

Ege said day also upon ane bis of complent gyven in bo the p...  
and Francis, Fledin stone wright and Jagne Kenbina-gammerman  
for the entress aganist dynes and widdow and being mentio  
That again about martinmas last or there the said dynes with  
many imprecations woces and curses wisheit that the said  
wocis of god might come upon the said p... for the  
entress also was p... and labors of the said that shoe in aet  
in and that the said wocis might never be from the said  
hand and determined publickly that shoe should give the said

# SCOTTISH HANDWRITING

1500-1700

A self-help pack

away with, maithes and determined that the was never one that angu  
the bot that shoe got the said soon or the said satisfist of the  
and imprecated and wisheit that the said wocis, curses and  
malditions of god might come upon the said swanes and wisheit  
that the might give and also fortune and that and the  
wairkening might come upon the said and wisheit that the said  
Ritgard then took the said over the said that the said  
brookit it not long with many other woces and curses to the  
dissonance of gods name as the bill at lenth, being Comperat

# SCOTTISH HANDWRITING

## 1500-1700

---

Documents written in the Scots language, as opposed to Latin, begin to proliferate after 1500. For the following two centuries the dominant script was known as the ‘Secretary Hand’. Most beginners are daunted when faced with reading documents from this period. Not only is there the initial problem of deciphering the handwriting, but the reader must also battle with the perplexing variations of the Scots language and the unfamiliarity of much of the legal terminology.

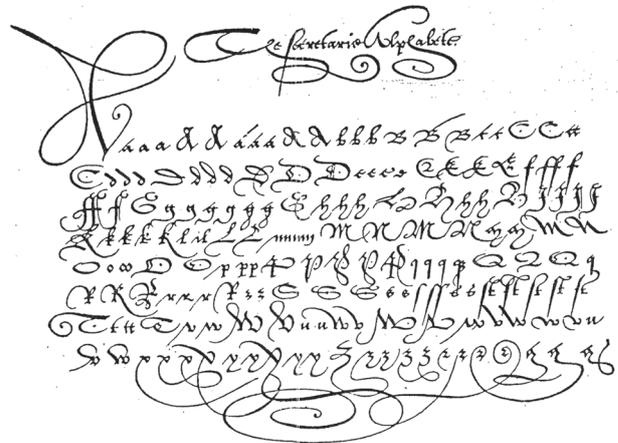
This self-help pack has been designed to make the task less daunting by providing examples of many of the types of documents and styles of handwriting that the beginner is liable to encounter. The majority of the documents are in the Secretary Hand, being the script which, with its particular letter forms, causes beginners the most problems. The accompanying notes concentrate on the letters, symbols and language of that hand. However, examples of a letter written in Italic (document 12) and a crossed letter of the 19th century (document 13), have also been included.

All of the documents reproduced in the pack are from the National Records of Scotland with the exception of document 11, which is reproduced with permission of Glasgow City Archives, and document 1, ‘The Secretarie Alphabete’, which comes from *A Booke Containing Divers Sortes of Hands* by John de Beauchesne and John Baildon (1571). The Scottish Records Association is very grateful to the kindness of Mr Bruce Howden in initiating the idea for this pack and providing the initial funds to get it off the ground.

Since this pack was originally produced in 1994, there have been many changes, in particular the availability of training materials and dictionaries available online. The information in the pack has been amended to reflect this.

**Alison Rosie**

May 2022



# CONTENTS

---

<b>Part One: Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Part Two: The Documents</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Language and Spelling	3	<b>A. Reading the Documents</b>	11
2. Common Problems Encountered and Letters Confused	4	<b>B. Notes on the Transcriptions</b>	12
3. Contractions, Abbreviations and Suspensions	6	1. The Secretarie Alphabet	13
4. Roman Numerals and Dates	8	2. Summons of Inquest, 1558/9 [High Court of Justiciary Court papers: NRS, JC26/1/56]	14
5. Bibliography	9	3. Estate of the Household of James VI, 1580 [Exchequer records: NRS, E34/35, page 1]	16
		4. Testament and Inventory, 1609 [Glasgow Commissary Court: NRS, CC9/7/6, page 239]	18
		5. Tack, 1629 [Cardross writs: NRS, GD15/713/1]	20
		6. Bond, 1630 [Breadalbane Muniments: NRS, GD112/24/1/36]	23
		7. List of elders and deacons of Montrose, 1635 [Montrose kirk session: NRS, CH2/943/1, page 12]	25
		8. Instrument of Sasine, 1654 [Ailsa muniments: NRS, GD25/5/54]	26
		9. Agreement of the Earl of Cassillis, 1662 [Ailsa muniments: NRS, GD25/9/Box30/2/5]	29
		10. Oath of Allegiance, 1690 [Privy Council papers: NRS, PC14/2]	31
		11. A case of slander, 1676 [Glasgow City Archives, Glasgow Burgh Justices of the Peace court book: B3/2/1]	33
		12. Letter from the Earl of Lennox, 1587 [Hamilton papers: NRS, GD406/1/40/1]	35
		13. Crossed letter from Australia, 1839 [Lintrose writs: NRS, GD68/2/140/1]	36

# PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

---

## 1. Language and Spelling

The vernacular Scots language takes over from Latin as the predominant language of the written record in the 15th century. Official and unofficial documents of the 16th and 17th centuries, such as those studied in this pack, demonstrate its vigour and its distinctive grammar and spelling. The cadences of spoken Scots of the period are often preserved in the manner of the written word (see doc.11 for example). This does however pose some problems for the modern reader. The spelling of words and personal names is often idiosyncratic. A scribe will frequently employ different spellings of the same word or name in the one document. Perhaps the most important advice to remember while attempting to read a document is not to expect consistency but be surprised and pleased when you find it. Even if they are not always observed, it will be helpful to bear the following in mind.

1. There are no rules about capitalisation. In the personal names listed in doc.7, the scribe gives capitals to christian names and surnames in a haphazard fashion.
2. The endings '-it', '-yt' or '-at' appear instead of the modern past tense ending '-ed':  
e.g. doc.2, line 4 '*menit*' or line 12 '*compellit*'  
doc.10, line 8 '*mentionat*'
3. The ending 'and' appears instead of the modern 'ing':  
e.g. doc.5, line 2 '*undersubscryvand*' or line 11 '*Arryvand*'  
doc.8, line 4 '*haveand and keippand*'
4. The plural ending '-is':  
e.g. doc.2, line 12 '*the saidis personis*'  
doc.6, line 12 '*servicis and bissinessis*' and line 13 '*airis or Successouris*'
5. The Scots use of 'quh' for 'wh':  
e.g. doc.4, line 3 '*umq[uhi]le*' meaning 'the deceased'  
doc.5, line 6 '*quhatsum[eve]r*' and '*quhilkis*'  
doc.6, line 27 '*Q[uhai]rof*'

These common 'quh' words are frequently contracted in documents.

6. Two symbols, rather than letters, which will be frequently encountered are both derived from the Anglo-Saxon. The 'thorn' represents the sound or letters 'th' and looks virtually identical to the letter 'y':

e.g. doc.2, line 3  = 'that' see also line 12

and also line 6  = 'the' and not 'ye'

---

The 'yogh' is used to denote the 'y' sound in some words but can often be mistaken for the letter 'z':

e.g. doc.2, line 19  = 'yow' or 'you'

doc.4, line 5  = 'yeir' or 'year'

7. A continuation of the medieval practice was to use the letters 'i' and 'j', and 'u' and 'v' interchangeably:

e.g. doc.2, line 5 '*iusticiarie*' for 'justiciary'  
doc.3, line 2 '*auise*' for 'advice'

On occasion the letter 'u' may be replaced by a 'w':

e.g. doc.8, line 2 '*wpon*' and '*Sewint*'

## 2. Common Problems Encountered and Letters Confused

Below are identified a number of the most frequent problems that arise for the beginner. It is wise to be aware of them in advance so that you can consider other possibilities when your first attempt at a letter or group of letters doesn't make sense. The greatest confusion often arises when one letter closely resembles the modern form of another letter.

1. Very often, when writing the letters 'u', 'v', 'n', 'm', 'w' and 'i', no distinction will be made between the strokes or minims forming the letters which makes distinguishing the individual letters involved very difficult:

e.g. doc.2, line 13 '*incontinent*' meaning 'without delay'

It is often a good idea to count the minims and bear in mind that some letters are more likely than others to occur after certain consonants or vowels. The context will often help make the meaning of the word clear.

Sometimes a 'cup mark' or 'tittle' is made above the letter 'u' to make identification easier, but beware, in a sloppy hand the tittle mark, like the dot over the 'i', may travel! The scribe of doc.11 makes consistent use of the cup mark though it varies in clarity.

