

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

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Eton College 1549-1636

Edited by Alexandra F. Johnston

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1550-1

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 17 (*Extraneous expenses*)

...

Item a barrell of beare spent vpon Strangers at the play in the haul --- iiij s vj d

...

Note: Audit Book 3 ends with miscellaneous memoranda. This entry is separated from the other play entries. It is under the page heading "Extranei". On this page is a running list of expenses for the four terms in four columns each totalled separately and then all together. Then, as an extra entry before the total for the whole section (*Mensaorum Collegij*) and in the hand of the main scribe, there is this entry. It is coupled with a second one "Item a kinderken of biere spent on the Children in hey tyme xxij d". They are bracketted and totalled at vj s viij d.

p 40 (*Expenses*)

...

Item to Mr vssher for an Interlude that was plaide in the haul --- vj s viij d

...

Note: Motter prints two other entries from this account -- one recording 2d spent 'for a corde for the lattern in the gallerye' and the second concerning a "pottle of Maumsey" p. 262

p 41

...

Item to david porter for vj lynckes for the Comedy in the haul --- ij s/

...

Paide to Iohn Tudman for making players garmentes (*In the right margin*)

Item to Tudmann for ij Cotes makinge braunched with golde --- ij s viij d/

Item to hym for clothe to a fooles cote --- xij d

Item to hym for making ij payre of slops --- viij d

Item to hym for makinge ij cotes garded with gilted lether --- xx d

Item to hym for makinge a kassocke --- x d/

Item to hym for mending a kassocke --- ij d/

Item for Cotten to ij Cotes --- iiij s viij d/

Item for making an half kirtell of redd sylke --- iiij d/

Item for lynng to the same

Item for cotten to garde ij cotes/ --- xij d/

Item for garding ij cotes --- xij d/

Item to hym for mendinge a Coote --- ij d/

...

Note: Motter identifies Tudmann in the first occurrence of his name as 'Aideman' and in the marginal note as 'Ludeman' p. 262. Blewitt reads the name as 'Indman,' *TN* 38 p.137.

p 42

...

paide to Thomas Mylton & holt for making of players garments

Item to Thomas Mylton for makinge fower players garmentes --- iiij s/

Item to Holt for ij paire of slops makinge --- viij d

Item to hym for gardinge a Cote --- vj d/

Item to hym for Cotten to the gardes --- vj d/

Item for painting hattes & vysars --- vj d

...

p 43

...

Item to Mr Barker for Iohn Tudman mendinge the vicesse Cote --- viij d

...

Note: Motter omits this entry. Blewitt has it but again reads the name as 'Indman,' *TN* 38 p.137.

1551-2

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 94 (*Expenses*)

...

Item to purfoite for maikenge of ij girTINGS for players --- viij d

...

Note: There is a corresponding entry in the rough Bursar's account for that year (62/38 f 246v). The reading of the name in that account is 'purfogi'.

1552-3

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 136

...

Item paid vnto Master scolemaster for ynk Pawper, Chandell & quills for one whole yere

--- xxij s iij d

Item paide vnto him for beardds to the players in christenmas --- v s viij d

Item vnto hym paide for ij skynns of gilte Leither --- ij s

Item paide vnto hym to pay bell the tailor withall theis p ar cells follow
as here after ffollowith./

Inprimis for maiking a blew cloke

xiiij d/ and for iij quarters of a yeard

of yallow for gards for the same vij d

Item for maiking a black cloke xiiij d --- vj s xj d

and for v yeards & 3. quarters of cotton

for the same iij s iij d./ and for.

mendinge players cootes iij d/

and for maikinge A mayse and for

giltyng the same iij d.

...

Note: Motter prints "skoymes" for "skynns" in the third entry and reads the sum as 6/6 rather than 6/11 (p. 262). Although the heading is 'Adhuc Reparationes' there is only the one minor repair entry on p. 146 dated March 30 (see below).

p 137

...

Item paide vnto lohn scammage for strings & ij newe Recorders the string being bowght ffor the
vyalles --- vj s viij d

Item vnto the lohn paide for ij Reedes for the shalme --- viij d

...

p 145 (*Expenses*)

...

