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# JAMES GIBBS'S WILL

GORDON BALDERSTON

James Gibbs wrote his last will and testament on Thursday, 9 May 1754, a holograph document now held by The National Archives at Kew as PROB 1/64 (transcribed here as appendix).<sup>1</sup> He died at home in London on Monday, 5 August 1754, having been given the last rites by the Catholic titular bishop Benjamin Petre, vicar apostolic of the London district since 1734:<sup>2</sup> he was seventy-one years old. His will was opened later that day by John Ker<sup>3</sup> and William Thomas,<sup>4</sup> two of the three executors, in the presence of William Morehead,<sup>5</sup> a neighbour and legatee, and James Burnett, surgeon.<sup>6</sup> In accordance with Gibbs's desire that his body 'be kept above ground for some days and not be opened' – for fear of being buried alive –, he was interred on Friday, 9 August 1754, as recorded in a register of the then parish church of St Marylebone:<sup>7</sup> the desired 'small monument of marble ... with a short inscription upon it' by the mason Walter Lee<sup>8</sup> would be an inscribed tablet beneath a pediment which was placed on the north wall inside the church: 'Underneath lye the remains of James Gibbs ...'.<sup>9</sup>

Notices of Gibbs's death, with brief accounts of his life and abstracts of his will, were being printed by 8 August 1754, when *The Whitehall Evening-Post* recorded: 'On Monday died, at his house near Cavendish square, – Gibbs, esq; who built St Martin's church, and otherwise eminently known for his great genius in architecture'.<sup>10</sup> A detailed account of Gibbs's childhood, career and will was given in a well-informed letter by 'Palladio' written

in Aberdeen and dated August 1760, which was published the following month with an abstract of Gibbs's will appended.<sup>11</sup> In a letter dated 31 August 1754 Alexander Grant, a Catholic chaplain to the Venetian legation in London, wrote at length about Gibbs's faith, wealth and choice of legatees:<sup>12</sup> 'Hnrd Sir', the anonymous recipient, was identified in the 1950s as the Catholic bishop Alexander Smith, vicar apostolic of the lowland district of Scotland.<sup>13</sup> (*Pace* Grant, Gibbs's 'pension' as architect to the Office of Ordnance was reported elsewhere as £120 per annum.<sup>14</sup>) The letter is written on three sides of a single sheet folded in two, the first side omitted here:

'you have probably heard, that our countryman James Gibbs Esqre from Aberdeen dyed here August the fifth; he was a Catholic, but allwayes under mask for fear of losing a pension of 150 lbs per annum he had an estate of 500 lbs per annum by which he might live independently but auri sacra fames wou'd not allow him to profess openly what he belived, he kept no correspondence with any Churchmen, but with B-p Peters, who was his director, and gave him the last rites of his principles He left his dwelling house with all the furniture, reckon'd worth 1500 or 2000 lbs to Cosmo Alexander the painter. to Mr John Ker, and his two daughters about 100 lbs per annum, and a 1000 lbs in money: he left no more of his estate to Catholicks, but to these two families. he gave the rest to Protestant acquaintances here: To my Lord Erskine 280 lbs per annum 1000 lbs in money; all his plate and Jewels to the value of 3 or 400 lbs. to one Mr Morehead 400 lbs legacie, this Gentleman has an estate of 1500 lbs per annum, has no family, nor any relation, but simply

a protestant neighbour and acquaintance. To Mr Pringle of Clinton [*Clifton*] 250 lbs legacie. 100 lbs to S<sup>t</sup>. Bartholomy's hospital; 100 lbs to the fundling hospital, 100 lbs to his parish church of Marybonne wherein he is buried 100 lbs to one M<sup>r</sup> Thomas a rich neighbour and acquaintance. by a verbal order, 100 lbs to given in charity, according to Misses Kers direction; altho' he did not express himself as to the method and aplication of this legacie it was piously constructed by these Ladyes that it shou'd imployed in saying of prayers for him. I heard of his death immediatly after he departed without any delaying one moment I aplied to miss Ker, and begged earnestly to remember our poor countrymen labourers [*clergy*]: I represented their great necesityes at all times, but especially at present, that the greatest part of that small legacie shou'd be sent to them, as greater objects of charity, than any body in this place, since the defunct thought not upon their circumstances that their compassion for his and their suffering bretheren in Scotland should appear, and suply his total oblivion of them: altho' I cou'd not obtain so much as I cou'd wish, I was promised a part of it for them. I was asked the number of our labourers, of which I promised soon to procure an exact account: I wish that in course of Post, you wou'd send me a list of them over all the Kingdom, with their names, and places of abode, including the few you from Ratbn [*have from Ratisbon/Regensburg*], and if you expect any this season from foreign colonies. if I had not mention'd such a proposal the very day he dyed, they freely confess, there was no thought of sending any charity to these labourers. two of our countrymen here dy'd rich, viz: Mr Guthrie and Mr Gibbs; the necesitous case of their principles in their native country never thought upon by either of them. Poor Caledonia oppressed by her enemyes and forgotten entirely by her own children. I am sorry to know too many examples of ungratitude and oblivion. a speedy return with the names of labourers in yr country

with very much oblidge

Honrd Sir

yr most affec<sup>t</sup> and most humble servt

Al: Grant.