2. The letters 't' and 'c' are often indistinguishable:

e.g. doc.2, line 9 '*ane act maid*'

Notice how these two letters combine with other letters:

e.g. in 'to' or 'co' as in doc.4, line 11 '*spous to*' or doc.8, line 19 '*to me nottir publik*'  
e.g. in 'th' or 'ch' as in doc.8, line 22 '*chairgeing them*'

In some examples of the Secretary Hand, the formation of the 'th' can be particularly cursive and deceptive. Doc.5 is a good example of this.

- 
3. The letters 'g', 'q' and 'y' can look similar. The 'q' can be particularly problematic to identify as the tail does not flick up to the right as in its modern form, but curls up to the left of the descender:

e.g.  = 'q' as in doc.8, line 17 '*requyreing*'

 = 'g' as in doc.2, line 1 '*grace of god*'

 = 'y' as in doc.4, line 4 '*tyme*'

Try not to confuse these letters with the symbol  or  signifying the prefix 'con' or 'com' (see section 3.3c).

4. Letters 'f' and 's' written in its long form, are frequently confused.

Remember that in the long 's' , the top curl of the letter will not loop back and cross the shaft as in the 'f':

e.g. doc.6, line 21 '*foirsaidis*'

5. Other confusables to watch out for are:

'b' and 'v' e.g. doc.6, line 23 '*Obligatioun unviolat*' and doc.8, line 12 '*given*'

'p' and 'x' e.g. doc.3 and doc.4

'w' and 'll' or 'lb' e.g. doc. 4, line 17 '*following*'

'd' and 'e' e.g. doc.8

6. The letters 'r' and 's' appear in the greatest number of forms in the Secretary Hand. When reading a new document, try and identify which forms of these common letters that particular scribe uses. They may vary which form is used in the same word according to its position in that word. Remember that a letter which looks like the modern form of the letter 'r' is unfortunately very unlikely to be one!

e.g. 'r' as in doc.5, line 15 '*foirsaid[is] during*'

's' as in doc.6, line 26 '*as is foirsaid*'

7. The letter 'k' is one that often tricks learners. The only solution is to memorise its characteristic form:

e.g. doc.4, line 19 '*kistis*'

doc.5, line 3 '*Lykeas*'

---

### 3. Contractions, Abbreviations and Suspensions

A hangover from the earlier abbreviation of Latin words to save space and time, contractions and suspensions survived on in vernacular documents into the 16th and 17th centuries though their use declined later in the period. The following notes are to act as a general guide only as scribes of the Secretary Hand did not follow them slavishly and often added the strokes implying omissions where none was actually intended.

1. The most commonly used contraction was a small horizontal mark called a 'tittle' usually appearing above a word to indicate missing letters:

eg. doc.4, line 3  = 'umquhile'

doc.2, line 19  = 'lettres'

The tittle often appears where 'ar' or 'er' are missing:

eg. doc.5, line 27  = 'Generallie'

Sometimes the tittle mark may take the form of a flourish and may be attached to a letter looking like a continuation of that letter:

eg. doc.8, line 1  = 'present'

doc.5, line 4  = 'eftirspecifeit'

doc.9, line 30  = 'samyn'

2. Alternatively, a raised letter will indicate omitted letters:

eg. doc.4, line 10  = 'executour'

doc.10, line 25  = 'with'

doc.6, line 10  = 'Robert'

doc.5, line 44  = 'quhairof'

doc.6, line 20  = 'Lauchfull'

---

3. Special symbols for contractions or suspensions:

a.  $\text{ʃ}$  = 'is' or 'es' as in doc.8, line 4  $\text{ʃamy}$  = 'handis'

Watch out for occasions when this is combined with another superscript letter:

eg. doc.6, line 11  $\text{ʃuccoʃʃe}$  = 'successouris'

b.  $\text{ʃ}$  = 'ses' or 'sis' (it looks similar to the German scharfes 's')

eg. doc.2, line 17  $\text{ʃʃʃ}$  = 'assyses',

This symbol can also stand for the variations 'ser', 'scher', 'schir' and 'sar':

eg. doc.2, line 18  $\text{ʃʃʃ}$  = 'answer'

doc.6, line 22  $\text{ʃʃʃ}$  = 'observe'

doc.5, line 43  $\text{ʃʃʃ}$  = 'necessar'

c.  $\text{ʃ}$  = 'con' or 'com' eg. doc.5, line 2  $\text{ʃʃʃʃ}$  = 'consent'

doc.8, line 4  $\text{ʃʃʃʃ}$  = 'containing'

Beware of confusing this symbol with the letter 'g' or 'q'.

d.  $\text{ʃ}$  or  $\text{ʃ}$  = 'per' or 'par'. Commonly a horizontal stroke is made through the descender of the 'p'.

