

### III.

NOTICES OF THE KING'S MASTER WRIGHTS OF SCOTLAND, WITH WRITS OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS. BY THE REV. R. S. MYLNE, M.A., B.C.L. OXON.

The King's Master Wright was a personage of less importance than the King's Master Mason or the King's Master of Work. Still, the history of his office resembles in many respects that of the two last-named officials, and we find him and his assistants mentioned from time to time in the early records of Scotland. The number of wrights in the royal employment seems to have varied considerably, according to the various exigencies of the Crown; and these wrights could readily turn their hands to boat-building, the construction of instruments for military warfare, or the internal fittings of the Royal Palace.

Some notices of the wrights and carpenters employed by the Kings of Scotland in early times may be found in the *Exchequer Rolls*. Thus, in 1290 Alexander, the Carpenter, receives pay for his work executed in Stirling Castle by the King's command. In 1361 Malcolm, the Wright, receives £10 from the fermes of Aberdeen, and this payment is repeated in later years. Between the years 1362 and 1370 Sir William Dishington acted as Master of Work to the Church of St Monan's in Fife, and received from King David II. the sum of £613, 7s. 0d. The King also paid for carpenter's work at this church £6, 13s. 4d. In 1377 David Bell, Arch-deacon of Dunblane, receives money from the King for expenses incurred in connection with the building of Edinburgh Castle. John of Preston

and Roger Hog were also connected with these works. In 1380 Duncan Wright, Carpenter of Edinburgh Castle, receives £10 for his year's fee, and again in 1381 and subsequent years. In 1383 Dedericus (or Theodoricus), the Carpenter, is paid £20 for making a great 'machine' for warfare. In 1426 Martin Wright receives 262 boards for the King's work at Edinburgh Castle, which cost £6, 18s. 5d., besides £4, 18s. 9d. for carriage, etc. from Leith. In 1429-30 John Wright receives £6, 10s. 0d. by command of the King

The account of John Weir for works at Linlithgow Palace, rendered in the year 1451, includes wright's work amongst other particulars. In 1454 Friar Andrew, the Wright, "servitor domini regis," receives for his yearly fee £10, and also £1, 12s. 0d. for iron for the siege of Blackness Castle. In the same year William, the heir of Gilbert Wright, receives £5 from the fermes of Aberdeen. This old payment keeps recurring from time to time, and seems to be hereditary.

In 1457 the French Smith receives a cottage free for life. In 1460 Friar Andrew, the Wright, receives £7, 2s. 0d. for the carriage of the King's artillery from Perth to the port of Leith, and thence to Edinburgh Castle. In the same year David Wright, the King's Smith, receives £3, 6s. 8d. in part payment of his fee. In 1462 he receives £16, and in 1467 receives 10s. for visiting and removing bombards in Dunbar. Friar Andrew (Lisouris), a lay brother of Cupar, is now the King's Carpenter, buys joists for Ravenscraig, and timber for Edinburgh Castle, repairs the Royal Chapel at Stirling, prepares timber for roofs in Darnaway Forest, and sends timber from Moray for the works at Linlithgow.

In 1476 Robert Lourison became King's Carpenter. In 1474 David Wright receives the brass for the artillery, and a grant of £4 from the lands of Drumtennand. He dies in 1477, when £3, 6s. 8d. is paid to his widow Janet by the King's grace, and is repeated in 1478 and 1479.

In 1494 James IV. employed a number of wrights in the construction of a large barge at Dumbarton, and he took his wrights with him to the raid of Ellem and the raid of Norham. In 1497 he had wrights at work on the roof of the "Hannis toure" of Dunbar.

In Edinburgh, as elsewhere, the wrights were closely connected with the masons, and in the renowned capital of Scotland were incorporated into one society by charter in the year 1475, having the aisle and altar of St John the Evangelist in the Collegiate Church of St Giles allotted for their special use, with the privilege of duly maintaining the same. Some of the rules and regulations connected with this charter are curious; as, for instance, that the "twa craftismen shall caus and have thair placis and roomes in all generale processions lyk thair haf in the towne of Bruges, or siclyk gud townes": and another regulation was that each apprentice, in case of disobedience, should pay for his first fault one pound of wax to the altar of St John.

In the early accounts—A.D. 1513-4—for building the bridge of Dunkeld, by Bishop Thomas Brown, there is mention of wrights. Thus, Thomas Wrycht, carpenter, was hired at Martinmas 1511 at forty merks yearly, and received, "in complete payment of his wage," in money £37, 6s. 8d. He seems also to have had a chaldre of meal and eight bolls of barley from the keeper of the granary. Malcolm and Donald Sawar were working with him, and besides wages, dined with the Bishop when he was at home, or received a penny for dinner when he was absent. Other wrights, carpenters, and sawyers were also employed on the work.

