

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

DISCLAIMER: The material below is offered in pre-publication form. It has not received editorial attention from REED's staff paleographers and Latinists, nor have the notes and other editorial apparatus been checked for completeness and accuracy. Please see the REED Pre-publication homepage for full details about this pre-publication project, as well as copyright information and instructions on how to cite these materials.

THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1581-1582

Edited by Sarah Carpenter

The transcriptions appear © Crown copyright, from manuscripts held by the National Records of Scotland.

1581-82

Treasurer's Accounts [E21/62](#)

1 January 1581 – 1 March 1582

January 1581

fol 110^v

...

Item To a trumpetour that past furth of Edinburgh in cumpanie of the noble men that *convoyed* the erle of mortoun to dumbartane for the said trumpetouris hors hyre and expenss

vj li xiiij s iiii d

...

Note: Morton, the last Regent of James VI's minority, had been accused of complicity in the murder of Darnley, arrested and sent to imprisonment in Dumbarton in December 1580.

fol 111^v

...

Item aucht eln of quhyit sating to be ane slip to his *maiesties* masking claitthis the tyme of the erle of *murrayes* mariage price of the eln [viiij] sex pund. Inde

xlviij li

Note: This and the following items fall within a general list of clothing for the King. The wedding was the marriage of Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of the murdered Regent Murray, to James Stewart, son of Lord Doune. In default of male heirs, he became by the marriage the 2nd Earl of Murray, the 'bonnie earl' of the later ballad. Evidence of elaborate wedding celebrations with a water siege and combat sports, in which James also took part, appears in contemporary correspondence: see Anna J Mill, *Mediaeval Plays in Scotland* (Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1927) p. 55 n3.

Item four eln of laun theirto price of ye eln iiij li Inde	xvj li
Item four elnis of cammarage to the said vse at iiij li x s the eln Inde <i>fol 112^r</i>	xviiij li
Item sex elnis of quhyit taffatie of the coird to be ane of his hienes maister staiblairis ane garmonth at xl s the eln Inde	xij li
Item fyve eln of quhyite taffatie of the coird to be ane of his maiesties peadges ane garmonth price of the eln xl s Inde	x li
Item xxvij elnis lyning fustiane to the saidis claithis at x s the eln Inde	xiiij li x s
Item thre elnis of stiff buckrum to lyne the heidis of the saidis play claithis at viij s the elne Inde	xxiiij s
Item ane bolt of silkin rybberis to his hienes masking claithis conteni ^{ng} lxvij elnis	viiij li x s
Item four vnce of quhyit silk to the saidis claithis at xviiij s the vnce Inde	iiij li xij s

...

Note: The three items at the top of f. 112^r are linked together. They are not identified as mask clothes, but the white taffeta (unsuitable for daily wear), lack of identification of the type of garments, and placing within a list of the king's clothing rather than expenses for servitors, suggest they are for the same mask. Notice this mask follows the 'teaching of his hienes to dance' the previous month.

February 1581

fol 114^v

...

Item To Robert drummond trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis of decembir Januare and februarye	xx li
---	-------

...

fol 116^r

(Expenses on messengers)

...

Item To Richart bynning messinger and twa trumpetouris To proclame the saidis Lettres at the mercat croce of edinburgh vpoun the mercat day	xx s
--	------

...

Note: These are among letters sent out as a 'generale proclamatioun' across the country by heralds, messengers and trumpeters calling all between the ages of sixteen and sixty to be ready for war. The alarm was in response to fears of war with England following the imprisonment of Morton.

April 1581*fol 126^f*

...

Item quhen his maiestie raid to the sandis of leith to his pastyme at twa sindrie tymes to the Warkman that kaist the fowlsies of leith iiij crownis of the sone at xliiij s the pece Inde

viiij li xvj s

...

Note: This pastime was a running at the ring, often held on the sands of Leith. On a previous occasion the English envoy Randolph had commented on James's good performance for a child (CSPS 5, 611)

Translation: fowsie = ditch.

Item be his maiesties *speciale command* at his ryding to seytoun for thre rynges to the potence

iiij li

.....

Translation: Potence = part of the structure for running at the ring.

fol 129^f

....

Item To ane herald and a trumpetour & with thame twa witness passand with *lettres* to charge the hous of thomptalloun To be randerit within xlviiij *houris* vnder the pane of treassoun Remaning their be the space of four dayes

vj li

....

Note: Tantallon Castle was demanded from the Earl of Angus, a supporter of the Earl of Morton.

