

**INDEX TO EXTRACTS FROM THE  
RECORDS OF THE BURGH OF  
EDINBURGH. A. D. 1403-1589  
AND A GLOSSARY OF PECULIAR  
WORDS**

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**J. D. MARWICK**

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**I N D E X**

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**EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF  
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A.D. 1403—1589.

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**EDINBURGH:**

PRINTED FOR THE SCOTTISH BURGH RECORDS SOCIETY.

MDCCXCII.

## PREFACE.

THE Council Records of Edinburgh, for the period from 1403 to 1589, from which four volumes of extracts are given in the Scottish Burgh Records Society series of publications, are valuable not merely on account of their extent and variety, and because they illustrate burghal life in the capital of Scotland, but also because they relate to crucial periods of the national history, and throw considerable light on many interesting events.

They afford vivid glimpses of the growth of the forces which brought about the Reformation; of the new life and energy which the Reformation called forth; and of the process by which the dominance of French interests in Scotland was overthrown and the tendency to union with England was strengthened. They also throw much light on the trade and commerce of the country, and on the social and religious life of the people.

The Edinburgh of the period was not only the largest, wealthiest, and most influential burgh in Scotland, but it virtually dominated all the others. Its modes of government, and the constitution and organisation of its various associations for the regulation of trade and commerce were practically the patterns by which other towns were guided. From its position and by its possession of the port of Leith, it controlled a large portion of the home and foreign trade of the country, and distributed the bulk of its imports. Its Records are consequently in many respects national as well as burghal.

As the capital of the country, the chief residence of royalty, and the usual seat of the national and burghal parliaments and of the highest courts of law, Edinburgh attracted to it the families of the nobles and gentry, the representatives of the estates and of the burghs, and the distinguished strangers and ambassadors who visited Scotland. Of such particulars, these Records contain many interesting details. Besides,

### *Preface.*

they present some striking pictures of the trials and vicissitudes of the country during the period comprehended in these volumes—of what it suffered through the lawlessness and feuds of the upper classes, the rebellion of the nobles, the plundering of border thieves, and the frequent ravages of pestilence.

Regarding the social and religious life of the period these Records contain valuable information. Indeed, after the Reformation, Edinburgh may be said to have largely moulded the religious and political life of Scotland. It was the residence of the leaders who guided the reform movement into Presbyterianism, and the magistrats of the city were their strongest supporters. The ecclesiastical organisation which they adopted, and the methods of government which they practised, were accepted and followed all over the country; and it was chiefly in Edinburgh that the meetings of the General Assembly were held. To all these agencies there are important references in the published volumes.

But of course the bulk of the information they contain relates to the burghal government of the city, to the management of its several mercantile and craft organisations, and to the advancement of its various interests.

From this brief statement of the character and range of the Records already published, it will be evident that in order to make them practically useful they must be accompanied by an Index.

It is much to be desired that the further publication of these important Records may be continued, and it is matter for congratulation that the Magistrates and Council of the City, realising the value of these Records and of the mass of documents stored in their archives, are engaged in having the latter classified and catalogued. The probability that further selections from the Records might be published in subsequent volumes of the Burgh Records series caused the preparation of an Index to the existing volumes to be delayed; but in the hope that what has been done may stimulate interest in further publication, this Index has been prepared. It will greatly facilitate the indexing of such additional volumes as the Corporation may issue. It has been prepared by Mr David Donaldson, F.E.I.S., who also compiled the valuable Index to the

### *Preface.*

Records of the published volumes of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland. The care and accuracy with which the latter work was executed are equally conspicuous in the volume now completed.

In explanation of the plan on which the Index is constructed, it may be stated that, with a view to its not only indicating the particulars contained in the Records, but also furnishing a summary of the most important events and transactions of the period embraced, the materials dealt with have been so collected, grouped, and arranged, as to give a distinct idea of the wealth of the city, of its lands and property, rights and privileges, and of the manner in which these were managed; of its government and regulation by its various officers, and of their appointment and duties; of its trade and commerce, and how these were carried on by its craftsmen and merchants; of its markets, warehouses, workshops, and streets. The various sections have also been so connected as to afford some insight into the conditions and daily life of the people.

