A pernicious and wicked custom: corporate responses to lock picking in the Scottish town, 1488-1788

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lock picking, locks, tools

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Scotland; UK

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ABSTRACT

While the use of lock picking for criminal purposes was not confined to towns, there were several specifically urban, unique responses to it from the craft guilds of Scotland's burghs. In an urban context, the prevention of lock picking can be seen to have depended largely on a framework of corporatism. This article examines how security was provided, the role of locks in the urban environment, the deficiencies of lock technology, and the exploits of the infamous Deacon Brodie. While it was impossible to make a pick-proof, warded lock, the incorporations did what they could to contain this 'pernicious and wicked custom'.

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Allen, A. (2006) Occupational Mapping of 1635 Edinburgh: An Introduction. The Scotland of the imagination is a land of rolling green hills, kilt-wearing bagpipers, and crumbling castles. While you can find all of this in Scotland. With a land area equal to the state of Maine in the US, this small country is chock-full of fascinating history. 10 Fortingall Yew The 5,000-Year-Old Tree. In the
heart of Scotland stands one of Europe’s oldest trees, the Fortingall Yew. Experts speculate that the tree may be 5,000 years old. It is named for the small village in which it is found—Fortingall, in Perthshire. The land surrounding Fortingall contains some of the most amazing archaeological sites in Scotland, from plague burial grounds to the remains of a 1,300-year-old monastery.