London August 31

1754'

Having buried their friend on Friday, 9 August, the three executors turned to effecting Gibbs's other

testamentary wishes. In the course of the following week, they took Gibbs's will to the Prerogative Court of Canterbury to obtain probate.<sup>15</sup> Accordingly, on Tuesday, 13 August, John Ker and William Thomas – followed by Robert Pringle<sup>16</sup> on Friday, 16 August – swore that this was the last will of James Gibbs and that they, as his constituted executors, would administer it. Probate was granted on that latter date: it was at this stage that the court's scrivener copied Gibbs's will into a register of probate now held at The National Archives.<sup>17</sup> On Tuesday, 20 August, with power now granted to administer Gibbs's estate, the three executors withdrew £3700 from an account at Hoare's bank which Gibbs had opened in 1752.<sup>18</sup>

Gibbs's executors and legatees are mostly unknown in terms of his career as an architect. The prevalence of Scottish surnames amongst them is striking, as is the longevity of several of the relationships. For example, Gibbs explicitly acknowledged his gratitude for favours received from the Earl of Mar (in exile 1716 until death in 1732) and he made the Earl's son, Thomas Erskine,<sup>19</sup> the major beneficiary of his will: furthermore, although Mar had faced the second Duke of Argyll at the battle of Sheriffmuir in November 1715 – by which date both were already patrons of Gibbs –, the Duke's much younger cousin, William Campbell,<sup>20</sup> was a tenant in possession of No. 10 Henrietta Street, one of the three houses bequeathed by Gibbs to Thomas Erskine in 1754.

Of Gibbs's legatees only the Ker family and Cosmo Alexander<sup>21</sup> were Catholics, according to Grant's letter of 1754: notwithstanding his Catholic upbringing,<sup>22</sup> there is little evidence that Gibbs was strictly observant after he left Rome for London in 1708. His appears to have been a pragmatic attitude towards living and working in England at a time when Catholic recusants were still liable to persecution under the so-called penal laws. Whilst Gibbs had been given the last rites by a Catholic bishop, he had already willed that his burial within the parish church of Saint Marylebone be commemorated

by a small monument and that £100 be given towards the enlargement of this Anglican church. As to professions of devotion in the will itself, the preambular 'In the name of God amen' is the only invocation and 'the wordly (*sic*) goods which God has given me' is the only naming of divinity.

Gibbs's leasehold estate in London comprised seven terraced houses which he had built or acquired between July 1721 and July 1742. Nos. 26/27 Cavendish Square (conjoined) was on the south side of Cavendish Square at its eastern corner with Margaret Street, which No. 27 itself fronted: their façades were 24 and 22 feet wide respectively.<sup>23</sup> No. 30 Argyll Street was to the south-east of Cavendish Square and just south of Oxford Street (south-east of today's Oxford Circus).<sup>24</sup> Nos. 4–5 and 9–11 Henrietta Street<sup>25</sup> (renamed Place in 1938) – See pp. 52–5 – were on the north side of a newly-built street which ran west from the south-west corner of Cavendish Square to Marylebone Lane. Gibbs lived at No. 5, a corner house, which looked west onto Wimpole Street and south over Henrietta Street into a court leading past the Oxford (Marylebone) Chapel and down to Oxford Street. The other six premises were sublet to tenants,<sup>26</sup> from whom Gibbs received an annual income of £525 in total. The numbers given here are those in rate-book assessments dated 1770 and on sheet B2, published 22 June 1792, of Richard Horwood's *Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster*.<sup>27</sup>

Amongst the works of art in left in Gibbs's dwelling house at No. 5 Henrietta Street – bequeathed to Cosmo Alexander – were three portraits commissioned by Gibbs from the statuary Michael Rysbrack, his neighbour in Vere Street. Two were of Gibbs himself – one a bust of him wearing a wig and an open-necked shirt (dated 1726),<sup>28</sup> the other a profile in high relief, showing him similarly attired, which was bought at auction by Sir William Chambers on 28 March 1783 and sold at his post-mortem sale at Whitton on 21 June 1796 (documented 1723; untraced).<sup>29</sup> The third marble

by Rysbrack was the bust of Alexander Pope, dated 1730, now in the National Portrait Gallery, London. There were also a lead replica of 'the bust of Flora made by Girardon'<sup>30</sup> which Matthew Prior had given to Gibbs out of friendship and a lead bust of Prior which Gibbs had commissioned shortly after Prior's death on 18 September 1721: they may well have been painted to resemble life. All of these were discussed – and the marble busts illustrated – in the pages of this journal in 2001.<sup>31</sup>