As a further aid to the accomplishment of this object, several of the sections have been so arranged as to serve as keys to the group of sections of which each forms a chief part. For example, by referring to the heading "Welfare of the Town," attention is directed to all the sections in which particulars regarding the city are arranged. And so as regards matters concerning the government of the city, guidance will be obtained under the heading "Magistrates"; as regards the social and higher life of the community, under the various headings of "Religion," "Church," "Ministers," "Burgesses;" and as regards historical and important general events, help will be found under the headings "Regency of" and "Reign of." With a view to a more exact style of grouping, the proper names have been collected and arranged in a division separate from the subjects.

A short glossary is appended.

I have again to acknowledge my obligations to Mr Robert Renwick for the assistance he has so loyally rendered in the preparation of this, and other volumes of the series.

19 WOODSIDE TERRACE,  
GLASGOW, June 1892.

J. D. MARWICK.





## I. INDEX OF NAMES.

- Abercrombie, Sir James, chaplain, iii. 50.  
 — John, iv. 25.  
 — John, advocate, iv. 30, 44.  
 — Mr John, advocate, ii. 189, 191, 209, 210.  
 — Lawrence, iv. 44.  
 — Richard, bailie, iv. 120, 124, 147, 318.  
 — Robert, saddler, iii. 238, iv. 32, 50-2, 71, 85, 110-1, 121, 171, 202, 212.  
 — William, iii. 175.  
 Aberdeen, Bishop of, i. 210-1.  
 — Thomas, Bishop of, i. 1-2.  
 Abernethy, Dame, ii. 26.  
 — Lancelot, bailie, i. 15.  
 Acheson, Alexander, ii. 235-6, 245-6, iii. 13, 121, 126-7, 164.  
 — George, ii. 21.  
 — Helen, relict of Archibald Stewart, iv. 405.  
 — Henry, i. 64.  
 — James, i. 78.  
 — John, ii. 93, 95, 96, iii. 282, iv. 99, 146, 238, 250.  
 — Thomas, master of mint, iv. 405.  
 — William, ii. 21.  
 — of Gosford, Alexander, iv. 144, 385.  
 Achille, John, Englishman, iii. 230.  
 Achinsonne, *see* Acheson.  
 Adam, Allan, ii. 206.  
 Adamson, Alexander, ii. 2, 74, 76, 82, 84, 86, 89, 93, 96, 129, iii. 164.  
 — Euphemia, ii. 77.  
 — Francis, iii. 142.  
 — Helen, ii. 30.  
 — James, mason, iv. 393.  
 — James, merchant, and dean of guild, ii. 213, 236, 238, 245-6, 251, 269, 280, 300, 343, iii. 13-4, 16, 18-22, 26, 28, 36, 39, 53, 62, 96, 121-2, 127, 175, 177, 272, iv. 11, 46, 67, 71, 189, 235, 237, 290, 293, 310, 336, 424, 427.  
 Adamson, James, younger, iv. 123.  
 — John, pursuivant, ii. 26.  
 — John, bailie, i. 87, 89, 90, 92, 107, 131, 132, 148, 149, 152, 160, 174, 197, 216, 222, 229, iii. 96, 126, 161, 247, 258, 260, 285, iv. 16, 22-3, 40, 78, 109, 123, 144, 205-6, 208, 238, 244, 246, 248, 250, 254-5, 265, 444, 461, iv. 553, 568-9.  
 — John, younger, i. 152, 174, 201, 208.  
 — Jonet, iv. 393.  
 — Robert, ii. 99.  
 — Thomas, i. 216.  
 — Walter, merchant, iv. 318-9.  
 — William, i. 91, 143, 148, 152, 160, 174, 216, 222, 231, ii. 2, 44, 69, 75, 78, 82, 84-5, 87, 89, 93, 95-6, 107, iii. 26, iv. 552.  
 — William, younger, i. 208.  
 — William, bailie, iv. 120, 124.  
 Addeeson, *see* Adamson.  
 Admiral, The Lord, *see* Bothwell, Earl.  
 Admuty, David, i. 9.  
 Adrian VL, Pope, i. 210.  
 Ahannay, Alexander, ii. 351.  
 — John, ii. 275-6, 285, 287, 294, 302-3, 305, 311, 322, 338, 347-9, 355, 359.  
 — William, cordiner, iv. 125-6.  
 Aichensoun, *see* Acheson.  
 Aikenhead, James, son of Thomas, iv. 469.  
 — Thomas, skinner, iii. 247, 282, iv. 32, 80, 85, 154, 187, 211, 214, 290, 293, 332, 348, 403, 417, 438, 441, 457, 463, 469.  
 — William, ii. 61, 69, 99.  
 — , iv. 454.  
 Aikman, —, iv. 454.  
 — James, i. 42, 126, 197, ii. 206.  
 — Thomas, iv. 171.