In 1508 John Drummond, the King's Carpenter, receives a grant under the Great Seal of £10 a year in consideration of his services to the Crown. On 23rd July 1547 John Drummond receives confirmation of the lands of Ballinreif and Milnab under the Great Seal. Is this the same person as the King's Carpenter?

On 22nd October 1561 John Mylne was made Wright in Edinburgh Castle.

Thomas Brown was Master Smith in 1626-7, and rendered accounts for work at Holyrood, etc. Amongst other smiths, etc. mentioned, and apparently working under his direction, are:—Abraham Hamilton, James Murray (wright), William Storie (wright) and his son, Thomas Bennet and John Reid.

William Wallace, whose name is so closely associated with Heriot's Hospital, is frequently designated the Carver in the royal accounts, almost as if this were an office under the Crown.

In 1643 Thomas Storie, wright, is found amongst the list of burgesses of the Canongate. In 1648 John Scott, wright, is employed by the Corporation of Edinburgh on St Giles' steeple, together with John Mylne, Master Mason.

In February 1668 James Bain, "His Majestie's Wright," agrees with the Earl of Panmure for the execution of the whole of the wright work in the erection of Panmure House for 4500 merks. He also stipulated for a suitable lodging with fire and candle, and the Earl agreed to provide timber and iron, requiring the "great staircase to be made up after the order of the staircase at Donybryssel, and what better Bain pleases himself."

During the building of Holyrood Palace, various wrights were at work under the direction of James Bain, His Majesty's Principal Master Wright, whose name frequently occurs in the accounts; as, for instance, on 4th March 1674, when he receives £5667, 12s. Od. Scots for various kinds of timber. On 13th May 1675 his assistants received £2850, 15s. Od. Scots as wages.

On 23rd January 1677 Thomas Oliphant, wright, receives a special payment "for furnishing of timber, and making of moulds thereof to be paterns of certain of the meason work," £14, 2s. Od. Scots. On 2nd March 1678 James Porteous, wright, receives £24 for making "a moddell of the Cupuloe of the Gate of the said Pallace, with the moddell of the Pedestall and Ballasterers."

On 22nd February Jan Vansantvoort, the Carver, received £408 for "cutting, carving, and upputting of several pieces of carved work upon the chimney and door-pieces of His Majestie's appartement in the East quarter"; and Alexander Eizatt, wright, £1360, 19s. Od. for "upputting of severall lyneings of windowes, doors," etc., etc.

Sir William Binning of Waliefoord supplied twenty-nine dozen great joists for £2212, 16s. Od.

John Callender was employed as smith, and Jacob De Wett—the Dutchman—executed the principal paintings.

James Bain is also found at work at Edinburgh Castle, Stirling, and the Bass; and in 1681 his name occurs amongst the list of royal officials who claim and obtain exemption from taxation.

In 1696 a house, in what is now known as the Writers' Court, was purchased and fitted up for the use of the Writers to the Signet; and from the Writers' Minutes it appears Deacon Paterson, wright, was paid £1088 Scots for his work on the same, and one dollar of drink money was allowed to the wrights employed in finishing this lodging. Of course, the Society of Writers now meets in the Signet Library.

In the earliest records it is often difficult to say whether the title "Wright" applies to the man or his office, and in the case of Friar Andrew, who was a lay brother of Cupar, the real surname was Lisouris.

The office of King's Master Wright is often held with some other office—as gunner, carpenter, or plasterer—as will be seen by some of the Privy Seal Writs given below.

We append a list of the Master Wrights to the Crown appointed by writ under the Privy Seal of Scotland :—

1 January	1551	John Crawford. James Murray.
4 May	1601	James Murray, younger. James Cokburne.
13 February	1636	John Scott. He was appointed Master Wright of Edinburgh, 1 February 1637.
	1668?	James Bain. He was King's Master Wright during the building of Holyrood Palace. The writ of appointment cannot be found.
19 May	1703	Andrew Paterson. He was appointed on the recommendation of James Scott of Logie, Master of Work.
4 March	1715	Robert Mowbray.
31 March	1748	George Campbell.
24 May	1762	Charles Howison.
29 October	1779	William Butler.

We now give by way of example, and arranged in chronological order, the particulars of twelve writs of the Privy Seal appointing Master Wrights and ordinary wrights, chiefly taken from the earlier portion of the record, and one writ of confirmation of appointment.

