

SUMMARY: The document below is an entry on the Pipe Rolls recording payment, authorized by a Privy Council warrant dated 15 March 1595, to William Kempe, William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon, and Richard Burbage (1568-1619), members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, for performances of two comedies or interludes before the Queen on St. Stephen's Day [=26 December], and Innocents' Day [=28 December] 1594.

In the National Archives, the entry is catalogued under Records of the Exchequer, Pipe Office, Declared Accounts, Treasurers of the Chamber, Mary, Countess of Southampton (widow and executrix of Sir Thomas Heneage). There are three separate references in the National Archives catalogue under the number E 351/524 covering the period 29 September 1592 to 30 November 1595. The relevant entry is found in the third of these references at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C6765172>.

The entry for the payment in question is said to be on f. 107b.

Sir Thomas Heneage (b. in or before 1532, d. 17 October 1595) in 1570 'secured a major post, the treasurership of the queen's chamber, which disbursed about £15,000 per annum'. On 2 May 1594 he married, Mary (d. 1607), widow of Henry Wriothesley, 2nd Earl of Southampton.

For a facsimile of the entry, see Schoenbaum, Samuel, *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Life*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975), p. 136.

To William Kempe, William Shakespeare & Richard Burbage, servants to the Lord Chamberlain, upon the Council's warrant dated at Whitehall xvto Martij 1594 [=15th March 1595] for two several comedies or interludes showed by them before her Majesty in Christmas time last past, viz., upon St. Stephen's Day & Innocents' Day, £13 6s 8d, and by way of her Majesty's reward, £6 13s 4d, in all £20.