

## IX.

## THE CHURCH AND OTHER BELLS OF ABERDEENSHIRE.

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At the time of his death Dr F. C. Eeles had collected quite a considerable amount of data on Scottish church bells which had not been published. The county survey most near completion was that on Aberdeenshire, but all the field work had been done in the period 1890 to 1913 and it was questionable whether it was sufficiently up to date for publication. The present writer decided that it would be best to check wherever possible that the bells recorded by Dr Eeles still existed, and to fill in certain gaps in the account; this he did in the summer of 1956. Where the bells have not been seen recently the initials F. C. E. appear at the foot of the account of them together with the date when Dr Eeles saw them.

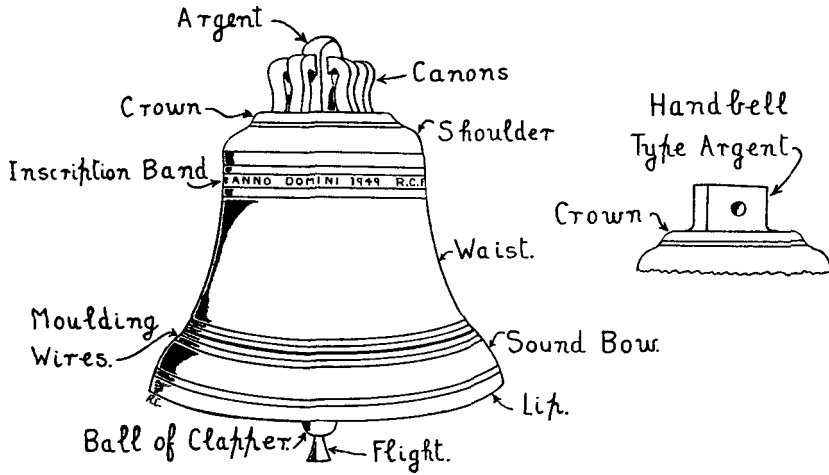
One feature of Aberdeenshire churches is the elaborate belfries which are found in a number of them. These Dr Eeles has described and some are illustrated. Otherwise the present writer has aimed to follow the pattern set by his earlier papers on bells in Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire and Stirlingshire in these *Proceedings* and, wherever possible, any repetition of information is avoided.

Most of the bells hang in open turrets and in some cases the inscriptions have been obtained with the aid of a strong telescope. In a number of these latter cases the complete inscription is invisible from the ground due to the masonry and though the important information is given, the inscriptions are not in all cases complete.

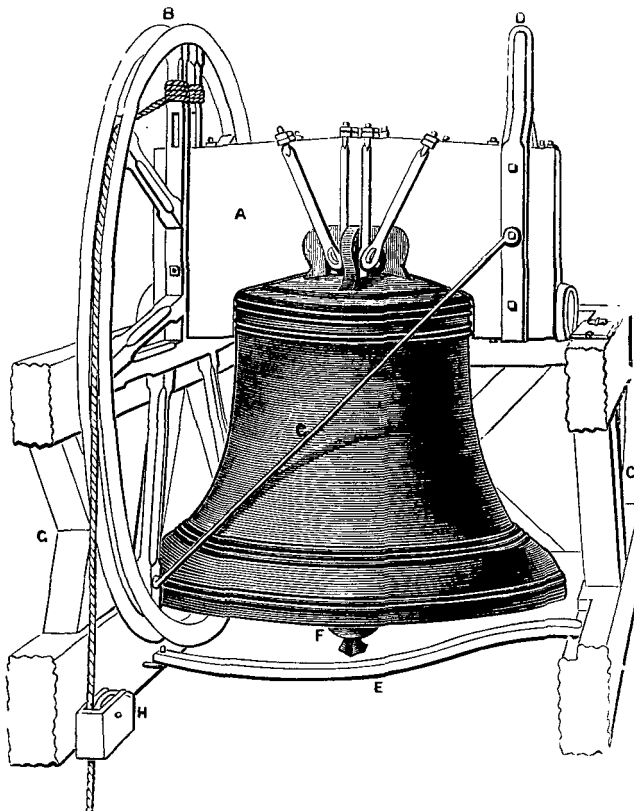
Fig. 1, 1, shows a typical bell with the names given to the various parts. The inscriptions recorded below are on the inscription band unless otherwise stated, and an oblique stroke is used to denote the end of each line, the next line starting lower down on the waist.

In some cases the arrangement of moulding wires is given, thus the code 2, 1-2, 3-2, would mean that there were two wires on the crown, one above the inscription and two below, three at the top of the soundbow and two at the lip.

Most of the bells are hung in a manner similar to that shown in fig. 1, 2, sometimes with a lever instead of a wheel, sometimes without stay and slider in a metal framework, etc.



1. Names of parts of a bell.



2. Single bell hung as for change ringing.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| A. Headstock. | E. Slider.  |
| B. Wheel.     | F. Clapper. |
| C. Frame.     | G. Frame.   |
| D. Stay.      | H. Pulley.  |

Fig. 1.

As bells vary so much in thickness and shape it is difficult to give hard and fast rules for determining their weight from mouth diameters but the following table is approximately correct:

Diameter (inches)	22	30	34	38	42	45	47	49
Approximate weight (cwt.)	2	5	7	9	12	15	18	20

Due to the size of the work it has been decided to divide it into a number of parts and some notes on the founders will be given at the end of the accounts of the various bells.

The present writer is in some difficulty in making acknowledgment of the help received to collect the information contained in this survey as the work has been going on for so long. First, thanks must be accorded to the ministers and church and municipal officials who have so readily assisted the work, to the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Cowdray, Dr W. Douglas Simpson, the City Chamberlain of Aberdeen, the Rector of Aberdeen Grammar School, the County Surveyor, Professor R. J. Renier, the Hon. J. Leith and the Hon. Miss E. Leith, and to others mentioned in the text.

The bell-founders have been of great assistance in searching their records, especially Messrs Mears & Stainbank, Messrs Gillett & Johnston Ltd. and Messrs John Taylor & Co. The first named have kindly loaned the block of fig. 1, 2.

#### ABERDEEN.

The bells in the City of Aberdeen will be described at the end of the section dealing alphabetically with the parishes in the remainder of Aberdeenshire.

#### ABERDOUR. New Church, New Aberdour. 1.

A bird-cage belfry at the west end of the church contains a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, which bears no inscription. The bell was cast by James Abernethy & Co. of Aberdeen in 1859 and has a hand-bell type argent. The old bell, said to have been dated and brought from the old church, became cracked and some £6 was allowed for it. It is said to have been much better than the present one.

The present church was built in 1818 and the belfry is said to have been brought from the old church and to be dated 1717.

#### ABOYNE. St Adamnan.

There are now no remains of this church. The old bird-cage belfry with the bell was taken away and re-erected on the north side of the top of the tower of the home farm buildings near the Castle: see Mains of Aboyne.

ABOYNE. Parish Church. 1.

A bird-cage belfry on the east gable of the church contains a bell, about 24 ins. diameter, which when observed through a telescope was seen to be inscribed:

HÆC CAMPANA. A...UE..... FARQUHARSON EJUSQUE./  
 UXORE ANNA. GILL...DERS ANNO 1729 ECCLESIAE/  
 GLENTANNERIÆ DONATA SUMPTU CONJUNCTARUM/  
 PAROCHiarUM GLENTANNERIÆ. ET ABOYNIÆ  
 DENUO/CONFLUCTA EST ANNO 1843

Parts of the inscription are not visible from the ground due to the masonry, and the weather on three occasions in the summer of 1956 was far from suitable for an ascent to the very elevated belfry by ladder. The bell appears to have been cast in 1729 for Glentanner church, and to have been recast in 1843 when the present church at Aboyne had only just been completed. An earlier church for the united parishes had been built in 1763.<sup>1</sup>

The lettering on the bell was poorly stamped in the mould and can only be read with difficulty from the ground. The crown terminates in a hand-bell type argent and this is bolted to an iron stock. The framework and remaining fittings are also of iron. The bell bears no founder's name and appears to be a Scottish product, possibly from Aberdeen.

ABOYNE. Episcopal Church of St Thomas. 2.

In the tower below the spire there are two bells, 27½ ins. and 34 ins. diameter. They are hung to be rung in the English manner in a wooden frame and both are inscribed:

CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1909

F. C. E. 1911.

ABOYNE. Mains of Aboyne. 1.

The single, disused bell, 14¾ ins. diameter, note C, is inscribed:

JOHN MOWAT □ OLD ABD □ 1753 MEFECIT (*ornamental border*)

There is a fleur-de-lys border (Pl. XVI) above the inscription and the acanthus-leaf border (Pl. XVII, a) is used as a stop between phrases and at the end of the inscription as well as encircling the bell below the inscription. This is one of Mowat's smaller bells and is remarkable in that there is only one line of inscription and no name of the place for which the bell was cast. The condition is good and the casting perfect.

The bell was brought from the old parish church when the latter was pulled down and the hangings seem to have been renewed then. The

<sup>1</sup> *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, XII, 1087.

belfry is of granite, a smaller and ruder example of the same type as those of Birse and Kincardine O'Neil. There is a pinnacle bearing a ball at each corner, and a semicircular tympanum over the middle of each side and end. The openings are 54 ins. by  $18\frac{1}{2}$  ins., the depth 27 ins., the side openings  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ins. wide. The pillars are ornamented by grooves near the corners, giving the effect of roll mouldings up each corner.

ALFORD. St Andrew or West Church. 1.

A plain bird-cage belfry of 1804 at the west end of the church contains a bell, 17 ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:

IOHN MOWAT (*fleur-de-lys*) OLD ABD ME FE  
 1761 (*fleur-de-lys*) ALFORD THIS BELL/IS  
 PURCHASD AT THE EXPENCE OF THE KIRK  
 SESION M<sup>R</sup> A I/(2 *fleur-de-lys*)/MINR

The bell has the acanthus-leaf border (Pl. XVII) all round below the inscription and the fleur-de-lys stops are from the border (Pl. XVI). The initials A. I. stand for Rev. Alexander Johnston who was minister here from 1746 till his death in 1778.<sup>1</sup> His tombstone is in the kirkyard.

