

## VII.

## THE CHURCH BELLS OF RENFREWSHIRE AND DUNBARTONSHIRE. By R. W. M. CLOUSTON, B.Sc.Eng., F.S.A.Scot.

Up to the present time very little has been published relating to church and other bells in Scotland. Only two counties have been covered in detail, namely, Kincardineshire in 1897 and Linlithgowshire in 1913, both being the work of Dr F. C. Eeles, F.S.A.Scot.

During a two years' residence in Renfrewshire the author of this paper discovered that, unlike England where most of the exploratory work has already been done, Scotland presented a large field for investigation, and so started on this survey.

When Christianity first came to these shores the only bells used were those that could be carried by hand by the missionaries, and of this type we have the Skellat bell preserved in Dumbarton. After a number of years stone churches or chapels were built, having either an open bell-cote or a tower. The bells were then a fixture in the church and were not of any great size, each church usually having a single bell. In Scotland right up to the Reformation we find that only the richest churches had more than one bell, and in these cases the bells were seldom tuned one with another. In England, however, rings of bells were known in the twelfth century; there was one of seven bells at Croyland in the early years of that century. These bells were definitely tuned one with another and were rung successively. Normally, however, the English parish church at the time of the Reformation had up to five bells, but in the early part of the seventeenth century there was introduced a system of scientific change ringing, and as the total number of changes possible on five bells, being factorial 5, is only 120, it was soon in vogue to increase the number of bells up to six and even up to an octave. For change ringing the bells are hung in a special type of frame, with wheels, stays and sliders, by which they can be swung a complete circle and made to rest mouth upwards when necessary.

Instead of following the English method of ringing, Scotland was influenced by the continental system. In the latter large numbers of bells, 23 or more, are hung stationary or "dead," and are hit with hammers manipulated by wires from a keyboard. These collections of bells are termed carillons when their number exceeds 22, and cover a range of two octaves or more. Any number less constitutes a chime. Unlike the English system where each bell requires a ringer, one man can operate a carillon

in much the same way as an organ, and sometimes it is purely automatic, being geared from the clock; the hammers being tripped by pegs fixed in the circumference of a barrel, which is rotated. However, this system produces bad results if the pegs wear or get distorted in any way, thus losing the beat of the music. Hammered bells have an inferior tone to those swung in a complete circle. In the latter case the result is louder, due to the fact that the bell is struck by its clapper or tongue when it is horizontal or almost upside down and the sound is then projected upwards and outwards.

The English system of changeringing is by no means unknown in Scotland, but it has been introduced only in modern times. There are rings of bells at St Cuthbert's and St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh; St James's, Leith; and in Alloa, Dundee, Glasgow, Paisley, Inveraray and Inverness. An early ring of bells as in the steeple of St Andrew's, Edinburgh, cast by the Whitechapel Foundry, London, in 1788. The tower is unsafe when the bells are swung, so they are clocked and chimed.

In preparing this paper the author's thanks are due to Dr F. C. Eeles, F.S.A.Scot., for his help and encouragement; to Mr Frederick Sharpe of Launton, Oxon., and Mr A. D. Lacaille, F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot., of London, for the loan of a block and a photograph. The bellfounding firms of Messrs John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough; Messrs Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., of Croydon; and Messrs Mears & Stainbank, of Whitechapel, London, have very kindly furnished the weights and notes of the bells they have supplied to these two counties. Mr A. A. Hughes, J.P., Manager of the last-named firm, has also been of great assistance. Mr James D. Boyd, F.S.A.Scot., Curator of the People's Palace Museum, Glasgow, very kindly gave permission for the two old bells under his charge to be photographed (Pls. XXXV, 1, and XXXVI).

#### THE CHURCH BELLS OF RENFREWSHIRE.

Renfrewshire, though one of the smaller counties of Scotland from the point of view of area, has a high density of population and consequently a large number of churches, the majority of which are modern. At the Reformation it consisted of sixteen parishes with parts of two others; a number of these parishes have since been divided to allow for the formation of such towns as Port-Glasgow and Gourock.

In the county there are no pre-Reformation bells actually in use, the only one remaining from that period being the very small handbell that was found some years ago under the floor of Renfrew Parish Church.

This survey of the church bells and others in the county covers the bells in all the older parish churches and all bells in municipal possession. In addition, where a modern church possesses a chime or a ring of bells or a single bell of any magnitude, these have been included.

The older bells may be classified thus:

(I.) 1 mediæval	Unknown founder.
(II.) 4 seventeenth century	{ 2 Scottish. 1 English. 1 Dutch.
(III.) 5 eighteenth century	{ 2 Scottish. 2 English. 1 Dutch.

Two of the seventeenth-century bells have been recast, but in both cases the old inscriptions have been reproduced. The earlier one of these used to hang in the church at Kilellan before the latter was abandoned, and was cast by Charles Hog in 1618.

It is probable that this founder was the son of George Hog who cast the bell at Closeburn, Dumfriesshire, which is inscribed: <sup>1</sup>

+TREGINTA +DE +AGVST +APVD · POTERRAW/  
ANNO +DOMINI +1606

On the waist is a medallion similar to that found on the Kilellan bell (fig. 3), but with the initials G.H. The word Poterraw would seem to be referring to the place of that name in Edinburgh, which was the probable site of his foundry. The hammer and the crown on the medallion refer to their membership of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh.

Another bell by Charles Hog is to be found in the mansion of Burnhouse, Midlothian, inscribed: <sup>2</sup>

MICHEAL. BIL. EVIR. MOIR. 1613. /ONLY. TO. GOD. BI.  
HONOVR. AND. GLOIR. RING. KIRK. <sup>3</sup>

Below are the initials CH in the medallion as illustrated.

The Paisley Silver Bells are next in point of age. The two bells are made of pure silver, and are in the form of a cone with the base closed by a perforated hemisphere. Inside each there is a ball which when disturbed causes the bells to tinkle. They were made as the prize for the Paisley Races which were instituted in 1620. The larger bell bears the old Burgh Arms with the initials O.P., and the other is dated 1620, with a coat of arms and initials H.C., which probably stand for Hew Crawford of Cloberhill, who won them first.

<sup>1</sup> *Report of Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, Dumfriesshire*, p. 175.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, West and Midlothian, p. 175.

<sup>3</sup> [This must surely have been originally intended to read: 'Only to God bi' honour and gloir. Ring Kirkmicheal bil evirmoir. 1613'—Ed.]

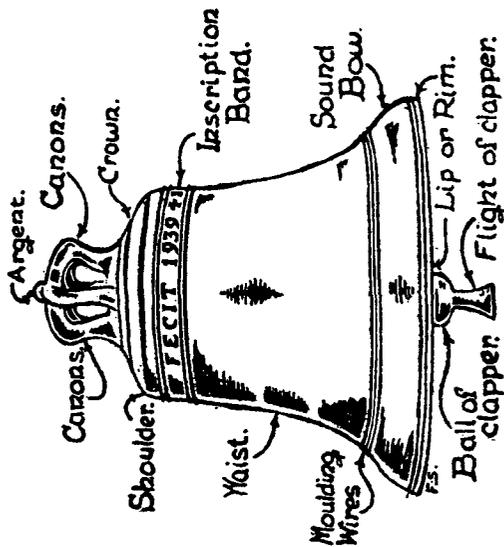
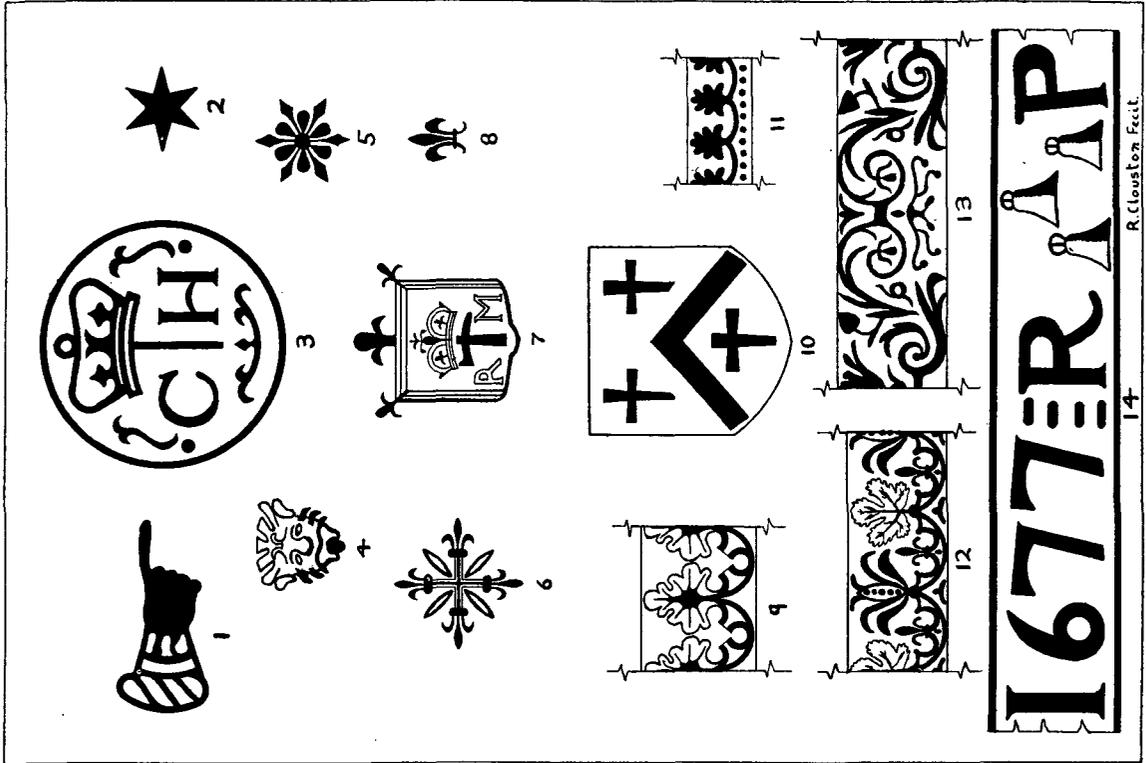


Fig. 1A. Sketch of bell showing names of parts.  
 [By courtesy of Mr F. Sharpe of Launton, Oxon.]

Figs. 1-14. Half-scale details of founders' marks.  
 [Nos. 1, 2, 3, Charles Hog of Edinburgh, 1618; 4, 12, 13, Gerard Koster of Amsterdam, 1663; 5, Messrs John Taylor & Co., Ltd., of Loughborough, Leics., 1909; 6, 8, Van Jacop Waghevens of Mechlin, Belgium, 1554; 7, Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh, 1723; 9, Cornelis Ouderogge of Rotterdam, 1657; 10, arms of William Kennedy, abbot of Crossraguel, c. 1527; 11, Jan Burgerhuys of Middelburg, Holland, 1610; 14, (prob.) Roger Purdue of Bristol, 1677.]

Paisley has also the next oldest bell, though it has been recast twice since coming from Rotterdam in 1648. The inscription now reads:

SOLI · DEO · GLORIA · CORNELIS · OVDEROGGE · FEGIT ·  
 EN · D · I · OI · O · ROTTERDAM · ANNO DOMINI 1648/FOR ·  
 THE · TOWNE · OF · PASLAY/RECAST BY/J. MILLER REID/  
 GLASGOW/1897.

Though the inscription is supposed to be facsimile one error is at once apparent, the writing of FEGIT for FECIT. With this in mind it would also appear that the D·I·OI·O is not reproduced as it was on the original bell.

The author has been fortunate in being able to communicate with a fellow church bell enthusiast in Holland. Mijnheer Jan Arts of Tilburg has made the collection of data on bells and their founders his hobby for some time past, and he has been kind enough to tell the author something about the history of these seventeenth-century Dutch founders whose work is found in Scotland. It appears that there are few, if any, books on the subject of Dutch bells, and the information has been collected from various sources.

Of the Ouderogge family, he writes that there were four founders. Jan Ouderogge I, born in Amsterdam in 1573 or 1574, was the son of Cornelis Jan Symonszoon Ouderogge and Maria Gerrits. He married in 1598 and was a bellfounder in Amsterdam for a time; but in 1613 he left for Rotterdam, where he started a gun foundry. He died 29th August 1625, and was buried in the Grote-Kerk in Rotterdam. In 1622 he cast the metal statue of Erasmus for the city of Rotterdam, "a masterpiece of the founder's art." So far none of his work has been found in Scotland.

