

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1581-1582

Edited by Sarah Carpenter

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1581-82

Treasurer's Accounts [E21/62](#)

1 January 1581 – 1 March 1582

January 1581

fol 110^v

...

Item To a trumpetour that past furth of Edinburgh in cumpanie of the noble men that convoyed the erle of mortoun to dumbartane for the said trumpetouris hors hyire and expenss

vj li xijij s iiiij d

...

Note: Morton, the last Regent of James VI's minority, had been accused of complicity in the murder of Darnley, arrested and sent to imprisonment in Dumbarton in December 1580.

fol 111^v

...

Item aucht eln of quhyit sating to be ane slip to his maiesties masking claitis the tyme of the erle of murrayes mariage price of the eln [vijij] sex pund. Inde

xlvij li

Note: This and the following items fall within a general list of clothing for the King. The wedding was the marriage of Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of the murdered Regent Murray, to James Stewart, son of Lord Doune. In default of male heirs, he became by the marriage the 2nd Earl of Murray, the 'bonnie earl' of the later ballad. Evidence of elaborate wedding celebrations with a water siege and combat sports, in which James also took part, appears in contemporary correspondence: see Anna J Mill, *Mediaeval Plays in Scotland* (Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1927) p. 55 n3.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Item four eln of laun theirto price of ye eln iiij li Inde | xvj li |
| Item four elnis of cammarage to the said vse at iiij li x s the eln Inde <i>fol 112^r</i> | xvij li |
| Item sex elnis of quhyit taffatie of the coird to be ane of his hienes maister staiblairis ane garmonth at xl s the eln Inde | xij li |
| Item fyve eln of quhyite taffatie of the coird to be ane of his maiesties peadges ane garmonth price of the eln xl s Inde | x li |
| Item xxvij elnis lyning fustiane to the saidis claithis at x s the eln Inde | xij li x s |
| Item thre elnis of stiff buckrum to lyne the heidis of the saidis play claithis at viij s the elne Inde | xxiiij s |
| Item ane bolt of silkin rybbenis to his hienes masking claithis contening lxvij elnis | vij li x s |
| Item four vnce of quhyit silk to the saidis claithis at xvij s the vnce Inde | ijj li xij s |
| ... | |

Note: The three items at the top of f. 112^r are linked together. They are not identified as mask clothes, but the white taffeta (unsuitable for daily wear), lack of identification of the type of garments, and placing within a list of the king's clothing rather than expenses for servitors, suggest they are for the same mask. Notice this mask follows the 'teaching of his hienes to dance' the previous month.

February 1581

fol 114^v

...

Item To Robert drummond trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis of decembir Januare and februare

xx li

...

fol 116^r

(Expenses on messengers)

...

Item To Richart bynning messinger and twa trumpetouris To proclaim the saidis Lettres at the mercat croce of edinburgh vpoun the mercat day

xx s

...

Note: These are among letters sent out as a 'generale proclamatioun' across the country by heralds, messengers and trumpeters calling all between the ages of sixteen and sixty to be ready for war. The alarm was in response to fears of war with England following the imprisonment of Morton.

April 1581*fol 126^r*

...

Item quhen his maiestie raid to the sandis of leith to his pastyme at twa sindrie
tymes to the Warkman that kaist the fowlsies of leith iiiij crownis of the sone at
xlivij s the pece Inde

vij li xvij s

...

Note: This pastime was a running at the ring, often held on the sands of Leith. On a previous occasion
the English envoy Randolph had commented on James's good performance for a child (CSPS 5, 611)

Translation: fowsie = ditch.

Item be his maiesties speciale command at his ryding to seytoun for thre rynges
to the potence

iiij li

....

Translation: Potence = part of the structure for running at the ring.

fol 129^r

....

Item To ane herald and a trumpetour & with thame twa witness passand with
lettres to charge the hous of thomptalloun To be randerit within xlviij houris
vnder the pane of treassoun Remaning their be the space of four dayes

vj li

....

Note: Tantallon Castle was demanded from the Earl of Angus, a supporter of the Earl of Morton.

May 1581*fol 131^r*

Item To fergall og Irische poet be his maiesties precept as the samin with his
acquittance producit vpoun compt at lenth beris

j^c [xxxij li vj s viij d] lib

Note: for the Irish poet Fearghal Ó Mac an Bhaird see Pádraig Ó Macháin 'Three early poems by Fearghal
Ó Mac an Bhaird, with notes on the duanaire of Domhnall Mac Suibhne', *Celtica* 27 (2013), 38-54.

Item To alexander ȝoung for certane sowmes debursit be him at his maiesties
directioun in certane auffairis of his hienes pastyme Conforme to ane precept.

As the samin with his acquittance producit vpoun compt proportis

lvij li

...

