

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1586-8

Edited by Sarah Carpenter

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1586-7

Treasurer's Accounts [E21/65](#)

1 May 1586 – 30 April 1587

May 1586

fol 61^v (Expenses by King's precept)

Item be his maiesteis speciall *command* To thomas fentoun to by ane cheinze
to his hienes beir L s
...

fol 65^v

...
Item To adriane fansoun painter to his hienes for his fee of ye said terme L li
...

Receiver's Accounts [E22/13](#), *May*

fol 52^v

...

[11 May]

The said day To thome fentoun to by ane Irne cheinzie to ane beir L s

...

Treasurer's Accounts

June 1586

fol 68^r (Expenses by King's precept)

...

Item be his maiesties precept deliwerit to Johnne carmychaell zoungare of that ilk his hienes maister stabillair to the furnessing of four sadillis twa of yame plain hunting sadillis Togidder *with* ye furnessing of ane browdorit cowering of reid skarlatt Brouderit with veluet gold and syluer As particularlie heirefter followis –

Note: no specific event is mentioned in connection with this elaborate saddle covering, but it is clearly intended for majesty and display, in contrast to the 'plain hunting saddles'.

Item thre elnis of grene veluet To be ane of ye sadill coweringis and to wirk ye bordis of ye fals hous yairof at xij li the eln Inde xxxvj li

Item fyve vnce of pasmentis To wirk the said veluet cowering all *our with* all at xxvj s ye vnce Inde vj li x s

Item *four* vnce and ane half of grene silk To be *four* elnis of syde freinze To pas about ye sadill *with* thrie elnis of small freinze in ye seymes and to steik oun the freinzeis and pasmentis at xx s ye vnce inde v li xij s vj d

fol 68^v

Item ane vnce *quarter* vnce of grene silk To steik oun the bordis oun ye fals hous at xxv s the vnce inde xxxj s iij d

Item thre vnce of raw silk to naill doun ye cowering & fass the same harnissing and fals hous at xij s ye vnce inde xxxvj s

Item viij stark silkin poyntis to hald doun ye cowering and to ye girdis and to hald oun ye slipe pryce *yairof* xx s

Item twa elnis of narrow blew Inglis freis To be ane fals cowering *yairto* at xxiiij s the eln inde xlvij s

Item Ane eln of grene Inglis stemyng To be ye sadill claithe *price yairof* xlv s

Item thrie quarteris and ane half of poldaue canves to lyne the same at xiiij s ye eln inde x s vj d

Item to ane vther of the said sadillis thrie *quarteris* of loundoun clayth To be the cowering *yairto* at vi li ye eln Inde iij li x s

Item sax *quarteris* of grene weluet To bordour ye same at xij li ye eln inde xvij li

Item ane eln of grene Inglis stemming to be ane vther hous price *yairof* xlv s

fol 69^r

Item thrie quarteris of grene veluet To bar the fals hous thick about according to ye cowering at xij li ye eln inde ix li

Item thre vnce and ane half of grene scheneting silk To schennet ye haill *bordis* of the cowering and fals hous at xxv s ye vnce inde iiij li vij s vj d

Item aucht stark silkin *poyntis* To hald doun the cowering and slip price *yairof* xx s

Item twa elnis of narrow Inglis freis To be ane fals cowering *yairto* at xx s the eln inde xlvij s

Item twa vnce and ane half of Raw silk To naill doun and fas the cowering The harnissing and fals hous at xij s ye vnce inde xxx s

Item thre quarteris and ane half of canves to lyne ye fals hous at xiiij s The eln inde x s vj d

....

fol 70^r

...

Item to ye foirsaid *bordourit* cowering of reid skarlett thrie hankis of gold To be ane syde freinze round about ye cowering and in ye semes at iij li ye hank inde ix li

Item thrie vnce of blaik silk to mix the freinzeis at xvij s ye vnce inde liij s

Item thrie vnce of raw silk To fas the same at xij s ye vnce inde xxxvj s

Item fyve *quarteris* of reid stemming To be ane vnder hous at xlv s ye eln inde lvi s iij d

Item thrie quarteris of blaik weluet To bord ye same at xij li ye eln inde ix li

Item twa vnce of zallow silk to be Twynit *cordonis* at xxv s ye vnce inde L s

Item sax quarteris of blew freis To be ane slip cowering at xxiiij s ye eln inde xxxvj s