Jan I had two sons, Cornelis and Dirk. Both were born about 1600 in Amsterdam and moved with their father to Rotterdam. Cornelis was married on 27th July 1631 to Cornelia Dirks Nobel and died in Rotterdam in the beginning of July 1672. Dirk married in 1631 and died in October 1649. Cornelis and his brother Dirk were bell and gun founders and they worked in partnership, though Cornelis, being the elder, gave his name to the firm. Cornelis had also another name, Iansen, *i.e.* son of Jan, which he uses on a bell at Culross Abbey cast in 1659.

On many of the bells remaining in Holland to-day that were cast at this foundry the inscription reads:

CORNELIS OVDEROGGE FECIT D · I · O · ROTTERDAM . . .

Another bell of this type had the word EN after FECIT, so producing a great similarity with the Paisley bell. We may therefore safely infer that

the two letters “.OI .” are superfluous on this bell. Jan Arts suggests that the initials stand for Dirk Jansen Ouderogge, showing that he and not his brother cast the bell. This bell at Paisley is the only one bearing Cornelis Ouderogge’s name that also has the initials on it, but to test the theory in the future there should be no bells dated after October 1649 bearing Dirk’s initials.

Other bells by Cornelis or Dirk Ouderogge in Scotland are at Forfar, dated 1637; a possible one at Ruthven, Aberdeenshire, 1643; Hutchison’s Hospital, Glasgow, 1649; Navar, now in Arbroath Museum, 1655; the Holy Rude Church, Stirling, 1657; and Culross Abbey, Fife, 1659.

Cornelis had a son Jan II who was the last of this line of founders. His date of birth is not known, but he was married in 1679 at Rotterdam and was active as a gun and bell founder at ’s Gravenhage. His bells in Holland range from 1681 to 1709, though he was working in 1676 when he cast a magnificent cannon for King Charles II weighing 9 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. This is now on view in the basement of the White Tower in the Tower of London.

The earliest English bell in the county now comes to our notice; this bell hangs in the West Kirk, Greenock, and is inscribed:

≡ FOR : THE : CHURCH ≡ OF ≡ GRINOCK : 1677 ≡ R  $\Delta$   $\Delta$  P

The latter part of the inscription is illustrated in fig. 14. This bell was probably cast by Roger Purdue of Bristol, who was founding from 1644 to 1688. Greenock being a port was in an easy position for trade with the west of England, so it is not surprising that the bells came from so far afield. Another Bristol bell is preserved in Paisley Museum and bears the date 1767.

The Burgh of Port Glasgow possesses a small brass handbell on which is typed an inscription and date 1707. The Town Crier used this bell in the old days, and judging from the tone it is as well that the bell is no longer in use.

The last Dutch bell to be noticed hangs in a turret in Paisley Abbey; the inscription has almost corroded away, but it is reputed to be:

JOHANNES SPECHT ROTTERDAM A.D. 1730

Bells by this founder are rare in Scotland, as at this time the Scottish foundries were working in Edinburgh and elsewhere. M. Jan Arts states that he knows of ten bells cast by this founder between the years 1749 and 1768. Another Scottish example is at Portsoy, Banff, dated 1746.

At the close of the eighteenth century the great Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London supplied a bell to Eaglesham. This firm was started in 1567

and has been founding bells continuously to the present day, having cast many of the important bells in England and the Empire. Bells from this foundry are found at Eaglesham, 1792; Kilbarchan, 1811; Neilston, about 1830; Neilston Old Church, 1863; Paisley Steeple, 1863; and the largest bell in the county, that in Renfrew Parish Church, weighing just over 22½ cwt.

There were bells from this foundry at Greenock, Mid Kirk, 1787; Paisley, High Kirk, 1823; Johnston, 1847; and Lochwinnoch, 1849, but these have since been recast.

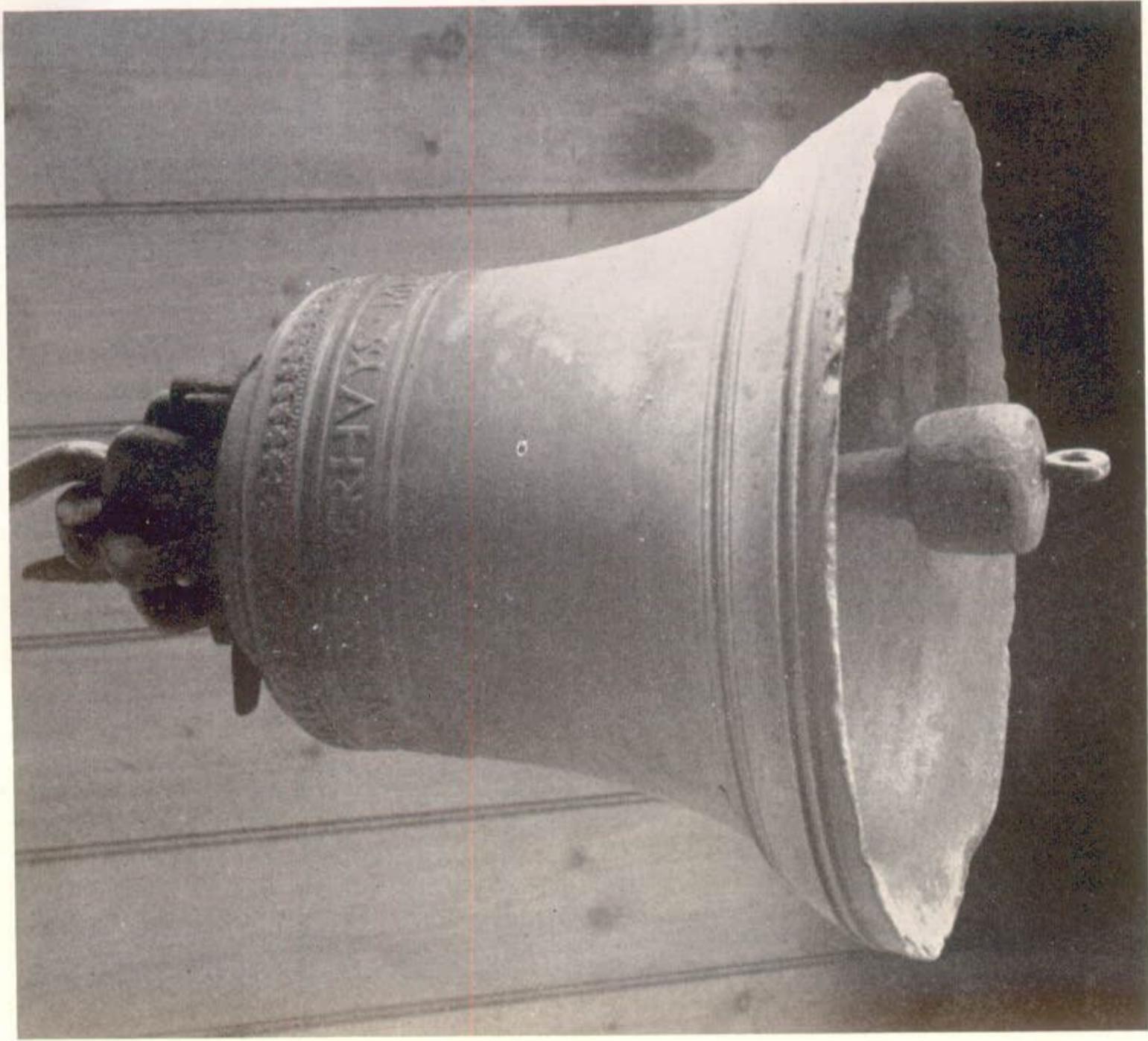
The other two leading bell-founding firms in England have done some notable work in the county. Messrs John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, Leicestershire, cast and hung the octave in St James's Church, Paisley, each bell being arranged to swing in a complete circle. Messrs Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., of Croydon, Surrey, cast the chimes of bells at Greenock, St George; Paisley Town Hall; and the Orphan Homes of Scotland in Kilmacolm parish, consisting of 9, 10 and 12 bells respectively, with tenors of 16½, 19½ and 11 cwt.

Two Scottish firms have provided quite a number of bells in the county. One firm was started by David Burges of Glasgow, who was made a member <sup>1</sup> of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow on 11th June 1833, and founded till 1854, when he retired. During this time he cast a bell for Rossland Church, Bishopton, in 1844, and also recast the Kilellan bell in the same year. He was succeeded by John C. Wilson in 1854, and the firm was made into a limited company, which cast bells till 1928. The site of the foundry was first at 34 Shuttle Street, Glasgow, but it soon moved to 99 Portugal Street, Glasgow, and it became known as the Gorbals Bell Foundry. The goodwill and plant of this firm have since been acquired by Messrs Steven & Struthers of Glasgow.

Through the kindness of the daughter of the last owner of the foundry, Mrs Sykes-Wright, the author has been able to see a catalogue of bells cast at this foundry up till the early years of this century. This catalogue, unfortunately, gives neither the dates nor the weights of the bells, and as some of the foundry records have disappeared, it is hard to obtain an accurate figure for the weights and the dates of such bells as are inaccessible. One guide in fixing the date of bells in turrets, where the actual date is not visible, is by the styling of the firm. John C. Wilson alone is found from 1854 till about 1873. From then till about 1895 the firm was called John C. Wilson & Co., and from then till 1928 it was a limited company.

There are a large number of bells from this foundry in the county, most of them single bells, but in the private chapel of the Right Honourable Lord Inverclyde, at Wemyss Bay, there is a chime of eight bells cast in 1878. Other chimes by John C. Wilson are at Lamlash (9), Coatbridge Wesleyan Chapel (6), and in the Glasgow Tolbooth there are 16 bells all cast in 1881.

<sup>1</sup> *Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow*, H. Lumsden and P. H. Aitken, p. 314.



[Photo: J. W. B. Henderson.

2. Disused bell at Roseneath, Dunbartonshire, cast by Jan Burgerhuys of Middelburg, Holland, in 1610.



[Photo: A. D. Lacaille, F.S.A., Scot.

1. The Skellat Bell, Dumbarton.



[Photo: The Author.  
2. Disused bell at Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, probably cast by  
Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh in 1712.



[Photo: Annan, Glasgow.  
1. Disused bell in People's Palace Museum, Glasgow, cast by Gerard Koster  
of Amsterdam in 1663.



[Photo: Annan, Glasgow.]

Bell in People's Palace Museum, Glasgow, cast by Van Jacop Waghevens of Mechlin, Belgium, in 1554. Fine example of ornamentation.

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The other local foundry was at Greenock, and it was known as Messrs James Duff & Sons. Their first bell in the county is in the old church at Port-Glasgow, dated 1839. Most of the bells in Greenock and Port-Glasgow were cast or recast by this firm; the tone of these bells is not particularly good judged by modern standards, and the bell of 1839 is very reminiscent of the shape of bells cast in England in the early thirteenth century—just like a flower-pot.

### A LIST OF THE BELLS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO PARISHES.

In this list the parishes are arranged in alphabetical order. Unless otherwise stated the inscriptions commence on the band below the angle of the shoulder, and the end of each line is denoted by an oblique stroke.

The diameters of all the accessible bells have been measured, and from them an approximate idea of the weights has been computed. In certain cases the exact weight is known, and when a list contains both actual and approximate weights, the latter are marked thus: ††.

#### 1. BRIDGE OF WEIR. St Machar.

A chime of three bells; tenor about 12 inches diameter. All inscribed:

JOHN C. WILSON & CO FOUNDERS GLASGOW . . .

These bells are hung stationary or dead in a gable turret in two tiers, the tenor being above. They are sounded by being struck by external hammers.

The turret is only accessible with very great difficulty and the above inscription was found by using a telescope. The remaining part of the lettering, being presumably the date, is obscured by the masonry. One of the bells is supposed to be slightly cracked, but as the chiming mechanism was not in order at the time, this could not be verified.

The bells were cast at the Gorbals Bell Foundry, Glasgow, and as the firm is styled John C. Wilson & Co. they were made between the years 1873 and 1898.

#### 2. CASTLE SEMPLE. Collegiate Church.

Of this church only the walls remain, consisting of a chancel, nave and a western tower. It was founded in 1504 by John, Lord Semple, and it is recorded<sup>1</sup> that at that time the duties of the Sacristan were to take charge of the church, the ornaments, the vestments, to regulate the clock, and to

<sup>1</sup> *Archæological Collections of Renfrewshire*, vol. i. p. 60

ring the bells at Mattins, Evensong, Compline, at Sunday mass, at Curfew and for prayers. On Fast days, as the custom was, he was to double the ringing.

The church was in use at least up till 1612, and though from the foregoing it would have appeared to have had more than one bell, there is no trace of them or of the bell frame.

In a turret above a cart lodge in the stables nearby there hangs a bell,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

C.H. —:— W<sup>M</sup> MACDOWALL ESQ: —:— 1762 —:—

This bell has loop canons of the old type, and the inscription was scratched on the mould and not stamped. It is therefore probably a local product.

