

SUMMARY: The document below is a warrant authorizing payment by the Court of Wards for expenditures made on Oxford's behalf for the first quarter of 1570.

Ward's transcripts of portions of the three warrants authorizing payment for expenditures for Oxford contain errors such as 'papers' for 'paper', 'Spilsby' for 'Exilby', 'Brown, my Lord's servant' for 'Brown, my Lord's shoemaker', 'Eunter' for 'Gunter', 'nibs' for 'ink', 'sheets' for 'shirts', and 'articles' for 'acates'. See Ward, B.M., *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford 1550-1604* (London: John Murray, 1928), pp. 32-3.

The warrant records the purchase for Oxford of a Geneva Bible, a Chaucer, Plutarch's work in French, two Italian books, and other books and paper. The warrant also notes expenditures during Oxford's illness at Windsor.

This and similar documents indicate that the procedure followed was that an account of bills received from various merchants as well as moneys paid out by John Hart (c.1501-1574), Chester Herald, was drawn up. The account was then signed by Sir William Cecil, Master of the Court of Wards, who forwarded it to Sir William Damsell (c.1520-1582), Receiver-General of the Court of Wards. Damsell paid Hart, who acknowledged receipt, and used the funds to pay the outstanding bills.

For further information on Damsell, see Bindoff, S.T., *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, Vol. II (London: Secker & Warburg, 1982), pp. 9-10.

For John Hart, Chester Herald, see the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online:

*Hart, John (c.1501–1574), herald and phonetician, . . . may have spent some time at the University of Cambridge, since he had intellectual or personal links with three Cambridge scholars, two of whom, Sir Thomas Smith (d. 1577) and Sir John Cheke (d. 1557), were (like Hart) active in promoting spelling reform; a third, Sir William Cecil (d. 1598), was described by Hart as his 'specially good master'. As a powerful figure in government circles, Hart's 'master' was in a good position to act as his patron, and he became by the 1550s a diplomatic courier, then in the 1560s an official of the court of wards and liveries and a herald pursuivant. He was finally promoted in 1567 to the highly prestigious rank of Chester herald at the College of Arms in London.*

*Hart wrote three treatises on spelling reform; the first (1551) was not published at the time; the second, *An Orthografie* (1569), was a more sophisticated version of this manuscript; and the third, *A Methode* (1570), instructs learners in the use of the 'phonetic' alphabet which Hart devised. A fourth work intended to provide a simpler alphabet was not completed. Hart proposed to reform English spelling because it was both inconsistent and irregular. . . . Hart died in London on 16 July 1574.*

For warrants authorizing payment for expenditures for Oxford for the second and third quarters of 1570, see TNA SP 15/19/39, ff. 91-2 and TNA SP 15/19/40, f. 93.

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For an account summarizing expenditures for Oxford from the beginning of his residency at Cecil House on 3 September 1562 until Christmas 1566, see TNA SP 12/42/38, ff. 91-2.

For comparable warrants authorizing payment for expenditures made on behalf of the Queen's ward, Edward Manners (1549-1587), 3rd Earl of Rutland, for 1570 see TNA SP 15/19/34, ff. 83-4, TNA SP 15/19/35, ff. 85-6 and TNA SP 15/19/46, f. 87.

For comparable warrants authorizing payment for expenditures made on behalf of the Queen's ward, Edward (1556-1625), Lord Zouche, for 1570 see TNA SP 15/19/41, ff. 94-5 and TNA SP 15/19/42, f. 96.

LM: At Hampton Court 1569 [=1570]

Payments made for the behoof of Edward, Earl of Oxenford, for one quarter of the year of 12 weeks beginning the first of January and ending the 25th of March 1570

To John Spark, draper, for fine black for a cape and a riding cloak, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £6 5s

To Miles Exelby, tailor, for one doublet of cambric, one of mockado, one of fine canvas, and one of black satin, and the furniture of a riding cloak and making, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £12 13s

To John Martin, hosier, for one pair of velvet hose, black, as by his bill, £10 9s 2d

To William Tary, capper, for hats 2, caps of velvet 2, and 2 pair of garters, as by his bill, £4 6s

To Philip Gunter, upholster, for one fine wool bed bolster and pillows of down 2, and one close-stool, as by his bill, 57s

To Brown, my Lord's shoemaker, for 10 pair of Spanish leather shoes & 3 pair of mules, as per bill, 25s

To John Maria, cutler, for a rapier, dagger and girdle, as per bill, 26s 8d

To William Seres, stationer, for a Geneva Bible gilt, a Chaucer, Plutarch's work in French, with other books and paper, as by his bill, 57s 10d

To George Hill, saddler, for collars and girths for my Lord's horse, as per bill, 5s

To Riche, the apothecary, for potions, pills and other drugs for my Lord's diet in time of his sickness, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £15 15s 4d

RM: verte

To William Bishop, my Lord's man, for wood and coals, for victuals for my Lord and his men in the time of his said diet, for a caul(?) crose(?) furnished, for two Italian books, for house-rent and for the hire of a hothouse, for horse-hire, boat-hire, carriages and other necessaries and charges, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, in all amounting to, £30 16s

To Chester Herald for 6 shirts of fine Holland, 6 handkerchiefs and 6 others of cambric, and for 4 yards of velvet and 4 other of satin for to guard and border a Spanish cape, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £15 10s 8d

More to him for certain acates for my Lord during his being sick at Windsor, for rewards to his physician and others, for servants' wages and liveries, and for the charges of keeping in the stable and shoeing of 4 geldings for my Lord's service, as of all by his bill it hath to me particularly appeared, £36 5s 4d

And for the board and diet of my Lord with his tutors and servants at Cecil House for 14 days of this quarter at 60s the week, £6

Sm totall<sup>is</sup>, £145 17s 4d

Mr Receiver, I pray you to cause the parcels herebefore expressed amounting to the sum of one hundred forty and five pounds seventeen shillings and four pence to be paid unto this bearer, John Hart, Chester Herald, that he may make payment thereof whereas it is due, and this bill by me subscribed, together with his acknowledging of the receipt thereof hereafter, shall be your sufficient warrant in that behalf. Given at Hampton Court the 9th of April A<sup>n</sup>no R<sup>egni</sup> R<sup>egi</sup>ne Elizabethe xijmo. Your loving friend, W. Cecil.

Endorsed: Received of Sir William Damsell, knight, Receiver-General of the Court of Wards and Liveries, by virtue of this warrant the sum herebefore said of one hundred forty and five pounds seventeen shillings and four pence the tenth of April A<sup>n</sup>no R<sup>egni</sup> R<sup>egi</sup>ne Elizabethe xijmo, p<sup>er</sup> me J<sup>ohannem</sup> H<sup>art</sup>, Chester Herald.

Endorsed: To my loving friend, Sir William Damsell, knight, Receiver-General of the Court of Wards & Liveries