$\text{ʃ}$  = 'pro'

eg. doc.5, line 26  $\text{ʃʃʃ}$  = 'person'

doc.8, line 6  $\text{ʃʃ}$  = 'p[ar]t'

doc.8, line 52  $\text{ʃʃʃʃ}$  = 'personalie'

---

## 4. Roman Numerals, Money and Dates

### Numbers

Roman numerals which commonly occur as figures, dates and sums of money in documents of this period can cause some initial problems. The only answer is to familiarise yourself thoroughly with them as they can crop up in accounts, inventories and other documents.

1. The last 'i' of a group of numerals will invariably take the 'j' form: eg. doc.3, line 16 'viiij' = 8  
Four is often rendered as 'iiij' rather than 'iv': eg. doc.3, line 16
2. Two raised 'xx's denote a score:  
eg. lijxx = 3 score or 60
3. Beware of reading the number 'x' (10) for the letter 'x' or the very similar secretary hand 'p' or vice versa. This is a very common error.

### Money

The denominations used will normally be the Scots merk (equivalent to 13 Scottish shillings, and 4 pence) or the Scots pound (worth 1/12 of the pound sterling). Sums of money may be written out in full, in Roman numerals, Arabic numerals or in a combination of these. Documents 3 and 4 have been chosen to give you practice.

Note the following: 'li' = pound from the Latin 'libra'  
's' = shilling from the Latin 'solidus'  
'd' = pence/penny from the Latin 'denarius'  
'Summa' = the total

### Dates

Dates are usually a combination of words and numerals and can be tricky:

eg. doc.8, line 2  = 1654  
[transcribed as *Jaj vjc and fyftie Four*]

1. Learn the curious Scots form of writing the year:

'Jaj', as in doc.2, line 3, is a corruption of 'im' meaning 1000. Over time this became 'iaj' or 'Jaj'.

2.  is the abbreviation for the Latin 'centus' meaning 100 being the letter 'c' followed by a suspension mark:

eg. examples in docs. 3 and 8.

---

## 5. Bibliography

### Handwriting

Grant G Simpson's *Scottish Handwriting 1150-1650: An Introduction to the Reading of Documents* (Aberdeen, 2009) remains the best introduction to the writing of Scottish documents of this period. As well as the 30 documents and transcripts, he provides an excellent and comprehensive study of the historical development of handwriting in Scotland.

Most of the documents in this pack are written in Secretary Hand, a script also used in England, although the legal forms and language of English documents are of course very different.

Listed below are a number of books and packs similar to this one, but dealing with English handwriting, which are nevertheless useful aids in training the eye to identify the letter forms of different periods.

F G Emmison, *How To Read Local Archives, 1550-1700* (The Historical Association, reprinted 2009) available from The Historical Association, 59a Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4JH or [enquiries@history.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@history.org.uk)

Hilda E P Grieve, *Examples of English Handwriting* (Essex Education Committee, Essex Records Office Publications, No. 21, 1995)

L C Hector, *The Handwriting of English Documents* (Dorking: Kohler and Coombes, 1988)

Bruce Durie, *Understanding Documents for Genealogy and Local History* (The History Press, Cheltenham, 2013)

There are several online tutorials for Scottish and English handwriting of the period including:

Scottish Handwriting: <https://www.scottishhandwriting.com/>

Future Learn runs free courses created by universities. This course uses documents from the National Records of Scotland.

Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography>

The National Archives Palaeography online tutorial:  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/>

### Language:

For home reference *The Concise Scots Dictionary* (Edinburgh University Press, 2017), is essential.

For online reference and for copious examples of contemporary usage, consult the Dictionary of the Scots Language: <https://dsl.ac.uk/> which combines the printed works: *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (covering up to 1700) and the *Scottish National Dictionary* (from 1700 onwards).

