

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1582-1585

Edited by Sarah Carpenter

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1582-83

Treasurer's Accounts [E22/5](#)

1.3.1582-1.5.1583

April 1582

p 80

Item To Williame murray Wallet for bowis and arrowis to his maiestie & certane vther small furnessing maid be him As the perticulare producit vpoun compt beris

xij li x s iiiij d

...

Item be his hienes precept to Williame mane speir maker for speiris bilȝeart bullis and bilȝeartis furnessit be him As the samin producit vpoun compt beris

xix li viij s viij d

...

p 81

Item be his maiesties speciale command to francis masse inglisman

v li

Item to the Inglis schameris in Strueling be his hienes speciale command

x li

Item be his maiesties speciale command to ane lytle boy that played on the swasche in alloway

xij s iiiij d

...

May 1582*p 93*

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

xx li

...

June 1582*p 112*

...

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

ix li

...

p 113

...

Item be his hienes precept to *Maister* peter ȝoung *Maister* Elimosinare sex scoir
elnis of blew clayth to be gownis to sextein aigit men according to the ȝeiris of his
hienes aige price of ye eln xvij s Inde

j^cvij li

Item aucht elnis bukrome theirto *price*

xl s

Item xvj pursis and in ilk purs xvj s Inde

xij li iiij s

Item for the cariage of the saidis gownis fra edinburgh to Strueling

l s

July 1582*p 120*

...

Item be his hienes speciale command to ane swascher and pyper in drink
siluer at tullibardin

xxvj s viij d

...

p 123

....

Item be his hienes speciale command to ane Inglis boy that maid pastyme
to his *majestie* at perth

xij li vj s viij d

...

Note: Dramatic and para-dramatic activity is often included under the generalised mention of 'pastyme'.

Cp 'To the bairnis makeris of the pastyme to the kingis majestie', *Extracts from the Records of
the Burgh of Glasgow, 1573–175*, ed. J.D. Marwick (Edinburgh, 1876), I.470 (1581-2).

p 125

...

Item be his hienes precept to *Williame duncan* spuwnemaker for spungis and Rackettis furnessit to his maiestie as the *samin with* his acquittance product vpoun *compt* beris

xl li

...

Item at ane vther tyme to the said ynglis boy. for making of pastyme to his hienes at his maiesties speciale *command*

vj li xij s iiij d

...

p 127

...

Item be his maiesties precept to James fergusoun and Johnne forrestare bowaris for bowis and arrowis furnessit to his maiestie and gevin Seinȝour franck As the said precept with their acquittance product vpoun *compt* beris

xxj li

Item Omittit be the comptare in his last compt of the four scoir ane the allouance grantit to his hienes violaris ȝeirlie to by thame clething

ij^c li

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

ij^c li

...

August 1582

p 142

...

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

xx li

...

p 143

...

Item the xv of august at his maiesties speciale *command* at his depairting furth of blair in athole to balloch to hieland menstrallis

x li

Note: On 23 August 1582 James was detained by a group of nobles hostile to Esmé Stewart, Duke of Lennox, led by the Earl of Gowrie, in the 'Ruthven Raid'. He was held away from Lennox and largely from Edinburgh for some months, until he made his escape to St Andrews in July 1583. The Treasurer's Accounts show a decrease in entertainment activity during this time. During James's detention he agreed to the banishment of Lennox to France, where he died in May 1583.

September 1582*p 156*

...

Item Be his maiesties precept to Robert Stevin poet as the same with his
acquittance product vpoun compt beris

xl li

...

November 1582*p 193*

...

Item to m^cnab trumpetour for his [wages] ordiner wages of ye monethis of
septembir october and november

xx li

...

December 1582*p 210*Item be his maiesties precept To thomas fowlis goldsmith for tablettis and ringis
set with dyamontis and rubeis and vtheris pretious stanis and braislettis and vtheris
goldsmith wark furnessit to his hienes to be gevin in new ȝeir giftis As the perticulare
with the precept product vpoun compt beris Extending to thre hundredth fyve
crownis and ane half being convertit in money at l s the croun Indevij^clxiiij li xv s

...

February 1583*p 229*

...

Item to Robert maxwell trumpetour for his ordiner wages of ye monethis of
decembir Januare and februare

xx li

*p 232**(Payments to messengers)*

...

