

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

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Wootton St Lawrence, Hampshire

1564 - 1600

Edited by Peter Greenfield

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1564-65

Churchwardens' Accounts [HantsRO: 75M72/PW1](#)

p 7 (3 November 1564-2 November 1565) (Receipts)

...

Item Reseuyd for ye kyng ale mone

xliij s iiij d

...

1566-67

Churchwardens' Accounts [HantsRO: 75M72/PW1](#)

p. 12 (3 November 1566-2 November 1567) (Receipts)

...

Item Receuede for the kinge ale moneye

xlviij s^j [xlviij s]

...

Note: the figure on the line was apparently corrected with the addition of a second 'j', then crossed out and the correct amount written above the line.

1574-75**Churchwardens' Accounts** [HantsRO: 75M72/PW1](#)

p. 19 (3 November 1574-2 November 1575) (Receipts)

1575

This count made the second day of Nouember in the xvij^{ten} yeare of the raigne of *our* soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god quene of *our* england france & Ireland defender of the faith etc by Tomas Aileif & Iohn wether church wardens of Lawrence wotton as foloweth./.

...

Item for the clere gaynes of the king ale for the yeare aforesaid xxxiiij s j d

...

Note: John 'wether' or Wither was likely the John Wither who in 1577 would succeed his father Richard as holder of the lease of Manydown manor from the dean and chapter of Winchester. The Ayliffe family leased a property in the parish called Skeyers Farm from Magdalen College from the late fifteenth century until at least 1674. ('Parishes: Wootton St Lawrence', *A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4* (1911), pp. 239-242. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=56797> Date accessed: 13 January 2014.)

1578-79**Churchwardens' Accounts** [HantsRO: 75M72/PW1](#)

p. 29 (3 November 1578-2 November 1579)

...

Item receaved for the kingale mony this yeare 1579 v li ij s vj d ob *quarter*

Item payd out of this kingale mony xlvij s iiij d ob

 that is to say for 'the' xix yeare xxj s iijd

 Item 'for the' xx yeare iiij s j d ob

 And for the xxj yeare xxiiij s

So remayneth in the church box clearely gayned liij s ij d ob *quarter*

...

Note: These entries occur between the itemized receipts for 1578-79 and the payments. Presumably the 19th, 20th and 21st years are regnal years of Queen Elizabeth, as this account was rendered in her 21st. The accounts for 1576-77 and 1577-78 do not mention king ales, so it is difficult to ascertain the meaning of these entries. Perhaps the churchwardens had retained bills against the king ale receipts until an ale was held in 1579, allowing the wardens to pay all the creditors.

1579-80

Churchwardens' Accounts [HantsRO: 75M72/PW1](#)

p. 34 (3 November 1579-2 November 1580) (Receipts)

...

Item Receiued of Thomas aylyffe in Redie mony	vijs vjd
It'	
Item Receiued of thomas aylyffe more for the Churche stocke	xxvijs iiijd q'
Item Receiued more of thomas aylyffe for the boyes Revelles	x s

...

Note: There is no entry for money paid out for the boys' revels in the 1580 accounts. The revels are more likely to be part of the king ale festivities than a traveling 'boys revels' company, but nowhere else in the parish's records is there a reference to boys' participation in the king ale. Aylyffe was a churchwarden in 1575, and is clearly handling a good deal of parish money in this year, despite not being a warden.

1600-1601

Churchwardens' Accounts [HantsRO: 75M72/PW1](#)

p. 47 (15 March 1600-14 March 1601) (Receipts)

Richard Ailiff	Receiptes for the Church of wotton at the makinge of the
Richard Wyther Ch	kingeale there kept

1600./

lunij. xv ^o .	ffirst received on the sonday senight before midsomer —	iij s--iiij d
	Item received on the sonday next before midsomer as followeth.	
	Received at the first receipt —	xij s — x d
	Received at the seconde —	ix s — 0
	Received at the thirde —	x s — vj d
	Received at the ffowerth —	iij s — iiij d
	Received at the ffifte —	vj s — ix d
	Received at the sixth —	vij s — iiij d
	Received at the seuenth —	xij s — x d./
	Received at the eight —	vij s--x d
	Received at the nynth —	xxij s — j d
	Received at the tenth —	v s — ix d — ob.
	Received at the eleuenth —	iiij s — 0
	Received for pewter the same day —	ix s — v d
	Received of them that kept the drink the same day out of the churchhouse —	vij s — viij d