The Kirk Session records of the time contain a number of references to the bell. On 10th May 1761 it was resolved to purchase a new bell from John Mowat as the existing one was "very insufficient." The taking down and carriage to Aberdeen cost half-a-crown. On 5th July 1761 it was reported that the new bell was ready for collection, and an account had been received which read:

To a new bell weighting 127 lb 12 oz at 16 <sup>d</sup> p. lb	£8 . 10 . 4	Sterling.
To Iron Work 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb at 4 <sup>d</sup> p. pound	0 . 9 . 2	
To New Stock & Stocking the same . . . . .	0 . 6 . 0	
To Oyl for colouring the Stock . . . . .	0 . 0 . 6	
	<hr/>	
	£9 . 6 . 0	
Received in part of the above an old Bell weight- ing 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb at 10 <sup>d</sup> p. lb . . . . .	£3 . 11 . 3	
To 14 lb W. old Iron at 26 <sup>d</sup> p. stone . . . . .	1 . 11	
	<hr/>	
	£3 . 13 . 2	
Balance due to John Mowat is . . . . .	£5 . 12 . 10	

Further expenses amounted to four shillings for the carriage from Aberdeen, eight pence for four fathom of rope, sixpence for drink money for four men who helped up with the bell. On 6th February 1763 it was resolved to charge one shilling for ringing the bell on the day of the interment and sixpence more for each day it is rung prior to that date.

<sup>1</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vi, 119.

AUCHINDOIR. St Mary the Virgin. 0.

No bell. The ruins do, however, contain a fine early 16th-century belfry.

AUCHINDOIR AND KEARN. Established Church. 1.

The single bell, about 18 ins. diameter, note C sharp, bears no inscription and is thought to have been provided when the present church was built in 1810. The bell has a plain shank head and has no moulding wires on the shoulder or upper part. Considerable efforts were made about 1913 to trace the former bell, but to no avail, and there is no reference in the Session Records.

Auchindoir and Kearn were united in 1792.<sup>1</sup>

AUCHTERLESS. St Donan. 1.

The bird-cage belfry over the west gable of the ruined church contains a bell, 21 ins. diameter, inscribed:

∴ PETER · IANSEN · ANNO 1644 · BVNI · TVN · ∴ · W · M

A somewhat roughly cast bell, rather short in the waist and not at all of the usual Dutch or Low Country type. The lettering is  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, and is generally similar to that at Midmar and Glenbuchat, but with the exception that the letter I and the figure 1 have feet somewhat like a letter J.

AUCHTERLESS. New Church. 1.

The tower with spire contains a bell, 50 $\frac{3}{8}$  ins. diameter, weighing 22 cwt. 0 qrs. 10 lb, inscribed:

(*a thistle*) Mears & Stainbank, Founders, London. 1894 (*a thistle*)/  
(*on waist*) In Memory of/John Paton Watson., of Blackford./Annie  
his Wife, and/Catherine Ann, their Daughter.

F. C. E. 1906.

BALLATER. Established Church. 1.

The tower with spire of this church, which was built in 1798 for the united parishes of Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn, contains one bell, 30 ins. in diameter, height 23 $\frac{7}{8}$  ins., note C, inscribed:

CAMPANA ECCLES CATHED AED FLORENTE DO GEORGIO  
M D EPO. ANNO DO. 1688. (*rose and stalk*)/SABBATA PANGO.  
SOLENNIA CLANGO FVNERA PLANGO. PAT KILGOVR FECIT.  
(*rose and stalk*)/(A leaf border 2 ins. high all round)

One of the most remarkable bells in the kingdom, and one of the two largest bells now existing that were cast in Aberdeen. The bell is hung

<sup>1</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, VI, 120.

stationary between two beams, the clock strikes on the outside of the soundbow on one side and the bell is struck by a hammer on the other side when rung for service. The clapper has been taken out and the bell now hangs quarter turned. The tone is poor.

This extremely interesting bell shows a peculiar mixture of English and Low Country practice; it is shorter in the waist than the average Low Country bell of the period, but with head and soundbow of very much the Low Country shape. The shoulders, however, are rather English. The flat top of the crown from which the canons rise is very large and the canons themselves start a long distance apart as in Low Country work, but they are thin, short and small, like English canons. Although a distinctly Dutch acanthus frieze is used, there are no mouldings, but "lines" or "rims" like an English bell—two, rather far apart on the shoulder; three, very close together, above the inscription and one joining the top of the frieze below it; three above the soundbow, the middle one being rather larger; and two above the lip. The size and arrangement of these rims is very much what one would expect to find on an English bell of rather earlier date. The lettering is small and poor, English in character and very carelessly put on—exactly like certain kinds of English lettering of a slightly later date. It is also of much the same general character as, though slightly larger than, the lettering on the very plain English-looking bells at Buchanan, Stirlingshire, 1725;<sup>1</sup> Queensferry Tolbooth, West Lothian, 1721,<sup>2</sup> and some other bells in central Scotland.

The marks of contraction are I's turned sideways. The rose and leaf stops are copied from the work of Peter Ostens of Rotterdam and were afterwards used by John Mowat (see Pl. XVI).

The inscription makes it plain that the bell was intended for the Cathedral and it may well have done service there for a hundred years or so before being transferred to Ballater. Bishop George<sup>3</sup> mentioned in the inscription was George Haliburton, D.D., who was born in 1627. He was ordained to Cupar Angus before October 1648, was appointed to the See of Brechin in 1678 and transferred to the See of Aberdeen in 1682. He was deposed at the Revolution in 1689 and died in 1715.

#### BELHELVIE. St Columba.

In a bird-cage belfry over the west end of the ruined church hangs a bell, 18 ins. diameter, 14½ ins. high, with the note F sharp, bearing the inscription:

(stop) **HENRICK** (stop) **TER** (stop) **HORST** (stop) **ME** (stop)  
**FECIT** (stop) **DAVENTRÆ** (stop) **1633**

<sup>1</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXIV, 72 and fig. G.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, XLVII, 91.

<sup>3</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, VII, 332.

This bell from the Daventer foundry in Holland is very similar to that at Strichen cast in the same year. Pl. XVII, c, gives the inscription and borders. These latter are the same on both bells.

The ornamental borders are unusually rich and elaborate, the grapes and leaves below the inscription are particularly effective. The lettering is plain and very poor; somewhat similar to that used by Peter Iansen on the bell, now at Midmar, dated 1642.

Both single canons and one double canon are broken and the bell is bolted to an iron stock. The crown staple has been broken and the clapper has been rehung with iron bolts through the crown. The clapper may be original but this is by no means certain, it has a short pointed flight.

The belfry is unique in the county in having two cross-bars on each side: the bell now hangs between the higher pair but it formerly hung between the lower. The freestone lintel on the west side bears the date 1762 and the initials of the minister of the day, Thomas Ragg. The edges of the pillars are rounded, the cornice has a plain hollow moulding and projects very little. There are diminutive pinnacles at each corner crowned by a ball. Over the west side is a small semicircular tympanum. Width between sides, 1 ft. 10¼ ins.

#### BELHELVIE. New Church. 1.

An arched belfry over the east end of the church contains a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, which may be seen to be inscribed:

BARWELL BIRMINGHAM/  
*(on waist a shield)*

The shield on the waist of the bell bears the initials J B for James Barwell twice with a cross in the centre. The shield is surrounded by oak leaves. The bell has canons and is hung with metal fittings. Though the writer has been unable to ascertain the exact date of this bell it is later than 1870 when Barwells started bell-founding.<sup>1</sup>

#### BIRSE. St Michael. 1.

In a very quaint old bird-cage bellcot, dated 1772, over the west end of the church hangs a bell, 20 ins. diameter, inscribed:

∴ PS. 1221 I M K 1675. IS. 1813. I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY  
SAID/-TO ME LET US GO UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.  
*(ornamental border)*

Moulding wires 2, 2-2, 2-2. A peculiar bell, very short in the waist and rather roughly cast, almost certainly the work of Hugh Gordon & Co. of

<sup>1</sup> Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, p. 80.



Aberdeen, as the ornament is that used by them upon the bell at Oyne; this is in the form of Xs with floral work between (fig. 2, 4). The large letters and the figures are not those used by Gordon & Co. on their earlier bells, but the small letters are the same.

The predecessor of this bell was remarkable for its fine sharp tone giving rise to the local saying "as clear as the bell o' Birse."<sup>1</sup> The initials of John Keith,<sup>2</sup> the minister in 1675, as well as those of Joseph Smith,<sup>3</sup> minister in 1813, appear on the bell.

#### BLAIRDAFF. 1.

A western bird-cage belfry contains a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, inscribed:

(ornament) JOHN DUFFUS & COMPANY, FOUNDERS,  
 ABERDEEN/(soundbow) (ornament) BLAIRDAFF SUBSCRIPTION  
 CHURCH, 1839. HENRY SIMSON, PARISH MINISTER

The bell has canons and is a good, clean casting with clearly defined lettering. One gudgeon pin is extended through the masonry and has on it a wheel outside the belfry to which the rope is attached.

#### BOURTIE. 1.

In a small and rather graceful bird-cage belfry of the late plain type on a small gablet in the centre of the west wall of the church, which has a hip roof and was built in 1806, hangs a single bell, 15½ inches diameter, height 12¾ ins., note C (flattish), inscribed:

IOHN MOWAT OLD ABD ME FE 1760 IN USUM ECCLESÆ  
 (two fleur-de-lys)/DE BOURTEY SABATA PANGO FUNERA  
 PLANGO (eight fleur-de-lys)

The fleur-de-lys are illustrated as Pl. XVI and there is the acanthus border all round the bell below the inscription (Pl. XVII, a). This is a good example of Mowat's later work: well and cleanly cast. There are more moulding wires than usual on the soundbow, in fact there is only a very small flat band which is unmoulded. The letter I is omitted from ECCLESIAE and the first E of this word is much broken. The original crown staple remains in use.

A large rock in a field on the hill to the north of the church is known as the Bell Stone. It is said that the beadle used to go there and wait till he saw the laird leaving Barra Castle before going to ring the bell.

<sup>1</sup> Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, II, 43.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, VI, 83.

<sup>3</sup> Scott, *ibid.*, VI, 84.