Item for viij ponde of chandels for ij plays xij d And for one Lynke v d --- xvij d

...

p. 146

30^o Marcij

Item paide to Grace for mendinge the stockes --- ij d

Item to him for A horse locke deliuerde at Chrystenmas Laste paste at the *commandment* of My
Lorde of myscheif --- viij d

...

p 151 (Repairs)

...

Item paide to Oliuer the Charpenter for settinge vp the staige ye furst of £ Ianuar --- vj d

...

1553-4

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 188 (*Expenses*)

...

Item to bromfilds wief for nedles and thread to sowe coverletes vpon the stage at christmas [.] -

--

ij d

...

Note: Blewitt omits this entry.

p 193 (*Expenses*)

...

Item for Candles for the children to playe by in the haull in wynter --- ix d

...

Item paid to Bromfild for ij quyere of paper and nedles and thread to sowe coverletes vpon the
stage --- vij d

...

p 198

(*ffortuita damna*)

fforgotten by the bowsers/ for the beare to the sholem^{aster} for rehersyng of the comedies/ for
ij

kylder kynes --- xvj d ob

...

Note: A 'bowser' was a college official. Blewitt has 'yeare' for 'beare' (TN 38 p.138) but the sum and the association with 'kylder kynes' which is a measure of quantity makes the reading 'beer' more likely.

1554-5

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 255 (*Costs of the hall*)

...

Item to the Children in candle when they dyd play in the haul & for Henrye Boste vj pownde ---
ix d

...

1555-6

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 301 (*Costs of the hall*)

...

Item for candelles spente in thawle after supper the chyldeyn playenge there & also at Mr Boosts diriges --- xiiij d

...

p 311

Thynges for playes set fourthe by Master Shole Master at Christmas. /

In primis for v yardes of Cotton to make hose & gyrkins. / --- iij s viij d

Item for makeinge of the same --- iij s iiij d

Item for A cappe of Cotton & makeinge --- vj d

Item for a doblet & hose of buckeram & making --- ij s ix d

Item for A buckeram bagged lacyd . / --- vj d

Item for browne paper. / --- viij d

Item for laces to the vysardes . / --- j d

Item payde to the mynstrelles for ij nyghts --- v s

Item to Mr kyttermysters servaunte for bringinge of Apparell from hys Master. / --- xij d

...

Note: Motter prints 'A buckeram bagge caryd' for ' ... lacyd' p. 263.

1556-7

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 343 (*Costs of the hall*)

...

Item for candles spent yn the haul the children playng there --- xij d

...

p 349 (*Expenses*)

...

Item for ij elles of Canvas at ix d thell./ --- xvij d . /

Item for mendinge of the players Raymente/ --- viij d. /

Item for mendinge of a doblet & a payre of hoose --- x d. /

Item to the mynstrelles. / --- ij s vj d. /

Item for whyte and Browne paper. / --- x d ob. /

Item for packethreade and Tynfoyle. / --- vij d ob. /

Item for wyars to mend a payre of vyrgynalles --- vj d

...

1557-8

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 382 (*Expenses*)

...

Item delyveryd to Master schole Master at playes --- iij s ix d . /

...

p 388 (*Costs of the hall*)

...

Item candelles for the playes & ye children --- ij s

...

1558-9

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 448 (*Costs of the hall*)

...

Item for Chandelles spent in the Halle on festivall nyghtes by the Children --- xij d

...

1560-1

Audit Book [EC: 62/3](#)

p 538 (*Expenses*)

...

Item for A Pully in the Gallerie for the Lanterne --- ij d

Item for ij paire of Hoose & ij Dublettes of Rugge ffor Players in Christemas --- ix s

Item for Torchis. gunpowder, Plaite Pawper and Thrume &c. --- vjs vjd

...

Note: The first entry is of doubtful dramatic relevance. Blewitt omits it.

1560-3

William Malim's *Consuetudinarium Vetus Scholae Etonensis* Corpus Christi College
[Cambridge MS CCCC 118](#)

p 483-4

Decembri Mense.

Circiter festum Diui Andreae Ludimagister eligere solet pro suo arbitrio Scaeneas fabulas optimas & quam accommodatissimas quas pueri feriis Natalitijs subsequentibus non sine ludorum elegancia populo spectante publice. aliquando peragant, Histrionum leuis ars est, ad actionem tamen oratorum & gestum motum ue corporis decentem tantopere facit vt nihil magis. Interdum etiam exhibet Anlico sermone contextas fabulas quae habeant acumen & leporem.