Item aucht silk *poyntis* to hald doun the cowering price *yairof* xx s

fol 70^v

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Item thrie quarteris and ane half of canves to lyne ye fals hous at xij s ye eln inde | x s vj s |
| Item for the making of the saidis freinzeis to ye broudstar | xx s |
| ... | |
| Item to <i>maister peter</i> zoung <i>maister</i> elimosinare sevin scoir v elnis blew clayth To be gownis to xx aigeit men according to the <i>zeiris</i> of his hienes aige pryce of the eln xx s Inde | j ^c xlvi li |
| Item Ten elnis buckrum <i>yairto</i> pryce of the eln viij s iiij inde | iiij li iij s iiij d |
| Item tuentie purssis in ilk purs xx s inde | xx li |
| Item for ye pryce of ilk purs of ye said xx / viij d Inde | xiiij s iiij d |
| ... | |

fol 74^v

| | |
|--|-------|
| ... | |
| Item to dauid murray <i>quhilk</i> he debursit at his hienes <i>command</i> for birkis to hing ane hous <i>within</i> the wod off falkland <i>quhairin</i> his maiestie soupit | xxx s |

Note: While there is no indication that this temporary hunting lodge was deliberately used theatrically, it is clearly reminiscent of the spectacular episode of the 'faire palice ... wonde with birkis', when the Earl of Atholl in 1531 constructed a similar though luxurious lodge to entertain James V, flamboyantly burning it on departure. (See Robert Lindesay of Pitscottie, *The Historie and Cronicles of Scotland*, ed. Æ. J. G. Mackay, 3 vols, Scottish Text Society (1899), I, 335-8.)

| | |
|--|------|
| ... | |
| Item for raschis to his hienes hous at thre seuerall tymes | xx s |
| ... | |

Receiver's Accounts, June

fol 53r

| | |
|--|-------|
| ... | |
| The secund of Junij 1586 To dauid murray at his hienes <i>command</i> To get birkis to hing ane hous <i>within</i> ye wod of falkland yat his hienes soupit in | xxx s |
| ... | |

Treasurer's Accounts

August 1586

fol 83^v (Expenses by King's precept)

...

Item be his maiesties precept to alexander Lesley sporter for his support & help as
ye samyn producit vpoun compt beris xl li

...

Note: 11 August, James's mother Mary Queen of Scots was arrested following the 'Babington Plot'.

November 1586

fol 92^v (Expenses by King's precept)

...

Item to adriane fansoun painter to his hienes for his fee of the said terme L li

...

February 1587

fol 115^r (Expenses by King's precept)

...

Item be his maiesteis precept to thomas fentoun in the abbay of halirudhous
for making of ane dur to the Lyon hous as the samyn producit vpoun compt
bearis xij li

...

Receiver's Accounts, February

fol 119^v

...

The viij februarij to ane fyndler at 3our L command v s

...

Note: In December 1586 the Receiver, Sir Robert Melville of Murdocairnie, was sent to London as part of the last embassy from James to Elizabeth to plead for his mother's life. Melville arrived back in Scotland on 7th February, the day before her execution.

Treasurer's Accounts

March 1587

fol 120^r (Expenses by King's precept)

Item be his maiesteis precept to Robert abircromby the furnissing of the dule clais and
vtheris necessaris apperteyning thairto To his maiesteis sax pageis Robert arskin their warlat
fyve Laquayis And Robert stevin poyt As heir eftir followis.

Note: In mid-February the King received news of the execution of his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots, on the orders of Elizabeth on 8 February 1587. Part of his ambivalent response is reflected in the ceremonial dressing of the court in mourning – ‘dule clais’.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Item in the first sax scoir elnes thrie quarteris of Inglis stemming to be threttene stand of dule clais to the pages Laquayis and personis foirsaidis at xLviiij s the elne Inde | ij ^c lxxxix li xvj s |
| Item for thrie quarteris of bukrome to band ilk garmound with Extending in the haill to ix elnes thrie quarteris at xiiij s the elne Inde | vj li xvj s vj d |
| Item for nyne ‘vnce’ thrie quarteris vnce of blak silk to steik the garmountis making of the buttoun hoillis steiking of the schankis and outreding of the same at xvj s the vnce Inde | vij li xvj s |
| Item for saxteine elnis and ane quarter of dowbill playdin To lyne the breikis with at xiiij s iij d the elne Inde | x li xvj s viij d |
| <i>fol 120^v</i> | |
| Item for thrie elnes of gray claith to sole the xxvj pair of schankis at xij s the Elne Inde | xxxvj s |
| Item thrie <i>dosane</i> of wirset pasmentis to knit the kneis of the brikeis at sax schilling ye dowsane Inde | xviiij s |
| Item threitteine pair of wirset gartanis to thame at threiteine schilling four pennyis the pair Inde | viiij li xiiij s iij d |
| Item for xxxviiij owirLayaris at xij s the peice to ilk ane of the sax pages iij owirLayaris and twa owirLayaris to euery ane of the fyve alloquayis Robert arskin and <i>Robert</i> stevin of round camrage maid extending to | xxij li xvj s |
| Item for threitteine hattis with <i>yair</i> stringis at threitty schilling the peice Inde | xix li x s |
| Item for threitteine beltis at fyve s the peice Inde | iiij li v s |
| Item for threittene dossane of poyntis att iij s iij d the <i>dosane</i> Inde | xliiij s iij d |

fol 123^v

Item At his Maiesteis speciall command for ane eln of frenche violat claith to be his hienes ane pair of duill sokis vij li xiiij s iiij d

