

CONTRACT

Patrick Lyon, Earl of Strathmore (1642–1695)
and Jacob de Wet (1640-1697), painter

Glamis, 18 January 1688

It is agreed upon betwixt Patrick, Earl of Strathmore on the one part, and Mr. de Wet, limner, on the other part as after follows; that is to say that the said Mr. de Wet binds and obliges him to enter to the work presently particularly aftermentioned and to finish and perfect the same with all possible diligence with the utmost of his skill and art of painting and that he shall not go from the said work at any time before the same be done without the said Earl's consent. And, first, the said Mr. de Wet binds and obliges him to paint the roof of the chapel as the same is divided into three several panels so as that the fifteen largest panels thereof shall contain every one of them a full and distinct story of our blessed Saviour, conform to the cuts in a Bible here in the house or the service book. And the rest of the panels to be filled some with the angels as in the sky and such other things as he shall invent and be esteemed proper for the work. And forasmuch as there are upon the side walls of the chapel and room within sixteen large panels, a door piece, and that above the table of the altar, the said Mr. de Wet does hereby bind and oblige him to paint, in as full stature as the panels will permit, the pictures conform as they are to be found in the two books abovementioned of our Saviour, his twelve apostles, this in the chapel and in the room within that of King Charles the Martyr and of Saint Paul and Saint Stephan. An altar piece expressing the crucifixion, and the door piece the ascension. Each picture to have the name thereof above and at the foot a scroll containing the same words as are expressed in the cuts.

Second, the said Mr. de Wet does likewise bind and oblige him to paint, perfect, and finish the roof of the dining room immediately off the great hall upon the plaster thereof. This is to be done and is to contain the full history of some one or other of Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. And it's designed by Mr. de Wet and expected by the said Earl that the same shall be well done as that it may be of credit to the one and satisfaction to the other.

Third, there is likewise to be a room for the story of Icarus in the middle of the plaster of the bed chamber, to be done by him.

Fourth, there are likewise five chimneys and fourteen door pieces of the high apartment off the hall to be done upon cloth of the bigness of the panels and to be fixed within the same and likewise in the apartment off the low hall there are four chimneys and eleven door pieces to be finished and done upon canvass as said is, and all these are to be representations of figures and poetical fictions or such other things as are usual and proper.

Fifth, the said Earl is to cause prime the roof of the chapel and such panels of the said walls whereon the above-mentioned pictures are to be drawn, and the roof of plaster in the dining room so far to prepare it for Mr. de Wet's work. As likewise to furnish oil to him for the painting and cloth or canvas for the whole chimney and door pieces.

Sixth, as likewise the said Earl, in contemplation of the said Mr. de Wet's works and in full satisfaction and recompense therefore, is to be bound and obliged like as he be the tenor hereof binds and obliges him and his heirs to pay to the said Mr. de Wet, or to his order or assigns, the sum of fourscore and ten pound sterling; the one-half thereof is to be paid at such times as he shall call or have occasion for it at any time during the work, providing that before the payment of the full half three parts of four of the whole work be done and the other equal half of the sums so agreed on shall be thankfully paid at his finishing and perfecting the same. He, the said Mr. de Wet, is likewise to have his bed and board in the family so long as the same remains at the place. And it is agreed upon that the party failing shall pay to the party observing or willing to observe his part of the premises the sum of twenty pound sterling by and attour the performance of the same. Which the said Mr. de Wet obliges him for his part to do to the said Earl's satisfaction and contentment. And for the more security, both the said parties are content and consent that their presents be registered in the books of Council and Session, or of any other ordinary judicature within this realm and discerned to have the strength of any decree of any of the judges thereof that letters and executions needful may be direct hereon in form as affairs and constitutes....

In witness whereof (written by Mr. David Balvaird, servitor to the said Earl) they have subscribed their prints day, month, place, and year of God above-written before their witnesses; John, Lord Glamis and the said Mr. David Balvaird and John and David Lyons, servitors to the said Earl and Lord Glamis.

Received at the writing hereof by me, James de Wet, twelve pound, which, with threescore eighteen pound formerly received from the Earl of Strathmore, makes in all fourscore ten pounds sterling, whereof I discharge the said Earl. At Eden. 17 November 1688, before their witnesses David Lyon and George Dickson, servitors to the said Earl.

A.H. Millar, ed. *The Book of Record: A Diary Written by Patrick, First Earl of Strathmore and other Documents* (1890):104–106.