RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1582-1585
Edited by Sarah Carpenter
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1582-83

Treasurer’s Accounts E22/5
1.3.1582-1.5.1583

April 1582
p 80

Item To Williame murray Wallet for bowis and arrowis to his maïestie & certane vther small furnessing maid be him As the perticulare producit vpoun compt beris xiiij li x s iiiij d
... Item be his hienes precept to Williame mane speir maker for speiris bilȝeart bullis and bilȝeartis furnessit be him As the sami producit vpoun compt beris xix li viij s viij d
...

p 81

Item be his maïesties speciale command to francis masse inglisman v li

Item to the Inglis schameris in Striueling be his hienes speciale command x li

Item be his maïesties speciale command to ane lytle boy that played on the swasche in alloway xiiij s iiiij d
...

...
May 1582
p 93

Item To William Ramsay trumpetour for his quarter wages of the moneths of Marche, April, and May xx li

June 1582
p 112

... Item thre Rynning speiris paintit with blew azuwr price of the pece iiij li Inde ix li

p 113

... Item be his hienes precept to Master Peter ȝoungh Master Elimosinare sex scoir elnis of blew clayth to be gowinis to sextein aigit men according to the ȝeiris of his hienes aige price of ye eln xviij s Inde jviij li

Item aucpt elnis bukrome theirto price xl s

Item xvij pursis and in ilk purs xvij s Inde xiiij li iiiij s

Item for the cariage of the saidis gowinis fra edinburgh to Striueling l s

July 1582
p 120

... Item be his hienes speciale command to ane swascher and pyper in drink siluer at tullibardin xxvj s viij d

p 123

... Item be his hienes speciale command to ane Inglis boy that maid pastyme to his maistie at perth xiiij li vj s viij d

Note: Dramatic and para-dramatic activity is often included under the generalised mention of 'pastyme'. Cp 'To the bairris makeris of the pastyme to the kingis majestie', Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, 1573–175, ed. J.D. Marwick (Edinburgh, 1876), I.470 (1581-2).
Item be his hienes precept to William duncan spuwnmaker for spungis and Rackettis furnessit to his maiesie as the sam in with his acquittance producit vpoun compt beris xl li

Item at ane vther tyme to the said ynglis boy for making of pastyme to his hienes at his maiesies speciale command vj li xiiij s iiiij d

Item be his maiesties precept to James fergussoun and Johnne forrestare bowaris for bowis and arrowis furnessit to his maistie and gevin Seinȝiour franck As the said precept with their acquittance producit vpoun compt beris xxj li

Item Omittit be the comptare in his last compt of the four scoir ane the allouance grantit to his hienes violaris ȝeirlie to by thame clothing ij li

Item To his hienes said violaris for their allouance to by thame cleting of the ȝeir comptit ij li

August 1582

Item to Robert drummond trumpetour for their his ordiner wages of the monethis of June Julij and august xx li

Item the xv of august at his maistes speciale command at his depairting furth of blair in athole to balloch to hieland menstrallis x li

Note: On 23 August 1582 James was detained by a group of nobles hostile to Esmé Stewart, Duke of Lennox, led by the Earl of Gowrie, in the ‘Ruthven Raid’. He was held away from Lennox and largely from Edinburgh for some months, until he made his escape to St Andrews in July 1583. The Treasurer’s Accounts show a decrease in entertainment activity during this time. During James’s detention he agreed to the banishment of Lennox to France, where he died in May 1583.
September 1582  
p 156  
...  
Item Be his maiesties precept to Robert Stevin poet as the same with his acquaintance producit vpoun compt beris xl li  
...  

November 1582  
p 193  
...  
Item to m cyan nab trumpetour for his [wages] ordiner wages of ye monethis of septembir october and november xx li  
...  

December 1582  
p 210  
...  
Item be his maiesties precept To thomas fowlis goldsmith for taiblettis and ringis set with dyamontis and rubeis and vtheris pretious stanis and braislettis and vtheris goldsmith work furnessit to his hienes to be gevin in new 3eir giftis As the perticulare with the precept producit vpoun compt beris Extending to thre hundreth fye crownis and ane half being convertit in money at l s the crowne Inde vij lxii li xv s  
...  

