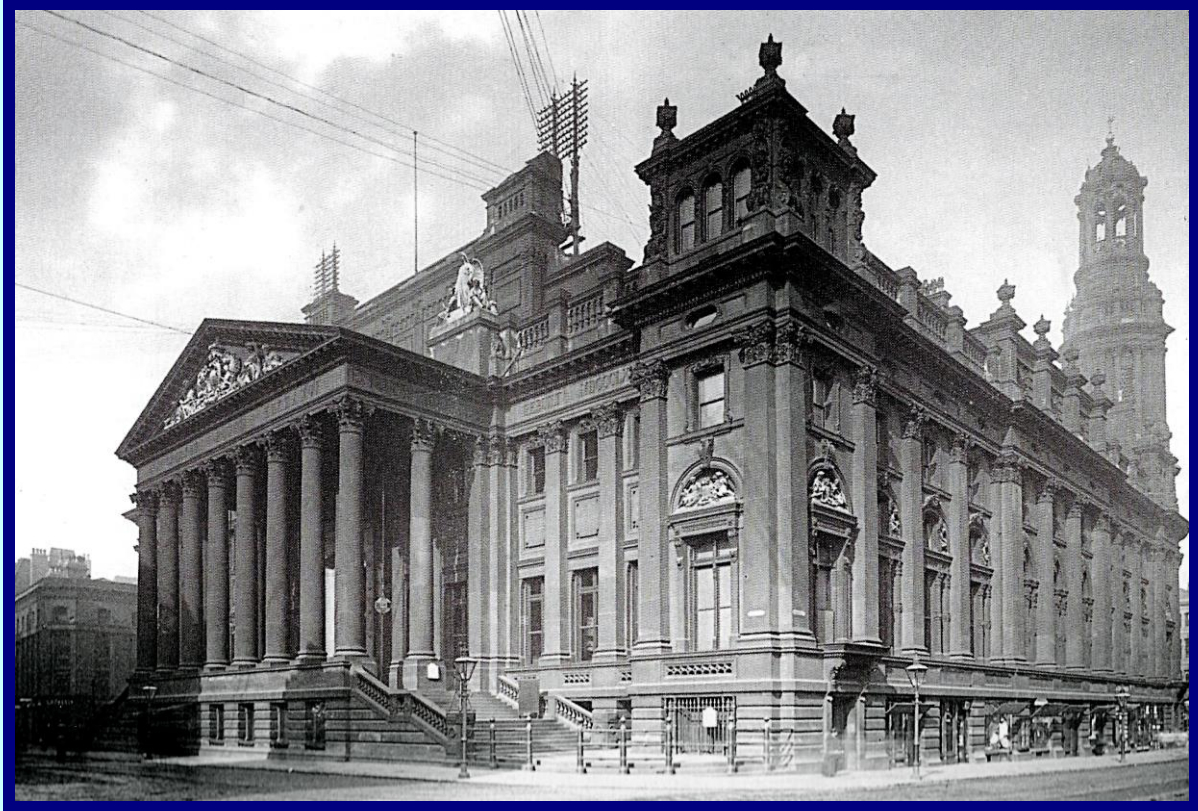
VICTORIA BUILDINGS 1884



ROYAL EXCHANGE 1859



ROYAL EXCHANGE 1905



MANCHESTER GUARDIAN BUILDING 1902



EXCHANGE SQUARE 1960



BUILDING CO-OP TOWER c.1961



ROYAL INFIRMARY c.1898



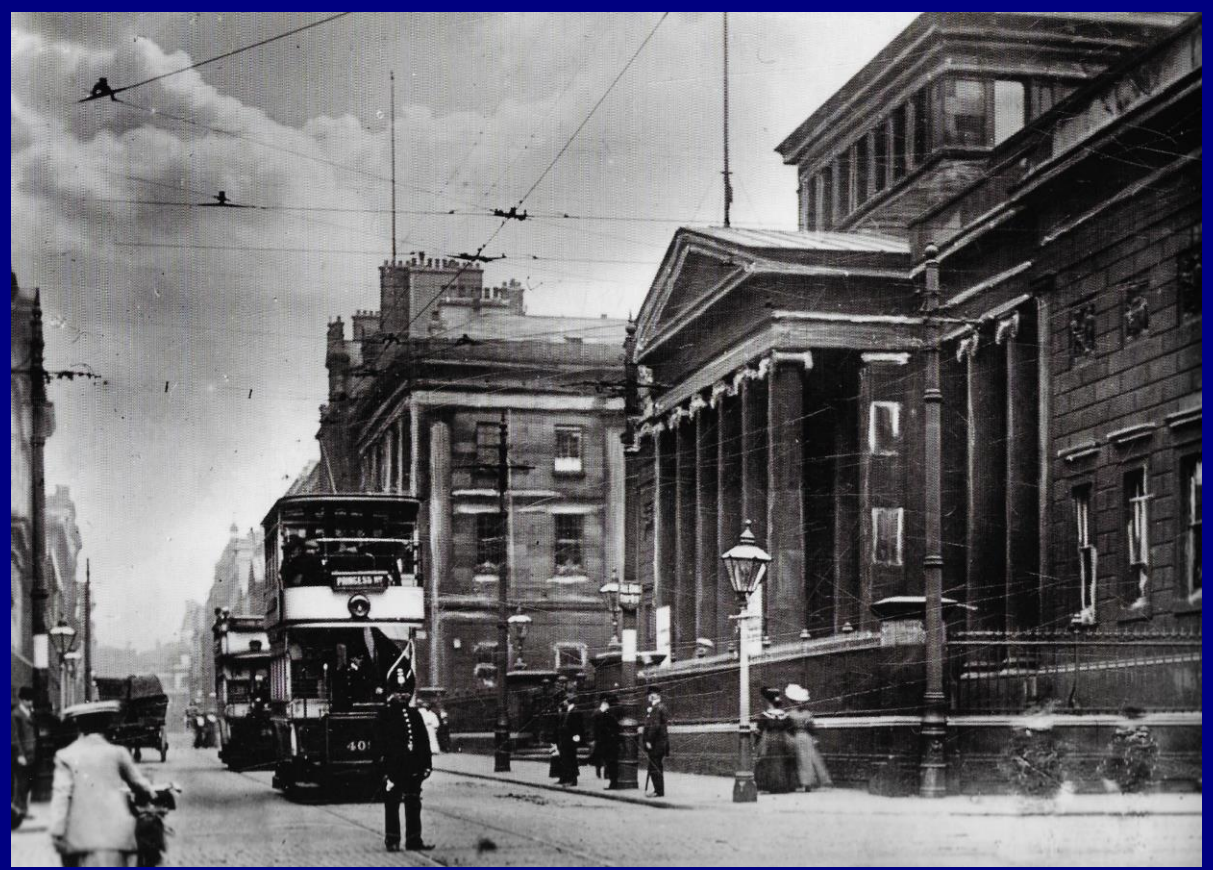