...

In die Natalis Domini luditur & statim a 7.^a itur cubitum quia sungendum erat quondam pueris intra 3.^{am} & 4.^{am} ad proces mat it utinas. | Omnibus ferijs insequentibus luditur & ante & post Caenam in Aula proptere ignem.

...

Translation:

Around the feast of St Andrew, the schoolmaster is accustomed to choose according to his judgment the best and most appropriate tales which the boys during the following Christmas holidays perform, not without the elegance of stage plays, sometimes publicly, with people looking on. The art of the actors is a trivial one; however, it makes [something] fitting to the action of orators and the gesture or movement of the body to such a degree as nothing else. Sometimes also he exhibits tales entwined in English speech which have acumen and wit.

...

On Christmas day it is performed, and at seven the boys immediately go to bed because they have to rise between three and four for morning prayers. On all the other holiday following holidays it is performed both before and after dinner in the hall close to the fire.

Note: William Malim (1533-1594) was educated at Eton and King's College Cambridge. He was headmaster of Eton for a disputed period in the early years of Elizabeth's reign. He probably wrote the *Consuetudinarium* as a guide for the commissioners who visited the school in 1561. It provides information about the customs of the school and the routines of school life. It is now in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The transcription of this document was done by R.I. Page, the librarian of Corpus library, in 1989.

1565-6

Audit Book [EC: 62/4](#)

p 196 (*Expenses*)

...

Item spent at the playe in Candels x pounce --- xv d

...

Item for Tenter hookes for the playe --- xvij d

...

Note: This is the first relevant entry from Audit Book 4. Between the accounts for 1569-70 and 1570-71 (pp 443-510) are a series of domestic accounts for the bakehouse and the brewhouse etc. After the accounts for 1570-71 there is a series of lists and inventories including an undated inventory of players' costumes. This inventory has been dated by Motter (p. 259) and Blewitt (*TN* 38 p. 139) as 1571 but by M.R. James as 1595. It appears in this volume under the later date with a cross reference in 1570-71 (see below).

p 199

...

Item payde to Master Scholemaster, towards his Charges About the playe the Laste Christmas
--- xx s

...

p 200 (*Repairs*)

...

Item for ij Carpenters, for ij Dayes worke about the stage --- iiij s

...

Note: Blewitt omits this entry.

1566-7

Audit Book [EC: 62/4](#)

p 253 (*Expenses*)

...

Item to Iohn Hawthorne carpenter & his man 9^o februar' for makyng tressells & scaffoldes for
the stage & taking it downe vj daies & a halfe iuxta xx d ye daye --- x s x d

Item to William ffecye of Burneham about the same worke 9^o februar' for v. dayes & a halfe
iuxta xij d --- v s vj d

Item to ffraunces Skydmore & Richard Moore for iiij dayes & a halfe about the same worke
iuxta ix d ye day 9^o ffebruar' --- vj s viij d

...

Item to Iackson & Bartlett for xiiij lynckes for ye playes --- liij s j d

...

Item to Master Scholemaster for his charges setting fourth in Playes 19^o Martij ---

iij li xiiij s viij

d/

...

Note: Blewitt prints 'capenter' for 'carpenter' (l.1 of 1st entry 253). Motter prints 'affolder' for 'scaffoldes' (l.1 of 1st entry), 'v' for 'vj' (l.2 of 1st entry), and 'Heyre' for 'ffecye' (l.1 of 2nd entry). Blewitt reads that name as "Ferrye". Motter omits the Skidmore/Moore entry.

p 254

...

Item to Bezant for iij staffe tortches for our plaies --- v s

...

Note: Blewitt prints 'Besant' for 'Bezant'; Motter renders the same name 'Bryant'. H. Maxwell Lyte, *History of Eton College* p. 264 cites the entry for four shillings sixpence spent on beer for strangers attending a play in the hall from 1550-1 (see above) as coming from this year. Motter apparently relied on Lyte's transcription since he, too, dates the 1550-1 entry 1566-7 (p. 264).

p 258 (*Repairs*)

...

