

# RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

## Pre-publication Collections

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### STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Edited by Alan Somerset

#### Introduction

A note on nomenclature – Stratford-upon-Avon or Stratford-on-Avon? The two names are often confused. Properly speaking, Stratford-upon-Avon refers to the market town and parish, birthplace of William Shakespeare, that gained a charter from Richard I in 1396. Stratford-on-Avon is a local government district, established in 1974. It is a rural district that includes most of southern Warwickshire including Alcester, Shipston-on-Stour, Henley-in-Arden, and many other towns and villages, including Stratford-upon Avon. It might add to confusion that Stratford-on-Avon's District Council offices are located within the town called Stratford-upon-Avon! In what follows I refer to the town as Stratford-upon-Avon.

The earliest civic organization that we meet in these records is the Guild of the Holy Cross, which was well-established in the thirteenth century when it built its Guild Chapel. Records of the Guild's payments to minstrels are found until 1495. The Clopton Bridge, built in 1480 (and still surviving) created the need for Bridge Wardens to collect tolls and keep the bridge in good repair, and between 1542 and 1555-6 their records include expenses for a pageant of St. George and the dragon. From 1563 the town's Chamberlains' accounts regularly record payments to travelling players, but these come to an abrupt halt in 1602 when the Council ordered that there should be no further plays allowed in any part of the guildhall. This evidence of growing Puritan sentiment in Stratford leads to there being only one record with any connection to Shakespeare or the King's Men: in 1622 the company was paid for not playing in the guildhall.

1408-9

Stratford-upon-Avon; Shakespeare Centre Library and Archives [Hereafter SCLA]: [BRT 1/3/23](#)

... Et solutem j ministrallo --- iiijd

1411-17

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/26](#)

mb2 (*Expenses*)

...Et solutem vno citheratori causa reuerbie<...> master burdet --- iijs iiijd

1424-5

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/35](#)

single membrane (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem xxd le mynstreles de Warrewick per consilium Giles

...

**Note:** "Giles" is referred to throughout this series of expenses payments as "dicto Giles"; presumably he was a guild official this year.

1427-8

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/38](#)

mb [4d] (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem vno minestrallo xxd ex prealpis Thomem Burdet...

...

1451-2

SCLA: [BRT 3/1](#)

f 71 (*Admissions of brethren*)

...

Item Iohannes Dunwedyr alias dictis Crabbe de Stratford mynstrall & Iohanna vxor eius recepti sunt in fraternitis gildis Et fecerunt finis pro xiijs iiijd soluendum infra armum <ppl ?> Thomam lockyer

...

1464-5

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/76](#);

single membrane (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et de <...> vjd solutem diuersis mynstrelles domini warwici & Gloucestris...

...

1469-70

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/82](#)

mb [2] (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem minstrelles --- xvjd ...

...

1471-2

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/84](#)

single membrane (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem diuersis mynstrelles ville warwici --- ijs ijd

...

1472-3

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/85](#)

single membrane (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem diuersis ministrelles --- iijs ...

...

1473-4

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/86](#)

single membrane (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem diuersis mynstrelles --- xxd ...

...

1477-8

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/89](#)

single membrane (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem pro regardo dato mynstrelles per dictis lohenis --- xijd

...

**Note:** 'dictis lohenis' refers to one John Gylberte, armigeris, named in the accounts 4 lines above.

1495-6

SCLA: [BRT 1/3/105](#)

mb [2d] (*Feast Expenses*)

...Et solutem ad mymystrele de Stratford in regardo --- xd

...

1542-3

SCLA: [BRT 2/1](#)

p 17 (*Accounts presented 22 May*) (*Money paid out*)

In primis payd for scowringe y<sup>e</sup> harnes --- iijs

...

**Note:** These accounts were generally presented shortly after Rogation Sunday, so the accounting intervals vary slightly. There were exceptions to the usual date of presenting the accounts.

1543-4

p 21 (*11 April 1543-3 April 1544*) (*Money paid out*)

...

Item payd for Scowring send georges harnes --- ijs xd

...

1545-7

p 25 (*23 May 1545-8 April 1547*) (*Money paid out*)

...

*Memorandum* also that the said wardens have payd for Scowringe Sent george harnes --- ijs viijd

Item to beysond for wax makyng --- viijd

Item to Galter for Ridyng Sent george --- vjd

Item to hym yat bare y<sup>e</sup> dragon --- viijd

Item to henshalle for mendynge ye dragon --- xijd

**Note:** The date of presentation was Good Friday in 1547, so this must be a mistake. Rogation Sunday fell on 15 May in 1547.

1553-4

p 36 (*Accounts presented 24 April*)(*Money paid out*)

...

Item payd for dressyng the dragon & for beryng the dragon & werynge seint georges harnes on holy thursday --- ijs viijd

payd for gune powder --- iiijd

payd for scowringe sent george harnes --- ijs

payd for ij dossen belles --- xvjd

payd henry glouer --- vjd

...

**Note:** The date of presentation of the preceding year's accounts is not given (p 34), so one cannot discern the period covered by this set of accounts. If by 'holy thursday' the scribe means Ascension Thursday (6 May 1554) this is puzzling, because the accounts were presented the previous 24 April. Queen Mary, who acceded to the throne on 6 July 1553, had yet to experience an Ascension Thursday. It seems very unlikely that there would be a St George's riding on Maundy Thursday, which fell on 22 March.

1554-5

p 37 (*24 April-11 April*)(*Money paid out*)

...

Imprimis payed for the scowringe of the harnes and fittinge hit on the mans backe --- ijs vjd

Item for letheringes for the harnes --- viijd

Item for bearinge the dragon and wearinge seynt georges harnes --- ijs

Item a dosyn of poyntes for the harnes --- ijd

...

1555-6

p 38 (*11 April 1555-23 April 1556*)(*Money paid out*)

...

payd for scowring the harnes --- ijs xd

payd for letheringe & peyntinge y<sup>e</sup> harnes --- xd

payd to ij men for berynge the dragon & sent george harnes --- ijs

...

payd for gune powder --- ijs

...

1563-4

SCLA; [BRU 2/1](#)

p 43 (*Expenses*)

Item payed to the playars more then was gatheryd --- ixd

1567-8

p [16] (*Expenses*)

...

Item payd to the Trumpeter --- vjs viijd

...

1568-9

p [25] (*Expenses*)

...

Item payd to the Quenes Players --- ixv

...

Item to the Erle of Worcesters pleers --- xijd

...

1573-74

p [44] (*Expenses*)

...

paid to Mr. bayly for the earle of lecesters players --- vs viijd

...

1574-5

p [63] (*Expenses*)

...

geven my lord of warwicke players --- xvijs

...

p [64]

...

paid the earle of worceter players --- vs vijd

...

1576-7

p [71] (*Expenses*)

...

Paid to my Lord of Leyster players --- xvs

...

Paid to my lord of Wosters players --- [iij] ^ ʿiiijsʿ iiijd

...

1578-9

p [83] (*Expenses*)

...

paid to my Lord Straunge men the xj<sup>th</sup> day of february at the comaundement of Mr. Baliffe --- vs

...

p [84]

...

Paid at the comaundement of Mr. baliffe to the countye of Essex plears --- xiijs vjd

...

1579-80

p [90] (*Expenses*)

...

Paid for a girdle to Charles benton for John taberer --- vjd

Paid to the foure traine men at the comaundement of Mr. baliffe --- xvjd  
Paid to John Walkie for caryinge & recarrying his fori<...>de when he went to bee trained --- vjd

Paid to Thomas ffosacre for the like --- vjd

Paid to John Harris for the like --- vjd

Paid to John Taberer for the like --- vjd

Paid to John Tabere for mendinge the springe of his peese within the stocke --- vijjd

Paid to William Richardson for making the corke of the same peese --- vjd

...

p [94]

...

