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'The Glasgow Magazine' 1770

R. H. Carnie

THE PERIODICAL of the above name is of some historical importance as it was the first attempt to found a magazine in Glasgow. Miss Craig says in her study, *The Scottish periodical press 1750-1789* (p. 45):

Who the publishers of this magazine were, or from what part of the city it proceeded, it is impossible to say. That the publication was discontinued immediately after the appearance of the first issue is almost certain.

Miss Craig was unable to locate a copy of any issue of this magazine but points out that W. J. Couper in his notes on the Glasgow periodical press states that the publication began on 10 January 1770, and that the issue was fortnightly.¹ She also quotes Mason's *Public and private libraries of Glasgow*, Glasgow 1885, p. 286, to the effect that only one number was issued.

A volume of miscellaneous numbers of Scottish magazines has recently come into my possession confirming the accuracy of Couper's information and proving that Mason was wrong in asserting that only one number was issued. The volume contains *inter alia* two numbers of the magazine. Physical examination allows Couper's description to be amplified slightly. Each number consists of 32 pages, octavo in fours. The signatures for the first number, dated 10 January 1770, are A-D⁴. Leaf D₄ is unfortunately missing, but it is clear from the catchword on p. 30 that it existed. The second number, dated 24 January 1770, has page numbers 33-64 and signatures E-G⁴. The headline is THE / GLASGOW MAGAZINE. / JANUARY 10th, 1770. Further information about the magazine is given in an advertisement in the *Glasgow Journal* for 28 December-4 January 1770².

1. 'The Glasgow periodical press in the eighteenth century', *Records of the Glasgow Bibliographical Society*, viii (1930). Miss Craig also had access to Couper's unpublished notes.

2. I am grateful to the City Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow, for drawing my attention to this advertisement. A Xerox copy of the two numbers of the magazine has been deposited in the Mitchell Library.

To be published, upon the second Wednesday of January next, THE GLASGOW MAGAZINE. Containing, the history of the Parliament; essays either original, or partly extracted from periodical publications, or other works of merit, whether political, historical, or literary; upon agriculture, trade, and manufactories; select pieces of poetry and new songs; news foreign and domestic; births, marriages, deaths, preferments, etc., being a cheap, curious, and instructive amusement for readers of every denomination. Conditions:

- I. A number consisting of two sheets, or thirty two pages large octavo, stitched in blue paper, shall be published regularly on Wednesday morning, once every two weeks.
- II. Every six months will complete a volume, to which will be given (gratis) an index and title page.
- III. The price of each number will be three pence, when called for, sent to gentlemen's lodgings, or carriers quarters in town; or six shillings and sixpence per year.

The publishers and printers were, presumably, Joseph Galbraith and Company, whose proposals for Clarke's *General martyrology* appear in the same advertisement, but there is no confirmation of this on the two extant numbers of the periodical themselves. Until other copies turn up there is no way of knowing how long the magazine lasted, but the undistinguished nature of its contents makes it unlikely that it survived more than a few issues, as does the fact that no further advertisements in the *Glasgow Journal* have been traced.

The volume also contains the first number of *The Glasgow Museum* for Monday, 11 January 1773, which was a better piece of work, described at some length by Miss Craig (p. 47). Her account can have two small particulars added to it from close perusal of the first number. She names the printer, Alexander Adam, but not the publisher *Andrew Stalker*. She also omits the price of the first number—2½d.