Item to Robert octerburne messinger passand with lettres to the mercat croces of
Edinburgh Lynlythgw Strueling glasgw Lanark renfrew and dumbartane / Beirand
that their wes ane famous lybell put in the rowme within the Kirk of edinburgh quhair
the provest baillies and counsale sittis in tyme of sermone directit on the bak to the
saidis provest and baillies etc baring the dait at dunkeld the xx^tj of septembir last
And as it wer subscryuit be ye handis of sindrie noble men faithfull counsalouris
and gude subiectis quhilk neuer hard nor saw the same of befoir / Anent his
maiesties detentioun in halierudehous and deliuerance of his hienes persoun
in yngland etc

iij li vj s viij d

Note: For this libel see CSPS Vol VI, no.177 (pp. 177-8). Endorsed 'Copy of the libell caste into the seate in the
church of the Provost and baylyffes. Edenbr. xxvij^o Ja. 1582'.

April 1583*p 253*

...

Item be his maiesties speciale command to twa inglis violaris

v li

p 267

...

Item be his hienes precept to Williame treschiour muwsitiane as the same
with his acquittance producti vpoun compt berisj^c li

Note: This has been identified as the French musician Guillaume Tessier who came to Scotland, perhaps under the patronage of Esmé Stewart, but appears to have been offered patronage by Gowrie, at this point still Treasurer, although soon to fall when the King escaped from the Lords Enterprisers of the Ruthven Raid. See Jeanice Brooks, 'Tessier's travels in Scotland and England', *Early Music* 39.2 (2011), pp. 185-194. I am grateful to Dr Brooks for sharing the information in this article with me before publication.

Item be his hienes precept to James hutsoun ane of his maiesties violaris as
the same with his acquittance producti berisiij^c li

...

Note: This is probably connected with Hudson's trip to England, April 1583. See supporting letter from the English ambassador Robert Bowes, to Walsingham, *CSPS VI*, no 435, p. 430. Hudson is identified as a musician, but talked of as someone doing further good for both James VI and Bowes.

p 275

...

Item To Johnne Kynloch and Robert schaw cacheuleris according to their gift
and pactioun maid with thame be my lord thesaurare for furnessing of ballis and
rackettis to his maiestie ȝeirlie quhaireuir his hienes sall repair throuchout ye
haill realme – As their gift producti vpoun compt berisj^c li

...

1583-85***Treasurer's Accounts E22/6****1 May 1583 – 1 May 1585*

Note: William, Earl of Gowrie, the leader of the Ruthven Raid, begins as Treasurer for this accounting period. Following James's escape, Gowrie was finally executed 17.4.1584. The Treasury accounts were signed off after his death by his deputy, Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

May 1583*fol 91^r*

....

Item for mending of the kist to the leopard and for tymmer yeirto

xijj s iij d

....

June 1583

fol 99^r

3

Item To Robert schaw keipair of his hienes caitchpell be his maesties precept. for beiting repairing & mending of his hienes caitchpell in falkland As the said precept producit vpoun compt beris

j^c li

Item to Maister peter ȝoung Maister elimosiner sex scoir sevin elnis half eln of
blew claih to be gownis to sevintein aigit men according to the ȝeiris of his
hienes aige price of *the eln xx s Inde*

j^cxxvij li xs

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

ijj li iiij d

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

xiiij li xiiij s viij d

July 1583

fol 107^v

Item To Richaert bynnyng messenger and ane trumpetour with him passand with
Lettres to the mercat croce of edinburgh To declair the trew deith of vmquhile
esme ducke of Lennox and of his constancie in the professioune of the trew religioune /
As alsua foirwarning all sick as had ballettis – cartellis in poise or ryme etc To distroy
thame sasone as thay mycht easelie cum to thair knawlege vnder the panis contenit
the Lettres / and to the heraldis and trumpetouris being at the said croce **ijij li vj s viij d**

Note: others sent to the same effect to the mercat croces at: Linlithgow, Stirling, Glasgow, Irvine, Ayr, Peebles, Dumfries, Haddington, Duns, Lauder, Selkirk, Jedburgh, 'and vther places neidfull'.

• • •

Note: The series of proclamations below, following James's escape from the Ruthven raiders, indicates his increasing reliance on the proclamation as a performed means of government, and of directing the public behaviour of his subjects.