William Macdowall, Esq., bought the estate from Hew Lord Sempill in 1727, and was Member of Parliament for the Glasgow District of Burghs and later Member for the county of Renfrewshire.

### 3. CATHCART. St Oswald.

In recent years a new church has been erected near the site of the previous one, which dated from 1831. The western tower of the older building alone remains, and contains one bell, 28 inches diameter, which is clearly the product of a brass foundry as a full-sized pattern was used in its casting.

The bell is devoid of any inscription, has no moulding wires below the shoulder, and has been cast with a handbell type argente in lieu of canons: it probably dates from the rebuilding of the church in 1831.

### 4. EAGLESHAM. Old Church.

In a tower with spire, built in 1788, there hangs one bell,  $20\frac{1}{8}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

THE GIFT OF THE RT HON<sup>BL</sup> EARL OF EGLINTOUNE TO THE/  
PARISH OF EAGLESHAM. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1792

The bell has the usual Whitechapel Foundry canons of that period, and is fitted with a wooden headstock and a very rough wooden wheel of local manufacture.

The rope is very thick and weighty, and to ensure that the bell is vertical for the clock hammer, a quantity of lead sheeting is nailed to the wheel to form a counterbalance.

Lord Eglinton, a heritor of the church, was responsible for the admirable street planning in this village.

5. EASTWOOD. Old Church.

A western tower with spire containing one bell, 45 inches diameter, weighing about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. It is inscribed:

JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW N<sup>o</sup> 779/PRE-  
SENTED TO EASTWOOD CHURCH BY WALTER CRUM OF  
THORNLIBANK. A.D. 1863.

This bell was cast at the Gorbals Foundry, Glasgow, and is hung for ringing inverted. The fittings are of wood, with a large counterbalance weight bolted to the headstock.

6. ERSKINE. Old Church.

Outside on the roof of the western tower hangs one bell, 28 inches diameter, inscribed:

CAIRD & C<sup>o</sup> MAKERS GREENOCK 1825./  
4-1-11

This bell is hung in a wooden frame with a small roof over it, and is fitted with a metal quarter wheel and metal headstock; to the latter is attached a counterbalance weight.

The figures on the inscription are incised, and record the bell's weight as 4 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. On the soundbow there is an ornamental border.

The firm of Caird & Co. started their foundry in Greenock in 1809; by 1826 they were making machinery, and in 1844 the firm started in the shipbuilding business which has made their name famous. The shipbuilding yards are now managed by Messrs Harland & Wolff.

The present church was built in 1813, the bell from the older church being retained, but in October 1824 it is recorded <sup>1</sup> in the Kirk Session minutes that Dr Stewart, the minister, reported that the bell was now "cracked and useless," and a committee was appointed to "get a new bell or to have the old one recast." Two years later the new bell was installed, costing £36 less £3 for the old bell, from which it may be inferred that the old bell must have weighed much less than a hundredweight.

7. GOUROCK. Old Church.

A single bell, 40 inches diameter, weighing about 11 cwt.

JOHN C. WILSON & C<sup>o</sup>, LTD FOUNDERS. GLASGOW./IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF DAVID WALKER. ELDER IN THIS CHURCH/WHO  
DIED 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1910. AGED 65 YEARS./PRESENTED  
BY HIS WIDOW 1911./"I JOY'D WHEN TO THE HOUSE OF  
GOD GO UP THEY SAID TO ME"

<sup>1</sup> *Ye Anciente Kirke of Eriskine*, by D. N. Stewart, p. 60.

The bell hangs in a wooden frame with metal headstock and wheel. A counterbalance weight is provided. The bearings are unusual, being of the dry type. The gudgeon pins in the headstock each rest on two rollers, the latter being about 5 inches diameter and are held at a centre distance of about 3 inches one beside the other. As the gudgeon pins rotate, the rollers also turn about their own axes. This type of bearing is suitable for exposed positions, but has a bad failing in that the rollers get jammed and the gudgeon pin then scrapes on a dry metal surface, making the bell hard to swing and leading to excessive wear of the pin.

#### 8. GOUROCK. St John.

A chime of two bells; treble 34 inches diameter, tenor 42 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter.

		<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.	<i>THE GIFT OF MISS LONGLANDS/ AS A MEMORIAL OF HER BROTHER/ THOMAS LONGLANDS OF GOUROCK CASTLE/JOHN C. WILSON &amp; C<sup>o</sup>. FOUNDERS. GLASGOW. A.D. 1877.</i>	7	0	0 ††
Tenor.	<i>CLOCK AND BELLS ERECTED A.D. 1877/REV: ARCH: RUSSELL, M.A. MINISTER./JOHN C. WILSON &amp; C<sup>o</sup>. FOUNDERS. GLASGOW./ VOCO, "VENITE IN DOMINI TEMPLUM."</i>	12	0	0 ††

On the treble the whole of the inscription except the foundry data is incised. The bells are hung in the open, underneath an Imperial Crown. The treble is hung dead but the tenor is hung in bearings.

#### 9. GOVAN. Elder Park Church.

In a tower with spire there hangs one bell of about 20 inches diameter. The bell is devoid of inscription, has no moulding wires below the shoulder, and has been cast with a handbell type argent instead of canons. The bell is the product of a brass foundry, and was probably cast in 1826 when the church was originally built.

This church originally stood near Govan Cross and was the old Parish Kirk of Govan. In 1826 it was felt that the old building should be pulled down and a new one built; it was then decided that the new building should be faithfully modelled on the lines of the parish church at Stratford-on-Avon.

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In 1884, when there was a need for a larger church at the Cross, this building of 1826 was removed stone by stone and rebuilt on its present site some quarter mile away.

### 10. GREENOCK. West Kirk.

A chime of two bells; tenor 48 inches diameter, treble  $17\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter.

Treble.   ≡ **FOR : THE : CHURCH** ≡ **OF** ≡ **GRINOCK** : 1677 ≡ **R**  $\Delta$   $\Delta$  **P**

Tenor.    **JAMES DUFF & SONS./MAKERS./GREENOCK./1873**

The treble is cast with canons and is hung dead from a beam in the louvre windows. The bell <sup>1</sup> was probably cast by Roger Purdue of Bristol, who was founding from 1644 to 1688. This founder was the second with this name, and usually worked in partnership with a relative William Purdue. At one time they temporarily migrated to Salisbury, but it is probable that this bell was cast in Bristol and sent up by boat to Greenock. Part of the inscription is shown in fig. 14, the lettering is plain, without any ornamentation above or below it.

The tenor is hung for chiming with metal fittings and a counterbalance weight. It is much worn internally, and as it has been already quarter turned, eighth turning will soon be necessary.

The clock was presented in 1856, and the quarters are struck on both bells and the hour on the tenor only, with no preliminary chime. The quarter chimes are most peculiar, due to the great difference in note between the two bells. At a distance the treble is inaudible.

The original West Kirk <sup>2</sup> stood near Princes Pier and was founded in 1571. Its first bell is supposed to have come from Holland, but in 1675 this bell was cracked and the present treble was cast. The bell of 1677 hung in the Old West Kirk till 1856, when it was moved to its present position in the new church. The bell was familiarly known as "Tam o' Lang" from its sound.

A predecessor of the tenor was cracked in 1856 and it was recast by Messrs James Duff & Sons of Greenock, but from the date of the present tenor it would appear that the bell was again recast.

### 11. GREENOCK. Middle Kirk.

In a tower with spire hangs a single bell, 39 inches diameter.

**JAMES DUFF & SONS/MAKERS/GREENOCK/1891**

<sup>1</sup> *Smith's History of Greenock*, p. 364.

<sup>2</sup> *The Story of the Old West Kirk*, N. Hill, p. 34.

This bell is hung for chiming in a wooden frame with metal fittings, and has a poor tone. In 1786, when a steeple<sup>1</sup> and clock were erected at the Mid Kirk, the Town Council put in a bell, cast at the Whitechapel Bellfoundry, London, that was said to be equalled in sweetness of tone in the West Country by that only of the Gorbals, Glasgow. Unfortunately its successor does not live up to the old bell's reputation. The Whitechapel bell bore the inscription:

YE RINGERS WHO WOULD HAPPY BE, IN CONCORD LIVE  
AND UNITY/W & T MEARS (LATE LESTER, PACK & CHAPMAN).  
LONDON, FECIT 1787.

## 12. GREENOCK. St George.

A lofty tower containing a chime of nine bells, tenor 44 inches diameter, which are inscribed:

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Approx. Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1913./FOUNDED 1889	3	2	0
Second.	CAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1912.	3	3	0
Third.	[ <i>As on Treble.</i> ]	4	2	0
Fourth.	[ <i>As on Treble.</i> ]	4	3	0
Fifth.	[ <i>As on Treble.</i> ]	5	3	0
Sixth.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1912. CAST 1889.	7	0	0
Seventh.	[ <i>As on Treble.</i> ]	8	2	0
Eighth.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1913./THIS PEAL OF BELLS WAS PRESENTED BY/M <sup>RS</sup> ROBERT SHANKLAND/TO THE FREE MIDDLE CHURCH GREENOCK./IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS/M <sup>R</sup> AND M <sup>RS</sup> GIBSON, PAISLEY./1889.	11	2	0
Tenor.	CAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1912./MIDDLE UNITED FREE CHURCH/GREENOCK/THIS TENOR BELL WITH TWO TREBLES/ ADDED BY THE CONGREGATION IN/ 1912.	16	2	0

<sup>1</sup> Williamson's *History of Greenock*, p. 131.

Directly below the inscription band there is a border on all the bells and, in addition to the above inscriptions, each bell bears its number in the chime, this figure being placed on the soundbow.

The bells are cast with flat heads and are bolted to steel girders, being struck by internal hammers operated by wires from a keyboard below.

There is also a mechanical chiming apparatus which was installed in 1889 for the original chime of six bells; this rings changes on the six heavier bells.

In these changes the tenor remains in the same position throughout and strikes at the end of each row or change, leaving the five other bells to change amongst themselves. While 120 different rows or changes are possible on 5 bells, the mechanism only rings 30 of these before the bells come back into rounds, that is playing in descending order of note, written 123456. For the campanologist, the machine plays a plain course of Grandsire Doubles with the tenor covering.

Early in 1948 this church was completely burnt out; the tower still stands, but all the floors and chiming machinery have been destroyed. The bells still hang from their steel girders, but the two tenors are cracked and other bells may also be affected. It is probable that the bells will all be recast.

### 13. GREENOCK. Well Park Church.

In a large tower with spire hangs one bell, 45 inches diameter, weighing about 15 cwt. The inscription reads:

JAMES DUFF & SONS MAKERS GREENOCK 1867./  
WELL PARK FREE CHURCH GREENOCK.

This bell has metal fittings and is counterbalanced. Its tone is much superior to the other two large bells in Greenock from the same foundry.

### 14. GREENOCK. Town Hall.

There is preserved in the Town Hall a bell,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, which is inscribed simply with the figures 1616. This bell has a handbell-type argent instead of canons, and the material is cast steel, rust being quite clearly visible. This being so, it is almost impossible for this bell to have been cast in the seventeenth century, as the casting of steel is of comparatively recent date, and thus there can be little doubt that the figures do not form a date but only some foundry or ship's number.

This bell until recently was in the possession of the Greenock Harbour

Trust, and it had been previously thought<sup>1</sup> that it might have belonged to an old steeple that was erected near the harbour in 1752. The bell was probably cast no earlier than 1850.

15. HOUSTON. The Old Church, formerly St Peter.

In a western tower hangs one bell, 33 inches diameter, weighing about 7 cwt. The inscription reads:

THIS BELL WAS GIVEN/TO/HOUSTON CHURCH/BY/M<sup>RS</sup>  
ELLICE WHEN SHE BUILT THE CHURCH/A.D. 1875/  
CAST BY/THO<sup>S</sup> LEADBETTER & C<sup>O</sup>/GLASGOW/N<sup>O</sup> 497

This bell is hung for chiming with metal fittings. The present church, built in 1875, is the third on the site, and very little seems to be known about its predecessors. The parish is now amalgamated with Kilellan.

16. INCHINNAN. All Hallows.

This church is cruciform in plan, with a central tower which was only partly erected, the work being stopped at the floor of the bell chamber which now forms the roof. On top of this roof there hangs a single bell, 28 inches diameter, hung in a wooden frame.

The bell is devoid of any inscription, and has a handbell-type argent instead of canons.

The present church was built in 1904, replacing one of 1828. Previous to this latter date the church was substantially twelfth century, and the old bell was taken down at the rebuilding and recast. Thus the present bell almost certainly dates from 1828.

17. INVERKIP. Old Church.

In a closed turret there hangs one bell weighing about 2 cwt.