A useful guide to tracking down obscure words related to architecture is Glen L Pride's *Dictionary of Scottish Building* (Historic Environment Scotland, 2016).

---

### **Legal Terminology:**

Peter Gouldesbrough's *Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents* (Stair Society, 1985) provides examples of the styles of most common legal documents. Stephen R O'Rourke's *Glossary of Legal Terms* (Edinburgh, 2014), can help pin down the awkward legal word with a brief description. For a lengthier explanation consult W Bell's *Dictionary and Digest of the Law of Scotland* (Edinburgh, various editions 1838-1890).

Scots law terminology can also be found online at: [www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/glossary.htm](http://www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/glossary.htm) and a wider Scots terms glossary, including law, abbreviations and measurements at: [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/glossary](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/glossary).

## PART TWO: THE DOCUMENTS

---

### A. Reading the Documents

1. Work in a good light and use a magnifying glass or sheet to avoid eye strain.
2. Take your time and do not be daunted by inability to read the document at first sight. It may take several sittings, but words which seemed unintelligible at first will suddenly become clear after a break away from the script.
3. Concentrate on the forms of the individual letters rather than attempting to read the whole word. Beware of jumping to a conclusion about the ending of a word from the reading of the first letter or letters.
4. Try to establish all the forms of the vowels used by that particular scribe. Many scribes will use several forms of the same letter in the same text or even the same word.
5. Examine the forms of difficult consonants and those which are used most frequently, such as 'r' and 's', and note how they are linked to other letters.
6. Learn the standard contractions and abbreviations so that you will recognise them in the text.
7. Familiarise yourself with the common phrases or words used in Scottish legal documents. You will find it useful to have a Scots dictionary close to hand.
8. Remember that it is not always possible to arrive at a certain reading of some letters or words but the most likely reading should be apparent from the context.
9. Progress may be slow at first, but practice will pay dividends. Reading the text out loud can help with identifying tricky words and phrases.
10. Finally, enjoy yourself.

---

## B. Notes on the Transcriptions

1. The documents in this pack have been organised chronologically rather than by degree of difficulty. The exceptions are the letter in italic script (doc.12) and the crossed letter (doc.13). It is suggested that those with no previous experience of reading documents of this period, begin with docs.2 and 7.
2. All the documents have been transcribed as they appear in the original, preserving their original spelling and punctuation. There is no transcription of the secretary alphabet in doc.1.
3. Where capitals have clearly been used in the text, they are transcribed as such. Where there is any doubt whether a letter is a capital or not, the lower case has been used. J appears as 'I' or 'j' where these would make sense in modern spelling. 'ff' at the beginning of a word is represented by the modern capital F.
4. Letters implied by contractions, abbreviations or symbols have been placed in square brackets.
5. Where a thorn is used in the document, it has been treated as a symbol and the 'th' placed in square brackets. The yogh is, however, represented by 'y' or occasionally 'z' as appropriate.
6. The letters 'u' and 'v' and 'i' and 'j' have been transcribed as written in the document and their spelling not modernised. Similarly, Roman numerals are transcribed as such.

---

## 1. The Secretarie Alphabete

“The secretarie Alphabete” from Jehan de Beaulchesne and John Baildon’s, *A Booke Containing Diuers Sortes of Hands* (London, 1602). This was probably the first English-language writing manual, published 1570.

---

## 2. Summons of Inquest, 1558/9

*A summons of Inquest in the action against Thomas Hoppringill before the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, for invading and pursuing Alexander Lauder in Cringle, 23 January, 1558/9.*

High Court Justiciary records shed a fascinating light on social history particularly of the most disadvantaged. This example, homing in on one particular episode in a border feud, comes from a series known as the 'small papers' and is a royal summons to the accused to attend trial. It seems to have been preserved along with similar documents as an example of the style to be followed. Documents of this period are a good starting point for the beginner as the forms of many of the letters are very modern and there are not many abbreviations or contractions to cope with. Note the characteristic attacking stroke on letter 'a' and beware of the tricky 'w'.