Note: Generalised mention of 'pastyne' often includes such quasi-dramatic activity as
running at the ring, along with hunting and other sports.

fol 132^r

Item be his maiesties precept to the chirurgianis for the hailing of ambrois
galloway Lamit of his ryt arme be schuting ane gun in the castell of Edinburgh
at his maiesties entrie in *edinburgh* As the said precept productit vpoun
compt beris

xl li

...

Note: The celebration of James's royal entry into Edinburgh, took place on 17 October 1579. For accounts of the pageantry see Mill, *Mediaeval Plays*, pp. 192-94.

Item To *William ramsay* trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis of
marche aprile and maij

xx li

fol 133^v

...

Item To Richart binning *William foirsyth* & *William porteous* messengeris and twa
trumpetouris with thame that passit to the mercat croce of *edinburgh* To proclaim
the *Reuocatioun* maid be his maiestie

xxx s

...

Note: a monarch proceeding to adulrule made a ceremonial revocation of gifts, grants etc made
during his or her minority.

June 1581

fol 136^r

...

Item be the kingis maiesties precept to be distributit vpoun certane aigit and
decayit men to the nomber of fyvetein according to the ȝeiris of his maiesties aige
As followis.

Item for fyve scoir twa elnis blew claih to be fyvetein blew gownis to the said
fyvetein aigit men at xx s the eln Inde

j^cij li

Item for lynning hardin and buckrum furnessit theirto

ijj li vj s viij d

Item for making of the saidis gownis ilkane of thame vj s viij d Inde

v li

Item to euerie ane of the said aigit [men] fyvetein men xv s in ane lytill purs
conforme to the said precept

xj li ij s vj d

...

Item To ane pyper and ane ȝoung boy his sone that playit in *dalkey*th vpoun
sonday the xj day of Junij fra the Kirk to the castell befoir his hienes

xx s

Note: Dalkeith is now home to Esmé Stewart, James's cousin and favourite recently arrived from France. Performance-related expense is more evident during Stewart's residence in Scotland.

Item To the said ȝoung boy that played vpoun the swasche be his hienes command a syde to it of his awin Leveray As followis.

fol 136^v

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Item for ten quarteris of reid stemming to be him ane cot at xl s the eln Inde | v li x s |
| Item for half ane eln of ȝallow stemming to bar the said coit with | xxij s |
| Item for ane vnce & half of silk theirto | xxvij s |
| Item for making theirof | xij s iiij d |
| ... | |

fol 138^r

(*Expenses for messengers*)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| ... | |
| Item To ane harrauld and ane trumpetour passand the secund tyme To charge ye hous of thomptalloun to be randeret within xxiiij houris nixt eftir the charge vnder the pane of treassoun and <i>with</i> thame twa witness | vj li |
| Item To Richart bynning messinger and ane trumpetour passand to the mercat croce of Edinburgh with <i>lettres</i> To proclaim the same aganis seditious personis speakaris in <i>favouris</i> of the erle of mortoun | xij s iiij d |

fol 138^v

| | |
|---|-------|
| ... | |
| Item To the harrauldis officiaris and trumpetouris that proclamit the parliament at the mercat croce of edinburgh to be haldin the xxij day of august | xxx s |

August 1581

fol 148^r

| | |
|--|------|
| ... | |
| Item be his maiesties precept To williame m ^c kgegane clerschoman As the samin with the said williames acquittance producit vpoun compt beris | x li |
| ... | |

Translation:clerschoman = harper (clarsach man)

fol 149^v

...

Item To m^cnab trumpetour for his quarter wags of the monethis of June Julij and
august xx li

...

October 1581

fol 155^v

...

Item gevin to gilt his maiesties brydillis and the Irne wark theirof with fyne gold
aganis the parliament twa angell nobillis price yeirof viij li xiij s

Item to gilt his maiesties stirrop Irnes befoir his maiestie raid to the parliament xij li

Note: For parliamentary ceremonial see Introduction.

Item for expenss of tymmer daillis Irne wark and vtheris necesserris theirto
appertaining wrocht in the grete hall of the palace of halierudehous at the tyme of
the creatioun of my Lord Duccie. The erlis of arrane gowrie orknay and mortoun
and sundrie vtheris gentilmen in rank of knightis etc as the perticulare producit
vpoun compt beris ij^c v li xj s iiij d

Note: Esmé Stewart was invested as Duke of Lennox, the first Duke to be created in Scotland, on 8 August 1581.

fol 156^r

Item be his maiesties precept To Williame ramsay robert maxwell Robert Drummond
and James savoy trumpetouris as followis

Note: The following extensive expenses on trumpeters' clothing and James's elaborate saddles seem, by their placing, to be either for the parliament or for the investiture of Esmé Stewart, although this is not specifically noted. It suggests lavish ceremonial, although McNab has had a similar outfit a year or so previously. The saddles are clearly designed for display, even if not for these specific ceremonies.