MARKET PLACE c.1885



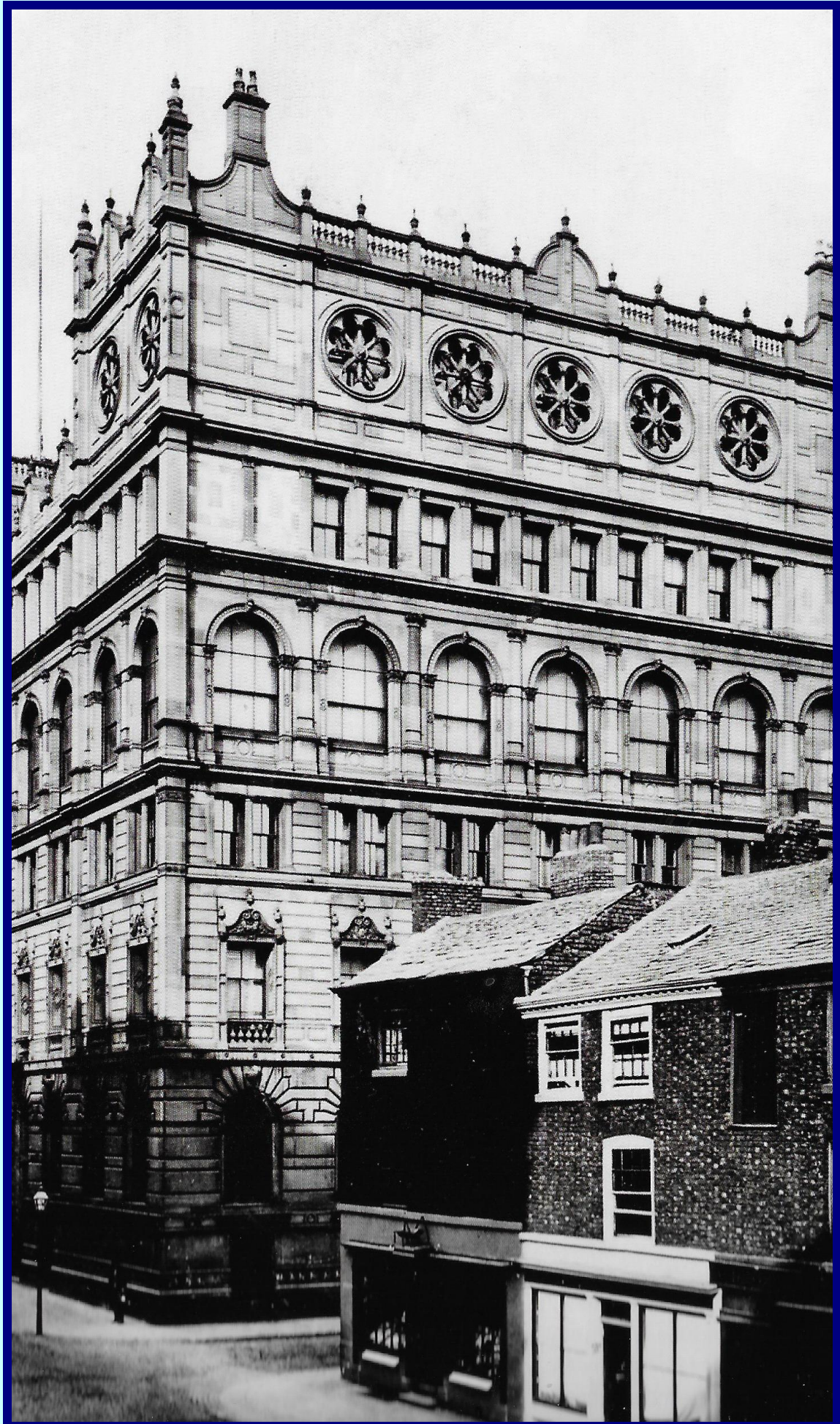
SACKVILLE GARDENS 1907



MANCHESTER ART GALLERY 1905



WATTS WAREHOUSE 1866



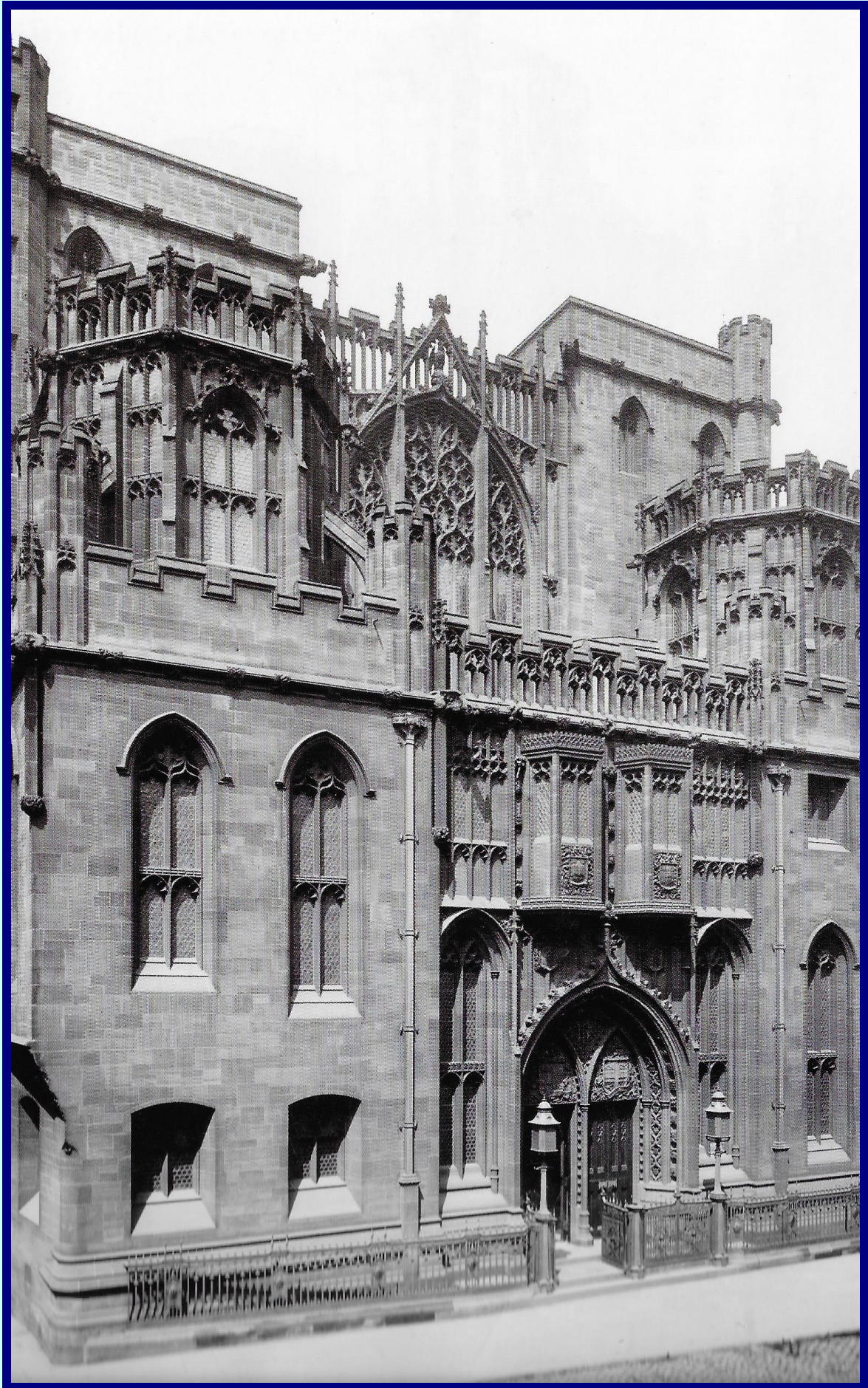
OLD TOWN HALL c.1885



TOWN HALL c.1895



JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY 1900



FREE TRADE HALL c.1930



MIDLAND HOTEL 1910



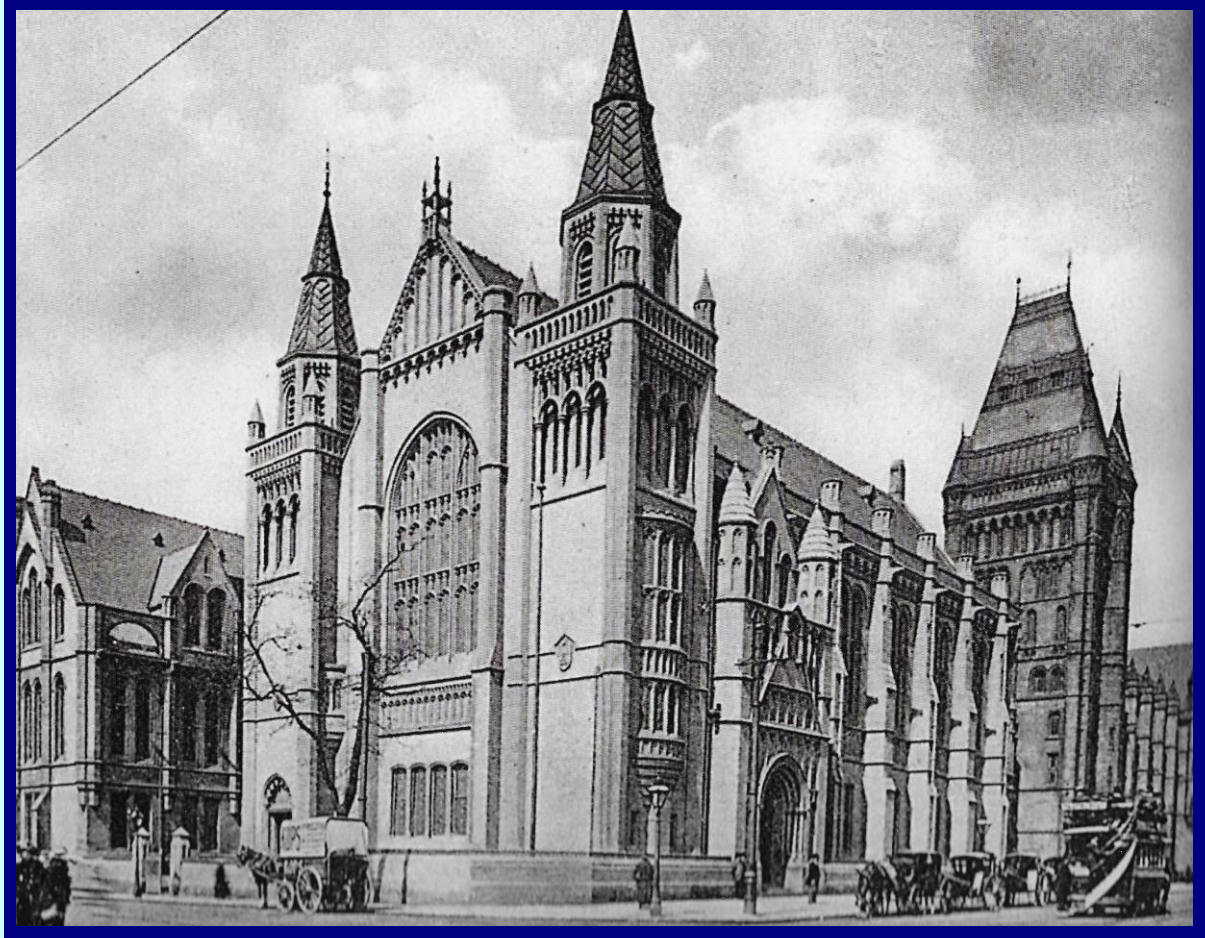
CENTRAL STATION 1910



PICCADILLY STATION 1901



UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER 1903



VICTORIA BATHS 1905



HOLY NAME CHURCH 1929



ASSIZE COURTS AND STRANGWAYS PRISON 1945



HIGH STREET 1907





Victoria Baths, Manchester's Water Palace.

HISTORIC CITIES GREAT BRITAIN MANCHESTER

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