Item To williame rankelour messinger passand of [ed] perth. with *lettres* to the
mercat croces of dundy *Sanctandrois* couper of fyiff *edinburgh* Strueling and glasgw.
To command and charge all and sindrie his hienes lieges To contein thame selfis in
quietnes vnder [fol 107^v | fol 108^r] goddis feir and his maiesties lauchfull obedience /
and that nane tak vpoun hand to move or provoke truble vnquietnes or fectionis amangis
his hienes subiectis be word or deid or to schaw thame the authouris and instrumentis
of alteraunis & novelties Tending to the disturbing of his maiesties estait eftir ye tennour
of ye saidis *Lettres* vj li xiiij s iijij d

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

erlis lordis barronis knychtis gentilmen & landit men That nane of thame tak vpoun
hand To repair vnto his hienes presens or *within* sex myles to the place of his
residence armit nor *ȝet* accumpaneit with ma personis nor is particularlie speacifiit
in the saidis Lettres

• • •

September 1583

fol 120^r

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

iiij li

November 1583

fol 129^v

• • •

Item be his hienes speciale command to alixander moncreif his maiestes falconare tua dosane pareis bellis souwdit with siluer for halkis price of the pece x s Inde

xij li

Item ane vther dosane of halk bellis price of the pece iiii s Inde

xlvij s

Item and dosane of pareis [of f] chaassis to halkiss

xviii s

Item ane dosane of garnitouris to halk feit

xviii s

Item ane dosane of ledder leischis to halk feit

xviii s

Item half a ne dosane of grete lorane bellis to halkis price of ye pece x s
Inde

iii | i

Item Thre dosane of halk hwidis price of ye pece y s Inde

ix | i

Note: the accounts record extensive expenditure on hunting both with hounds and hawks. These items are unusually elaborate, possibly suggesting some kind of show or display.

fol 131^r

• • •

Item be his hienes speciale command for repairing of the lithis within the abbay
clois and ane potence for ye ring As followis

Note: 'lithis' clearly appears to be written for 'listis' = lists

In Primis aucht grete rwif sparris and for carreing of thame out of leith to ye abbay	liij s iiij d
Item four dosane of sand theirto price of the dosane viij s Inde	xxxij s
Item to thre wrichtis for thair warkmanship	xx s
Item To tua warkmen for redding of the grund and laying on of the sand	x s
Item for naillis to the vpsetting of sindrie of ye vpstanderis and thorteris	vj s viij d

Translation: thorter = a transversespar.

December 1583

fol 140^v

...

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

...

January 1584

fol 144^r

...

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

...

fol 149^v

...

Item be his hienes speciale command to be ane leveray coit to the comendatar
of blantyris fuill fyve elnis of skarlet stemmyng price of ye eln xlviij s Inde xij li

fol 152^v

...

Item To his hienes violaris: for thair allouance to by thame cleathing of the lxxxij
ȝeir comptit ij^c li

March 1584

fol 159^v

...

Item to alexander Stobo messinger and ane trumpetour with him passand *with*
lettres to the mercat croce of *edinburgh* to command and charge all the dependaris
of the erle of mar and *Maister* of glamis to depaert of ye toun within thre *houris*
nixt *yeireftir* eftir ye tennour of ye saidis *lettres* xij s iiiij d

April 1584

fol 163^v

...

Item thre elnis spanis 3allow taffaty to be ane handseinȝe to his hienes price
of the eln v li Inde

xv li

Item ten vnces of crameſſy and 3allow silk price of the vnce xx s Inde

x li

Item for the fassioun of the frenȝe

xx s

Item / for the brodoring / and the siluer and gold with ye warkmanship of his
hienes armes in the handseinȝe

xvij li

Note: The Earls of Mar and Angus, with other members of the Lords Enterprisers, seized the castle of Stirling in April 1584. James mustered an army against them and the castle surrendered, the lords escaping to England. The ceremonial ensigns above, as well as the proclamation below, are related to this assertion of power.

fol 165^r

...

Item be his maiesties precept to the heraldis and ordiner pursewentis for their
awaiting on his hienes seruice the tyme of his enemeis halding & defending of ye
burgh of Striueling as ye said precept producit vpoun compt beris

j^c li

...

fol 167^v

...

Item to Johnne gladstanis ormond pursewent and ane trumpetour with him passand
of edinburgh with *lettres* to ye burgh of Striueling to Command and charge archibald
erle of angus Johnne erle of mar and Remenant yair complices detenaris of ye
toun & castell of Striueling to remove yame selfis furth of ye same vnder ye pane of
tressoun as alsweill ye induellaris & inhabitantis of ye said burgh to remove yame self
out yeirof and noct to help and support yame in ony way

vij li

fol 168^r

...