---

Assise for Mutila[tion]

1. Francis And Marie be [th]e grace of god king and Quene of Scottis Delphin and delphines  
of viennois  
To oure Louittis Weilem kyd Archibald heriot<sup>1</sup>  
Messingerris oure s[her]jeffis in [th]at parte co[n]iunctlie and seueralie specialie constitute  
greting Forsamekill as It is  
h[u]mlie merit and schawin to Ws be oure Louittis Thomas hoppringill and James hoppringill  
bre[th]ir and sonis
5. to robert hoppringill of mylkcomestoun That quhair in ane courte of iusticiarie haldin in oure  
tolbuith[e] of edinbur[gh]t<sup>2</sup>  
[th]e xxij day of Nouember lastbipast Alexander lauder in cringlie alexander lauder in  
hefpule thomas  
dalmahoy in harkes[s] and thomas lauder in Wormestoun fand souirtie to compeir befor oure  
iustice or his depu//<sup>3</sup>  
tis in oure said tolbuith[e] of edinbur[gh]t [th]e pe[n]ult day of Januar instant For [th]e crewell  
hurting and Wounding  
of [th]e saidis thomas and James and mutulatioun of [th]e said thomas As ane act maid in [th]e  
buikis of oure
10. adiomale [th]airupoun mair fullelie proportis Howbeit [th]e personis [th]at best knawis [th]e  
veritie in [th]e said  
mater Will nocht compeir befor oure said iustice and his deputis [th]e saidis day and place  
To pas vpoun [th]e  
assys[s] of [th]e saidis personis W[i]t[h]out [th]ai be compellit [th]airto be greit panis As is  
allegit Oure Will  
Is heirfoir and We charge yow straitlie and co[m]mandis<sup>4</sup> [th]at incontinent [th]ir<sup>5</sup> oure  
l[ett]res sent ye pas and

---

in oure name and auct[orit]ie lauchfullie su[m]mond Warne and charge ane assys[s] of [th]e  
 best and Worthiest

15. personis of oure s[her]efdome of peblis and foure half about leist suspect and [th]at best  
 knowis [th]e veritie  
 in [th]e said mater To sufficient nomer To compeir befor oure said iustice or his deputis  
 [th]e saidis  
 day and place To pas vpoun [th]e assys[s] of [th]e saidis personis delaittit of [th]e saidis  
 crymes Ilk  
 persoun vnder [th]e pane of fourty pundis As ye Will ans[we]r to Ws [th]airupoun The quhilk  
 to do We  
 co[m]mit to yow co[n]iunctlie and seueralie oure full power be [th]ir ourl[ett]res Deliuering  
 [th]ame be yow

20. deulie execute and indorsate agane to oure iustice clerk Gevin vnder oure signet AT  
 edinbur[gh]t [th]e  
 Twenti day of Januar And of oure regine [th]e first and Sevintene yeire 1558

<sup>1</sup> The names of the sheriff officers have been inserted later in a different hand.

<sup>2</sup> 'Burgh' and 'Edinburgh' are usually suspended thus with a superfluous 't'.

<sup>3</sup> '/' denotes word continues on to the next line.

<sup>4</sup> The 'co' is obscured where the paper has become worn.

<sup>5</sup> Common Scots word for 'these'.

---

### 3. Estate of the Household of James VI, 1580

*Part of a list of payments made and livery clothes given to the king officers, Stirling, May, 1580.*

The accounts of the Scottish royal household do not survive in any great quantity compared to those of her English or continental neighbours. Those which have survived are usually beautifully written and laid out on the page. The secretary letters have been carefully formed in this example with the exception of a hastily written marginal note. Accounts like these also offer plenty practice with Roman numerals. If you're feeling energetic, check whether the sums payed out by the Comptoller and the Treasurer add up. Scribes are known to make mistakes so if the sums in a document do not add up, it may not be your mistake.

