



## HELVA (ELIAS) DE PARTIK – THE EVIDENCE

**Abstract:** It is commonly assumed that Helya(s) or Elias de Partick, brother of Peter de Pollok, was an ordained cleric of Glasgow diocese who, some also believe, held a canonry (with an attached prebend of Partick) within the cathedral's establishment. The following paper aims to present information gathered from the available registers - of Paisley Priory (later Abbey), Melrose Abbey, and Glasgow Cathedral, Coupar Angus Abbey – in order to determine the truth regarding his possible ecclesiastical biography. The hunt was initiated by a statement by the renowned Professor G.W.S. Barrow, who had this to say – “Elias, Peter's brother, was [the] incumbent at Mearns, and was a canon of Glasgow Cathedral, being usually styled, doubtless from the prebend he held, as Elias of Partick.”<sup>1</sup> A problem presented itself immediately – there never was a prebend of Partick in Glasgow cathedral! It was hoped that, by returning to the original sources and applying a critical eye to the evidence that is to be found in them, it might be possible to construct a safer biography – one that might, in future, prevent students studying this famous family from pouncing on any individual they find called Helya(s) and immediately pronouncing them to be “Elias de Partik”!

### Helya/Helia/Elia de Partik.

Let us start with a little-known source – Hamilton of Wishaw, William (1831) *Descriptions of the Sheriffdoms of Lanark and Renfrew, compiled about 1710*, Edinburgh: for the Maitland Club.<sup>2</sup> The following is extracted from page 112 of this source:

Allan, the *dapifer*, “is mentioned in the mortification of the lands of *Mola* by Eschina, wife to Walter the founder [of Paisley Priory/ Abbey].<sup>3</sup> And in the donation of the kirk of *Mairns* {Mearns, Renfrewshire} by Helias Pollock, [appear] his brother, and all his brethren, *viz.* Peter or Perez de Pollock, Helias also designed filius Fulberti, and ane other Helias de Pollock. This Peter and Helias doe mortify the kirks of *Mairns* and of *Pollock* to the monastery of Paisley in the reign of King William.”

“Robert, son of Robert Laird of Pollock, mortifies a yearly rent for the soul of Peter de Pollock, and Robert son of Fulbert, his predecessor {and, we assume, his father}. This Robert *filius* Roberti de

<sup>1</sup> Barrow, G.W.S. (1956) ‘The Earliest Stewart Fief,’ in *The Stewarts, Vol. X, No. 2 (1956)*, Edinburgh: Journal of the Stewart Society, p. 166; Barrow (1973) *The Kingdom of the Scots: Government, Church and Society from the eleventh to the fourteenth century*, London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., p. 2a/s342.

<sup>2</sup> [https://digital.nls.uk/publications-by-scottish-clubs/archive/78835430?mode=gallery\\_grid&sn=228](https://digital.nls.uk/publications-by-scottish-clubs/archive/78835430?mode=gallery_grid&sn=228)

<sup>3</sup> This is Walter FitzAlan, *dapifer* of Scotland.

Pollock, is in the confirmation by Peter son to Fulbert, whose wife was Helen: this is also in the reign of King William.”

“Thomas de Pollock is a witness to many charters in the reign of Alexander the Second and Alexander the Third.”

✚ This is immediately of interest since it introduces the idea that there were two sons of Fulbert named Elias/Helyas! If this is true then it would require Fulbert to have had four sons, not the commonly accepted three.

### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR ECCLESIASTICAL SOURCES WHERE A “HELYA” IS MENTIONED.

At first sight, one would imagine that the ‘first-name’, Helya (along with its variants), would rarely be encountered in Scotland. However, this is not the case, as we shall see.

There is no occurrence of HELYA in the *Medieval Fasti*.<sup>4</sup> This is not a surprise since Watt only aimed to include the ‘major dignitaries’ of the Scottish dioceses in her ground-breaking publication. Being only a simple canon, we would not expect Elias to appear in her lists. In my extended *Northern Fasti* there are four individuals who bear the first-name ELIAS but only one of these dates to before 1233 – Elias, Bishop of Ribe in Denmark (1142-66).

But we are still fairly sure that there **was** a Helya/Elias de Partik who was reportedly a canon of Glasgow towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, so the search is on!



The first, and most commonly cited, reference is the *Register of Melrose*, p. 60.<sup>5</sup> Looking there, we find that there is, indeed, Charter 70, (which spans pages 59-60), and which reads (in translation):

*Alan son of Walter, steward of the lord king of Scots, has granted and by this his charter established to Melrose Abbey that whole land which they {the monks} held from Richard Wallace, namely Barmuir<sup>6</sup> and Godenech, Ayrshire, by the bounds which are contained in the charter of Richard which they {the monks} have, concerning the same land, save his service from Richard and his heirs.<sup>7</sup>*

The **witness list** is the revealing part: Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow (d.1199); Richard, abbot of Dryburgh (fl.1188×93); **Helia, brother of Bishop Jocelin**; Walter, clerk of Bishops Ingram and Jocelin; Richard Malevise; **Elias, nepos {nephew} of Bishop Jocelin**; William Passelew [Paisley]; Peter of Corrie.

<sup>4</sup> Watt, D.E.R. (1969) , Edinburgh: Scottish Records Society.

<sup>5</sup> Innes, C. (1837) *Liber Sancte Marie de Melros, Vol. I*, Edinburgh: for the Bannatyne Club, p. 60, no. 70.

<sup>6</sup> There is *Barmuirhill Toll* in Tarbolton parish {NGR: NS 445284}. A farm called *Barmuir* is at {NGR: NS 440629}.

<sup>7</sup> POMS Database (Document 3/547/26 (Melr. Lib., no. 70)). [www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/5074/](http://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/5074/)

**Dating:** This charter is dated to (1189 x 1193).

**Original:** copied from *Liber Melrose*, pp. 59-60.

**Confirmatio Alani d Baremor .**

70 . Om̄ibz s̄c̄e m̄ris Eccl̄ie filiis tā p̄sentibz q̄m fut̄is . Alan⁹ fit . Walti  
 Dapifer d̄ni Reġ Scott̄ . Salt̄ . Sciatif me ꝓcessisse ⁊ hac mea carta  
 ꝓfirmasse do ⁊ Eccl̄ie s̄c̄e marie de c̄el̄ ⁊ monach̄ ibid̄ do seruiantibz  
 totā illam t̄rā q̄m tenent de Riċ . le Waleif . scit̄ Baremor ⁊  
 Godenech . ꝓ ip̄af diuisaf q̄ ꝓtinent̄ in carta ip̄i⁹ Riċ . q̄m h̄nt de eadē  
 t̄ra . ita ut q̄c̄qd̄ infra eadē diuisaf f̄uit habeat ⁊ possideant ī ꝓpetuū  
 ita libe ⁊ q̄ete ⁊ honorifice s̄c̄ aliq̄ elemosina libi⁹ q̄eti⁹ ⁊ honorifi-  
 centi⁹ in regno Reġ . Scott̄ possidet̄ . Et ego ⁊ h̄edes m̄i manutene-  
 bim⁹ ⁊ war̄tizabim⁹ illis eandem t̄rā ꝓt̄ om̄is hoīes in ꝓpetuū . saluo  
 seruitio meo de ip̄o Riċ . ⁊ h̄edibz ei⁹ . Hif . T . D̄no Joċ . Glasġ . eꝓo .  
 Riċ . abbe de D̄eb . Helia nepote eꝓi . Walto c̄lico eꝓi . Riċ . maleuise .  
 Helia fr̄e eꝓi . Wiffo passlewe . pet⁹ de curri .