Also left in the house for Cosmo Alexander was Gibbs's collection of pictures, some or all of which Alexander may have sold at auction in March 1756 (caution here, because Gibbs had left No. 30 Argyll Street 'and every thing in it belonging to me' to John Ker).<sup>32</sup> *Pace* Terry Friedman, Gibbs's collection was only a part of this auction, so it is impossible to say how many of the 117 lots of pictures had belonged to Gibbs: most were attributed to Italian artists. A seascape with ships by Willem van de Velde is the only painting reputed to have belonged to Gibbs, thanks to an inscription on a mezzotint.<sup>33</sup> Of the pictures painted in England, Gibbs may have owned some of those catalogued as by Lely, Tillemans and Van Dyck on the first day's sale (25 March 1756), and it is tempting to suppose that he owned the portrait of 'The great marquis of Montrose, 3qrs' by 'Jameson' – the Aberdonian painter George Jamesone (d. 1644) – offered as lot 11 on the second day. Some would re-appear at auction in 1775 as a collection of pictures 'part of which were collected by the late Mr. Gibbs, architect'.<sup>34</sup> We do not know how these pictures would have been displayed in Gibbs's home, but in 1712 a distinction was made by James Long of Marylebone between pictures hanging on walls as effects and those 'fixed within the pannells of my said house' as fixtures.<sup>35</sup>

In addition, Gibbs had a library of more than three hundred books at the time of his death – all of which he bequeathed to the Radcliffe Library in Oxford,<sup>36</sup> desiring that they may be placed in presses 'next to my Bufto'<sup>37</sup> – and plate, *i.e.* precious

metal, usually silver. Gibbs bequeathed 'all my plate' to Thomas Erskine, the only-known example of which is the silver cup and cover of 1726 by Edward Felene presented by Richard Mead in 1734 to Gibbs in gratitude for the completion of the library in the doctor's house at Great Ormond Street.<sup>38</sup> According to Grant's letter of 1754, the value of the plate and jewels inherited by Erskine amounted to £300 or £400: Grant's is the only mention of Gibbs having owned jewels.

In conclusion, Gibbs's will may be summarized as follows. To Thomas Erskine: £1000, Nos. 9–11 Henrietta Street, their annual rents totalling £280 'and all my plate' (silver). To executor John Ker: £1400, residue of money, No. 4 Henrietta Street and its annual rent of £50, and No. 30 Argyll Street, its contents and annual rent of £75. To executor Robert Pringle: £400, Nos. 26/27 Cavendish Square and its annual rent of £120. To Cosmo Alexander, painter: Gibbs's home at No. 5 Henrietta Street and its contents (except the silver left to Erskine). To William Morehead and John Borlach:<sup>39</sup> £400 each. To cost of funeral: £120 or less. To Ker's daughters 'for a privat charity', William King<sup>40</sup> and executor William Thomas: £100 each. To Foundling Hospital, Saint Bartholomew's Hospital and Saint Marylebone parish church for its enlargement: £100 each. To the Radcliffe Library in Oxford (specifically the trustees of Dr. John Radcliffe's will): all Gibbs's printed books – including books of architecture, prints, drawings and maps – , a manuscript catalogue of them, and two globes, excluding costs of packing and transportation. To Charles Pryor,<sup>41</sup> solicitor for the said trustees: a second manuscript catalogue of these books, along with instructions for their placing in the library. Most of these pecuniary bequests, amounting to £4200 (excluding £120 for funeral), were paid by the executors from their account at Drummond's bank between 20 August and 26 October 1754.<sup>42</sup> And, as pecuniary beneficiary of the residual cash, John Ker received a final payment on 9 November 1754, the last transaction known.<sup>43</sup>

APPENDIX

*The Last Will and Testament of M<sup>r</sup> James Gibbs Archi:*

*In the Name of God Amen. I James Gibbs Architect of the Parish of S<sup>t</sup> Mary le Bon, in the County of Middlesex makes this my Laft Will and Testament. And first I desire that my Body affter my deceafe may be kept above ground for some days and not be opened, but put in a leaden Coffin whole and intire, and that I may be buried within the Parish Church of S<sup>t</sup> Mary le Bon: And I desire that a small monument of Marble qch I have Ordered to be made by M<sup>r</sup> Walter Lee Mafon, be put up against the Wall within the said Church, with a short Inſcription upon it as shall be thought fitt by my Executors, and that the charge of my funeral may not exceed One Hundred and Twenty pounds or therabout And as to the Wordly goods which God has given me, Vix My Leafehold Eſtate in Houses, being six in the Pariſh of S<sup>t</sup> Mary le Bon, and One in Argyle ground in the Pariſh of S<sup>t</sup> James's Weſtminſter. And money in the hands of Meſs<sup>rs</sup> Hoare and Company, and Meſs<sup>rs</sup> Drumond, as will appear upon their Books, and by their receipts delivered to me, and any thing else belonging to me, as notes for money, Plate, Pictures, Buſtos, Houſehold furniture Books &c. ſubject to all my Debts, Legacys, and funeral expences I give and bequeath in the following manner.*