BRAEMAR. Parish Church. 1.

This church, formerly the Free Church, has a tower with spire which contains a single bell,  $36\frac{1}{8}$  ins. diameter, inscribed:

PRESENTED BY M<sup>r</sup> JAMES CUNNINGHAM, DOUGLAS HOUSE,  
BROUGHTY FERRY, / TO THE FREE CHURCH, BRAEMAR.  
A.D. 1871. / JOHN C. WILSON. FOUNDER GLASGOW.

The bell is used for the clock to strike on and has iron fittings including wheel and counterbalanced headstock.

The former parish church is not now used for ecclesiastical purposes. The small spire contains a chime of five bells hung stationary in three tiers cast by Gillett & Co. of Croydon in 1883. The particulars are:

Treble	28 ins. diameter	4 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lb.
Second	30 ins. diameter	5 cwt. 3 qrs. 0 lb.
Third	$31\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter	6 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.
Fourth	33 ins. diameter	6 cwt. 2 qrs. 15 lb.
Tenor	$35\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter	8 cwt. 0 qr. 22 lb.

BRAEMAR. Roman Catholic Church of St Andrew. 1.

An open belfry contains a bell, about 22 ins. diameter, inscribed:

THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1843

Cast by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel.

CAIRNEY. 2.

A plain bird-cage belfry over the west end of the church contains a bell,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter, inscribed:

G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON./  
(*on waist*) CAIRNEY/1859

The bell has a Denison-type head and is hung with an iron wheel. The moulding wires are arranged 2, 2-2, 3-2.

The parish was originally called Botarie, part of Drumdelgie was added about 1615 and the whole of Ruthven in 1618. The name Cairney was adopted in about 1710.<sup>1</sup>

Preserved in the manse is a hand or "deid bell" which the writer, unfortunately, has not examined. It is inscribed:

TO KERNY/JOHN MOWAT FE OLD ABD 1763

Its casting cost the kirk session £4, 16s. Scots, and 12s. Scots for carriage from Aberdeen.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 302.

<sup>2</sup> Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, II, 30.

## CHAPEL OF GARIOCH. St Mary the Virgin. 1.

In a small bird-cage belfry over the west end hangs a bell,  $20\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter, which bears an inscription roughly incised on the waist:

*A × R*  
1871

A most inferior bell, roughly and badly cast. There is a sort of secondary soundbow between the soundbow and the waist, and a raised flat band round the shoulder. The soundbow is remarkably thin. The bell has a hand-bell type argent and is badly cracked in the waist.

The old bell is said to have been taken to Culsalmond Free Church, but the bell there now is of cast steel made by Vickers of Sheffield in 1874. The initials A R are believed to be those of a slater, Andrew Rhind, who is said to have procured and hung the bell.

## CLATT. St Luag. 1.

A bird-cage belfry over the east end of the church contains a bell,  $14\frac{7}{8}$  ins. diameter, note G, inscribed:

1779

Evidently one of the numerous small bells cast at the Whitechapel Foundry, London, towards the end of the 18th century. The Session Records during this period are lost. The bell has canons and the moulding wires are arranged 2, 2-2, 2-1. The bell is swung by a lever.

The belfry pillars and lintel have roll mouldings at their edges and the east lintel bears the date 1640 in raised letters. The upper part of the belfry is dated 1828 and consists of a cornice surmounted by five bluntly pointed four-sided pinnacles or pyramids, the central one being much the largest.

Up till 1939 there was a hand-bell at the Manse,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter, height 5 ins., bearing no inscription (Pl. XVIII, *a*). A plain bell with shallow mouldings on the crown and three grooves above the soundbow. The crown terminated in a hand-bell type argent which was slightly broken and to which an iron handle was fixed. This handle used to have a wooden sheath or grip. Height of handle  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins., width  $5\frac{3}{4}$  ins. The lip was slightly chipped. The bell was almost exactly like that at Cabrach, Banff, and Dr Eeles considered it to be late 18th century when he saw it in 1913. The present whereabouts of this bell is unknown.

## CLUNY. Established Church. 1.

An open belfry contains a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, inscribed:

*(Fleur-de-lys border all round, Pl. XVI)*/IOA † MOWAT †  
ME † FECIT † VET † ABD † 1746 † IN † USUM  
‡ *(Floral border, Pl. XVI)*/ECCLESLÆ † DE † CLUNNY  
‡ SABATA † PANGO † FUNERA † PLANGO *(Floral*  
*border, Pl. XVI)*/*(Acanthus leaf border, Pl. XVII (a))*

A well-cast bell from the Old Aberdeen foundry; the stop is usually the complete flower and stalk stop (Pl. XVI); denoted by †; where only the flower appears the symbol † has been used, and where only the stalk and leaf the symbol ‡. The floral border is that appearing on the Skene bell immediately below the inscription (Pl. XVI).

The bell is hung with the original nailed straps and wooden headstock.

COULL. St Brioch. 1.

The plain bird-cage belfry at the west end contains a bell, 19 ins. diameter, 15 $\frac{3}{8}$  ins. high, note G, inscribed:

**SOLI DEO GLORIA MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS**  
**M F 1642**/(*on waist*) **INSIGNIA · ALEXANDRI ·**  
**ROSSII · IN · MIL · DE · COVL · ME · DONANTIS**  
*(coat of arms)*

A well- and cleanly cast bell from the Middelburg foundry in Holland (Pl. XVIII (b)). The main lettering,  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. high, is not so high as that on the bell at Logie-Coldstone (Pl. XVII, b), which is  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. high. The small set is just under  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, but all three are very similar in design. The coat of arms is particularly fine, being more than 5 ins. square, and is complete with crest and surrounding foliage. The shield bears a chevron between three water-bougets, the arms of Ross. There are two moulding wires above and below the inscription; simple mouldings on the crown and soundbow. The lip is rather chipped. The letters M F are clearly meant as an abbreviation for ME FECIT and are not infrequently found on Michael Burgerhuys' bells. All the Ns are reversed.

The belfry is of the same type as those of Birse, Kincardine O'Neil, and Aboyne, but much plainer and probably later in date. There are no mouldings on the pillars or tympana.

The Castle of Coull was the seat of the Durwards and in 1840 it was "a common saying still that the church bell of Coull rings of its own accord when a Durward dies."<sup>1</sup>

CRATHIE. Parish Church. 5.

The tower contains a chime of four bells and a small disused bell from the former church.

Disused bell, 16 $\frac{7}{8}$  ins. diameter.

RECAST ANNO 1736 IOHN MACK = INVNES MINISTER  
 OF CRATHIE

Treble, 14 $\frac{9}{16}$  ins. diameter.

(*on waist*) O PRAY TO HIM, PRAY EVERYWHERE/AND EVER  
 PRAY: A.D. J894

<sup>1</sup> *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, XII, 959.

Second,  $16\frac{9}{16}$  ins. diameter.

(*on waist*) THERE IS A GOD WHO/HEARETH PRAYER BOTH  
NIGHT AND DAY; LOUISE

Third,  $19\frac{1}{8}$  ins. diameter.

(*on waist*) I SOUND AND RESOUND TO THEE O LORD/TO CALL  
THY PEOPLE TO HEAR THY WORD/A.D. J894.

Tenor,  $22\frac{9}{16}$  ins. diameter.

(*on waist*) WE PRAISE THEE O LORD./PRESENDET BY  
BEATRICE PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG./MAGISTER  
VDALRICUS KORTNER/ME FUDIT MONACHII/A.D. 1894.

The disused bell is now unhung in the tower after having been removed during the late war for use in case of invasion. The form of the bell and the lettering of the inscription leave no doubt that it was cast by Richard Phelps of the Whitechapel Foundry, London. Rev. John McInnes was minister here from 1715 till 1748 when he was transferred to Logie-Coldstone.<sup>1</sup> The two Ns in his name are incised on the bell.

The chime of four bells came from Munich where they were cast in 1894. The bells are very foreign in character, long in the waist, thin and angular, with four large canons each. Beneath their shoulders are ornamental friezes in rococo style and also upon the soundbows of the two larger bells. The designs appear to be from late 17th- or 18th-century patterns.

These four bells were originally hung under pointed weather-boards, one on each side of the spire nearly half-way up. They are now hung dead in a frame on the top of the tower on the south side of the base of the spire, and are sounded by clock hammers.

F. C. E.

CRATHIE. Balmoral Castle. 3.

The clock chime of three bells, total weight about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., was cast by John Warner & Sons of the Cripplegate Foundry, London. The clock was started in the autumn of 1856,<sup>2</sup> and the bells are of this date. The mouth diameters are  $19\frac{1}{2}$  ins., 24 ins., and 36 ins., and they are used for ding-dong quarter chimes with the largest as the hour bell.

The largest or hour bell was made from the pattern for the fourth quarter bell with Big Ben in the Palace of Westminster, and exactly half the size. It is an octave above the Westminster bell, note B, and weighs  $9\frac{1}{2}$  cwt.<sup>3</sup>

Best thanks to the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Caithness.

<sup>1</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, vi, 92, 104.

<sup>2</sup> *Court Journal*.

<sup>3</sup> Denison (later Lord Grimethorpe), *A Rudimentary Treatise on Clocks, Watches and Bells*, 5th Edition, 341.

## CRIMOND. Established Church. 1.

In a small spire, which is surmounted by an elaborate fish-vane, hangs a single bell,  $19\frac{7}{8}$  ins. diameter, note D, inscribed:

1818

Probably cast by Thomas Mears; the younger, of Whitechapel. Moulding wires arranged 2, 2-2, 2-2.

F. C. E. 1898.

## CRUDEN. St Olaf. 1.

The belfry contains a bell, 17 ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:<sup>1</sup>

† derc \* ooplieder \* scheue • vhe • borice \*

scelle • int io • uc • ao • xv<sup>c</sup> xix •

The bell is somewhat short in the waist for a medieval bell; the waist is less curved than usual, and the soundbow less projecting (Pl. XVIII, c). There are six canons, which are small and straight, one single canon being broken. The shoulder is rather angular, and the crown slightly curved. The inscription is between moulding wires (one above and two below), in the usual place below the shoulder; there are three moulding wires on the crown and two immediately above the lip. Between the soundbow and the waist there is a sort of moulding consisting of three small moulding wires joined together. The bell is, on the whole, a rather inferior casting, badly weathered and cracked. It appears to have been rehung when the church was rebuilt in 1776. The crown staple is broken, and a more modern clapper has been hung by bolts through the crown.

