

IV.

NOTICE OF THE HERALDIC PAINTED CEILINGS IN A HOUSE AT
LINLITHGOW, NOW DESTROYED. BY T. ETHERINGTON COOKE,
Esq., F.S.A. Scot. (PLATES L. AND LI.)

During the demolition of an old house in High Street, Linlithgow, in August last, two interesting examples of the decorative painting of the sixteenth century were brought to light. On removing the comparatively modern plaster ceiling of the two rooms on the first story, it was found that the under sides of the flooring and joists of the rooms above were painted over their entire surface with heraldic and foliated designs. These designs had been executed in water-colour "tempera," which, when exposed, was found to adhere very slightly, owing to the decay of the surface of the wood. The colours were for the most part distinct, but there were no traces of gilding. The style of art was not the best of the

period, and appears to have been that of a native artist. The ceiling of the eastern room measured 19 by 14 feet, and was supported by nine beams of oak, running north and south. The easternmost beam partly covered the five shields at that end of the ceiling, having been shifted a few inches at an alteration of the house forty years ago. This ceiling was occupied with the heraldic blazons of fifteen barons and twenty-two earls, there being only a slight floral design at the western end. The greater part of these armorial bearings are depicted in the "Heraldic MS. emblazoned by Sir David Lyndsay of the Mount, Lyon King of Armes, 1542."

The following is a list of the nobles whose escutcheons appeared on this ceiling :—

1st Division.	{	Lord Elfinstoun.
		Lord Rihven.
		Lord Setoun.
		Lord Drumond.
		Lord Ros.

2d Division.	{	Lord Inermeath.
		Lord Zester.
		Lord Glammes.
		Lord Creithioun.
		Lord Bouyd.

3d Division.	{	Lord Borthvyek.
		Lord Levyngstoun.
		Lord Houme.
		Lord Flemeng.
		Lord Synklar.

4th Division.	{	Erl of Orknay.
		Erl of Murray.
		Erl of Mortoun.
		Erl of Maz (Mar).
		Erl of Ros.

5th Division.	{	Erll of Sutherland (the only name illegible). Erll of Manrois (Montrose). Erll of Ergyle. Erll of Eglintoun. Erll of Menteith.
6th Division.	{	Erll of Glencairn. Erll of Craufurd. Erll of Huntli. Erll of Arrel. Erll of Buchqha.
7th Division.	{	Erll of Rothes. Erll of Athol. Erll of Angus. Erll of Merchell. Erll of Cassilis.
8th Div.	{	Erll of Lennux. Erll of Arran.

Demi-cherubs were painted above the escutcheons of some of the barons, and coronets over those of all the earls; that over the Earl of Arran's differing from the rest in being foliated. The ceiling of the western room measured 14 by 14 feet, and was supported by eight beams. It contained only five escutcheons (three of which were also in the eastern ceiling). They were as follows:—

Gules, a lion rampant, or,
 Lord Lyndzay,
 Erll of Ergyle,
 Lord Setoun,
 Lord Levyngstoun, and the name of
 Crafurd, on a scroll.

The upper half of the first of these escutcheons, together with the name above it, was broken away: there was no tressure surrounding the charge. Four of the escutcheons on this ceiling were "mantled,"

and the fifth (that of Lord Levyngstoun) differed a little in shape from the others. The rest of the ceiling was filled with a conventional design, surrounding a terminal female figure (probably of the virgin), an emblem of the sun, human heads, griffins, and birds. The beams of both ceilings were decorated with a guilloche pattern in black.

The ceilings were purchased by the Rev. D. Macleod, and W. H. Henderson, Esq., W.S., of Linlithgow, with a view to their preservation, and the majority of the escutcheons are now in the possession of the representatives of the nobles above enumerated.

The house stood on the south side of the High Street, about 100 yards from the gateway of the Palace. On the lintel of a door at the back of the house were the initials R S. I.F (supposed to be those of Robert Stewart and Janet Forrest), both the initials preceding the date, apparently 1526. About forty years since, more than one-half of the original building, including a wooden tower projecting into the street, and popularly known as the "Tinpanny," (?) or "Pinnacle," was removed. The walls were upwards of four feet in thickness, and most of the windows facing the street were deeply "splayed."

[By some oversight, the following Note to Communication IV. on the opposite page was omitted.]

Mr LAING, in reference to this communication, said, it was evident from the initials of the names, R. S.—J. F. (Robert Stewart and Janet Forrest), that the date on the lintel must be 1596, although it was quite possible the house itself might be of an earlier date. As he had a reference to the Confirmed Testament of Robert Stewart, Provost of Linlithgow, who died in 1615, he took occasion this forenoon to examine the Register, in the chance it might throw some light on the question; and he found it so far corroborated Mr COOKE's statement, excepting the supposed earlier date. It was to the following effect:—

(*Edinburgh Commissariat Register, Vol. XLIX.*)

ROBERT STEWART, PROVOST OF LINLITHGOW, 15th June 1616.

The Testament Testamentar, Inventar, &c., of ROBERT STEWART Proveist of Linlithgow, quha deceist the last day of October 1615, gevin up be himself, in presence of Mr Ludovik Stewart, sone to the defunct, Mr Robert Cornewall, minister at Linlithgow, and James Ross, notar: in which he appoints his spouse, Jonet Forrest, sole executrix, with special legacies to their sons and daughters. The sons were—

Mr Ludovick Stewart; the second Robert; the third Alexander; the fourth Andrew; and the fifth George.