February 1583  
p 229  
...  
Item to Robert maxwell trumpeto for his ordiner wages of ye monethis of decembir Januare and februare xx li  

p 232  
(Payments to messengers)  
...  
Item to Robert octerburne messinger passand with lettres to the mercat croces of Edinburgh Lynlythgw Striueling glasgw Lanark renfrew and dumbartane / Beirand that their wes ane famous lybell put in the rowme within the Kirk of edinburgh quhair the provest baillies and counsale sittis in tyme of sermon directit on the bak to the saidis provest and baillies etc baring the dait at dunkeld the xx j of septembir last And as it wer subscryuit be ye handis of sindrie noble men faithfull counsalouris and gude subiectis quhilk neuer hard nor saw the same of befoir / Anent his maiesties detentioun in halierudehous and deliuerance of his hienes persoun in yngland etc iiij li vj s viij d  

Note: For this libel see CSPS Vol VI, no.177 (pp. 177-8). Endorsed ‘Copy of the libell caste into the seate in the church of the Provost and baylyffes. Edenbr. xxvij°Ja. 1582’.
**April 1583**

*p 253*

... Item be his maiesties speciale command to twa inglis violaris  v li

*p 267*

... Item be his hienes precept to Williame treschiour muwsitiane as the same with his acquittance producit vpoun compt beris  j£ li

Note: This has been identified as the French musician Guillaume Tessier who came to Scotland, perhaps under the patronage of Esmé Stewart, but appears to have been offered patronage by Gowrie, at this point still Treasurer, although soon to fall when the King escaped from the Lords Enterprisers of the Ruthven Raid. See Jeanice Brooks, ‘Tessier’s travels in Scotland and England’, *Early Music* 39.2 (2011), pp. 185-194. I am grateful to Dr Brooks for sharing the information in this article with me before publication.

*p 275*

... Item be his hienes precept to James hutsoun ane of his maiesties violaris as the same with his acquittance producit beris  iij£ li

Note: This is probably connected with Hudson’s trip to England, April 1583. See supporting letter from the English ambassador Robert Bowes, to Walsingham, CSPS VI, no 435, p. 430. Hudson is identified as a musician, but talked of as someone doing further good for both James VI and Bowes.

**1583-85**

*Treasurer’s Accounts* E22/6

1 May 1583 – 1 May 1585

Note: William, Earl of Gowrie, the leader of the Ruthven Raid, begins as Treasurer for this accounting period. Following James’s escape, Gowrie was finally executed 17.4.1584. The Treasury accounts were signed off after his death by his deputy, Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

**May 1583**

*fol 91f*

... Item for mending of the kist to the leopard and for tymmer yeirto  xiij s ii j d

...
June 1583

fol 99v

... Item To Robert schaw keipair of his hienes caitchpell be his majesties precept. for beiting repairing & mending of his hienes caitchpell in falkland As the said precept producit vpoun compt beris j c li

Item to Maister peter ȝoung Maister elimosiner sex scoir sevin elnis half eln of blew claith to be gwnis to sevintein aigit men according to the ȝeiris of his hienes aige price of the eln xx s Inde j'xxvij li x s

Item aucht elnis half eln buckrome theirto price of the eln [iiij li] viij s Inde iiij li iiiij d

Item sevintein purssis and in ilk purs xvij s and for the price of euerie ane of the said purssis iiiij d Inde xiiij li xiiij s viij d

July 1583

fol 107v

Item To Richairt bynnyng messinger and ane trumpetour with him passand with Lettres to the mercat croce of edinburgh To declar the trew deith of vmquhile esme ducke of Lennox and of his constancie in the professioun of the trew religioun / As alsua foirwarning all sick as had balletis – cartellis in proise or ryme etc To distroy thame sasone as thay mycht easelie cum to thair knawlege vnder the panis contenit the Lettres / and to the heraldis and trumpetouris being at the said croce iiij li vj s viij d

Note: others sent to the same effect to the mercat croces at: Linlithgow, Stirling, Glasgow, Irvine, Ayr, Peebles, Dumfries, Haddington, Duns, Lauder, Selkirk, Jedburgh, ‘and vther places neidfull’. ...