Item To Richart bynning messenger and ane trumpetour *with* him passand with *lettres*
to the mercat croce of edinburgh commanding and chargeing archibald erle of angus
Johnne erle of mar and thair complices to remoue thame selfis furth of Striueling / As
als inhabiting the surname of the hammiltounis noct to repair within ten myles to
his hienis persoun

xij s

May 1584fol. 178^r

...

Item four elnis of quhyit ribbenis to [the kingis] his hienes rob royell x s

Note: the 'robe royal' seems to have been commonly worn by sixteenth century Scottish monarchs for the Parliament. See Introduction, n18.

Item to the trumpetouris aucht elnis of taffatie reid and 3allow to their trumpettis
price of the eln xl s Inde xvij li

...

fol 183^v

...

Item To cuthbert richertsoun messenger passand of edinburgh with *lettres* to the
mercat croces of ye burrowis of lynlythgw striueling glasgw lanerk dumfreis
kirkcudbrycht yrwing & air To command and charge all and sindrie the nobill
men & vtheris of his maiesties estaitis writhin for to cum to ye parliament /
To cum in quiet and peciable maner with yair ordiner houshaldis etc x li

Note: similar messengers sent to other burghs

...

September 1584fol 203^r

...

Item be his hienes speciale command to alexander moncreif his maiesties
falconer ane dosane of halk huidis fassit with silk of culouris price of the
pece xv s Inde ix li

Item Tua dosane halk huidis price of the pece vij s vj d Inde ix li

Item Tua dosane pareis bellis sowdit with siluer price of the pece x s Inde xij li

Item sex pair of grete lorane bellis price of the pair x s Inde iij li

fol 203^v

...

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

...

October 1584*fol 211^v*

...

Item be his hienes precept to Woutroullier prentare for ye prenting of his
 maiesties buik and ten crownis of drinksiluer In ye haill. As ye same producit
 vpoun compt beris

ij^cxxv li

...

Note this was James's first published work, *The Essays of a Prentise, in the Diunie Art of Poesie*
 (Edinburgh: Thomas Vautrollier, 1584)

November 1584*fol 216^v*

...

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

x s

Translation: vnce = lynx ('ounce')

Item for careing of ane daill to mend the caige thairof

xij d

Item To ane wricht for mending of the same

iiij s iiiij d

Item To Johnne Kers to by four faddome of towis to the said vnce

ij s viij d

Item To ye boy that keipis the [vnce] Lyones to by towis and vthir
 necessaris to hir

xl s

...

Note: A significant part was prepared for a lion in celebrations for the baptism of Prince Henry at Stirling in 1594: 'This Chariot which should haue bene drawn in by a Lyon, (but because his presence might haue brought some feare, to the neerest, or that the sight of the lights and torches might haue commoued his tamenes) It was thought meet, that the Moore should supply that roome' (*A true reportarie of the most triumphant, and royal accomplishment of the baptisme of the most excellent, right high, and mightie prince, Frederik Henry* (Edinburgh: R. Waldegrave, 1594), C4^r). Since other reports claim that this lion was old and toothless, it is possible that the current 'lyones' may have been the animal in question.

fol 217^v

Item be his hienes command for tua bottis of Irne / leid and warkmanschip of ane
 maisoun for insetting of thame within the wall of the hous quhair the lyones lyis
 to bynd hir yairwt

xvj s viij d

...

December 1584

fol 223^r

Item be his hienes precept To Johnne M^ctapyn keipar of the lyones for alsmekle
buffill as to be him ane doublet and breickis As the said precept product vpoun
compt beris

xx li

Item four vnces grein pasmentis of silk to the doublet and breickis price of the
vnce xxij s Inde

iiij li viij s

Item for ane eln of Stenting

vijj s

Item for ane pund of caddes

xx s

Item four elnis round lynn^{ing} to lyne the doublet and breickis price of the eln
vj s viij d Inde

xxvj s viij d

Item Tua elnis plaiding

xijj s iiij d

Item thre dosane grein silk buttonis price of the dosane vj s viij d Inde

xx s

Item fyve quarteris gray stemmyng to be him tua pair of schankis price of the
eln iiij li Inde

v li

Item thre \eln/ ane half gray stemmyng to be him ane clock price of the eln iiij li
Inde

xijj li

Item tua vnces pasmentis of silk *yeirto*

xl s

Item ane half quarter weluet to the neck of the clock

xxv s

Item ane vnce silk to the cloik doublet and breickis

xijj s

Item ane blak hat lynit *with* taffatie & ane string *yeirto* price

liij s iiij d

fol 224^v

...