The lettering of the inscription is very irregularly placed; the first, second and fourth stops seem to have been like small roses; the third and last appear to have been plain; the rest are now of indeterminate form.

The cross, of course, marks the beginning of the inscription. Notwithstanding a mark like a stop on the upper part of the line following the first letter, the next two words appear to be "derc ooplieder," and it has been suggested that the inscription in part is meant to read:

Der cooplieder schepe gh..... scelle  
in t j(aar) o(ns) He(ren) ao XVCXIX

So far the writer has been unable to obtain a satisfactory translation; the language is Dutch, and the commencement seems to be "To the ship of the merchants..." with the ending "in the year of Our Lord 1519." The meaning of the middle section remains a mystery, but the writer hopes that he will be able to include a solution to this problem when dealing with the bells chronologically at the end of this work.

<sup>1</sup> P.S.A.S., XLVII, 479.

## CRUDEN. West Church. 1.

The tower with spire contains a bell,  $35\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter, weighing 8 cwt. 15 lb., inscribed:

Venite exultemus Domino/  
(ornamental border all round)/(on waist) OCT 1895 (a medallion).

The medallion encloses a bell within a trefoil and has the surrounding legend:

JOHN · TAYLOR · AND C<sup>o</sup> / · LOUGHBOROUGH ·

Other bells from the foundry in Cruden parish are at the Congregational Church, Port Erroll, cast 1903, weighing 2 cwt. 2 qrs. 24 lb., and the Schoolhouse at Hatton of Cruden, cast 1886,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter.

F. C. E. 1913.

## CRUDEN. Episcopal Church of St James. 2.

The tower contains a bell,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter, weight 6 cwt. 2 qrs. 10 lb., note C, inscribed:

+ IN. GLORIAM. DEI. PATRIS. FILII. ET. SPIRITVS.  
SANCTI. (Border)/E. DONIS. GVL: M<sup>o</sup>KAY. JOH: ADAM.  
DE. SCOBACH. ALIORVMQVE. (Border)/(Top of waist)  
J: TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH.  
A: D. MDCCLXIII.

Scobbach is the old name of Ardmiddle, an estate near Turriff. There was no bell in the old church pulled down in 1842.

In the Rectory there is preserved a hand-bell (Pl. XVIII, *d*), 7 ins. diameter,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  ins. high, with handle a further  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. high, note B, inscribed:

CRWDEN 1737

There are two moulding wires close together above the soundbow but the bell is otherwise plain. The inscription, in letters and figures  $\frac{9}{16}$  ins. high, is on the very edge of the shoulder. The handle was cast as one with the bell, 1 in. diameter, widening at the top which is flat and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter. A very large, fine hand-bell, which is said to have been used as a "deid bell," and probably also by the ejected Episcopalian congregation instead of a tower bell.

Tower bell. F. C. E. 1913.

## CULSALMOND. St Mary. 0.

The remarkably fine and rich bird-cage belfry over the west end of the church now contains no bell. The bell formerly here is now in the belfry of Keithhall church, having been removed there in 1953. This bell, which is  $20\frac{3}{16}$  ins. diameter with the note A flat, is inscribed on the soundbow:

JAN. VAN. DEN. GHEIN. ME. FECIT. MDCXI.  
J. WARNER. FILIIQUE. ME. REFECERUNT. MDCCLXXIX. + † +

The old bell was cracked during a severe frost and was well known as a fine bell, having the reputation of being the second-best bell in this part of Scotland, the finest being the famous "Wow o' Ruthven" (*q.v.*). It appears from the inscription on the present bell that the old one was cast by Jan van den Ghein III of Mechlin in 1611—the year before that of Kinellar (*q.v.*) was cast by Peter van den Ghein III. The old bell is said to have been without elaborate ornamentation.

The belfry, which was preserved from the former building, is similar to that of Inch and is illustrated as Pl. XIX, *a*. It has a central finial and a richer cornice. The roll mouldings round openings and up corners are made to project and are broken half-way up by a rope. Those round the side openings are wreathed with a thick ribbon. The semicircular pediments at north and south are surmounted by fleur-de-lys finials; the one bears a rose in the centre, the other an object like a circular fan.

CULSALMOND. Former United Free Church. 1.

The tower with spire of this church now contains the only church bell in the parish. It is 33 ins. diameter, note C, inscribed:

VICKERS SONS & CO. LIMITED SHEFFIELD 1874  
PATENT CAST STEEL 6057

The Royal Arms appear above the word Patent.

F. C. E. 1907.

CULTS. West Church. 1.

The bell, which was formerly in this church, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins. diameter, was recast by Gillett & Johnston Ltd. in 1951. The present weight of the bell is 2 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb., 22 $\frac{3}{16}$  ins. diameter, note G. The old inscription was:

+ I AM A CHIP OF OLD LAWRIE + J BLAIKIE  
& SONS/(*on waist*) 1883

The metal was derived from the bell Old Lowrie, cast by Michael Burgerhuys of Middelburg in 1634, which was broken in the fire in St Nicholas' Church,<sup>1</sup> Aberdeen, in 1874.

DAVIOT. St Colm. 1.

The bird-cage belfry contains a bell, about 14 ins. diameter, inscribed:

JOHN MOWAT OLD ABD ME FECIT 1753 INUSUM  
ECCLESEA/DE DAVIOT SABATA ANGO FUNERA  
PLANGO/(*a border all round*)/(*on waist*) JOHN WARNER  
& SONS LTD RECAST 1924.

Unfortunately, though the wording has been retained, the lettering and borders used by Mowat have not been reproduced in facsimile. As a result

<sup>1</sup> Eeles, *The Church and other Bells of Kincardineshire*, 23.



the recast bell has lost much of its interest. The fittings include a wooden headstock and a central iron lever.

In addition to the above criticism of the reproduction of the inscription there is some doubt whether the wording as it appears on the present bell is as it was on the older one. One reference gives the previous inscription as: <sup>1</sup>

EX DONO GEO. PAUL TO DAVIOT./IOHN MOWAT ME  
FECIT 1752 OLD ABDN

Tradition says that the donor made it a condition of his gift that the bell should be tolled, free of all expense other than the ringer's fee, at the funerals of all persons bearing the name of Paul and born within the parish; and to this the following rhyme refers: <sup>2</sup>

For Paul's name  
And Paul's bairns  
And a' that lie  
In Paul's arms.

#### DEER. 1.

The tower with spire contains a bell, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter, inscribed:

T MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1830

The bell is hung with an iron headstock and wheel. A good cock vane on the top of the spire appears to be old: the cock stands on a perch at right angles to the central pivot.

The Episcopal Church of St Drostan also has a bell from the Whitechapel Foundry, cast in 1851, and the bell in the parish church at Ardallie, which formerly formed part of Deer parish, has another, cast by Mears & Co. in the period 1861-5.

#### DRUMBLADE. St Hilary. 1.

The belfry contains a bell, 17 $\frac{7}{8}$  ins. diameter, note C, which bears no actual inscription. There is, however, a small recessed figure 2 which appears to have been an accidental reproduction of a number incised on part of the pattern used in making the mould. The grain of the wood of the pattern can be clearly seen on the waist and soundbow of the bell.

The bell is a very rough casting; there are three deep furrows or grooves, very like cracks, on the inside of the waist, but clearly cast with the bell. There is a hand-bell type argent by which it is fixed by two bolts to the headstock.

There is no reference to the bell in the Session Records, but it would seem possible that it was cast by James Abernethy & Co. of Aberdeen. The church was rebuilt in 1773 but the belfry, dated 1641, was preserved from the old fabric. It is plain and rather poor, 5 ft. by 3 ft. by 2 ft. internally with pillars about 9 ins. square.

<sup>1</sup> Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, II, 409.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

DRUMOAK. St Mayota. 1.

In a plain bird-cage bellcot over the west end of the ruined church hangs a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, inscribed:

DRUMOAK 1790

Moulding wires 3, 2-2, 3-2. Almost undoubtedly the work of Thomas Mears, the elder, of Whitechapel.

DRUMOAK. New Church. 1.

A bird-cage belfry contains a single bell, about 18 ins. diameter, which with a telescope can be seen to be inscribed:

..... BLAIKIE & SON.....1836 DRUMOAK.....

The bell was cast by John Blaikie & Son of Aberdeen. Canons are provided and the fittings include wooden headstock and iron half wheel. The church and the bell are the same age.

DYCE. St Fergus. 0.

The ruins of this church by the River Don retain a very fine, early 16th-century bird-cage belfry over the west end. There is no bell.

DYCE. New Church. 0.

This church has now been demolished. The belfry contained a bell which came from the older church and was inscribed:<sup>1</sup>

SOLI DEO GLORIA MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS M F 1642

This bell was therefore the work of the founder of "Old Lowrie" and came from Middelburg, in Holland.

During the late War, 1939-45, the bell was perforated by a rifle shot and after the War the roofless fabric was acquired by the County Council so that an existing sandpit could be enlarged. At this time the bell was still in place, and it was considered too expensive to remove before demolition was commenced. So the bell was completely lost when the fabric was blown up.

The writer feels that, with a modern book of reference giving the inscription and the historical connections readily to hand, all parties concerned in the loss of the bell certainly did not do all they ought to have done.

Since the above church has been disused, services have been held in the church hall in the village, which has no bell.

ECHT. Established Church.

A single bell, about 16 ins. diameter, inscribed:

ROBERT STAINBANK FOUNDER LONDON 1868

<sup>1</sup> Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, 2.

Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, I, 65, says: "The present parish church was built in 1804, when Mr Forbes of Echt gave a new bell in exchange for the old one, which was dated 1783. This bell was preserved at Dun Echt House until lately, when it was accidentally broken." The present bell was cast at the Whitechapel Foundry, London.

ECHT. Dunecht House. 8.