---

1. The estait of the kingis maiesteis hous  
maid be his hienes w[i]th auise of the lordis of his priuie counsale At  
striuiling the \_\_\_\_\_ day of maij The yeir of god Jaj v<sup>c</sup> four scoir yeiris  
Contenyng the names and nowmer of his hienes ordinar officiaris and
5. housald s[er]uandis and the sowmes appointit to be payit to thame for thair  
feis thair s[er]uandis and horsmeit and in contentatioun of thair leveray  
claithis Be his hienes thesaurair and comptrollair respectiue at the  
tymes and in maner following
10. Allane lord cathcart Johnne murray youngare of tullibardin James Coluill of eist  
wemys and mungo grahame of Rathernis maisteris of his hienes housald  
\_\_\_\_\_ appointit  
a[th]er of to s[er]ue quarterlie thre monethis togidder Euerie ane of thame for thair feis,  
[th]ame iij<sup>c</sup> and for  
v<sup>c</sup> m[er]kis  
the meitt and drink of thair s[er]uandis and thair hors[es]meitt be the  
\_\_\_\_\_ comptroller ij<sup>c</sup> xxij li'  
iiij s' v d 2 p[ar]t d' And to all the foure \_\_\_\_\_ viij' lxxxviij li' xv s'  
\_\_\_\_\_ vj d 2 p[ar]t d
15. And to euerie ane of thame for thair leveray claithis be the  
thesaurair \_\_\_ j<sup>c</sup> xj li' ij s' ij d 2 p[ar]t d Inde to all the  
foure \_\_\_\_\_ iiij<sup>c</sup> xliiij li' viij s' x d 2 p[ar]t d \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Erskin and williame elphingstoun sewaris ather of thame appointit to  
\_\_\_\_\_ s[er]ue for  
l[tem] sex monethis To ather of thame be the comptroller \_\_\_\_\_ j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li' vj s' viij d  
\_\_\_\_\_ And  
to thame baith \_\_\_\_\_ ij<sup>c</sup> lxxvj li' xiiij s' iiij d
-

---

20. And to ather of thame for his leveray claithis be the  
thesaurair \_\_\_\_\_ lxvj li' xiiij s' iiiij d Inde to thame  
baith \_\_\_\_\_ j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li' vj s' viij d

I[tem] James elphingstoun and dauid Murray Copparis ather of thame appointit to  
s[er]ue for  
sex monethis To ather of thame be the comptrollair \_\_ j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li' vj s' viij d And  
to thame baith \_\_\_\_\_ ij<sup>c</sup> lxvj li' xiiij s' iiiij d

25. And to ather of thame for his Leveray claithis be the  
thesaurair \_\_ lxvj li' xiiij s' iiiij d Inde to thame  
baith \_\_\_\_\_ j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li' vj s' viij d

I[tem] Andro wod of Largo and michael elphingstoun carvo[u]r[is] To ather of thame be  
the comptroller  
j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li' vj s' viij d And to thame baith \_\_\_\_\_ ij<sup>c</sup> lxvj li' xiiij s' iiiij d  
And to ather of thame be the thesaurair \_\_ lxvj li' xiiij s' iiiij d Inde  
to thame baith \_\_\_\_\_ j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li' vj s' viij d

Comptroller \_\_\_\_\_ j m vj<sup>c</sup> lxxxviiij li' xv s' vj d 2 p[ar]t d  
The[saurai]r \_\_\_\_\_ viij<sup>c</sup> xliij li' viij s' x d 2 p[ar]t d

<sup>1</sup> '2 part d' means two thirds of a penny. This is fairly unusual use which you should not encounter very often.

---

## 4. Testament Testamentar of John Tod, 1609

*The testament and inventory of John Tod a maltman and burgess of Glasgow, 1609.*

Testaments are a rich source of information on all aspects of social and economic life with inventories recording details of household equipment, furniture, clothes, books and tools. They can cause problems because of the unfamiliar spelling of otherwise familiar Scots words but as they take a standard form you will quickly become familiar with their style and terminology. When a person died leaving a will, the registered copy is called a 'testament testamentar'. Where a person died intestate (without leaving a will), and where the Commissary Court appointed an executor, it is called a 'testament dative'.

This particular example is written in a well formed Secretary Hand but look out for 'e's that masquerade as 't's, 'q's that look like 'g's and an awkward capital 'A'. Try and identify the scribe's use of three forms of the letter 's'.

---

1. THE<sup>1</sup> Testament testamentar and Inuentar of  
the guidis geir sowmes of money and dettis Pertening<sup>2</sup>  
to vmq[uh]le Johnne Tod maltman burges of glasgw  
the tyme of his deceis Quha deceist in the moneth of
5. Tod the yeir of god 1609 yeiris Faithfullie  
maid and gevin vp be him self The saxt day of  
december the yeir of god foirsaid Insafar as con  
cernis the nomina[tio]un of exe[cut]o[u]ris Legacies and dettis  
awand be him And pairtlie maid and gevin vp
10. be George andersoun of wodsyde his onlie ex[ecuto]r nominat  
and be Barbara burrell spous to the said vmq[uh]le  
Johnne concerning the Inuentar of his guidis and  
geir insicht and plenissing within his hous As his  
La[tte]r will and testament at lenth beiris etc
15. Inuentar  
  
