

III.

NOTES ON THE LANDS AND MANOR HOUSE OF GORGIE, EDINBURGH. BY JOHN SMITH, F.S.A.Scot.

THE OWNERS.

Gorgie, a western suburb of Edinburgh, is now incorporated with and forms one of the wards of the city. For long a purely agricultural district, it owes its origin to a stream or burn which meandered through its lands. This stream, which bore the name of Gorgie Burn, had its rise a little to the south, at the ponds at the base of Craiglockhart Hill. Advantage was taken of its waters to drive a corn-mill which was erected on its banks, thus forming the nucleus of the little hamlet that arose to accommodate the miller and his servants. The lands of Gorgie and its mill are closely interwoven with one another, but the mill was of the greater importance, as for centuries the tenants and owners were designated as being, not of Gorgie lands, but always of Gorgie mylne.

The lands of Gorgie were acquired in 1236 by Sir William Livingstone, who was of a family closely connected with Renfrew. It continued in their possession for over three centuries after, as a sasine of the lands of Gorgie was granted to William Livingstone in 1467, and another to Margrate Levingstoun in 1513. This lady evidently had the right of disposal of the lands, as, although married to Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, she consented to a charter being given to her husband's cousin, James Hamilton of Schawfield, of the half lands and half mill of Gorgie, to be held blench of the granter, and dated at Hamilton 16th February 1527-8, sasine being given at the manor and mill on 3rd February 1528-9. In the beginning of the next year this James Hamilton of Schawfield died, and thereafter the superiority of these half lands and half mill appears to have been quietly annexed by Thomas Otterburn of Reidhall, a property that was near Gorgie to the south-west. Up to this date no mention of the name or names of the tenants of the mill and lands is to be found, and the impression is formed that Thomas Otterburn ignored the claims of the Hamiltons of Schawfield with the letting of them. However, the matter was not forgotten by the heirs of James Hamilton, and, as will be seen further on, resulted in a rude awakening to the Otterburn family.

This was brought about by a matter which arose nearly fifty years after by an alteration in the ownership of the teinds. As is well known, King David I., when he founded the Abbey of Holyrood House in 1128, endowed it with a number of church lands, one of these being the Church of St Cuthbert's. As Gorgie was in the parish of St Cuthbert's the teinds formed a part of the endowment and, as such, had been paid to the abbey direct. In the year 1558 notice was given to those concerned that a change was to be made regarding the teinds, it being intimated in a grant by Robert (Stewart), commendator of the abbey, in favour of Mr David Makgill, advocate. This grant gave to him for his lifetime in yearly pension the teind sheaves of the lands of Gorgie and Mill, with 20s. payable from the said mill, for his services as procurator for the abbey. It was signed by the commendator and other officials of the abbey and is dated 9th December 1558.

Here we have a sidelight on the means taken to carry on the affairs of the abbey so near the Reformation, and it is strange that so shrewd a lawyer as Mr David Makgill accepted it, as the confiscation and repudiation of a large number of these pre-Reformation dues arose shortly afterwards; but his faith in the transaction was rewarded by the tenants of Gorgie mill and lands paying their teind dues as usual. He afterwards, with a far-seeing acumen, found means to convert this life pension into a tack or lease for nineteen years, and on the 6th

November 1575 he assigned and transferred this lease to Thomas Otterburn of Reidhall. It does not transpire what Mr David Makgill received for this assignation, but it is clear that it did not turn out as well as Thomas Otterburn expected. Seven years after, on the 8th March 1582, a charter was granted by this same Thomas in terms of a contract of sale granting and alienating to Archibald Napier of Edinbillie, and his wife and son, an annual rent of 120 merks to be uplifted from the lands of Gorgie with the mill. This was a heavy burden on these lands and was probably entered into as a means of providing for his son, and he accordingly resigned into the king's hands the lands of Auldham in the county of East Lothian and the lands of Gorgie and Mill, in favour of the said Thomas Otterburn, younger, and his future wife Marion Cockburn, in a deed dated at Edinburgh 28th January 1593-4. For a number of years after, Sir Thomas Otterburn and his young bride would enjoy the family estates, as he apparently had complete control over them, but he received a shock when a demand was made upon him regarding the rights of the Hamilton family in the half lands and half mill of Gorgie.