Dunecht House is the residence of the Right Hon. Lord Cowdray. On top of the roof of the central tower hangs a chime of eight bells covering an octave, the tenor weighing about 12 cwt. Each bell is inscribed:

CAST IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
KING GEORGE. V. (*Trefoil border*)/(*Trefoil border all round*)/  
JOHN WARNER & SONS, LONDON 1911

The mouth diameters are  $24\frac{3}{16}$ ,  $25\frac{15}{16}$ ,  $27\frac{15}{16}$ ,  $30\frac{1}{16}$ , 32,  $33\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $36\frac{13}{16}$  and  $40\frac{1}{2}$  ins. The bells all have flat crowns and are bolted to a steel girder structure spanning the tower walls above the roof.

Originally they were sounded electrically from a keyboard located lower down in the tower, but part of the wiring has been removed and most of the clappers are very stiff to operate. As there is no mechanical way of sounding them the bells are now disused.

ELLON. St Mary. 1.

A bird-cage belfry over the west end, of which the sides are unpierced, contains a bell, 21 ins. diameter, 16 ins. high, note B flat, inscribed:

BAIRD & ELLIS ABD..<sup>N</sup> 1828

A fairly good casting, with small neat canons and rounded head on the English model. The inscription band is rather far down and the lettering used is rather thin.

The moulding wires are wide; those on the soundbow are very like those on the shank-headed uninscribed bells at Forgue, Drumblade and Lonmay. The belfry appears to have terminated in a ball and the bell is almost too large for the space available.

FINTRAY. Established Church. 1.

The church at Hatton of Fintray has a small bird-cage belfry over the west end. The bell, 17 ins. diameter, is inscribed:

□ VET □ ABD □ 1751 □ IOA □ MOWAT □ ME □  
FECIT □ IN □ USUM □ ECCLES/VE/DE □ FINTRA □  
SABBATA PANGO \* FUNERA \* PLANGO (*9 inverted*  
*fleur-de-lys*)/(*Border*)

The stops between the words denoted by □ are the flower without its stalk or leaf (Pl. XVI). The stop denoted by \* is from the acanthus leaf border and the border all round the bell below the inscription is the same (Pl. XVII, a). It should be noted that there is no border above the inscription. Mowat seems to have miscalculated the space available for the word ECCLESIAE and as a result the latter half is in a peculiar position between the two main lines of inscription.

The stables of Fintray House contain a clock bell, 22 $\frac{3}{8}$  ins. diameter, note F, cast by C. Osborne of London in 1858.

F. C. E. 1898.

FORGUE. St Margaret of Scotland. 1.

The belfry contains a bell, 17 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins. diameter, note C, which is virtually identical with that at Drumblade. There is no actual inscription as such, but the recessed figure 2 is again present. The moulding wires are the same as at Drumblade and are located two on the crown, two on the inscription band, three above the soundbow and three very thin ones by the lip.

The tall and coarse arched belfry over the west end is of the sham Gothic design, surmounted by a large finial. There is a similar one at Gamrie, Banffshire.

FORGUE. Episcopal Church of St Margaret of Scotland. 1.

The tower with spire on the north side of the chancel contains a bell, 39 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter, weighing 10 cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lb., note G, inscribed:

J: TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH/(*on  
waist*) EX DONO ALEXANDRI MORISON/DE BOGNIE  
ECCLESIAE S: MARGARETÆ/MDCCCLXXII

The bell is hung in the English manner and is also used for the clock to strike on. Its predecessor was dated 1785 and was originally used as a dinner bell at Fren draught.<sup>1</sup>

F. C. E. 1901.

FOVERAN. Established Church. 1.

The plain bird-cage belfry at the west end of the church contains a bell, 17 $\frac{3}{8}$  ins. diameter, which is inscribed:

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON./  
(*on waist*) 1760. J.S.L. 1905.

The old bell of 1760 noted below was recast at the Whitechapel Foundry, the initials J. S. L. stand for Rev. John Smeaton Loutit who was the minister in 1905. The bell is shank-headed and has an iron headstock. There is the number 18 in low relief on the crown.

<sup>1</sup> Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions in N.E. Scotland*, II, 179.

The old bell recast in 1905 was  $16\frac{1}{8}$  ins. diameter and was inscribed:

CAST □ AND □ MADE □ BY □ IOHN. MOWAT □ FUNDER □  
 IN □ (*Acanthus leaf border*)/OLD: ABD □ FOR □ THE □ USE §  
 OF § THE □ PARISH □ OF □ FOVERAN/AD 1760 (*Acanthus  
 leaf border all round, Pl. XVIII (a)*)

The stop between the words denoted by □ is a fleur-de-lys from the border on Pl. XVI, and that given by § is one section of the acanthus leaf border (Pl. XVII, *a*). When seen by Dr Eeles in 1898 the bell was already cracked; the clapper was much worn but original and, as the crown staple was broken, it was hung from an iron loop fastened by bolts through the crown. The bell was a good clean casting. In the inscription the acanthus leaf border points upwards, but in the last line it is inverted.

The following entries appear in the Session Records:

1682 March 5.	To James Beaton for makeing a tongue to the bell and clecks to the pulpet	1—10— 0
1682 April 2.	To John Lyell for leather to the tongue of the kirk bell	0— 1— 8
1682 December 10.	For a tow to the kirk bell	0—10— 0
1683 Octo[be]r 21.	To James Beaton for a droon to the bell	0— 4— 0
	To Alexr Ramsay for helping some things about the bell	0— 4— 0

The only references in 1760, the year when the old bell was cast, are:

1760 July 6.	Given to a leather strap for the tongue of the bell	0— 1— 4
Dec 14.	Given to a Bell-Tow	£0— 0—10

#### FRASERBURGH. St Medan. 1.

In the tower below the spire at the west end of the church hangs a bell,  $30\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter, inscribed:

THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1807 (*ornament*)

From the Whitechapel Foundry and bearing the typical ornament (fig. 6) of the foundry.

The bell has been rehung locally in a peculiarly clumsy manner, the canons being buried within the stock and an enormous wooden addition being bolted to the top of the stock.

The clock was made by John Gartly of Aberdeen in 1809.

F. C. E. 1907.

FRASERBURGH. West Parish Church. 6.

The tower contains a clock chime of five bells and a single bell hung for swinging. This latter bell is  $41\frac{3}{4}$  ins. diameter and is inscribed:

WEST PARISH CHURCH FRASERBURGH./THE GIFT OF ALEXANDER WHITELAW. M.P./JOHN C. WILSON & CO, FOUNDERS, GLASGOW, A.D. 1876./(*on the Soundbow*) VOCO, "VENITE IN DOMINI TEMPLUM."

The clock chime of five bells were all cast by Messrs Gillett & Johnston Ltd. of Croydon in 1929. The inscriptions are:

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>
Treble	1 cwt. 0 qr. 9 lb.	C	GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1929.
Second	1 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb.	B <sup>b</sup>	GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1929.
Third	1 cwt. 3 qrs. 25 lb.	A <sup>b</sup>	GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, ENGLAND, 1929.
Fourth	4 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.	E <sup>b</sup>	<i>Same as the Second.</i>
Tenor	12 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb.	A <sup>b</sup>	GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON./( <i>on waist</i> ) TO THE GLORY OF GOD/AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF/JAMES MITCHELL AND MARJORY PHIMISTER, HIS WIFE,/WHO TOOK A DEEP INTEREST IN THIS CHURCH FROM/ITS INCEPTION AND ALSO IN THE TOWN OF FRASERBURGH,/TO WHICH THESE BELLS ARE GIVEN BY THEIR FAMILY./MCMXXIX.

These latter five bells have flat crowns and are bolted to steel girders spanning the tower. In addition to the above inscriptions, each bell bears its number in the chime and a monogram incorporating the initials C. F. J. for Cyril F. Johnston, the bell-founder; and all except the treble bear an ornamental border below the inscription band and a foundry number.

FYVIE. St Peter. 2.

Two bells hang side by side in a plain, double bird-cage belfry surmounted by a spirelet, over the west end of the church. The particulars are:

Treble,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diameter,  $16\frac{5}{8}$  ins. high, note A sharp.

1809

Tenor,  $19\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter,  $15\frac{1}{4}$  ins. high, note A.

**SOLI · DEO · GLORIA · IAN · BVRGERHVYS · ME · FECIT · 1609 ·**

The treble is a roughish casting with a high crown, wide shoulders and large rather flat soundbow. Evidently from the Whitechapel Foundry, London, and an inferior example of its work. Two moulding wires on the crown, two above and two below the inscription, two above the soundbow and two above the lip.

The tenor is a good example from the Middelburg foundry and has

lettering exactly like that on Michael Burgerhuys' bells at Rhynie and Logie-Coldstone (Pl. XVII, *b*) except that it is a size smaller (Pl. XIX, *b*). The same frieze of leaves is used but with two additional rows of dots below it and the whole is also repeated (inverted) below the inscription. The canons are small and plain without any ornamentation. The crown is flat and the shoulder sharply curved with two moulding wires above it. There are mouldings above the soundbow and two wires above the lip. The surface has suffered from the atmospheric conditions.

The notes of these bells are very nearly a semi-tone apart. In 1913 the treble was never used alone except for the clock to strike on. The tenor was rung alone for funerals and at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Both were rung for service on Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

FYVIE. Episcopal Church of All Saints, Woodhead. 1.

A single bell, 16 ins. diameter, note C, bearing the date 1794 but no other inscription. Evidently from the Whitechapel Foundry cast by Thomas Mears I.

F. C. E.

GARTLY. St Andrew. 1.

In an arched belfry at the east end of the church, which was built in 1879, hangs a single bell, 17½ ins. diameter, inscribed:

IOHN MOWAT OLD ABD ME FE 1758 IN USUM  
ECCLESÆ (*Border*)/DE GERTLY SABATA PANGO  
FUNERA PLANGO (*Borders*)

Above the inscription is the fleur-de-lys border (Pl. XVI), all round the bell, it also appears immediately after PLANGO. The other border, the acanthus leaf one (Pl. XVII, *a*), is all round the bell below the inscription, after ECCLESÆ, and before DE. The I is omitted from ECCLESIÆ and F for E in GERTLY. The bell is a very clean and perfect example of Mowat's later period.

