

The Art of Memory

①

- c1390 Regius MS (Old Charges) claims that Masonry came to Britain during the reign of King Athelstan [c895-940].
- c1410 Cooke MS claims that Masonry was introduced to Britain by St Alban [3rd-century].
- 1598 First Schaw Statutes
- 1598 First recorded initiations of Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft in the Minutes of the Aitchison's Haven Lodge, near Edinburgh.
- 1599 Second Schaw Statutes
- 1603 King James VI of Scotland becomes King James I of England.
- 1637 First known reference to the 'Masone Word' dated 13 October, in *A Relation of Proceedings Concerning the Affairs of The Kirk Of Scotland from August 1637 to July 1638*, by the Earl of Rothes.
- 1638 Henry Adamson, *The Muses Threnodie*.
- 1641 Sir Robert Moray initiated on 20 May, 1641. The earliest verified record of the initiation of a Speculative Freemason.

②

The tenth article is for to know,
Among the craft, to high and low,
There shall no master supplant another,
But be together as **sister and brother**,
In this curious craft, all and some,
That belongeth to a master mason.
Nor shall he supplant no other man,
That hath taken a work him upon,
In pain thereof that is so strong

Regius MS c 1390

③

Item It is ordanit be ye generall warden, That ye warden of ye lug of kilwynning, being the secund lug in Scotland, tak tryall of ye airt of memorie and science yrof, of everie fellowe of

craft and everie prenteiss according to ayr of yr vocations; and in cais yat yai haue lost ony point yrof dvied to thame To pay the penaltie as followis for yr slewthfulness, viz., Ilk fallow of craft, xx s., Ilk prentess, x s., and that to be payit to ye box for ane commoun weill zeirliche & yat conforme to the commoun vs and pratik of the commoun lugs of this realm.

*Item: It is ordained by the General Warden, that the warden of the Lodge of Kilwinning, being the second lodge in Scotland, **take trial of the art of memory and science thereof**, of every fellow of craft and every prentice according to each of their vocations; and in case that they have lost any point thereof make them pay the penalty as follows for their slothfulness, viz. Fellow of Craft: 20s, Prentice 10s. and that to be paid to the box for the common good and that conform to the common use and practice of the common lodges of the realm.*

Second Schaw Statutes 1598

④

On Monday 13, Rothes came to [the] Thesaurer at night to visit him, who did shew his fears that the frequent meiting of so many wold give his Majestie discontent; and that also he had bein taxed formerlie for keeping correspondance with some of the nobilitie, which he had alwayes done for the good of his Majesteis service, thogh his adversaries interpret the same as unfaithfullnes, and said he had the Masone word among the nobilitie; yitt was he conscious to himself, as he had sought speciallie peace, and had a regaird to the nobilitie, bot his speciall aim was his Majesteis service, and that now he had receaved approbatione of his proceidings; and shew Rothes a letter from his Majestie, at least the end therof, saying, that for the willingnes of these noblemen to his service, he sould think on it, &c.

*On Monday 13, Rothes came to the Treasurer at night to visit him, who did show his fears that the frequent meeting of so many would give his Majesty discontent; and that also he had been taxed formerly for keeping correspondence with some of the nobility, which he had always done for the good of his Majesty's service, though his adversaries interpret the same as unfaithfulness, and said **he had the Mason word among the nobility**; that was he conscious to himself, as he had sought specially peace, and had a regard to the nobility, but his special aim was his Majesty's service, and that now he had received approbation of his proceedings; and showed Rothes a letter from his Majesty, at least the end therof, saying, that for the willingness of these noblemen to his service, he should think on it, &c.*

Earl of Rothes 1637

⑤

Therefore I courage take, and hope to see
A bridge yet built, although I aged be;
More stately, firm, more sumptuous and fair,
Than any former age could yet compare.
Thus Gall assured me it would be so,
And my good genius truly doth it know:
For what we do presage is not in grosse,
For we be brethren of the rosie cross;
We have the mason-word and second sight,
Things for to come we can foretell aright,
And shall we show what misterie we mean,
In fair acrosticks Carolus Rex is seen,
Describ'd upon that bridge in perfect gold,
By skilfull art this cleerlie we behold,
With all the scutcheon of Great Britain's king,
Which unto Perth most joyfull news shall bring.

