

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1579-1580

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1579-80

Treasurer's Accounts [E22/3](#)

1 Jan 1579 – 1 Mar 1580

October 1579

fol 72^v

Item be the kingis hienes speciall *command* to thomas Rowane appointit for keiping of the palice of haliruidhous fra the secound day of aprile 1578 to the thrid day of October 1579 *quhilk* wes the day of the kingis gracis entrie in the same palice Extending be the said space to lxxvij oulkis takand ouklie xx s. Inde As his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

lxxvij li

...

Note: In late September 1579, James left Stirling where he had spent the years of his minority and travelled to Edinburgh to assume personal rule. His official ceremonial entry into Edinburgh took place 17.10.79.

November 1579

fol 75^v (Expenses by King's precept)

Item be the kingis *Maiesteis* precept to M^r Servine musitien frencheman In recompans of certane buikis of mwsik maid be him and dedicated to the Kingis *Maiestie* ane hundreth crownis of gold As the said precept *with* his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

ij^cx li

Note: Jean Servin, French musician, had dedicated his polyphonic settings of George Buchanan's Psalm paraphrases to James VI. See James Porter, 'The Geneva Connection: Jean Servin's Settings of the Latin Psalm Paraphrases of George Buchanan (1579)', *Acta Musicologica* 81.2 (2009), 229-254.

Item be the kingis maiesteis speciall command to Walter bynnyng painter for painting of the armes of the abbottis of Arbroith and paisley and vtheris foirfaltit personis viij li xvj s

Note: John Hamilton and his brother Claud, Abbots of Arbroath and Paisley, summonsed for treason in July. Painted arms were required for the ceremony of forfeiture: see Sarah Carpenter, 'Walter Binning: Decorative and Theatrical painter', *Medieval English Theatre* 10.1 (1988) pp. 17-25, at p. 22.

Item be the kingis maiesteis speciall command to ane blind pyper xxx s

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to ane pur las that singis and prayes for his maiestie xl s

Item be the kingis maiesteis speciall command to Maister Williame m^cdowell Maister of Werk for certane sand led and laid in the abbay clois to the kingis maiestie to ryn at the ring Conforme to the particular compt gevin in thairupoun viij li ix s

Item be the kingis speciall command to M^r Servin mvsitian – frencheman xx li
...

December 1579

fol 86^v

Item be the kingis maiesties precept to his hienes violeris to be certane mask claithis As the said precept schewin vpoun compt beiris

Item twenty aucht elnis of reid and 3allow taffaty price of the eln – xl s Inde lvj li

Item sex elnis of touke of siluer price of the eln xx s Inde vj li

Item ten elnis of bukrem price of the eln – xij s Inde vj li

Item sex fensing swerdis price of the pece xx s Inde vj li

Item sex fensing dagaris price of the pece xx s Inde vj li

Item for making of thir claithis iij li

Item be the kingis hienes precept to James 3oung his hienes cultellair for certane

Quhyngaris and vther graith maid be him to his grace As the said precept with his
acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris xij li

...

Note: Often referred to as the 'Inglis violaris' these musicians appear to have been a group of brothers of the name Hudson. The mask clothes recorded here may well have been for the performance of Alexander Montgomerie's *Navigatioun* and *Cartell of the thre Ventrous Knichtis* written to celebrate James's early assumption of personal power. (See Introduction.)

January 1580

fol 91^v

...

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to M^r Peter 3oung elimosinar To be
deliuerit be him to Thomas Vautrollier frencheman libraire for certaine buikis
ressaut fra him to his hienes librarie As the said precept with the said M^r peteris
acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris j^c li

...

Note: Thomas Vautrollier, a highly successful London-based printer especially involved with Latin and theological works, established connections in Scotland and moved to Edinburgh for some years in the 1580s. He was responsible for printing James's first book, *Essayes of a Prentise*, in 1584.

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to Thomas Hudsoun mwsitiane
to by lwit stringis As the said precept with his acquittance schewin
vpoun compt beiris xx li

...

February 1580

fol 94^v

...

Item be deliuerance of the kingis maiestie & secreit counsale to his hienes
trumpetouris for their wageis in tyme bigane As the said deliuerance
with their acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris xl li

fol 95^v

...

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept for the bible of crimelius coft and deliuerit
to Johnne duncansoun his hienes minister As the said precept schewin vpoun
compt beiris iiij li x s

Note: Thomas Vautrollier (see fol 91^v above) was involved in the London printing of the Tremellius translation of the bible from Hebrew into Latin in 1580: see STC (2nd ed.) / 2056.

1580-81**Treasurer's Accounts [E22/4](#)***1 Mar 1580 – 1 Jan 1581***March 1580***fol 25^v*

...

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to Robert hudsoun for reparatioun of the mwsitianis chalmer in the palice of haliruidhous and furnissing of lyme and stane thairto As the said precept & his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris I li

Note: Robert Hudson, to whom this payment is made, is one of the musicians, not a builder.

April 1580*fol 28^v*

...