Item to Lucas for sawyinge x hundred & iij *quarters* for tressells, planckes & .loyses for the Scaffold about the stage, 9^o ffebruarij iuxta xx d --- xvij s iij d

...

1567-8

Audit Book [EC: 62/4](#)

p 312

...

Item payd for iij torches & one lynck at the shewes --- iij s iij d

p 314

...

Item delyuered to Tybie for ye scowringe of ye vaultes this yeare viij poundes of candles

--- xij d

Item spent at ye shewes this yeare iij dossen --- v s vj d

...

1568-9

Audit Book [EC: 62/4](#)

p 371 (*Expenses*)

...

Item for ij Dossen of linckes at iij d the lincke for ye Childrens Showes att Christmas --- vj s

...

p 372

...

Item spent this yeare in plais and Showes iij Dossen viij poundes --- v s vj d

...

Note: Blewitt prints 'plaies' for 'plais' (*TN* 38, p. 139).

1570-1

Audit Book [EC: 62/4](#)

p 551 (*Expenses*)

...

Item iij pondes of candles for the shewes at Christmas 1570 --- vj d

...

Note: The inventory at the end of Audit Book IV is dated 1570-1 by both Motter and Blewitt because of its place in this volume of accounts. James, in a more detailed study in *Etoniana* for 1922, related the inventory to other material also in the volume dated 1595. This edition follows James' dating because of his more intimate knowledge of the accounts and the life of the college.

1572-3

Audit Book [EC: 62/5](#)

p 37 (*Costs of the Hall*)

...

Item for vj poundes of candles at the playes in the halle --- ix d

...

p 44

...

Item to Mr William Day mercer for lynckes at Moysers playe --- xij d

...

Note: This is the last year that there is any specific mention of plays in the accounts although it is possible that the plays continued for some years and the price of the candles for them is included in the general item for candles from the entire school.

1595

Audit Book [EC: 62/5](#)

p 689

...

Item in Mr Scholemaster chamber (*In right margin*)

In primis agreat Presse of waynskott with a loke to ye same. /

Item a great cheaste bownde abowte with yron to kepe the players coates in. /

Item a padlocke to the great cheste. / .

...

Playere cloathes (*In right margin*)

.iij. Cassockes of redde silke gardid with blewe / .

.j. Cassock of blacke velvet gardid with redde silke / .

.j. Cassocke of whyte silke gardid with black / .

.ij. Coates of black clothe, bothe duple gardid with gilted leather / .

.j. Cloke of blacke caresye single gardid with gilted leather / .

.ij. Coates of redde baudeken duple garded with blacke cotten / .

.ij. servantes cotes of blacke cotten welted with yelowe / .

a servantes cote of whyte & black cotten / . checker wourke ./.

a servantes cote of redde & white cotten / . checker wourcke / .

.ij. servantes cottles for children wh ich hathe one quarter of redd silke & an other of blew silke/. .j. womens cassocke of blewe silke gardid with redd branched flowers.

.ij. womens cassockes of whyte silke [ye] Thone open before, thother close. /

.ij. Ierkins of Redd with fringe rownde abowte / .

.ij. faces of kirtles for women thone of golde thother of red silke / .

.a. hatte, clothe of golde /

.vj. payer of sloppes .

.vj. berdes of the longeste sorte / .

.vj. berdes of the shorteste sorte / .

.iij. cowrse cawles for the servantes / .

.a. mace of wood, gilted/

...

Note: See above notes to 1531-2, 1565-6 and 1570-71 above.

1635-6

Audit Book [EC: 62/9](#)

p 693 (Expenses)

...

giuen to the musitions by Comand from Mr Provost at my Lord of Lincolnes Entertayment ---

XX S

...

Note: This entry occurs on the occasion of a visit by John Williams, bishop of Lincoln.

Document Descriptions

William Malim, *Consuetudinarium Vetus Scholaenensis* 1560-3. Cambridge; Corpus Christi College; Ms CCCC 118

Audit books

Eton; College; Audit Book 62/3; 1550-62; English with Latin heading; paper ii+627+ii; 450mmx280mm; gatherings standard sized paper booklets; modern pagination; decorative capitals; bound in brown cloth-covered boards; 'Eton College' stamped on the front cover; title stamped in gold in red patch on spine 'Audit Book 1550-1562.'

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