

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 *maiestie* & certane vther small furnessing maid be him As the perticulare productit vpoun compt beris xiiij li x s iiij d

...

Item be his hienes precept to Williame mane speir maker for speiris bilzeart bullis and bilzeartis furnessit be him As the *samin* productit vpoun compt beris xix li viij s viij d

...

p 81

Item be his *maiesties* 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 *maiesties* speciale *command* to ane lytle boy that played on the swasche in alloway xiiij s iiij d

...

May 1582*p 93*

Item To Williame ramsay trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis
of marche aprile and may xx li
...

June 1582*p 112*

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

p 113

Item be his hienes precept to *Maister* peter zoung *Maister* Elimosinare sex scoir
elnis of blew clayth to be gownis to sextein aigit men according to the zeiris of his
hienes aige *price* of ye eln xvij s Inde j^cvij li

Item aucht elnis bukrome theirto *price* xl s

Item xvj pursis and in ilk purs xvj s Inde xiiij li iiij s

Item for the cariage of the saidis gownis 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 *maiestie* 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 bairnis 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).

p 125

...

Item be his hienes precept to *Williame duncan* spuwngmaker for spungis and Rackettis furnessit to his *maiestie* as the *samin 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 *maiesties speciale command*

vj li xiiij s iiiij d

...

p 127

...

Item be his *maiesties* precept to James fergusson and Johnne forrestare bowaris for bowis and arrowis furnessit to his *maiestie* and gevin Seinziour 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 *zeir*lie to by thame clething

ij^c li

Item To his hienes said violaris for their allouance to by thame cleting of the *zeir* comptit

ij^c li

...

August 1582

p 142

...

Item to *Robert drummond* trumpetour for [their] his ordiner wages of the monethis of June Julij and august

xx li

...

p 143

...

Item the xv of august at his *maiesties speciale command* at his departing 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
acquittance producit vpoun compt beris xl li

...

November 1582*p 193*

...

Item to m^cnab 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 goldsmyth for taiblettis and ringis
set with dyamontis and rubeis and vtheris pretious stanis and braislettis and vtheris
goldsmyth wark 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 fyve
crownis and ane half being *convertit* in money at l s the croun vij^clxiiij li xv s

...

February 1583*p 229*

...

Item to Robert maxwell trumpetour for his ordiner wages of ye monethis of
decembir Januare and february 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 sermone directit on the bak to the
saidis *provest* and baillies etc baring the dait at dunkeld the xx^{tj} of septembir last
And as it wer subscriuit 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 ij 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^o 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^c 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.

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

p 275

...

Item To Johnne Kynloch and Robert schaw cachepuleris according to their gift
and pactioun maid with thame be my lord thesaurare for furnessing of ballis and
rackettis to his maiestie zeirlie *quhair*eur his hienes sall repair throchout ye
haill realme – As their gift *producit vpoun compt beris* j^c li

...

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 91^f*

....

Item for mending of the kist to the leopard and for tymmer *yeirto* xiiij s iij d

....

June 1583*fol 99^r*

...

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

Item to Maister peter zoung *Maister* elimosiner sex scoir sevin elnis half eln of blew claith to be gownis to sevintein aigit men according to the zeiris of his hienes aige price of *the* eln xx s Inde j^cxxvij li x s

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

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

July 1583*fol 107^v*

Item To Richairt bynnyng messinger and ane trumpetour with him passand *with Lettres* to the mercat croce of edinburgh To declair the trew deith of *vmquhile* esme duche of Lennox and of his constancie in the professioun of the trew religioun / As alsua foirwarning all sick as had ballettis – cartellis in proise or ryme etc To distroy thame sasone as thay mycht easelie cum to thair knowlege vnder the panis contenit the *Lettres* / and to the heraldis and trumpetouris being at the said croce iij 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 william rankelour messinger passand of [ed] perth. with *lettres* to the mercat croces of dundy Sanctand^{rois} couper of fyiff ¹*edinburgh* Striueling and glasgw. To command and charge all and sindrie his hienes lieges To contain thame selfis in quietnes vnder [fol 107^v | fol 108^r] goddis feir and his maⁱesties lauchfull obedience / and that nane tak vpoun hand to move or provoke truble vnquietnes or feictioun 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 maⁱesties estait eftir ye tennour of ye saidis *Lettres* vj li xiiij s iiij d

Item to James craik messinger passand [of Sanct and^{rois}] with *lettres* to ye mercat croces of the burrowis of [sanct dund] sanctand^{rois} couper of fyiff dundy perth Striueling lynlythgw & *edinburgh*. To command and charge all and sindrie

erlis lordis barronis knyghtis gentilmen & landit men That nane of thame tak vpoun hand To repair vnto his hienes *presens* or *within* sex myles to the place of his residence armit nor 3et *accompaneit* with ma personis nor is perticularlie *speacifiit* in the saidis *Lettres* iiiij li

...