For nearly three-quarters of a century nothing is to be found concerning this family's right to these half lands, and it is just possible that Sir Thomas had not heard of it either, but a notarial instrument soon made him aware that the right was not forgotten. Evidence that it came as a surprise to Sir Thomas is best afforded by the demands which, the instrument narrates, were presented personally by James Hamilton, servitor to Sir Claud Hamilton of Schawfield, knight, acting as procurator for Sir Robert Hamilton. It included a precept from the Royal Chancery of Edinburgh, dated 21st May 1605, directed to Sir Thomas Otterburn at Reidhall, requiring him to give sasine to Sir Robert Hamilton of Easter Greenlees, as heir of the late James Hamilton of Schawfield, his great-grandfather, last vest and seised in the said half lands and mill of Sir Thomas, as superior, to whom also a precept of sasine was handed, with a request that he would sign and seal as directed. Sir Thomas point-blank refused, his reply being "that he knew na uthir vassillis of the said lands bot his father and himselfe." Thus ended the interview, and the procurator for the Hamiltons, who was present, then ordered instruments to be taken by the hands of Mr John Paip, notary public, which was done at Reidhall on 21st May 1605.

The matter did not rest, for the Hamiltons were determined to have justice, as it will be observed that on the one hand they apparently affirmed that he was considered superior, yet they hint that this could be challenged. They accordingly took steps to maintain their right, so

in less than two months after they served on Sir Thomas an extract retour of service, which was made before the sheriff-depute of Renfrew and twenty-five jurors, who declared that Sir Robert Hamilton of Easter Greenlees was heir of his great-grandfather on his mother's side, etc. This could not be ignored, and so an instrument of sasine was granted and recorded in the particular register for Edinburgh on the 20th March and in that for Renfrew 17th April 1606. It comes as a surprise that on the 13th August 1609 the Hamilton family resigned all that they had obtained back again into the hands of the Otterburns as superiors. Whether it was by the expense of this litigation, or the Napiers calling up their bond over the Gorgie lands and mill, is unknown, but at this date, in terms of a contract between them and James Duncan, who was clothier to the Queen, they disposed of the Gorgie lands to him, which included manor place, mill and mill lands, and the teinds also. This is the last mention of the Otterburns' connection with the Gorgie property, as they, like a large number of these pre-Reformation landed families in Scotland, at the close of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries, practically disappeared, and their lands passed to a different class of proprietors.

James Duncan, the new proprietor of the Gorgie lands, is designated as being of Ratho, a village a few miles west from Gorgie. His property or residence there was named Majoribanks, of which no traces are now to be found. Beyond this, and the fact that he was one of the clothiers in attendance on Anne, Queen of King James I., little else can be gleaned. The conveyance of the property to him is principally set forth in a charter, which is still preserved. The seal attached to it is in good preservation, showing Parted per chevron, the base guttée, a chevron between three otters heads coupéd, on a chief a crescent in sinister. Legend S. D. Thome Ottirbyrn de Reidhall, and dated 18th and 24th November 1609. (It is interesting to note that this deed was shown at the Heraldic Exhibition held at Edinburgh in 1891.)

In 1620 James Duncan infefted his son, also named James, in the lands, and he for over twenty years after was the recognised laird. During the whole period of the two Duncans' ownership the relations between them and their tenants appear to have been of a harmonious description. In 1656 there came into prominence the family who were at that date the tenants, and who succeeded shortly afterwards in making themselves the owners. The Brouns of Gorgie Mylne, each called John, occupied these lands for four generations, two of them as tenants and two of them as owners.