*Imprimis, I give and bequeath to the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>bl</sup> the Lord Erſkin in gratitude for favors received from his father the Late Earl of Marr, My houſe in poſſeſſion of William Cambel Eſq, the rent being One Hundred and ten pounds per annum, and my houſe in poſſeſſion of S<sup>r</sup> Roger Borgoine Barrt, being eighty pounds per annum, as likewise my houſe poſſeſed by Lady Bingley, the rent being ninty pounds per annum, all three in the Pariſh of S<sup>t</sup> Mary le Bon . with their Original Leases and Inſurances from fire, with all Locks, Bolts, Barrs, Ciſterns, &c. He paying their ground rents and Kings Taxes. I likewise bequeath to him One Thousand pounds in*

money, and all my plate, an Inventory of which is in my Memorandum Book. I give and bequeath to Robert Pringle of Clifton Esq<sup>e</sup>, My House in Cavendish Sq<sup>e</sup>, in the Possession of M<sup>rs</sup> Aston, the Rent being One Hundred and Twenty pounds per annum, with its Original Lease and Insurance from fire with all Locks, Bolts Barrs Cisterns &c, as will appear by the Shedul annexed to the Lease, he paying the ground rent and Kings Taxes, as likewise I bequeath to him four hundred pounds in money.

Item I give and bequeath to William Morehead Esq<sup>e</sup>, four Hundred pounds in money. I give and bequeath to Doctor William King of S<sup>t</sup> Mary Hall in Oxford, One Hundred pounds. Item I give and bequeath to M<sup>r</sup> John Borlach many years my draughtsman, four hundred pounds. Item I give and bequeath to M<sup>r</sup> Cosmo Alexander painter My house I live in, with all its furniture as it stands, with pictures, Bustos &c. with its Original Lease and Insurance from fire he paying the ground rent and Kings Taxes. Item I give and bequeath One hundred pounds to the foundling Hospital, and One Hundred pounds to S<sup>t</sup> Bartholomews Hospital, of which I was a Governor many years. And One Hundred pounds towards the Inlarging of the Parish Church of S<sup>t</sup> Mary le Bon.

Item I give and bequeath to M<sup>r</sup> John Ker Wine Merchant in greek street Soho, My House in the Possession of Lady Graham in the Parish of St Mary le Bon, being fifty pounds per annum, with its original Lease and Insurance from fire, with all locks, bolts, Barrs Cisterns &c. he paying the ground rent and Kings Taxes. As likewise my house in Argyle ground in the possession of Francis Faquier Esq<sup>e</sup>, in the parish of S<sup>t</sup> James's Westminster, being seventy five pounds per annum, with its Original Lease and Insurance from fire, and every thing in it belonging to me as will appear by the Shedul annexed to the Tenants Lease. Item I give and bequeath to him Fourteen Hundred pounds, The Houses and money to be disposed of as he shall think proper. Item I give and bequeath to him One Hundred pounds for a privat Charity which is

to be expended as his Dawgthers shall direct. Item I give and bequeath to him all the residue of My money which shall be left over and above the payment of my debts, Legacey, and Funeral expences, whither in Notes, Book debts, or any thing else belonging to me.

Item I give and bequeath unto the Most Noble Charles Noel Duke of Beaufort. The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Edward Earl of Oxford and Mortimer. The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>bl</sup> Charles Earl of Arran. S<sup>r</sup> Walter Wagstaff Bagot. And Edward Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>. Trustees for executing the trusts in the Will of John Radcliffe D<sup>r</sup> in Physick deceased, and to the Trustees who by Virtue of the Will of the said Doctor Radcliffe, shall be from time to time nominated and appointed for carrying the said Trusts in execution, All my Printed Books, Books of Architectur. Books of Prints and Drawings. Books of Maps, and a pair of Globes with leather Covers, to be placed and remaine in the Library built under the directions of the Will of the said Doctor Radcliffe, in the Univerfity of Oxford, of which I was architect. And I direct my Executors to cause the same to be carefully put up in Boxes, and sent to Oxford after my decease, without any charge or expence to the said Trustees, but my Executors to be at the charge and expence ther of. And I desire M<sup>r</sup> Charles Prior at his Chambers N<sup>o</sup>. 7. in Lincolns Inn Esq<sup>r</sup>, who is Solicitor to the above named Trustees, may be aquanted with the same, that he may receive their commands for the Librarian of the Radcliffe Library to receive them and put them up in Order in the presses ther, and that they may be placed next to my Busto. I have made two Catalogues of them One to be sent with the Books &c to Oxford, and the other to be delivered to M<sup>r</sup> Prior for the use of the Trustees. And I constitute and appoint the foresaid M<sup>r</sup> John Ker. Robert Pringle of Clifton Esq<sup>e</sup>. and William Thomas Esq<sup>e</sup> of Henrietta street in the parish of S<sup>t</sup> Mary le Bon to be my Executors, to see this my Last Will and Testament put in Execution, according to the true intent and meaning thereof. And I give One Hundred pounds to William Thomas for his trouble. And hereby revocking all other Wills formerly made by me, I declare this to be my Last Will

*and Testament, sealed with my own seal, and written with my own hand this present ninth day of May 1754.*

*James Gibbs*

*Signed, sealed, published and declared by the Testator James Gibbs, as and for his Last Will and Testament in presence of us, who have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in presence of the said Testator.*

[signatures of] Carbry Egan  
Mofes Chester

On the fourth side, written in other hands, are three affidavits and the grant of probate:

‘Aug<sup>t</sup>. 5. 1754. This Will was then opened by M<sup>r</sup> Ker & M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Exors in our presence [*signatures of*] Wm Morehead Ja: Burnett’.