Paid for a girdle to Charlie benton for John tabere --- vjd

Paid to the foure traine men at the comandement of Mr. baliffe --- xvjd

Paid to John Wal<..> for caryinge & recarying his for<...>de when he went to bee trained --- vjd

Paid to Thomas ffosacre for the like --- vjd

Paid to John Harris for the like --- vjd

Paid to John taberer for the like --- vjd

Paid to John taberer for mendinge the springe of his peese within the stocke --- vijjd

Paid to William Richardson for making the corke of the same peese --- vjd...

p [95]

...

Paid to the Earle of darbyes players at the comaundement of Mr. Baliffe --- viijs iiijd

...

1580-81

p [101] (*Expenses*)

...

Paid to the Earle of Worcester his players --- iijs iiijd

Paid to the *Lord Bartlett* his players --- iijs ijd

1581-1582

p [107] (*Expenses*)

...

Payed to Henry Russell for the Earle of worcesters players --- vs

...

1582-1583p [111] (*Expenses*)

...

Payed to Mr. Berman that he layd downe to y<sup>e</sup> lord Bartlite his players & to a preacher --- vs

...

p [119]

...

payd to 'the' lord [<saunders>] ^'shadowes' players --- iijs iiijd

...

1583-1584

p [114] (*Expenses*)

...

geven to my lord of oxfordes plears --- iijs iiijd

geven to the earle of worcester plears --- iijs iiijd

...

p [115]

...

geven to the earle of essex plears --- iijs

...

1586

p [274] (*Expenses*)

...

paide to Mr. Tiler for the players --- vs

...

**Note:** This series of accounts is located in a different part of the town book, and signals the change in the term of office of the Chamberlains, which henceforth runs from approximately St Thomas the Apostle's day (21 December). I have given the accounts the single year date for the year in which most of them presumably were incurred.

1587

p [296] (*Expenses*)

...

It *paid* for mendinge of a forme that was broken by the quenes

players --- xvjd

...

Item <sup>^r</sup>gyven<sup>1</sup> to the Quenes players --- xxs  
Item gyven to my Lord of Essex players --- vs  
Item gyven to therle of leycester his players --- xs  
Item gyven to an other Companye --- iijs iijd  
...  
Item gyven to my Lord of Staffordes men --- iijs iiijd

...

1592  
SCLA; [BRU 4/12](#)  
p [12] (*Expenses*)

...  
(in left margin) x  
payd to the queenes players --- xxs

1593  
p [16] (*Expenses*)

...  
paid vnto the Queenes players --- xxs

...  
1597  
p [41] (*Expenses*)

...  
Item paid to a man at Mr. Lewes by the appointment of Mr. Sturley then baliffe for the show of the Citie of Norwiche --- iijs iiijd

...  
p [43] (*Expenses*)  
Item paid to him for iiij<sup>or</sup> company of players --- xixs iiijd

...  
**Note:** . Abraham Sturley was bailiff from 1 October 1596-30 September 1597. Records from his tenure occur in three different sets of accounts (see the two following extracts). This set of accounts begins on 16 December 1596, and runs through 1597.

SCLA; [BRU 4/1](#)  
p [39] (*Expenses*)

...  
payd to a man at Mr. Lewes by the appoyntment of Mr. Bayly Sturly for the shew of the sytty of Norwiche --- iijs iiijd

...  
p [40] (*Expenses*)  
(in left margin) x

payd more to him for a drinking of peares & wine bestowed by him & Mr. Alderman at the swane on Mr. Hoy sherife & Mr. John conway --- vjs  
payd to him for Mr. Okers diner --- xs

payd to him for foure companyes of players --- xixs iiijd

...

**Note:** Rather than resorting to a collation of these entries in the original chamberlain's account and the 'official' copy, I have printed both versions. 'him' refers to the bailiff, Abraham Sturley.

SCLA; [BRU 5/1/19](#), no. 38

f [11] (16-17 July)

lulij 16 & 17 paide the Queens plairs 10s...

Therle of Darbies...

mi Lord Ogles...

...

**Note:** second and third entries added later, in different ink. Items are included in a note of payments made by Abraham Sturley during his term as bailiff, totalling £3 18s 5d. When, on 13 January 1598, the borough chamberlain submitted his accounts for the previous twelve months, he included a series of reimbursements to Sturley for his personal outlay. It is unclear, but likely, that the "foure companyes of players" in the two previous extracts are here itemized: the Queen's Men (2 payments), the earl of Derby's players, and my lord Ogles players. This item was discovered by Robert Bearman, who kindly shared it with me.

1602

SCLA; [BRU 2/2](#)

f [95] (17 December)

...

At this halle yt ys ordered that there shalbe no plays or enterlewdes playd in the Chamber the guild halle nor in any parte of the [hos] howsse or Courte from hensforward vpon payne that whosoeuer of the Baylif Alderman & Burgesses berenghe shall gyve leave or licence therevnto shall forfeyt for euerie offence xs

1604

SCLA; [BRU 16/3](#)

n.p. (n.d.)

...

(in left margin) Barons may not give lycence to players

...

**Note:** This margnale was discovered by Robert Bearman, who kindly shared it with me. It occurs in an unpaginated bound collection of printed statutes, 1592-1605, opposite the statute of 1 James Chapter 13 (1604) "for the continuance and explanation of the Statute ... for punishment of Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdie Beggars". The marginal note is written against the clause in the printed statute that reads: 'Bee it declared and enacted, That from henceforth no authoritie, to be given or made by any Baron of the Realme, or any other honourable Personage of greater degree, unto any other persons or persons, shall be available to free and discharge the said persons, or any of them from the paines and punishments in the sayd Statute mentioned, but that they shalbe taken within the offence and punishment of the same Statute'.

1611/12

SCLA; [BRU 2/2](#)

f [220] (2 February)

(in left margin) plaies

The inconuenience of plaies being verie seriouslie considered of with the unlawfullnes, and howe contrarie the sufferance of them is againste the orders hearetofore made, and againste the examples of other well governed Citties and Burrowes The companie heare are contented and their impost conclude that the penaltie of xs imposed <?> in mr. Bakers yeare for breakinge the order shall from henceforth be x l. vpon the breakers of that order: and this to holde vntill the nexte common councell, and from thencforth, for euer excepted, That be them finally revoked and made voide.

....

1612

SCLA; [BRU 3/2](#)

MB [2] (16 July)

... Item yt is ordered that the Bayliffe and chiefe Alderman of the said Borough nor eyther of them for the tyme being shall not at any tyme hereafter licence or suffer any manner of playes or enterludes to be played or acted within the Towne hall, Councell Chamber, Schoolehouse or the place called the Guyld Courte or yarde there or any parte thereof by any person or persons whatsoever upon payne that the Bayliffe & chiefe Alderman for the tyme being that shall licence or suffer any such playes to play in any of the said places shall forfeyte for every such licence or sufferaunce fowertie shillings...

**Note:** This item was discovered by Robert Bearman, who kindly shared it with me. The list of possible playing places is intriguing, and includes a 'yarde', an outdoor space in the Guildhall complex.

1616

Worcester; Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service; [BA 2760](#)

f 30v

...

31 Maij 1616

(in left margin) Stretford

*Officium domini contra Thomam bocke / ffor sufferinge Thomam Clarke Tabberer to play at his house uppon sundaye last in time of evenine prayer 14 Iunij 1616 comparuit et fassus est articulum ei obiectis vnde dominus iniunxit ei ad [deinde obtulit praecati quod] agnoscendum culpabilem die domica proximo in ecclesia ibidem iuxta formam ad / et ad Cene in proximo / °non certificauit [excommunicato] in proximo 27 Iulij excommunicato°*

...

1617

Worcester; Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service; [1617, No 106](#)

Item 4, Sheet 2 (14 May) (Inventory)

...

Item 20 lyttle bookes --- vs

...

Item a fiddle & fiddle cloth --- vs

...

1618

SCLA; [BRU 4/1](#)

p [311] (*Expenses*)

...