The first John Broun was a member of the Brouns of Hartrie, near Biggar, a family which had been settled there from about the end of

the fourteenth century. At the beginning of the sixteenth century two females of that line, Marion and Catherine, married the Otterburn that was slain at Flodden and James Foulis of Colinton. Whether these two ladies were John Broun's aunts or sisters is unknown—it is really immaterial now—but this relationship, near or far, must have been a strong factor in his obtaining the tenancy of the lands of Gorgie. It is believed that he obtained the lands about 1578 through the influence of his family connection. Be this as it may, little can be gleaned about him, but his marriage to Janet Watson, daughter of the family of Saughton, which then was of some importance in the locality, indicates that he was socially considered a suitable match for one of their members. He died at Gorgy Mylne in 1592, being succeeded in the tenancy by his son and heir, also named John.

This, the second, John must have been a very young man when he succeeded to his father's tenancy of the mill and lands. He soon made for himself a name that was more than of local importance. This is brought out in a petition to the Privy Council, which is as follows:—

“The common ford at Saughtonhall being so ‘washin away’ that last winter sundry persons perished in the water as the next passage to it (viz.) the New Brig on the Water of Leith being very far decayed in the ‘Pends and Puttis thereof,’ a petition has been presented to the Council by persons dwelling be-west of Edinburgh praying commission to be given to Johne Broun in Gorgiemill, who is a ‘werrie honnest, famous and ansuerable man,’ to build a bridge at Saughtonhall of four bows (arches), all the pillars to be of massive stone work, and the pend, ‘becaus convenientlie it can not be maid of stane,’ to be of timber in a sufficient manner, and also to repair the said New Brig.”

The Privy Council on 26th November 1605 granted commission subscribed by the Earl of Montross, Commissioner to my Lord of Halirudhous, and the Lord Advocate and Collector, to visit the said ford and bridge, and to report at the next Council meeting what dues will suffice for completing the said work. A copy of the petition, indorsed Halirudhous 15th August 1605, bears the words “Fiat ut petitur” (Let the petition be granted) and is subscribed as above.

Commission was granted to John Broun to ‘big’ a bridge at Saughtonhall in January 1606, and along with the dues which he was authorised to collect from those who used the fords for nine years after, he received subscriptions from Mr John Watson, portioner of Saughtonhall, 1000 merks, Mr James Watson, portioner of Saughton, 500 merks, and other sums from six other subscribers was given to him that within three years hereof he shall finish a sure bridge for man and horse on the Water of Leith, a little below Dalzellis mill, and shall sufficiently

repair the New Brig, employing the whole sum allowed to be collected by him upon the said bridges. This gives an idea of what he took on hand, and that it was a slow and uphill contract is seen by the disputes that arose with some of the other proprietors, especially the Forresters of Corstorphine, but he kept at the project until it was successfully accomplished, when he forwarded to the Lords of the Privy Council the following Petition. "At the request of the Barons and gentlemen of West Lothian, petitioner undertook to build a bridge at Sauchtonhall. Having found caution, he begun the work and succeeded in finishing the bridge, he craved the approbation and allowances of his proceedings, and the Lords accordingly ordered Sir Archibald Naper of Marchinstoun one of the Council and other justices of the peace to visit the work. They reported in his favour, the Lords find that the petitioner has fulfilled the contract, and they exoner him and his cautioners from the foresaid caution."

This is dated November 1617, and it will be noticed that the contract took nearly twelve years to execute, but it is clear that this delay was due to the period allowed for drawing the dues during the bridge-building, which was put at nine years; if it had been finished before that time these dues would have been lost, as it was stipulated that these were to be spent exclusively on the bridge. This edifice lasted till recent years, having been swept away by floods which occurred during the middle nineties of last century. A light iron bridge was erected in its place. During the period of his bridge-building, an event arose that seems to indicate that he contemplated leaving the district. The grandiose scheme of King James VI. for the colonisation of Ulster in 1609 appears to have been taken seriously, not only by John Broun, but also by the two Watsons, his near neighbours. He applied as an undertaker, or shareholder, in the Plantations of Ulster for 2000 acres, this being the largest amount of land that could be acquired by one individual. His security for fulfilment of his application was granted by Harie Aikman of Brumhous (a near relative), to the amount of £400 sterling, quite a large sum then.