‘13<sup>th</sup>. August 1754, John Ker and William Thomas Esq<sup>e</sup>. two of the Executors within named were sworn / Power reserved to Robert Pringle Esq<sup>r</sup> the other Exors, before me [*signature of*] Cæsar Geo. Harris Surrogate’.

‘16<sup>th</sup>. August 1754 Robert Pringle Esq<sup>r</sup> the other Executor was sworn before me [*signature of Cæsar as*] Geo. Harris Surrogate’.

‘Proved at London the sixteenth day of August 1754 before the Worshipfull George Harris Doctor of Laws & Surrogate by the Oaths of John Ker, William Thomas Esq<sup>e</sup>. & Robert Pringle Esq<sup>e</sup>. the Extors to whom Admcon was granted they having been first sworn duly to adster.’

ENDNOTES

- 1 PROB 1/64 may be downloaded for £3.50 on The National Archives website under ‘Famous wills 1552–1854’, as may PROB 11/810/277, the probate transcript, under ‘Wills 1384–1858’.
- 2 Joseph Gillow, *A literary and biographical history, or bibliographical dictionary, of the English Catholics ...* (5 vols., 1885–1902), vol. 5, pp. 288–9; *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (2004) [hereafter as *ODNB* (2004)], vol. 43, p. 905, ‘Petre family’ by R. Wood.
- 3 Ker (d.1762) was a wine merchant, whose only-known premises were on the east side of Greek Street in the parish of St Anne, Soho: he was first assessed for rates there on 15 April 1752, but had vacated by 29 September 1758 (Michaelmas). He had an account at Drummond’s bank 1734–1761: Royal Bank of Scotland, Archives, DR/427/14–43.
- 4 G. Balderston, ‘William Thomas, steward of the Marybone Estate’, *Georgian Group Journal*, 14 (2004) [hereafter as Balderston, *GGJ* (2004)], pp. 287–307, with building leases of Henrietta Street as appendix.
- 5 Morehead (d.1766) had inherited 19 Cavendish Square – as numbered on sheet B2 of Richard Horwood’s *Plan* of 1792 – from the 26-year-old Maurice Hunt upon the latter’s death in August 1730. Morehead had been Hunt’s tutor, as stated in will of David Crawford, Hunt’s maternal grandfather: Kew, The National Archives [hereafter as TNA], PROB 11/593/80, proved 10 September 1723.
- 6 ‘M<sup>r</sup>. James Burnet surgeon in Grovenor (*sic*) Street’ was so named in the will of William Morehead, the other witness. By December 1745 and still in December 1769 James Burnett was being assessed for rates on premises in ‘Grosvenor Street below Square’ or ‘Grosvenor Street lower’ in the Grosvenor Street ward of the parish of St George Hanover Square, for which see City of Westminster Archives Centre, parish records, rate books.
- 7 London Metropolitan Archives [hereafter LMA], P89/MRY1/004.
- 8 I. Roscoe, M.G. Sullivan and E. Hardy, *A biographical dictionary of sculptors in Britain 1660–1851* (2009), p. 732, ‘Lee, Walter’ by M. G. Sullivan.