✠ Whatever else is true, this tells us that the two individuals named Helia (Elias) in this charter, to whom so many have referred/cited, are, without question, **not** related to Fulbert and the Polloks. neither were these individuals necessarily in holy orders. they were the brother of the bishop, and his son (the bishop's nephew), who bore the same first-name as his father.

I draw this conclusion in the face of the most illustrious Prof. Barrow's work.



A number of word-searches were carried out in the *Melrose Liber* using the variants of 'Helya'.<sup>8</sup> These produced only one individual of interest - in Charter no. 256, p. 229. This charter relates to the church of *Old Roxburgh*.

It reads (in translation):

*Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, has given, and granted, and made firm by this his present charter, to Melrose Abbey, in free, pure and perpetual alms, four acres of arable land in the territory of **Old Roxburgh** above 'Twedeflat' as they lie in one holding, as marked by stones on the boundaries, as perambulated by him and his worthy men. He made this donation at Melrose in the presence of the convent and many of his men and others and he offered a rod (virgam) on the high altar of the monastery. He wills and grants that the monks should hold these alms free from all earthly service and custom and secular exaction.*<sup>9</sup>

The **witness list** is: Walter of St Albans, bishop of Glasgow (d.1232); Richard dean of Ancrum,<sup>10</sup> (fl.1202-26); Ralph, constable of Roxburgh; John, chaplain of Bunkle; Gregory of Rutherford; **Helia {Elias}, parson of Old Roxburgh**; Richard of Heton; Bernard of Hawden,.

**Dating:** This Charter is dated to (23 October 1214 x 25 October 1221)

- ✠ Could this be Elias of Partick? It is vaguely possible but the date of the charter may be too late.
- ✠ This Elias is called the *parson* of Old Roxburgh. this was one of the common ways of addressing a canon of a cathedral who held the rectory/parsonage of a church as part of his prebend. So this Elias, whoever he was, was very likely a canon of Glasgow on the basis of the evidence from this charter.
- ✠ Old Roxburgh became a prebend of Glasgow cathedral some time (1216 x 1305) which is fairly late in the cathedral's history. (Renfrew became a prebend (1118 x 1147)).

<sup>8</sup> If you download the book to one of your computer drives in *PDF format*, and then open the saved file with *MS Edge*, you are presented with the facility to search the whole document/book for a word by using the 'spy-glass' symbol at the top left of the screen. Then, you enter the 'character string' you wish to search for, in the box which opens to the right of the screen. MS Edge returns the number of instances that it has found of your search item and by using the UP and DOWN arrows, you can navigate through the whole document/book to each instance in turn. It is a wonderful facility!

<sup>9</sup> POMS Database (Document 3/24/1 (Melr. Lib., no. 256)). <https://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/2745/>

<sup>10</sup> Occ. as 'R. dean of Ancrum' Oct 1214 x Oct 1221; occ. as Richard parson of Ancrum and dean of Teviotdale 1208 x 1225, prob. c.1223; occ. as dean of Teviotdale 13 Dec 1225 and 1227; ch. of Ancrum was in other hands by 31 Jan 1231; see official of Glasgow. [Watt, D.E.R. (1969) *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae Medii Aevi: ad annum 1638*, Edinburgh: Scottish Records Society, p. 185]



In the list of witnesses to *Liber. Melrose, no. 121*,<sup>11</sup> we have two individuals named as **Helia**, mentioned as being canons of Glasgow at one and the same time. The body of the charter is repeated in [RRS, ii, no. 365, p. 359] where it is dated 1193. It would be reasonable, therefore, to date the Melrose charter to c.1193.

The same combination of “Helia, William, Bede, Helia, canons of Glasgow” is to be found in the following charter [Melr. Lib., no. 122, p. 113-4]. The charter is dated to (10 September 1195 x 2 February 1196).

- ✠ The evidence here is that during this period (c.1193 – 1196) there may have been two canons of Glasgow who bore the name Elias.
- ✠ Again, the “POMS database is determined to call one of these “Elias de Partik” but there really is no evidence for this in these charters.



It would be appropriate to pause here and make note of three relevant facts.

- ✠ Glasgow cathedral was only firmly established when the new cathedral building was consecrated - 7 July 1136. Bishop John (1124 – 1147) first established a group of secular canons (that is, they were not in holy orders) who were, at first, supported by the *common fund* of the cathedral. It was some little time before he started to establish prebends to support clerical canons (priests) and this had only partially been accomplished when he died in 1147. Could our Elias of Partik have been one of these early secular, un-ordained, canons? Well, it is possible ... but not certain.
- ✠ There never was a prebend called “Partick” in Glasgow cathedral.

<sup>11</sup> *Liber Sanct Marie de Melros, Vol. 1.*, no. 121, p. 112-113.

- ✠ The church of *renfrew* was granted by King David I to bishop John, who thereupon erected the church into a prebend of his cathedral. When the church of *paisley* was granted to the newly established priory (later abbey) of Paisley, c.1163, the monks claimed that the church of *renfrew*, was a *pendicle* of the church of Paisley and so belonged to them also. A dispute arose which was eventually settled by Pope Urban III (1185-86) and the abbey renounced all the rights it may have had in the church of *renfrew*. Both the *parsonage* and the *vicarage fruits* continued to be attached to the prebend up to the time of the second reformation in c.1560. The needs of the church were ministered to by a vicar pensioner.



In the Register of Glasgow Cathedral there is a charter, [Glas. Reg., no. 109, p. 93],<sup>12</sup> recording an agreement between Elias, the parson of Old Roxburgh (*vide supra*) and the convent of nuns at *Redesdale*, in Northumbria.

It reads (in translation):

*In 1213, an agreement was made between the prioress and nuns of Redesdale and Elias, parson of Old Roxburgh, namely, that the said nuns will pay to the said church, for the life of the parson, 3s. yearly, half at Martinmas and half at Pentecost, for all the tithes which pertain to his house which is in the territory of Heiton, Roxburghshire, except wheat, servants of the same house, oblations made and spiritual dues received in that church. If in truth he was a recipient of corrody in the said house, he may be buried in the church.*

**Dating:** This charter is firmly dated to 1213.



We now come to a most important piece of evidence. The charter in question is in the *Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis*<sup>13</sup> and relates to a gift by William de Somerville to Glasgow Cathedral.

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<sup>12</sup> Innes, C. (1843) *Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis, Vol. I*, Edinburgh: for the Bannatyne and Maitland Clubs; [www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/4150/](http://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/4150/)

It reads (in translation):

*William de Somerville<sup>14</sup> has given and granted to Glasgow Cathedral in free and perpetual alms, three acres of land, free and quit from all secular service and exaction, and the teinds of those acres, quit from the church of Linton {Roxburghshire}, with Edward, persona {parson} of that church, present.*

The **witness list** is: Arnold, bishop of St Andrews (d.1162); Osbert, abbot of Jedburgh (d.1174); John, abbot of Kelso (d.1180); Walter, prior of Kelso (1160s-70s); **Elias, canon of Glasgow** ; Ingram, archdeacon of Glasgow (1161-1164); Walter, chaplain of Lilliesleaf, Nicholas, clerk, master John, {and} Helya , clerk, canons of Glasgow.<sup>15</sup>

**Dating:** This charter is dated to (6 January 1161 x 13 September 1162).

- ✠ Is this our quarry? It is possible, but it does not prove that this Helya was Elias de Partik, the brother of Peter de Pollok, nor does it tell us anything about the prebend that this Helya held. Consequently, we must conclude that there is no proof here '*prima facie*'.
- ✠ This charter provides for a very narrow dating for the appearance of this Helya (6 January 1161 x 13 September 1162). If we accept that Helyas de Partick was born c.1142, then he would only be 19 years of age at the time of this charter, which would be very young for a cathedral canon.