*deliuered* Mr. bayliffe which was gyven to a company that came with a shew to the towne --- 0-  
iij*s*-iij*d*

...

to the musick --- 0-0-vij d  
(*Expenses at Worcester*)

...

more for wyne --- 0-ijs.-ij*d*

ffor horsemeat --- 0-vjs-iij*d*

gyven to the Chamberlayne --- 0-0-vii*d*

for cleaning our bootes gyven --- 0-0-vii*d*

to a woman --- 0-0-ij*d*

to my Lorde porter --- 0-0-vj*d*

for shewing one horse --- 0-0-ii*d*

to the musick 0-0-vij*d*

porter *Thomas* groome ffor hire of his mare --- 0-ijs-0

Item xij*d* mr. baker for *Edward* h<...> gowne --- ij*d*. ijs. vj*d*

Item xij*d* him in payment --- x*d*-0-0

...

1619-20

TNA; PRO; [STAC 8/26/10](#)

item 2 (*Bill of Complaint*)

@mTo the Kinges most excellent *Maiestie*@m

Humbly sheweth and informeth vnto your most excellent *Maiestie* *Sir* Henry Yelverton Knight your<sup>r</sup> *Maiesties* Attorney Generall, That whereas your *Maiestie* out of your provident and Princely Care of the Continuance of the Common peace of this your Realme of England hath bene alwayes most willinge and ready to putt in due execucion the lawes and Statutes of this your highnesse said realme made and established for the suppressinge of Ryottes Infamous libellings, and other enormous Crimes, and to extend your Royall power for the punishment of insolent and Exorbitant malefactours, whoe by their ill example in stirringe vpp and animatinge others to lewdnesse and outrageous misdemeanours, doe discourage all vertuous and good men in all their godly and comendable courses to the great trouble and disturbance of your highnesse people and the high displeasure of almighty god And whereas on or about the Sixteenth daye of March last past in the Sixeteenth yeare of your *Maiesties* Raigne over this your said Realme of England, your highnesse was graciously pleased by your letters patentes vnder your priuie seale of England to present one Thomas Willson Clerke beinge a Master of Artes and a learned preacher vnto the

vicaridge of the *parishe* Church of Old Stratford *alias* Stratford vpon Avon in your *Maiesties* County of Warrwick and dioces of Worcester which was then voyd by reason of Lapse then formerly incurred by one John Rogers Clerke the former Vicar and <...><sup>1</sup> ffor holdinge diuerse benefices together<sup>2</sup> at one tyme, without any dispensacion or qualificacion contrary to your *Maiesties* Lawes and Statutes in such case made and provided vpon which your *Maiesties* said Presentacion thesaid Thomas Wilson was afterwardes that is to say vpon or about the Twoo and Twentith daye of Maye then next followinge in the Seaventeenth yeare of your *Maiesties* said Raigne lawfully av<...> and instituted into thesaid Vicaridge by the Reverend ffather in god Iohn by the permission of god then and yet Byshop of thesaid Dyoces of Worcester, and had also his letters of Induccion thervnto made vnder seale by the then and yet Archdeaconn of Worcester aforesaid, After which letters of Induccion soe made as aforesaid and before such tyme as thesaid Thomas Willson w<...> could be <...><sup>3</sup> Inducted into thesaid Vicaridge that is to say vpon or about the Thirteith daye of the said moneth of Maye in thesaid Seaventeenth yeare beinge a Saboath daye, It was fully agreed by and betweene thesaid former encumbent and thesaid Thomas Willson, [that thesaid former encumbent and thesaid Tomas Willson], that thesaid Willson should bee really Inducted into thesaid vicaridge vpon the next daye beinge Mondaye then next followinge wherevpon thesaid Wilson for the better preparinge the waye therevnto did in the afternoone of thesaid Saboath daye repayre vnto the *parishe* Church of Stratford aforesaid and did then and there in all quiett and reverent manner attend and heare eveninge prayer only, not offringe then and there either to preach any sermon or to reade any <...> service but the same service was then and there sayd and Celebrated by thesaid Rogers the former Incumbent only and not by any other, Wherevpon soe it is (if it maye please your most Excellent *Maiestie*) That one Iohn Nashe, William Reynoldes, Thomas Rutter, Richard Wyatt, Iohn Lane, gentlemen: Iohn Rogers, Iohn Pincke, William Nixon, William Hathewey yeomen Thomas Mills weaver Thomas Courte Blacksmith, William Smith Malster, Raphe Smith haberdasher Iane Askewe wife of Richard Askewe, beinge all of them Inhabitanes of and within your *Maiesties* Towne Borough and *parishe* of Stratford aforesaid and diuerse other ryotors and ill disposed persons to your said Attorney as yet vnknowne whose names he humbly prayeth maye be inserted vnto this Informacion and made *partyes* therevnto soe soone as they shalbe discovered having by the <...> *perswacions* abettment and <...> of the said Iohn Nashe William Reinoldes Thomas Rutter Richard Wyat Iohn Lane gentlemen whoe had formerly conceived and borne a most deepe malice and causelesse displeasure against thesaid Thomas Wilson only for that they vnderstod that if he should be their vicar there he would by his sermons reprove their great vices and disorders [and they] for which cause ^they^ then seekinge and wishinge his vtter destruccion, did therevpon most maliciously and vnlawfully combyne conspire confederate and agree together with all thesaid other persons both knowne and vnknowne how by all the meanes that they could (though never soe unlawfull) to depriue him not only of his good name Creditt and reputacion, but also of his libertie and life to his vtter ruine and overthrowe for ever, accordinge to which lawfull<sup>4</sup> plott conspiracy combinacion and agreement the said Iohn Nashe and the rest of thesaid confederates both knowne and vnknowne did vpon or about thesaid Thirteith daye of Maye in the Seaventeenth yeare beinge s <Sabath> daye most ryotously routously and vnlawfully assemble and gather themselues together att and in your *Maiesties* said towne of Stratford beinge araide arrayed<sup>5</sup> and prepared with swordes daggers forrest billes longe piled staues great stones in their handes and diuerse other vnlawfull weapons aswell invasiue as defensiue, And beinge soe

attended and araid <...><sup>6</sup> tent tumultuous and seditious manner marched and repayre together <...> and neere thesaid parishe Church of Stratford aforesaid, where they findinge that thesaid Thomas Willson was then quietly hearing devine service and Eveninge prayer as aforesaid, and furiously breakinge out into their malicious Courses against him and nothings respectinge and most prophanely neglectinge the reuerence due to soe sacred a function tyme and place did then and there and at diverse other tymes and places before and after giue out in vauntinge and boastinge speeches, that when soever or wheresoever they could catche thesaid Thomas Wilson they would flea him and dispatch him of his life adding<...> further then and there most falsly slaundersously and vntruly with loud voyces in the manner of an vproare that thesaid Thomas Wilson was an ill lieer<sup>7</sup>, an incontinent person that he had the ffrench poxe, and was b<...> by meanes of his incontenency with lewd weomen, and that he beinge a minister would not obeye your *Maiesties* ecclesiasticall lawes Cannons and const<...> of this <...><sup>8</sup> said Realme, whereas in trueth he is and soe alwayes hath bene not only most conformable to your *Maiesties* said lawes cannons and const<...> in all respectes but also of a very honest life and conversation without any crime or aspersion of incontenency that ever was or could be iustly layed or imputed vnto him where<...><sup>9</sup> not yet satisfied the said Ryotors confederates did further then and there with loud Clamors and outragius exclamacions Crie out and say hange him, kill him, pull out hi<...> threate, cutt of his pockie and burnt members, lett vs pull dragg and hale him out of the Church with diverse other wordes against thesaid Thomas Wilson to the same and the like effecte, <...><sup>10</sup> meanes of which most extraordinary ryott and outrage, one Henry Smith gentleman beinge then Alderman and one of [his] *your* *Maiesties* Iustices of peace of your *Maiesties* said Borough of Stratford together with the Constables Churchwardens Sidemen and other your highenesse officers and Magistrates of the same Borough beinge then and there present to heare these Eveninge prayer <...><sup>11</sup> in very dredful manner astonished affrighted and amazed to heare and see suche a multitude of disordered persons soe ryotously then and there assembled together, and behaving themselues in such tumultuous sorte as aforesaid, whereby the said Magistrates were then and there constrayned to locke vp the said Wilson in the Chauncell of thesaid Church, for feare least hee should haue bene then and there furthwith murdered by thesaid confederates, whose furye and rage towardes him was then soe great as that hee and his frendes did verely thincke that he should never haue come forth aliue out of thesaid Church, And albeit your *Maiesties* said officers did then and there in your *Maiesties* name most earnestly require and call vpon thesaid riot<...> to desist from their said bloudthirsty attemptes and enterprises in such their endeavoringe to kill thesaid Wilson and quickly to departe every of them to there owne howses, yet thesaid Confederates were soe farr from obeyinge the same commaund as that a great number of them did then and there not only most insolently and contemptously but also most ryotously es<...><...> and vnlawfully with <...> and mayne strength that they could breake open the doore of thesaid Church and did violently rushe and enter into the same of purpose to haue slayne or done some great mischeife to thesaid Willson and his wellwishers if they could haue come vnto them To which intent some others of them (that could not goe into thesaid Church by reason that thesaid Church doore was shutt against them by your seid officers) did then and there flinge great stones through the glasse window<es of> thesaid Church and thereby brake down and battered a great parte of the windowes and walls thereof in such sorte as if thesaid Willson had not bene speedily & carefully by your said officers <r>escued from the handes of thesaid Rioters they had (doubtlesse) slayne him then and there

