

The Burgh Register of Sasines of Glasgow

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*Why the Volumes of the Burgh Register
of Sasines from 1694 to 1927 should be
retained in Glasgow and should
not be sent to Edinburgh for
permanent custody*

by
David Murray
LL.D., F.S.A.

Formerly Dean of the Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow

Glasgow
Jackson, Wylie and Co.
Publishers to the University
1927

*With Mr. David Murray's
Compliments*

*169 West George Street,
Glasgow, 11th May 1927.*

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THE UNIVERSITY COURT at its meeting on 10th February, 1927, passed the following resolution :—

That the Court request the Finance Committee of the Corporation to receive a deputation on the question of the suggested permanent transfer of the volumes of the Burgh Register of Sasines to Edinburgh and Authorise the deputation to lay before the Committee certain considerations of weight and interest which have been brought to the attention of the Court by Dr. David Murray.

The following were appointed to appear before the Finance Committee of the Corporation in the event of their agreeing to receive a deputation : The Principal, Mr. William Brodie and Dr. David Murray.

As a Memorandum of the verbal statements to be made to the Finance Committee by the representatives of the Court the following Reasons then to be submitted by the writer have been printed.

DAVID MURRAY.

169 WEST GEORGE STREET,
GLASGOW, February, 1927.

The Burgh Register of Sasines of Glasgow

REASONS

WHY THE VOLUMES OF THE BURGH REGISTER OF SASINES FROM 1694 TO 1927 SHOULD BE RETAINED IN GLASGOW AND SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO EDINBURGH FOR PERMANENT CUSTODY.

1. There is no obligation upon Glasgow to surrender these volumes. There is no Authority which is entitled to ask that they be given up.

2. If the volumes were given up and permanently transferred to Edinburgh, this would be a purely voluntary act on the part of Glasgow. The decision lies with the Town Council of Glasgow, and before such a Resolution could be passed it would be necessary that the Council should be satisfied that such transfer would be in the interest of the City and consistent with its dignity, position and traditions.

3. The Burgh Register of Sasines is wholly local in character. It relates to Glasgow, and to Glasgow alone.

4. It forms an integral and important part of the Burgh Records of Glasgow.

It covers the period 1694 to 1927, and extends to about 1500 volumes and records the history of

lands and tenements within the ancient burgh, which embraces an area of nearly three square miles.

5. Before the commencement of this Register registration of title was effected by means of the Town Clerks' Protocols. Of these there is a large collection amongst the Burgh Records, extending from the year 1547 to 1696. These Protocols cannot be given away. A Burgh cannot alienate any of its charters or records. This is only possible as regards the Burgh Register of Sasines by a provision in the recent Burgh Registers (Scotland) Act, which authorises a Town Council, if it so resolves, to deliver the Burgh Register of Sasines to the Keeper of the Records in Edinburgh for permanent custody.

This enactment was intended to apply to cases of small burghs which had a difficulty in preserving their Registers of Sasines. It was not anticipated that a Burgh such as Glasgow would contemplate the giving up of the volumes of its Register and sending them to Edinburgh for permanent custody.

6. The Protocols embody the history of Glasgow while it was a small country town, whose chief industry was salmon fishing and the curing and exporting of salmon.

The Burgh Register of Sasines gives the story of Glasgow's growth and expansion from 1694 to the present time. When the Register opens, Glasgow was still a charming town surrounded with gardens and orchards. The Register tells of small one- and two-storey houses on the principal streets, with gardens and wells, of how they passed from burgess

to burgess, and of how they changed in character from time to time. It was in 1696—just after the Register opens—that the Town Council began to take an interest in the development of the Burgh, and encouraged the Merchants' House and the Trades' House to build tenements at the corner of the Trongait and of the Gallowgait and Saltmarket. It was in 1710 that Bell's Wynd, the first new street of the Burgh, was opened, followed a few years later by Candleriggs and King Street. Industrial life then began, and the Register tells of Malt-kilns and Roperies, of Tanneries and Sugar-houses. The Minutes of the Town Council give much information as to burghal life and municipal history, but for many details recourse must be had to the Burgh Register of Sasines.

7. I have known the Burgh Record Room for more than sixty years, and in my younger days went over most of the Protocols and a considerable part of the earlier volumes of the Register of Sasines, took notes of their contents, and have from time to time used the information then obtained in connexion with the history of Glasgow.