This bell is accessible only with great difficulty, but as one set of louvre boards is missing, the bell can be seen from the ground with the aid of a telescope. It has a handbell-type argent and is hung with metal fittings. No inscription is visible, but the type of argent makes it probable that the bell is nineteenth century. The church was rebuilt between 1802 and 1805 and the bell is probably of this date or later.

There is also a similar bell, 24 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in the Old U.F. Church, with no inscription but dating no earlier than the Disruption.

<sup>1</sup> Smith's *History of Greenock*, p. 364.

18. JOHNSTONE. High Kirk.

A tower with spire containing one bell, 45 inches diameter, inscribed:

ERECTED A.D. 1884./JOHN C. WILSON &, C<sup>o</sup>, FOUNDERS,  
GLASGOW./VOCO, "VENITE IN DOMINI TEMPLUM."

This bell is cast with normal canons and is fitted with a wooden wheel and headstock. Ball bearings are used and a heavy counterbalance weight is fitted.

This bell replaces one cast in 1847 at the Whitechapel Foundry, London, by C. & G. Mears. This latter bell weighed 16 cwt., slightly more than the present bell. The tower was built in 1792.

The Roman Catholic Chapel in this parish has a chime of three small bells, all cast by John C. Wilson & Co. Ltd., of Glasgow.

19. KILBARCHAN. West Church.

In an open turret hangs one small bell, about 16 inches diameter, which on being inspected with the aid of a telescope appears to be without inscription. The bell was cast with normal loop canons and moulding wires, and bears a resemblance to the bell over the stables at Castle Semple (*q.v.*).

The building with this bell turret was built in 1724, replacing an earlier church on the same site. A new church was built nearby in 1900 and the old building is used as a hall. The bell therefore may date from 1724 and is certainly eighteenth century.

20. KILBARCHAN. The Municipal Steeple.

A single bell,  $29\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1811

This bell is cast with the usual Whitechapel canons of that date, and is hung in gun-metal bearings with a wooden headstock, the remaining fittings being metal.

The bell is used as the hour bell for the clock, and is rung at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. every week-day, and for quarter of an hour before the two church services at 12 noon and 6.30 p.m. on Sundays.

The municipal building was erected in 1751.

21. KILELLAN. St Fillan.

A single bell,  $16\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

[A hand, fig. 1] **CAROLVS** [Stop, fig. 2] **HOG** [fig. 2] **ME** [fig. 2] **FECIT**  
[fig. 2] **1618** [Medallion, fig. 3]

KILLELLIN BELL/DAVID BURGESS/FOUNDER/GLASGOW/1844.

This bell has a handbell-type argent and metal fittings. Though the bell has been recast the inscription and stamps on the old bell have been well reproduced.

The old parish church of Kilellan, now in ruins, dates back at least to the thirteenth century. It was renovated in 1635, as this date appears above the south doorway. In 1760 the parish was amalgamated with Houston, and shortly after 1780 it was decided to remove the roof of the old church.

The bell was removed and was kept by one of the heritors. It was recast in 1844, and now hangs in a tree in the grounds of Barochan House. The author is much obliged to Mr D. F. S. Henderson for permission to inspect this bell in his grounds.

Charles Hog was probably the son of George Hog, who cast a bell for Closeburn, Dumfriesshire, in 1606. This bell bears the words "APVD POTTERRAW," showing that the foundry was in the street of that name in Edinburgh.

## 22. KILMACOLM. Old Church.

One bell,  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

CLOCK AND BELL PRESENTED TO THE PARISH OF KILMACOLM, BY D.C.R.C. BUCHANAN OF DRUMPELLER. A.D. 1875./  
JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER. GLASGOW.

The bell has rectangular canons and is hung with metal fittings. In the report <sup>1</sup> on the Presbyterial Visitation in 1734 it is noted: "The west gavel and side walls of Kirk and Bell-house to be rebuilt at a cost of £28 Stg." However, nothing is known about this earlier bell.

Sir David Carrick Buchanan, K.C.B., was the last patron of the living, and when the Act of 1874, which abolished patronage, was passed, he generously surrendered his claim for compensation and presented the church with a clock and bell.

## 23. KILMACOLM. The Orphan Homes of Scotland.

In the tower attached to the church hangs a chime of twelve bells, tenor  $38\frac{11}{16}$  inches diameter in Ab.

<sup>1</sup> *Kilmacolm: A Parish History*, James Murray, p. 131.

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Bell.	Inscription.	Note.	Weight.		
			Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.		C	1	0	14
<i>RECAST BY GILLETT &amp; JOHNSTON CROYDON 1946/ LLEWELLINS &amp; JAMES/BRISTOL/1886</i>					
Second.	[The same.]	B <sup>b</sup>	1	1	26
Third.	[The same.]	A <sup>b</sup>	2	0	7
Fourth.	[The same.]	G	2	1	24
Fifth.	<i>GILLETT &amp; JOHNSTON CROYDON 1946</i>	G <sup>b</sup>	2	2	25
Sixth.	<i>RECAST BY GILLETT &amp; JOHNSTON. CROYDON, 1946./LLEWELLINS &amp; JAMES/ BRISTOL/1886/</i> 	F	3	0	1
Seventh.	[The same.]	E <sup>b</sup>	4	0	21
Eighth.	<i>GILLETT &amp; JOHNSTON CROYDON, 1946./</i> 	D	4	2	21
Ninth.	[The same as the Sixth.]	D <sup>b</sup>	5	1	15
Tenth.	[As the Sixth but no full stop after the founders' names.]	C	6	0	7
Eleventh.	[The same as the Tenth.]	B <sup>b</sup>	7	3	17
Tenor.		A <sup>b</sup>	10	3	18

RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON. CROYDON, 1946./  
LLEWELLINS & JAMES/BRISTOL/1886/  
 /THESE BELLS AND CLOCK ARE  
ERECTED/IN MEMORY OF/THE LATE  
ALLAN DICK OF GLASGOW/BY HIS  
SISTERS.

In addition to the above inscriptions each bell bears her number in the chime on the soundbow, and the seven larger bells also have foundry numbers. These bells bear a trade shield which may roughly be described as a saltire between four bells, in chief three wool-packs.

The five lighter bells have their inscriptions and moulding wires incised and for this reason the lettering is in italics.

All the bells have flat crowns, without canons or argent, and are bolted to a steel framework which is in two tiers; the seven lighter bells being below.

A keyboard or clavier is connected to the tongue of each bell. All except the fifth, the eighth and the eleventh are used for the clock chimes, the hour being struck on the tenor.

In 1886 Messrs Llewellins & James cast a chime of ten bells for this tower, and on recasting in 1946 the present fifth and eighth were added.

The author is much obliged to the Secretary of the Orphan Homes of Scotland for permission to see these bells.

#### 24. LOCHWINNOCH. The Auld Kirk.

The ruins of the Auld Kirk stand on John's Hill. Only the western end now remains, but this possesses a bell turret and clock.

The bell weighs less than a hundredweight and, with the aid of a telescope, it is seen that there are no moulding wires, though the canons are of the normal loop type. No inscription is visible.

The west doorway is dated 1729 and the bell probably dates from this time, though the present iron fittings are certainly later. The design for the weather-vane is worthy of notice.

#### 25. LOCHWINNOCH. St John's.

A single bell,  $40\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

THE GIFT OF ROBERT ARTHUR, ESQ:/TO THE PARISH OF  
LOCHWINNOCH, 1810./RECAST 1849./RECAST AND ENLARGED  
1908./BY THE FAMILY OF M<sup>RS</sup> MARY PATRICK,/GREAT-  
GRAND NIECE OF THE DONOR/JOHN C. WILSON & C<sup>o</sup>.  
LTD FOUNDERS. GLASGOW.

This bell has canons, and is fitted with a wooden headstock and wheel which belong to the earlier bell of 1849. This earlier bell was cast by C. & G. Mears at the Whitechapel Bellfoundry, London. It weighed 11 cwt., and though the inscription reads to the contrary, the present bell is also of about this weight.

The church on this site was built to replace the Auld Kirk mentioned above; it is octagonal in plan, with the tower along the east side.

26. MEARNNS. Old Kirk.

In a small southern tower there hangs one bell,  $25\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, which bears no inscription. The bell has no moulding wires and has the handbell-type argent in lieu of canons. Its age therefore cannot be very great, probably dating from the first half of the nineteenth century.

27. NEILSTON. Old Church.

A single bell,  $23\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON 1863.

This bell comes from the Whitechapel Bellfoundry, London, and is hung with wooden fittings which date from 1863.

The present church <sup>1</sup> was built in 1763, and as the previous church had no steeple the bell was hung in a large ash-tree near the gate. Unfortunately nothing further seems to be known about it.

Another Whitechapel bell hangs in the turret of the South Church, Neilston. It is inaccessible, but with the aid of a telescope the words "Thomas Mears Founder London" can be made out. Unfortunately the date is obscured by the masonry, but Thomas Mears, junior, was founding from 1810 to 1844.

28. PAISLEY. The Abbey dedicated to SS. James and Mirrin.

A single bell,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, reputed <sup>2</sup> to be inscribed:

JOHANNES SPECHT ROTTERDAM A.D. 1730.

This bell hangs in a small turret between the north transept and the nave. Unfortunately the bell is cracked and so is disused. The inscription is very much corroded by the action of sulphur on the copper in the bell metal; the first three words of the inscription are discernible, but the date has gone. There is also a border above the inscription.

The Abbey was founded in 1163, but very little is known about any buildings erected at that time. In 1307 it was burnt by the English and was later repaired. Abbot Shaw (1459-1498) built a lofty tower over the principal gate, and his successor John Hamilton, later Archbishop of St

<sup>1</sup> *History of Neilston*, Dr Pride, p. 78.

<sup>2</sup> *Paisley Abbey*, A. R. Howell, p. 82.

Andrews, who was Abbot from 1525 to 1547, "built <sup>1</sup> a tower, second to none in our own country, at immense expense, which from the first rested on an insecure foundation and when hardly finished fell by its own weight."

From its instability it would appear that it was a central tower supported on the four pillars at the crossing, as at present in the reconstructed church.

It is doubtful if the tower was ever rebuilt after this collapse, as the old wall that was built at the east end of the nave was probably of pre-Reformation date. The choir was then allowed to fall into ruins and the nave was used as the parish church. On top of this wall at the east end there was a bellcote, which housed this small bell, and due to the proximity of the dwelling-houses the coal fumes, which contain sulphur, have had a bad effect on the inscription.

A large bell <sup>2</sup> is said to have hung in one of the earlier towers and to have been carried off by the English soldiers under Cromwell to Durham Cathedral. Unfortunately all the eight bells in this Cathedral were recast in 1693 and none of the inscriptions now relate to Paisley. It is however doubtful if there was anywhere in the Abbey to house a large bell in Cromwell's time; there was no central tower, and the old bellcote on the roof would not hold a larger bell than the present one, so it is highly improbable that any bell was removed at that time.

Shortly after the First Great War a move was made to restore the Abbey. The dividing wall between the choir and the nave was removed and the central tower and choir were rebuilt. The tower, however, is empty; originally it was proposed to have a ring of bells in it, but the architect decided that the tower would not be strong enough to stand the swinging of the bells.

## 29. PAISLEY. High Kirk.

A single bell, 49 inches diameter, weighing about one ton, inscribed:

JAMES DUFF & SONS/MAKERS/GREENOCK/1872

This bell is fitted with a wooden wheel and headstock and is heavily counterbalanced.

The steeple, though it is built on to the High Kirk, was erected and is still owned by the municipal authorities, who provide a ringer for the church services.

The steeple <sup>3</sup> was built just prior to 1776, for in that year a bell was bought weighing 9 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. and costing £75, the founder being unknown. This bell lasted for forty-four years, and when being rung at

<sup>1</sup> Lees' *Paisley Abbey*, p. 189.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 215.

<sup>3</sup> *The History of the High Kirk*, Robert Brown.

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the Accession of King George IV it was cracked. The metal round the crack was cut out but to no avail, and a public subscription was started for its recasting. This was carried out at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London and the bell was inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1823.

It was nicknamed Roaring Tom or Jolly Tom after one of the more active collectors of subscriptions. This bell's tone was better than its predecessor, and the weight was  $18\frac{1}{4}$  cwt.

This bell was cracked in 1865 while being tolled for the funeral of Lord Palmerston, and on returning to London it was recast by Messrs Mears & Stainbank. The weight was increased to 22 cwt.

In six years' time the bell was again cracked and was recast in its present form. While the bell was away in Greenock being recast the Whitechapel bell, now in Paisley Museum, was put in the tower.