Item to the kingis maiesteis violeris conforme to his hienes precept zeirly to by their claithis for the lxxx zeir As thair acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris ij^c li

...

Note: For several months this Spring James is 'on progress', largely through Fife and Perthshire.

May 1580*fol 35^v*

...

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to his hienis sex paiges and to maknab the trumpetour for thair claithis as followis

...

Note: This entry is followed by extensive listing of pages' liveries (not listed here), before proceeding to the trumpeter. McNab's clothes appear identical to those of the pages, although with a larger allowance of fabric.

fol 36^v

...

Item to maknab the trumpetour sevin elnis of reid crammosie serge to be him ane cloik coit and breikis price of the eln – iij li xv s Inde xxvj li v s

Item twa elnis and ane half of zallow veluot to bordour the same price of the eln – vij li Inde xvij li x s

Item foure vncis of silk to thame price of the vnce – xvj s Inde iij li iiij s

Item thre elnis of quheit fustiane to be his doublett price of the eln – xx s Inde	iiij li
Item twa elnis of lynnyng to lyne the same with price of the eln vj s Inde	xij s
Item ane eln of stenting to it price	v s
Item thre dozane of buttonis to it price of the dozane – xxx d Inde	vij s vj d
Item foure dozane of buttonis to his mandeill price of the dozane – xxx d Inde	x s
Item ane quarter pund of caddes to his doublett price	iiij s
Item ane dozane of pointis	vj s viij d
Item ane hatt	l s
Item thre quarteris of reid and thre quarteris of zallow taffatie to his trumpett price of the eln – xxxvj s Inde	liiij s
Item sex vnces of silk to fas the same with price of the vnce – xv s Inde	iiij li x s

fol 37^v

...

Item be the kingis hienes precept to Johnne m^cnab trumpettour for his quarter
wageis in attending on his hienes [persoun] seruice the monethis of marche aprile
and maij As the said precept schewin vpoun compt beiris

xx li

...

June 1580

fol 41^v

...

Item be the Kingis Maiesties precept to thomas James Robert and Williame hudsonis
Ilkane of yame ane hundreth merkis for support of yair greit and extraordiner chaarges
baith in hors and vtherwys during ye tyme of ye progres As ye said precept & yair
acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

ij^clxvj li xiiij s iiij d

Item be the kingis hienes speciall command for ballis furnist to his hienes in george
bosuellis caichepeill in S^t Johnnstoun

xiiij li vs

...

fol 42^r

...

Item be the kingis hienes speciall *command* to be distributit vpoun certane aigit and decayit personis to the nowmer of fourtene according to the zeiris of his *maiesteis aige* As followis

Item lxxxxvij elnis and ane half of blew claith to be thame gownis price of the eln – xiiij s iiij d Inde

lxxj li xiiij s iiij <d>

Item for making of the saidis gownis

iiij li xv s

Item for thre elnis of lynnyng bukrem to the craigis & schouleris thairof price of the eln – vj s Inde

xvij s

...

Note: These are the alms prepared for distribution at the royal Maundy, known in Scotland as 'Skyre Thursday' and recorded in the Treasurer's Accounts from at least the late fifteenth century. James's first giving of these gifts was in 1579 soon after he had taken over personal rule. As traditional, the number of poor recipients reflected the king's age, and each received a gown and a purse containing one shilling (in England one penny) for each year of the monarch's life. It is not clear from these records whether James personally participated in the ceremony of foot washing, although the fact that in June 1582 the alms were transported from Edinburgh to Stirling where he was at the time suggests his presence was required. Elizabeth I was continuing to perform the ceremony in the 1580s.

August 1580

fol 48^v

Item be the kingis *maiesteis* precept to Andro gray Luittare for his panis taikin in awaiting vpoun his *maiestie* during the tyme of the progres As the said precept and his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

xx li

...

Item be the kingis *maiesteis* speciall *command* to ane pyper and drummer that playit to his *maiestie*

xxxvj s ix d

...

fol 49^r

...

Item to williame ramsay trumpetour for his wageis in the monethis of Junij Julij and August As his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

xx li

...

September 1580*fol 53^r*

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to his *seruitour* James Lauder - ij^c merkis as for the dew price of twa pair of virginellis coft be the said James in London be his hienes directioun and command and deliuerit to his maiestie Togidder with ane hundreth merkis for his trauell and expenss to london and careing & transporting of the said twa pair of virginellis thairfra As the said precept and his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

ij^c li

...

Note: James Lauder was a musician who had been in the service of Mary Queen of Scots and retained a role in James's household, though not apparently a central one, until c.1593. See Helena Shire, *Song, Dance and Poetry at the Court of Scotland under King James VI* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969) pp. 75-9, 261-2.

October 1580*fol 64^v*

...

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to James hudsoun As the samyn and his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris

ij^c li

...

November 1580*fol 68^r*

...

Item to (blank) maxwell trumpetour for his quarter wageis of the monethes of september october and Nouember

xx li

....

Item be the kingis maiesteis speciall Command to Williame gibsoun droiche

vj li

Note: There is no record of a dwarf kept by James personally, but see payment at December 1581 below.

