

Notes from two Edinburgh goldsmiths' wills from 1577

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(1) **Adame Alane**, registered 5 July 1577, NRS CC8/8/5, p. 392.

The testament testamentary & inventar of the guds & geir soumes of money & dettis pertening to umqle Adame Alane goldsmyth burges in Edr the tyme of his deceis, Quha deceist upoun the xxiiij day of Merche in the yeir of god jm vc lxxvj yeiris ... gevin up be himself ... given up be Isobell Haistie his relict as concerns the inventar of his guds ... quhome he nominat his onelie executrix ... befoir thir witnesses Johne Mosman, George Heriot goldsmyth burges in Edr & Adame Yule with uthirs dyvers

In the first ye said umqle Adam Alane had ye guds geir soumes of money & detts of the vail & precis efter following pertening to him the tyme of his deceis foirsaid, viz

ffoure unce wecht of brokin gold price of ye unce wecht xvj li summa lxxiiij li.

Item twa rings of gold with turquesses price of ye pece xxx s summa iij li.

Item ane litill sapheir weyand ane croun wecht & ane half & ane litill rois ring set with thrie turquesses weyand ane crown wecht & ane half price of ye croun xl s summa viij li.

Item thrie targatts & thrie hartis of gold weyand xvj crowne wecht of gold & ane half price of ye crown xl s summa xxxiiij li.¹

¹ 'targatt' – brooch, locket, or hat badge.

Item viij litill mase treis price of yame xvij s.²

Item certane small perle in ane litill buist estimat to L s.³

Item ane buist of stanes estimate foure merkis.⁴

Item foure unce of borras price ij s.⁵

Item vj unce of a[n]maling price x s.⁶

Item xxvij pund wecht of sondeseir price of ye pund xxx d summa iij li vij s vj d.⁷

Item xiiij unce of antemoniu[m] price therof vj s.⁸

Item tua littil skynis price of ye pece xxx s summa iij li.

Item twa stane of lint price yerof xxx s.

Item in utentilis & domcilis with the abulyements of his body estimate by ye airship estimate to five merks.⁹

[end of inventory, p. 393]

² 'mase treis' – unknown, appear in other goldsmith's stocks. 'treis' – trees, possibly wood for mazers.

³ 'buist' – small box or coffer.

⁴ 'merk' – 13s-4d.

⁵ 'borras' – borax.

⁶ 'anmaling' – enamelling, something used for enamelling. Compare 'hanmilling of all cuilouris' found in a later transcript of sixteenth-century records, J. Munro & H. Steuart Fotheringham, *Edinburgh Goldsmiths' Minutes* (Edinburgh, SRS, 2006), 215. The enamelling there described (c.1554) was for coloured foils set under stones.

⁷ sondeseir – not yet identified, appears as 'sandeseir' in the later transcript of sixteenth-century records, see *Edinburgh Goldsmiths' Minutes*, 215.

⁸ 'antemonium' – antimony.

⁹ This is the universal formula for evaluation of clothes and household goods. Adam Alane was not wealthy in comparison with other goldsmith financiers in Edinburgh.

Item ther wes awand to the said umqle Adam Alane be the laird of Glenlyon xj li xs
quherof ressavit by the defunct befor his deceis vj li ...

Item be Alexander McDowell skinner for the rest¹⁰ of the prece of ane unicorne¹¹ x s.

Item be Henry Wardlawes wyf liij s iiij d.

Item be James Lyell in Edr upoun pledge of ane suord, sexteene schillings.¹²

Item ther wes awand be the said umqle Adam Alane to Jonet Fairbairne for ane
croun wecht & ane half of gold iij li.

Item to the laird of [?Belwod] for ane yeris male of his hous ...

Item to Thomas Lyndsay for croun wecht of gold ...

Item to James Wilsounes wyf for ane croun wecht of gold wantane thrie granes
xxxvj s.

Item to Alexander Lyndesay for xij s striveling money the soum of iij lix s.

Item to William Heriot for his fie ...

¹⁰ 'rest', outstanding remainder of a sum of money.

¹¹ 'unicorn', a Scottish gold coin.

¹² 'pledge', a loan of 16 shillings secured on the pledge or pawn of a sword.

(2) **Michael Sym**, registered 17 Nov. 1577, NRS CC8/8/5, p. 591.

... umqle Michael Sym goldsmyth burges in Edr ... quha deceist as intestat in Londoun¹³ upoun the xvj day of July the yeir of god jm vc lxxvij yeiris ... given up by Nicole Sym his father ...

In the first the said umqle Michael Sym had ... viz ane dyamont with ane rubie & five saferis estimat to v li.

Item xj strings estimat to xj s.

Item viij doublattis estimat to xij s.

Item thrie couppis estimat to xij s.

Item foure [left blank] estimate to ij s.

Item thrie counterfut sauseris price iij s.¹⁴

Item vij dosane of serviettes estimate to xxx s.

Item nyne small turkasses estimat to x s.

Item ane litill hart of gold estimate to xxx s.

Item foure mase treis price therof xl s.¹⁵

¹³ Sym had travelled to London for Regent Morton and was to discuss his commission his Francis Walsingham, *Calendar of State Papers Foreign*, 1575-1577, p. 150: TNA SP 52/26/2 f.218: William Boyd, *Calendar State Papers Scotland*, vol. 5 (Edinburgh, 1907), pp. 182, 197-8: Sym was made freeman of the goldsmith craft in 1575, he had a daughter Margaret, his wife had already died, *Edinburgh Goldsmiths' Minutes*, 402.

¹⁴ 'counterfut' – a common Scottish word for a particular kind of dish, perhaps used on the table/dresser/cupboard which in some settings was called a 'compter'. The word 'counterfeit' with its modern meaning was also current at the time, especially describing textiles which resembled other types or imitation precious stones. These 'counterfut' saucers could have been Sym's own domestic furnishings, as the listing of table linen suggests.

¹⁵ 'mase treis' – not yet identified, but clearly something stocked by goldsmiths and featured in other similar inventories.

Item xxx unce of a[n]mallng estimat to L s.¹⁶

Item ane uther pund weicht of a[n]maling estimate to L s.

Item thrie unce & iij quarters of borras estimat to xij s.¹⁷

Item five grot wecht of brokin silver estimate to xij s.

Item viij unce wecht of gold price of the unce overhead xx li summa j^c lx li.

Item ane toipas estimat to xl s.¹⁸

Item five cristaleyne glasses estimat to xxv s.

Item xij small rubeis estimat to viij li.

Item twa small dyamonts estimat to viij li.

Item ane blew safeir estimat to iiij li.

Item ane a[m]antis estimat to xl s.¹⁹

Item ane uther greit safeir estimat to xl s.

Item ane uther litill safeir estimat to xl s.

Item ane rubie set in leid estimat to viij li.

Item Lvij stanes of the [?commoun] sorte estimat to thrie li.

Item in utentilis & domicilis by the airship estimate to the soum of ten merks.

Summa of the inventar _____ ij^c xxvij li ij s iiij d.

¹⁶ 'a[n]mallng' – enamelling.

¹⁷ 'borras' – borax.

¹⁸ 'toipas' – topaz.

¹⁹ 'amautis' – amethyst.