RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1581-1582
Edited by Sarah Carpenter
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1581-82

Treasurer’s Accounts E21/62
1 January 1581 – 1 March 1582

January 1581
fol 110v
...
Item To a trumpeto ur that past furth of Edinburgh in cumpanie of the noble men that convoyed the erle of mortoun to dumbartane for the said trumpeto uris hors hyire and expenss vj li xiiij s iiiij 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 111v
...
Item aucht eln of quhyit sating to be ane slip to his majesties masking claithis the tyme of the erle of murrays mariadge price of the eln [vij] 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 xviiij li

fol 112³

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 xij 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 rybbenis to his hienes masking claithis contening lxvij elnis viij li x s

Item four vnce of quhyit silk to the saidis claithis at xvij s the vnce Inde iij li xij s

...
April 1581

fol 126r

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 iiiij crownis of the sone at xliiiij s the pece Inde viij 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 iiiij li

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

fol 129r

Item To ane herauld and a trumpetour & with thame twa witness passand with lettres to charge the hous of thomptalloun To be randerit within xlviij ho uris vnder the pane of treassoun Remani ng 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 131r

Item To fergall og Irische poet be his maiesties precept as the sami with his acquittance producit vpoun compt at lenth beris j [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 young for certane sowmes deburisit be him at his maiesties directioun in certane auffairis of his hienes pastyme Conforme to ane precept. As the sami with his acquittance producit vpoun compt proportis lvij li

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

Item To Richart binning William forsythy William porteous messingeris and twa trumpetouris with thame that passit to the mercat croce of edinburgh To proclame the Reuocation 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’

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

Item for fyve scoir twa elnis blew claith to be fyvetein blew gowmis to the said fyvetein agit men at xx s the eln Inde j’ij li

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

Item for making of the saidis gowmis 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 ij s vj d

Item To ane pyper and ane ȝoung boy his sone that playit in dalkey th 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 young boy that played upon the swasche be his hienes command a syide to it of his awin Leveray As followis.

*fol 136v*

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 theirof... xiij s iiij d

*fol 138f*

*(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 houris nixt eftir the charge vnnder the pane of treassoun and with thame twa witness... vj li

Item To Richart bynnig messinger and ane trumpetour passand to the mercat croce of Edinburgh with lettres To proclame the same aganis seditious personis speakaris in favouris of the erle of mortoun... xiij s iiij d

*fol 138v*

... Item To the harrauldis officiaris and trumpetoirus that proclamit the parliament at the mercat croce of edinburgh to be haldin the xxij day of august... xxx s

**August 1581**

*fol 148f*

... Item be his maiesties precept To williame m’kgegane clerschoman As the sami with the said williames acquittance producit vpoun compt beris... x li

... Translation: clerschoman = harper (clarsach man)
Item To m’nab trumpetour for his quarter wagis of the monethis of June Julij and August xx li

October 1581
Item gevin to gilt his maiesties brydillis and the Irne wark theirof with fyne gold aganis the parliament twa angell nobillis price yeirof vij li xij s

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

Note: For parliamentary ceremonial see Introduction.

Item for expenss of tymmer daillis Irne wark and vtheris necess erris 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 producit vpoun compt beris iij 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.

Item be his maiesties precept To William 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 clokis coittis and breikis at iiiij li xv s the eln Inde j’xlij li x s

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

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

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

Item To euerie ane of thame sevin eln half eln of reid cramesie stemmyng to be their clokis coittis and breikis at iiiij li xv s the eln Inde j’xlij li x s
Item To euerie ane of thame ane dosane of silk pointis at xv s the dosane Inde

Item To euerie ane of thame thre elnis and ane quarter of quhyit fustiane to be their doublettis extending in the hail to xiiij eln at xxvj s viij d the eln Inde

Item to euerie ane of their doublettis two eln of lynning to lyne thame with price of the eln iij s iiiij d Inde