Item for tua Irne swoullis and ane grete tow to bynd the lyones with

x s

...

Translation: swoul = swivel, often used with harness etc.

January 1585fol 236^r

...

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

lxxij li xvij s ij d

Translation: 'luserve' =lynx (probably the 'vnce' recorded above).

April 1585

Item to his hienes four ordiner trumpetouris for thair monethlie wages sen the first of maij 1583 to the first of maij 1585 extending to xxij monethis – takand monethlie ilkane of thame vj li xij s iij d. Inde

j^cIx li

...

Item To his maiesties violaris for thair allouance to by thame cleathing for the lxxijij ȝeir comptit

ij^c li

...

Manuscript descriptions

The main series of Treasurer's Accounts, almost unbroken between 1473 and 1635, is held by the National Records of Scotland, MSS E21/1 to E21/101. The Treasury clerks, at least at some periods, produced a duplicate set of the accounts, some of which survive and are catalogued at E21/102 to E21/109, and E22/1 to E22/10. These duplicates, which appear very exact, can occasionally supply gaps where volumes in the main series are missing or too fragile for easy consultation. Accounts were presented for audit by the current Treasurer at approximately one year intervals, although many cover shorter or longer periods than one year. Both series are written on paper, apparently uniform through the years represented here, sharing the same dimensions and a watermark of a single handled pot similar to the Pot2 range from the same dates recorded in Gravell.¹ Both series, largely clear and undamaged, have been individually restored and bound. Each set of accounts presents first a list of 'Charges' or *Oneratio*, recording the income to the Crown which is to be used for the Royal Household (largely from charters, wards and escheats); this is then followed by the 'Discharges' or *Exoneratio* which record expenditure. The *Oneratio* are written in Latin, the *Exoneratio* largely in Scots. One hand lists expenditure, another sums up the total for each page. Blank pages and spaces are sometimes crossed through – 'X'.

The records presented here, covering a period from 1579 to 1585, are drawn from the *Exoneratio* of five sets of accounts, most of which are either missing from the main run (E21) or too fragile to consult. The E22 'Leven and Melville' series used here instead are a duplicate set which can be traced back to Sir Robert Melville, treasurer-clerk and treasurer-depute at various times between

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

1582 and 1596. William, Lord Ruthven (later Earl of Gowrie), the prime mover of the Ruthven Raid, held the office of Treasurer from 1571 until his fall and execution in April 1584, and Melville must have taken these papers over from him. They 'were simply duplicates of the official set in the exchequer records, which the treasurer or his clerk retained for reference and as the formal discharge of his intromissions'.²

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

E22/5 1.3.1582-1.5.1583

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E22/5. 1582-83. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 139 + ii. 300 x 200 mm. Modern pencil pagination. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition with some slight damp staining in parts, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather. Spine: *Compot Thesaur* | 1581/2 | 1583 [paper label 5] *Duplicate*. A slip of paper has been bound into the front of the volume with modern hand: 'Treasurers Account | 1 Maij 1582 | 1 Maij 1583'. Later pencil deletes first date, replacing it with '1 March 1581-2', and adds '0' to second date to make '10 Maij'. 'Dupl. 5' also added in pencil. Modern pagination has added '1' to the recto of the slip, first folio paginated '2' on recto, then continuous to 279. Treasurer: William, Earl of Gowrie.

E22/6 1 May 1583 – 1 May 1585

Edinburgh; National Records of Scotland E22/6. 1583-85. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 263 + ii. 310 x 205 mm. Modern pencil foliation. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather. Spine: *Compot Thesaur* | 1583 | 1585 [paper label 6] *L & M*. A slip of paper has been bound into the front of the volume with modern hand: 'Treasurers Account | 1 Maij 1583 | 1 Maij 1585'. Treasurer recorded for this set: William, Earl of Gowrie (executed May 1584); accounts signed off after his death by his deputy, Robert Melville of Murdochairnie.

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