### 30. PAISLEY. Lylesland Parish Church.

A single bell, 30 inches diameter, weighing about 6 cwt., with the note E.

**SOLI · DEO · GLORIA · CORNELIS · OVDEROGGE · FEGIT · EN · D · I · OI · O ·  
ROTTERDAM · ANNO DOMINI 1648/FOR · THE · TOWNE · OF · PASLAY/  
RECAST BY/J. MILLER REID/GLASGOW/1897.**

The fittings are all metal, the frame being of wood. The bell has loop canons of the modern type.

This bell has had an interesting career.<sup>1</sup> In 1647 the Town Council resolved to buy a new clock at a cost of £400 and to build a "new prik" in the Tolbooth for a bell. This building stood at the Cross in Paisley and was used both as a Town Hall and gaol, and its first bell was cast in Rotterdam in 1648 by Dirk Ouderogge. This bell lasted till 1863, when on 10th March it was cracked while being rung to celebrate the marriage of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII.

The bell was then removed from the Cross Steeple and a completely new one was bought from the Whitechapel Bellfoundry, London, inscribed:

MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON.

This bell,  $33\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, was then put up in the Steeple, but was removed when the Steeple was declared unsafe and taken down in 1870. While the High Kirk bell was being recast in Greenock in 1872 this bell was

<sup>1</sup> *Paisley Daily Express*, 27th December 1945.

for a time used in that church's steeple. It is now to be seen in the Paisley Museum.

The broken Dutch bell was bought by a local inhabitant, who had it recast by Messrs Llewellins & James of Bristol, with the old inscription reproduced. In 1886 this bell was presented to Lylesland Church, which was then about to be opened for public worship. However, in 1893 the bell was cracked and was again recast, this time by J. Miller Reid of Glasgow. The reproduced lettering on this present bell is the same size and similar to that to be found on an original bell by Cornelius Ouderogge in the church of the Holy Rude, Stirling. This latter bell is inscribed:

+ SOLI · DEO · GLORIA + CORNELIS · OVDEROGGE · FECIT · ROTTERDAM ·  
ANNO · DOMINI · 1657 / TO · STERLING · TOWN · I · DOE · BELONG.

### 31. PAISLEY. St James.

Ring of eight bells; tenor 50 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, in Eb.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.	+ JOHN TAYLOR & CO + LOUGHBOROUGH + LEICESTERSHIRE + 1909 / RECAST / BY / PETER COATS, ESQ., / GARTHLAND PLACE, PAISLEY, / SON OF SIR PETER COATS / OF AUCHENDRANE, AYR.	5	1	27
Second.	[Same as Treble.]	5	3	4
Third.	[Same as Treble.]	6	3	3
Fourth.	[Same as Treble.]	7	3	10
Fifth.	J: TAYLOR & C <sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882.	10	0	27
Sixth.	J: TAYLOR & C <sup>o</sup> BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882.	12	0	8
Seventh.	[Same as Sixth.]			
Tenor.	J: TAYLOR & C <sup>o</sup> BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882. / THIS PEAL OF EIGHT BELLS / WAS PRESENTED BY / SIR PETER COATS. KNIGHT / OF AUCHENDRANE. AYR.	22	1	17

A complete ring of bells from the Loughborough foundry of Messrs John Taylor & Co. In 1882, when the church was first opened, there was a

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ring of eight bells, and in 1909 the four lighter bells were recast and the remaining bells were returned on the Simpson principle.

The four lighter bells have the cross (fig. 5) on their inscriptions. The bells are all hung for change ringing in a frame of wood and iron dating from 1882, with plain bearings.

The complete church, with a lofty tower with spire rising to a height of 180 feet, was the gift of Sir Peter Coats. The first tower<sup>1</sup> gave way due to its having a defective foundation, and it had to be taken down entirely and then rebuilt.

The English system of change ringing has been practised here for some time past, but up to 1947 only four peals of over 5000 changes have been rung. The first was one of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples in 3 hours 28 minutes on 11th March 1922, rung by a band mostly of Englishmen. The next peal on 2nd March 1929 was rung by a local band. It was 5040 changes of Bob Major in 3 hours 17 minutes.

Just before the war a visiting band from England rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, and in recent times a local band has rung a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major.

32. PAISLEY. George A. Clark Town Hall.

A chime of ten bells; tenor note E<sup>b</sup>.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
			<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Additional Treble.	F	CAST BY GILLETT BLAND & C <sup>o</sup> CROYDON 1882	4	3	3
Treble.	E <sup>b</sup>	[ <i>Same as Additional Treble.</i> ]	5	3	7
Second.	D	CAST BY GILLETT BLAND & C <sup>o</sup> CROYDON 1881	6	1	11
Flat second.	D <sup>b</sup>	[ <i>Same as Additional Treble.</i> ]	7	0	5
Third.	C	[ <i>Same as Second.</i> ]	7	0	11
Fourth.	B <sup>b</sup>	[ <i>Same as Second.</i> ]	7	3	20
Fifth.	A <sup>b</sup>	[ <i>Same as Additional Treble.</i> ]	9	2	24
Sixth.	G	[ <i>Same as Additional Treble.</i> ]	11	0	15
Seventh.	F	[ <i>Same as Second.</i> ]	13	3	1
Tenor.	E <sup>b</sup>	CAST BY GILLETT BLAND & C <sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS & CLOCK MAKERS CROYDON + 1881 +	19	2	8

A complete chime of bells from the Croydon Bell Foundry of Messrs Gillett, Bland & Co., now Messrs Gillett & Johnston, Ltd.

<sup>1</sup> Brown, *History of Paisley*, vol. ii. p. 355.

The design of the tower necessitates that two bells be hung in each of the four wall openings on each side of the tower with the tenor and treble inside. All are hung stationary or dead and are struck with hammers.

The positioning of the bells, half out in the open, gives rise to an unequal distribution of the sound of each bell. Bells on the opposite side of the tower from the listener are hardly heard at all.

There is no keyboard for manual playing, and the chime is operated entirely by the clock. The Cambridge Quarters, sometimes erroneously called the Westminster Chimes, are struck on the second, third, fourth and seventh bells, with the tenor as the hour bell. The chime plays tunes at noon and every third hour after, one tune for each day. The mechanism for this consists of several metal cylinders about one foot diameter. On the outside of these cylinders are positioned metal pegs, which engage in trip levers that release the hammers on the bells, when the cylinders are rotated.

There are in all seven cylinders or barrels, six being pegged with seven tunes each and the remaining one with change ringing for joyous occasions.

At the present time (1947) the barrels and pegs have become worn, and as a result the timing of the tunes is not all that could be wished.

### 33. PAISLEY. The Museum.

As well as the Whitechapel bell mentioned under Lylesland Church, the Museum possesses a bell,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

SNEDON · HOSPITAL · 1707

This bell has canons and an old wooden headstock. The Snedon Hospital or Poorhouse was opened in May 1752. It was governed by a number of Directors, and in their committee minutes it is recorded<sup>1</sup> that:

“2d December 1767 They have also ordered that the bell in the Hospital be cast anew, and about 12 lbs weight added thereto, and it is to be sent to Bristol for said purpose. The present weight of the bell is 49 lb 12 ozs.”

### 34. PAISLEY. Municipal Buildings.

Kept in the Municipal Building are the famous Silver Bells. These were the prize for the Paisley Races which were instituted in 1620.

The bells are made of silver and are conical, one 1 inch diameter and the other  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter. The ends are closed by perforated hemispheres.

The sound is produced by a ball inside and comes out through the slit in the round end.

Both are of the same date, the smaller bearing the date 1620 and a coat

<sup>1</sup> Brown, *History of Paisley*, vol. ii. p. 21.

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of arms with the initials HC, probably standing for Hew Crawford of Cloberhill, who won the prize first. The larger bears a different coat of arms, three roses with a border of Stewart check between, and the initials O.P. These are thought to be the old Arms of the Burgh.

### 35. PORT-GLASGOW. Old Church.

In a closed turret in the Old Parish Church there hangs a single bell, 27½ inches diameter, inscribed:

J DUFF MAKER GREENOCK 1839

The lettering is placed on the soundbow so that the founder could use a solid pattern instead of a strickle or sweep. The crown is cast with a handbell-type argent, and the shape is somewhat like a flower-pot with almost straight sides. This shape was used in England in the thirteenth century, but soon became obsolete as the sound given out by such a bell was far from being satisfactory. This can, unfortunately, be said of the present bell.

The parish of Port-Glasgow was formed out of the parish of Kilmacolm in 1694, and a church was built here soon after. On 4th October 1729 a representation<sup>1</sup> was made by the Bailie of Port-Glasgow to the Town Council of Glasgow, in the name of the Port, showing that the church bell "having but a weak sound, was not fully heard by the inhabitants of the Port." The Glasgow Town Council decided that a bell that had been left or gifted to them by Mr Alexander McInzie, one of the clerks of session, should be sent down and the old one taken to Glasgow. This bell had an inscription upon it: "Soli Deo Gloria." It was sold to the proprietor of a Clyde steamer when the church was demolished in 1823. What subsequently became of it is not known. From the Latin inscription it would seem probable that the bell was Dutch, either from the Burgerhuys' foundry at Middelburg, or C. Ouderogge's at Rotterdam. At Roseneath, just over the Clyde, is a bell from Middelburg, dated 1610, bearing the same words.

### 36. PORT-GLASGOW. The Town Hall.

In the steeple hangs one bell, 44 inches diameter, inscribed:

JAMES DUFF & SONS. MAKERS GREENOCK 1879./  
TOWN OF PORT GLASGOW.

The bell is hung for ringing and has metal fittings.

The present Town Hall was built in 1815 and a bell was then put in the

<sup>1</sup> *History of Port-Glasgow*, W. F. Macarthur, p. 213.

tower. Later, however, legend has it that one of the bailies thought that the bell would be improved by a coat of green paint; this was given and it was then found that the tone of the bell was completely altered. Thus the paint had to come off to make the bell usable. It was removed first by scraping and then by boiling in oil. Unfortunately the bell did not survive this last ordeal and was cracked. Presumably the present bell in the tower is the result of the recast; however, the clock was presented in 1878 and a more likely explanation of the 1879 recasting is that the old bell was not large enough to proclaim the hours to the whole town.

Also in the Town Hall is the Town Crier's bell,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches to the top of the crown, which has the following inscription incised on it with a sharp punch:

THE ∴ TOWN ∴ OF ∴ PORTGLASGOWS ∴ BF ∴ ANNO ∴ 1707

On the crown there is a cast loop, about 1 inch diameter, through which is riveted a larger iron handle of contemporary date. The material is brass.

The author's thanks are due to Mr John Kerr, lately Town Treasurer, for confirmation of the above story.

### 37. RENFREW. Old Church.

A single bell, 50 inches diameter, weighing 22 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lb. The inscription reads:

Mears & Stainbank, Founders, London 1885.

The first letter in each word is of an ornamental set with a floral design, and the remaining part of the inscription band is filled with a border. There is also another border above and below the inscription.

The bell is cast with a Doncaster type head and was cast at the White-chapel Bell Foundry, London. This firm recently rehung the bell in ball bearings and with a modern type cast-iron headstock. It is one of the few single bells in the county that are fitted with a stay and slider so that they can be left inverted. This bell is the largest church bell in the county, being 22 lb. heavier than the tenor at St James, Paisley. However, it is not counterbalanced as a whole, but there is a weight on the clapper above the pivot point which is some 8 inches below the inside crown of the bell, forming what is known as a balanced clapper.

In the possession of the Kirk Session is a small bell,  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches diameter,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches high to top of crown, and  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches high to top of the ring handle. It was shown at the Glasgow Exhibition of 1911 and a description is given in the *Catalogue*.<sup>1</sup> The bell is uninscribed and without ornament other than

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogue of Glasgow Exhibition of 1911*, vol. ii., p. 1098.

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a faint line just above the soundbow: rounded shoulders and a little ring-shaped handle at the top. It was found underneath the Parish Church during alterations and is almost undoubtedly a sacring bell, perhaps of fifteenth century date.

The sacring bell was rung to draw the people's attention to certain more important parts of the old Latin service. This is the oldest church bell in the county. A similar bell from Paisley is preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh.

38. RENFREW. The Town Hall.

A single bell, 45 inches diameter, about 15 cwt., inscribed:

JOHN MORRISON & SONS FOUNDERS RENFREW 1878.

This bell is used for the clock and is hung for ringing with metal fittings. The crown has no canons but four vertical webs extend from it to a circular flange which is bolted to the metal headstock. This obviates the need for drilling bolt-holes through the crown of the bell, but it makes the centre of gravity further from the axis of rotation and so makes the bell more out of balance. To counteract this effect weights have been bolted to the headstock.

