

ART. IV – *Carlisle Goldsmiths 1318-1625*. By. B. C. JONES, M.A.

On the 31 January 1378/9 Robert Goldsmith of Carlisle made his will. The text, printed by R. S. Ferguson in *Testamenta Karleolensia*, makes clear that the surname, Goldsmith, referred also to his occupation, for he gave his second son Thomas half of all his tools belonging to the craft of a goldsmith with his stock of silver and cutlery.¹ Evidently he was a man of some property being in possession of a lease from the Prior of Hexham of a messuage and garden in Caldewgate, which he had sublet to John of Furness, smith and a barn and a toft also in Caldewgate on lease from William of Yardone, chaplain, both of which he left to his son Thomas and Agnes of Bowathy. In addition he gave to his daughter Ellen an annual rent of 3s. from a tenement next to St. Alban's Church in Carlisle and made several small charitable bequests to the orders of Friars Minor and Friars Preacher, and for the maintenance of the Eden and Caldew bridges. From Bishop's rentals of 1318 and 1370 we know that Robert Goldsmith was the son of Stephen the goldsmith [aurifaber] who, in 1318 held a cottage with a curtilage in Caldewstones in the Bishop's manor of Caldcotes at an annual rent of 9d.²

The name and the trade of goldsmith persisted in Carlisle certainly for another 60 years after Robert's death in 1379 and probably to the end of the fifteenth century, for we find that Robert Goldsmith and William Borrowdale occur as goldsmiths in the list of those who attested the ordinance reforming the government of the city in 1445. A Thomas Goldsmith perhaps identical with the Thomas referred to in the will or his son occurs in the same list as one of the twelve of the inner council of the City.³ In the accounts of Bishop Strickland, 1401-3 Thomas Goldsmith was paid £1 19s. 8d. for making two silver balls with weights.⁴ Thomas occurs also in 1408 as witness to a grant of property at the head of Fisher St. on the east side near St. Alban's church.⁵ Witnesses to deeds were often owners or occupiers of neighbouring properties, so we may perhaps conclude that Thomas was now occupying the tenement next to St. Alban's Church referred to in his father's will. The Black Book of Hexham Abbey, which was completed by 1479, records that their tenement and croft in Caldewgate lying on the south side of the Dune Beck had been leased to Robert Goldsmith of Carlisle for a term of twenty years at an annual rent of not more than 18d. because he had built a new house on the tenement at his own expense. Robert also had the neighbouring tenement on lease at an annual rent of 4s. which when the Black Book was completed rendered only 2s. 6d. because part of it was decayed and lying waste.⁶ It is not clear from the text whether this information refers to Robert Goldsmith of the will or, as seems more likely, to the later Robert whose name appeared in the city ordinance of 1445, and who was identical perhaps with the Robert Goldsmith who occurs as one of the city's bailiffs in 1475.⁷ Finally, a Thomas Goldsmith was plaintiff in the city Court in 1491 but there is no further indication of his trade.⁸

From 1522 we are on firmer ground as surviving City Court records enable us to compile a list of names and to catch a glimpse of the character and nature of the goldsmith's trade. William Hetherington occurs in 1522; also in the same year William Goldsmith

“aurifaber”, but in a second entry the surname “Hatheryngton” is written over the top so there may have been some confusion between surname and trade name and Goldsmith and Hetherington may have been one and the same person. William Hetherington occurs again in 1527, also a Michael Goldsmith, apprentice, but with no indication of trade. In 1529/30 Janet Goldsmith claimed 7d. from John Hyndson “for gilting a ring”. From 1549-1558 Ralph Cowdell and George Halton appear regularly. They were succeeded by Michael Ivenson, 1558-1566 and Thomas Wilkinson, alias Barker, c. 1560-1594. Edward Dalton, possibly the maker of the Ireby, Bolton and Hayton cups occurs c. 1567-1611 and finally, Garres Orbell from 1616-1625. Apparently he was the last Carlisle goldsmith for here references to the occupation in the Court records come to an end.⁹