This item is of such importance to 'our cause' that I reproduce it here from the *Registrum*.

<sup>13</sup> *ibid.*, no. 16, p. 17. [www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/5956/](http://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/5956/)

<sup>14</sup> William de Somerville was a close associate of King David I and, in return for his services, was given *Carnwath*, Lothian. William seems also to have been the Royal Falconer and, in 1174, he was given the barony of *Linton* in Roxburghshire, by King William 'the Lion'.

<sup>15</sup> Notice that in the witness list on the POMS Database, they **wrongly** list Ingram as bishop of Glasgow - at the date of this charter, Ingram was still only Archdeacon and did not become bishop until 1164.

De tribz ac's terre in villa de Lintun .

16 **W**itns de Sumuilla . Om̄ibz S̄ce m̄rif ecclie filiif ⁊ fiddibz tam futurif q̄  
 p̄sentibz . Saht . Sciatif me dediffe ⁊ concessiffe Ecclie S̄ci kenteḡni de  
 Glafgu ī libā ⁊ p̄petuam Eīam tref ac' t̄re libaf ⁊ quietaf ab om̄i sc̄lari fuitio  
 ⁊ exactōne . Et decimam illaī ac'rum quietam ⁊ absolutā ab ecclia de lintun .  
 p̄fente ⁊ annuente Eadwardo diebz illif ei'ā ecclie p̄fona . Test̄ . Ernaldo  
 Eḡo S̄ci Andree . Of̄to abbe de Jedđ . Joḡ abbe de chelc̄ . Galto p̄ore de  
 chelc̄ . Inḡ . arch̄ . Galto capp̄to de liht̄ . Nich̄ Cl̄ico . Maḡro Joḡ . Helya  
 Cl̄ico . Canonicif de Glafḡ .

The POMS translation of the witness list of this charter includes “Elias of Partick, canon of Glasgow (son of Fulbert)”. No source is given for this statement. We can only hazard a guess and suggest that this is an ‘enthusiastic’ translation and that the translator has fallen into the trap (like so many others) of jumping to the conclusion that the Helya who witnesses this charter is Elias de Partick. It may possibly be true, but, there is no evidence to support this in the source.



A later charter in the Glasgow Registrum<sup>16</sup> is witnessed by Helya, canon of Glasgow. The charter records the gift of the church of *Hutton*, Dumfries, with all of its rightful possessions and 8 acres of land, to Jedburgh Abbey. It reads (in translation):

*Adam son of Gilbert<sup>17</sup> has given, granted and by this his charter established, to Jedburgh Abbey in free and quit and perpetual alms, the church of Hutton, which first was a chapel, with lands, mansions, teinds, oblations, and all other pertinents, as well as 8 acres of land in the territory of Hutton, which he has perambulated and assigned to that church.*

The **witness list** of the charter is: Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow; John, bishop of Dunkeld; W[illiam II], abbot of Holyrood; H[ugh], abbot of Newbattle; Simon, archdeacon of Glasgow; William and **Helya, canons of Glasgow**; Walter, clerk to the bishop of Glasgow; John, clerk to the archdeacon; ‘and many others’.

**Dating:** The charter is dated to (1193 x 2 February 1196) probably 1194.

<sup>16</sup> *Glasgow Registrum*, no. 78, p. 68. <https://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/4424/>

<sup>17</sup> The POMS Database suggests that this is Adam, son of Gilbert, son of Richer, lord of Kilbucho.





Charter number 95 in the *Glasgow Registrum* gives us another occurrence of a canon of Glasgow Cathedral called Helya(s).<sup>18</sup> It reads (in translation):

*Herbert, dean of Glasgow, in the presence of William, bishop of Glasgow, has conceded that he has no rights in vacant prebends or in the possessions pertaining to prebends. If it happens that one of the prebends is vacated by the death of one of the canons, whether the canon has made a will, or died having made no will, and the same dean asserts his influence, custody of the prebend will fall into the hands of the bishop, and to he who the bishop himself shall designate, as long as they shall be ordained by the bishop.*

The **witness list** is: Herbert, dean of Glasgow; Robert, archdeacon of Glasgow; Bede and Helyas, canons of Glasgow; who appended their signatures. Testified by: John de Huntingdon, official of Glasgow; John and Peter, chaplains of the Bishop; Peter, *baillard*; Philipp de pthec; Osbert, Roger, Gregory, Gilbert son of Edgar; Thomas, *pincerna*; John del Crag; vicars of Glasgow Cathedral; master Robert de Hedun; William de Golin; and others.

The POMS Database suggests the following as a translation of this witness list: “David, vicar of Glasgow; Gilbert, son of Edgar; Gregory, chaplain (Glasgow); John of Huntingdon, master, official of Glasgow (fl.1179×1208); John of the Crag (I); John, chaplain of bishops of Glasgow; Osbert (Glasgow); Patrick (Glasgow cathedral); Peter Baillard, master, clerk; Peter, chaplain and clerk of Bishop Malveisin; Philip of Partick, rector of Rutherglen; Robert of Heddon, master; Robert, vicar of Glasgow; Roger (Glasgow); Thomas (Glasgow cathedral); William of Gullane, rector of Gullane.”

We don’t see where “David, vicar of Glasgow” comes from. The translation of “Philip de Pthec” as “Philip of Partick” is extremely interesting, particularly since the translator adds that this Philip was the rector of Rutherglen. Very importantly, the POMS translators miss out “Bede and Helyas, canons of Glasgow,” completely!

**Dating:** The charter is dated to (February 1201 x 20 September 1202).



We come now to another charter, [Glasgow Register, no. 139, p. 117], which is witnessed by an individual called *Helya*, but this is *Elias Wallace*, who is described in the text as a “knight of Duncan, Earl of Carrick.” Since the charter is dated to Monday 21 July 1225, I feel that all the evidence points to this not being Elias de Partick – although the ‘surname’ Wallace is possibly of some interest.

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<sup>18</sup> Glas. Reg., no. 95, p. 83; [www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/1495/](http://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/1495/)



Turning now to the records of the Priory (later Abbey) of Paisley, which bore the rather long dedication to ‘St Mary, St James, St Mirin and St Milburge’, we find firstly a most interesting charter. It includes the names of *Helya*, a chaplain, and “*Roberto filio Fulberti*” in the list of witnesses.<sup>19</sup> This Robert is, of course, Peter of Pollok’s brother who is sometimes known as Robert de Stenton.