Item received the same day for two lambe skinnes
 one kaulfes skinne and a shepes skynne — iij s — vj d
Item received at the tronkes the same day — xj s — vj d./
Summa — vj lib — xix s — viij d — ob./

lune xxiiij^o the receiptes on monnday next after viz.
Received at the first receipt — xv s — ij d
Received at the seconde — viij s — vj d
Received at the thirde — vij s — iij d
Received out of the Churchhowse the same day — xiiij d
Summa — j lib — xij s — 0 — 0

lunij xxiiij^o the receiptes on Midsomer day following viz.
Received at dinner — iij s — iiij d
Received at supper at the first receipt — v s — ij d
Received at the seconde — viij s — j d
Received at the thirde — vij s — iiij d
Received at the ffowerth — xj s — iiij d
Received at Tronkes the same day — ix s — iiij d
Received for the play at Pewter — x s — vj d
Received out of the buttrie or churchhouse- — iiij s — ij d
Summa — ij lib — xix s — iij d

p. 48

Richard Wyther Receiptes for the kingale as followeth for
 Richard Ailiff Churchw. the sonnday after Midsomer day. lunij. xxix^t

1600 *Received* at the first table — xv s
Received at the seconde — ij s — viij d
Received at the thirde — xj s — ii d
Received at the ffowerth — x s — iij d
Received at the ffifte — viij s — iiij d
Received at the sixth — xj s — 0
Received the same day at the tronkes — ij s — x d./
Received for pewter the same day — xij s — vj d — 0
Received out of the churchowse for drink thear — xij d
Received for the selles — xvj d
Received more out of the churchowse — viij d
Summa — iij lib — xiiij s — ix d

Receiptes for the sonnday next after vj^o Iulij
Received at the first receipt — xxiiij s — vj d
Received at the seconde — vij s — x d

<i>paid</i> for egges and butter —	ij s — xjd
<i>paid</i> for for fruit and spice —	ix s — 0
<i>paid</i> for the Pewter —	xij s — j d
<i>paid</i> for the Ladyes Lyeries —	ij s — vj d
<i>paid</i> for the Lordes Lyeries —	v s — 0
<i>paid</i> to Whitburne for his play —	ij s — 0
<i>paid</i> for a lib. of suett —	iiij d
<i>paid</i> to Ric Ailiff for fiue bush of mault —	xj s — viij d
<i>paid</i> to Ric wyther for two peck <u>e</u> s of mault —	xiiij d
<i>paid</i> for hoppes —	xviiij d
<i>paid</i> for moe hoppes —	vj d
<i>paid</i> for d/a hundred of fflaggottes —	xviiij d
<i>paid</i> to lo Towne for his Labour —	xij d

Notes: line 10: Tho; line 15 & 31: lo; 26: bush--no abbreviation marks; however, I have been consistently expanding Ric with no more indication of abbreviation

The name 'Whitburne' does not occur elsewhere in the churchwardens accounts, nor in the parish registers, nor in the indexes of wills from Hampshire at the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies. Families named Whitchurch and Wither (or Wyther) do appear in the register (75M72/PR1) but since Richard Wyther was one of the churchwardens in this year, it is unlikely the accounts would misspell Wither as 'Whitburne.' A Robert 'Whithorne' was buried in the parish on June 10, 1621, but the person paid for his play in this year very clearly has a 'b' following the t'.

p. 50

1600

Richard Alefe
Richard Wither

1600

The Accountes of Richard Ailiff and Richard wyther
Churchwardens for the yeare 1600 deliuered to the
parish the xiiij^t of March

Recept the Church rent for hir stocke receaued viz.

pd ffirst of Richard Ailefe for the rent of two kyne--	ij s
pd Item of Richard Hall for the rent of one cowe--	j s
pd Item of Richard Browne for the rent of fowre shepe--	x d
pd Item of Thomas Ale seni <u>o</u> r for the rent of thre ewe shepe--	vijd--ob [del.....]
pd Item of Brian Rabnat for the rent of iij ewe shepe--	vij d ob
redditus--9 s--7 d. ob. pd Item of Iohn Poinder for ye rent of two weath <u>e</u> r shepe--	v s
pd Item of Richard Wareham for one shepe--	ij d ob.
pd Item of lo Wissam for the like--	ij d--ob
pd Item of Richard ffremantle for ye rent of iiiij ^o r ewe shepe--	x d/
pd Item of Iohn Primmer for two ewe shepe--	v d/.
pd Item of lo Palmer for ye rent of a Cowe--	j s

	pd Item of Iohn Ale for ye rent of vj ewe shepe--	xv d
	forgeuen Item of lane Mortmer for ye rent ofe one ewe shepe--	ij d--ob.
ffor bred & wyne.	Item received for the holie loaf pay for bred and wyne--	[iiij s] ⁊ v s--ij d
	Item of mony receaued and to be receaued from the former churchwardens by vs--	ij lib--xvij s--j d--ob
	Receaued by our kingale all thinges discharged--xij li--xiiij s--[.]j d--ob.	
	Sunma xvij li iiij s viij d ob.	

the Church expences the same yeare./

ffirst for bread and wine for the Communion on palme sunday, shere thursday,
on Easter even, on the day of Easter on the first day of the new yeare and after
the kingale--viij s