- 9 T. Smith, *A topographical and historical account of the parish of St. Mary-le-bone* (1833), p. 67 (transcript); T. Friedman, *James Gibbs* (1984) [hereafter as Friedman, *Gibbs* (1984)], pp. 20 (transcript) & 310; illus. online at *en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\_Gibbs* (for a more ornate design of a pedimented monument 'for Mr. Wanley, his Lordship's librarian', see *A book of architecture* (1728), p. xxiv and pl. CXXIV – to which Friedman, *op. cit.*, p. 326, refers).
- 10 *The Whitehall Evening-Post; or, London Intelligencer. No. 1284. From Tuesday August 6, to Thursday August 8, 1754*, p. 3, col. 3.
- 11 *The Scots Magazine. September 1760*, pp. 475–6.
- 12 University of Aberdeen (Sir Duncan Rice library, Wolfson Reading Room), Scottish Catholic Archives, Historic Archives, SCA BL/3/116/11: my thanks to Jan Smith and Michelle Gait, both of Museums and Special Collections there. Often signing the registers as Alexander Augustinus Grant, he officiated at marriages and baptisms 1745–1757: London, Westminster Diocesan Archives (photocopies in City of Westminster Archives Centre), Z 12, p. 2, marriage 10 August 1745; *idem*, Z 13, p. 76, baptism 25 October 1757 (his first baptism had been 6 April 1747). The Venetian chapel was – or had been – on the east side of Dean Street opposite Richmonds Buildings in the Soho district of central London: *Survey of London. Volume XXXIII. The parish of St Anne Soho* (1966), pp. 117 (col. 2) & 131 (no. 21), pl. 4 in *idem*, vol. 34.
- 13 A. S. MacWilliam, 'James Gibbs, architect', *The Innes Review*, 5, no. 2 (Autumn 1954), p. 103.
- 14 £120 per annum was the salary paid to the architect in 'The establishment of the civil branch of his Majesty's Office of Ordnance', as recorded in *A general list, or catalogue, of all offices and officers employ'd in several branches of his Majesty's government ... published 1727–1755* as the last section of *Magna Britanniae notitia: or, the present state of Great-Britain; ... By John Chamberlayne, Esq ...*; and in *The court and city register* from 1742.
- 15 The court sat in the Prerogative Office at Doctors Commons – a common house or college of doctors of law – situated to the south of St Paul's Church Yard (name of a street) in a block between Great Knight-rider St and Thames St.
- 16 Designated Pringle of Clifton, the family resided at Clifton Park, just west of Linton and north of Morebattle in the sheriffdom of Roxburgh in Scotland. Robert died there in 1778.
- 17 TNA, PROB 11/810/277 (online image: formerly quire 228).
- 18 Having banked with Andrew Drummond since 1723, Gibbs opened an account at Hoare's in 1752, depositing £2200 on 11 August, £500 on 21 August and £1000 on 12 October 1752, a total of £3700 which 'John Kerr, W<sup>m</sup> Thomas & Ro<sup>l</sup> Pringle Ex<sup>ts</sup>' withdrew on 20 August 1754 as £2200, £500 & £1000: City of London, C. Hoare & Co., archives, customer ledger 53 for 1751–1753, 'James Gibbs Esqr.', folios 376 *recto* (1752 deposits) & 375 *verso* (*sic*: 1754 withdrawals). My thanks to Pamela Hunter, the bank's archivist.
- 19 Thomas Erskine (1706–1766) was 'commonly called Lord Erskine' and is so named in *A book of architecture* (1728) as a subscriber, as are several others of those named in Gibbs's will. Erskine married the Lady Charlotte Hope on 1 October 1741 and died at Gayfield House in Edinburgh.
- 20 William Campbell (1708–1787) was the fourth and youngest son of Elizabeth *née* Elphinstone and John Campbell (d. 1729: wed 1692) of Mamore in the parish of Roseneath in the county of Dumbarton; nephew of Archibald Campbell, first Duke of Argyll 1701–1703 in the peerage of Scotland; cousin of the brothers John, second Duke 1703–1743, and Archibald, third Duke 1743–1761; and younger brother of John, fourth Duke 1761–1770.
- 21 Alexander (1724–1772) was a Scottish painter with Jacobite sympathies: G. Balderston, 'Rysbrack's busts of James Gibbs and Alexander Pope from Henrietta Street', *Georgian Group Journal*, 11 (2001) [hereafter as Balderston, *GGJ* (2001)], pp. 11–2 (fig. 9) & 18 and notes 51–6 on pp. 24–5; *ODNB* (2004), vol. 1, pp. 662–3, 'Alexander, Cosmo' by P.R. Andrew.
- 22 Friedman, *Gibbs* (1984), pp. 4–6.
- 23 LMA, MDR 1721/6/107, whereby Gibbs buys No. 26 Cavendish Sq. already-built from William Lloyd for £1900 on 24 July 1721; dimensions and description of outbuildings in LMA, CLC/B/055/MS08674/037, Hand in Hand fire-insurance policies, 1 June–30 November 1728, folio 165 left, no. 39973; details of interior fixtures, their materials,