The old belfry, surmounted by no less than nine small pinnacles, has been rebuilt for preservation on the top of the vestry at the west end (Pl. XIX, *c*). It is unusually elaborate, but the pillars have merely roll mouldings on their edges and the cornice is very small. Between the pinnacles have been panels bearing inscriptions: of these, only two remain; that on the west side is inscribed YIS IS/BETHEL and that on the north BVLV/1621. The east panel is missing; that from the south side is built into the wall below the belfry and is inscribed IO ROS/M - - ON/1621.

The central part of the roof consists of an embattled rectangle bearing a central pinnacle surrounded by four smaller ones. The pinnacles consist of a kind of cushion supporting a cone surmounted by a roll moulding and a

smaller cone. The larger cones are ornamented with strap or rope work and the alternate pairs are alike. The central pinnacle is like a miniature lantern with a hollow centre and an arch on each side. The whole structure is of sandstone. The lower part of the belfry is 3 ft. 2½ ins. from north to south, the pillars 9 ins. by 8½ ins., the opening 1 ft. 8½ ins., the total height to the cornice 4 ft. 1 in., and the depth from east to west 2 ft. 1½ ins.

**GARTLY.** Former U.F. Church. 1.

In a belfry dated 1844 hangs a single bell, 13¾ ins. diameter, inscribed:

HUGH/GORDON/& C<sup>O</sup> ABD<sup>N</sup>

A poor and rough casting with no canons.

The belfry is now, 1956, on the ground near the former church which is now a private house. The bell remains in the belfry.

**GLASS.** 2.

In a plain bird-cage belfry at the east end of the church hangs a single bell, 18 ins. diameter, 14½ ins. high, note B, inscribed:

**IOHANNES BVRGERHVYS ME FECIT ANNO 1642**

This is a coarsely cast modern bell on which the inscription on the old bell has been repeated without any indication referring to the recasting. This is a form of sham which is very strongly to be deprecated; while the repetition of the old inscription is most desirable, it is even more desirable that the date of actual casting and the name of the founder should be recorded. The lettering here is modern and there has clearly been no attempt to reproduce the old inscription in facsimile.

No canons are visible as the stock is immediately upon the crown of the bell. There are shallow mouldings on the shoulder; three rims above the soundbow, and three very small moulding wires close together above the lip. The present bell is probably the work of James Abernethy of Aberdeen.

The openings in the belfry have chamfered edges. The top is surmounted by small pinnacles bearing balls, there is a small tympanum on each side, and a finial like an acorn in the middle. The pinnacles, etc., may have been brought from the older church.

At the Manse there is a hand-bell, 7¼ ins. diameter, inscribed:

**JOHN MOWAT FE GLASS 1754 OLD ABD**

See Pl. XIX, *d*. A very neatly cast bell with a smooth surface and numerous mouldings. There is a small shank to which is bolted an iron stirrup-shaped handle with a wooden grip.



## GLENBUCHAT. St Peter. 1.

In the bird-cage belfry over the east end of the old church hangs a bell, 17½ ins. diameter, 12 ins. high, note C, inscribed:

→ PETER → IANSEN → ANNO → 1643 → BONI → TWN →

See Pl. XX, a.

The bell has a large flat crown with a projecting edge which almost overtops the small rounded shoulder. The canons are large and straight, 4 ins. in height. The moulding wires are located two above the inscription, two below it, three above the soundbow and three very small ones close together above the lip. The bell is rather a rough casting, and the lip is slightly chipped.

The lettering is small and irregular and in low relief, and the bell is very similar to that at Auchterless by the same founder but with the difference that it is smaller and has fewer moulding wires.

The belfry is comparatively modern; it is of sandstone, has a heavy projecting cornice, and is surmounted by a large vase. Another of this type, but with a different shaped vase, is at Maryton, Angus. In the top

M

of the west gable is built a small triangular stone inscribed A K, it is the

16 29

tympanum of the former belfry which used to be on this west gable.<sup>1</sup> The initials stand for Andrew Ker, who was minister here in 1629.<sup>2</sup>

## GLENBUCHAT. New Church. 1.

The belfry contains a single bell, about 17 ins. diameter, which appears to be devoid of any cast inscription. However, the waist bears some painted on figures which seem to be 1904. The bell has a hand-bell type argent and is bolted to a metal headstock; it is of modern date.

## GLENGAIRN. Established Church. 1.

The ancient parish of Glengairn was united with Glenmuick and Tullich early in the 17th century. Glengairn was disjointed from the others in 1863.<sup>3</sup>

In the open turret of the present church hangs a single bell, about 14 ins. diameter, which appears to bear the number 6665. The bell is made of steel as testified by the rusty appearance. The crown terminates in a hand-bell type argent and the bell was doubtless cast by Naylor, Vickers & Co. of Sheffield some time after 1857 when the manufacture of steel bells commenced.

<sup>1</sup> Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, 462.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 126.

<sup>3</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 97.

HUNTLY. Established Church. 2.

In a bird-cage belfry over the south-west end of the church, surmounted by a large gilt vane in the form of a fish, hangs a single bell, 22 ins. diameter, note G, inscribed:

RECAST BY JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW. N<sup>o</sup> 997./  
(on waist) HUNTLY/A.D. 1869.

Moulding wires arranged 2, 2-1, 3. There are no canons and the bell is fitted with an iron wheel and stock, the latter being surmounted by a heavy iron counterbalance.

The former bell is said to have been cast by John Mowat. In the Session House is preserved a hand-bell,  $5\frac{5}{8}$  ins. diameter, height  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. or including handle  $8\frac{3}{4}$  ins., which bears the incised inscription on the waist:

*I \* G*  
1714

The bell is said to have been formerly used for ringing in defaulters.

HUNTLY. Strathbogie Church. 1.

The tower contains a single bell,  $34\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:

JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW. N<sup>o</sup> 817./CLOCK AND  
BELL ERECTED AT THE FREE CHURCH, HUNTLY. A.D. 1864./  
REV: HENRY M. WILLIAMSON. B.A. MINISTER.

The fittings are of iron.

F. C. E. 1900.

HUNTLY. Roman Catholic Church of St Margaret of Scotland. 1.

At the top of the open campanile there is a bell,  $24\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter, note F, inscribed:

. . . THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER 1834.

From the Whitechapel Foundry of Thomas Mears the younger. The bell has canons and is hung with a wheel. The moulding wires are set 2, 2-2, 3-2.

F. C. E. 1900.

HUNTLY. Stewart's Hall. 2.

The tower contains a bell, 40 ins. diameter, note G, inscribed:

ERECTED A.D. 1886/JOHN C. WILSON & C<sup>o</sup>, FOUNDERS. GLASGOW.

The bell has no canons and is hung stationary from a beam. The moulding wires are located  $3/2-2-2/2$ , 2-2, and the bell is mainly used for the clock to strike upon.

The old town bell of Huntly is preserved in the custody of the Burgh. The bell is  $14\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter and bears the inscription:

1656 (*Border of alternate crosses and fleur-de-lys, fig 2, 1*) (*waist*)  
I · (*ornament*) · B (*fig. 2, 2*)

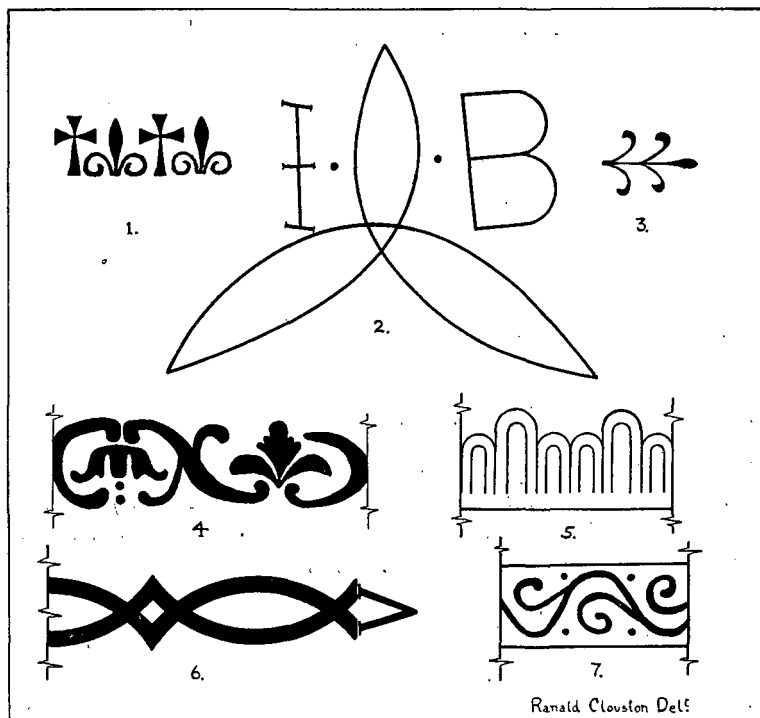


Fig. 2. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders.

Cast by James Bartlet of the Whitechapel Foundry, London, and one of the earliest cast there for Scotland, the only earlier one known to the writer is one of 1633 at St Paul's, York Place, Edinburgh.

F. C. E. 1900.

HUNTLY. Gordon Schools. 1.

The tower contains a bell,  $35\frac{3}{4}$  ins. diameter, note B flat, inscribed:

THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840

Used as the clock bell as well as rung for school purposes. Moulding wires arranged 3, 2-2, 3-2.

F. C. E. 1913.

INSCH. St Drostan. 1.

A very elaborate bird-cage belfry on the west gable of the ruined church houses a bell, about 20 ins. diameter, note F sharp, inscribed:

(*Fleur-de-lys border all round bell*)/ □ ALBERTVS □ GELY  
 □ FECIT □ ABD □ 1706 □ SOLI □ DEO □ GLORIA

The bell is cracked and disused, the clapper being much worn. The inscription band is rather lower down from the shoulder than normal and the stop between the words is in the form of the top section of a trident, that is a U with a central vertical stroke.