The Record Room has always been well kept, and has been looked upon with pride by the citizens of Glasgow. Many well-known scholars have worked in it: William Motherwell and Laurence Hill, Joseph Robertson and John Buchanan, Joseph Bain and John O. Mitchell.

Sir James Marwick was a Record scholar of great repute, and when he was appointed Town Clerk he devoted much care and attention to the City

Records. These were carefully gone over, repaired, re-arranged and inventoried. He next suggested to the Town Council the desirability of publishing their contents. The proposal was approved, and the series of municipal publications was begun and subsequently carried on by Dr. Renwick and Sir John Lindsay. These volumes are recognised as of first-rate importance, and have placed Glasgow in a foremost position as a contributor to Scottish Burghal history and institutions.

The University were of opinion that work of this character was of great value and merited recognition. The University accordingly conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. on Sir James Marwick, John Buchanan, John O. Mitchell and Robert Renwick in recognition of their work on the Records of Glasgow.

8. Dr. Renwick's Abstracts of the early Protocols for the first time afforded definite information regarding the topography of the upper part of the old burgh, and with the assistance of the City Engineer he prepared maps showing the lay-out of the burgh in the neighbourhood of the cathedral. The like information exists in the Burgh Register of Sasines regarding the other portions of the old burgh, and without reference to its pages it is impossible to determine with certainty the line of its streets, the courses of the streams which used to thread its surface, now buried under-ground, the sites of old buildings, their accessories and boundaries.

Dr. Renwick viewed the early Protocols princi-

pally from a topographical standpoint, but they likewise contain much information regarding the people of Glasgow, and their social and economic surroundings. The same applies to the Sasine Register.

9. The interesting papers of the late Mr. John Buchanan, LL.D., in *Glasgow Past and Present*, on the opening up of Argyle Street and the streets to the north and south are founded on this Register. Without the minute information it affords, it would have been impossible to construct the story. The same applies to what he wrote regarding the Stockwell and the Trongait, the Saltmarket and the Gallowgait, and the eastern part of the burgh. These papers have been freely drawn upon by subsequent writers, but it is the Burgh Register of Sasines which underlies the whole. As yet this Register has been only partially explored, and much remains to be examined. No authentic history of Glasgow can be prepared except on the information the Burgh Register of Sasines provides.

10. The University has from time to time had under consideration the appointment of a Lecturer on Diplomatic and Palaeography, and did in fact appoint the late George Neilson, LL.D., as such lecturer, but he died before he could take up the appointment, and a new appointment has not yet been made. For such an appointment a large store of original material is required, and for this I have all along looked to the contents of the Burgh Record Room and of the Record Room of the Sheriff Clerk. On this subject I said in an

article in the *Scottish Historical Review* for January, 1927 :

"There would be no difficulty in carrying it out in Glasgow. A room in the County Buildings, adjacent to the Sheriff Clerk's Record Office, would, I have no doubt, be readily granted by the Court House Commissioners, in which the Records would be explained and studied and then returned to the safes. The Sheriff Clerk could not be expected to undertake this work, and it might therefore be necessary to add an archivist to his staff. A similar arrangement would have to be made as regards the Burgh Records, but the Town Council would no doubt gladly provide the accommodation and render the necessary assistance. The archivist on the Sheriff Clerk's staff could be appointed to the same office under the Corporation, as he would only require to attend at one repository at a time. Again, the Lecturer on Palaeography might hold the position of archivist as regards both repositories.

"As to the necessity of local Records for University teaching, I may refer to the reply of the University of Liverpool to the Local Records Committee of 1902. What was in contemplation by that Committee was the establishment of new local Record offices, and as to this the University suggested that such office as regards Liverpool should be the muniment room of the University ; but this is a local detail. On the general question they are of opinion that in every University there should be a Chair or Lectureship of Palaeography and Local History and Archaeology. 'It would

be the duty,' they say, 'of the Professor or Lecturer to undertake the training of students within the area, most of whom would be graduates resident in the district, in palaeography and diplomatic. Such students would be the natural and competent persons to undertake, under the direction of the Professor or Lecturer, the immense task of investigating and arranging the materials for local history. Besides the work of palaeography and diplomatic in the collection and assortment of material, the production of local history of a high kind on very various subjects should be the natural outcome of such a Chair or Lectureship and School. In addressing your Committee it is superfluous to add anything on the necessity of making history a living study through intimate and constant use of material and sources. Such a central collection of local Records can most easily give to the student of history such advantages as the students of the natural sciences possess in their laboratories in the practice and methods of research which result in fresh contributions to knowledge. The provision of competent training and direction might be expected to produce work on local Records not, as hitherto, sporadic and individual, but systematic, comprehensive and continuous, such as your Committee would desire to see.' "

Had Dr. Neilson lived there can be little doubt that ere this he would, with the authority of the Town Council, have been using the Register of Sasines and other burgh records for teaching and for research.