Note: The series of proclamations below, following James’s escape from the Ruthven raiders, indicates his increasing reliance on the proclamation as a performed means of government, and of directing the public behaviour of his subjects.

Item To williame rankelour messinger passand of [ed] perth. with lettres to the mercat croces of dundy Sanctandrois couper of fyiff ‘edinburgh’ Strielueling and glasgw. To command and charge all and sindrie his hienes lieges To contein thame selfis in quietnes vnnder [fol 107’] goddis feir and his majesties lauchfull obedience / and that nane tak vpoun hand to move or provoke truble vnquietnes or fectioun amangis his hienes subiectis be word or deid or to schaw thame the authouris and instrumentis of alteraunis & novelties Tending to the disturbing of his majesties estait eftir ye tennour of ye saidis Lettres vj li xiiij s iiiij d

Item to James craik messinger passand [of Sanct androis] with lettres to ye mercat croces of the burrowis of [sanct dund] sanctandrois couper of fyiff dundy perth Strielueling lynlythgw & edinburgh. To command and charge all and sindrie...
erlis lordis barronis knychtis gentilmen & landit men That none of thame tak vpoun hand To repair vnto his hienes presens or within sex myles to the place of his residence arnit nor ȝet accumpaneit with ma personis nor is particularie speacifiit in the saidis Lettres ... 

**September 1583**

*fol 120v*

Item To williame forsyth messinger passand of falkland With Lettres to the mercat croces of perth. dundy sanctandrois couper of fyiff Striueling and edinburgh To certifie his hienes subiectis and to let thame knaw the treuth of his lait proceedingis cours and intentioun and to extend his hienes clemencie to all trespassouris that will humblie crave pardoun for the publict attemptat Committit at Ruthven ... iiij li

**November 1583**

*fol 129v*

... Item be his hienes speciale command to alixander moncreif his maiesteis falconare tua dosane pareis bellis souwdit with siluer for halkis price of the pece x s Inde xij li

Item ane vther dosane of halk bellis price of the pece iiij s Inde xlviii s

Item and dosane of pareis [of f] chaissis to halkis xviiij s

Item ane dosane of garnitouris to halk feit xviiij s

Item ane dosane of ledder leischis to halk feit xviiij s

Item half ane dosane of grete lorane bellis to halkis price of ye pece x s Inde iiij li

Item Thre dosane of halk hwidis price of ye pece v s Inde ix li

Note: the accounts record extensive expenditure on hunting both with hounds and hawks. These items are unusually elaborate, possibly suggesting some kind of show or display.

*fol 131v*

... Item be his hienes speciale command for repairing of the lithis within the abbay clois and ane potence for ye ring As follouis

Note: ‘lithis’ clearly appears to be written for ‘listis’=lists
In Primis aucht grete rwif sparris and for carreing of thame out of leith to ye abbay liij s iiiij d

Item four dosane of sand theirto price of the dosane viij s Inde xxxij s

Item to thre wrichtis for thair warkmanship xx s

Item To tua warkmen for redding of the grund and laying on of the sand x s

Item for naillis to the vpsetting of sindrie of ye vpstanderis and thorteris vij s viij d

Translation: thorter = a transverse spar.

**December 1583**  
*fol 140v*

... Item be his hienes command for careing of the potence to the sandis of leith iij s iiiij d ...

**January 1584**  
*fol 144v*

... Item be his maiesties precept to Williame hudsoun his hienes maister balladin As the same producit vpon compt proportis iijc li ...