Item To ilkane of thame sevin eln half eln of reid cramesie stemmyng to be their
clokis coittis and breikis at iiij li xv s the eln Inde j^cxlij li x s

Item twa elnis half eln of ȝallow weluet to bordour euerie ane of their coittis
clockis and breikis foirsaidis at ix li x s the eln Inde lxxxxv li

Item to euerie ane of their garmondis four vnce of ȝallow silk at xvij s the vnce
Inde xiiij li viij s

Item To euerie ane of their saidis garmondis iiij dosane of buttonis at iijs iiij d
the dosane Inde v li vj s viij d

Item To euerie ane of thame ane dosane of silk pointis at xv s the *dosane*
Inde

iiij li

Item To euerie ane of thame thre elnis and ane quarter of quhyit fustiane to be
their doublettis extending in the haill to xij eln at xxvj s viij d the eln Inde

xvij li vj s viij d

Item to euerie ane of their doublettis twa eln of lynning to lyne thame with
price of the eln iiij s iiiij d Inde

liij s iiiij d

Item to their doublettis *four* eln of stentyng hardin at viij s the eln Inde

xxxij s

fol 156^v

Item To euerie ane of their doublettis half pund of caddes In the haill to twa
pund at xij s iiiij d the pund Inde

xxvj s viij d

Item to euerie ane of their doublettis *ijj dosane* of buttonis at iiij s iiiij d the
dosane extending in the haill to xij *dosane* Inde

xl s

Item to euerie ane of thame ane hat *with* ane string of silk theiro price
of the pece xl s Inde

viij li

Item to euerie ane of the saidis four trumpetouris ane eln of reid and ane
vther of ȝallow taffatie to be bendis to their trumpettis in the haill to viij eln
price of the eln xxxvj s Inde

xij li viij s

Item To be beltis and frenȝeis to euerie ane of their saidis trumpettis sex
vnce of silk extending in the haill to xxiiij vnce price of the vnce xx s Inde

xxiiij li

Item be his maiesties precept to m^cnab trumpetour As followis

Item To him sevin eln of reid crames*ie* stemming to be his clock coit and
breikis at iiiij li xv s the eln Inde

xxxij li v s

Item To bordour his coit cloik and breikis twa elnis and ane half of ȝallow
welwet at ix li the eln Inde

xxij li x s

Item four vnce of silk to the saidis claithis at xvij s the vnce Inde

ijj li xij s

fol 157^r

Item thre eln of quhyit fustiane to be his doublet at xxvj s viij d the eln Inde

iiij li

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Item twa eln of lynn ^{ing} to lyne his doublet at vj s viij d the eln Inde | xij s iiij d |
| Item ane eln of stentyng theirto | vijj s |
| Item iiij dosane of Buttonis to the said doublet at iiij s iiiij d the dosane Inde | x s |
| Item iiij dosane of Buttonis to his mandeill at iiij s iiiij d the dosane Inde | xijj s iiiij d |
| Item for half ane pund of caddes to his doublet | vj s viij d |
| Item ane dosane of silk pointis to the said doublet | xv s |
| Item ane hat with ane string of silk | xl s |
| Item twa eln of taffat ^{ie} theirof ane reid ane vther ȝallow to his trumpet at xxxvj s the eln Inde | iiij li xij s |
| Item To be frenzeis and belt to his said trumpet sex vnce of reid and ȝallow silk at xx s the vnce Inde | vj li |

Item be his maiesties precept for the stuff furnessit [®]to ye [®] welwet sadillis.
harnessing graith and vther furnessing particularelie heireftir following furnessit
To his hienes be Robert abircromby his maiesties saidlair As the said precept
and the particulare compt in maner eftir speacifiit schawin and product voun
compt proportis That is to say: —

fol 157^v

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Item xvj hankis of gold and siluer to be knappis frattis and fass to [the said] ^{‘ye’} harnessing [and the] of the blew fute mantill of welwet that come out of france & cordonis to the trusky price of ilk hank l i Inde | xl li |
| Translation: trusky = unknown. | |
| Item sevin vnce and ane half of pasementis and bissettis of siluer price of the vnce iiij li Inde | xxx li |
| Item four vnce of quhyte silk to sew on the said cordonis at xvj s ye vnce Inde | iiij li iiiij s |
| Item xvij vnce half vnce of blew silk to be the haill fass <i>is</i> to the harnessing and to mix the cordoun of the trusky price of the vnce xvj s Inde | xiiij li xvj s |
| Item for gilt buckillis plattonis pendacis and nailis to serue the said harnessing | xij li x s |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Item to the broadstare for making of the said knappis frattis fassis and cordin to the trusky price of all | v li |
| Item for aucht elnis buckrum to be four pockis to hald the said fute mantillis & harnessingis clein price of the eln x s Inde | iiij li |
| Item for Lumbart paper to keip the pasementis of the haill fut mantellis vnspilt | xij s iiiij d |
| Item twa spungis to the said fute mantillis <i>with</i> twa birse rubberis price of all | xl s |
| Item four marykin skynnis to be the skirtis to his hienes twa frenche sadillis at lv s the pece Inde | xj li |
| Item <i>four</i> elnis and ane half of blak welwet to be the saittis & bordouris theirof price of the eln xij li Inde | lii li |