Item to their doublettis four eln of stentyng hardin at viij s the eln Inde

\textit{fol 156$^v$}

Item To euerie ane of their doublettis half pund of caddes in the hail to twa pund at xiiij s iiiij d the pund Inde xxvj s viij d

Item to euerie ane of their doublettis iij dosane of buttonis at iij s iiiij d the dosane extending in the hail to xij dosane Inde xl s

Item to euerie ane of thame ane hat with 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 ȝallow taffatie to be bendis to their trumpettis in the hail to viij eln price of the eln xxxvj s Inde xiiij li viij s

Item To be beltis and frenȝeis to euerie ane of their saidis trumpettis sex vnce of silk extending in the hail to xxiiij vnce price of the vnce xx s Inde xxiiiij li

Item be his maiesties precept to m$^c$nab trumpetour As followis

Item To him sevin eln of reid crames$^i$e stemming to be his clock coit and breikis at iiiij li xv s the eln Inde xxxiiij li v s

Item To bordour his coit cloik and breikis twa elnis and ane half of ȝallow welwert at ix li the eln Inde xxij li x s

Item four vnce of silk to the saidis claithis at xviiij s the vnce Inde iij li xij s

\textit{fol 157$^v$}

Item thre eln of quhyit fustiane to be his doublet at xxvj s viij d the eln Inde iiiij li
Item twa eln of lynning to lyne his doublet at vij s viij d the eln Inde xiij s iiij d

Item ane eln of stentying theirto viij 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 xiij 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 theirof ane reid ane vther ȝallow to his trumpet at xxxvj s the eln Inde iij li xij s

Item To be frenȝeis and belt to his said trumpet sex vnce of reid and ȝallow 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 followi ng furnessit To his hienes be Robert abircremy 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 157v

Item xvj hankis of gold and siluer to be knappis frattis and fass to [the said]’ye’ 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 iij li iiij s

Item xviiij 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 xiiiij li xvj s

Item for gilt buckillis plattonis pendacis and nailis to serve 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 xiiij s iiij d

Item twa spungis to the said fute mantillis with twa birse rubberis price of all xl s

Item four marykin skynnis to be the skirtis to his hienes twa frenche sadillis at lv s the pece Inde xj li

Item four elnis and ane half of blak welwet to be the saittis & bordouris theirof price of the eln xij li Inde liij li

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

\[ \text{fol 158}^\prime \]

Item vij vnce half vnce of blak silk frenȝeis to pas throuch the tua saittis & about the same in all pairtis at xxj s ye vnce Inde vij li x s

Item auccht \( ^{\prime} \text{vnce} \) of blak silk to scheuet the bordouris to steik the saittis and sew the haill twa sadillis at xiiij s iiiij 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

\[ \text{fol 159}^\prime \]

... Item To ane Boy passand of edinburgh with clois lettres to dunnone to the erlis of ergile and eglingtoun To be in edinburgh at his hienes vpoun the xij day of october at the convenioun befoir the parliament liij s iiiij 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 convenioun appointit theirat the xij Januare' (fol 170').

\[ \text{fol 160}^\prime \]

Item To Richart bynning messinger and ane trumpetour with him passand to the mercat croce of edinburgh. Chargeing all maner of man haveand actioun
or sute befoir the parliament to present their supplicationis befoir the Lordis of articlis xiiij s iiiij d

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

**November 1581**

*fol 161v*

Item be his hienes precept To William hutsoun maister balladean. As the samin with the said Williames acquittance producit vpoun compt beris j^c^ li

*fol 161v*

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

**December 1581**

*fol 165v*

Item be his maiesties speciale command to the droich in dalkeyth twa angell nobillis price yeirof viij li

**February 1582**

*fol 172v*

* 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 iiiij 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 86v).

*fol 173v*

* Item To Robert maxwell trumpetour for his Wages of his quarter of december Januare and februare xx li
Item To James huntare glaissinwrycht for the furnessing of glas making
and mending of glaissin windois in the dancing chalmer the Wardrope and
lang galrie in the palace of halierudehous As the perticulare producit
vpoun compt beris xliii j s iiiJ 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