The belfry of the church was preserved from the former building; it is one of the richest in the north of Scotland. Only the lower parts of the sides have openings. There is a large cornice, a pinnacle at each corner, triangular tympana on the east and west sides; semicircular ones on the north and south; all surmounted by finials. The initials M I L stand for Mr John Logie, who was minister here from before 1607 till some time after 1613, which is the date on the belfry.<sup>1</sup>

INSCH. New Church. 1.

The tower with spire contains a bell, 35 ins. diameter, note A, weighing 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 0 lb., and inscribed:

CAST BY GILLET & CO CROYDON 1884

The crown has four canons on the Denison plan.

F. C. E. 1905.

INVERURIE. West Church. 0.

The above church has no bell and the bell in the Town Hall is used instead.

In 1775 the old church by the riverside became disused and a new one was then built on a more suitable site. This building was re-erected about 1841-2. The bell was recast in 1845 and after that date bore merely the word INVERURIE.<sup>2</sup>

INVERURIE. Town Hall. 1.

The steeple contains a bell, 35½ ins. diameter, inscribed:

JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW./ERECTED  
 AT THE TOWN HALL INVERURY A.D. 1862.

Cast-iron fittings.

<sup>1</sup> Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, vi, 158.

<sup>2</sup> Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, i, 178.

## KEARN. 0.

Public worship was held in Kearn Church till 1810-11,<sup>1</sup> then the fabric was demolished and now nothing remains. Until 1954 there was a bell preserved at Druminnor House, but this was sold by auction on 13th May in that year and the writer has been unable to trace it. Dr Eeles did not see the bell but noted that it was said to have come from the old church of Kearn or Essie.

## KEIG. St Declan.

The church is in ruins: both gables are fairly intact and belong to the 17th century. Neither show any trace of a belfry. A bell is said to have hung in a neighbouring tree and to have been afterwards removed to a tree near the home farm of Castle Forbes and thence taken to the Castle [*q.v.*]. It is doubtful whether the bell now at the Castle is this bell.

## KEIG. New Church. 1.

In a plain sham-Gothic bird-cage belfry hangs a single bell, about 20 ins. diameter, devoid of inscription. The bell is shank headed, with the usual moulding wires and round shoulders, and is said to have been brought from Aberdeen.

## KEIG. Castle Forbes. 1.

Above the courtyard gate behind the Castle hangs a disused bell, 12½ ins. diameter, with no inscription. A plain shank-headed bell with shallow mouldings on the crown and soundbow and angular shoulder. Modern looking, with little trace of wear, but said to have come from the old church of Keig.

## KEITHHALL AND KINKELL. Established Church. 1.

In a plain bird-cage belfry at the west end of the church, which was built in 1772, hangs the bell which was formerly at Culsalmond. The diameter is 20 $\frac{3}{16}$  ins. with the note A flat and the inscription:

JAN. VAN. DEN. GHEIN. ME. FECIT. MDCXI. J. WARNER.  
FILIIQUE. ME. REFECERUNT. MDCCCLXXIX +++

The history of this bell has already been noted under Culsalmond. In 1913 there was another bell in the belfry instead of the above, about 15 ins. diameter, and bearing just the date:

1798

This bell was evidently the work of Thomas Mears the elder, of the Whitechapel Foundry, London. The moulding wires were arranged

<sup>1</sup> Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, II, 214.

2, 2-2, 2-1. Unfortunately there are no references to this bell in the Session records of the time.

During the night of the great storm, 31st January 1953, some trees fell on to the west end of the church doing considerable damage. The belfry was demolished and the bell of 1798 was broken.

There is a single uninscribed bell at Keith Hall.

**KEMNAY.** St Anne.

In a very ugly arch belfry on the south side of the modern church hangs a bell, 18½ ins. diameter, inscribed:

A LAWSON OLD ABD 1788 (*border*)/  
(*border all round bell*).

The last bell, so far as is known, cast at the Old Aberdeen foundry, being the work of Andrew Lawson, Mowat's successor. The bell is of the same type as Mowat's later bells, but slightly larger. The inscription band is set a little lower and the bell begins to slope inwards very slightly above it before the actual shoulder is reached. Mowat's acanthus leaf frieze is used on the inscription band and inverted below it (Pl. XVII, a). The bell is not a very good casting and appears to have flaws in it.

**KENNETHMONT.** Established Church. 2.

The belfry at the east end contains a bell, about 20 ins. diameter, inscribed:

MEARS & STAINBANK LONDON...../TO THE GLORY  
OF GOD/THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY/THE HON: MRS  
LEITH HAY/A.D. 1910.

The bell was cast at the Whitechapel Foundry, London, and has a flat crown. The fittings include an iron headstock. The top line of the inscription is not entirely visible from the ground.

Preserved in the vestry is the earlier bell, 17¼ ins. diameter, 14 ins. high, note C, which bears the inscription:

ĒS S. REGVLĪ CAMPĀN HANC DEDICAVIT IĀC  
LE.....T/KILGOVR ABD F./1689  
DEDICAT BE MR IAMES LEITH OF LEITH-  
HAL/(Shield)

By Patrick Kilgour of Aberdeen. A very roughly cast bell full of inequalities and flaws inside and out. The inscription has been badly blundered and after LE to the letter T there is nothing but a rough raised

band with a gravelly surface, no doubt intended to be occupied by ITH DE LEITHHALL P<sup>A</sup>. This accident has been remedied probably immediately the bell was cast by the incision of the addition DEDICAT BE M<sup>R</sup> JAMES LEITH OF LEITHHAL, to which has been added the outline of the coat of arms (see Pl. XX, b).

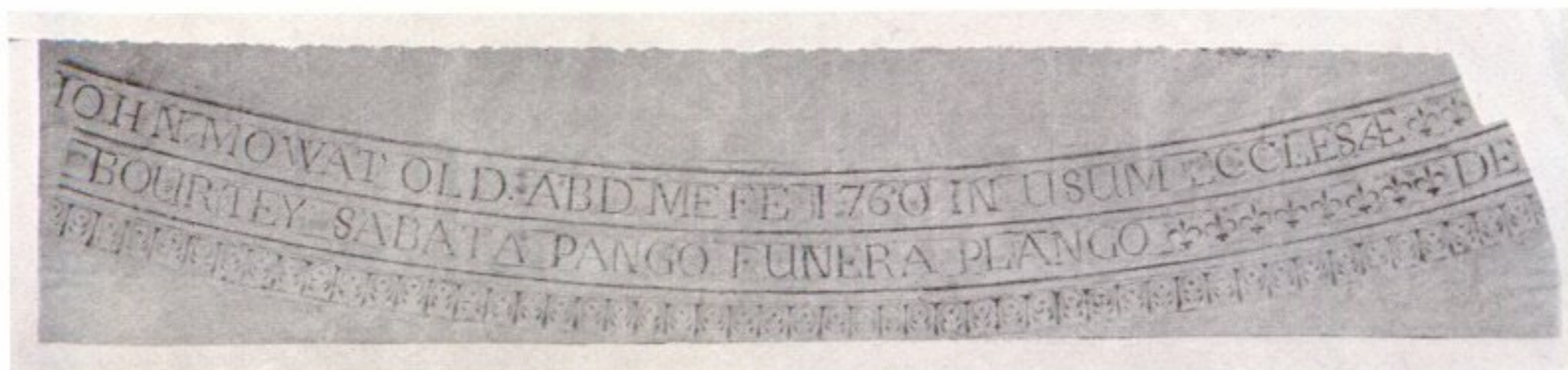
There are four canons, 3 ins. high, grouped round an oblong centre-piece, 4 ins. high, which had a hole through the top, one corner of which is broken off. The crown is small and flat,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  ins. in diameter. There are two rims above the shoulder, one on each side of the inscription, three above the soundbow and two above the lip. The clapper hangs on a flattened hook which hangs on a semicircular ring which in turn hangs on an iron pin or bolt which passes through the ends of two bolts which fit in holes in the crown. It is not certain that there ever was a crown staple.

The lettering is small and plain and, like the moulding wires, of very English appearance. I's turned sideways are used as contraction marks. The bell is rather short-waisted and rather tub-shaped, but not so much so as other Scottish bells of the period.

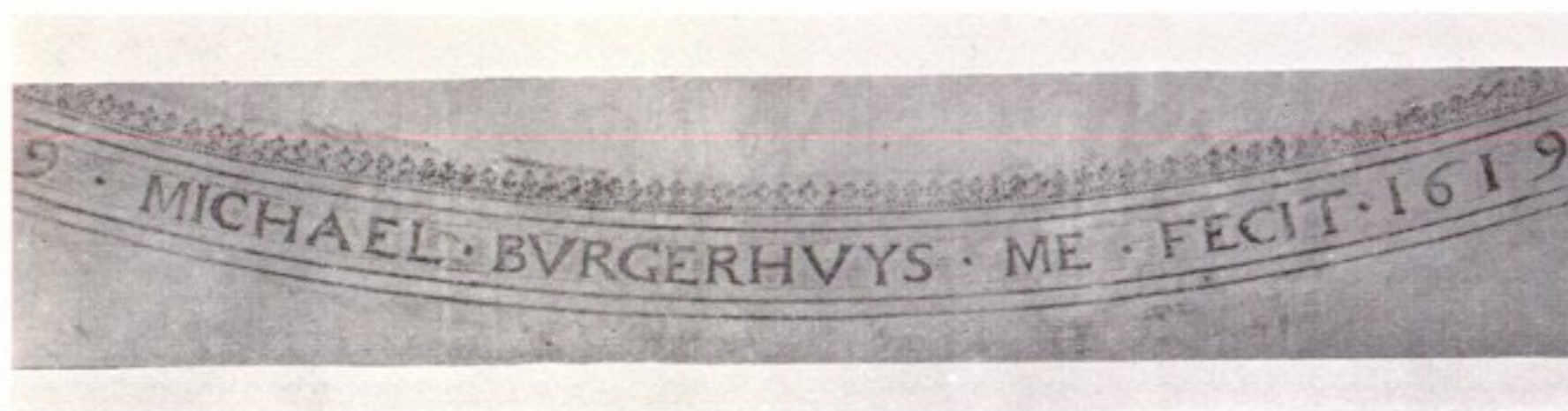


Part of the inscription on the bell at Skene, with the fleur-de-lys border on the top and the floral stop with stalk and leaf between the words.  
Cast by John Mowat of Old Aberdeen, 1735.