11. Glasgow has taken pride, and justly so, for the excellence of its municipal arrangements; it would be an extraordinary confession that these have now broken down, and that it is unable to take charge of its own Burgh Register of Sasines. This Register, although extensive in bulk, forms but small part of the contents of the Record Room. The removal of the Register from the Record Room to Edinburgh would vitally affect the value of the Burgh Records as a whole, but it would still leave an enormous mass of records to be cared for and administered by the burgh.

12. The reason suggested by the Town Clerk for such transference is explained by him in the *Minute* of the Finance Committee of 28th January, 1927 (p. 686). Under the Burgh Registers (Scotland) Act of the last session of Parliament the volumes of the Burgh Register of Sasines from 1870 to 1927, but no others, require to be deposited with the Keeper of the Records in Edinburgh. Following upon this, the Town Clerk says:

"It seems to me that it would not be a convenient arrangement, either for members of the legal profession or for the public generally, that some of the volumes of the Burgh Register should be in Glasgow and some in Edinburgh, and I have accordingly to recommend that the Corporation should pass a resolution that the whole volumes and records of the Burgh Register should be transferred permanently to the Register House, Edinburgh."

It is the case that in terms of the above Act the

volumes of the Register from 1870 to 1927 do require to be transmitted to the Record Office in Edinburgh. This, however, is merely a temporary arrangement. The volumes of records so transmitted must, in terms of the above Act, be returned from Edinburgh from time to time, and in the end will all be restored to Glasgow, and the City will again have in its own custody a Register which presents an unbroken record of the history of its land from 1547 to 1927, a period of 380 years.

The effect of the Town Clerk's proposal would be to prevent this taking place; and to deprive Glasgow of the custody of one of the most important of its records, to the prejudice of its position as a great city.

This temporary transmission to Edinburgh of the volumes of the Burgh Register from 1870 to 1927 is not required for registration purposes, but for carrying out a collateral and experimental scheme known as the "Search Sheet," which has been in hand in the Sasine Office in Edinburgh since the year 1870. For continuing the Search Sheet after the Burgh Registers have been merged in the appropriate County Registers, the officials of the Sasine Office, in order to prepare entries relating to burghal property for the Search Sheet, consider it necessary to have means of checking these with the recent portion of the Burgh Registers. The clause in the Burgh Registers Act requiring the temporary deposit of these volumes in the Record Office in Edinburgh is for the purpose of affording such access.

Assuming that it is not a convenient arrangement that some of the volumes of the Burgh Register of Sasines should be kept in Glasgow and some deposited in Edinburgh, this results from an arrangement which the Legislature considered desirable for bringing into operation the new system for the registration of deeds relating to burghal property, and which it was evident would cause temporary inconvenience, and would deprive burghs of the custody of a portion of their records for a certain period.

The proposal to transfer the whole of the Burgh Register to Edinburgh for permanent custody would not lessen such inconvenience, but would seriously aggravate it. The proposal would permanently deprive the community of Glasgow not only of the volumes of the Register from 1870 to 1927, but of the whole series of volumes from 1694 to 1927. This would be a sacrifice which the City of Glasgow is not called upon to make. The transfer would not only cause much inconvenience to the community of Glasgow, but would be a serious blow to the prestige and dignity of the City.

Turning, however, to the reasons suggested by the Town Clerk for the recommendation he makes, it is to be observed :

(a) The fact that the volumes of the Burgh Register from 1870 to 1927 will be transmitted temporarily to Edinburgh, while the older portion of the series from 1694 to 1870 will remain in

Glasgow, will cause no inconvenience, as is suggested, to the members of the Legal profession in Glasgow. They have made no representation to the Town Council of such inconvenience. They have not suggested that the Burgh Register of Sasines should be sent to Edinburgh for safe custody.