Translation: droiche = dwarf

*fol 73^r**(Expenses on messengers)*

Item the xxvij day of nouember to Williame foirsyth messinger passand with Lettres to mak proclamatioun of the same at the mercat croces of *Edinburgh* hadingtoun duns and Lawder Prohibiting all our souerane lordis liegis of quhat degre they be of Off directing of cartallis infamous libellis or billis of reproche to vther or to appoint or keip trystis for singuler combat vnder the panis contentit in the saidis Lettres

iiij li

Note: similar proclamations were sent to Peebles, Jedburgh, Selkirk, Dumfries, Kircudbright, Wigtown, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Ayr et al, as far as Dumbarton and Inverness. The public performance of making proclamation is here combined with the issuing of libels, also understandable as in some sense an anonymous performance (see Introduction). Diplomatic correspondence records a number of publicly issued anonymous libels around this period: see *CSPS* 5, 492 (Aug 1580), 611 (3 Feb 1581).

December 1580

fol 75^r

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to Williame hudson his hienes balladin as for his extrairdinar panis taikin in teiching of his grace to dance As the said precept and his acquittance schewin vpoun compt beiris j^c li

...

fol 79^v

...

Item be the kingis maiesteis precept to Robert stevin poet As the said precept schewin vpoun compt beiris xx li

Note: Shire, *Song, Dance and Poetry*, pp. 86-7 (see September 1580, fol 53r), argues that 'Rab Stewin' is a nickname for the poet Alexander Montgomerie, used in the circle of poets surrounding the king. But this and other entries for payments to Robert Stevin suggest otherwise.

MANUSCRIPT DESCRIPTIONS

Accounts of the Treasurer of Scotland

The main series of Treasurer's Accounts, almost unbroken between 1473 and 1635, is held by the National Records of Scotland, MSS E21/1 to E21/101. The Treasury clerks, at least at some periods, produced a duplicate set of the accounts, some of which survive and are catalogued at E21/102 to E21/109, and E22/1 to E22/10. These duplicates, which appear very exact, can occasionally supply gaps where volumes in the main series are missing or too fragile for easy consultation. Accounts were presented for audit by the current Treasurer at approximately one year intervals, although many cover shorter or longer periods than one year. Both series are written on paper, apparently uniform through the years represented here, sharing the same dimensions and a watermark of a single handled pot similar to the Pot2 range from the same dates recorded in Gravell.¹ Both series, largely clear and undamaged, have been individually restored and bound. Each set of accounts presents first a list of 'Charges' or *Oneratio*, recording the income to the Crown which is to be used for the Royal Household (largely from charters, wards and escheats); this is then followed by the 'Discharges' or *Exoneratio* which record expenditure. The *Oneratio* are written in Latin, the

¹ Gravell Watermark Archive, sv 'Pot2' 1578-86, cp Pot 186.1 (<http://www.gravell.org/>)

Exoneratio largely in Scots. One hand lists expenditure, another sums up the total for each page. Blank pages and spaces are sometimes crossed through – ‘X’.

The records presented here, covering a period from 1579 to 1585, are drawn from the *Exoneratio* of five sets of accounts, most of which are either missing from the main run (E21) or too fragile to consult. The E22 ‘Leven and Melville’ series used here instead are a duplicate set which can be traced back to Sir Robert Melville, treasurer-clerk and treasurer-depute at various times between 1582 and 1596. William, Lord Ruthven (later Earl of Gowrie), the prime mover of the Ruthven Raid, held the office of Treasurer from 1571 until his fall and execution in April 1584, and Melville must have taken these papers over from him. They ‘were simply duplicates of the official set in the exchequer records, which the treasurer or his clerk retained for reference and as the formal discharge of his intrusions’.²

The accounts use old style dating, the year running from 1 April. All dates here are presented in new style, year beginning 1 January.

E22/3 1 Jan 1579 – 1 Mar 1580

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E22/3. 1579-80. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 102 + ii. 302 x 200 mm. Modern pencil foliation. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather. Spine: *Compot Thesaur | 1578/9 | 1579/80* [paper label 3] *L & M*. A slip of paper has been bound into the front of the volume with modern hand: ‘Treasurers Account | 1 Jan 1578 | 1 Mar 1579’, later pencil additions to each date of ‘-9’ and ‘-80’. Treasurer: William, lord Ruthven.

E22/4 1 Mar 1580 – 1 Jan 1581

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E22/4. 1580-81. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 82 + v + ii. 300 x 200 mm. Modern pencil foliation. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather. Spine: *Compot Thesaur | 1579/80 | 1580* [paper label 4] *L & M*. A slip of paper has been bound into the front of the volume with modern hand: ‘Treasurers Account | 1 Mar 1579 | 1 Jan 1580’, later pencil additions to each date of ‘/80’ and ‘/81’. f. 1 recto: ‘Compt buke William Lord Ruthven Thesaur 1580’; f. v recto jottings of informal and stained memoranda of accounts. Treasurer: William, lord Ruthven.

² Information on the Leven and Melville series taken from *TA XIII*, vii-viii.