The present building dates from 1872, replacing an earlier one of 1660.

39. WEMYSS BAY. Private Episcopal Chapel of the Right Hon. Lord Inverclyde.

A western tower with spire containing a chime of eight bells; tenor 42½ inches diameter, in G natural, inscribed:

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Approx. Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.	JOHN C. WILSON & C <sup>o</sup> , FOUNDERS, GLASGOW. A.D. 1878.	3	2	0
Second.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	3	3	0
Third.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	4	3	0
Fourth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	5	2	0
Fifth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	6	2	0
Sixth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	7	3	0
Seventh.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	9	3	0
Tenor.	THIS CHURCH WAS ERECTED BY GEORGE BURNS, OF WEMYSS BAY. A.D. 1878./JOHN C. WILSON & C <sup>o</sup> , FOUNDERS, GLASGOW.	14	2	0

The tenor is hung for ringing with metal fittings, the remaining bells are hung dead in three tiers and are struck with hammers. All the bells are cast with canons. The hammers are connected by wires to a keyboard below.

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### THE CHURCH BELLS OF DUNBARTONSHIRE.

Dunbartonshire, though only a small county, is divided into two separate portions. At the Reformation the western or larger part consisted of seven parishes, and the other was the single parish of Lenzie, which was later divided into Kirkintilloch and Cumbernauld.

Since the Reformation the parishes of Rhu, Arrochar, and New Kilpatrick have been formed in the main part of the county.

The older bells in the county may be classified thus:

(I.) 1 mediæval	Unknown founder.
(II.) 2 seventeenth century	2 Dutch.
(III.) 2 eighteenth century	2 Scottish.

The single mediæval bell in the county is the Skellat bell preserved in the Municipal Building at Dumbarton. This bell, a photograph of which is shown on Pl. XXXIV, 1, is of great age and in all probability belonged to some early Celtic saint. The very early bells of this type were made of riveted iron plates, which when bent were dipped in molten bronze to give a corrosion-resisting surface and also to improve the tone. As this handbell is made of cast bronze it is evident that the age is less than those of the riveted construction.

Bells of this type are very rare in Scotland, probably due to the ease by which they could be destroyed and the length of time that has elapsed since they were made. In the Glasgow Exhibition of 1911 there were eight such bells exhibited, including the Skellat bell of Dumbarton, all dating from about A.D. 600 to A.D. 1000. The Catalogue of the Exhibition gives a full description of all of them, together with a photograph of each and an introductory article on the use of bells by Dr. F. C. Eeles.<sup>1</sup> So far as is known this number is all that remains of the Scottish Celtic quadrangular handbells.

The history of this bell is far from clear and, as there is no inscription, the bell itself can tell us little about its owners. Mr Fergus Roberts, F.S.A.Scot., who was until recently Town Clerk of Dumbarton, has collected

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogue of the Glasgow Exhibition, 1911, vol. ii., p. 1095.*

some information about its history from the Burgh Records, and it is to be hoped that this information may soon be published. The bell has been in the possession of the Burgh since the early part of the seventeenth century and was latterly used as the dead bell.

The earliest post-Reformation bell in the county is at Roseneath, being inscribed (fig. 15 (a) and Pl. XXXIV, 2):

SOLI · DEO · GLORIA · IAN · BURGERHVYS · ME · FECIT · 1610

Though only a small bell the tone is good and, like most of the bells from this foundry, the surface of the casting is smooth and well defined. The bell now hangs in a porch, preserved as an object of antiquarian interest. Though not cracked, it was thought desirable to replace it by a new bell when the soundbow was found to have been worn rather thin by the impact of the clapper over the centuries.

Jan Burgerhuys I was the first of this family of founders and worked at Middelburg in Holland. M. Jan Arts tells the author that he was probably initially in service with the city bellfounder of Middelburg, Hendrick van Trier, with whom he had become acquainted at Aix-la-Chapelle. M. Arts knows of three bells by this founder being dated 1607, 1613 and 1614. In Scotland there are at least six others apart from this Roseneath bell. They are at Melrose Abbey, 1608; Edinburgh (Canongate Tolbooth), 1608; Earlston, Douglas and Fyvie, 1609; Crossmichael, Wigtownshire, 1611. Jan I died in Middelburg in 1617 and is buried in the Oude-Kerk there.

He was succeeded by his son Michael Burgerhuys, who was born before 1585 at Aix-la-Chapelle, and died at Middelburg in 1651 and was buried there on 5th April. M. Arts knows of 22 of his bells ranging from 1617 to 1645. In Scotland the author has a record of 23, all remaining to this day, covering the period 1617 to 1647. This Dutch founder cast more bells for Scotland than any of his countrymen.

Michael was succeeded by his son Jan II, who died in Middelburg in 1679. His work in Holland so far discovered numbers 17 bells covering the years 1636 to 1676, though in Scotland the range is only 1642 to 1671 represented by the bells at Glass, Aberdeenshire, 1642; Hutton, Berwickshire, 1661; Farnell, 1662; Panbride, 1664; and Abdie, 1671.

It will therefore be seen that this foundry had a flourishing trade with Scotland amounting to at least 34 bells.

The bell in the old church at Kirkintilloch is also Dutch, being inscribed:

[Fig. 4] GERARD · KOSTER · ME FECIT · AMSTELREDAMI ·  
ANNO · 1663/ [fig. 16]

Though this bell has hung in an exposed position ever since it was cast,

the surface is remarkably free from corrosion. On the waist there is the large medallion of the Arms of the City of Glasgow, but the reason for its presence is obscure. Kirkintilloch has been a Burgh of Barony since 1184 and has never had any administrative agreement with Glasgow. In the People's Palace Museum, Glasgow, is preserved a bell which bears almost exactly the same inscription as this bell. The wording is identical but the head (fig. 4) does not appear. This bell bears the medallion of the Arms of the City of Glasgow as above, but in this case it is correct, as the bell was cast by order of the Glasgow Town Council for municipal use. It is illustrated in Pl. XXXV, 1.

There were three founders of the name of Koster. Gerrit or Gerard I was appointed master founder to the city of Amsterdam on 27th November 1606 after the death of Cornelis Amoroy. He cast two cannon for Vlissingen (Flushing) in 1617, and M. Arts knows of four bells cast by him in the years 1608, 1611 (two), 1615. None of his work has been so far found in Scotland. He was succeeded by his son Assuerus Koster, who was born in Amsterdam in 1604, was married on 5th August 1626, and died in September 1661, being buried in the Nieuwe-Kerk in Amsterdam. In Holland nine bells have been noted ranging in date from 1633 to 1649. His sole work in Scotland is a cannon preserved at Dunstaffnage Castle, near Oban, which is inscribed:

ASUERUS KOSTER AMSTELREDAMI ME FECIT

Ward Lock's *Guide to Scotland* gives the legend that the cannon formed part of the armament of a galleon of the Spanish Armada and was recovered from the bottom of Tobermory Bay. The latter part is probably correct, but it could not have formed part of the armament of such a ship as its founder was not born till 1604, some sixteen years after the sailing of the Armada.

He was succeeded by Gerrit II, his eldest son, who was born on 3rd October 1627. He was elevated to the position of "City gunfounder" on the occasion of his marriage on 30th November 1645 to Maria Gorssius. M. Arts knows of three of his bells in Holland cast in 1659 (two) and 1669. In Scotland we have the Kirkintilloch and the Glasgow examples already mentioned, and Stoneykirk, Wigtownshire, 1663.

The disused bell at Bonhill next comes to our notice, the inscription reads (fig. 15, b):

**FURNISHED · BY · THE · HERITORS · MINISTER · KIRK · SESSION · /AND  
· PARISHONERS · OF · BONNILL · IN · THE · YEAR · 1712 · R · M · /FECIT ·  
EDR :**

Though the bell itself is a smooth casting, the lettering is rough and well raised from the surface of the bell.

At Corstorphine there is a bell which bears the initials R.M. and the date 1728, and it is likely that these two bells were cast by one Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh foundry was flourishing at this time, and in the records of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh there is mention of the names of several bellfounders.

John Meikle was a member in the years 1662 and 1693, but there is no mention of him in the roll of 1682. He cast the bell at Kirkliston in 1687, and was probably succeeded by Robert Maxwell, who on a bell at Dunblane writes his name as ROBERTUS MAXUELL and uses the shield illustrated in fig. 7. The date of this bell is 1723. He cast a bell for Peebles in 1714, and the second and third of the old rings of bells in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, in 1706 and 1728.

Maxwell obviously was of some importance in the Incorporation, as he was Deacon Convener in 1638 and 1639 and was also made a Freeman in the latter year.

Another founder who was Deacon Convener of the Trades was John Milne, in 1766. He cast the bells at Duddingston in 1755 and Kilbirnie in 1753.

The records of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh, as opposed to those of Canongate, are preserved in Huntly House, Edinburgh.

Before 1680 the records are hardly legible to the average student, and so far the author has not been able to find out about Charles and George Hog, who were founding in Edinburgh in the early years of the seventeenth century.

Of the modern bells in the county, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, established in 1567, cast bells for Dumbarton, 1855; Rhu, 1858; and Bonhill, 1837, though the latter has been recast.

Messrs Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., of Croydon, Surrey, cast the carillon at Dumbarton, and the chimes at Clydebank Town Hall and Old Kilpatrick, both octaves.

Messrs John Taylor & Co. cast the two chimes at Helensburgh. It is hoped to hang the octave there in a frame suitable for scientific change ringing when circumstances permit. This firm cast a number of the rings of bells hung for change ringing in Scotland, those at Paisley; Glasgow, St Mary's Cathedral; Edinburgh, St Cuthbert's and St Mary's Cathedral; Inveraray and Alloa, all of which have added to their reputation.

They also cast the 57-cwt. hour bell in Glasgow University.

The Glasgow foundry of John C. Wilson is well represented in the county, chiefly by single bells, but also by part of the chime of six bells at Cardross. The history of this firm is to be found in the section on Renfrewshire bells.

## A LIST OF BELLS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO PARISHES.

In the following list particulars are given of bells in all the older parish churches, and in some of the modern churches with chimes or bells of any magnitude. Municipal bells are also noted.

The diameters of all accessible bells have been obtained and from them an appropriate weight has been computed. In certain cases the exact weight is known, and where the actual and approximate weights appear in the same list the latter are marked thus ††.

Unless otherwise stated the inscriptions begin on the band just below the shoulder angle, and the end of each line is denoted by an oblique stroke.

All crosses, stops and borders are indicated, and are illustrated when they are of interest. All the lettering found in the county is of the Roman type.

The following abbreviations are used:

- / Denotes the end of a line.
- (J) The crest of Messrs Gillett & Johnston, Ltd.
- (T) The crest of Messrs John Taylor & Co. Ltd.
- †† Denotes that the weight is only approximate.

## 1. ARROCHAR. Tighness Church.

In a western tower there hangs one bell, 20 inches diameter, which is devoid of any inscription. Judging from the roughness of the casting, and from the fact that the canons and argent are of the older type, it is probable that the bell was cast when the parish was formed in 1733.

The clapper is attached to the crown staple by a leather baldrick, or strap. This method of suspension is very unusual at the present time; in England it had become out of date by the sixteenth century.

There is no wheel but a wrought-iron lever of complicated design, which is coeval with the bell.

## 2. BONHILL. Old Church.

A tower containing one bell,  $42\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

BONHILL PARISH CHURCH BELL CAST BY MEARS OF  
LONDON IN 1837./RECAST BY JOHN C. WILSON. FOUNDER.  
GLASGOW. IN 1863. N<sup>o</sup> 783./REV: JOHN ALISON. M.A.  
MINISTER.

The bell cast in 1837 came from the Whitechapel Foundry, London,

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and is given in their lists as weighing 12 cwt. The wooden fittings for this bell were used again for the present bell.

The bell that was used prior to 1837 is preserved in the Entrance Hall. It is badly cracked, and is inscribed:

**FURNISHED · BY · THE · HERITORS · MINISTER · KIRK · SESSION · /AND  
· PARISHONERS · OF · BONNILL · IN · THE · YEAR · 1712 · R · M · /FECIT ·  
EDR :**

The bell is 16 inches in diameter. For a photograph and a scale reproduction of part of the inscription see Pl. XXXV, 2, and fig. 15, *b*.

The bell was probably cast by Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh.