Doubtless when he and the Watsons learned the conditions binding on them after obtaining the grant they thought better of the bargain, and disposed of their right to those who were prepared to carry out the terms. As a public-spirited individual his services after this were in great request and were not confined to his own locality. Space does not allow me to give these in detail, but to his own holding he devoted both labour and money in improving and enlarging. He rented additional land, and built another mill and thirteen new houses for his workers. All this meant prosperity, and it is safe to say that to him

the fortune and wealth of his heirs were entirely due. It is just possible that for a number of years before his death he retired from active life, for it can be observed from a deed that his son and heir, the third John Broun, had the management of his affairs. At his death in 1653 his age is not stated, but as his father died sixty years before, the presumption is that he would be nearly eighty years of age when he died. This son, the third John, who had married Margaret Tennent long before his father's death, and as joint tenant succeeded to a prosperous concern, then took full responsibility. To him we are indebted for a complete description of the extent of the lands and buildings after his father's death. This was brought about by his having a transumpt made of the lease which had been drawn up on 10th August 1643. This document, by neglect and ill keeping, became so frail that it could not be used. He, on the 29th February 1656, petitioned the "Commissioners for administration of justice to the people of Scotland," craving that this torn tack or lease may be transumed by their clerk. In the opening preamble of this petition he records, that his father had been sett the lands of Gorgie and Mill by James Duncan of Ratho all the days of his said father's lifetime and two nineteen years thereafter. As his father was now dead and he sole tenant, for the reasons stated, and to make sure of his position, he petitions for this new copy. His request was granted and in due time the transumpt was handed to him. The terms of the lease are too long for insertion here, interesting though they are, but a sentence may be quoted that goes a long way to show the cordial relations between laird and tenant in those days. It commences, "That it is agreed between James Duncan of Ratho on the one part, and John Broun younger on the other part, that as John Broun and his father have been," kyndlie tenants and possessors of the lands and mill to the granter and his father "ther many yeares bygane," the said James, being unwilling to remove them, leases to the said John Broun lands and buildings as described, etc. The said John Broun binds himself and his heirs to pay to the said James Duncan 400 merks Scots yearly from Martinmas next, with 20 geese and 20 capons yearly, with 20s. for damme mail with "ane yeir old fed swyne at Pasch, it being ane libbed gelt outwith ane yeir auld." (It may be noted that this lease which records all the boundaries of the lands was always referred to in later dispositions.)

We now reach the period when the Brouns, instead of being tenants, became the owners of the Gorgie lands. What brought about the sale of them is unknown, but it is evident that events occurred that led to negotiations being entered into for their acquisition by the Brouns. It is almost certain that the transumpt was the means taken to

remove uncertainty as to boundaries, etc. During these negotiations James Duncan died, and his widow Isobel Foulis married a Major William Murray as her second husband. She, with consent of her trustees and her husband, granted a disposition, dated 29th April 1656, resigning the lands of Gorgie Mill, manor house, etc. to and in favour of the said John Broun. Two years after (1658) this John Broun died, being succeeded by his son, the fourth bearing the same name. No more can be gleaned until a charter under the Great Seal by King Charles II. was granted on 14th June 1673, which completed the transference of the property. This was what the fourth John Broun became possessed of, and in him the fortunes of the family reached their highest point. All the accumulated industry and wealth of his three ancestors fell to him, and that it amounted to a goodly sum is made manifest by his purchase of the lands and barony of Braid, which had come into the market through the death of Sir William Dick of Braid. This purchase was ratified by the Scots Parliament in 1681, and he then took his position as a landed proprietor of the county. He resided at the Manor House of Braid, and although he never aspired to municipal honours in the city of Edinburgh, his position enabled him to be nominated for several years as Commissioner of Supply for the County. He died in 1684 and was succeeded by his son, who was named Andrew and, as the Instrument of Sasine informs us, was found heir of his father the late John Broun of Gorgiemilne on 22nd July 1685. He in turn was followed by his son, also named Andrew, who died unmarried, and by his death the family of the Brouns of Gorgie Myln became extinct. Before his death he conveyed the estates to his cousin, also named Andrew, whose heirs remained the owners until Thomas Broun of Braid disposed of nearly all the Braid property to Gordon of Cluny in 1772, and which is still in the possession of the Cluny family.