September 1583

fol 120^r

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

November 1583

fol 129^v

...

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 iiiij s Inde xlviiij s

Item and dosane of pareis [of f] chassiss 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 iij 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 131^r

...

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 iiij d
Item four <i>dosane</i> of sand theirto price of the <i>dosane viij s</i> 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	vj s viij d

Translation: thorter = a transverse spar.

December 1583

fol 140^v

...

Item be his hienes command for careing of the potence to the sandis of leith iiij s iiij d

...

January 1584

fol 144^f

...

Item be his maiesties precept to Williame hudsoun his hienes maister balladin As the same *producit vpoun compt proportis* ij^c li

...

fol 149^v

...

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 *xlviij s* Inde xij li

fol 152^v

...

Item To his hienes violaris: for thair allowance to by thame cleathing of the *lxxxij 3eir comptit* ij^c li

March 1584

fol 159^v

...

Item to alexander Stobo messenger 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 iiij d

April 1584*fol 163^v*

...

Item thre elnis spanis zallow taffaty to be ane handseinze to his hienes price
of the eln v li Inde xv li

Item ten vnces of cramesy and zallow silk price of the vnce xx s Inde x li

Item for the fassioun of the frenze xx s

Item / for the brodoring / and the siluer and gold with ye warkmanschip of his
hienes armes in the handseinze 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 165^f

...

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 167^v

...

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 *yei*rof and nocht to help and support yame *in* ony way viij li

fol 168^f

...

Item To Richart bynning messenger 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 *hammiltounis* nocht to repair within ten myles to
his hienis persoun xiiij s

May 1584*fol. 178^r*

...

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 zallow to their trumpettis
price of the eln xl s Inde xvj li

...

fol 183^v

...

Item To cuthbert richertsoun messinger passand of *edinburgh* with *lettres* to the
mercat croces of ye burrowis 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 203^r*

...

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 203^v

...

Item be his hienes precept to thomas Woutroullier prentare for certane buikis
deliuerit to his maiestie As the same togidder with ye perticulare product
beris xlvij li

...

October 1584fol 211^v

...

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 productit vpoun compt beris

ij^cxxv 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 1584fol 216^v

...

Item be his maiesties command to four men to transport the vnce out of the toun of edinburgh to the palice of halirudehous

x s

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

ijj s iiij 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^f). 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 217^v

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 223^r*

Item be his hienes precept To Johnne M ^c tapyn keipar of the lyones for alsmeikle buffill as to be him ane doublet and breickis As the said precept <i>producit vpoun compt beris</i>	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	viiij 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 <i>dosane</i> vj s viij d Inde	xx s
Item fyve <i>quarteris</i> 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	xiiij li
Item tua vnces pasmentis of silk <i>yeirto</i>	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	xiiij s
Item ane blak hat lynit <i>with taffatie</i> & ane string <i>yeirto</i> price	liij s iiij d

fol 224^v

...

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 236^r*

...

Item be *command* of his *maiesties* precept for a pairt of the expenssis debursit for making of ane hous for ye lyones the luserve and vther his hienes pettis As the said precept togidder with ye perticulare subscriyvit be Johnne chisholme producit vpoun *compt* beris

lxxij li xviiij s ij d

Translation: 'luserve' = 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^clx li

...

Item To his *maiesties* violaris for thair allowance to by thame cleathing for the lxxxiiij zeir comptit

ij^c 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: *Compt 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

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E22/6. 1583-85. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 263 + ii. 310 x 205 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: *Compt Thesaur | 1583 | 1585* [paper label 6] *L & M*. A slip of paper has been bound into the front of the volume with modern hand: 'Treasurers Account | 1 Maij 1583 | 1 Maij 1585'. Treasurer recorded for this set: William, Earl of Gowrie (executed May 1584); accounts signed off after his death by his deputy, Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

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