- Aikman, William, ii. 206, iii. 28, 41, 52-3, 96.  
 — William, in Dieppe, ii. 168.
- Aird, Mr William, minister, iv. 440, 510.
- Airth, David, i. 54.
- Aitken, —, burgess, i. 12.  
 — Margaret, taverner, iv. 186.  
 — Ninian, iv. 77.  
 — William, iv. 414.
- Alansoun, *see* Alison.
- Albany, Alexander, Duke of, i. 43.
- Aldinston, John, baker, ii. 259, iii. 54.
- Aldoch, Alexander, i. 80.  
 — Andrew, ii. 342.
- Alexander, John, bonnetmaker, iv. 71.  
 — Thomas, ii. 230.  
 — Thomas, burgess, iii. 170-1.  
 — Thomas, collector of duty for poor, iv. 205.
- Algeo, William, surety, i. 187.
- Alison, Alexander, ii. 206.  
 — John, i. 69, 116.
- Allan, George, ii. 44.  
 — John, pioneer, i. 134.  
 — Sir John, iii. 133.  
 — William, in Leith, iv. 382.
- Allison, *see* Alison.
- Amond, errat. for Annand, *see* Annan.
- Anderson, Alexander, i. 197, ii. 12; and his wife, ii. 46.  
 — Bessie, ii. 42.  
 — Hans, ii. 129.  
 — James, ii. 64, 87, 91, 153, 342, 361.  
 — James, sergeant, ii. 186.  
 — John, i. 49, 165, 188-9, 229, ii. 51, 74, 341, 354.  
 — Janet, ii. 27.  
 — Nicol, ii. 345-7.  
 — Patrick, i. 54.  
 — Robert, ii. 16, iii. 216.  
 — Thomas, ii. 31-4, 62.  
 — Thomas, baker, iv. 110, 158.  
 — William, i. 221, ii. 14, 315, 453.  
 — William, candlemaker, iii. 186, iv. 139, 453.
- Andrew, James, iv. 239.  
 — Jock, servant to the jailer, iv. 260, 305.
- Andrew, John, clerk to privy council, iv. 232, 256, 262-3, 291, 298.  
 — Thomas, iv. 110.
- Anglois, Nicolas, master of French school, iv. 554.
- Angus, Thomas, ii. 25.  
 — Archibald Douglas, Earl of, sometime provost, i. 144, 205, 229.  
 — Lord of, *see* Angus, Earl of.
- Annan, Thomas, goldsmith, iv. 171, 289.
- Annard, *see* Annan.
- Anny, John, ii. 98.
- Anstruther, John, iv. 82-3.
- Anthone, merchant of Rouen, i. 159.
- Applegirth, Laird of, iv. 279.
- Arbutnot, Alexander, printer, iv. 158.
- Archer, Thomas, ii. 74.  
 — Archibald, John, wife of, ii. 46.  
 — Richard, ii. 230.
- Ardro, Laird of, iv. 162.
- Arduthy, John, in Leith, ii. 310.
- Argyle, Countess of, iv. 525.  
 — Earl of, i. 158, ii. 353, iii. 271, iv. 57, 79, 81, 135-7, 142, 148, 193.
- Arnestoun, *see* Ormiston.
- Arnot, George, burgess, i. 230, ii. 21.  
 — John, bailie, and sometime provost, ii. 91, iv. 32, 45, 47, 63-4, 71, 85, 149, 248, 250, 457, 470-7, 479, 490, 494-5, 499, 501, 503, 530, 539, 541, 545-6.  
 — Robert, of Stirling, i. 147.  
 — Thomas, i. 148-9.  
 — Thomas, town-officer, i. 108, 132-3, ii. 17.
- Arran, James, Earl of, sometime Regent, and provost, i. 158, 173-6, 192-3, 196, 224-6, ii. 126, 128, 151, iii. 46, 118-9, 132.  
 — James Stewart, Earl of, Lord Avon and Hamilton, sometime chancellor, and provost, iv. 209, 235, 305, 353-4, 360, 363, 365, 437-8, 441-3, 457, 466, 478, 513, 534-5; claims the property occupied by the College in Kirk of Field—his claim resisted, iv. 305, 457, 466, 478, 534-5; is twice appointed provost of the city by the King, iv. 353-4, 437-8; his disgrace