*fol 149v*

... Item be his hienes speciale command to be ane leveray coit to the comendatar of blantyris fuill fyve elnis of skarlet stemmyng price of ye eln xlviiij s Inde xij li

*fol 152v*

... Item To his hienes violaris: for thair allouance to by thame cleathing of the lxxxiiij 3eir comptit iijc li

**March 1584**  
*fol 159v*

... Item to alexander Stobo messinger and ane trumpetour with him passand with lettres to the mercat croce of edinburgh to command and charge all the dependaris of the erle of mar and Maister of glamis to depairt of ye toun within thre houris nixt yeireftir eftir ye tennour of ye saidis lettres xiiij s iiiij d
April 1584

fol 163v

...Item thre elnis spanis ȝallow taffaty to be ane handseinȝe to his hienes price
of the eln v li Inde x v li

Item ten vnces of cramessy and ȝallow silk price of the vnce xx s Inde x li

Item for the fassioun of the frenȝe xx s

Item / for the brodoring / and the siluer and gold with ye warkmanship of his
hienes armes in the handseinȝe xvij li

Note: The Earls of Mar and Angus, with other members of the Lords Enterprisers, seized the castle of Stirling
in April 1584. James mustered an army against them and the castle surrendered, the lords escaping to England.
The ceremonial ensigns above, as well as the proclamation below, are related to this assertion of power.

fol 165r

...Item be his maiesties precept to the herauldis and ordiner pursewentis for their
awaiting on his hienes seruice the tyme of his enemeis halding & defending of ye
burgh of Striueling as ye said precept producit vpoun compt beris j c li

...fol 167r

...Item to Johnne gladstanis ormond pursewent and ane trumpetour with him passand
of edinburgh with lettres to ye burgh of Striueling to Command and charge archibald
erle of angus Johnne erle of mar and Remanent yair complices detenaris of ye
toun & castell of Striueling to remove yame selfis furth of ye same vnder ye pane of
tressoun as alsweill ye induellaris & inhabitantis of ye said burgh to remove yame self
out yeirof and nocht to help and support yame in ony way viij li

fol 168r

...Item To Richart bynni
gmessinger and ane trumpetour with him passand with lettres
to the mercat croce of edinburgh commanding and chargeing archibald erle of angus
Johnne erle of mar and thair complices to remoue thame selfis furth of Striueling / As
als inhabiting the surname of the harmmiltounis nocht to repair within ten myles to
his hienis persoun xiiij s
May 1584
fol. 178r

Item four elnis of quhyit ribbenis to [the kingis] his hienes rob royell x s

Note: the ‘robe royal’ seems to have been commonly worn by sixteenth century Scottish monarchs for the Parliament. See Introduction, n18.

Item to the trumpetouris aucht elnis of taffatie reid and ȝallow to their trumpettis price of the eln xl s Inde xvj li

fol 183v

... Item To cuthbert richertson messinger passand of edinburgh with lettres to the mercat croces of ye burrows of lynlythgw striueling glasgw lanerk dumfreis kirkcudbrycht yrwing & air To command and charge all and sindrie the nobill men & vtheris of his maiesties estaitis writtin for to cum to ye parliament / To cum in quiet and peciable maner with yair ordiner houshaldis etc x li

Note: similar messengers sent to other burghs ...

September 1584
fol 203r

... Item be his hienes speciale command to alexander moncreif his maiesties falconer ane dosane of halk huidis fassit with silk of cullouris price of the pece xv s Inde ix li

Item Tua dosane halk huidis price of the pece vij s vj d Inde ix li

Item Tua dosane pareis bellis sowdit with siluer price of the pece x s Inde xij li

Item sex pair of grete lorane bellis price of the pair x s Inde iij li

fol 203v

... Item be his hienes precept to thomas Woutroullier prentare for certane buikis deliuerit to his maie stie As the same togidder with ye perticulare producit beris xlviiij li

...
October 1584
fol 211v
...
Item be his hienes precept to Woutroullier prentare for ye prenting of his maiesties buik and ten crownis of drinksiluer In ye haill. As ye same producit vpoun compt beris

ij²xxv li
...

Note this was James’s first published work, The Essayes of a Prentise, in the Diunie Art of Poesie (Edinburgh: Thomas Vautrollier, 1584)

November 1584
fol 216v
...
Item be his maiesties command to four men to transport the vnce out of the toun of edinburgh to the palice of halirudehous

Translation: vnce = lynx (‘ounce’)

Item for careing of ane daill to mend the caige thairof

xij d

Item To ane wricht for mending of the same

iiij s iij d

Item To Johnne Kers to by four faddome of towis to the said vnce

ij s viij d

Item To ye boy that keipis the [vnce] Lyones to by towis and vthir necessaris to hir

xl s
...

