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# Two Johnstons on Glasgow: examples of Scottish Neo-Latin *encomia urbis*

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## Abstract

This article looks at two Neo-Latin poems on Glasgow (texts given in [Appendix I](#)), by John Johnston (publ. 1607) and Arthur Johnston (publ. 1642), respectively, as examples of the genre of the city poem and of Scottish Neo-Latin poetry. Both poems exemplify the interest in national

history and other characteristics typical of the time as well as a style of writing based on a thorough classical education. Nevertheless, it can be shown that there are distinctive differences between the two poems: John Johnston's piece is shorter and less stylistically sophisticated, but it conveys a clear statement within the religious struggles of the period. In contrast, Arthur Johnston's version is a well-balanced and full description of the particular features of Glasgow in classical style, while remaining rather non-committal about the present situation. Brief looks at poems on other cities confirm the different aims and agendas of the two poets in writing about Glasgow.

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