It may here be noted that Sir Alexander Jardine, knight, of Applegarth, was appointed chief gunner, 3rd July 1526. His name was unfortunately omitted in the notices of the Master Gunners.

*Grant by Queen Mary to John Boustoun.*

Ane lettre maid to Jhone Boustoun makand him ane of our soverane ladyis smythis ordinar for all the dayis of his life and to have monethlie thairfore for all the dayis of his life the soume of ij<sup>li</sup> x<sup>s</sup> of the reddiest of our soverane ladyis casualteis to be payit to him be the thesaurare now present and being for the tyme Begynnand the first payment at the first day of Marche nixt eftir the dait heirof with command in the samyn to our said thesaurare to ansuer the said Jhone of the said soume, etc. Providing that he wark daylie heirfore, etc. At Edinburgh the xiiij. day of Februar the yere foirsaid—1547.

Register of Privy Seal, vol. xxi. fol. 70.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by Queen Mary to James Hectour.*

Ane lettre maid to James Hectour makand him ane of our soverane ladyis wrychtis and gunnaris ordinar. And to have monethlie thairfore for all the dayis of his life the soume of ij<sup>li</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> usuale money of Scotland of the reddiest of our soverane ladyis casualteis be the thesaurare now present and being for the tyme Begynnand the first payment at the first day of Marche nixt eftir the dait heirof with command in the samyn to our said thesaurare to ansuer the said James of the said soume, etc. Providing that the said James daylie wark bayth of wrycht craft gunnar melting and casting of gunnis and all utheris laubouris he can do. And als that he salbe reddy to pas to the feildis as ane cannoner or to sege or to remane in ony pairt quhair he salbe commandit be our soverane lady or ony uther in hir name etc. At Edinburgh the xiiij day of Februar the yere foirsaid—1547.

Per signaturam,

*Grant by Queen Mary to Thomas Pettegrew.*

Ane lettre maid to Thomas Pettecrew gunnar and smyth makand him ane of our soverane ladyis ordinaris and gevand to him the soume of four pundis monethlie in his wage during his lifetyme etc. At Edinburgh the first day of Aprile the yeir foirsaid—1550.

Vol. xxiv. fol. 1.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by Queen Mary to John Crauford.*

Ane lettre maid to Johne Craufurd makand him maister wrycht and gunnar to our soverane lady and gevand to him the office thairof for all the dayis of his

Fol. 48.

life for using and exercising of the quhilk office our soverane lady gevis to him monethlie during his lifytyme the soume of viij<sup>lii</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> money of this realme etc. At Edinburgh the first day of Januar the yeir foirsaid.—1551.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by Queen Mary to Adam Hamilton.*

Vol. xxv. fol. 54. Ane lettre maid to Adame Hamiltoun makand him ane of oure soverane ladyis smythis and gunnaris and to have monethlie for his wagis during all the dayis of his life iij<sup>lii</sup> money of this realme to be payit to him be the thesaurar now present and being for the tyme of the reddest of our said soverane ladyis casualiteis and colferis, etc. At Lynlythqw the first day of Aprile the yeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>e</sup> liij yeris.

Per signaturam.

*Confirmation of Grant to T. Pettegrew.*

Vol. xxvi. fol. 71. Ane lettre maid to Thomas Pettegrew maikand constitutand and ordinand him ane of oure soverane ladyis smythis and gunnaris ordinar for all the dayis of his lufe and for gude trew and thankfull service done and to be done to hir grace, and to my lord governour in the said office be him oure soverane lady gevis and grantis to the said Thomas the soume of fyve pundis usuale money of this realme in his fe to be payit monethlie for all the dayis of his lufe Off the reddiest of hir graceis casualiteis be hir hienes thesaurare now present and being for the tyme Begynnand the first payment thairof the first day of Januar nixtocum. And that the said lettir be extendit in the best forme with all clausis neidfull, with command in the samyn etc. At Edinburgh the viij day of December the yeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>e</sup> fiftie-thre yeris.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by Queen Mary to Andrew Littlejohn.*

Vol. xxvii. fol. 5. Ane lettre maid to Andro Litoljohne maikand him ane of our soverane ladyis gunnaris ordinar and wrycht for all the dayis of his lufe And for his gude trew and thankfull service done and to be done to hir grace And to my lord governour in the said office Gevand and grantand to the said Andro the soume of four<sup>li</sup> usuale money of this realme in his fe to be payit to him monethlie for all the dayis of his lufe of the reddiest of hir casualiteis be hir thesaurar now present and being for the tyme Begynnand the first payment at the first day of Januar nixtocum to be had the said office of gunnarie with the said soume of four<sup>li</sup> of fe to be payit [to] the said Andro in maner foirsaid for all the dayis of his lufe frelie quietlie etc. At Edinburgh the xij day of Februar the yeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>e</sup> liij yeris.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by Queen Mary to John Bickerton.*

