Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

www.corkhist.ie

Title: On the silver communion plate in the Presbyterian Church, Princes Street, Cork
Author: Day, Robert
Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1908, Vol. 14, No. 78, page(s) 61-62
Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society
Digital file created: March 2, 2014

Your use of the JCHAS digital archive indicates that you accept the Terms and Conditions of Use, available at http://www.corkhist.ie/info/tandc.pdf

The Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (IE-148166, incorporated 1989) was founded in 1891, for the collection, preservation and diffusion of all available information regarding the past of the City and County of Cork, and South of Ireland generally. This archive of all content of JCHAS (from 1892 up to ten years preceding current publication) continues the original aims of the founders in 1891. For more information visit www.corkhist.ie.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie

All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions

Digital content (c) CHAS 2014

Silver Communion Plate in the Presbyterian Church, Princes Street, Cork.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2014

On the Silver Communion Plate in the Presbyterian Church, Princes Street, Cork.

By ROBERT DAY, F.S.A.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Wm. Humble Johnson, I have been afforded the privilege of examining the hitherto unpublished plate of this church. It comprises three chalices, weighing respectively 12 ounces 8½ dwt., 12 ounces 8 dwt., and 11 oz. 12 dwt., two patens, and a covered flagon. The chalices are alike in size, form and character, two having the well-known maker's marks of William Clarke, silversmith, of Cork, and the third the Irish hall marks. The measurements are practically the same, viz., height 10 inches, depth of cup and diameter of mouth 4 inches, and of the circular foot 4½ inches. They are without decoration, the knops only having each a plain raised band around the centre. All have inscriptions. The earliest has engraved upon the cup—

"The gift of Hugh Polden in 1699. Enlarged by the Church, June, 1731."

This has the initials of William Clarke[1] in three separate stamps upon the lip of the cup. Here we find one chalice with the engraved date of 1731, and another with that of 1699, which was altered and enlarged in 1731, probably because the elders of the church desired to have the sacred vessels correspond in height and uniform one with the other. Most probably the 1699 chalice was of a smaller size, and was entrusted to Clarke for enlargement, and on its completion he used his own stamp as a guarantee that the silver was of the true assay and sterling quality. The pair of patens, which rest on three feet, are 7 inches in diameter, having gadroon and shell borders, with Irish hall marks, but without the date letters. They bear the following inscriptions and weigh 17 oz. 10 dwt. :—

"The gift of Sarah Trench to the Presbyterian meeting house, as a small testimony of her gratitude for permitting the service of Christ Church to be performed there, Sept., 1824."[2]

This was possibly when portion of the tower of Christ Church was taken down by Mr. Pain, the architect. Windele gives 1720 as the date of the erection of the present church. A lofty tower was being built at the western end, but after carrying it to a height of 136 feet, a sinking of the

[1] His marks also occur on a flagon of Carrigaline Episcopal Church, Co. Cork, upon two patens on foot, dated 1719, at St. Peter's Church, Cork, and also on the Communion plate dated 1709 in Kilshanig Church, Co. Cork, and on a circular fluted fruit dish in the writer's collection.

[2] The patens although presented in 1824 are nearly 100 years older as they were made by [I W] John Wilme who was Warden of the Dublin Goldsmith's Guild, anno. 1738-9.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2014

foundation on the south side of the tower had taken place, which obliged the architect to take down 36 feet of it. In 1810, forty feet more had to be removed, leaving 60 feet still standing, but the leaning continuing to the extent of 3½ feet on the height of sixty, the remainder of the tower was cleared away in 1828, after having been for years one of the wonders of the city.

The act of grace recorded on the patens of lending the Presbyterian place of worship to the congregation of Christ Church during its alterations is an example of brotherly love and charity that cannot be too highly commended.

The silver flagon weighs 36 oz. It completes the list of the Communion plate of this church, and has the Irish hall marks of 1815.

Gibson (*Hist. of Cork,* p. 316) gives 1717 as the date of the rebuilding of the Presbyterian Chapel in Prince's Street on Dunscomb's Marsh. Dive Downes (*Journal,* pp. 103-104) states that it was preceded in 1699 by a Presbyterian Chapel in St. Peter's Parish, in a lane near the wall, and describes it as a large room that would hold about 400 people.

For the rebuilding of that in Prince's Street the receipts[3] and donors' disbursements are preserved by the trustees, with a long list of the donors' names, many of which are still represented in the city and county. The following items will illustrate the rate of wages and prices of building material in the commencement of the 18th Century :—

APRIL, 1715.

	£	s.	d.
Paid Batt Dunevan, filling ye trenches, 13 days, at 6d. ...	0	6	6
5½ boat loads stones from Mr. Archdeacon's Quay, at 9s. 6d.	2	12	3
Paid Boyd & Lennox for 26½ barrells of lime, at 12d. ...	1	6	6
Paid duty and fees of lead	9	3	11
Freight of lead	4	0	0
Landing and weighing 16 tunn of lead	0	10	8½
Nath Wraxall, for cost of lead, £190 3s. 8d.[4]	206	6	11
Boatage of stones from the Broadrick	0	14	0
Nath Wraxall for paving stones, £6 2s. 0d. Engl., at 6d. p.c.	6	9	2
John Dennis, for timber	231	0	0
Thos. Corker, for registering the lease in Dublin ...	0	1	9
John Morley, for 5 cwt. 0 qrs. 9 lbs. iron, at 16s ...	4	1	3
John Bowers, for grinding 2c. lead, at	0	11	0
Filling the ground, 6 boats, at 4s.	1	4	0
Thos. Brown, for 1c. white lead paint	1	14	0
Paid Richd. Deeble, for a charge of a clock, ye other being by H. Goddard, junr.	5	5	0

[3] The subscriptions acknowledged by Wm. Boyle for building a new church in Dunscombe's Marsh amounted to £1,343 8s. 3d.

[4] The differing values of the lead shows the difference between the Irish and English currency.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2014