The entries in the Court books confirm that Carlisle’s goldsmiths worked in both silver and gold. They were also jewellers. On 30 June 1561, for example, Michael Ivenson, goldsmith, sued Alexander Mounsell for 3s. 8d. for “ley Broche argent” and 20d. for a silver gilt ring and on 9 December 1566 his widow Anna claimed from Catherine Legle of Blackhall, widow 33s. 4d. for silver beads and corals. At an earlier court on 28 February 1557/8, Michael Ivenson sought to recover 5s. 4d. for “ley gatheryng” and 2s. for stones of various colours.¹⁰ An undated entry, about 1567 might record when Edward Dalton ceased to be a journeyman working for Thomas Wilkinson and set up on his own. Thomas Wilkinson claimed against him 6s. for a stamp “stethe” [anvil], 6s. for a work bench [tabula operaria], 6d. for “le punshon” [punch], 12d. for three lead moulds [patrons], a heart punch [le harte punshon] and 2d. for gilding “le gymer” [gimmel or finger ring. OED]. In a counter action Edward Dalton sought to recover 8s. for manual labour.¹¹ Entries in an undated book of 1557/8 when John Benson sued Isabella widow of Ralph Coldell [Cowdell] goldsmith for 10s. in money for “ley hude, a houver” [cap.] and for “ley pair of compasses and tables” and Isabella claimed 32s. from John Benson for victuals for 2 years may record a dispute between a journeyman or servant and his master’s widow when the business was being wound up.¹² As Robert Goldsmith had made cutlery, so the sixteenth-century goldsmiths appear to have gilted the metal work on harness. On 1 April 1549 for example two goldsmiths were in dispute. George Halton claimed 15s. from Ralph Cowdell in money lent to Ralph’s wife, 2s. 6d. for half an ounce of silver, 7s. 6d. for gilting a silver fetter [catena] and 14d. for a pair of spurs.¹³

The clearest picture of the trade however comes not from the City court entry books but from Carlisle probate records. With the nuncupative will of Elizabeth Lowry of Carlisle, widow dated 8 January 1605/6 and proved, 31 July 1606, was exhibited an inventory of the goods and chattels of her deceased husband, Richard. In the will he is described as merchant and was probably the same Richard Lowry who was admitted to the merchant gild in 1601, but that he was a goldsmith cannot be doubted from the list of his tools and equipment given in the inventory. Further confirmation comes from a letter of attorney dated 26 November 1606 about property in Fisher Street which he had bought from George Rumpney, merchant, in which he is described as “Richard Lowrey, goldsmith, formerly of Carlisle”. The heirs to his Carlisle property were two daughters by a former marriage: Judith wife of John Johnson of Rotherhithe, Middlesex, mariner, and Thomasine unmarried at the date of his death and living in Carlisle. Elizabeth Lowry’s children by a former marriage were John Bowland and Jane or Joan Barnes (nee Bowland). Probate of Elizabeth’s will was granted to John Bowland.¹⁴

The grant of administration of Richard Lowry’s goods to Robert Dalton “her next of

kin" suggests before her marriage she was a Carlisle girl, perhaps a Dalton by name. The goods listed as "left at Wetherbie" were probably those which had belonged to her during her first marriage. The yard of linen cloth sent by Mrs Dalton to "Judie Lowrye" seems to suggest that Judith's marriage took place after the death of her parents, but before the date of the letter of attorney.

A note of suche goodes as were prysed in the house of Mr Ryc[hard] Lowrye decesed, after the deathe of Elsabethe Lowrye his wife, prysed the 8 day of Aprell 1606 by these men, Mr Thomas Browne, maior of Carlell, Mr Ryc[hard] Bell, Jo: Slater and Christofer Sle.