- etc., in *idem*, CLC/B/055/MS08674/075, folio 141, Hand-in-Hand fire-insurance policy no. 39973 dated 1 February 1749/50 (today's 1750). However, having been assigned the neighbouring ground to the east (No. 27) on 10 May 1732 – described as waste ground in 1728 –, Gibbs had created one dwelling house from the two buildings: this complicated story is evident from MDR 1763/2/672, an indenture dated 3 June 1763 (*sic*) whereby Robert Pringle mortgages Nos. 26 and 27 Cavendish Square to Charlton Palmer for £1200 plus interest. My thanks to Peter Guillery of the Survey of London for access to his index to Marylebone deeds at LMA.
- 24 LMA, MDR 1740/1/488, whereby Gibbs buys 30 Argyll St. west from the second Duke of Argyll (and two other parties) on 3 April 1740: *The survey of London. Volume XXXI. The parish of St James Westminster. Part two. North of Piccadilly* (1963), pp. 288–9 & fig. 55 on p. 285 (as No. 29).
- 25 LMA, MDR 1742/2/160, whereby Gibbs buys No. 4 from the builder's residuary mortgagee Gilbert Geddes on 18 July 1742. For grants of leases to Gibbs 1727–1731, see J. Summerson, 'Henrietta Place, Marylebone, and its associations with James Gibbs', *London Topographical Record*, 21 (1958), pp. 29, 31–4, 36 & fig. 2 (Nos. 6–10's entrance); Balderston, *GGJ* (2004), pp. 299–300, fig. 5 on p. 295 (No. 8's portico-No. 13); *Survey of London. Volume 51. South-east Marylebone. Part 1. Edited by Philip Temple and Colin Thom* (2017), pp. 238–41, fig. 259 (Wimpole St. to Welbeck St.) & fig. 261 (recreation of block plan N [CWAC, Acc 2273], which delineates ground plan of the terrace as it was *circa* 1807). *Pace* Balderston, *loc. cit.*, the leases for Nos. 9–11 were assigned directly to Gibbs by the Harleys, and *only* the lease for No. 9 included a covenant of completion by 24 June 1728 – 'before the twenty fourth day of June next compleatly finish the s<sup>d</sup> Messe or Tenem<sup>t</sup> Coach houses & Stables' –, indicating that Nos. 10–11 had both been completed by September 1727.
- 26 Rare references to the existence of short-term tenancy agreements are 'the tenants lease' for Francis Fauquier's possession of No. 30 Argyll St. in Gibbs's will and to 'Sir Reginald's lease' for No. 4 Henrietta St. in the will of John Kerr of the parish of St Anne's Westminster merch.' dated 19 July 1755: TNA, PROB 11/877/415, proved 28 June 1762.
- 27 The 1813 edition by William Fadden was reproduced as *The A to Z of Regency London* (London Topographical Society, 1985), pl. 12 on p. 24.
- 28 D. Billbey and M. Truist, *British sculpture 1470 to 2000. A concise catalogue of the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum* (2002), p. 128, no. 178; G. Gater & F. R. Hiorns, *Survey of London. Volume XX. Trafalgar Square and neighbourhood (The parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, part III)* (1940), pl. 27.
- 29 *A catalogue of all the elegant household furniture, capital collection of pictures, drawings, and prints ... The property of Sir William Chambers ... at his villa at Whitton ... which will be sold by auction by Mr. Christie, on the premises ...*, 20–22 June 1796, p. 18, 2nd day's sale (21 June 1796), under heading 'On the lawn and shrubbery, and in the mausoleum', lot 89, 'A marble medallion of Mr. Gibbs, one of Sir Christopher Wren, and one of Michael Angelo Buonarotti', knocked down at £3 to Ibb<sup>n</sup>. Described by George Vertue in 1723 – *Vertue note books. III* (Walpole Society 1933–1934, publ. 1934), p. 13 –, it was one of the three busts of men 'in alto relievo' by Rysbrack bought by William Chambers on 28 March 1783 as lots 90–92 (the fourth he bought, lot 93, being of a lady), for which see Balderston, *GGJ* (2001), pp. 5, 13–5 & 17 and figs. 11–12 & 15 (N.B. re fig. 11: annotation in catalogue against lot 93 reads 'overleaf', not oval relief).
- 30 TNA, PROB 11/581/296, probate transcript of will of 'Matthew Prior of the parish of Saint Margaret Westminster' dated 9 August 1721, proved 19 September 1721: '... I leave to my Lord Harley the buste of Flora made by Girardon ...' – for which marble bust, see Balderston, *GGJ* (2001), note 5 on p. 20.
- 31 Balderston, *GGJ* (2001), pp. 1–28.
- 32 *A catalogue of the genuine and curious collection of pictures, by several eminent masters, of that ingenious architect James Gibbs, esq; deceased; with some few pictures lately consign'd from abroad. And also the large library tables and desk of the late Doctor Mead. Which will be sold by auction, by Mr. Langford, at his house in the Great Piazza, Covent Garden, on Thursday and Friday the 25th and 26th of this instant March 1756.* N.B. each day's sale starts at lot 1.
- 33 Friedman, *Gibbs* (1984), p. 23, fig. 11, & note 14 on p. 336.