The Legal profession are concerned only with the volumes of the Register from 1886 to 1927. The volumes before that date are not required for ordinary current business. In the case of the sale of a house or other property, or of a loan on such property, the purchaser or lender must have a Certificate that there are no burdens affecting the title of the seller or borrower, or if there are such burdens a statement of what they are. This Certificate is obtained by a search in the appropriate Register of Sasines for a period which at present extends to forty years prior to the date of settlement of the transaction, but which after 1st January, 1930, will be restricted to twenty years. Such searches are not made by the Law Agents concerned, but by Professional Searchers who make such searching their sole business. These gentlemen are resident in Edinburgh, where the General Register of Sasines is kept. They also make searches in the Burgh Register of Sasines of Glasgow, and transactions relating to burghal property in Glasgow are settled upon their Certificates of Search.

The temporary deposit of the later portion of the Burgh Register in Edinburgh will for the time being facilitate the work of the searchers, as it will render

a journey to Glasgow unnecessary. Year by year the necessity of a search in the Burgh Register will, however, disappear, as deeds relating to burgage property are recorded in the General Register. In the course of twenty years there will be no occasion to search the Burgh Register at all, as all transactions relating to burgage property will then appear upon the General Register of Sasines.

The Burgh Register of Sasines is the foundation of the title to all burgage property, and it is proper, as heretofore, that it should be in Glasgow and available for reference at any time.

The older portion of the Register prior to 1886, although not required in connexion with current legal business, is occasionally required to be referred to for clearing up questions as to the boundaries between adjoining properties and their relations to one another. If the volume of the Register so requiring to be consulted were later than 1870, it would undoubtedly be an inconvenience to a Law Agent in Glasgow that he had to go to Edinburgh to consult the Glasgow Burgh Register, but such inconvenience would not be lessened, but would be aggravated by the removal of the earlier volumes to Edinburgh. Such inquiries for general legal purposes, however, generally relate to volumes of earlier date than 1870, seldom to those of later date. The point arose recently in my own experience. It was considered necessary to obtain certain information from the Burgh Register of Sasines at a date long prior to 1870. This could be obtained at once and upon the spot by the Law

Agent concerned. If the suggestion for sweeping off these older volumes and sending them to Edinburgh were given effect to, it would result in great and uncalled for annoyance and inconvenience.

The City of Glasgow itself owns much property within the old burgh, and it would be absurd that the Town Council should permanently transfer the record which contains the title and particulars of such property to Edinburgh.

(b) As respects students and inquirers interested in the City of Glasgow :—

The temporary deposit in Edinburgh of the volumes of the Burgh Register from 1870 to 1927 may cause some inconvenience to historical students in Glasgow, but the older volumes are as a rule more often required than the more recent volumes for purposes of research and for ascertaining the growth and development of the old town.

To remove the older volumes to Edinburgh would not take away this inconvenience, but would very seriously increase it. It would handicap Glasgow students and inquirers, with no resulting benefit to others. Local Records must be consulted upon the spot, and for their elucidation it is often necessary to refer to other portions of the local records. It would be a monstrous thing that local students interested in the history of Glasgow and the development of the burgh should have to go to Edinburgh to consult the Burgh Register of Sasines, and they ought not to be put in this position.

No request has been made by historical students or inquirers for the proposed transfer.

The recommendation of the Town Clerk if given effect to would destroy Civic patriotism, and would deprive Glasgow of one of its greatest ornaments,—a stately and unbroken series of municipal records. Why should the City court dishonour?

13. Beyond the reason suggested by the Town Clerk for the transfer of the whole of the Burgh Register of Sasines to Edinburgh, several other reasons have been informally suggested;—

- (a) That the volumes would be better preserved in Edinburgh than in Glasgow.
- (b) That by the transfer Glasgow would be relieved of responsibility for the custody of the Register.
- (c) That it would be for the benefit of historical research that local records should be kept together in the General Register House, Edinburgh.
- (d) That in Edinburgh students desiring to consult the Register would have the assistance of experts.
- (e) That in Edinburgh indexes to the Burgh Register of Sasines would be prepared, which would be of advantage to inquirers.
- (f) That the Burgh Register of Sasines applies only to what is now a comparatively small portion of the area of the city of Glasgow, and that deeds affecting land outside the burgh are recorded in the General Register of Sasines kept in Edinburgh.
- (g) That the Register is merely of antiquarian interest.

