

Manasses Lyle

Most people in the Trades House will know that Manasses Lyle was a Deacon Convener eight times, but few know what type of man he was, it seems fair to assume that he must have been popular as he attained the highest office in the Trades House eight times and to do so he would have been selected as one of three people on a short leet which was sent to the Magistrates and Councillors to choose the new Deacon Convener. So a following in the Trades House and the Councillors was essential to gain office.

The records show that Manasses gained his burgess ticket on 21st December 1615, through marriage to Bessie, Lawful daughter to Thomas Barr, Tailor, Burgess. Thomas Barr received his burgess ticket as a Far Hand on 20th October 1584.

Manasses was Deacon of the Skinners in the following years 1628/29, 1635, 1637 and 1640. Being Deacon multiple time was not uncommon and during the same period James Peadie was Deacon of the Skinners for six years.

In October 1632, after the election of Ninnian Anderson to Deacon Convener, Manasses was put on the leet for the next Deacon Convener.

It is clear that Manasses was not a shy retiring type of chap as in 1636 he made a complaint against Johne Liper, Hamerman, to the Trades House which he won.

The next thing we learn about Manasses was that he was selected to ride to Edinburgh with three others to represent the Trades to the Towns Commissioners. Each had an allowance and the hire of their horse paid for them.

In October 1642, Manasses became a member of the Dean of Guild Court and the following year was elected Deacon Convener for the first time. In 1646, Manasses was once again elected Deacon Convener but lost the 1647 election. 1648 is a strange year as Manasses gains the Convenership in June 1648, but at the October election, Manasses was in disgrace as there was apparently some shenanigans with the June election and he was struck from the leet and removed from the House.

It was not until April 1652 that Manasses was put forward and elected Deacon Convener and he was re-elected in September 1652.

In October 1655 there was an attack on Manasses by Patrick Clark late Deacon of Weavers saying that Manasses Lyle was not worthy to bear office as Deacon Convener. Patrick was punished for his attack and he was not allowed to be an officer and was fined £40 and to be remanded until it was paid and give apologise to Manasses. Patrick was not the only person to object to Manasses and the House ruled that if anyone decried the Deacon Convener or any Deacon, if found guilty would be banned from holding office in their craft. This was not the end of the issue as in November 1655 James Elphinstoun, glass Wright and Jon Daniell Wright were banned from holding office due to remarks made against Manasses.

In January 1661, James Phrank, John Kirkwood, James Wadrop and Will Hunter were accused of falsely and maliciously lying against Manasses, the present Deacon Convener. The meeting also cleared Manasses of all charges laid against him.

In October 1661 Manasses became Deacon Convener again and was elected for the last time in October 1669.