The Provost appoints his burial to be within the Parish Kirk of Linlithgow, in the place where his umquhill Father-in-law lvis, with this super-scription upon the stane:—

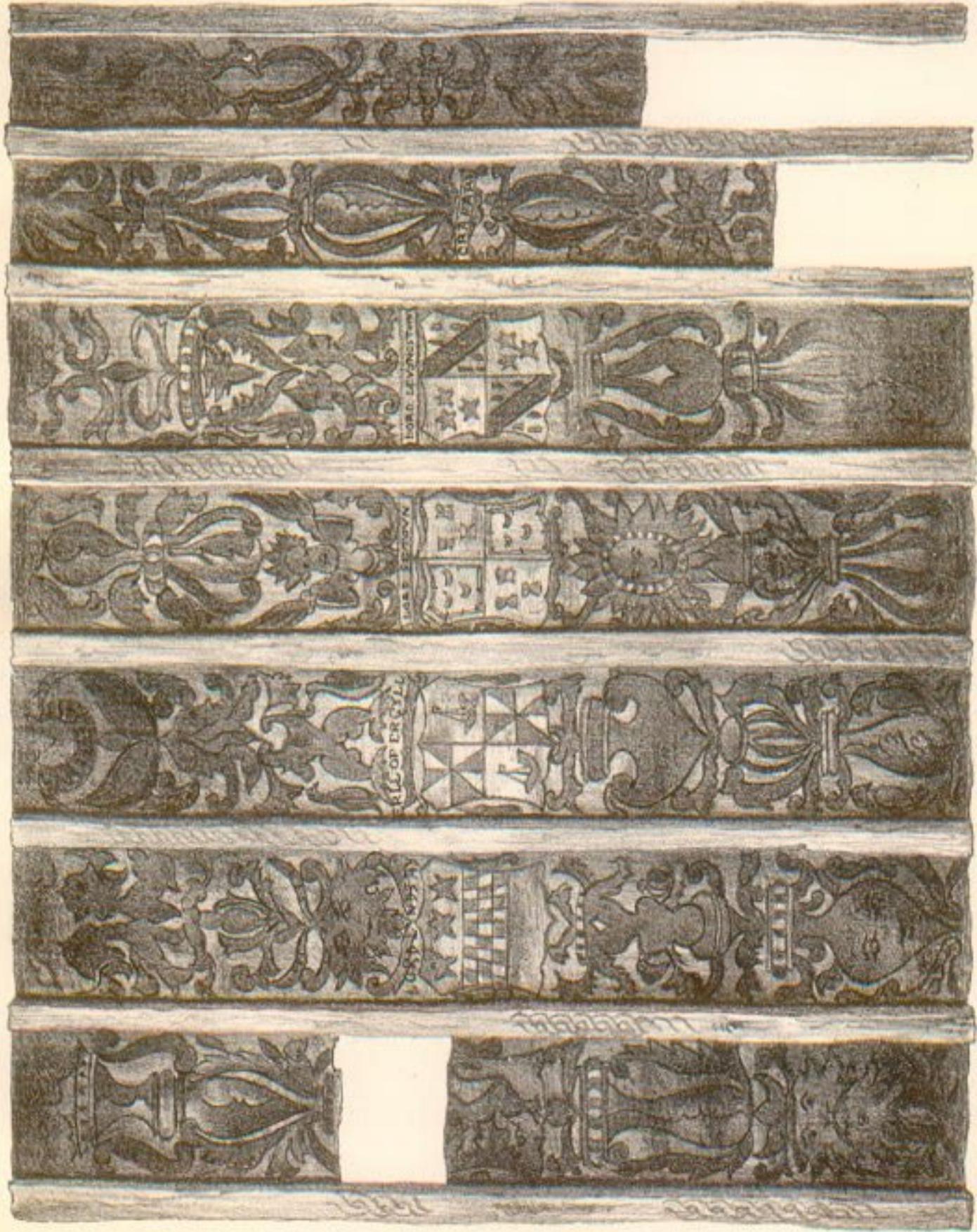
“Heir lvis ROBERT STEWART, sumtyme Cornat, Lovetennent, and Capitane of His Majesties serveice and Gaird, and Proueist of Linlithgow, quha deceist vpon the day of
J^m vj^o., and zeiris.”

Henry Forrest, his father-in-law, was Provost of Linlithgow in 1540,

and Katherine Levingstone, his spouse, are mentioned as having at that time a house on the south side of the High Street of Linlithgow.

But, in connexion with the present communication, the most curious Item is, that Stewart specially leaves to the said Mr Ludowick, "my sone, his airship, and the *haill standand timber work and irne work festnit in the walls within my ludging* (i.e., the timber work, no doubt, on which the heraldic shields were painted); and ordainis this, my latter will, to stand inviolat in all tyme cuming."

It is unnecessary, perhaps, to add anything concerning Provost Stewart's descendants. The eldest son Ludowick, who studied at the University of Edinburgh, and took his degree of A.M. 28th May 1604, passed advocate about 1612, and had the honour of knight-hood conferred by Charles the First, 12th July 1633. He acquired the lands of Kirkhill and Strabrock. He was fined L.1000 sterling by Cromwell, for malignancy in 1654; and died in April 1656. For further particulars respecting his family, see Duncan Stewart's "Historical and Genealogical Account of the Stewarts," p. 191. Edinburgh, 1739. 4to.



E. Herriington, Cooke, F.S.

T. & A. J. Thomson, Edinburgh.

PAINTED CEILING [CIRCA 1570] DISCOVERED AT LINLITHGOW 1867 [WESTERN ROOM]