

**ABSTRACTS OF PROTOCOLS OF
THE TOWN CLERKS OF
GLASGOW. VOL. V: HENRY
GIBSONE`S PROTOCOLS, 1555-
68**

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ROBERT RENWICK

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OF THE
TOWN CLERKS OF GLASGOW,

EDITED BY
ROBERT RENWICK, DEPUTE TOWN CLERK.

VOL. V.
HENRY GIBSON'S PROTOCOLS, 1555-68.



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CONTENTS.

PREFACE, - - - - -	vii
APPENDIX TO PREFACE:—	
I.—Act of Admission by the Lords of Council of Mr. Henry Gibsone as a Notary Public, 29 February, 1663-4, - -	ix
II.—Miscellaneous Documents:—	
1. Proceedings of the Court of the Official of Glasgow, 1475, -	xi
2. Compt of Charge and Intromission of Fishing Boats in the West Seas, 1596, - - - - -	xii
3. Particulars of a Vintner's Assets and Liabilities, - -	xiv
4. Abstract of Charter relating to lands at Rosneath, 1594, -	xv
5. Abstract of Charter relating to lands of Rankenshaugh, 1594, - - - - -	xv
6. Styles of Writs, - - - - -	xvi
ABSTRACTS of Protocols, 1555-68, - - - - -	1
INDEX of Names, - - - - -	117
INDEX of Places, - - - - -	131
LIST of Subscribers, - - - - -	136

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Common Seal of the Burgh of Glasgow in the 16th Century, -	Title-page
<small>(Reduced from 2½ to 1½ inches in diameter).</small>	
Facsimile Sign and Subscription of Mr. Henry Gibsone, - - -	x
Facsimile of Attestation by Robert Scott, - - - - -	68

ABBREVIATIONS.

A.D., *Anno Domini*; A.R., *Anno Regni* or *Annis Regnorum*;
L, Indiction; l.l., longest liver, survivor; q., quondam, *i. e.*,
late, deceased; a.c., territory of the city of Glasgow.

CORRECTIONS.

Page 36, No. 1405, line 2, for "*tegiatorem*" read "*tegiatorem.*"
Page 43, footnote, 1st col. line 4, for "west" read "east;" line 6,
for "927" read "924."
Page 58, No. 1468, line 1, for "George Elphinston, senior, son"
read "George Elphinston, eldest son."
Page 61, No. 1476, line 4, for "Caththorntoun" read "Taththorntoun."

P R E F A C E.

Henry Gibsone¹ was created a notary public by apostolic authority on 19 June, 1549. On the last day of February, 1563-4, he appeared at Edinburgh, in presence of the lords administrators of the act of parliament, 1563 c. 16, and having complied with the requirements of that statute, was found duly qualified and formally admitted to office. In the act of admission (Appendix No. I.) he is designated "Maister Henry Gibsone, notar, duelland within the towne of Glasgw, quhair he was borne, of the age of xxix yeiris or thairby, unmareit, within the diocesy of Glasgw." It would thus appear that on receiving his original appointment Gibsone was only fifteen years of age; but his first book does not begin till 1555, by which time he had attained majority.

After practising for some time as a notary Gibsone succeeded William Hegait in the town-clerkship of Glasgow about the year 1568. From want of council records, which are not preserved previous to January, 1573-4, the precise date of his appointment to that office has not been ascertained. On 1 June, 1574, "Maister Henry Gibsoun" was chosen "commone clerk for this yeir" from a leet of four, and similar appointments were made in successive years till 1581, when information ceases for a time on account of a blank in the records. The making up of a leet, however, seems to have been much of a formality, and it is probable that the first recorded appointment of 1574 was likewise a re-election. Three of Henry Gibsone's

¹In protocol No. 806 it is mentioned that Henry Gibsone was a son of Mr. David Gibsone, rector of Ayr, whom, as ascertained from other sources, he succeeded in the possession of various properties, including tenements and lands which had belonged to St. Michael's chaplainry. See footnote to protocol

No. 1585 and authorities cited; also protocol No. 806. Dr. David Murray, in "Rotterrow of Glasgow" (Regalty Club, 3rd series, pt. 2 p. 41), has shown that Principal Robert Baillie, author of the well-known letters and memoirs, was a grandson of the notary.

protocol books have been preserved. The first two extend from 7 December, 1555, to 10 August, 1576, and the third begins on 28 April, 1598, and ends on 3 February, 1603. Protocols for the intermediate period have disappeared. The abstracts contained in the present volume nearly exhaust the contents of the first book.