The charter is somewhat lengthy but in summary it reads (in translation):

*Eschina, wife of Walter son of Alan I, steward of the king of Scotland, has given and granted, and by this his charter established, to Paisley Priory, for the welfare of her lord King William, and of David his brother, and of her lord Walter, and of others, and for the soul of Henry II, king of England, and for the souls of King David and King Malcolm and Earl Henry and of her daughter Margaret who is buried in the chapterhouse at Paisley, in perpetual and quiet alms, one ploughgate of land in Mow, Roxburghshire, by its bounds which were measured and perambulated, and pasture for 500 sheep, and easements for other beasts as pertains to a ploughgate of land, with all other easements, free and quit from all customs, exactions, and temporal service. Sealed by her lord Walter.*

The **witness list** reads: Walter son of “Alan, my lord”; Alan his son; Osbert, chaplain of *Oxnam*; Luke, chaplain; *Helya*, chaplain; Walter, clerk of *Molla* (Mow); Richard, clerk; James, clerk; John, son of Orm, who, with Edalf, the “preposito” of the said *ville* and Gilbert, and a number of other honest men, perambulated the lands in question and presented them to the monks; including {as witnesses} Walter de Costentin {Côtentin} and his son Nigel; Robert de Montgommery; Roland de Mearns; William de Lanark; Walter, chamberlain; William son of Robert; Alan de Leya {Lee}; Richard his brother; Ralph the grieve; Robert, nephew of my lord Walter, Robert Croc {Crook}; **Robert the son of Fulbert**; Simon Fleming; Richard nephew of the Prior (Osbert, of Paisley Abbey).

**Dating:** The charter is dated to (25 March 1173 x 1177).

- ✠ this charter confirms that Robert de Pollok/Stenton was alive (1173 x 1177) at which time there was a chaplain called Helya.
- ✠ tempting though it is, it would be poor scholarship to immediately determine that this Helya (a chaplain) was Helya de Partik, however it is very tempting to do so!

<sup>19</sup> Innes, C. (ed.) (1832) *Registrum Monasterii de Passelet*, Edinburgh: for the Maitland Club, re-published by the New Club in 1877, 75. <https://archive.org/details/registrummonaste00mait>



The next is a pair of charters which record the gift, by Sir Herbert Maxwell, to Paisley Abbey, of the church of *Mernes* (Mearns, Renfrewshire) and something over 8½ acres of land there.<sup>20</sup> The first charter is fairly straightforward as far as the details which it gives are concerned, but the second gives us much more detail – it describes the boundaries of the piece of land in question. Of particular interest is that, in this second charter, Sir Herbert says that the gift is specifically to exclude the lands of, and the House of, *Torphichen*.<sup>21</sup> This second charter is witnessed by a group of what might be called “more ordinary” witnesses.

The **witness list** of the first charter is what is of particular importance to us: Herbert, dean, and Simon, archdeacon, of Glasgow; **Helya**, Bede, and William, canons of Glasgow; Peter, dean of Christiandy of Clydesdale; Walter and John, clerks of Sir Herbert; Richard, clerk of Dundonald; Philip, clerk; William, parson of Drumsirgar (Cambuslang); John, parson of Kilbride; William Francig’, Cuthbert, Gregorio, Laurence, Nicholas, and Peter, chaplains; Nicholas, clerk; Gilbert, son of Edgar; Alexander de Hirdmanston; and Alexander, his son; Alan de Montgomery; David de Stobbo; and numerous others.

**Dating:** The first charter, which is of most interest to us, can be dated to (1179 x 1195).<sup>22</sup>

✠ The first of these two charters confirms that there was a canon of Glasgow called Helya, at some date (1179 x 1195).

**Notes:** Mearns is known nowadays as *Newton Mearns* but the parish church has always been in what was known as the Old Town (*le Aldton*).



We next find a charter of Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow.<sup>23</sup> Recognising the poverty of the house of St James of Paisley (one of the dedications of the Abbey), he grants to the community serving God there, the churches of Katkert {Cathcart, Rutherglen deanery}, Ruthglen {Rutherglen deanery}, Cormannoc {Carmunnock, Rutherglen deanery}, and Kylberhan {Kilbarchan, Rutherglen deanery}, with all their just possessions, saving the bishop’s *episcopalibus*, and saving possession where a parson is serving the church, until a vicar has been substituted. The charter was given at Glasgow.

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 101-103.

<sup>21</sup> Torphichen was the Preceptory of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St John in Scotland.

<sup>22</sup> Herbert was dean of Glasgow (1179 – 1204); Simon was archdeacon (1166 – 1195).

<sup>23</sup> Reg. Pais., p. 101-103.

The **witness list** is: Herbert, dean of Glasgow; **Helya**, Bede, and William, canons of Glasgow; Fulcone Olifard {Fulk Oliphant}; John, parson of Kilbride; William Francigena; master Nicholas, chaplain of Glasgow {cathedral}; John de Montgomery; Gervaise, clerk of the bishop.

**Dating:** The charter can be dated to (1181 x 1199).



The following charter in the *Registrum* is one given by Florentius, bishop-elect of Glasgow, in which he confirms Paisley's possession of the churches of Cathcart, Rutherglen, Carmunnock, Kilbarchan, Mearns, and **Polloc**.<sup>24</sup>

The **witness list** is: Herbert, dean of Glasgow; Robert, archdeacon of Glasgow; master John, bishop's Official; Beda, **Elia**, Jocelino, canons of Glasgow; **Philippo de Perthek {Partik}**; master Theoderico and Maurice Lovell, clerks of the bishop-elect; Benedict, chaplain; John of Kilbrid; and others.

**Dating:** The charter is dated (20 September 1202 x 15 May 1207).

- ✠ This charter introduces a new character – Philip de Partick.
- ✠ The charter also shows Elias, canon of Glasgow, at a later date (20 September 1202 x 15 May 1207).



A charter in the collection known as *Scottish Episcopal Acta*, provides us with a tantalizing addition to our collection of references to Elias.<sup>25</sup> The charter states that (in translation):

*Herbert, bishop of Glasgow, for Elias, his clerk; he has given and granted the church of Govan as a prebend in Glasgow Cathedral; the islands between Govan and Partick; and that part of Partick which King David gave to Glasgow Cathedral as an endowment at the time of its dedication; he augments and gives to the prebend that part not at first belonging to it, with the adjacent islands and fisheries.*

The **witness list** includes:

**Dating:** The charter is commonly dated to (24 August 1147 x 13 September 1162)

<sup>24</sup> Innes, C. (ed.) (1832) *Registrum Monasterii de Passelet*, Edinburgh: for the Maitland Club, re-published by the New Club in 1877, p. 109.

<sup>25</sup> Shead, N.F. (ed.) *Scottish Episcopal Acta, Vol. 1*, Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, no. 77, p. 81-82.

**Notes:** - *Govan* lies on the south bank of the River Clyde, directly opposite to *Partick* which lies on the north bank;  
- Glasgow Cathedral was dedicated on 7 July 1136;

- ✠ This Elias, who is not identified in the charter as Elias de Partik, was canon of Govan. He was also clerk to bishop Herbert (1147 – 1164).
- ✠ By this charter, the bishop augments the prebend so that it now comprises Govan, the islands between Govan and Partick, and those lands of Partick originally given by King David to Glasgow cathedral.
- ✠ This charter shows that Partick had been divided into at least two parts – one part being given by King David I to the bishop of Glasgow, with at least one other part being given elsewhere.

**Notes:** The second share of Partick appears to have been given to Walter FitzAlan.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> In a list of properties held by Walter we find *West Partick (Prethe)*. This appears to be the 'second' part of Partick since the bishop of Glasgow still held the first part. [*REGISTRUM MONASTERII DE PASSELET*, (1832), APP. PP. 1–2] On 24 June, 1161x1162, King Malcolm granted to Walter, son of Alan, his steward, the donation which King David made (to him) of various possessions, including the 'stewardship'. [*RRS*, i. 183, 184]

APPENDIX 1: EXTRACT OF A CHARTER FROM THE CISTERCIAN ABBEY OF COUPAR ANGUS.