outright, In which exceedinge and intemperate desire of thesaid confederatees to doe some exerc<...> mischiefe vnto him they expressed such and soe great and implacable malice against him, as that they also detested and bore a most deadly hatred against all those that were well effected or beare any love or good likinge towardes him Insoe much that they did then and there saye, that it had bene noe matter if they had not come home aliue meaninge thesaid Wilson and his said wellwillers, and did also ^r saye then and there that Daniell Baker and William Chauncler beinge Aldermen of thesaid Towne and wellwillers to thesaid Thomas Wilson)<sup>12</sup> had <...> constitute thee dogges hood with other most opprobrious termes and speches to the same and the like effecte. And your said Attorney further informeth that whereas vpon or about the first daye of Maye last past in thesaid Seaventeenth yeare, a Sommer pole or Maye pole was by the said confederates erected and sett vp in the place of thesaid towne where a horse fayer is vsed to be kept when and as often as any common ffayer is held and kept in the said Towne, which place w<...> in soe straight and narrow a passage as that none of your *Maiesties* subiectes could in the ffayer tymes conveniently passe by the same with any cartes or Carryages without spoylinge of<sup>13</sup> very scayrc paiuement there newly made for the *parishioners* to passe to and from thesaid Church, ffor which causes afterwarde that is to saye vpon or about the thirteenth daye of September then next followinge in the said Seaventeenth yeare, one Iohn Wilmore being then Bayliffe of and cheife officer of your said Towne, and thesaid Henry Smith beinge then both of them your *Maiesties* lustices of peace of and for the same Towne fyndinge thesaid Sommer pole soe standinge in thesaid unfitt place as aforsaid to be a very great and generall Nusance and beinge therefore desirous to haue the inconueniency thereof reformed only duringe the tyme of thesaid faire beginninge then <...>hirteenth daye of September <...><sup>14</sup> the end of the fifteenth daye of thesame moneth did cause thesame to be peacably and lawfully taken downe and layd aside <...>ingly, at which tyme and place the same lustices for the better satisfaccion of the inhabitantes there and the true declaracion of their owne intentes and meaninges did then and there publicquely <...> knowne vnto all thesaid Cause there that they thesaid lustices did not take downe the said Pole as aforsaid for any dislike they had vnto the pole, but only for the<...> your M<...><sup>15</sup> the ne<...> with them <...> duringe the tyme of the faire there and that also thesaid pauement leadinge to the said Church might be the better preserued <...><sup>16</sup> further that if thesaid confederates were disposed to sett thesaid pole vp againe they might sett it vp within the space of Sixe paces distant from the place where <...> r<...><sup>17</sup> stood as aforsaid <...> which notwithstandinge soe it is if it maye please your highnesse That thesaid Iohn Nashe and the rest of thesaid confederates both knowne and vnknowne to the <...> of <...> a<...> the least did by and vpon a former plott practize and combinacion in that behalfe vsed by them vpon or about thesaid Thirteenth daye of September in thesaid Seaventeenth yeare (at which tyme a Common ffayer was held and kept in thesaid towne as foresaid Ryotously routously and vnlawfully assemble and meete together beinge all armed as aforsaid) att <...><sup>18</sup> vnto thesaid <...> where thesaid Maypole was first sett vp as aforsaid, and did then and there in the said ffayer tyme where a great concourse of people was then gathered together by Ryotous force and outrage against the express wish and command of your *Maiesties* said lustices and ther officers of your said towne, with great shoutes tryvmphes & outrages <...> and <...><sup>19</sup> the same pole halfe waye vp againe in the very selfe same place where it formerly stood as aforsaid to the great danger of raysinge a m<...>e and <...> amongst a great number of people which then resorted thether in the same ffayer tyme and to the very great disturbance of your *Maiesties* g<...>od subiectes meetinge

thereabout, And albeit your <...>said Iustices of peace and other your officers aforesaid, did then and there in you *Maiesties* name straightly charge thesaid Ryot<ers> to desist from ther said vnlawfull attemptes last me<..>aned, yet they and every of them did most wilfully and obstinately refuse soe to doe, contrary to your *Maiesties* lawes statutes and ordinances in such case made and prescribed And <whereas> thesaid Iohn <Wolmer> and Henry Smith beinge your *Maiesties* Iustices of peace and others of your said officers and quiet inhabitants of your said Counte and accordinge to <...><sup>20</sup> thesaid Ryottes and other misdemeanours of thesaid <C>onfederates as is aforesaid, and did also beare some love and respecte vnto thesaid Thomas Willson S<...> so it maye please your *Maiestie* that the said Iohn Nashe and the rest of thesaid confederates both knowne and vnknowne beeringe a great malice against your said magistrates for the same and thereby practicinge to disgrace the good names of thesaid Iohn Wolmer Henry Smith and diverse others <of> your said officers did in or about thesaid moneth of Maye, and at diverse other tymes before and sithence at Stratford aforesaid devise make putt into writinge and divulge for the purpose aforesaid diverse seuerall false scandalous Infamous and wicked libells in rymes verses and prose thereby maliciously and slaunderously defaminge and disgracinge thesaid Iohn Wilmore Henry Smith and others of your *Maiesties* officers and lovinge Subiectes dwelinge w<ithin> your said Towne, One of whic<...>sions libells or rymes followeth in these wordes that is to saye (A Satyre to the Cheife rulers in the Synagogue of Stratford) Stratford is a Towne that dothe make a great shewe, but yet it is governed but by a fewe. O Iesu Christe of heaven, I thinke they are but Seaven, Puritantes without doubt, for yow maye knowe them they are soe sent They saye tis noe sinne their neighbours house to take, but such lawes their father the devill did make, These men seeme of a puerfaction but like the devill in dissemblacion, as smooth as oyle outward, In wordes, but within they are full of dissencion and discordes, but woe be to those whited walles, they are the causes of all these br<alles>, A heavy curse belaid vpon their <...><sup>21</sup> because they haue bereft vs of our best freinde, and in his steede here haue they plast, A fellow that hath neither shame nor grace, yet these men are true religious without <kwarkes>, ffor one of the Cheifest hath red far in Perkins workes, Therest are deepe dissemblinge hypocrites, that in good workes haue noe delites, but their delightes is to doe wronge, but yet they <...><sup>22</sup> flatteringe tounge, but softe my sater be not too free, for thow wilt make them spourue at thee, for rubb a horse where scabbes be thicke, and thou wilt make him winse and kicke, but faste bethinke thee wheres the cause, they saye they doe nothinge but lawes, bot suer the lawes they doe wrest, for to bringe poore people in distresse, bee <...> their <...> <...> for he beganne this wishinge first, and with his malice and his spite was first that brought this Lapse to light, but a dubble woe be vpon him that did this matter first beginne, these men applye themsel<ues> to the lawe, because theyd keepe the poore in <awe>, O Lord doe the<se> <...> the poore, and their <...> do them restore, haue these <...>ies<sup>23</sup> as if that their minister be knocke ath heade for if that hee <...> and will not make amendes for this wronge he shall never gull the people la<wfully> he lives or <...><sup>24</sup> shall rest, I praye god turne all to the best, where libell doth scandalize and defame your *Maiesties* said Iustices of peace Magistrates and other <...> of your said towne in the aforesaid <...> (A Satyre to the Chiefe rulers of the synagoge of the <...><sup>25</sup> (a fellow that hath neither shame nor grace) is meant thesaid Thomas Wilson, And by the wordes (Be sure their lawyer is of god accurst &c) is ment one Thomas Lucas <...><sup>26</sup> <.>oyes I<...> in your <...> County of <...> for the aforesaid wordes (if that their minister be knockt ith head) thesaid libellers doe intend thesaid Thomas Wilson; And one other of thesaid Infamous libells was in