Item for sex quarteris of the said purpouir claith to be his Maiestie ane cover to ane duill sadill pryce of the eln sevin pundis threttene schillingis four penneis Inde xj li x s

Note: These two items are the sole costs for James's own dule clothes in the *Treasurer's Accounts*, which only include expenses on 'socks and boots'. The King's main clothing account is now kept separately (see Introduction).

April 1587

fol 126^v (Expenses by King's precept)

Item be his maiesties precept To Williame Ramsay and Robert drummond [~~for their~~ a]b[uil]mpitouris for their abuilzementis to pas in Denmark with the ambassaidouris As followis

Note: The scribe apparently began writing 'abuilzementis', then went back to correct the word to 'trumpetouris'. Ramsay and Drummond are both recorded as trumpeters elsewhere in the account. A new embassy was sent to Denmark in this month to negotiate for marriage with one of the daughters of King Frederick.

Item fyfteine elnes reid cramesie stemming to be thair cloikis mandillis and breikis pryce of the elne iiij li threitteine schillingis four pennyis Inde lxx li

Item sevin elnes zallow weluet yairto pryce of the elne ten pound Inde lxx li

Item tuelff vnce cramesie silk yairto pryce of the vnce twenty four schillingis Inde xiiij li viij s

Item sevin elnes quhyit fustian to be thame twa doublattis pryce of the elne thretty schillingis Inde x li x s

Item thre elnes of stenting yairto pryce of the elne thre schillingis Inde ix s

Item sax elnes of breid lyning yairto pryce of the elne aucht schillingis Inde xlvij s

fol 127^r

Item ane elne of stuffing thairto vj s viij d

Item twa pound of caddes pryce of the pound saxeine schillingis Inde xxxij s

Item threttene *dosane* of reid cramesie silk buttonis to their mandillis and
doublattis pryce of the *dosane* sax schilling aucht pennyis Inde iij li vj s viij d

Item twa double elne pladdin to lyne their breikis pryce of the elne ten
Schillingis Inde xx s

Item ane eln of blak bukkasie pryce ix s

Item half ane elne armesie taffaty to their cot nekis pryce xxv s

Item thre elnes of reid cramesie freis to lyne their klok breistis at thretty
sax schillingis the elne Inde v li viij s

Item twa dossine silk poyntis price xl s

Item twa hattis with *yair* stringis pryce iij li

Item twa beltis with hingaris pryce xxvj s viij d

Item twa pair of gairtanes of silk pryce xl s

Item tuelff vnces silk of *colouris* to thair trumpettis pryce of the vnce twenty
Schillingis Inde xij li

fol 127^v

Item four elnes armesie taiffaty reid and 3allow *yair*to pryce of the elne fourty
sax schillingis aucht pennyis Inde ix li vj s viij d

fol 131^r

...

Item To his hienes four ordinar trumpet*ouris* for thair monethlie waiges during the
said space takand ilk moneth sex pundis threttene schillingis four penneis Inde Lxxx li

...

fol 131^v

...

Item To his hienes violaris for thair ordinar allowance to by thame clething the zeir
comptit ij^c li

Item To Johnne killoche and robert schaw his hienes chaichpuillaris for thair zeir
allowance in furnissing of ballis and rackettis j^c li

...

fol 138^r (Expenses on officers and boys travelling)

...

Item be his Maiesteis precept To James hutsoun at his departing to ingland ane
hundreth crownis of the sone at fiftie schillingis the pece Inde ij^c L li

...

Note: James Hudson, one of the violers, was often employed on diplomatic business to England.

1587-8

Treasurer's Accounts [E21/66](#)

1 May 1587 – 1 May 1588

May 1587

fol 64^r (Expenses on Officers and boys travelling)

Item To Williame Portuous messinger and ane trumpetour *with* him passand to ye mercat
croce Off *Edinburgh with lettres to proclame ane generall assemblee to be haldin at ye said*
burgh ye xx day of Junij nixt xiiij s iiij d

...

Note: According to Moysie, this June assembly was held to mark: 'his Maiesteis perfyte aidge of xxj yeiris'
(David Moysie, *Memoirs of the affairs of Scotland* (Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 1830), 64).