As it is outwith the purposes of these notes to follow the history of the Braid property, we now return to the Gorgie lands which was the homeland of the Brouns. The grandson of the fourth John, named Andrew, who died unmarried and whose death was the means of a change in the ownership of all the properties, had been infefted in them all on the 14th February 1694, but either he or his father, for some unknown reason (the exact details have not been recorded), bonded the entire Gorgie property to James M'Lurg, merchant and Dean of Guild of Edinburgh, for an annual rent of £160 Scots, corresponding to a principal of 4000 merks, the bond being recorded on 7th August 1693. Sir James M'Lurg of Vogrie, the bondholder, was a wealthy merchant in Edinburgh and a large shareholder in the ill-fated Darien Scheme. Its failure did not do him much harm, as the costly memorial

erected in the Greyfriars Churchyard records that after his death in 1717 he left large legacies to his friends and 22,000 merks for pious uses. No information is available as to the redemption of this bond by the Brouns, and it appears to have been taken over from Sir James M'Lurg by Sir Alexander Brand, the proprietor of the lands of Easter Dalry, which nearly adjoined the lands of Gorgie. (Brandfield Street, a short street entering from Grove Street, still perpetuates this man's connection with the locality.) The result of this gave Sir Alexander control over a wide extent of land, which practically joined his own, and being near to the city was improving every year. His ownership of these was ended by his having to relinquish them all in payment of a debt. He sold them to Mr George Lind, merchant, Edinburgh, on the 5th December 1709, at the instance of George Mackenzie in Stanley, upon a decret of transference for the following sums of three thousand, nine hundred, and ninety-seven pounds, six shillings, and fivepence sterling (£3997, 6s. 5d. sterling), *acknowledged due by the said seller, the granter.* This is the last mention of the Brouns' name in connection with the Gorgie lands which they had continuously occupied for one hundred and twenty-seven years. George Lind entered into possession, and on the 22nd June 1711, by an instrument of sasine, he infefted his wife, Jean Montgomery, in the lands of Gorgie, mills, manor house, etc., to be held in liferent in contentation of an annuity of 600 merks under their marriage contract dated 10th October 1694. Information about this George Lind is exceedingly meagre, but his name occurs as a shareholder in the Darien Scheme for two sums of £200 each. He was succeeded by his son Alexander, who died in 1756 and was followed by his son James, who was entered heir of provision special in the lands of Gorgie 22nd June 1764. Dr James Lind sold the manor house, the mill, and some land, to be held of himself for a nominal feu-duty, to Mr James Reid of Eastertyre at Whitsunday 1778. Mr Reid is stated to be the occupier of the manor house. Biggars & Co. were tenants of the mill, and a George Brown tenant of some land included in the sale.

Mr James Reid was succeeded by his four daughters. They sold in 1787 to Major George Hay and Mr Wm. Campbell, as partners of the firm of James Reid & Co., linen printers, Gorgie, and these partners sold the subjects to Mr James Williamson, merchant, Leith, in 1792. Williamson and his firm of Sinclair & Williamson, merchants, Leith, having been sequestered, the trustee sold the subjects to Robert Cox of Bells Mills at Whitsunday 1799, although the disposition, which was taken in favour of Mr Cox and his mother, Mrs Marion Forrester or Cox, was not granted until 23rd August 1806.