Henry Adamson 1638

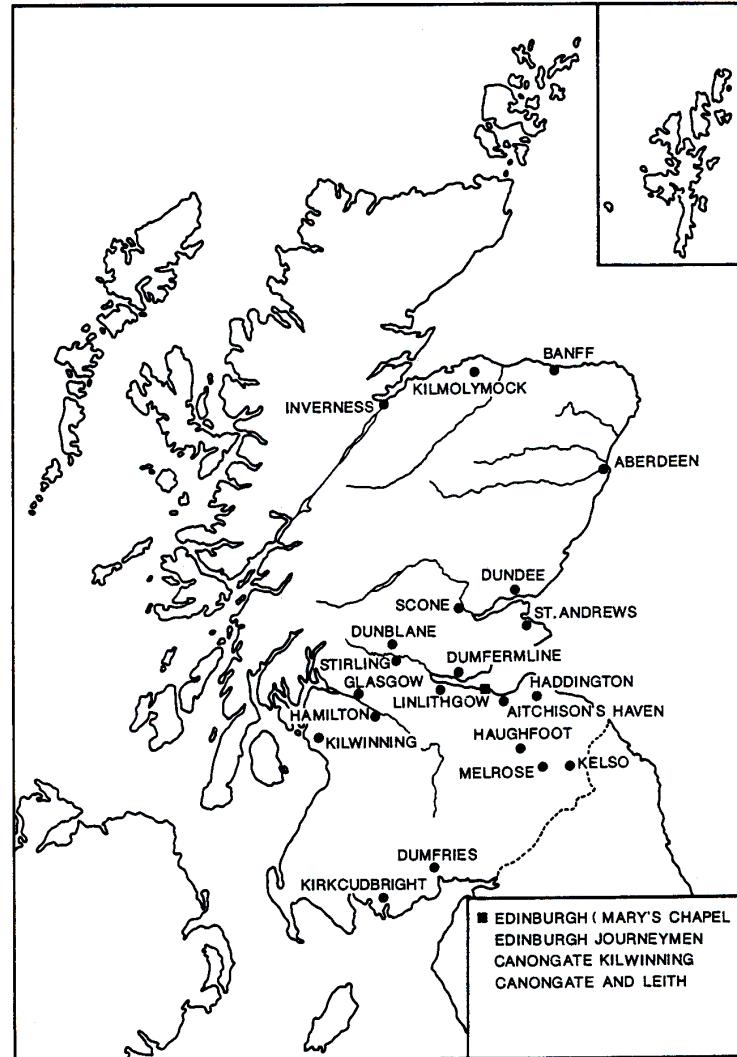
The Art of Memory

⑥

Masonic Lodges in Scotland

(Arranged by date of earliest references)

- Aitchison's Haven, 9 January 1599
- Edinburgh, 31 July 1599
- St. Andrews, 27 November 1599
- Kilwinning, 28 December 1599
- Stirling, 28 December 1599
- Haddington, 1599
- Dunfermline, 1600-1
- Glasgow, 31 December 1613
- Dundee, 1627-8
- Linlithgow, 2 March 1654
- Scone (Perth), 24 December 1658
- Aberdeen, 1670
- Melrose, 28 December 1674
- Canongate Kilwinning, 20 December 1677
- Inverness, 27 December 1678
- Dumfries, 20 May 1687
- Canongate and Leith, 29 May 1688
- Kircudbright, c. 1691
- Hamilton, 25 March 1695
- Dunblane, April, 1695
- Kelso, 2 June 1701
- Haughfoot, 22 December 1702
- Banff, 1703
- Kilmolymock (Elgin), 27 December 1704
- Edinburgh Journeymen, 1707-12



Map of early (pre-1710) masonic lodges in Scotland

⑦

References

Cooper, R. L. D. (2006). *Cracking the Freemason's Code*. London: Rider.

Kidd, K. (2009). *Haunted Chambers: The Lives of Early Women Freemasons*. New Orleans LA : Cornerstone Book Publishers.

Schuchard, M. K. (2002). *Restoring the Temple of Vision : Cabalistic Freemasonry and Stuart Culture* (Brill's Studies in Intellectual History, Vol. 110). Leiden: Brill.

Stevenson, D. (1988). *The Origins of Freemasonry : Scotland's Century, 1590-1710*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Yates, F. A. (1966). *The Art of Memory*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.