prose and ensueth in these wordes followinge that is to saye (Sirra ho, the greatestt newes since <...><sup>27</sup> that as the old bitinge and younge suckinge Puritantes of Stratford, are ioyned with their two luste assis a peace, maliciously to displace and vtter vnder their minister, and to bringe in his place as arrand a: K: as them selues of purpose to assist them in their hypocrisye, And now seinge they haue sett all the <to>ne togeather by the eares, which is the true office of a Puritant, and fyndinge their plott hath not their whisht effecte, it is thought that diverse of them will runne horne madd, the<r>efore I would haue thee to make haste vp hither to begg them, But if thou be not private thy purpose wilbe smelt out by some longe-nosd knave or other, but be <not> thou violent like them, but learne to reade <in> Perkins workes they will teach thee patience, and doe not skibb at any of them, for then they would saye that were more then needes, therefore it is very ill to be accompted too busie, or to shewe like a monster with fower elbowes, or for a Cobler to turne devine, or any great officer to a <...>e dissemler, but some death unconscionable (knaues will harken to nothings but to fulfill their greedy desires,<sup>28</sup> Therefore farewell from Romalye this merry moneth of Maye: Thy honest freind, if thou doe not turne Puritant. ff: S: vpon the backe of which libell were indorsed these wordes followinge viz: To any honest Puritant where you finde him, And the same libell dothe scandalize and defame thesaid Thomas Wilson in thesaid wordes (as arrant a: K: as themselves<sup>29</sup>, thereby terminge him an arrant knaue, , And ^by^ the said wordes (too busye) is meant one William Smith haberdasher of thesaid Towne, whom they conceived to be a busye person, And by the said wordes (be a monster with fower elbowes) is described one Richard Castle a weuer of the said Towne, because he vseth in his gate or goeing as some obserue, to shake his elbowes, And by the said wordes (for a Cobler to turne devine) is meant one Iohn Iordan a Shoemaker of thesaid Towne, And by thesaid wordes (or any great officer to turn dissemler) is meant thesaid Iohn Wolmer and Henry Smith beinge then your *Maiesties* lustices of peace of the said towne whoe are also intended by thesaid ridiculous wordes in dirision of them and there places (twoo lust=asses a peace) in thesaid libell mencioned, Also one other of thesaid infamous libells was in these wordes followinge that is to saye (Stratford <.>the Magistrates. The Puritantes are now found out, their walkinge late and earlie, Beshrow their heartes they spoyle mens grasse, and doe not spare the barley. The auncient leadinge Hypocrite that is of all that sorte, some saye a sermon lately lost, to wayte a feild for sport, but now tis minct in better sorte, as some of thear<sup>30</sup> doe <say> the cause where he neglected the Church, was to saue his hey, but take heed how yow doe him charge, with doinge any harme, he will drive the Country of<...> that bells him of the ffarme, Some thinke the female is pinckt out, because they would not fayle her, praye for them all, and specially for their great vndertakers, Inieand the <ca>ndell sellers Smithes, Mercers, Iapinge Bakers, colour thy prayer as they doe, as thou meanst noe evill, Thou knowest they doe confesse them selues the Children of the devill, If any man disposed bee, any wares of them to buye, he shalbe suer cheated to bee, with yes truly, London the third of Pirkins thates maid thou reedes:<...> on the back of which libell were written these wordes, *videlicet* Looke as yow will, yow ^shall^ never shall controll, because I never learned how to carry coles): In and by the which libell your *Maiesties* said lustices and other Magistrates of the said Towne are scandalized and defamed in and by the aforesaid wordes therein specefied (Stratford: To the Magistrates) And by the aforesaid wordes (They spoyle mens grasse and doe not spare the barley) is falsly and slaunderously (by thesaid Iohn Pinke and the rest of the said confederates) described and intended one Margery Gunne the wife of Iohn Gunne of Stratford afroesaid, and other honest wemen there, and that a <man> (whom thesaid

confederates will not name) had carnall knowledge of her bodye in a barley close called the ffarme in the same libell mencioned, And by the aforesaid wordes (because I never learned how to carry Coles) is described and meant one Lucas the ffather of thesaid Thomas Lucas Esquire, and that he thesaid Lucas was a carryer and seller of Coles by his trade thesaid confederates thereby most falsly and vntruly restinge vpon thesaid Thomas Lucas a great disparagement of his birth and parentage, as if he had bene a Colliers sonne, whereas in trueth his said father was a gentleman well esteemed, and neuer any carryer or seller of Cole<s as> by thesaid libell is <v>ery susp<...> and vntruly pretended. And by thesaid wordes (The candle=sellers, Smithes, Mercers and lapinge Bakers) are meant diverse of the Aldermen of the said Towne, lastly one other of the said Infamous libells, was in theis wordes following, that is to saye (Revenge still brother Rogers shall not live, maye I not live, o whoe will with me <...>, assist my woe, whilst woe or wee doth last, what will releiue my woe, my hearte doth burne To see mans state wanes as the winde doth turne, He warrs, and wans and wynninge lost by strife, warr is an other death a sure vncertayne life, trye and then trust, giue credit by delaye, thefeyned freindes with feyned lookes betraye, Baker had<..>oe lib<er>tie to vanquish <...>, had it not bene for Lucas trecherye, Shall I of a<c>handler, and busye William speake? th<o> ladd to make a tale, and that to breake, here I conclude what all the world doth see, there is noe peace where is noe vnitye. Though I on earth for thee receiue disgrace, live I in heaven see Iesus face to face. The tr<.> of the <...> Iune, Iuly, August, and September, although he come he shall not moctifie one member, A very Rouge he is, he cannot Trowe his pintle for a *parisse* Which libell doth scandalize and disgrace one Daniell Baker one of the Aldermen of the said Towne in the aforesaid worde (Baker) And the said wordes of (Lucas treachery) doe wr<...> and disgrace thesaid Thomas Lucas Esquire, And by thesaid worde (Chaundler) is meant William Chaundler beinge one other Alderman of thesaid towne, And by thesaid wordes (busye William) is meant the said William Smith Haberdasher, And by thesaid word (rouge) is meant thesaid Thomas Wilson Clerke, All which said infamous libells <the>said Iohn Nashe and therest of thesaid confederates both knowne and vnknowne and by the plott and combinacion aforesaid very often tymes and commonly read singe and publishe and caused to be read sunge and published, and scattered diverse coppyes of them and of every of them in Stratford aforesaid and in diverse other places Towne<s> parishes Tavernes Alehouses and publique meetings as well within your *Maiesties* said County of Warrwick, as elsewhere within your said Realme of England to the stirin<g>e and increasinge of debates strifes and discordes betweene neighbour and neighbour to the great breach of your highnesse peace, to the intollerable wronge disgrace and damage of your *Maiesties* said Iustices Magistrates officers and honest Inhabitanes of your said Towne, and contrary to your *Maiesties* lawes and statutes in such cases made and provided And your said Attorney further enformeth, that thesaid William Nixen one of thesaid confederates, beinge a Summoner or A proctor attendinge the Consistory Court of thesaid lord Bishop of Worcester si<...> in your *Maiesties* Citty of Worcester hath at diverse tymes sithence your *Maiesties* last generall and free pardon by the procurment and p<...> of thesaid other confederates and by colour of the same his office most corruptly and vnlawfully for his men <...> without any due <...> the seal of the said Courte or any other lawfull warrant at all summoned and warned diverse persons Inhabitinge within your said towne of Stratford and else where within the Iurisdiction of thesaid Consistory Courte to make their personall apparances in the same Courte to answeere vnto diuerse pretended matters layd to the <c..> And hath of his owne head and aucthority without any warrant Inioyned the<m> seuerally and

