



Business Case and Proposals for the Restoration of the Equestrian Bronze Monument to the Duke of Wellington in Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow

1) Description of The Equestrian Monument to the Duke of Wellington: Listed status - Category A

This is a bronze equestrian statue on a Peterhead granite pedestal to one of Britain's greatest heroes. The statue was sculpted by Baron Carlo Marochetti and was inaugurated 8th October 1844. The foundry for the bronze of the Great Duke was Soyer and the reliefs were cast by de Braux. The dimensions are as follows; the horse and rider are approximately 3.6 metres high, the pedestal is 2.6 metres high. The two end panels are 61 cm X 1.16 metres, the two side panels are 61 cm x 2.7 metres.



2) Historic Information on the Duke of Wellington, soldier and politician (1769-1852).

Born in Dublin in 1769, Arthur Wellesley became one of Britain's greatest military leaders. He distinguished himself in campaigns in India from 1797 and his victory over the Marathas at Assaye in 1803 enabled Britain to negotiate a lasting peace in India. Wellesley was awarded the title Duke of Wellington after expelling French troops from Spain in 1814. His greatest victory came in 1815 when his army defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, which effectively brought the Napoleonic Wars to a close. From 1818 Wellington played a leading role in British political life, eventually becoming Prime Minister in 1827. Wellington is famous for his support for Catholic emancipation. He died in 1852 and was buried with great pomp in St Paul's Cathedral. The Glasgow monument was commissioned and built in his lifetime though public subscription and Marochetti's piece is regarded as a touchstone of excellence of equestrian statues. It remains one of the most fondly regarded works of public art in Glasgow.

3) Location and historic information on the monument;

This public realm monument is owned by Glasgow City Council and is maintained and managed by the Department of Development and Regeneration Services (DRS). The monument is located in front of the portico of the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art in Royal Exchange Square, the statue faces East across Queen Street towards Ingram Street, with which it is axially aligned.

The subject is seated on his Arab stallion 'Copenhagen'. Wellington is dressed in the full uniform of a Field Marshall, right hand on his hip, chest expanded and his head turned slightly to the right. His posture is intended to suggest a general reviewing his troops; the charger is shown standing with fore feet a little in advance in an easy posture, the reins lying slack.



The pedestal is decorated with magnificent bronze pulvinated friezes on the cornice and base and has four elaborate narrative relief panels on the dado illustrating events in the Duke's career. Working clockwise from the North panel, the subjects depicted are as follows;

- The Battle of Assaye.
- The Soldier's Return.
- The Battle of Waterloo.
- The Blessings of Peace.

4) Related Works by Baron Carlo Marochetti in Glasgow;

Two other bronze equestrian monuments by Marochetti are located nearby in George Square, namely the monuments to Her Royal Highness Queen Victoria and Her Consort Prince Albert. A third monument in the Square is also by Marochetti – the monument to the Liberal politician James Oswald of Auchincruve. All three of these monuments are owned by Glasgow City Council and managed and maintained by Land and Environmental Services (LES). The two equestrian monuments were restored in November 2011 by LES as part of the statue restoration programme.