

Transcript from REGISTRUM EPISCOPATUS BRECHINENSIS

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This copy of a Contract made at Dundee 23rd March 1536 declares that it is appointed And agreed between the honourable men, the Provost, Bailies, Council and Community of the Burgh of Dundee, and Andrew Barry, 'Kirk master' at this time of the Parish Kirk of our lady on the one part and George Boiss, mason on the other part, as follows, that is to say the said Provost, Bailies, Council and Community of the said burgh together with the Kirk master at this time has with consent of the said George Boiss appointed and invested him for his lifetime as his daily work in the labour in the craft of mason, using the best and most perfect workmanship that he can perform at the work of the Kirk or the day to day work of the said burgh, or any other work within the burgh that the town require of him at any time as required, to work and labour at the instructions given by the town Master of Works of the time, and that whenever he is required for this to exercise the highest standard of workmanship, exclusively, daily and hourly for this work by the standards of 'old use and customs of our Lady Lodge of Dundee' as performed in times past, That is to say in summer to commence work at 5 am. until 8 am., taking a half hour break, and then to carry on until taking a break from 11.30 am. till 1.30 pm. He is then to work until 4 pm. Before taking a half-hour break and finally continuing until 7 pm. During winter, when the light is so poor that he cannot see at 5 am. or 7 pm. he shall begin work each day as soon as the light permits and work until the light fails, and to take no meal break or exercise as aforesaid, each year until All Hallows Day, and from then until the end of the following Our Lady Day to have no dinner time or of exercise due to the shortness of the working day, and the said George shall not perform any other work during these hours and days without consent from the current Master of Works, and George shall also work all Lent evenings that are festival days until four pm, except Christmas, through Passion, Whitson, the Assumption through Lady Day and at these four evenings to work until 7 pm. And all other evenings to work until the time of preaching. The said George shall have annually for his lifetime of his fee of twenty four pounds Scots, be paid by us or our Master of Works from our Kirk and common funds, without delay or debate every half quarter as in the 'old practise of our Lady Lodge'. Also if it happens that George is asked and the town agrees that he may carry out work for the Crown, or that of any other Lord or Gentleman then when George is absent from the town work, he shall have no fee from the town. Also if George is injured or falls ill for the space of forty days continually his fees shall be paid during that period only and no longer. And George shall have an apprentice for seven years, and as that apprenticeship finishes to take another apprentice approved by the Master of Works ensuring that he is not too young, and that he shall not be paid during his first year and thereafter for the remaining years his apprentice shall be paid ten pounds, to be paid to George in the same way as he is paid himself. And if the apprentice is taken ill the same conditions apply as to his master.

In witness of which part of the Indenture to remain with the Provost, Bailies and Council and Master of Works the said George has affixed his seal, signed by him and to and to the part remaining with George, the common seal of the burgh is affixed on the day and date aforementioned before these witnesses, John Barry, George Rollok, David Rollok, bailie James Wedderburn Jnr., Mr John Gladstone, Gilbert Rolland, Andrew Buchan among others.

(Signed) George Boiss with my hand at the pen.