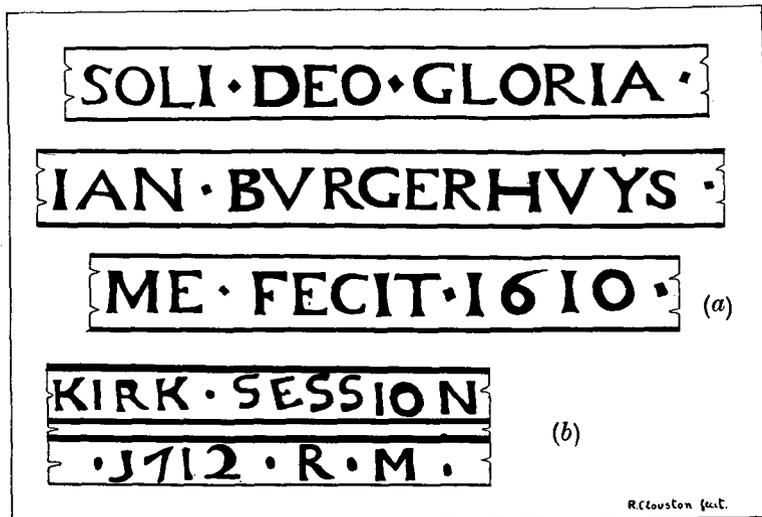


Fig 15 (b).

(a) Inscription on disused bell at Roseneath, 1610.

(b) Part of inscription on disused bell at Bonhill, 1712.

3. CARDROSS. Old Church.

The old parish church was burnt down in an air-raid during the late war. The single bell, which the western tower contained, fell down, but does not seem to have been cracked. It is 20 inches diameter and without inscription, but is obviously the product of a brass foundry as a full-sized pattern was used instead of the normal strickle. There are no canons, only a handbell-type argent.

The bell probably dates from the first half of the nineteenth century.

The pre-Reformation church stood at the eastern end of the present parish, opposite the Burgh of Dumbarton, and the ruins still remain.

In 1644 a new church was built on the present site and it was rebuilt in 1826.

It is recorded<sup>1</sup> of the old church of 1644 that "There was a small bell tower from which the bell was suspended, which summoned the inhabitants to worship."

#### 4. CARDROSS. New Church.

A tower with a short spire containing a chime of six bells; tenor  $32\frac{1}{8}$  inches diameter.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i>
Treble.	JOHN C. WILSON. FOUNDER GLASGOW. A.D. 1871	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Second.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Third.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	3
Fourth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	4
Fifth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	5
Tenor.	JOHN WARNER & SONS, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1914.	6

Below the inscription on the tenor is a trefoil border.

The bells are all hung dead in two tiers in a wooden frame, none of them has canons or clappers. They are struck by hammers operated by the clock or from an independent keyboard.

The five lighter bells came from the Gorbals Foundry, Glasgow, and the tenor was cast at the Cripplegate Foundry, London.

#### 5. CLYDEBANK. Town Hall.

A tower containing a chime of eight bells; tenor  $42\frac{1}{8}$  inches diameter, in the key of G.

<sup>1</sup> *Annals of Garelochside*, W. C. Maughan, pp. 245, 251.

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<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.	GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1929/1	2	1	22
Second.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /2	2	3	9
Third.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /3	3	2	18
Fourth.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /4	4	3	7
Fifth.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /5	5	3	17
Sixth.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /6	7	3	5
Seventh.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /7	9	3	26
Tenor.	<i>Same foundry data</i> /8	14	1	8

The number of each bell in the chime appears on the soundbow. The bells are all hung dead from steel girders in two tiers, the five lighter ones being above. The clock chimes the Cambridge Quarters by means of external hammers. There is a keyboard provided, the wires being connected to a special form of clapper which is pulled on to the bell. None of the bells have canons and all are cast with a flat crown.

The clock and bells were erected by public subscription as a War Memorial to those who fell in the 1914-18 War.

6. CUMBERNAULD. St Ninian.

In a western turret hangs one bell, weighing about 2 cwt., which bears the inscription:

JOHN C. WILSON/FOUNDER/GLASGOW/1854

The bell is cast with canons and has metal fittings.

This parish was formed in 1649<sup>1</sup> when the old parish of St Ninian, Kirkintilloch, was divided. The present fabric dates from about this date.

7. CUMBERNAULD. St Andrew.

In a tower hangs one bell, 40 inches diameter, which is inscribed:

ERECTED AT CUMBERNAULD FREE CHURCH A.D. 1887/  
JOHN C. WILSON & CO, FOUNDERS. GLASGOW.

<sup>1</sup> *New Statistical Account of Scotland.*

The bell is cast with canons and has metal fittings. The bearings are of the non-lubricated type, the gudgeon pin running on two rollers.

The church was built originally in 1743 and was rebuilt in 1825.

#### 8. DUMBARTON. Old Church.

A tower with spire containing one bell,  $39\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, weighing about 10 cwt., which is inscribed:

C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1855.

The bell is hung for ringing inverted, being fitted with a stay and slider. The fittings are of wood mounted in a cast-metal frame. A counterbalance weight is provided, as is a chiming hammer for the clock.

The bell is, unfortunately, cracked in the crown, but its tone is unimpaired. This site has had a church for some considerable time. A church<sup>1</sup> was destroyed by Lord Fleming, Governor of the Castle in Queen Mary's time. It was rebuilt about 1590 and had a spire at the west end. The present church dates from 1811.

#### 9. DUMBARTON. High Kirk.

A tower with spire containing one bell,  $42\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

JOHN C. WILSON . FOUNDER . GLASGOW N<sup>o</sup> 888/PRESENTED  
TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE FREE CHURCH OF  
DUMBARTON/BY JAMES WHITE. OVERTOUN. A.D. 1866./ G

The bell is cast with canons and has wooden fittings with a metal counterbalance weight. The present church<sup>2</sup> was built in 1864.

#### 10. DUMBARTON. Roman Catholic Church of St Patrick.

A tower containing a carillon of twenty-three bells; tenor  $44\frac{5}{16}$  inches diameter, in F sharp, and an Angelus bell.

The Angelus bell weighs  $19\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. and has the note F natural. The inscription reads:

GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1927. (J)/1849/D.O.M./AD  
HONOREM S. PATRICII, HIBERNIÆ APOST. TIT. HUIUS  
ECCLESIAE/QUI IN HAC REGIONE PRIMO LUCEM VIDEBAT/  
FELICITER REGNANTE PIO PP. XI./PROCURANTE REVMO.

<sup>1</sup> *Castle and Town of Dumbarton*, D. Macleod, p. 96.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 96.

DOM. HUGONE CANONICO KELLY,/HANC CAMPANAM,  
ILLMUS. ET REVMUS. DOM. DONALDUS MACKINTOSH,  
ARCHIEPISCOPUS GLASGUENSIS,/BENEDIXIT ET CONSE-  
CRAVIT,/DIE 17 MENSIS MARTII M.C.M. XXVII./ET VERBUM  
CARO FACTUM EST./LAUDO DEUM VERUM PLEBEM VOVO,  
NUBEM FUGO, FESTA DECORO./CONGREGO CLERUM,  
DEFUNCTOS PLORO./1

This bell is hung for ringing inverted and is mounted on ball bearings in a steel frame. Apart from the lettering there is also a border below the inscription band, and on the waist appear the Papal Arms and the Bishop's Arms.

It is rung as the Angelus bell at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m., being operated by a chiming hammer controlled by the clock. It is also used as the dead bell.

Above this bell hangs the carillon in a steel frame in three tiers. Each bell bears the founder's name and the date, and in addition each bell is dedicated to a particular saint, together with the name of the church. The tenor has a longer inscription on similar lines to that on the Angelus.

The carillon was all cast at the Croydon Foundry of Messrs Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., during the years 1927 and 1928. Originally, in 1927, there was installed a chime of eight bells and the Angelus bell. In the next year the chime was augmented to its present size.

All the bells in the carillon are hung dead and are cast with flat heads. They are fitted with a special form of clapper which is drawn on to the bell from the inside when the key on the keyboard is depressed.

The clock uses two bells for the quarters and strikes the hours on the tenor. The particulars of the carillon are:

Bell.	Note.	Weight.			Bell.	Note.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.			Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.	F#	0	2	1½	13.	F#	3	0	6
2	F	0	2	7	14	E#	3	2	17
3	E	0	2	21	15	E	4	1	20
4	D#	0	3	8	16	D#	4	2	0
5	D	0	3	18½	17	D	4	3	25
6	C#	0	3	23	18	C#	5	0	16
7	C	1	0	5	19	C	6	0	9
8	B	1	1	3	20	B	7	0	18
9	A#	1	1	17½	21	A#	8	0	10
10	A	1	2	25	22	G#	12	0	12
11	G#	1	3	23	Tenor.	F#	16	3	24
12	G	2	1	9	Angelus.	F	19	3	0

## 11. DUMBARTON. Municipal Buildings.

In the Municipal Buildings is preserved a bell called locally the Skellat bell. This bell is of very great age, probably belonging to some Celtic saint. The section of the bell is rectangular at the soundbow but the edges have been somewhat flattened. The material is cast bronze and the dimensions<sup>1</sup> are:

At mouth, 8 inches one way and 9 inches the other.

Height to top of the crown,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Height to top of the metal handle,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Width of crown along line of handle,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

The bell seems to have come into the possession of the Burgh Authorities during the early years of the seventeenth century. In John Glenn's *History of Dumbarton* it is reported<sup>2</sup> that "It was customary then, on the death of any friend or near relation, to send the public crier through the town with what was called the skellat bell, or dead bell, to warn the friends and acquaintances of the deceased to his or her funeral."

This bell is illustrated on Pl. XXXIV, 1.

12. HELENSBURGH.<sup>3</sup> Old Church.

A tower containing a chime of five bells for the clock. The tenor  $40\frac{3}{8}$  inches diameter, in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.	Border/19(T)29	1	0	11
Second.		1	2	13
Third.		2	0	16
Fourth.		3	3	19
Hour bell.		12	2	9

OMNIA FIANI AD GLORIAM  
DEI:...../J. A. FLEMING/AND HIS  
WIFE WILHELMINA/GAVE THESE  
BELLS/1929/(T)

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogue of the Glasgow Exhibition, 1911, vol. ii., p. 1098.*

<sup>2</sup> *Castle and Town of Dumbarton, D. Macleod, p. 119.*

<sup>3</sup> *A division of the old parish of Rhu.*

CHURCH BELLS OF RENFREWSHIRE AND DUNBARTONSHIRE. 185

All the bells were cast by Messrs John Taylor & Co., Loughborough. On the three lighter bells the trade-mark takes the form of a T with its lower end opened out into the form of a bell. On the fourth appears the crest of this foundry, as illustrated in the *Church Bells of Berkshire*, Pl. iv. On the tenor is a larger medallion bearing the lettering TAYLOR LOUGHBOROUGH round the rim with the same crest inside.

The quarter bells are hung dead but the hour bell is hung for ringing, in ball bearings. All of the bells have flat heads.

13. HELENSBURGH. The Episcopal Church of St Michael and All Angels.

A bold western tower containing a chime of eight bells; tenor note F $\sharp$  :

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.		2	1	10
	+ TAYLORS + FOUNDERS + LOUGHBOROUGH + 1930			
Second.		2	2	25
	[ <i>As above.</i> ]			
Third.		3	3	15
	[ <i>As above.</i> ]			
Fourth.		5	2	12
	[ <i>As above.</i> ]			
Fifth.		7	0	23
	[ <i>As above.</i> ]			
Sixth.		7	3	3
	[ <i>As above.</i> ]			
Seventh.		10	2	4
	[ <i>As above.</i> ]			
Tenor.		15	1	23

..... 1930 ...../  
 THESE CHIMES ARE THE GIFT  
 TO/ST. MICHAEL'S AND ALL  
 ANGELS' : HELENSBURGH,/OF SIR  
 WILLIAM H. RAEBURN, BT./TO  
 THE GLORY OF GOD/AND/IN  
 LOVING MEMORY OF/HIS WIFE,  
 ELLINOR MARTHA, WHO DIED IN  
 1915/AND OF HIS CHILDREN/  
 DOROTHY (1900)/SAISIE (1917)/  
 ERNEST (1922)/AND OF ALFRED,  
 WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR,  
 1916./

(T)

The tenor bears the large medallion as found at the Old Church, Helensburgh, on the hour bell. This medallion bears the inscription TAYLOR LOUGHBOROUGH.

The whole chime was cast at the foundry of Messrs John Taylor & Co., Loughborough, Leicestershire. All the bells have flat heads and are bolted to steel girders. They are struck by a special form of clapper, which is connected by a wire to a keyboard below. The tenor has a separate chiming mechanism for tolling in.

#### 14. KILMARONOCK. St Marnock.

In a closed western turret there hangs one bell,  $16\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, which has no moulding wires or inscription. The bell was cast with canons, but these are recessed into the wooden headstock and their shape is not visible.