June 1587

fol 66^v (Expenses by King's precept)

Item To *maister* petere zoung Elimozinare sevin scoir ten elnis blew clayth to be
gownis to xxj aigit men according to ye zeiris of his hienes aige price of ye eln xx s
Inde j^c L li

Item ellevin elnis bukrum yairto price of ye eln viij s iiij d inde iiij li xj s viij d

Item xxj pursis and in ilk purse xxj s Inde xxj li

Item for ye price of ilk purse iiij d Inde vij s

...

July 1587

fol 71^r (Expenses by King's precept)

Item four Elnis of Taffetie of ye corde to ye trumpetouris in ye tyme of ye parliament
at L s ye Eln Inde x li

Note: According to Moysie, 'The parliament beguid the xiiij day of the monethe of Julij, quhair his Majestie, accompanied with his nobilletie, red to the tolbuthe of Edinburgh.' Before the king dismounted a contention arose between the lords over their voting priority, resulting in a challenge to single combat that was disallowed. (*Memoirs*, 65). This is confirmed in a letter from the Earl of Mar who also reported: 'These are they that bore the honours. Huntley bore the sword, Angus the sceptre, the Duke the crown' (*CSPSc* 9, 452-3). See too Calderwood, 4, 640: 'Upon Saturday, the 23rd, they raid again in pompe, and the parliament ended'.

Item be his maiesties precept To alexander Leslie sportare As ye samyn produceit vpoun
compt beiris xl li

...

fol 72^v

Item To Rolland mure messinger passand of *Edinburgh with ye lyk lettres* To ye mercat
croces of lanark drumfreis wigtoun air Renfrew dumbertane striuiling and linlythgow As also
to command & charge all *schereffis* stewartis prouestes and baillies of burrowis To proclame
& hald yair wapinschawingis zeirlie vpoun ye xx day of Julij vnder ye pane contenit in the
saidis lettres ix li x s

Note: the 'wapinschaw' was a formal review of arms compulsory for those of weapon-bearing age, often an occasion for ceremonial and display.

...

Item To *williame* porteous messinger & ane trumpetour *with* him passand to ye mercat
croce of *Edinburgh with lettres* commanding ye *senatouris* of ye sessioun To remane during
ye tyme of ye parliament. As also quha had ony particular greiffis pertinent to ye audience &
Judgement of ye said parliament To giff in ye samyn to ye clerk of Register etc
xiiij s iiij d

December 1587

fol 92^r (Expenses by King's precept)

...

Item be his maiesties speciall command To Adrian ye painter for painting of tua
speiris xliij s iiij d

...

fol 95^v

Item To *william* porteous messinger and ane trumpetour *with* him passand to ye mercat
croce of *Edinburgh* proclaming certane actis of parliament That nane Repair to ye iustice
courtis *with* ma number nor is contenit in ye saidis actis vnder ye panes contenit
yairintill xiiij s iiij d

February 1588*fol 101^v (Expenses on officers and boys travelling)*

...

Item To alexander stobo messenger and ane trumpetour *with* him passand to ye mercat
croce of *Edinburgh with lettres* to proclame the act of parliament annent ye eating of
flesche xx s

...

March 1588*fol 103^r (Expenses by King's precept)*

Item be his hienes speciall command To Thomas fentoun keipare of ye lyoun x li

...

April 1588*fol 107^v (Expenses by King's precept)*

Item be his maiesties precept to Michaell gilbert and thomas fowlis goldsmythis for certane
new zeir giftis furneist be thame to his hienes in Januare 1587 *As ye samyn with ye*
particular produceit vpoun compt beiris j^m ix^c lxx li xij s

...

fol 107^r

...

Item To his hienes four ordinare trumpetouris for *yair* monethlie wageis during
ye said space takand ilk moneth sex pundis threttene schillingis four penneis
Inde Lxxx li

...

fol 112^v

...

Item to his hienes violeris for *yair* ordinar allowance to by thame claithis the zeir
comptit ij^c li

...

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Treasurer's Accounts

E21/65 1 May 1586–1 May 1587

[Description incomplete] Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland, E21/65. 1586–1587. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 140 + ii. 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 with lightly tooled border. Treasurer-depute: Sir Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

E21/66 1 May 1587–1 May 1588

[Description incomplete] Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland, E21/66. 1587–1588. Latin and Scots. Paper. iv + 115 + iv. 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 with lightly tooled border. Treasurer-depute: Sir Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

Receiver's Accounts

E22/13 May 1585–October 1587

[Description incomplete] Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland, E22/13. 1585-1587. Scots. Paper. Relatively informal daily accounts kept by John Gray for the Treasurer-depute Sir Robert Melville. ff. 120. Payments begin f. 47' titled: 'Discharge of signatouris of ye Lxxxv [& sex] <....> debursit be me *Johnne* gray <.....> The kingis *Seruandis* compt begynnand in maij 1585 3eris. Payments divided into various sections, each one running chronologically through the entire period: Kings Servants, Officers and Boys, Treasurer's own costs.