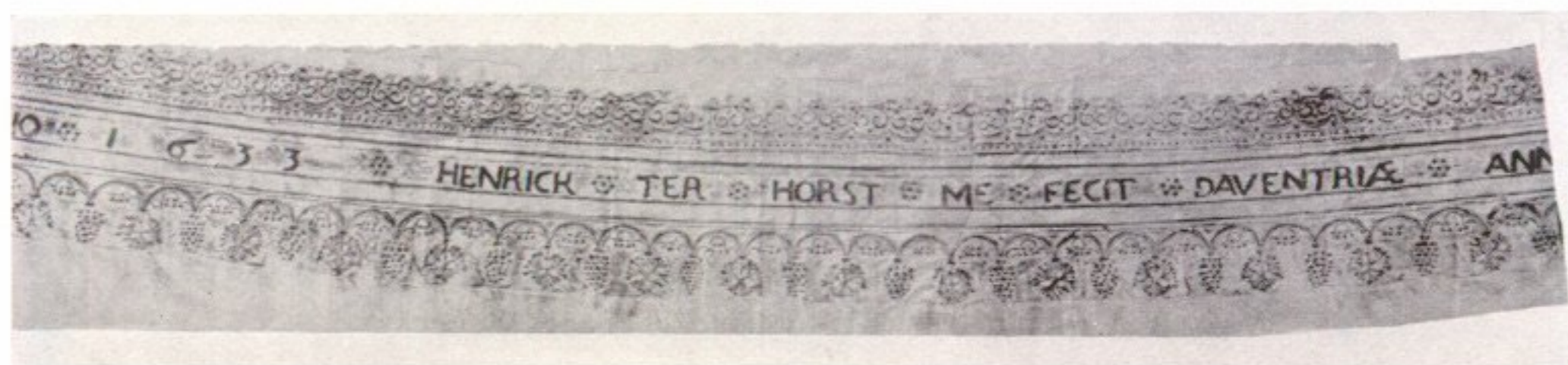




(a) Bourtie.



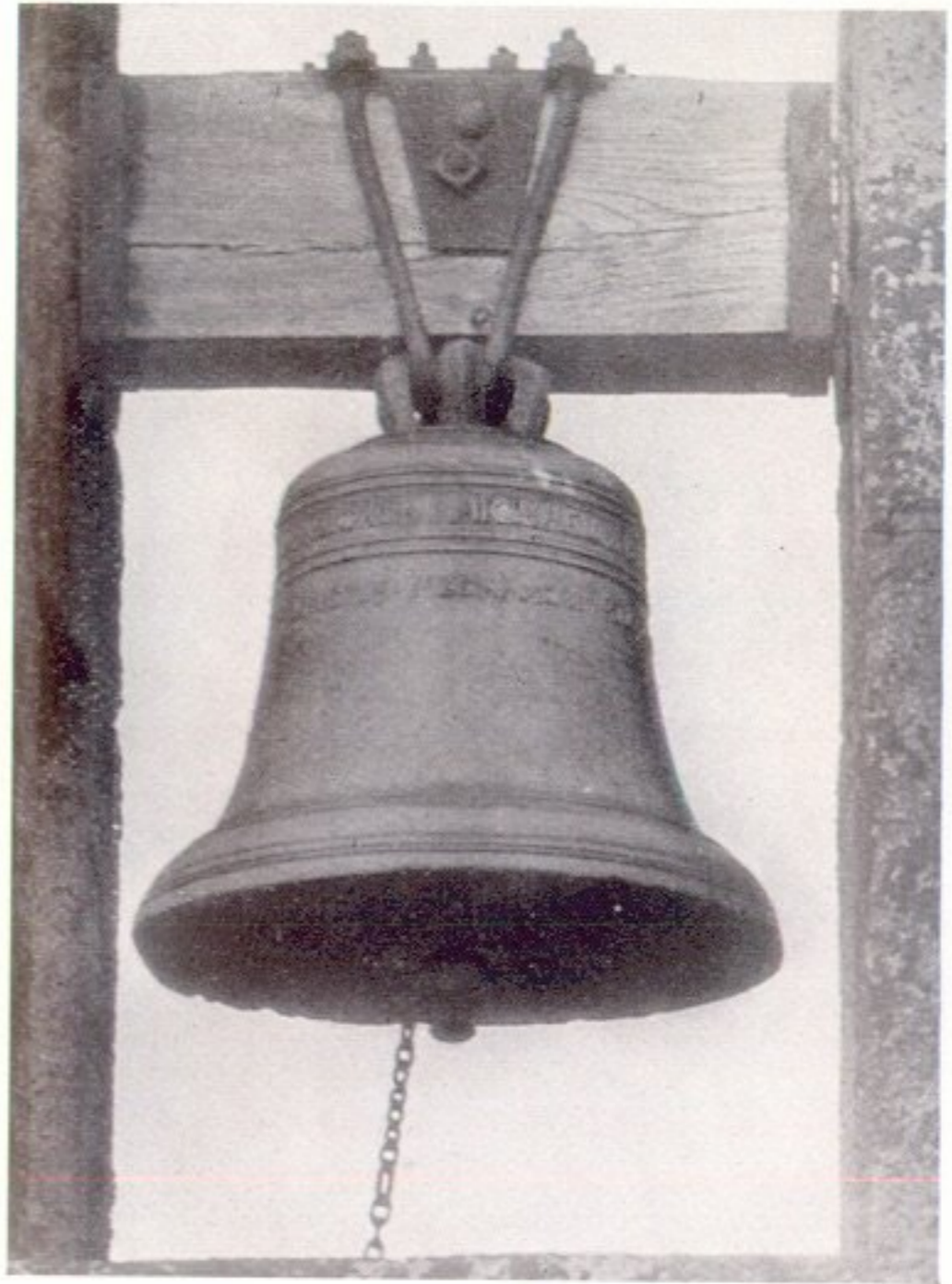
(b) Logie-Coldstone.



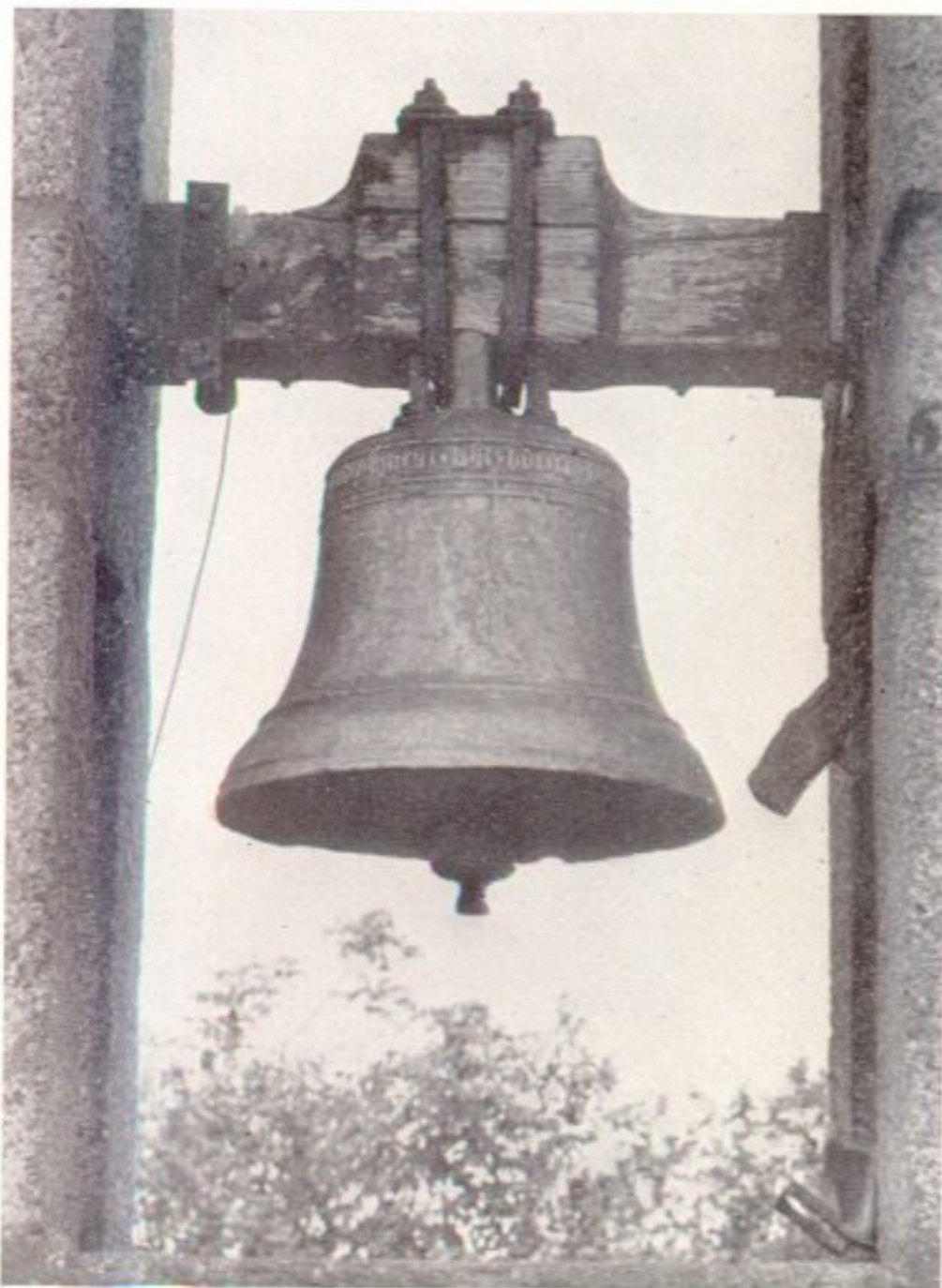
(c) Strichen.



(a) Clatt handbell.



(b) Coull.



(c) Cruden (1519).



(d) Cruden handbell.



(a) Culsalmond belfry.



(b) Fyvie.



(c) Gartly belfry.



(d) Glass handbell.



(a) Glenbuchat.



(b) Kennethmont.



(c) King Edward belfry.



(d) Leslie belfry.