Though the site is ancient, the present church <sup>1</sup> only dates from 1813, and it is probable that the bell is of this date.

#### 15. NEW KILPATRICK. Old Church.

A north-western tower containing one bell,  $37\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, hung for ringing and inscribed:

IACOBUS WATERS KING A.M./ÆDIS NOVÆ S. PATRICII  
MINISTER, A.D. 1885./JOHN C. WILSON & CO FOUNDERS,  
GLASGOW./VOCO, "VENITE AD DEI TEMPLUM."

The bell is cast with canons, and is hung with metal fittings and a counter-balance weight.

The parishes of New and Old Kilpatrick were formed out of the larger parish of Kilpatrick in 1649 <sup>2</sup> when a church was first built on this site. Alterations to the building have been made in the years 1807, 1885 and 1909.

#### 16. OLD KILPATRICK. St Patrick.

A western tower containing a chime of eight bells; tenor note F natural, and a small disused bell.

The bells in the chime are cast with flat heads and are hung dead in a steel frame. The disused bell has a handbell-type argent and a metal headstock and wheel; it was the church bell before the chime was presented, and probably dates from 1812 when the present church was built.

<sup>1</sup> *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. vii., p. 217.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. viii.

CHURCH BELLS OF RENFREWSHIRE AND DUNBARTONSHIRE. 187

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.	GILLETT & JOHNSTON FOUNDERS CROYDON 1897	4	2	13
Second.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	4	2	21
Third.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	5	1	0
Fourth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	6	0	21
Fifth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	7	0	16
Sixth.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	8	1	14
Seventh.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	9	1	10
Tenor.	GILLETT & JOHNSTON FOUNDERS CROYDON ENGLAND./TO THE GLORY OF GOD/THIS PEAL OF BELLS IS PRESENTED TO THE PARISH CHURCH OF OLD KIL- PATRICK BY/WILLIAM DUNN BLACK OF AUCHENTOSHAN/IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER ROBERT BLACK OF KELVINHAUGH/AND OF HIS BROTHER JAMES BLACK OF AUCHENTOSHEN./1897.	14	0	23
Disused.	[ <i>No inscription.</i> ]	18 inches diameter.		

The chime is operated by a mechanical playing apparatus consisting of a barrel with pegs screwed in round the circumference. As the barrel rotates, the pegs come in contact with trip mechanisms which operate a hammer on each bell. There are three barrels provided, which play both hymn tunes and changes.

17. KIRKINTILLOCH. St Mary, Old Church.

A western bellcote containing one bell,  $22\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, inscribed:

[*Fig. 4*] GERARD · KOSTER · ME FECIT · AMSTELREDAMI · ANNO · 1663 / [*Fig. 16*]

Above and below the inscription appears the border (fig. 12). On the waist is a large medallion of the Arms of the City of Glasgow.

The bell has canons of the usual type, but the outside surface bears the head of an angel in each case with beading at the edges.

The bell is an excellent casting, and is very similar to one preserved in the People's Palace Museum, Glasgow. This latter one hung in the Tolbooth or town steeple in Glasgow, and bears exactly the same inscription and the

Arms of the City of Glasgow, the only difference being that the head (fig. 4) does not appear.

This bell was cast by order of the Town Council of Glasgow and therefore it was appropriate that it should bear the City Arms. The founder may have got confused, and assumed that as Kirkintilloch was so near Glasgow it would do no harm to have the medallion on both bells.

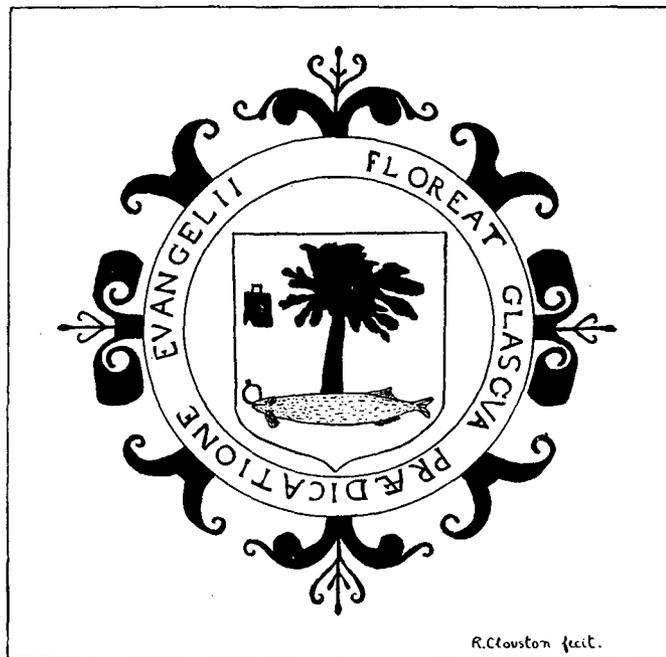


Fig. 16 (4).

Arms of City of Glasgow, from bell in Old Church of St Mary,  
Kirkintilloch, cast in 1663.

The church is disused and the bell's fittings are very much decayed; the wheel has almost disappeared, only fragments are left, and the gudgeon pins are rusted in. The bell, however, is in no danger of falling.

The church was built in 1644 after the division of the larger parish into Kirkintilloch and Cumbernauld, or Wester and Easter Lenzie as they used to be called. It became disused when the New Church of St Mary was completed in 1913.

The author's thanks are due to ex-Provost James Fletcher, J.P., F.S.A.Scot., for his assistance in reaching this bell. The ascent was only achieved with the greatest difficulty.

18. KIRKINTILLOCH. St Mary, New Church.

This church possesses a fine tower of large proportions, which contains a chime of thirteen tubular bells. These and their fittings bear no maker's name.

19. KIRKINTILLOCH. St David's Memorial.

A tower with spire containing one bell, 40 inches diameter, hung for ringing, and inscribed:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD/AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS  
WIFE ELIZABETH L. GOODWIN. THIS BELL WAS/PRESENTED  
BY ARCHIBALD WATSON J.P. CLERK OF SESSION, WITH  
HUMBLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD'S MERCY DURING A  
LONG LIFE./1926./JOHN C. WILSON & CO., LTD FOUNDERS.  
GLASGOW.

The bell is hung in ball bearings with metal fittings. It is one of the last bells to be cast by this foundry before it closed down.

20. KIRKINTILLOCH. The Town Steeple.

In the tower with spire hangs one bell, 39½ inches diameter, inscribed:

DAVID BURGES FOUNDER GLASGOW. No 258  
KIRKINTILLOCH TOWN BELL 1849 1247 Lbs

The bell is cast with canons, and there is a border above and below the inscription. The wooden fittings are much dilapidated, the rim of the wheel has entirely gone, and the clapper lies on the clock floor. The bell is thus useless. The clock is in a similar state.

The foundry number of the bell and its weight are both incised on the inscription band. The remaining part of the inscription was stamped in the mould prior to casting and is therefore raised from the surface of the bell.

In 1814 the Town Council<sup>1</sup> appointed a committee to raise funds by public subscription for a steeple, a bell and a new gaol. In 1820 the accounts for the erection of the steeple were presented, but at this stage it does not appear that there was a bell, as in 1825 a Clock and Bell Committee was appointed. In 1829 it was reported that a bell had been placed in the steeple, but unfortunately in 1835 it was cracked and was recast by a Greenock firm of ironfounders, probably James Duff & Sons, at a cost of

<sup>1</sup> *Old Kirkintilloch*, Rt. Hon. Thomas Johnston, P.C., M.P., p. 171.

£22, 2s. This bell is reported <sup>1</sup> to have weighed 14 cwt. while its predecessor weighed 19 cwt. In 1849 the bell was again cracked, and the present bell, weighing just over 11 cwt., was cast at the Gorbals Foundry, Glasgow.

#### 21. LUSS. St Mackessog.

This church has a small central turret perched on the ridge of the roof. It is near no gable, and as a result the bell rope is brought down along the roof over pulleys. The single bell is almost inaccessible without the aid of long ladders, but when viewed through a telescope it was found to be of the brass foundry type with a handbell-type argent and no moulding wires. There appeared to be no inscription.

The church was rebuilt <sup>2</sup> in 1771, but the bell is not as old as this, being nineteenth century, and weighing not more than 2 cwt.

#### 22. RENTON.<sup>3</sup> Old Church.

A western tower containing a chime of six bells, which are all inscribed:

1-6) JOHN WARNER & SONS L<sup>TD</sup> LONDON 1892./PRESENTED  
TO RENTON CHURCH/BY JAMES AIKEN AND JOHN BELCH  
AIKEN/1892.

The approximate weights are:

Bell.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.	Bell.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.	3	1	0	Fourth.	5	0	0
Second.	3	3	0	Fifth.	6	0	0
Third.	4	2	0	Tenor.	7	3	0

The bells are cast with Doncaster-type heads, and are hung dead in a wooden frame. They are chimed by Ellacombe hammers, the bells being struck internally. This church was built in 1892 and is the first on the site.

#### 23. RHU. Old Church.

A lofty tower containing four quarter bells and an hour bell for the clock. These are inscribed:

<sup>1</sup> *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii., p. 93.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. vii., p. 166.

<sup>3</sup> Part of the Old Parish of Dumbarton.

CHURCH BELLS OF RENFREWSHIRE AND DUNBARTONSHIRE. 191

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Treble.	JOHN C. WILSON & Co. FOUNDERS GLASGOW. A.D. 1881.	2	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Second.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	2	2	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Third.	[ <i>The same.</i> ]	3	2	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Fourth.	THE TOWER CLOCK & QUARTER BELLS WERE IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF MRS: ANNE LEADBETTER/BY HER CHILDREN —DURING THE MINISTRY OF THE REV: JOHN LAWRIE FOGO. ROW. A.D. 1881./JOHN C. WILSON & C <sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS. GLASGOW.	5	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Hour bell.	C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON /PRESENTED BY ROBERT NAPIER OF WEST SHANDON ENGINEER GLASGOW/FOR THE USE OF THE NEW PARISH CHURCH ERECTED AT ROW/ANNO DOMINI 1850/ REV: JOHN LAURIE FOGO MINISTER.	14	3	5

All the bells are cast with canons and are fitted with clappers. The quarter bells, however, are hung dead on a floor above the hour bell. This latter bell is hung for ringing with metal fittings. Large counterbalance weights are bolted on to both the headstock and the rim of the wheel.

Robert Napier<sup>1</sup> (1791–1876), who gave the hour bell, was a famous marine engineer. He made his first marine engine in 1823, and in 1841 he started building metal ships. He was President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1863–65.

The parish of Rhu<sup>2</sup> was formed in 1648 out of parts of the parishes of Cardross and Roseneath. The first church built at this time was demolished in 1763 and a new church was erected. This possessed a very small bell turret complete with a bell. In 1851 the present church was built, and doubtless the old bell was sold on the donation of the present hour bell.

<sup>1</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography.*

<sup>2</sup> *Annals of Garelochside*, W. C. Maughan.

## 24. ROSENEATH. Old Church.

In the turret of the present church hangs a bell, about 17 inches diameter, which with the aid of a telescope was found to be inscribed on the waist:

MDE/1892

The bell has normal loop canons and moulding wires on both the inscription band and soundbow.

This bell replaces an older one which is now preserved in the south porch. This bell is 16½ inches diameter, and is inscribed:

SOLI ♦ DEO ♦ GLORIA ♦ IAN ♦ BVRGERHVYS ♦ ME ♦ FECIT ♦ 1610 ♦

Above the inscription appears an ornamental border (fig. 11). The inscription is reproduced in fig. 15, *a*, and Pl. XXXIV, 1, shows a photograph of the bell. There is a false crown staple with a clapper of eighteenth century date.

There has been a church<sup>1</sup> in this village at least since 1199, as in this year the living was granted to the monks of Paisley Abbey. The pre-Reformation church was rebuilt about 1760, but parts of the older building were incorporated in the new church, notably the old bellcote.

This church is now in ruins, and a new church was built on a site nearby in 1853. The old bell of 1610 was transferred to this new building, but was replaced later as it was wearing thin in the soundbow. It is not, however, cracked.

The author's thanks are due to the Minister, Rev. Cameron Dinwoodie, Ph.D., and to Mr J. W. B. Henderson, for photographing the bell.

25. SHANDON.<sup>2</sup>

A western tower containing one bell, 32 inches diameter, inscribed:

CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS L<sup>TD</sup> LONDON 1888.

This church was founded at the Disruption of the Established Church in 1843 and was rebuilt in 1885. The bell has canons of the rectangular type and is hung for ringing in metal fittings.

<sup>1</sup> *Annals of Garelochside*, W. C. Maughan.

<sup>2</sup> Part of Rhu parish.