

# Petition for a pay rise.

**Author:** William Boswell

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Sir

The giving you the truble of this being altogether a Stranger and to one of such a larg Character may justly be termed a bold attempt, but the singular account I have of you from Do<sup>r</sup> Gregorie and these Gentlemen of our Societie Alerdice and M<sup>r</sup> Drummond, and that oblidgeing caire you have of evrie particular relateing to our Mint makes me venture the more on your goodnes and plad that this may humble present my sincear good wishes and most duetie Respects with a full acknowledgement of the {received} freedom I take to acquaint that the Generall and other Directing Officers of our Mint finding themselves at a stand and difficultie {annent} our {founds} for supporting the Recoynage; agreed to make a Representation thereof to My Lord Heigh Tresaurer and of the necessary officers added by Doctor Gregorie on his doune comeing hier to put us in the method at your mint which he did with all coine and good thought, a Coppie wherof M<sup>r</sup> Drummond is to transmit to you with this account thereof Queen Clerk I presume to informe you that being Comptroller or Counter warden my Sallerie is only sixtie pounds, this I complained of to Do<sup>r</sup> Gregorie as being too mean for the office and Atendance and no ways in proportion with the other sallerie, he proposed that to saive some charge to the Government I might have a suteable allowance, and officiat as Weigher and Teller also, this besids M<sup>r</sup> Drummonds and my attendance was give by turns as surviors of the meltings, and because the Queens Clerk had only 40£ And that a Clerk of the Irons was necessar that he should officiat <156v> in that office, and so have his sallerie by the same reason augmented, wee are hopefull hier that My Lord Tresaurer will transmit our Representation to you and the other Directing officers with you, and therefor shall earnestly beg that favour of your freindship in this for us both as you see good reason for the Augmentation and shall wish your thought and advice did determine it. also there are three new Clerks added one to the Master one to M<sup>r</sup> Drummond and one to me, all to continue for the future, and one assistant to the assaymaster to continue only dureing the Recoynage, the new offices shoudl commence from the first of August last, to iune with our Quarter salleries, and am hopefull there will be a reasonable allowance given them, further I plead to informe out of a principall of Charetie and the benefet of our Mint, that our founder and Melter Iames Shiels who performs extreamly well and most usefull to us in a great monie things as Do<sup>r</sup> Gregorie will acquaint you, his condition is {bot} {brean} in the world and is haired by the day, when the Mint is goeing and so as his incuragement fails he may come to leave us, Therfor wee did propose to the Doctor if it was possible to get ten pounds a year settled on him, which he thought reasonable and that he might be named purvior, I am possetive this is for that service of the mint for if wee should lose this man wee would have difficultie to supply his place he haveing that exact practice of smelting with pit-coall and a most readie servant evrie way and might prove a great lose to Alerdice our Master. I know m<sup>r</sup> Drummond will wreat you annent our {founds} and therefor shall not double that truble to inorme, wee shall want ane order from My Lord Treasurer to the Exchequer hier to signe precepts to us for two Quarters salleries preceeding the first of May last, and in time comeing to the officers according to our old Establisment befor the union, a {schedule} wherof M<sup>r</sup> Drummond sens up and for the salleries of the new added officers from the first of august 1707, all might be in a sign'd {schedule} by My Lord Tresaurer

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By the fue trayels wee have had of our new Essay Master I hope he shall answer expectation our moneyrs are verie dilligent and wee all continue easie and freindly with onanother; Dead Sir I have been most unmannerly in first presumeing this and then to insist so long on our oune particulars, but being mint bussines and your readie inclination to favour us at all times makes me hope you'l pardin this; I beg the urther favour of presenting my kind Respects and service to your Warden and Mr Ellies who I hope well justly contribut to my pairt of the Representation also to your Essay Master and the rest of the Gentlemen of your Societie and again in particular to your self with my heartie and good wishes I am in all cinceretie and good will

Sir

Your most humble and real servant

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Wa:Boswell

[1] Edinburgh 10 Iullie 1708

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