respectiuey to doe their pennance for the same, And namely (<...> sundry others) thesaid Will<iam> Nix<en> did about the moneth of August in the Seauentheeth year of your <...><sup>31</sup>ully and without warrant for<...> and war<..> the said Iohn Naishe one of thesaid confederates to appeare in thesaid consistory Court and to answere for speakinge of certaine slaunderous words against thesaid Margery Gunne wife of thesaid Iohn Gunne towchinge Incontenancy falsly supposed to be by her committed, and for diverse other slaunderous speches by her reyd against others, And did also therevpon vi<...>ly sub<.>tly and falsly forge and counterfeite or cause to be forged and counterfeited one note in writinge falsly purportinge thereby that thesaid Courte did Inioyne thesaid Iohn Pincke to doe his pennance for speakinge of the said slaunderous wordes, namely that he should acknowledge thesame his fault before the Churchwardens and Sixe of the parishioners of thesaid parishe, vnto which false and forged note thesaid William Nixon did likewise forge subscribe and Counterfeite or cause to be forged subscribed and countereited the name of William Marnstrge Esquire then and yet Register of thesaid Consistory Court as if thesame had bene true note in writinge and subscribed by the Register himselfe whereas thesame note was by thesaid Nixen at and by the procurement of thesaid other confederates vnlawfully forged subscribed and counterfeited, without any the notice directed or privity of the said Court or of the said Register And whereas in or about the moneth of November in the ffifteenth year of your Maiesties said Raigne One William Walford and Anthony Smith then Churchwardens of thesaid parishe of Stratford had lawfully vpon their oathes presented vnto thesaid Consistory Court one Isaack Hitchcoxe and Iohn Mason of Stratford aforesaid Barbors for trymminge and barbinge of diverse persons and for keepinge their shopps open vpon <...> divers<..> both dayes in the tymes of devine service, And had also then and there likewise presented diverse other persons of the same towne for the same and such like offences, Soe it is that thesaid William Nixon did by and with the procurement and direccion of thesaid other confederates without any warrant or lawfull authority for his owne private gaine <...> did vnlawfully vnder colour of the said office of Apparitor demaund and receiue to his owne 'private' vse of and from thesaid Isaacke Hitchcocke and Iohn Mason and others that were soe lawfully presented as aforesaid the seuerall fines of ffower shillinges a peece and other sommes of money bribes and rewardes for and in consideracion whereof thesaid <Nixon> did of his one head and authority without any warrant or direccion of the said Court vnlawfully release and discharge them and every of them not only of and from their seid all apparances in thesaid Consistory Court, but also of and from all pennance and punishment that should and ought to haue bene iustly inflicted vpon them and euery of them for their said seuerall prophanations of the Sabotes dayes as aforesaid: Over and besides all which thesaid William Nixon hath in like vnlawfull manner without any due proces or other warrant of thesaid Court summoned and warned diverse other persons whose names are yet vnknowne to appeare and answere in thesaid Court vnto divers supposed matters layd to their charge and hath in like sorte as aforesaid forged and caused to be forged and counterfeited diverse other notes in writinge purportinge that sundry other persons should and ought to doe their seuerall penances for their offences, whereas in trueth thesaid Nixon had never any warrant direccion or other aucthority either from thesaid Courte or the Registe<r> thereof for to doe which hath bene to the great abuse of Lawe and Iustice, and nevertheless thesaid Nixon is such a lewd person as that he standeth excommunicated for diuerse misdemeanours by him committed and soe that stode excommunicated by the space of halfe a yeare past or thereabouts, In tender consideracion of al<l> which premissed and fa<ctes> as

w<...>as thesaid plottes practised conspiracyes ^r confederacyes<sup>1</sup> combinacions Ryottes Routes vnlawfull assemblyes tumultes vproares outrages committed in thesaid Church vpon thesaid Minister Infamous libells, pulishinge<sup>2</sup> of libells, abuses of thesaid office of an Apparitor and all other the offences and misdemeanours aforesaid are contrary to your *Maiesties* lawes statutes and ordinances of this your highnesse Realme of England and doe most iustly deserue to be very sharply and seuerly punished and haue bene all done and committed since your *Maiesties* last generall and free pardon. Maye it therefore please your most excellent *Maiestie* to graunt vnto your said Attorney generall <...> writtes of Subpena to be directed vnto thesaid Iohn Nashe William Reynoldes Thomas Rutter Richard Wyatt Iohn Lane Iohn Rogers Iohn Pincke William Nixon William Hathawaye Thomas Milles Thomas Court William Smith Ra<...> Smith and to thesaid vnknowne confederates and persons wh<...> shalbe knowne commandinge them and every of them trewly at a daye certaine and vnder a certaine peine <...> to be lymited personally to bee and appeare before your *Maiestie* and the Lordes and others of your *Maiesties* most honourable privy Councell in your highnesse Court of St<archamber> then and there to answeere the <...> and likewise to stand to and abide such further order and direccion there as to your *Maiestie* and your said Councell shall appeare to be most agreeable to lawe and Iustice And as by duty bound your said Attorney shall daily praye for your *Maiestes* longe and prosperous Raigne <...>

*(Signed)* <H> yeluerton

*(Signed)* Iohn Geil<..>

**Note:**

item 1 (mb 1) of the document, dated 1 January 1620, contains the answer of William Reynoldes, one of the defendants. He simply denied the charges, saying that his name was inserted into the Bill of Complaint through malice, and asking to be dismissed with his costs.

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup>*text worn at fold in parchment*

<sup>2</sup>*together for together*

<sup>3</sup>*text worn at fold in parchment*

<sup>4</sup>*lawfull probably for vnlawfull*

<sup>5</sup>*araide arrayed dittography*

<sup>6</sup>*text obscured by wear of parchment*

<sup>7</sup>*lieer for liuer*

<sup>8</sup>*text obscured by wear of parchment*

<sup>9</sup>*damage at right edge of membrane*

<sup>10</sup>*word obscured at right edge of membrane*

<sup>11</sup>*word obliterated at right edge of membrane*

<sup>12</sup>*beginning parenthesis missing*

<sup>13</sup>*word possibly obliterated at right edge of membrane*

<sup>14</sup>*2 words obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>15</sup>*text obliterated at fold in parchment*

<sup>16</sup>*word obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>17</sup>*illegible interlineation above line; placement impossible to determine*

<sup>18</sup>*2 words obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>19</sup>*2 words obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>20</sup>*several words obliterated at fold in parchment*

<sup>21</sup>*several words obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>22</sup>*several words obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>23</sup>*4 words obliterated at beginning of line*

<sup>24</sup>9 or 10 words obliterated by folding of parchment

<sup>25</sup>9 or 10 words obliterated by folding of parchment

<sup>26</sup>much of the first part of line obliterated by folding of parchment; scattered words decipherable

<sup>27</sup>5 or 6 words obliterated by folding of parchment

<sup>28</sup>, for ) to close parenthesis

<sup>29</sup>) omitted

<sup>30</sup>thear for them ?

<sup>31</sup>several words obscured by wear at fold of parchment

<sup>32</sup>pulishinge for publishinge

1620

SCLA; [BRU 4/1](#)

p [177] (*Expenses*)

...

(in left margin) x

paid per Master Bayliffe apoyntment to players --- 0-xjs

...

**Note:** This payment occurs in a set of accounts (pp 176-79) that is incomplete (lacking receipts), undated and misbound; they have previously been assigned to various dates but have now been dated by Robert Bearman to 1620, by a reference in the payment following this one to "M<sup>r</sup> Venner for serve of the Cure 8 weekes". This refers to Richard Venour, recommended for appointment as curate on 24 March 1620 but replaced after eight weeks by George Quiney. In light of the earlier decisions to ban players (see 1602, 1611, 1612), and the dismissal in 1622 (see next entry) the marginal 'x' mark probably indicates cancellation or non-payment.