There is a charter amongst the collection published by Dr Easson <sup>27</sup> which provides us with an interesting glimpse of the wider benefactions of the Pollok family.

**Charter XII**

*Universis sancta matris ecclesie filiis literas istas visuris vel audituris: **Walterus Murdoch** salute. Sciant tam presents quam future me pro salute domini regis Willelmi et domini alexandri filii eius et pro salute mea et sponse mee et antecessorum et successorum meorum concessisse ... monachis de cupro ... donacionem illam quam **petrus polloc** fecit eis scilicet asiamenta boscorum suorum materiem \*\*\* omnibus aliis asiamentis domui de cupro necessariis. in puram et perpetuam elemosinam \*\*\* heredibus meis ita libere ... sicut carta prefati [Petri] de eisdem asiamentis. test[atur] \*\*\* ut predictum \*\*\* donacionem meam sigilli mei munimine roboravi \*\*\* mee et sponse \*\*\* prouno monachorum.*

(This charter is much defaced. The seal is missing. The original is in the *Moray Charters*, Box 32, Div. IV, Bundle I, No. 24.)

The donor here is, of course, the Walter Murdoch who married Peter de Pollok's daughter, Muriel, and so came into her lands of Rothies when her father died. The charter relates that Walter is, hereby, confirming the grant which Peter had previously made to the monks of Coupar Angus Abbey, of certain *easements* of his woods. Sadly, we are not given any details regarding where these woods were.

It is commonly assumed that this charter belongs to the time when the abbey buildings at Coupar Angus were under construction. For many years it was thought that it was acceptable to attribute the foundation of the Abbey to the year 1164<sup>28</sup> and the Chronicle of Melrose supplies the additional detail that it took place on 12 July of that year.<sup>29</sup> It has, however, been shown that a charter of King Malcolm, granting his land of Coupar to the monks,<sup>30</sup> must be dated 1161-2,<sup>31</sup> and the date 1164 may be taken as applying to the year in which the foundation {of the *choir* of the abbey church?} was complete.

Peter de Pollok inherited the barony lands of Upper Pollok, from his father, c.1153. He died c.1205. Muriel and Walter de Murdoch were married about the year 1200.

Easson dates this charter to 1190-1214.

<sup>27</sup> Easson, D.E. (1947) *Charters of the Abbey of Coupar Angus, Volume I, Charters I to CXVIII (1166-1376)*, Edinburgh: for the Scottish History Society, (Third Series), v. 40, pp. 27-28.

<sup>28</sup> *Scotichronicon* (ed. Godall), I, pp. 348, 453; *Extracta*, p. 73; *Chron. of John Smyth in Kinloss*, pp. 5, 13; and elsewhere.

<sup>29</sup> *Chron. Mailros*, p. 78.

<sup>30</sup> *Breviarium*, I.

<sup>31</sup> *Chron. of Holyrood*, pp. 144-5 n.

- ✦ This charter is interesting from four points of view:
  - ✦ Firstly, it shows that Peter de Pollok's interests were not solely concerned with the Cluniac abbey of Paisley and its surroundings.
  - ✦ It demonstrates that Walter de Murdoch wanted to continue Peter's interest in the Cistercian house of Coupar, which was in the county of Angus. Most probably this was due to the influence of his wife, Muriel de Pollok.
  - ✦ Walter had, from his wife, the lands of Rothes.
  - ✦ Since he is, in this charter, confirming the abbey's rights, this would imply that the forest concerned lay within the lands of Rothes which his wife inherited from her father and that it was Peter de Pollok who first gave them to Coupar Angus Abbey. (They have not, heretofore, been identified.)

## Additional Notes - Robert of Stenton/Pollok



In the *Liber Sanct Marie de Melros* (Register of Melrose Abbey), we find a charter of Robert de Stenton (which we assume is Robert de Pollok) recording that he gave five acres of land to Melrose Abbey.<sup>32</sup> It reads (in translation):

*Robert of Stenton has given and by this his charter established to Melrose Abbey, for the souls of David and Malcolm, kings of Scots, and Earl Henry and Walter son of Alan, his lords, and all his ancestors and successors, and for the salvation of William, king of Scots, David, his brother, and Alan son of Walter, his lords, and for the soul of himself, his wife and all their ancestors and successors, five acres of land with the pasture which is called 'Elwaldescalesloningge' in the territory of Stenton, East Lothian, by stated bounds, which include the land of the monks, the land which he gave to Robert, his son, and his land, in free, pure and perpetual alms, [free] from all terrestrial service and secular exaction. Additionally, with regards to the lawsuit and controversy which existed for some time between him and the monks concerning the bounds between Stenton and Hartside, he quitclaimed the rights he had or was able to have, save the chirograph between him and them concerning the same established bounds.*

The witness list is: Hugh de Mortuo (Mortimer), prior of the Isle of May; **Helia de Pethik (Partick), my brother and canon of Glasgow**; Andrew, dean (of Christianity) of Tynninghame (Lothian); Gilbert and Peter, clerks of Whittinghame; Adam son of Aldan, and Patrick, Adam's son; Ness, son of Ness; Oliver of Linton; Philip de Pitcox; Alexander de Hawick; Robert, son of Gregory; Geoffrey, son of N.; Aldan White; Walter the burgess; Edwin the forester; Aldred de Popple; etc..

**Dating:** The charter can be dated to (c.1198 x 1206).

✚ We have, here, irrefutable evidence that Elias de Partick, the brother of Robert de Partick/Stenton, was a canon of glasgow and that both were alive (c.1198 x 1206).

It is possible that this is the charter from which Professor Barrow obtained his information and that, in some way, the referencing process went awry. This is certainly the evidence that we have been searching for. There can be absolutely no doubt from this point forward that Elias de Partick was a canon of Glasgow. But, we still have no information about the title of the prebend he held although there is a suspicion that it was *Govan* (which included part of *Partick*, as we have seen above). There never was a prebend of Partick, nor for that matter, of Pollok. But I believe that there are references to a prebend called "*Govan with Partick*".

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<sup>32</sup> *Melrose Liber.*, i, no. 63.





The following charter<sup>33</sup> is of particular interest because it confirms certain family relationships. The text reads (in translation):

*Isabella, wife of Robert of Pollok, by the consent of Robert, [her] husband, and the council of Robert Crock, her father, gave and granted to Simon of Lindsay at perpetual ferme, her marriage dowry which she held in the territory of Mow, Roxburghshire, with its pertinents, freedoms and easements, just as the same land was given to her father by Lady Eschina of Mow, free and quit from all service and exaction. Simon is to return ten [...] (damaged)*

Sadly, the later part of the charter is considerably damaged and, therefore, the following **witness list** is subject to a little re-construction: John {of Kilbride}, dean of Christiandy of Clydesdale; Philip of Partik, {rector of Rutherglen}; Alan of Ness, {knight}; William, son of Thor[aldi], {sheriff of Stirling}; Hugh Lurgot; Adam Young.

**Dating:** This charter is commonly dated to (September 1195 x c.1200).

- ✠ Robert de Pollok's wife is shown to be Isabella, whose father is given as Robert Crock.
- ✠ Robert of Crock had received land in Mow from Lady Eschina of Mow (wife of Walter, son of Alan (I) the Steward). Eschina inherited the lands of Mow from her father, Uhtred of Mow.
- ✠ Robert of Crock had given Isabella, his daughter, certain lands in Mow as her dowry settlement when she married Robert de Pollok.



