

Beadles and bookbinders in an Ancient University

Ladies and Gentlemen,

all students of the University
It is a matter of regret to all of us that the history of Scottish bookbinding should be so incomplete. Dr Mitchell has surveyed the field up to 1650 and has shown what can be done even where there is no great wealth of material. There is no coherent continuous account of Scottish Bookbinders and bookbindings in the second half of the seventeenth century or in the great period of Scottish decorative bindings - the 18th Century. Before this gap can be filled preliminary studies will have to be made of the Scottish bindings of the period in our National and University libraries. My purpose ~~to-night~~ is a limited one - to give you an interim report on some investigations I ~~have been making~~ recently into the bookbindings, plain and ornamental, done for St. Andrews University by its beadle-bookbinders over a period of about 200 years. This interesting race of men, who were employed by the University in this double capacity of Beadle and bookbinder, and who were very often booksellers as well, are not, as far as I know, found in the other Scottish Universities.

2. Dunlop a. f. h. g. n.
My starting point is c.1680 and it is not an arbitrary one. It has been thrust upon me by the accident of the survival of University Muniments. St. Andrews has been fortunate in many ways in the preservation of its old records. The Acta of the Faculty of Arts go back to 1413 and are amongst the oldest in Europe. Dr. Annie Dunlop is now editing the earliest period. The Acta Rectorum are almost equally impressive in range and give us

matriculation lists and Rector's elections from the 16th to the nineteenth century. But there is massive gap in some of the detailed records for the first three-quarters of the 17th C. e.g. The Senate Minutes do not start until 9th March, 1696. The Revolution of 1688 may have something to do with this. It is discouraging to think that there may be bindings in the University Library from the shops of R. Lapraik and Edward Raban when they were printers in the city, which now cannot be identified. The Senate Minutes, which carry on in a largely unchanged form to 1859 when the University administration were a useful source of biographic detail, but for the actual identification of bindings by the beadle-bookbinders, the vouchers which lie behind the Library-quaestor account books proved invaluable. These exist in a very scrappy form for 1683, 1684, 1692 and 1697, and right through from 1720 to the end of the 19th century in ever-increasing detail and complexity. There is too a Library-quaestor account book for the period 1729 to 1809, which was itself bound in calf by a beadle-bookbinder. These were the main sources.

The office of bedellus or beadle in the University is a very ancient one, tho' strangely enough its history has never been written. One of BR. Wardlaw's natural sons was a beadle- Wardlaw, Bp. of St Andrews was the first Chancellor of the University-, and the name of one 16th century beadle- Allan Budge is known. After the 17th century gap in the records, we ~~begin to hear~~ in the senate minutes of the appointment of Archbeadles right up to the end of the 19th century when the post degenerated into the modern University

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thought his repentance genuine for they proceeded to allow him his emoluments for the year of suspension.

The first notice I have found of MacCulloch binding books for the University was in January, 1727 when he was paid 16 pounds 4 sh. Scots for binding and putting new parchment in the Acta Rectorum. Vol. II, and for binding a new book for the University minutes. At this time George Paton was chief of Edinburgh was binding the library books, and McCulloch was only doing occasional binding for the University. Both books are stoutly bound in calf, and are pleasantly tho (somewhat amateurishly ~~decorated~~ decorated in blind tooling. The bindings are stout and strong and have stood up well to 233 years of existence, ~~the~~ the Senate minute-book has been retitled. (How 2 and 3) The ~~tax~~ tools used in decoration are found on many books in the University library bound between ~~xxx~~ 1729 and 1745, and are a useful means of identifying other bindings done in the city of St Andrews, ~~(the not in the University)~~ for McCulloch seems to have carried on a flourishing business as ~~bookseller~~ stationer, bookseller and binder in the town. The tools used by McCulloch on ~~the~~ ^{these} two bindings are also found on the binding of the Minute-book of the Hammerman craft of St. Andrews, and it ~~is~~ is obvious from the book itself, which was very ancient, that someone had rebound it and added extra pages about 1731. And in that year, McCulloch had become a member of the craft, which although it was essentially a Smith craft was of the (omni-gatherum variety and included in its ranks stationers, painters, litsters and glovers as well as smiths. When McCulloch first entered it was on a ~~limited~~ ^{limited} basis, for he was not allowed to fee a servant as a smith, and was only allowed to ~~bind~~ to have apprentices to bookbinding by consent of the craft. He did indenture three ^{APPRENTICES} Alexander Young, David Stedman, and William Arnott before 1739, ~~when~~ ^{in what year} he was made a full member of the craft. McCulloch was ~~deacon~~ at different times both deacon and Doxmaster to the craft and was obviously a respected citizen. In 1738, when he had been Archbeadle for 20 years, he made a petition to the University to be made their official agent for copyright books, their binder and bookseller. In making this petition he was cutting right across the business of John Paton, the Edinburgh bookseller and father of George Paton, antiquary who for the last twenty years had been the University's ~~agent~~ ^{agent} for ~~binding~~ ^{binding} books.