1622

SCLA; [BRU 4/2](#)

f [1] (*Expenses*)

...

payd to the kinges players for not playinge in the hall --- vjs

...

Maidstone, Kent; Kent History and Library Centre; [U 269 Q24](#)

p 8 (28 May)

(in left margin) *Officium domini*

Contra Iohn Allen / *presentat ex gardianis* for dauncing the morris in Eveninge prayer tyme on the feast day of phillip and Iacob: *Comparuit personaliter* et fassus est *Culpabilem* and saith that he will neuer Comitt the lyke vnde *dimissis* iniunxit ei that the next sabath day to doe publicklye confes his fault in the Church of Stratford before the whole Congregacion and promise there amendement from henceforth sub *penam excommunicatis*

Contra Iohannem Rickitts / *presentat pro consimilis* / *Citatis personaliter per Coates* et quia non *comparuit* *Idem excommunicatet*. *Absoluit*

Contra williamum plymmer / *pro consimili* / *comparuit* et fassus est & is enioyned as aboue with Iohn Allen. *dominus* iniunxit ei vt supra cum Allen sub *penam excommunicatis*

Contra Humphriam [Taylor] "Bragner" / *pro consimili* / *comparuit personaliter* he is enioyned vt supra cum Allen sub *penam excommunicatis*

Contra [Iohannem] Thomam Page / pro consimili / Comparuit personaliter & he is enioyed vt supra cum Alle

Contra ffranciscum palmer servant to Iohn Hobbins of Shatterie for being the maid marrian / non Citetur Denno in proximo Curiam / procetur

...

p 14 (19 July)

(in left margin) Shatterie

Officium domini contra Johennam Allen / he was enioyed to confes his fault for dauncing the morris in tyme of divine service and to desist from the lyke offence he hath not confessed his fault for the former and since that tyme he hath committed the lyke offence againe./ Citetur personaliter Per Coates facta siue, /preconiyat publica et quia non Comparuit Idem excommunicauet postea Comparuit, and is enioyed that the next sabaoth day presently after the Reading of the Gospell he confes his falt in the middle Ile that the congregacion may take notice of it &c and to certifie &c

Contra Williamum plymmer / pro consilimilis /

Contra Humphrium Browne / pro consimili / procetur

p 15

(in left margin) Shatterie

Officium domini Contra Thomam Page / pro consimili

...

p 22 (27 July)

...

officium domini Contra Iohennem Rickettes et Williamum plainer / dominus decrevit eos excommunicatis in ecclesiam publicam in proximo diem sabati absoluit  
Plainer is enioyed with browne

Contra Humphrium Browne / ad redendum rationem quare non fecit penitentiam / Comparuit personaliter et dominus iniunxit ei ad faciendum penitentiam to morrow vppon a forme stoole or matt, which must be sett to that purpose iust before the pulpit in the midle Ile betweene the end of the last psalme and the beginning of the sermon secundum formam scheduli &c sub penam excommunicatis

Contra thomam page / pro consimili / Comparuit et dominus iniunxit ei vt supra cum browne / sub penam excommunicatis

Contra Iohannem Allan / Citatus personaliter per Coates et non Comparuit Idem excommunicatet.

p 33 (24 October)

...

*Contra Iohannem Harding musition / pro consimili / denno in proximo procetur*

**Note:** 'pro consimili' is explained by the first entry on p 33, in which one Thomas Hornebye is cited for not sending his children and servant to be catechised. Three others are cited for the same offence, before John Harding.

1623

SCLA; [BRU 4/2](#)

f [7v] (*Expenses*)

...

more to mr. Buttler for the Kinges trumpeters --- 000-02

...

1624

Maidstone, Kent; Kent History and Library Centre; [U 269 Q24](#)

p 49 (22 May)

...

*Contra Stephanum lea / presented for singing profane and filthie songs scoffing & deriding of ministers and the profession of Religion. Comparuit personaliter et dominus admonuit eum quod ab hinc disistat a consimili quod promisset*

...

p 51 (16 July)

...

(in left margin) *Citatus*

(in left margin) *Excommunicatus*

(in left margin) *Certificat made ./*

*Stephanum Lea de eadum for singing of prophaine songs.*

*Struque fecit filea predictum Octauit Dictum lea dominus trina vno praut predicta a pronunciauit dictum Cinlinacem tempe predictum excorandum &/ postea ad meridio proximo Lea et dominus iniunxit ei ad praestandum penitenciam sequendam he is before Sunday come seuenight next to repare to mr Bailie mr Alderman y<sup>e</sup> Churchwardens of Stratford and so procure them to come into some convenient place by mr Bailie to be appointed and there to confesse before them according to ye forme of the schedle et certificauit ad cer<..>*

...

1625

SCLA; [BRT 15/1](#), item 62

*single sheet*

...

In the hall

...

one payre virginalles vj Cushins two vialles one case one Citterne one Recorder & flute & musick books --- j li. xs 0

...

**Note:** Under the year 1633 an entry was pointed out by J. R. Mulryne, who wrote “An untraced 1633 record has been said to refer ‘to the players at Christtide by Mr Aldermans appointment’.” (*The guild and guild buildings of Shakespeare’s Stratford: society, religion, school and stage* [Farnham, Surrey, 2012] Appendix 2, p 201). Professor Mulryne wrote to me privately, “I am convinced that this 1633 record is a ghost. I have searched for it repeatedly, at least three times, without luck. I don’t even believe that there are accounts for that year.” Further, Robert Bearman, formerly Chief Archivist at the SCLA, has searched for the reference, as have I, similarly without discovering it. Two very helpful and thorough research assistants, Christiana Panagioti and Michelle Michel, have also searched for it without success. After five thorough searchers have independently come up with nothing, I’m prepared to agree that this 1633 record is indeed a ghost. Whatever may be the origin of this purported reference remains unclear.

1633-4

TNA; PRO; [SP 16/24](#)

ff 19-19v (*Proceedings against Thomas Wilson*)

...

Officium duorum contra Thomam Willsin de Stratford super Auon  
in Comitatu warwici do Ryde Coke

Hee was ordered to retourne Certificate from the Lord Bishop of Worcester of his Conformity this day. This day inasmuch as the Lord Arch Bishopp of Canterbury his Grace reported to the Court that he had receaved a Certificate from the Lord Bishopp of Worcester that Mr. Wilson was inconformable about three yeares since, but how of late hee had beene his Lordship had not heard declard but his Curate had heard from diverse of quality living neare & knowing Mr. Wilson that he was conformable in nothing, and the said Mr. Wilson present in Court being demanded whither hee had read or could read his Maiesties declaracion touching Lawfull recreations on Sundayes in his Parish Church, he gaue noe other aunswere but yat it had beene read, it was thought fitt & soe ordered by the Court that this Cause | should goe on, and that the Promoter should speed his Comission which is now graunted in the vacacion after Trinity Tearme next & retourne all his proofes by the second Court day of Michallmas Tearme next. /

...

## Document Descriptions

### *Chamberlains’ Accounts*

SCLA; BRU 2/1; 1554--1594; English; paper with parchment fly-leaves from an unidentified ms; i + 194 + i; paginated throughout in ink on right-hand pages (odd numbers only), 1--387; 310 mm x 210 mm; bound in leather, title on spine 'Council-Books of the Corporation of Stratford-on-

Avon. Vol A'.

SCLA; BRU 4/12; 1590--97; English; paper; i + 55 leaves; 280 mm x 210 mm; paginated in pencil, 1--43 (blank after p 43); bound in parchment covers, title on front (in ink, later hand):

'Chamberlains' Accounts for 1590 1591 1592 1593 1594 1596 1597'

**Note:** A set of official copies of original chamberlains' accounts; many (but not all) of these original accounts are in BRU 4/1. The accounts were rendered in January each year, covering the previous accounting year which ended on 21 December. Complicating this, the bailiffs' term of office began and ended on Michaelmas (29 September), so each annual accounts potentially included entries related to two bailiffs.

