

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

Ward's transcripts of portions of the three warrants authorizing payment for expenditures made on Oxford's behalf 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 Cicero's and Plato's works in folio, with other books, paper and ink.

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 first and second quarters of 1570, see TNA SP 15/19/38, ff. 89-90 and TNA SP 15/19/39, ff. 91-2.

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 Cecil House, An{n}o 1570

Payments made for the behoof of the Earl of Oxenford, the Queen's Majesty's ward, for one quarter of the year of 14 weeks beginning the 25th of June and ending the last of September An{n}o R{egni} R{egi}ne Elizabethe xijmo

To John Spark, draper, for 6 yards of fine black, as by his bill, £8

To Miles Exelby, tailor, for one nightgown of velvet, black, with 12 laces & trussed about, for one doublet of silk mockado, and 3 other of fine canvas laid on with lace, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £27 10s 1d

To Thomas Buckley, skinner, for furring of the same gown of black velvet with black coney, as by his bill, £7 8s 4d

To John Martin, hosier, for one pair of cloth hose lined with velvet, and for one other of crimson velvet laid on with lace, and all the furniture, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £21 13s 6d

To William Tary, capper, for 2 hats, one velvet cap, and 3 pair of garters, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £3 14s

To John Brown, shoemaker, for 11 pair of Spanish leather shoes and for 3 pair of pantofles, as by his bill, 24s 4d

To Lancelot Mannering, budget-maker, for one cloth sack for my Lord's bell, 40s

To William Seres for Tully's and Plato's works in folio, with other books, paper and ink, as by his bill, £4 6s 4d

To Lancelot Burton, apothecary, for bottles of whey, conserves, syrups, pills, juleps etc., as by his bill, £10 2s

To Chester Herald for so much by him disbursed for my Lord's and his men's diet and his said servants' wages, [as by the?] particular bill appeareth, £27 13s 4d

S^{um}m^a totall^{is}, £113 11s 11d

RM: verte

[Mr Receiver], I pray you to cause the parcels herebefore [expressed amounting] to the sum of one hundred and thirteen pounds eleven shillings and eleven pence to be paid unto this bearer, 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 hereunder, shall be your sufficient warrant in that behalf. Given at my house in Strand the 9th of November Anⁿo R^{egni} R^{egi}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 of one hundred and thirteen pounds eleven shillings and eleven pence the 15th of November Anⁿo R^{egni} R^{egi}ne Elizabethe xijmo, p^{er} me Ioh^{ann}em Hart, Chester Herald.

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