May 1581*fol 131^f*

Item To fergall og Irische poet be his maiesties precept as the *samin* with his acquittance producit vpoun compt at lenth beris

j^c [xxxiiij li vj s viij d] lib

Note: for the Irish poet Fearghal Óg Mac an Bhaird see Pádraig Ó Macháin 'Three early poems by Fearghal Óg Mac an Bhaird, with notes on the duanaire of Domhnall Mac Suibhne', *Celtica* 27 (2013), 38-54.

Item To alexander zoung for certane sowmes debursit be him at his maiesties directioun in certane auffairis of his hienes pastyme Conforme to ane precept. As the *samin* with his acquittance producit vpoun compt proportis

lviiij li

...

Note: Generalised mention of 'pastyme' often includes such quasi-dramatic activity as running at the ring, along with hunting and other sports.

fol 132^r

Item be his maiesties precept to the chirurgianis for the hailing of ambrois
galloway Lamit of his ryt arme be schuting ane gun in the castell of Edinburgh
at his maiesties entrie in *edinburgh* As the said precept producit vpoun
compt beris xl li

...

Note: The celebration of James's royal entry into Edinburgh, took place on 17 October
1579. For accounts of the pageantry see Mill, *Mediaeval Plays*, pp. 192-94.

Item To William ramsay trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis of
marche aprile and maij xx li

fol 133^v

...

Item To Richart bininng William foirsyth & William porteous messingeris and twa
trumpetouris with thame that passit to the mercat croce of *edinburgh* To proclame
the Reuocatioun maid be his maiestie xxx s

...

Note: a monarch proceeding to adult rule made a ceremonial revocation of gifts, grants etc made
during his or her minority.

June 1581*fol 136^r*

...

Item be the kingis maiesties precept to be distributit vpoun certane aigit and
decayit men to the number of fyvetein according to the zeiris of his maiesties aige
As followis.

Item for fyve scoir twa elnis blew claith to be fyvetein blew gownis to the said
fyvetein agit men at xx s the eln Inde j^cij li

Item for lynning hardin and buckrum furnessit theirto iij li vj s viij d

Item for making of the saidis gownis ilkane of thame vj s viij d Inde v li

Item to euerie ane of the said aigit [men] fyvetein men xv s in ane lytill purs
conforme to the said precept xj li iij s vj d

...

Item To ane pyper and ane zoung boy his sone that playit in *dalkeyth* vpoun
sonday the xj day of Junij fra the Kirk to the castell befoir his hienes xx s

Note: Dalkeith is now home to Esmé Stewart, James's cousin and favourite recently arrived from France. Performance-related expense is more evident during Stewart's residence in Scotland.

Item To the said 3oung boy that played vpoun the swasche be his hienes command a syde to it of his awin Leveray As followis.

fol 136^v

Item for ten quarteris of reid stemming to be him ane cot at xl s the eln Inde	v li x s
Item for half ane eln of 3allow stemming to bar the said coit with	xxij s
Item for ane vnce & half of silk theirto	xxvij s
Item for making their of	xij s iiij d
...	

fol 138^f

(Expenses for messengers)

...

Item To ane harrauld and ane trumpetour passand the secund tyme To charge ye hous of thomptalloun to be randeret within xxiiij <i>houris</i> nixt eftir the charge vnder the pane of treassoun and <i>with</i> thame twa witness	vj li
--	-------

Item To Richart bynning messinger and ane trumpetour passand to the mercat croce of Edinburgh with <i>lettres</i> To proclame the same aganis seditious personis speakaris in <i>favouris</i> of the erle of mortoun	xij s iiij d
--	--------------

fol 138^v

...

Item To the harrauldis officiaris and trumpetouris that proclomit the parliament at the mercat croce of edinburgh to be haldin the xxij day of august	xxx s
---	-------

August 1581

fol 148^f

...

Item be his maiesties precept To willieme m ^c kgegane clerschoman As the samin with the said williames acquittance producit vpoun compt beris	x li
--	------

...

Translation: clerschoman = harper (clarsach man)

fol 149^v

...

Item To m^cnab trumpetour for his quarter wagis of the monethis of June Julij and august xx li

...

October 1581

fol 155^v

...

Item gevin to gilt his maiesties brydillis and the Irne wark their of with fyne gold aganis the parliament twa angell nobillis price *yei*rof vij li xij s

Item to gilt his maiesties stirrop Irnes befor his maiestie raid to the parliament xij li

Note: For parliamentary ceremonial see Introduction.