SCLA; BRU 4/1; 1585--1620; English; paper; collection of sets of individual chamberlains accounts; approx 400 mm x 155 mm (size of leaves varies from set to set); paginated in pencil, 1--323; bound in marbled boards with leather covers and spine; title on spine 'Borough of Stratford Chamberlain's Accounts 1585-1619'.

SCLA; BRU 4/2; 1622-49; English with some Latin; paper, except that some collections of accounts have surviving parchment covers; collection of sets of individual chamberlains accounts; approx 400 mm x 155 mm (size of leaves varies from set to set); i + 207 + i; bound in red marbled boards with brown leather corners and spine; title on spine 'Borough of Stratford Chamberlain's Accounts 1622-47.'

SCLA, BRU 5/1/19, no 38; 1557-1687; English with some Latin; paper; iv + 198 + iii; blank leaves or stubs onto which items are pasted; 330 mm x 260 mm; unfoliated; item is 290 mm x 225 mm; pasted onto guard stub, f [11]; one of a collection of 597 items of various sizes pasted on rectos of leaves of guard book; items are numbered in ink, crossed out and renumbered in pencil; bound in blue marbled boards, brown leather spine; title on spine "Borough of Stratford Receipts and Vouchers before 1750 Vol 1."

### ***Corporation Minutes and Orders***

SCLA; BRU 2/2; 1593--1628; Minute book; English; paper; ii + 265 + ii; paginated throughout in ink on right-hand pages (odd numbers only), 1--530; 300 mm x 210 mm; bound in leather, title on spine 'Council-Books of the Corporation of Stratford-on-Avon. Vol B'.

SCLA; BRU 3/2; 1612; English; parchment; 2 mbb, joined at bottom; unfoliated; mb [2] within mb [1], occurs first; mb [1] 660 mm x 785 mm, mb [2] 630 mm x 785 mm; written on one side.

### ***Collection of Printed Statutes***

SCLA; BRU 16/3; 159?-1606; English with some Latin; paper; 221 leaves unnumbered (many leaves missing); approximately 290 mm x 190 mm; a set of five separate books in chronological order bound together into parchment volume; each book has its own title-page and date along with table of contents and list of missing items (first book title missing because of damage so beginning date cannot be ascertained); but each book divided into chapters, and the chapter

numbers appear at the top of pages instead of page numbers; item is marginale on Book 4, Chapter 7, f [11v]. Volume is bound in pale brown leather binding; damaged and warped; no title.

### ***Bridge Wardens' Accounts***

SCLA; BRT 2/1; 1524--c. 1715; English and Latin; paper; ii + 117 + ii; 300 mm x 205 mm; modern pagination in pencil, 1--234; some remounting and repairs to leaves; bound in yellow leather with original parchment covers glued to front and back covers; title on rear: 'Bryge buk and rente roll received xvj die Ianuarij anno 1597'; modern title on spine: 'Bridge Book'.

### ***Guild of the Holy Cross Accounts and Records***

#### **Account of John Mayel and Geoffrey Walker, proctors**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/23; 1408-9; Latin; parchment; single membrane; approx. 770 mm x 210 mm (very damaged and blackened at top; damaged at left side and by several holes; repaired).

#### **Account of John Leeke, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/26; 1411--17; Latin; parchment; four serial membranes; 700 mm x 255 mm + 750 mm x 255 mm + 755 mm x 255 mm + 200 mm x 255 mm; mbs 3 and 4 written over onto dorse; mb 1 very damaged at right side, and membranes severely stained and faded.

#### **Account of John Blaunfron, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/35; 1424--5; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 580 mm x 235 mm.

#### **Account of Hugh Salford, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/38; 1427--8; Latin; parchment; four serial membranes, originally sewn but now glued and mounted on modern parchment; 450 mm x 310 mm + 515 mm x 310 mm + 555 mm x 310 mm + 530 mm x 310 mm; some damage at left side (repaired); mb 4 written over onto dorse.

#### **Account of Reginald Fletcher, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/76; 1464-5; Latin; parchment; single membrane; approx. 700 mm x 340 mm (damaged at top and on left side; repaired and mounted on modern parchment).

#### **Account of Roger Pagette, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/82; 1469--70; Latin; parchment; two serial membranes, originally sewn; 725 mm x 305 mm + 735 mm x 305 mm; very damaged by series of holes in mb; repaired and mounted on modern parchment).

#### **Account of Roger Pagette, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/84; 1471-2; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 765 mm x 330 mm; written on one side.

**Account of John Clopton, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/85; 1472-3; Latin; parchment; single membrane; approx. 1015 mm x 280 mm (very damaged; most of right side cut away, and several holes in mb; repaired and mounted on modern parchment).

**Account of Roger Pagette, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/86; 1473-4; Latin; parchment; single membrane; approximately 790 mm x 370 mm (very damaged at top and repaired by backing with modern parchment); written on one side.

**Account of William Smith and John Corvesor, proctors**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/89; 1477--8; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 760 mm x 310 mm; written on one side; repaired and mounted on modern parchment.

**Account of Richard Buggy, master**

SCLA: BRT 1/3/105; 1495-6; Latin; parchment; 2 serial membranes; 250 mm x 360 mm + 300 mm x 360 mm; written on both sides; damaged at right edge, and 2 holes at left edge (repaired).

**Guild Register of Admissions**

SCLA: BRT 3/1; 1406-1535; English and Latin; paper; ii + 178 + ii; 390 mm x 270 mm; original foliation (Roman numerals) to clxxvii; bound in brown calf with brass clasps; no title; contains names of officers and lists of entry-fines, arranged annually.

***Other Records*****Diocese of Worcester Visitation Act Book**

Worcester, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service; BA 2760; 1613-17; Latin and English; paper, 310 mm x 195 mm; 444 folios, foliated 1-444 (modern); repaired and rebound in blue cloth with red leather spine (1963); title on spine "Visitation Act Book 1613-17"

**Inventory of Ann Lloyd, widow**

Worcester; Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service; 1617, No 106; English and Latin; paper and parchment; 4 separate leaves comprise (1) the will; English; paper, single sheet, 390mm x 305 mm; written on one side only; dated 4 March 1616/7; (2) Letters of administration; Latin; parchment, single membrane, 180 mm x 270 mm; written on one side; dated 1 June 1617; (3) sworn statement; Latin; paper, single sheet, 195 mm x 305 mm; written on one side and endorsed; dated 16 June 1617; (4) inventory; English; paper, 2 leaves stitched together serially, 370 mm x 150 mm and 375 mm x 150 mm; dated 14 May 1617

### **Bill of Complaint and Answer**

Kew; The National Archives; Public Record Office, STAC 8/26/10; 1619-20; English; parchment; 2 mbb; 245 mm x 356 mm and 670 mm x 800 mm; sewn at left with modern PRO ticket; mb 1 endorsed 'Reynaldis Ale Attorn *Regis*, item 2 endorsed 'Mich 17<sup>o</sup> *Jacobi Regis*. Veneris vicesimo sexto Novembris Anno Decimo septimo *Jacobi Regis*.'

### **Stratford Peculiar Court Book**

Maidstone, Kent, Kent History and Library Centre, U229 Q24; 24 May 1622-May 1625; Latin and English; paper; sewn quire, 71 pages; 310 mm x 200 mm; paginated in modern pencil (lower corners), 1-71; no cover.

### **Inventory of Leonard Kempson**

SCLA; BRT 15/1, item 62; 1625; English and Latin; paper; single sheet; 325 mm x 150 mm; written on one side and endorsed on verso, 'Inv M Kempson 1625'; mounted in a guard book bound in brown leather, title on spine 'Borough of Stratford upon Avon Miscellaneous Documents Vol 1.'

### **Proceedings in the Court of High Commission**

Kew; The National Archives: Public Record Office, SP 16/324, f. 19; 1633-4; English; remainder of description not available; microfilm only could be consulted because of fragility of the original.