Roberto filio Fulberti is a witness to the charter [*Reg. Pais.*, p. 5-7] of Walter FitzAlan, wherein he grants substantial properties – including the churches of Innerwick, Legerwood, Cathcart, all the churches of 'Strathgryfe' (i.e. Renfrewshire) excepting the church of Inchinnan, and the church of Paisley – to Paisley Priory.

The **witness list** is (in translation): Ingeram, bishop of Glasgow; Richard, bishop of St Andrews; John, abbot of Kelso; Osbert, abbot of Jedburgh; master Marco; Salomone, dean of Glasgow; **Elia(s), clerk**; Master John; Alan, Walter's son; Robert de Montgommery; Baldwin of Bigar; Robert de Côtentin; Walter de Côtentin; **Robert son of Fulbert**; Ewen, son of Donald; Walter de Cotentin; Nigel de Cotentin; Alexander de Hastings; Hugh of Pettinain; Richard Wallace; Robert Croc; Roger de Nes; Richard, Walter's clerk; and many others.

<sup>33</sup> *Melrose Liber, i.*, no. 295.

**Dating:** The charter is dated to (25 Dec 1165 x 25 Mar 1173).



We find **Helia de Perthec** acting as a witness to a charter of Alan, son of Walter FitzAlan,<sup>34</sup> whereby he confirms his father's gift of certain churches and property to Paisley Abbey. Helia is not 'qualified' in any way but appears immediately after Simon, the archdeacon. We also find "**Roberto filio Fulberti**" (Robert of Pollok/Stenton) acting as a witness. Another witness later in the list is Arnaldo de Perthec.

The entry of this charter in the POMS Database translates Helia de Perthec as "Elias of Partick, canon of Glasgow (son of Fulbert)" without providing evidence in support.

The witness list is (in translation): Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow; Herbert, dean; Simon, archdeacon; **Helia de Partick**; Fulk Oliphant; Robert de Cotentin; Walter de Cotentin; Robert Croc; **Robert son of Fulbert**; Robert of Kent; Henry of Carmunnock; Simon de Scoll; Rolland; Henry of St Martin; Alan the Chamberlain; William son of Robert; Alan de Montgomery; Geoffrey Britto; Richard son of Wilbrand; **Arnold de Partik**; Reynaud de Cathcart.

**Dating:** The charter can be dated to (1179 x 1196).



We also have a charter<sup>35</sup> of Alan, son of Walter, *dapifer* of the King of Scots, in which he grants and by this his charter establishes to his house of Paisley, the donation which Henry de St Martin made, by Alan's counsel and wish, and by the consent of Gilbert his son and heir, of all his land between Cart and Gryfe, in free and perpetual alms, as Henry held it by gift of Alan's father, Walter son of Alan. Moreover, for the souls of King David and King Malcolm, and for the souls of his father Walter and his mother Eschina, and for the welfare of his lord William, king of Scotland, and others, he donates, grants and by this his charter establishes to Paisley Priory, the church of *Kingarth* in the island of Bute, with all chapels and the parish of the whole island, and with all the land that is called St Blane's.

The **witness list** is (in translation): Walter de Cotentin; Nigel, his brother; **Robert, son of Fulbert**; **Peter, his brother**; Walter de Cotentin; Robert Croc; Roland de Mearns; Roger de Ness; Malcolm Lockart, and many others.

**Dating:** The charter can be dated to (1177 x 1204).

<sup>34</sup> *Reg. Pais.*, p. 11-12. <https://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/5770/>

<sup>35</sup> *Reg. Pais.*, p. 15.



In the Register of Paisley we have a charter of *Petrus de Pulloc* (Peter de Pollok) in which he confirms the gift of his brother *Helye* (Helias) of the church of Mernes to the monastery of Paisley, with lands, teinds, and other easements.<sup>36</sup>

The **witness list** is (in translation): Walter Murdac; William, brother of the bishop of Moray (Richard); Walter, son of *Arnold de Perthec* (Partick); Adam of Newbattle; Robert de Leighton; Symon, his brother; Fredebald son of Holmtancardi; Roger, a clerk.

**Dating:** The charter can be dated to (1177 x 1195).



The next charter in the *Register* is also of considerable importance.<sup>37</sup> In it, we have *Petrus filius Fulburti* (Peter de Pollok) gifting the church of *Pulloc* (Pollock) to the monastery of Paisley, for the *weel* of the souls of his lords, David and Malcolm, late kings, and William, king, and his son David, and for the soul of Walter Fitz Alan. Also for the souls of his parents, himself and his wife Helene and her parents; and the soul of his lord Alan; and for the souls of his (Peter's) brothers.

The **witness list** is (in translation): Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow; Simon, archdeacon; Herbert, Dean; *Robin, son of Robert de Pollok*; Henry de Ness; Adam, Henry's brother; Stephen of Kinnerley; William de Lindsay.

**Dating:** The charter may be dated to (1179 x 1196).



*Petrus filius Fulberti* (Peter de Pollok) appears in another charter in the Paisley Register.<sup>38</sup> It is a second charter recording his gift of the church of *Pollock* to Paisley Abbey, and, apart from some differences in the witness list, is the same as the previous charter.

The **witness list** is (in translation): Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow; Simon, archdeacon of Glasgow; Hugh, dean of Glasgow; Walter, William and Nicholas, bishop's clerks; Alan, Peter de Polloc's 'advocato'; Robert Croc; *Robin, son of Robert de Polloc*; Henry de Ness; Henry's brother, Adam; Stephen de Kinnerley; William de Lyndesy; Goselin, brother of Hugh Granger.

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<sup>36</sup> Reg. Pais., p. 100.

<sup>37</sup> Reg. Pais., p. 98b. {There are two charters on this page of the *Register*, this being the second of them.}

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.*, p. 99-100.

**Dating:** The charter may be dated to (1179 x 1196).



We come now to another important charter.<sup>39</sup> In it, **Elias, son of Fulbert**, grants the church of *Mearns* to the monastery of Paisley. This he does for the *weel* of the souls of Walter Fitz Alan and Herbert, bishop of Glasgow, his parents, his predecessors and successors, Alan his ‘advocate’, and his brothers.

The **witness list** is (in translation): **Robert filio Fulberti**, and **his son Peter**; Robert Croc; Ralph de l’Isle; William, son of Meid’; **Arnold de Partick** (Ernaldo de Pertec); Philip, Arnold’s uncle.

**Dating:** This charter is generally dated to (1177 x 1195).

**Note:** This is not the first time that we have a charter recording Elias’ gift of the church of Mearns. The following charter in the *Register* is one given by King William, at Lanark, confirming this gift of Elias to the monastery. This confirmation is also recorded in (*RRS*, ii, no. 310, p. 323) in which it is dated to (1189 x 1195).



In the Paisley Register<sup>40</sup> there is recorded a charter of Dougall, son of Christian, Judge of Lennox, which has two members of the Pollok family as witnesses. Dougall had narrowly escaped excommunication for having detained certain pieces of land which had properly belonged to the monastery of Paisley, and this charter records that he has resigned and quitclaimed any right that he claimed in the land of *Cultbuthe* (Cuiltebut), which lay just to the west of the church of *Old Kilpatrick*.