Taking these points *seriatim* :

- (a) *Better preservation.* It is not the case that the volumes of the Register would be better or more carefully preserved in Edinburgh than they are now kept in Glasgow. If this were the case, then the Record Room in Glasgow is in a condition in which it ought not to be. This cannot be suggested by the Town Council of Glasgow, who are responsible for the Record Room.

From personal knowledge I can say that the Record Room of Glasgow has always been in excellent order; the records are carefully preserved, well arranged and admirably inventoried. No doubt with the great increase of records, which proceeds from year to year, additional accommodation may be required, but the City of Glasgow has always met its responsibilities fully and fairly, and I have no doubt that when further Record Room accommodation is needed it will be provided. To adopt the suggestion of finding accommodation by giving away a valuable series of records would be suicidal.

- (b) *Relief from responsibility.* If the Burgh Register of Sasines were transferred to Edinburgh, the City of Glasgow would no doubt be relieved of the custody of these volumes, just as they would be relieved of the custody of their ancient charters and muniments by a similar transfer. The

Town Council of Glasgow, however, as representing the community of Glasgow, is the trustee of the priceless heritage of the honour and dignity of the city. The burgh records embody its history, and are the visible monuments of the burgh life, and to part with any portion of these records would be a staggering blow to the prestige of Glasgow, the most important burgh in Scotland and one of the greatest municipal communities in Great Britain.

It is inconceivable that the Town Council of Glasgow should go out of its way to take such a fatal and uncalled-for step.

(c) *That it would be for the benefit of historical research that local records should be kept together in the General Register House, Edinburgh.* It would be a most extraordinary step for the Town Council of Glasgow voluntarily to part with a portion of its own municipal records in the supposed interest of general historical research. The opinion of historical students is, however, opposed to the centralisation of local records and is in favour of the retention of such records locally.

It is not in the interest of historical research that the Registers of Sasines of the various Royal Burghs in Scotland which are purely local should be brought together in Edinburgh. Each Register relates solely to the individual burgh, and

nothing of general interest can be gained by having any two Registers together. Each must be read by itself, and independently. At the present moment no one studying the Burgh Register of Sasines of Glasgow requires to consult the similar Register in Rutherglen or Renfrew, Dumbarton or Stirling, and nothing would be gained by these Registers being housed under one roof in Edinburgh. The Burgh Registers are intelligible only to those with local knowledge, and must be read on the spot. They must also, as already pointed out, be read along with the other records of the burgh, which are in many respects essential for their interpretation. The Town Council Minutes and similar records form with the Burgh Register of Sasines one municipal record, and to transfer part to the Register House in Edinburgh would be to destroy the value of the whole.

On this subject the Royal Commission on the Public Records, speaking of England, say :

“Local patriotism and interest in local history should by all means be stimulated, and there is more likelihood of such documents being carefully investigated and utilised by students who have an interest in the locality, than if they were buried in an enormous accumulation in London. Provincial schools of history

would be stimulated by having original materials for study and research; while no great hardship would be inflicted on students from a distance, who would be compensated for their journeys by the advantage of studying the documents in the neighbourhood to which they relate."

- (d) *That in Edinburgh students desiring to consult the Register would have the assistance of experts.* This is one of the stereotyped suggestions of the Record Office in Edinburgh in advocating the transfer of local records to their custody.

The handwriting of old records is different from that of the present day, and it requires practice and experience to read such old documents. Persons able to do so, it is suggested, are more readily available in Edinburgh than elsewhere. This may apply to small country towns, but certainly does not apply to Glasgow. There have always been experts in Glasgow, capable of reading every ancient document in the city.

This point, however, has no relation to the Burgh Register of Sasines of Glasgow. It commences with the year 1694, and the handwriting from the end of the seventeenth century presents no difficulty to the student. No expert in handwriting is needed to enable any one to read the volumes.

- (e) *That in Edinburgh Indexes to the Burgh Register of Sasines would be prepared which would be of advantage to inquirers.* There is no authority for this statement. If the Burgh Register of Sasines were transferred to Edinburgh, it could not be indexed for a generation. The Record Office have for several years had a modest allowance for preparing indexes to certain classes of records in the Register House. The Record Office has, amongst others, prepared an index to the General Register of Sasines from 1701 to 1720, and last year published an index to the Particular Register of Sasines for Argyll, Dumbarton and Bute from 1617 to 1780. It will be many years before the latter series of records can be indexed and before a new series could be undertaken.