In primis a taftie hat lined with velvet and a felt hatt lined with taffitie	xvs.	
Item an ould taffitie hat with an ould bande		iiijd.
Item a fyne cloth gowne, garded with velvet	iiijl.	
Item a grograin goune	xxxxs.	
Item a fresodo goune	xxxxs.	
Item a buffen goune	xiijs.	4d.
Item an ould clothe goune of shepes Collor	xs.	
Item a kyrtle of silke grograin changable silke	xvjs.	
Item 2 ould kyrtles	iijs.	4d.
Item a Read scarlot peticote with a velvet lace	xxxijjs.	
Item a Read grograin peticote	xs.	
Item a brod Read peticote	ixs.	
Item a litle furre cloke	iijs.	4d.
Item a silke grograin aprone	iiijs.	
Item a cloke, safe garde and a hude [tear]	x [tear]	
Item 2 pare of stokinges		xijd.
Item 17 quarters of velvet lace being paynes	ijs.	8d.
Item a pare ocannons of yealowe taffitie	vs.	
Item a ruffe		xviijd.
Item a greane apron		viijd.
Item 6 quarters of pladdinge		xijd.
Item hir sadle with all the furniture belonginge it	xvjs.	
Item 2 litle whyt codes		viijd.
Item a brasse belt	ijs.	vjd.
Item a velvet porse, an Imbrodred porse, a hat band, a girdle and a pare of knives	vjs.	
Item 5 camerike bandes	xiijs.	4d.
Item 6 swinnes	ijs.	
Item 3 wrought hand napkins and 2 playne ones	iijs.	4d.
Item 2 aprons	ijs.	vjd.
Item a twilted wast coot	vs.	
Item hir breches		viijd.
Item 5 Gould Ringes wainge an unce and a halfe and a penie wight	iiijl.	

Item a crampe Ringe	iijs.	4d.
Item 4 quaves, one towell, one litle diper clothe	ijs.	vjd.
Item 5 pare of cuffes and 2 neck clothes		xvjd.
Item a Rayle, a pare of whyt drawers		xijd.
Item a hand screne and 2 Ringes of wandes		vjd.
Item 4 yerdes of line clothe	iijs.	4d.
Item 4 smokes	vs.	
Item a boxe wherin the linnige is with 2 drawers	iiijs.	4d.
Item paper booke with other paper bookes written	ijs.	vjd.
Item a comunion booke, covered with blacke		xviijd.
Item line, towe and yerne	xiiijs.	
Item a litle kyt		iiijd.

In the parler in the hall

Item a bedstead with turned postes and a teaster of wood, Iras hingers, 2 fether bedes, 2 bolsters, 2 pillowes and all thinges belonging to the same furniture	xlvsj.	8d.
Item a chamer poot		xijd.
Item 4 night caapes, one towell, acubarte clothe, a shart band and a pare of boot hose toopes	ijs.	4d.
Item a setting blocke, a lead and a setting sticke		xvjd. ¹⁴

In the buterye next the streat

Item a great Chist	vjs.	8d.
Item an oulde candle chist		xijd.
Item a litle kyt for hatted milke		iijd.
Item a litle butter tubbe		vjd.
Item a black lether botle, 2 puther botles and a sause dishe		xd.
Item a starche laudle		iiijd.
Item a heckle		viijd.
Item a hand basket, a close basket, a crele		viijd.
Item 2 costrelles		xijd.
Item 2 shoules with Irons and a speade		xiiiijd.
Item 5 shelves in the buterye		xd.
Item 3 dossen of trinchers		ixd.
Item a pare of garne windles with a foot		iiijd.
Item Lockes without kyes and a pare of stiripes		ijd.
Item a bakinge panne	iijs.	4d.
Item a Riplinge canne		iijd.
Item a pare of Irons called crepers for a chimney		xijd.
Item 4 Ruft bandes	iijs.	
Item halfe a yerde of Scotishe clothe		xviiijd.
Item a pare of Silke garters	ijs.	vjd.
Item 2 diper drinken clothes a litle drinken clothe with Read	iijs.	8d.
Item 3 hand towelles		xviiijd.
Item currelles and amold beades		xijd.

Item 2 yerdes and a halfe of broade clothe	xxs.	
Item chopinge knives		vjd.
Item 6 silver spones which the wife dothe challenge	xxvijs.	
Item a come, a case with 2 boxes		iiijd.
Item 3 yerdes of gyrth webbe		iiijd.
Item a pare of vertinge gell sleeves		vjd.
Item a copper salt without a cover		xijd.
Item pouter for a gunne		iiijd.
Item a frenshe academie		vjd.