Note: Sum not quite correct, should be liij li.

fol 158^r

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Item viij vnce half vnce of blak silk frenȝeis to pas through the tua saittis & about the same in all pairtis at xxj s ye vnce Inde | vij li x s |
| Item aucht 'vnce' of blak silk to scheuet the bordouris to steik the saittis and sew the haill twa sadillis at xij s iiiij d the vnce Inde | v li vj s viij d |
| ... | |
| Item thre elnis and ane half of reid Inglis stemmyng to be twa coveringis to hald the twa sadillis clein at xl s the eln Inde | vij li |
| ... | |

fol 159^r

| | |
|--|----------------|
| ... | |
| Item To ane Boy passand of edinburgh with clois <i>lettres</i> to dunnone to the erlis of ergile and eglington To be in <i>edinburgh</i> at his hienes vpoun the xij day of october at the <i>conventioun</i> befoir the <i>parliament</i> | liij s iiiij d |
| ... | |

Note: Many other letters sent elsewhere 'to the same effect'. In January letters are sent to various nobles 'the wedder being stormye and evill to stay thame in cumming to Edinburgh to the *conventioun* appointit their at the xij Januare' (fol 170^v).

fol 160^r

Item To Richart bynning messinger and ane trumpetour with him passand to
the mercat croce of edinburgh. Chargeing all maner of man haveand actioun

or sute befoir the parliament to present their supplicationis befoir the
Lordis of articlis

xijij s iiij d

...

Note: Lords of the Articles: a parliamentary committee chosen by the three Estates to draft legislation.

November 1581

fol 161^r

Item be his hienes precept To Williame hutsoun maister balladean. As the
samin with the said Williames acquittance producit vpoun compt beris

j^c li

....

fol 161^v

Item To ffrancis Savoy trumpetour for his quarter wages of the monethis of
septembir october and november

xx li

.....

December 1581

fol 165^r

Item be his maiesties speciale command to the droich in dalkeyth twa angell
nobillis price yeirof

vijj li

...

February 1582

fol 172^v

...

Item be his maiesties precept to thomas hutsoun for furnessing of
necessarie apparrell and wappinnis [as is] [®]to a [®] +mask dans as is +
requisite [fo] As the said precept & his acquittance producit vpoun
compt beris

lxvj li xijij s iiij d

Note: This item is written in a smaller hand, apparently squeezed in at the bottom of the page
perhaps later. Costume is similar to that provided for the mask of December 1579 (fol 86^v).

fol 173^v

...

Item To Robert maxwell trumpetour for his Wages of his quarter of
december Januare and februare

xx li

Item To James hunteare glaissinwrycht for the furnessing of glas making
and mending of glaissin windois in the dansing chalmer the Wardrobe and
lang galrie in the palace of halierudehous As the perticulare product
vpoun compt beris

xliij li j s iiiij d

• • •

MANUSCRIPT DESCRIPTIONS

Accounts of the Treasurer of Scotland

The records presented here, covering a period from 1579 to 1585, are drawn from the *Exoneratio* of five sets of accounts, most of which are either missing from the main run (E21) or too fragile to consult. The E22 'Leven and Melville' series used here instead are a duplicate set which can be traced back to Sir Robert Melville, treasurer-clerk and treasurer-depute at various times between 1582 and 1596. William, Lord Ruthven (later Earl of Gowrie), the prime mover of the Ruthven Raid, held the office of Treasurer from 1571 until his fall and execution in April 1584, and Melville must have taken these papers over from him. They 'were simply duplicates of the official set in the exchequer records, which the treasurer or his clerk retained for reference and as the formal discharge of his intromissions'.²

The accounts use old style dating, the year running from 1 April. All dates here are presented in new style, year beginning 1 January.

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

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

E21/62 1 January 1581 – 1 March 1582

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E21/62. 1581-82. Latin and Scots. Paper. Now bound in one volume with E21/61, 1580-81: iii + 1-73 + 74-180 + iii. 310 x 200 mm. Modern pencil foliation continuous through volume. Regular layout, some display capitals. Folios in generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners. Brown tooled leather binding now showing significant signs of wear, folios beginning to come adrift. Spine: *Compt Thesaur* | 1579 | 1581. Treasurer: William, Earl of Gowrie.