The remainder of the Gorgie lands and the superiority of those sold

to Mr James Reid were sold by Dr Lind to Mr Adam Keir, baker, Edinburgh, at the same time as the sale of the manor house, etc., to Mr James Reid, and after passing through a number of hands were acquired by the late Mr Robert Cox, M.P., about forty years ago.

The Cox's name has now been associated with the lands and manor house of Gorgie for over one hundred years, and many will remember Mr John Cox, who did so much for the promotion of healthy amusements for the citizens of Edinburgh, and also Mr Robert Cox, M.P., who died in France on 2nd June 1899.

Although it has not been found possible to associate any great or heroic deed with these different proprietors in the past, yet it must be remembered that the Brouns and the Coxs, each in their day, contributed largely as employers of labour to the prosperity and well-being of their workers closely clustered around their own private dwellings. They must be classed as public benefactors, for through their individual efforts and enterprise the numerous residents in the quiet hamlet of Gorgie were for centuries enabled to obtain a constant reward for their services. That these services were valued by their employers is best seen by the kindly endeavours made by them for their welfare and comfort. We have the Brouns about the middle of the seventeenth century erecting thirteen new houses for their workers, followed by the Coxs in the nineteenth, who, on the same site, erected the picturesque range of buildings which to-day still remain as a living memento of their connection and interest in the district.

THE MANOR HOUSE.

To many it will come as a surprise to know that the original manor house of Gorgie is still occupied and in fair preservation. The Brouns from 1578 and all the succeeding owners up till nearly the close of the last century have resided in this house, covering a period of over three hundred years. The earliest mention of it being termed a manor house takes us back to 1527 when Sir James Hamilton of Finnart granted a charter of it to his cousin James Hamilton of Schawfield. I need scarcely add that Sir James was the King's Master Mason for Scotland, but whether he had any connection with the erection of the house is unknown.

At present the whole edifice shows more or less three different erections, all joined together and forming an extensive pile of buildings. The house originally was of an L shape, a favourite form of construction in those days, and as such was the residence of all the four John Brouns. During their occupation the principal entrance was on the west side of the L, as that faced the mill, and by the diversity in the

window openings, mark it as the old part of the house. No initials, dates, or lintels with pious inscriptions are to be found in this old part to identify the Brouns' long connection with the house. Fortunately, one of them, in an excess of loyalty to his king, ornamented the dining- or living-room with an elaborate plaster ceiling. This ceiling is divided into five circles, the centre of each containing some insignia connected with royalty, and from the fact that the house has all along been occupied by resident proprietors, the condition these ornaments are at present in show that they were valued and have come down to us through the care taken by these loyalist owners and their successors. The remarkable thing about the ornamental ceiling in this house is that in Stenhope Mills House, in the same locality, the Scottish Regalia and date appears, not on the ceiling, but affixed on the wall above a fireplace and with the same Latin inscription as in Gorgie House. Old Dalry House and Merchiston Castle, also in the district, have much the same ornaments on ceilings, but the fact that all these four are dated 1661 points to some strong inducement by these separate proprietors to thus give the Scottish Regalia such a prominent place in their private dwelling-houses.

The illustration (fig. 1) perhaps gives better than words what these insignia are like in Gorgie House, as they are the best preserved, and the thought arises, how did they come to be thus displayed here, seeing that those four mansions were all erected before 1661. There is no record of King Charles II. ever having visited or resided in them that year, and we must therefore look elsewhere to account for their presence, for it is certain they mean more than an ornament. The words of the Latin sentence contained in the label below the sword and sceptre supply the answer. A free translation of the words may be submitted as follows: "Our ancestors have given us those 108 kings unconquered." Here we have the genuine sentiments of those who were loyal and faithful to their Stuart king, as before 1660 they were debarred under the iron rule of Cromwell to express or show their sentiments for him. His ruthlessness to such opinions was made an object-lesson to all in their near neighbourhood by the almost total destruction of Reidhall Castle in 1650, which showed that he was not to be trifled with. Therefore the Restoration was to all these loyalists a real joy, and the lairds of Gorgie, Stenhope Mills, Merchiston Castle, and Dalry (probably a great many more) at once gave expression to their long pent feelings by decorating their residences with these arms and motto. There they remain to this day as tangible mementos of joy and thankfulness for the return to power of their beloved king and deliverance from the tyranny of the commonwealth government.