The scheme of the Indexes which have been issued is, however, of no use for historical students interested in the lands, houses and tenements which form the subject of the various deeds. It merely furnishes an index of names, and while this is an improvement upon the present index of names to the printed Abridgments of the Sasine records, it is not nearly so useful as the improved index suggested by the late Mr. J. C. Brodie, D.K.S., when Keeper of the General Register of Sasines.

It has not hitherto been considered necessary to have the Burgh Register of Sasines of Glasgow indexed, but if this were thought desirable, it can quite as well be done and on a better plan in Glasgow than in Edinburgh. For the purpose of general inquiry, such an index must include the land or tenement, the subject of the deed, and the street in which it is situated, as well as the names of the persons interested.

The suggestion is somewhat startling that Glasgow should voluntarily give up an important local record for the purpose of having it indexed in Edinburgh.

- (f) *Expansion of the City.* It is the case that Glasgow has expanded in recent years far beyond the limits of the old burgh. This extension, however, commenced only at the end of the eighteenth century, and for long proceeded very slowly. It is an inconvenience that deeds relating to land outside the Royalty have to be recorded in Edinburgh, and that it is necessary to go to Edinburgh to examine the General Register of Sasines. This, however, has existed ever since Glasgow overstepped its ancient limits, and is no reason for aggravating the inconvenience by transferring the volumes of the Burgh Register to Edinburgh. The presence of that Register in Glasgow has always been a great public convenience, which ought not now to be sacrificed.

After the Burgh Register has been merged in the County Register, entries relating to property within the Royalty will appear in the printed Abridgments of the County Register which are annually transmitted to Glasgow. From these Abridgments students and general inquirers in Glasgow will be able to obtain particulars of dealings with burgage property from 1927 onwards. They will thus have in Glasgow material for ascertaining the history of all burgage property (1) from 1547 to 1696 in the Town Clerks' Protocols; (2) from 1694 to 1927 in the Burgh Register of Sasines; and (3) from 1927 onwards in the printed Abridgments.

It has been suggested that because the ancient burgh is to-day but a small portion of what is now the City of Glasgow it is of no importance. This is not the case. On the contrary, it is the ancient burgh which is the historic Glasgow, and is that which gives life and character to the extended city. The burghal rights and privileges of Glasgow attach only to the old burgh, and are not communicated to the extended area. A burgess of Glasgow is a burgess of the old burgh, and when the Corporation confers the freedom of the city upon anyone as a mark of distinction it does so by making him a burgess and guild brother of the ancient burgh. The freedom referred to is

that which was enjoyed by the burgesses of ancient Glasgow, who were a community of freemen, and burghal freedom was a right of great value.

- (g) *That the Register is merely of antiquarian interest.* This is an inaccurate and misleading statement. It is intended to suggest that because a record or document has served its immediate purpose, and is not required for current business, it has no longer any value. This is not the case. The possession of the continuous series of records which embody the history of a community is essential as the evidents of that history, and the further back they extend in an unbroken series the greater the distinction and importance they lend to the community. Glasgow may boast of its present-day achievements, but its dignity is vastly increased by its having been a city of renown for many centuries, and it would be the height of folly to deprive itself of the custody of the records which attest this.

These records too are of value for purely municipal purposes. They require to be consulted from time to time, as has been stated, in explanation of current events, for ascertaining what occurred in connexion with events of former days, and for establishing ancient landmarks.

They are of value to the community for enabling inquirers to obtain information regarding the history of the burgh. The history of Glasgow can only be written in Glasgow and with the aid of its local records, of which the Burgh Register of Sasines is one of the most valuable.

Reference need only be made to the late Dr. Renwick's valuable *Glasgow Memorials*, on nearly every page of which the author founds on one or other of the Council Minutes, the Town Clerks' Protocols and the Burgh Register of Sasines, and in some cases all three are cited on the same page.

Had the Burgh Register of Sasines been removed to Edinburgh this authentic record of Glasgow history would not have been written. Many similar volumes of like importance have still to be written.

14. The transfer of the volumes of the Burgh Register of Sasines from 1694 to 1927 to Edinburgh has not been suggested by any section of the community; on the other hand it is strongly opposed by bodies and institutions interested in historical, economic and archaeological research, and by those anxious for the maintenance and encouragement of Civic patriotism.

15. The transfer would add to the prestige and importance of the General Register House, but would entail enormous loss upon Glasgow, and there is no reason why this should be inflicted on Glasgow.

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