The **witness list** is (in translation): William, bishop of Glasgow; Ralph, the King’s Chaplain; Andrew, chaplain of Paisley Abbey; Roger de Lynton, steward of Paisley Abbey; Geoffrey, the Marischal; Alan of Cathcart; **Peter of Pollok**, and **Thomas of Pollok**; William de Cadzow; Warin, a clerk; Simone, a mason; William of Kenmore; and “many others”.

**Dating:** The charter itself bears no date but it can be dated approximately to (30 September 1234 x 1250).

It is most likely that the charter was signed in Glasgow Cathedral since not only does the bishop sign as witness, but it is known that he had been involved in the final ‘machination’ of Dougall as he tried to maintain his hold on these lands which he had effectively stolen from the monks of Paisley. The whole matter had been referred to the Pope who had appointed Papal Judges Delegate to investigate the matter and to pronounce judgement.

**Note:** *Cuiltebut* is now known as *Kilbowie* {NGR: NS 500712}

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<sup>39</sup> *Reg. Pais.*, p. 100.

<sup>40</sup> *Reg. Pais.*, p. 175-176.



**Helia** (Elias), Beda (Bede), and Wilelmo (William), canons of Glasgow, appear as witnesses to a *briefe* issued by Jocelin, bishop of Glasgow, which can be dated to 1179x1195. In the briefe the bishop instructs the Dean of Christiandy to find an incumbent for the church of *Craigie* (Kyle & Cunningham Deanery).<sup>41</sup> From the other witnesses it would appear that this briefe was issued within Glasgow cathedral.

The **witness list** is (in translation): Hugh, abbot of Newbattle Abbey; Herbert, dean of Glasgow; Simon, archdeacon of Glasgow; **Elias, Bede, and William**, canons of Glasgow; Peter, Dean of Christiandy of Clydesdale; William, parson of *Drumsyrgar* (this is an old name for Cambuslang); Walter, and John, clerks of the Bishop.

**Dating:** The charter does not include a date but can be positioned between 1179 (the first dates when Hugh, abbot of Newbattle and Herbert, dean of Glasgow, are found on record, and 1195, when Simon, archdeacon of Glasgow died.)



In the Glasgow Registers we have an interesting set of charters which relate to *Govan* and *Partick*. In the first, King David grants to the church of St Kentigern of Glasgow (the Cathedral), in perpetual alms, that land in *Perdeyc* (Partick) held by Ascelin, the archdeacon of Glasgow.<sup>42</sup> The charter was given at Glasgow.

The **witness list** is (in translation from the Royal Charters): Aed (Heth) the bearded; Donald, son of Dungal; Dufoter of Callendar; Duncan (I), earl of Fife; Fergus, lord of Galloway; Gilbert Fimboga; Gilbert of Stirling, sheriff of Stirling; Herbert, bishop of Glasgow; Herbert, king's chamberlain; Hugh Brett; Mael Domnaig macMuiredaig; Malise (I), earl of Strathearn; Malothen of Scone; Malothen, marischal; Ralph, son of Dungal; Uhtred, lord of Galloway; William Comyn; William, son of King Duncan II.

The witness list is (in translation from the Glasgow Registers): Herbert, abbot of Roxburgh; William, chancellor; William, son of Duncan; Malise, earl; Duncan, earl; Fergus of Galloway; Aad with the beard; Malduueni mac murdac; Malodenj de Scone; Malodeni marischal; Rad (Ralph), son of Dunegal; Duuenald, son of Dunegl; Uchtred, son of Fergus; Hugh Britone; Herbert, chamberlain; Gilbert Simboga; Gilbert de Stirling; Dufoter de Calati (Callendar).

**Dating:** accepted date is 1136 (1131 x June 1141).

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<sup>41</sup> Reg. Pais., p. 234

<sup>42</sup> Glas. Reg., no. 3, p. 9; Chrs. David I, no. 56.



The second charter recounts that Herbert, bishop of Glasgow, had given and granted the church of Govan as a prebend within the cathedral church of Glasgow.<sup>43</sup> This prebend to include the islands between Govan and Partick; and that part of Partick which King David I gave to Glasgow Cathedral as an endowment at the time of its dedication; he augments and gives to the prebend that part not at first belonging to it, with the adjacent islands and fisheries.

The **witness list** is (in translation from the Glasgow Register): Henry, son of the King; Robert, bishop of St Andrews; Geoffrey, abbot of Dunfermline; Herbert, abbot of Roxburgh; Robert de Bruce; Robert de Umfraville; Hugo de Morville; Herbert, chancellor; Gospatrick fre Dalfin<sup>44</sup>; Gilmichael uniet albo; Aluino renerre.

**Dating:** the witness list points towards a date (1128 x 1141), (Geoffrey I's appointment to Dunfermline x death of Sir Robert Bruce, lord of Skelton and Annandale). However, since the cathedral was dedicated in 1136, we may assume that the above prebend was founded at about this time.

- ✠ This charter shows that the prebend of Govan was founded when the cathedral was established c.1136 and, in (1128 x 1141), it was augmented by the charter above with other lands in partick.
- ✠ Some more modern writers have occasionally (but wrongly) referred to this prebend by the name of "Govan and Partick".



The third charter,<sup>45</sup> issued by Herbert, bishop of Glasgow, in favour of his clerk **Helya** (Elias), records that the bishop has given and granted the church of *Govan* [to him] as a prebend in Glasgow cathedral; with the islands between Govan and Partick; and also that part of Partick which King David gave to Glasgow Cathedral as an endowment at the time of its dedication (vide supra); and he augments and gives to the prebend that part not at first belonging to it, with the adjacent island and fisheries.

<sup>43</sup> Glas. Reg., no. 6, p. 10-11.

<sup>44</sup> This, we assume, is Gospatrick II mac Gospatrick (c.1062-1138), (son of Gospatrick, earl of Dunbar), whose brother was Delfin mac Gospatrick, lord of Dent.

<sup>45</sup> Glas. Reg., no. 7, p. 11; SEA, i, no. 77.

There is no **list of witnesses** in either the copy of the charter in the *Glasgow Registers* or that in the *Scottish Episcopal Acta*.

**Dated:** the POMS Database gives a firm date of (24 Aug 1147 x 13 Sept 1162) by taking the date of the consecration of Bishop Herbert as the *terminus post quem*, and the *floruit* of Helya as canon, which he was by 6 Jan 1161 x 13 Sept 1162, as the *terminus ad quem* – giving Glas. Reg., no. 16 as their evidence for this (*vide supra*).

- ✠ There is no question that this gift was made to bishop Herbert's clerk, Helya.
- ✠ There is some doubt if this Helya was one and the same as Helya of Partick.

**Notes:** Fulbert, father of Helya de Partick, died in 1147 (possibly 1153), having been born 1075x1080. Helya, being the second son,<sup>46</sup> would have been born about 1100-1120. If these dates are accepted then Helya de Partick would have been between 47 and 62 years of age when this gift was made to him.

Bishop Herbert died before 20 September 1164.<sup>47</sup>

Helya does appear so many times in the charter record that it would be easy to accept that he was, first, the bishop's clerk, and so would be present on many occasions wherever the bishop was, and thus readily able to act as a witness to ecclesiastical charters. It would not be surprising to find that he, then, after years of service, was made a canon of the cathedral with a substantial, enjoying an ancient prebend.



In a charter of Sir Herbert Maxwell,<sup>48</sup> he gifts six marks per annum from his mill in 'le Aldton' (the Auldtoon/Old Town) of Mernes (Mearns), or from the produce of his other mills there, to provide for a chaplain to say an annual mass in honour of the Virgin Mary in the parish church of Mernes.