The house remained in its original L shape all the period of the Brouns' occupation, but after Mr George Lind obtained possession he effected an almost complete change on the building. He added a new part to the south-east by filling up the part forming the vacant portion of the L and thus making it an oblong house. He discontinued the western entrance doorway and formed a new one facing the south. In so doing he left a memorial marking this alteration, as over the new doorway he erected an ornamental entablature, or overdoor, which contained his own and his wife's monogram with the date 1710. This stone, which has been removed from its original position, is now

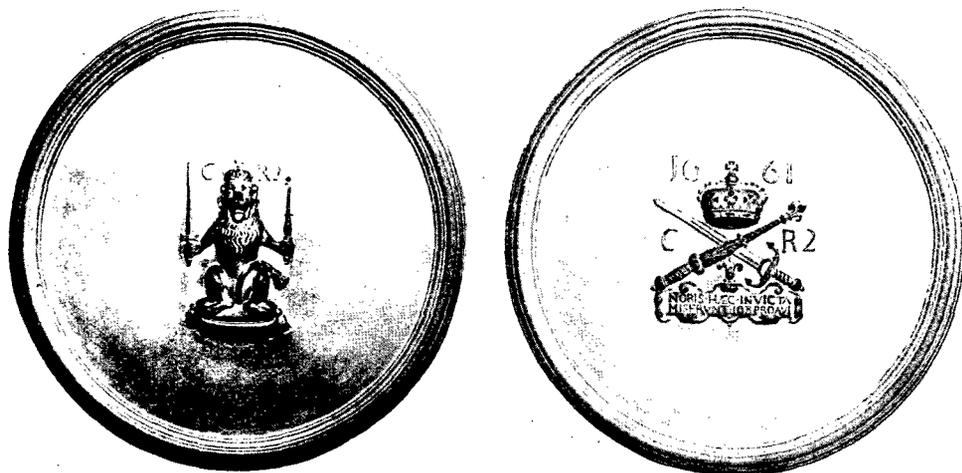


Fig. 1. Plaster Ceiling in Gorgie House.

to be seen built into the east side of one of the boundary walls and nearly indecipherable. It and the oil paintings which decorate the wood panelling of the king's room, which is believed was executed by him or some member of the family, are the only relics of his connection with the house.

In this condition it remained until the Cox family bought the property, and though they occupied the old enlarged house for a number of years after, they decided on making an alteration and addition which practically changed the appearance of the building. This, in the form of an imposing front, completely conceals all the old parts of the house, and they, at the same time, made it the principal entrance. The incorporation of this new east front is clearly seen on its south end, and it is needless to say that as it was built early in the

nineteenth century, at a period when the influence of the Adam style was still in evidence, the interior shows, more or less, his well-known design in its decorative details. Large and finely proportioned public rooms and an imposing hall and staircase blending in a most satisfactory manner with the older parts all emphatically denote that the owners would have nothing but the best.

Thus we have three houses made into one, and as such it has the unique distinction of having been continuously occupied by the several owners for over three hundred years. It is to the care of each of them through storm and sunshine that this fine old manor house is in such wonderful preservation. As we have tried to show, along with this continuity of occupancy the building still shows something tangible of some of these owners. Signs are not wanting that the time is fast approaching when its removal and demolition will take place. The ever-increasing demand by the city of Edinburgh for more houses is bound to call attention to the house and grounds. They are now offered on sale for this purpose, as the large extension of the new housing scheme at Saughton nearby marks Gorgie House as a most covetable position.