Item for a proclamation to be monthly redde in the church which we be
commanded to haue--iiij d

Item for a Regester booke of parchement for marriages Christninges and burialles--
-viij s

Item for the charges of the Churchwardens and sidemen and
mynister at the visitation Cort the ix^t of Aprill-- ij s--iiij d

Item for the making of our billes-- viij d

Item for the deliuerie of them-- iiij d

Item for a bell rope-- xvj d

Item for a baldrick-- xij d

Item for our charges at the visitation Court the xxiiij^t of September
for the Churchwardens sidmen and mynister-- v s

Item for smoke farthinges-- xij d

Item for making of our billes-- vj d

Item for deliueringe of our billes and for the booke of Articles-- xiiij d

Notes: the notation 'pd' next to most of the rent items obviously added later--the 'Items' line up under 'ffirst' as the original left margin. The 'pd' on line 18 and the marginal note on 19 are in a fainter ink and possibly a different hand than above. The John Primmer line inserted between original lines. 'Sunma'--minim missing ms.

p. 51

1600
Richard Alefe
Richard Wither./

1600./

Item for making and working of the cloth for the Communion table--	
Item for potte of pewter seruinge about ye same Communion table--iiij s viij d	
Item for a thousande of tyle and the Carriage of them--	xij s
Item for a newe seate--	xj s--viij d
Summa--lvij s--j d	

So is clere in the church stocke to be deliuered to the next churchwardens--xiiij li--xvj d--ob./

Iulij .xij^o. 1601 R' *Reginae Elizabethae* .xliij^o.

Receaved by me *Richard Ailiff* of Skires one of the Churchwardens of *Lawrence Wotton* [...] at the appointment of *D. Ridley* Chaunceler the somme of xx s to be employed in the stock to the vse of the poore of this *parish* the day and yeare first aboute written--xx s./

Iulij .xij^o. 1601 R' *Reginae Elizabethae* .xliij.

Memorandum deliuered vnto *Richard Hall* of *vpwotton* the said somme of twenty shillings, And he to pay to the vse of the poore of this parrish vnto the Churchwardens for the tyme being two shillings for euery whole yeare And his yeare beginneth the first day of August.

Richard Ailiff of Skires churchwarden

Richard Hall X his marke

Notes: no figure given after entry re: cloth for communion table. In figure for what is to be delivered to new cws, the second figure was originally given as '16 s', but 'd' written heavily over the 's'. The name identifying Hall's mark at bottom written by the same hand as the rest of the account, but Ailiff's in different hand, presumably his own, and possibly that responsible for some of the marginalia.

Document Description

Winchester; Hampshire Record Office; 75M72/PW1. 1558-87, 1594-97, 1600-40, 1662-75. English. Paper. iii + 128 + ii. Modern pencil pagination. (Pagination at front includes the two parchment leaves probably originally used as cover, so I have also included the two at the back, although they have not been numbered.) 270 x 194mm. Good condition, but the pages giving accounts of 1598 and 1599 have been torn out, as stubs with writing on them can be seen in between pages 46 and 47. Other gaps may be similarly explained, although the one from 1641 to 1661 may be due to the Civil War interrupting the keeping of records. Cover of brown leather probably contemporary with the last quire of paper, which holds the accounts from 1662 on. White leather thongs tie the cover shut. On front cover in black ink and a late seventeenth century hand: '1558-1675 | Churchwardens Book | Wootton St Lawrence'.

Bound inside are two leaves of parchment front and back, the original cover. They have been identified by the Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Library in 1951 as fragments of a fourteenth century manuscript of a philosophical treatise in Latin. In blank space on dorse of last parchment leaf: 'The chourche booke off Wotton | made by thomas Ayllyff | the ffirst and second yere | of Pelyp & mary Kyng & quene | and in ye xx day of ffebryare | In ye yere of ower lord God .1.5.5.4' Other originally blank areas of parchment manuscript contain memoranda, including a list of goods lent to the church by Thomas Ayleffe (no date, p. 4).

The accounts were at first rendered in November, on the second, and later the 17th. In 1595 they move to 10 January, in 1596 to 14 March, to 12 March 1597, to 14 March 1600 and 1601, 3 April 1602, 18 March 1603. After that the particular day no longer recorded. All Saints day remained (or returned to being) an important accounting day, because a memorandum of 1613 indicates that anyone holding any of the church stock must on All Saints Day produce either the stock or a pledge for its security. The churchwardens did not try to balance their budget each year, but would allow the church stock to decrease until they felt it needed a boost: the first rate was collected in 1610, when there had been no ale or other big money maker for 5 years. Other rates followed in 1616, 1619, 1623, 1625, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1640--suggesting that in the late 1630's they decided to make the rate annually, as it continued after the Restoration.