The **witness list** is (in translation): Ada(m), rector of the church of Liberton (Linlithgow deanery, diocese of St Andrews); Alan, perpetual vicar of Mearns (Rutherglen deanery); John de Maxwell, lord of Lower Pollok {brother of Herbert de Maxwell}; Alan de Glassford, knight; Walter son of Gilbert; John, clerk; Gilbert de Malotishok; and Matthew de Flanders.

<sup>46</sup> This is proved by the fact that he did not inherit the major share of his father's properties – his (older) brother Peter I de Pollok inherited.

<sup>47</sup> Watt, D.E.R. (1969) *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae Medii Aev: ad annum 1638*, Edinburgh: Scottish Record Society, p. 145.

<sup>48</sup> Reg. Pais., 103-104.

**Dated:** late 13<sup>th</sup>-Century; possibly c.1296.

- ✠ This charter confirms that, c.1296, John de Maxwell, brother of Sir Herbert de Maxwell, held the barony (or that part of the barony) known as *Lower Pollok*, suggesting that Sir Herbert held that part known as *Upper Pollok*.
- ✠ We know that the parish church of Mearns stood in the *Auldtoon*.

**Notes:** Sir Adam of Glassford swore fealty to Edward I on 28 Aug 1296. Sir Herbert de Maxwell is thought to have fallen at the Battle of Falkirk, 22 July, 1299



## A SUGGESTED 'SECULAR' BIOGRAPHY OF HELYA DE PARTIK.

The sources suggest the following:

- ✦ The family we are dealing with were Normans (possibly Brettons).
- ✦ Helya's father, Fulbert, is thought to have been born in c.1075, although some sources suggest a slightly later date of c.1080.
- ✦ It is thought that Fulbert died c.1147, although some suggest that he died fighting for the Empress Matilda in 1153.
- ✦ When Fulbert died, his possessions would have been disposed of according to Norman feudal law and customs – the 'lion's share' was inherited by the eldest son. In this case, it meant that Helya's elder brother, Peter, inherited the majority, if not all, of his father's estates. These comprised the lands of *Pollok* in Renfrewshire which were held of Alan FitzAlan, hereditary *dapifer* of Scotland, as *tenent-in-chief*. At this point, the family began to use the *toponym* "de Pollok", and, in doing so, they became one of the first families in Scotland to start naming themselves in this way.
- ✦ The second son, Helya, was given in *feu* a portion of these Pollok lands by his brother Robert de Pollok. His share comprised lands around what is now known as Partick and included the patronage of certain churches in that area. As a consequence of this, Helya became known as Helya de Partik.
- ✦ The third brother, Robert, seems also to have been given some rights in Pollok and to have initially adopted the name Robert de Pollok. He also had lands in *Mow*. However, at some date, he also received certain lands in what is now East Lothian (*Steinton* or *Stenton* {NGR: NT 622743}) and, from that time onwards, he was often known as Robert of Stenton. There is a charter of Melrose Priory (later Abbey), dated (c.1198x1206), recording that Robert of Stenton made a gift to the priory of five acres of land along with the pasture that was known as *Elwaldescalesloningge* in the territory of Stenton.<sup>49</sup> The monks already held lands nearby at Hartside.<sup>50</sup>
- ✦ At some point, Helya entered the Church, not an unusual step for a nobleman's younger son. If we accept that he was, eventually, a clerk to successive bishops of Glasgow, then we must accept that he received a significant education.

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<sup>49</sup> Melrose Liber., i, no. 63. Robert's brother Helya was a witness to this charter and is described as "canon of Glasgow."

<sup>50</sup> *Hartside Edge* is in the Lammermuir Hills {NGR: NT 658714}.

**Conclusions:**

**Firstly**, in studying the charters, it soon becomes obvious that the name Helya(s) is not at all uncommon. It is not as common as Peter and Robert, but it is to be found on sufficient occasions that a student would be in great error to conclude that any occurrence of Helya(s) implies that the subject in question is Helya de Partick.

**Secondly**, and most importantly, we have proven that there was indeed a member of the Polloc family, by the name of Helya(s) (or Elias), who was an ordained priest and who, for an unknown period, was one of the canons of the cathedral church of Glasgow. We also have evidence to prove that he was the brother of Robert de Polloc (or de Stenton) and that they were both alive in (1198 x 1206).

**Thirdly**, it is reasonable to conclude that Helias was held in esteem by a number of bishops of Glasgow. He is found (often in association with two other canons – Bede and William) as a witness to a considerable number of episcopal charters, where his name regularly follows those of the *dignitaries* of the cathedral.

**Fourthly**, when his father, Fulbert, died, Peter I de Pollok seems to have received the 'elder son's share' of the estate – the lands of Pollok. Helya, seems to have received 'the second son's share' comprising the part of the lands of Partick which was a part of the lands of Pollok, and which included the patronage of the church of *Mearns*. He was acting in his capacity of patron when he gifted that church to Paisley Abbey – he held no other ecclesiastical position in that church.

**Fifthly**, it would seem reasonable to doubt that there were two brothers both called Helya. We have only one 'source' for this and what is written there can, perhaps, be explained away as a scribal error.

**Finally**, and most importantly, we have discovered incontrovertible evidence to support the fact that there was an individual called Helya de Partick, brother of Peter de Pollok; that he was a clerk to the bishops of Glasgow; that he was probably in one of the 'ranks' of Holy Orders; and that he was a canon of Glasgow Cathedral (possibly holding the prebend of Govan).

MEANING OF SYMBOLS USED IN THE TEXT.



Information taken from the *Liber Sanct Marie de Melros* (Register of Melrose Abbey).



Information taken from the *Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis* (Register of the Diocese of Glasgow).



Information taken from the *Registrum Pasleto* (Register of Paisley Abbey).



Information taken from *SEA* (Scottish Episcopal Acta, Vol. 1).

## LIST OF CHARTERS REFERRED TO IN THIS PAPER.

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<i>Liber Sanct Marie de Melros, Vol. 1.</i>	p. 60, no. 70.	(1189 x 1193)	2
(ditto.)	p. 113, no. 121	1193	4
(ditto.)	p. 113-4, no. 122	(10 Sept 1195 x 2 Feb 1196)	5
(ditto.)	p. 260, no. 295	(Sept 1195 x c.1200)	16
(ditto.)	p. 52, no. 63	(c.1198 x 1206)	16
(ditto.)	p.229, no. 256	(23 Oct 1214 x 25 Oct 1221)	3
<i>Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis.</i>	p. 10-11, no. 6	(1128 – 1141)	22
(ditto.)	p. 9, no. 3	1136 (1131 x June 1141)	21
(ditto.)	p. 11, no. 7	(24 Aug 1147 x 13 Sept 1162)	22
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(ditto.)	p. 83, no.95	(Feb 1201 x 20 Sept 1202)	9
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<i>Registrum Pasleto.</i>	p. 75	(25 Mar 1173 x 1177)	10
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(ditto.)	p. 100	(1177 x 1195)	19
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(ditto.)	p. 99-100	(1179 x 1196)	19
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(ditto.)	p. 175-176	(30 Sep 1234 x 1250)	20
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<i>Scottish Episcopal Acta.</i>	p. 81-82, no. 77	(24 Aug 1147 x 13 Sep 1162)	13
<i>Coupar Angus Charters, Vol. 1.</i>	p. 27-28	(1190 x 1214)	14