In the shoppe

Item a worke borde with a deske and a kye	ijs.	4d.
Item an Indian nutte		xviijd.
Item a pease of a coper challenge		jd.
Item 3 stoles		viijd.
Item a great anvell sete in a blocke	vs.	
Item a drawinge binshe with stoupes		viijd.
Item a pare of drawinge tonges, 7 drawinge irons with a pease 2 pare of tonges weinge a stone and 3 pounce	ijs.	xd.
Item 3 ingines, a castinge flaske, weinge 9 pounce		xiiiijd.
Item a pare of great bellies with a pare of litle ones, 2 ould fyar pannes	ijs.	8d.
Item 2 bowling pannes, a nest of boxes, a scrowe of wood with an iron meltinge poote		xijd.
Item a culleringe poot, a shakinge botle, a litle candle sticke, 2 simon stockes, a longe boxe with pommissse, a gildinge bowle, a pott with simon and simon blocke		viijd.
Item 3 Rasinge bickinges with a litle spedicke, a sponse stampe, 2 stampes for swages, a cuttinge pinson, a fanne handell stampe and a thimble stampe	vjs.	iiijd.
Item 9 other litle stampes and a pare of great cuttinge sheares	iijs.	ixd.
Item a pare of great ballance and a litle pare, a great pille of waught and a litle pille of waught	ijs.	vjd.

A note of small tooles

Item 9 scalpers, 2 gravers, a pare of plyers, 2 pare of burnishinge Irons, 2 pare of Cumpases, 2 pare of Corne tonges, 2 pare of flat plyers, 2 pare of sheares, one pare of pincers, a pare of gressicks, 2 pare of holdinge tonges with scrooes, 5 great fyeles, 3 Iron triblates, a waxe bord, one showe with 2 dossen of files, a settinge hammer, 2 scratch brushes, 2 parootkinges, a horne hamer and a litle holdinge hammer	iiijs.	
Item a boxe with ponsons		viijd.
Item 2 soder fattes with a burras pipe		ijd.
Item a Ruler of brasse		iiijd.
Item a drille, 16 hammers and a litle hamer of wood, a water cane a cole basket	iijs.	

Item 2 Round cuttinge ponsons a stamp for slippis 2 hart ponsons, 23 Rasinge ponsons, a pare of tonges of wood and a litle stampe	ijs.	4d.
Item a hare bagge with sandivers		vjd.
Item 2 picters		iiijd.
Item a stole clothe		viijd.
Item a brasse stampe		xijd.
Item a touche stone with wightes		ijd.
Item 6 shelves		xijd.

Left att Wetherbie

Item a pare of Stockinges with a pare of silke garters	ijs.	
Item 4 shart bands	ijs.	8d.
Item a night cappe		xviijd.
Item 3 handcurses and a pare of cuffes		viijd.
Item one shart	iijs.	4d.
Item a Remnant of ould taffitie beinge hir owne	[not valued]	
Item a diper peliber		viijd.
Item a dussen pare of gloves delivered to Mr Bell of London	[not valued]	
Item a yerde and a halfe of Scoche pladdinge	ijs.	vjd.
Item a pare of specticles with a case		xijd.
Item a yerd of line clothe sent by Mrs Dalton to Judie Lowrye	[not valued]	
Item a siper band	iijs.	
Item a pare of gloves		iiijd.
Item a halfe a yerde of scotes clothe of Tomizen Lowrye	[not valued]	
Item a pare of writing tables given William	[not valued]	

These followinge solde by Mr Dalton

Item an ould gilded salt sould for	iijl.	vd.
Item a boxe with wrytinges	[no amount]	
Item a bagge of lether with 2 boxes	[no amount]	
Item a wage of gowld sould for	viijl.	xvijs. xjd.
Item in the same boxe, fillinges of broken silver		xlvijs. 4d.
Item a blewe stone		iijd.
Item a pare of spectacles of silver the case being of brasse and silver	iijs.	4d.
Item a broken gould Ringe	ixs.	
Item a braslet of sead pearles with louse ones		xijd.
Item a litle wage of gould		xxvijs. ixd.
Item 3 paper of pearle beinge 70 in number	iijl.	
Item a Ringe with a diomond	viijl.	
Item a blewe stone with a thread throughe it		xxs.
Item a christall stone beinge a soft opus		ijs. vjd.
Item a litle diomond		xxs.
Item 2 Rose nobles, 2 soveringes, xiijs. xd. in monye amountinge to iiijl. iijs. xd. beinge parte of Mr Barwicke account		[no amount]
Item a gould Ringe		vjs.

