

# RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

## Pre-publication Collections

DISCLAIMER: The material below is offered in pre-publication form. It has not received editorial attention from REED's staff paleographers and Latinists, nor have the notes and other editorial apparatus been checked for completeness and accuracy. Please see the REED Pre-publication homepage for full details about this pre-publication project, as well as copyright information and instructions on how to cite these materials.

### THE ROYAL COURT OF SCOTLAND 1586-8

**Edited by Sarah Carpenter**

The transcriptions appear © Crown copyright, from manuscripts held by the National Records of Scotland. Uploaded March 2021.

#### 1586-7

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

1 May 1586 – 30 April 1587

##### May 1586

*fol 61<sup>v</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

Item be his maiesteis speciall command To thomas fentoun to by ane cheinȝe  
to his hienes beir

L s

...

*fol 65<sup>v</sup>*

...

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

L li

...

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

*fol 52<sup>v</sup>*

...

[11 May]

The said day To thome fentoun to by ane Irne cheinȝie to ane beir

L s

...

**Treasurer's Accounts**

**June 1586**

*fol 68<sup>r</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

...

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

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

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

xxxvj li

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

vj li x s

Item *four* vnce and ane half of grene silk To be *four* elnis of syde freinȝe To pas about ye sadill *with* thrie elnis of small freinȝe in ye seymes and to steik oun the freinȝeis and pasmentis at xx s ye vnce inde

v li xij s vj d

*fol 68<sup>v</sup>*

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

xxxj s iij d

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

xxxvj s

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

xx s

Item twa elnis of narrow blew inglis freis To be ane fals cowering *yairof* at xxiiij s the eln inde

xlviij s

Item Ane eln of grene Inglis stemyng To be ye sadill claih *price* *yairof*

xlv s

Item thrie quarteris and ane half of poldauie canves to lyne the same at xiiij s ye eln inde

x s vj d

Item to ane vther of the said sadill *is* thrie quarteris of loundoun clayth To be the cowering *yairof* at vi li ye eln Inde

iiij li x s

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

xvij li



*fol 70<sup>v</sup>*

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

*fol 74<sup>v</sup>*

...	
Item to dauid murray <i>quhilk</i> he debursit at his hienesis command for birkis to hing ane hous <i>within</i> the wod off falkland <i>quhairin</i> his maiestie soupit	xxx s
Note: While there is no indication that this temporary hunting lodge was deliberately used theatrically, it is clearly reminiscent of the spectacular episode of the 'faire palice ... wonde with birkis', when the Earl of Atholl in 1531 constructed a similar though luxurious lodge to entertain James V, flamboyantly burning it on departure. (See Robert Lindesay of Pitscottie, <i>The Historie and Cronicles of Scotland</i> , ed. A. J. G. Mackay, 3 vols, Scottish Text Society (1899), I, 335-8.)	
...	
Item for raschis to his hienes hous at thre seuerall tymes	xx s
...	

***Receiver's Accounts, June***

*fol 53r*

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

## **Treasurer's Accounts**

August 1586

fol 83<sup>v</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)

3

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

3

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

**November 1586**

fol 92<sup>v</sup> (*Expenses by King's precept*)

• • •

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

3

**February 1587**

fol 115<sup>r</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)

•

Item be his maiesteyis precept to thomas fentoun in the abbay of halirudhous  
for making of ane dur to the Lyon hous as the samyn productioun compt  
bearis

xij li

•

### ***Receiver's Accounts, February***

fol 119v

3

The viij februarij to ane fylder at 3our L command

VS

3

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

## ***Treasurer's Accounts***

March 1587

fol 120<sup>r</sup> (*Expenses by King's precept*)

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

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

Item in the first sax scoir elnes thrie quarteris of Inglis stemming to be  
threttene stand of dule clais to the pages Laquayis and personis foirsaidis  
at xLvijj s the elne Inde ij<sup>c</sup> lxxxix li xvij s

Item for thrie quarteris of bukrome to band ilk garmound with Extending in  
the haill to ix elnes thrie quarteris at xiiij s the elne Inde vj li xvij s vj d

Item for nyne ‘vnce’ thrie quarteris vnce of blak silk to steik the garmountis  
making of the buttonn hoillis steiking of the schankis and outreding of the  
same at xvj s the vnce Inde viij li xvij s

Item for saxteine elnis and ane quarter of dowbill playdin To lyne the breikis  
with at xiij s iiij d the elne Inde x li xvij s viij d

*fol 120<sup>v</sup>*

Item for thrie elnes of gray clraith to sole the xxvj pair of schankis at xij s the  
Elne Inde xxxvj s

Item thrie *dosane* of wirset pasmentis to knit the kneis of the brikeis at sax  
schilling ye dowsane Inde xvijj s

Item threitteine pair of wirset gartanis to thame at threiteine schilling four  
pennyis the pair Inde viij li xiij s iiij d