Written on paper similar to that used by William Hegait, and some of the sheets bearing the "hand" water-mark (see vol. iv. p. 26), the shape of Gibsone's first volume has, by the doubling of the sheets, been made not folio but small quarto. In its old binding the book was provided with a parchment cover, consisting of a leaf taken from the Liturgy of the Church of Sarum, a form of service adopted at Glasgow in early times. There is double-column writing on both sides of the parchment, the directions to the officiating priest being in red ink, and some of the initial letters ornamented in red and blue. The writing on the exterior has been much injured through exposure, but that on the inner side, embracing the passage from Exodus xii. 1-11 in the Good Friday celebration of the Mass, is quite legible. A slip of parchment placed along the back of the book contains a fragment of musical notation.

A few pieces of paper pasted together were fastened within the parchment cover. One of these pieces is supposed to be a leaf taken from the proceedings of the consistory court at Glasgow during the time William Elphinstone, the eminent prelate, was official. An abstract of the writing contained on that leaf, and also particulars regarding the other MSS., will be found in Appendix II.

R. B.

GLASGOW, December, 1897.

APPENDIX TO PREFACE.

I.—ACT OF ADMISSION BY THE LORDS OF COUNCIL OF MR. HENRY GIBSONE,
AUTHORISING HIM TO EXERCISE THE OFFICE OF NOTARY PUBLIC.¹
(29th February, 1663-4).

Apud Edinburgh, ultimo die mensis Februarij anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo sexagesimo tertio.

The quhilk day, in presens of the lordis examinaturis underwrittin, that is to saye, Maister William Bailze, lord Provand, and Adam, bishop of Orknaye, comperit personalie Maister Henry Gibsone, notar, duelland within the towne of Glasgw, quhair he was borne of the age of xxix yeiris or thairby, unmareit, within the diocesy of Glasgw, and producit his instrument of creatioun gevin under the signe and subscriptione manuall of umquhill Schir Thomas Hamilton, notar publick, berand him to be creat notar be Maister William Salmond, count palatine,² as at mair lenth is content in the said Instrument of the dait the xix daye of Junii the year of God j^m v^e and fourty nyne yeiris; and siclik producit his prothocoll buik contenand ane hundreth and nyne leifis quhilkis at all merkit as the samyn beris; quhairof the first instrument contentit thairinto begynnis: *Die vij^o mensis Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo quinto, etc. Personaliter constituta Margareta Mure, olim sponsa quondam Willelmi Sellar et nunc sponsa Roberti Pirre, etc.*³ and the last instrument begynnand: *Die quarto mensis Maij anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo sexagesimo quarto, etc. Pers[onaliter] accessit honorabilis vir Joannes Cavillwell de Annanhill habens et ten[ens in] manibus quoddam actum curie vicecomitatus de Aive, etc.*⁴ And the said Henry maid fayth in presens of the said lordis that he has na uther [prothogollis] nor instruments of his awne, nor na utheris in keping, except[and thir produceit]; and eftir examinatioun had be the saidis lordis of the said Mais[ter Henry they] understand him to be qualifeit for using of the office of notar [now and in all time] cuming. And thairfore hes

¹Printed from Book of Admissions of Notaries, preserved in the General Register House, Edinburgh. Vol. 1. fol. 91. This record has been mutilated or worn at the places indicated by square brackets, within which words occurring in other acts have been supplied.

²By a charter cited by Du Cange (voce comes) the Emperor Charles IV., in the year 1370, gave authority to the Count Palatine of the Lateran to make and create notaries public and tabelliones and judges

ordinary throughout the whole Roman empire, and to invest them in these offices. William Salmond, from whom Olsson got his original appointment, was for a long time subdean of the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity at Edinburgh, and he probably held an appointment from the Papal Court authorising him to admit apostolic notaries in Scotland. See *op. cit.* No. 1347 and relative footnote.

³No. 1381. ⁴No. 1495.