Item a pare of silver specktacles without sight		xd.
Item a cloke	viijs.	
Item a hatte and a bande	iijs.	4d.
Item a dublet, bretches and bases	xxs.	
Item a Jerkin with 22 silver buttens	vijs.	4d.
Item a sword beinge Christofer Sle	[not valued]	
Item a scotes dagger with knives and a girdle	ijs.	
Item a pare of knit wollinge hose with garters		xiiiid.
Item a pare of linninge hose given to the winder	[not valued]	
Item his boots pryed before		
Item his sporres given to the post boye	[not valued]	
Item a cloke bagge		vjd.
Debts owinge the sayd man		
Item John Hall and Ryc[hard] Fisher upon a bonde	vjl.	
Item one morgage by John Smithe, a close beinge in paune	vjl.	

Glossary

amold beads	?enamelled beads
bases	plaited skirts appended to the doublet.
bickings	bickern or beak iron. An iron ending in a point or an anvil with two pointed ends.
challenge	?shell
cannons	canions worn with doublet and hose below the breeches, often made of taffeta.
codes	pillows or cushions
costrelles	large bottles or wooden kegs fitted with an ear by which they could be hung from the waist.
garne windles	garner measures
gressickes	meaning not known, possibly a form of nipping pliers, see grozing iron used by glasiers.
hatted milk	preparation of milk with creamy top
paynes	strips
peliber	pillow case
pinson, ponson	punch
pootkings	?bodkins
quave	coif
rayle	neckerchief
riplinge canne	possibly dripping can
sandivers	glass gall
sile	?seal
simon	solder
siperband	band of sypers or Cyprus cloth
slipp	spoon handle
soft opus	?soft work, paste
spedicke	spigot
swages	ornamental grooving or moulding
swinnes	?cross pieces
vertinge gell	farthingale
waught	weight

Notes and References

- ¹ medietatem omnium instrumentorum meorum pertinencium ad artem aurifabri cum argento et cutillario. *op. cit.*, CW Extra Series, ix (1893), 123-4.
- ² From 17th C. copies of Bishop's rentals 1318 and 1370 in a volume in the possession of G. H. Mounsey Heysham esq., Castletown, Rockcliffe.
- ³ R. S. Ferguson, *The Royal Charters of Carlisle*, CW Tract Series, x (1894), 121 and Cumbria Record Office (Carlisle) Ca 2/15.
- ⁴ C.R.O. (Carlisle) DRC 2/7.
- ⁵ Corby Castle deeds. Carlisle burgage in Fisher St. 1408.
- ⁶ James Raine, *The Black Book of Hexham*, Surtees Society, 46, p. 14.
- ⁷ C.R.O. (Carlisle) D/Mus. Carlisle deeds.
- ⁸ C.R.O. (Carlisle) Ca 3/1/14 City Court entry book 1490-91.
- ⁹ C.R.O. (Carlisle) Ca3/1/25-153 City court entry books 1522-1625 *passim*. R. S. Ferguson, *Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle*, Extra Series, iii, 1882, 53-4.
- ¹⁰ C.R.O. (Carlisle) Ca3/1/71, 79, 68 City Court entry books.
- ¹¹ C.R.O. (Carlisle) Ca3/1/79a.
- ¹² C.R.O. (Carlisle) Ca3/1/67.
- ¹³ C.R.O. (Carlisle) Ca3/1/50.
- ¹⁴ C.R.O. (Carlisle) Probate records. Elizabeth Lowry of Carlisle 1606. R. S. Ferguson, *Some Municipal Records of the City of Carlisle*, Extra Series, iv, 90. Although the full title of the Smiths' Guild at Carlisle was the "Ancient Fraternities of blacksmiths, whitesmiths, goldsmiths and silversmiths", Garres or Gayers Orbell as well as Richard Lowry were members of the merchants' and not the smiths' guild. Gayers Orbell was admitted in 1615 and was master of the Merchant Guild on 3 July 1618.
- ¹⁴ At the foot appears a note of the grant of administration of the goods of Richard Lowrie to Robert Dalton, gentleman, next of kin to Elizabeth Lowrie deceased for the benefit of her children, John Bowland and Jane otherwise Joan Barnes otherwise Bowland now absent and until they come, 2 May 1606.