Item for expenss of *tymmer* daillis Irne wark and vtheris necesserris theirto appertening wrocht in the grete hall of the palace of halierudehous at the tyme of the creatioun of my Lord Duicke. The erlis of arrane gowrie orknay and mortoun and sundrie vtheris gentilmen in rank of knightis etc as the perticulare productit vpoun compt beris ij^c v li xj s iiij d

Note: Esmé Stewart was invested as Duke of Lennox, the first Duke to be created in Scotland, on 8 August 1581.

fol 156^f

Item be his maiesties precept To Williame ramsay robert maxwell Robert Drummond and James savoy trumpetouris as followis

Note: The following extensive expenses on trumpeters' clothing and James's elaborate saddles seem, by their placing, to be either for the parliament or for the investiture of Esmé Stewart, although this is not specifically noted. It suggests lavish ceremonial, although McNab has had a similar outfit a year or so previously. The saddles are clearly designed for display, even if not for these specific ceremonies.

Item To ilkane of thame sevin eln half eln of reid cramesie stemmyng to be their klokis coittis and breikis at iiij li xv s the eln Inde j^cxliij li x s

Item twa elnis half eln of zallow weluet to bordour euerie ane of their coittis clockis and breikis foirsaidis at ix li x s the eln Inde lxxxv li

Item to euerie ane of their garmondis four vnce of zallow silk at xvij s the vnce Inde xiiij li viij s

Item To euerie ane of their saidis garmondis iiij dosane of buttonis at iij s iiij d the dosane Inde v li vj s viij d

Item To euerie ane of thame ane dosane of silk pointis at xv s the <i>dosane</i> Inde	iij li
Item To euerie ane of thame thre elnis and ane quarter of quhyt fustiane to be their doublettis extending in the haill to xiiij eln at xxvj s viij d the eln Inde	xxvij li vj s viij d
Item to euerie ane of their doublettis twa eln of <i>lynning</i> to lyne thame with <i>price</i> of the eln iij s iiij d Inde	liij s iiij d
Item to their doublettis <i>four</i> eln of stentyng hardin at viij s the eln Inde	xxxij s

fol 156^v

Item To euerie ane of their doublettis half pund of caddes In the haill to twa pund at xiiij s iiij d the pund Inde	xxvj s viij d
Item to euerie ane of their doublettis iij <i>dosane</i> of buttonis at iij s iiij d the <i>dosane</i> extending in the haill to xij <i>dosane</i> Inde	xl s
Item to euerie ane of thame ane hat <i>with</i> ane string of silk theirto price of the pece xl s Inde	viij li
Item to euerie ane of the saidis four trumpetouris ane eln of reid and ane vther of <i>zallow</i> taffatie to be bendis to their trumpettis in the haill to viij eln price of the eln xxxvj s Inde	xiiij li viij s
Item To be beltis and frenzeis to euerie ane of their saidis trumpettis sex vnce of silk extending in the haill to xxiiij vnce price of the vnce xx s Inde	xxiiij li
Item be his maiesties precept to m ^c nab trumpetour As followis	
Item To him sevin eln of reid crames <i>ie</i> stemming to be his clock coit and breikis at iiij li xv s the eln Inde	xxxiiij li v s
Item To bordour his coit cloik and breikis twa elnis and ane half of <i>zallow</i> welwet at ix li the eln Inde	xxij li x s
Item four vnce of silk to the saidis claitthis at xviiij s the vnce Inde	iij li xij s

fol 157^r

Item thre eln of quhyt fustiane to be his doublet at xxvj s viij d the eln Inde	iiij li
---	---------

Item twa eln of lynning to lyne his doublet at vj s viij d the eln Inde	xij s iiij d
Item ane eln of stentyng theirto	vij s
Item iiij dosane of Buttonis to the said doublet at iij s iiij d the dosane Inde	x s
Item iiij dosane of Buttonis to his mandeill at iij s iiij d the dosane Inde	xij s iiij d
Item for half ane pund of caddes to his doublet	vj s viij d
Item ane dosane of silk pointis to the said doublet	xv s
Item ane hat with ane string of silk	xl s
Item twa eln of taffatie their of ane reid ane vther zallow to his trumpet at xxxvj s the eln Inde	iiij li xij s
Item To be frenzeis and belt to his said trumpet sex vnce of reid and zallow silk at xx s the vnce Inde	vj li