Note: A significant part was prepared for a lion in celebrations for the baptism of Prince Henry at Stirling in 1594: ‘This Chariot which should haue bene drawn in by a Lyon, (but because his presence might haue brought some feare, to the neerest, or that the sight of the lights and torches might haue commoued his tamenes) It was thought meet, that the Moore should supply that roome’ (A true reportarie of the most triumphant, and royal accomplishment of the baptisme of the most excellent, right high, and mightie prince, Frederik Henry (Edinburgh: R. Waldegrave, 1594), C4’). Since other reports claim that this lion was old and toothless, it is possible that the current ‘lyones’ may have been the animal in question.

fol 217v

Item be his hienes command for tua bottis of Irne / leid and warkmanschip of ane maisoun for insetting of thame within the wall of the hous quhair the lyones lyis to bynd hir yairwt

xvj s viij d
...

December 1584

fol 223r

Item be his hienes precept To Johnne M'tapyn kepær of the lyones for alsmekle buffill as to be him ane doublet and breickis As the said precept product vpoun compt beris xx li

Item four vnces grein pasmentis of silk to the doublet and breickis price of the vnce xxij s Inde iiij li viij s

Item for ane eln of Stenting viij s

Item for ane pund of caddes xx s

Item four elnis round lynning to lyne the doublet and breickis price of the eln vj s viij d Inde xxvj s viij d

Item Tua elnis plaiding xiiij s iiij d

Item thre dosane grein silk buttonis price of the dosane vj s viij d Inde xx s

Item fyve quarteris gray stemmyng to be him tua pair of schankis price of the eln iiij li Inde v li

Item thre \eln/ ane half gray stemmyng to be him ane clock price of the eln iiij li Inde xiiiij li

Item tua vnces pasmentis of silk yeirto xl s

Item ane half quarter weluet to the neck of the clock xxv s

Item ane vnce silk to the cloik doublet and breickis xiiiij s

Item ane blak hat lynit with taffatie & ane string yeirto price liij s iiij d

fol 224v

... Item for tua Irne swoullis and ane grete tow to bynd the lyones with x s ...

Translation: swoul = swivel, often used with harness etc.
January 1585
fol 236r
...
Item be command of his maisties precept for a pait of the expenssis debursit for making of ane hous for ye lyones the luserv and vther his hienes pettis As the said precept togidder with ye perticulare subscryvit be Johnne chisholme producit vpoun compt beris

lxxij li xviij s ij d

Translation: ‘luserv’ = lynx (probably the ‘vnce’ recorded above).

April 1585

Item to his hienes four ordiner trumpetouris for thair monethlie wages sen the first of maij 1583 to the first of maij 1585 extending to xxiiij monethis – takand monethlie ilkane of thame vj li xiiij s iiij d. Inde

j'lx li

...

Item To his maiesties violaris for thair allouance to by thame cleathing for the lxxxiiij ȝeir comptit

ij ęż li

...

Manuscript descriptions

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

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

**E22/5 1.3.1582-1.5.1583**  
Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E22/5. 1582-83. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 139 + ii. 300 x 200 mm. Modern pencil pagination. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition with some slight damp staining in parts, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather. Spine: *Compot Thesaur | 1581/2 | 1583* [paper label 5] *Duplicate*. A slip of paper has been bound into the front of the volume with modern hand: ‘Treasurers Account | 1 Maij 1582 | 1 Maij 1583’. Later pencil deletes first date, replacing it with ‘1 March 1581-2’, and adds ‘0’ to second date to make ‘10 Maij’. ‘Dupl. 5’ also added in pencil. Modern pagination has added ‘1’ to the recto of the slip, first folio paginated ‘2’ on recto, then continuous to 279. Treasurer: William, Earl of Gowrie.

**E22/6 1 May 1583 – 1 May 1585**  

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