- 34 *A catalogue of a collection of Italian, French, Flemish and Dutch pictures, the property of a gentleman, deceased, brought from his house in Scotland, part of which were collected by the late Mr. Gibbs, architect; ...*, Mr. Christie, London, 20–21 March 1775, 168 lots sold by vendors identified in auctioneer's book as 'Al' (90 lots), 'Sir J' (67 lots) and 'Pat' (11 lots). The former may be the late Robert Alexander, whose collection 'brought from his late residence in Edinburgh' was sold at Christie's on 31 March–1 April 1775.
- 35 TNA, PROB 11/545/370, probate transcript of will of 'James Long of the parish of St. Mary Le Bone in the county of Middlesex gent' dated 11 July 1712, proved 26 April 1715: 'Item I give and bequeath unto my said two neices Beatrice and Mary Long all my furniture and pictures (except the pictures herein after mentioned) at and belonging to my owne lodging roome and withdrawing roome in my house at Marybone ...; and direct that all my pictures fixed within the pannells of my said house shall be standers therein and be taken as part of my said house'.
- 36 Friedman, *Gibbs* (1984), pp. 327–30, lists 162 of Gibbs's books on the fine arts and discusses the sale in 1894 of some of them. B. Little, *The life and work of James Gibbs* (1955) [hereafter as Little, *Gibbs* (1955)], pp. 164–6, treats a few other titles. Seven volumes of drawings bequeathed by Gibbs were transferred in 1925 to the Ashmolean Museum: W. W. Crandall, 'Catalogue of the drawings of James Gibbs in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and their connection with his life and work' (University of Oxford B. Litt thesis, 1933).
- 37 For *Gibbs 'a bald head'* by Michael Rysbrack, see Balderston, *GGJ* (2004), pp. 4–6, fig. 5: in fact, the bust is signed and dated on three lines IAC: GIBBS Arch: M:<sup>1</sup> Ryfbrack fculp: 1726. – almost identically to *loc. cit.*, fig. 3 – as Dana Josephson kindly informed me in 2015; M. Baker, 'No cap or wig but a thin hair upon it: hair and the male portrait bust in England around 1750', *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 38, no. 1, (Fall 2004), pp. 63–77.
- 38 Now in the collection of the Earl of Mar and Kellie: Little, *Gibbs* (1955), p. 121 & note 20 on p. 201; Friedman, *Gibbs* (1984), p. 210, fig. 238.
- 39 Borlach was working as Gibbs's draughtsman by 1724: Friedman, *Gibbs* (1984), p. 24 & note 20 on p. 336. His drawings of monumental stone entrances and of their measured ground-plans were engraved by John Boydell and published in 1776 as *Designs of architecture, for arches or gates, the several plans, and uprights, contained in XX plates. By John C: Borlach, architect. Publish'd by J. Boydell engraver n<sup>o</sup>. 90 Cheapside London 1776*: each plate is inscribed *J. Borlach inv<sup>o</sup>*: Only two sets are known, both now pasted into scrapbooks. One set, published in 1776, is now in Montréal at Centre Canadien d'Architecture, call no. 0008137: my thanks to librarian Tim Klähn for sending images from this scrapbook headed *Architecture & Ornaments Vol: 10*. The other – its date cut off (Friedman, *op. cit.*, fig. 12 on p. 25) – is now in Cambridge, USA, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rotch library, call no. NA2880.B67 1755 (date of first set of prints pasted into that book): this scrapbook had belonged to Charles Bulfinch (1763–1844) and was given to Boston Society of Architecture after the death in 1870 of Stephen Greenleaf Bulfinch, one of his sons. Bulfinch may have obtained Borlach's prints during a stay in London 1785–1787. N.B. Pace MIT's and CAA's cataloguing, there is no evidence that either scrapbook had been compiled by Boydell.
- 40 Dr. William King (1685–1763), public speaker, writer, political satirist, Jacobite sympathizer until 1750s, and principal of St Mary Hall at the university of Oxford from 9 December 1719 until his death on 30 December 1763: *ODNB* (2004), vol. 31, pp. 687–9, 'King, William' by R. Sharp.
- 41 Charles Pryor (d. 1774) of Daventry, Northants., was admitted to Lincoln's Inn on 8 December 1729 and was acting for the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's will by 1734.
- 42 Edinburgh, Royal Bank of Scotland Archives, Drummond's bank, customer account ledger, DR/427/33, fol. 417, 'debits' denoting paid out. Legacies in cash were paid as follows – £100 to John Ker on 20 August, presumably 'for a privat charity' as directed by his daughters; the bearer was paid £120 on 29 August, presumably for Gibbs's funeral; £1000 to settle 'T. Erskine's bill' on 28 September; £100 to Dr. William King on 3 October; £100 to Foundling Hospital

on 24 October; and £100 to St Bartholomew's Hospital on 26 October 1754. In addition, expenses of £26 4s. were paid to Richard Warner on 3 October and £27 18s. to John Price & Co. on 18 October 1754. My thanks to Sally Cholewa, the archivist there, for her considerable assistance.

During Gibbs's lifetime, Drummond's was on the east side of Charing Cross between Northumberland House and a lane named Angel Court in rate books and Johnson's Court on John Rocque's *A plan of the cities of London and Westminster ...* of 1738–1746 – for which see *The A to Z of Georgian London* (London Topographical Society, 1982), sheet 11, Ab. The bank moved to its present site (opposite) in 1760.

- 43 *Ibidem*. In the right-hand margin of the ledger is a column of running totals, which includes two cash transfers to John Ker's own account at Drummonds, namely £1727 16s. 2d. on 12 September and £45 18s. on 9 November 1754: the £1727 16s. 2d. paid to Ker included the balance of £927 16s. 2d. left in Gibbs's own account. The gross total of monies paid out from this account by the executry is shown as amounting to £3347 16s. 2d.