

## Theatre's first act bottled up for 119 years

IT MAY sound like a tale worthy of fiction but a historical discovery at a city theatre is all too real.

A message in a bottle, hidden by craftsmen building Edinburgh's King's Theatre, has been found by chance after 119 years.

Theatre photographer and historian Mike Hume spotted the bottle hidden in the plaster crown at the centre of the proscenium arch atop the stage.

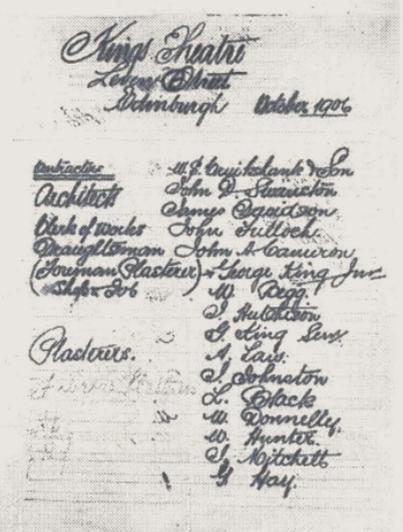
Inside was a list of those working on the theatre and dated October 1906, the same year it opened to the public.

Mike, one of the theatre's

donors, said: 'It's astonishing to think this time capsule of history has been hidden in plain sight for nearly 120 years, silently bearing witness to the countless famous faces – and Edinburgh community performers – that have graced the stage of the King's.' Fiona Gibson, of managers Capital Theatres, said: 'There is pride

and ownership in this note.' The bottle (inset) and paper will be on display as part of The People's Archive once renovations end

next year.



Hidden message: The list of workers

Plot twist: The bottle was in the plaster crown (inset) above the stage PICTURE: SWNS