Item for xxxvij owirLayeris at xij s the peice to ilk ane of the sax pages iiij  
owirLayeris and twa owirLayeris to euery ane of the fyve alloquayis Robert  
arskin and *Robert* stevin of round camrage maid extending to xxij li xvij s

Item for threitteine hattis with *yair* stringis at threitty schilling the peice Inde xix li x s

Item for threitteine beltis at fyve s the peice Inde iij li v s

Item for threittene dossane of poyntis att iiij s iiij d the *dosane* Inde xliii s iiij d

fol 123v

Item At his Maiestis speciall command for ane eln of frenche violat claih to  
be his hienes ane pair of duill sokis vij li xij s iiiij d

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

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

April 1587

fol 126<sup>v</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)

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

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

Item fyfteine elnes reid cramesie stemming to be thair cloikis mandillis and  
breikis prycce of the elne iiiij li threittein schillingis four pennyis Inde lxx li

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

Item tuelff vnce cramesie silk yairto pryce of the vnce tuenta four schillingis  
Inde xiiii li viii s

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

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

Item sax elnes of braid lyning yairto pryce of the elne aucht schillingis Inde xvliii s

fol 127<sup>r</sup>

Item ane elne of stuffing thairto vj s viij d

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

Item ane eln of blak bukkasie prycē ix s

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

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

Item twa hattis with *yair* stringis pryce      iiiij li

Item twa beltis with hingaris prycce xxvj s viij d

Item tuelff vnces silk of colouris to thair trumpettis prycce of the vnce twenty  
Schillingis Inde

fol 127<sup>v</sup>

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

fol 131<sup>r</sup>

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

fol 131<sup>v</sup>

...  
Item To his hienes violaris for thair ordinar allowance to by thame clething the 3eir  
comptit ij*c* li

Item To Johnne killoche and robert schaw his hienes chaichpuillaris for thair zeirlie allowance in furnissing of ballis and rackettis

•

*fol 138<sup>r</sup> (Expenses on officers and boys travelling)*

...

Item be his Maiesteis precept To James hutson at his departing to england ane  
hundreth crownis of the sone at fiftie schillingis the pece Inde

ij<sup>c</sup> L li

...

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

## 1587-8

### **Treasurer's Accounts E21/66**

*1 May 1587 – 1 May 1588*

#### **May 1587**

*fol 64<sup>r</sup> (Expenses on Officers and boys travelling)*

Item To Williame Portuous messinger and ane trumpetour *with* him passand to ye mercat  
croce Off Edinburgh *with* lettres to proclaime ane generall assemblie to be haldin at ye said  
burgh ye xx day of Junij nixt

xij s iiiij d

...

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

#### **June 1587**

*fol 66<sup>v</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

Item To maister petere ȝoung Elimozinare sevin scoir ten elnis bleu clayth to be  
gownis to xxj aigit men according to ye ȝeiris of his hienes aige price of ye eln xx s  
Inde

j<sup>c</sup> L li

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

iiij li xj s viij d

Item xxj pursis and in ilk purse xxj s Inde

xxj li

Item for ye price of ilk purse iiij d Inde

vij s

...

**July 1587**

*fol 71<sup>r</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

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

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

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

...

*fol 72<sup>v</sup>*

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

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

...

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

xijij s iiij d

**December 1587**

*fol 92<sup>r</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

...

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

...

*fol 95<sup>v</sup>*

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

**February 1588**

*fol 101<sup>v</sup> (Expenses on officers and boys travelling)*

...

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

xx s

...

**March 1588**

*fol 103<sup>r</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

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

...

**April 1588**

*fol 107<sup>v</sup> (Expenses by King's precept)*

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

...

*fol 107<sup>r</sup>*

...

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

Inde

Lxxx li

...

*fol 112<sup>v</sup>*

...

Item to his hienes violeris for *yair* ordinar allowance to by thame clraithis the ȝeir  
compitit ij<sup>c</sup> li

...

## DOCUMENT DESCRIPTIONS

### *Treasurer's Accounts*

#### **E21/65 1 May 1586–1 May 1587**

[Description incomplete] Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland, E21/65. 1586–1587. Latin and Scots. Paper. ii + 140 + ii. Modern pencil foliation. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather with lightly tooled border. Treasurer-depute: Sir Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

#### **E21/66 1 May 1587–1 May 1588**

[Description incomplete] Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland, E21/66. 1587–1588. Latin and Scots. Paper. iv + 115 + iv. Modern pencil foliation. Regular layout, some display capitals. Generally good condition, conserved and rebound, pages repaired with paper where slightly worn at the corners, the whole rebound in brown leather with lightly tooled border. Treasurer-depute: Sir Robert Melville of Murdocairnie.

### *Receiver's Accounts*

#### **E22/13 May 1585–October 1587**

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