Vol. xxviii. fol. 85. Ane lettre maid to Johnne Bickertoun makand him ane of oure soverane ladies gunnaris and smythis ordinar and gevand to him the offices thairof for

all the dayis of his lyfe and for using and exerceing of the samyn offices (as heir-efftir he salbe requirit and in sic places or partis upoun the feildis or uthirwayis as hir grace sall command and think gude) hir hienes gevis and grantis to him the sowme of fyve pundis usuale money of hir realme to be payit to him monethlie in his feis and waigis for all the dayis of his lyfe be hir thesaurar now present and being for the tyme Off the reddiest of hir hienes casualiteis and dewiteis the first payment begynnand at the day of the dait heirof and that the said lettre, etc., with command to the said thesaurare to mak thankfull payment, etc. At Newbotle the first daye of August 1557.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by King James VI. to John Leischman.*

Ane lettre maid to Johne Leischman Smyth at the Calsayheid makand him oure soverane lordis smith for schoing of his majesteis horss and gevand to him the office thairof for all the dayis of his lyfe with all feis and dewiteis belanging and pertenyng thairto with power to the said Johnne to use and exerce the said office in tyme cuming siclyk as ony utheris hes servit in the said office in tyme bygane with all feis and dewiteis usit and wount, etc., with command thairin to his majesteis comptrollar present and being for the tyme and utheris appointit or to be appointit for payment of feallis To answer and mak payment to the said Johnne Leischman of all feis and dewiteis usit and wount perteyning to the office foirsaid during his lyftyme etc. At Striviling Castell the xxvij. day of Augnst the yeir of God j<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup> threscoir nyntene yeiris.

Per signaturam.

*Grant by King James VI. to James Murray, Elder.*

Letter to James Murray, elder, present principal master gunner to his majesty, ordaining him overseer and attender on all his majesty's works of reparations, etc., for life, and in succession to the late Sir William M'Dougall. Fee £10 monthly, with stand of clothing yearly. Dalkeith, 4th May 1601.

Privy Seal, vol. lxxiv. fol. 323.

*Grant by King James VI. to James Murray, Younger.*

Letter to James Murray, younger, making him principal master wright and gunner ordinary in the Castle of Edinburgh, and in all other castles, etc. On dimission of the office by James Murray, elder, his father, his majesty's present wright and master gunner, with all rights and privileges "as the said James Murray elder or unquhile Thomas Craufurd" or other master wrights enjoyed. Fee £10 monthly, and stand of clothes yearly. Dalkeith, 4th May 1601.

*Grant by King James VI. to John Scott.*

Letter to John Scot, wright, appointing him his majesty's master wheel-wright in Edinburgh Castle, and in all others of his majesty's castles, etc.—the office being vacant by the death of James Cokburne, last possessor thereof. Fee,

Vol. cvii. fol. 94.

£8 monthly. Presented for the office by Sir Anthony Alexander, H.M. Master of Work, and Surveyor-General. At Edinburgh, 13th February 1636.

*Gift by King George III. to George Campbell to be His Majesty's House Carpenter and Plaisterer in Scotland. Given at S. James, 31 March 1748.*

George, etc.

Whereas we Considering that our Royal Predecessors have been in use to grant commissions to such tradesmen as were thought fit for their service in Scotland, and we being well informed of the sufficiency and ability of George Campbell, House Carpenter and Plaisterer there.

Therefore wit ye us to have nominated, constituted, and appointed, Likeas we by these presents nominate, constitute, and appoint the said George Campbell to be our House Carpenter and Plaisterer to all our Buildings, Palaces, Houses, Forts, works and artillery, etc., within that part of our said kingdom, and that during our pleasure only, and give and grant to the said George Campbell during the space aforesaid the aforesaid office with all the freedoms, privileges, fees, and immunities belonging thereto, with power to him to exerce and enjoy the said office of master carpenter, artillery carpenter and plaisterer by himself and his servants employed by him for whom he shall be answerable, as fully and freely as any others his predecessors in the said office exercised, brooked, and enjoyed the same office before, and to enjoy all privileges and immunities that are competent by law to Tradesmen having commissions from us : and particularly freedom and immunity from watching or warding within burgh.

Given at our Court at S. James, and under our Privy Seal of Scotland, the 26th day of March 1748 years, in the twenty-first year of our reign.

Per signaturam manu S.D.N.

Regis suprascriptam.