Item be his maiesties precept for the stuff furnessit[®] to ye[®] welwet sadillis. harnessing graith and vther furnessing perticularelie heireftir following furnessit To his hienes be Robert abircromby his maiesties saidlair As the said precept and the perticulare compt in maner eftir speacifiit schawin and producit vpoun compt proportis That is to say: –

fol 157^v

Item xvj hankis of gold and siluer to be knappis frattis and fass to [the said] rye ¹ harnessing [and the] of the blew fute mantill of welwet that come out of france & cordonis to the trusky price of ilk hank l i Inde	xl li
Translation: trusky = unknown.	
Item sevin vnce and ane half of pasementis and bissettis of siluer price of the vnce iiij li Inde	xxx li
Item four vnce of quhyte silk to sew on the said cordonis at xvj s ye vnce Inde	iiij li iiij s
Item xvij vnce half vnce of blew silk to be the haill fass ^{is} to the harnessing and to mix the cordoun of the trusky price of the vnce xvj s Inde	xiiij li xvj s
Item for gilt buckillis plattonis pendacis and nailis to serue the said harnessing	xij li x s

Item to the broudstare for making of the said knappis frattis fassis and cordin to the trusky price of all	v li
Item for aucht elnis buckrum to be four pockis to hald the said fute mantillis & harnessingis clein price of the eln x s Inde	iiij li
Item for Lumbart paper to keip the pasementis of the haill fut mantellis vnspilt	xij s iiij d
Item twa spungis to the said fute mantillis <i>with</i> twa birse rubberis price of all	xl s
Item four marykin skynnys to be the skirtis to his hienes twa frenche sadillis at lv s the pece Inde	xj li
Item <i>four</i> elnis and ane half of blak welwet to be the saittis & bordouris theirow price of the eln xij li Inde	liij li

Note: Sum not quite correct, should be liiij li.

fol 158^r

Item vij vnce half vnce of blak silk frenzeis to pas through the tua saittis & about the same in all pairtis at xxj s ye vnce Inde	vij li x s
Item aucht ¹ vnce of blak silk to scheuet the bordouris to steik the saittis and sew the haill twa sadillis at xij s iiij d the vnce Inde	v li vj s viij d
...	
Item thre elnis and ane half of reid Inglis stemmyng to be twa coveringis to hald the twa sadillis clein at xl s the eln Inde	vij li
...	

fol 159^r

Item To ane Boy passand of edinburgh with clois <i>lettres</i> to dunnone to the erlis of ergile and eglingtoun To be in <i>edinburgh</i> at his hienes vpoun the xij day of october at the <i>conventioun</i> befor the <i>parliament</i>	liij s iiij d
...	

Note: Many other letters sent elsewhere 'to the same effect'. In January letters are sent to various nobles 'the wedder being stormye and evill to stay thame in *cumming* to Edinburgh to the *conventioun* appointit theirat the xij Januare' (fol 170^v).

fol 160^r

Item To Richart bynning messenger and ane trumpetour with him passand to the mercat croce of edinburgh. Chargeing all maner of man haveand actioun

or sute befor the *parliament* to *present* their supplicationis befor the Lordis of *articlis*

xiiij s iiij d

...

Note: Lords of the Articles: a parliamentary committee chosen by the three Estates to draft legislation.

November 1581

fol 161^f

Item be his hienes precept To Williame hutsoun maister balladean. As the samyn with the said Williames acquittance producit vpoun compt beris

j^c li

....

fol 161^v

Item To ffrancis Savoy trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis of septembir october and november

xx li

.....

December 1581

fol 165^f

Item be his maiesties speciale command to the droich in dalkeyth twa angell nobillis price yei of

viiij li

...

February 1582

fol 172^v

...

Item be his maiesties precept to thomas hutsoun for furnessing of necessarie apparrell and wappinnis [as is] ®to a® †mask dans as is † requisite [fo] As the said precept & his acquittance producit vpoun compt beris

lxvj li xiiij s iiij d

Note: This item is written in a smaller hand, apparently squeezed in at the bottom of the page perhaps later. Costume is similar to that provided for the mask of December 1579 (fol 86^v).

fol 173^v

...

Item To Robert maxwell trumpetour for his Wages of his quarter of december Januare and february

xx li

Item To James huntare glaissinwrycht for the furnessing of glas making
and mending of glaissin windois in the dansing chalmer the Wardrope and
lang galrie in the palace of halierudehous As the perticulare productit
vpoun compt beris

xliiiij li j s iiiij d

...

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 *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 intromissions'.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.

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

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

E21/62 1 January 1581 – 1 March 1582

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E21/62. 1581-82. Latin and Scots. Paper. Now bound in one volume with E21/61, 1580-81: iii + 1-73 + 74-180 + iii. 310 x 200 mm. Modern pencil foliation continuous through volume. Regular layout, some display capitals. Folios in generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners. Brown tooled leather binding now showing significant signs of wear, folios beginning to come adrift. Spine: *Compot Thesaur* | 1579 | 1581. Treasurer: William, Earl of Gowrie.