ITEM the said vmq[uh]le Johnne had all and sindrie guid[is]  
geir sowmes of money and dettis following Pertening  
to him the tyme of his deceis foirsaid of the avail[is]  
pryces eftir spe[cife]it viz four kistis pryce of Twa of
20. thame saxtein li' pryce of [th]e vther Twa thrie  
Item ane pres pryce thrie li' Item ane chy[m]mly  
cruik raxis<sup>3</sup> Pryce of all aucht pund Item ane  
almerie pryce four pund Item ane Lang settill with

- ane hall buird and ane furme pryce of all Sevin
25. pund Item ane brasin pott pryce thrie pund vi s viij d Item ane Irne pott pryce xi s. Item twa stane wecht of pewdir veschell pryce of [th]e pund vj s viij d Inde x li' xiiij s iiiij d Item twa pa[n]nis pryce of baith xxvj s viij d Item twa brasin laiddellis p[ry]ce
30. Liiij s iiiij d Item twa chyris pryce of baith xxvj s viij d Item four coveringis pryce of [th]e peice xxvj s viij d Sum[m]a v li' vj s viij d. Item four pair of scheittis pryce of [th]e pair xxvj s viij d Sum[m]a v li' vj s viij d Item twa calf<sup>4</sup> bowsteris pryce of [th]ame xiiij s iiiij d
35. Item twa feddir coddis pryce of [th]ame xiiij s viij d Item twa chandler[is] pryce of baith xl s Item ane girdill pryce xl s Item ane tarffoll<sup>5</sup> buird pryce xx s. Item [th]e haill brewing veschell estimat to vj li' Item the abuiyement of [th]e defunct[is] bodie estimat
40. to Aucht pund[is] money
- Sum[m]a of [th]e Inuentar Lxxxxj li' vj s viij d  
Na dettis awand to [th]e deid  
Dettis Awand be [th]e deid
- Item [th][er]<sup>6</sup> was awand be [th]e defunct To Jonet elphinstoun guidwyf of wodsyde thriescoir sax pund xiiij s iiiij d Item to patrik maxwell maltma[n] for fyve maskis of malt fourtie pund[is] Item to James Lindsayis bairnes equallie amangis thame twentie pund[is] of hous[s]maill Item to [th]e toun thesaurer
50. of ground a[n]uell<sup>7</sup> for [th]e new kirk four pund[is] mo[ne]y

<sup>1</sup> Capitalisation was used to draw attention to the beginning of a document or an important section of it. In a long document it helps draw the eye to the main points in the text.

<sup>2</sup> The extension on the 'g', and the other terminal letters in each line, is a line filler.

<sup>3</sup> Although the suspension in 'chy[m]mly' suggests 'er' is missing, the more usual spelling of the word is chymblay or chimblay. The 'cruik' was an iron chain with hooks for hanging cooking utensils, the 'raxis', chains on which the spit was turned.

<sup>4</sup> 'Calf' meaning chaff filled.

<sup>5</sup> 'Tarffoll', 'taiffle' or 'taffle', a small table.

<sup>6</sup> On this occasion the scribe has neglected to write the superscript 'r'.

<sup>7</sup> 'Ground annual' meaning perpetual annual rent on land.

---

## 5. Tack in Favour of Robert Bruce, 1629

*A tack from John Lord Lindsay to Robert Bruce of all the customs from coal, salt and other goods imported or exported by sea, 24 July 1629.*

The document known as a tack was similar to the modern lease and was usually drawn up between the landowner and his tenant, known as a tacksman, granting possession of lands for a certain period of time. This example is slightly different in that it is not lands, but customs, that are in question. It is a long legal document but contains some typical examples of secretary letters 'h', 'k', 'ch' and 'th' combinations. The capital letters are problematic but can be deduced from the context. The special symbol for 'con' which looks similar to a modern 'q' or number 9 is used regularly throughout. Look out for a tricky 'ter' abbreviation in line 12.

---

1. **Be it Kend** Till all men be thir p[rese]nt l[ette]ris Me Johne' **Lord Lindsay** with [con]sent of  
my Curato[u]r[is]  
vndersubscryveand And also with [con]sent of m<sup>r</sup> Patrik Lindsay of Wormestoune To Haue  
sett & in tak  
[and] asseda[tio]une for the maill & dewtie wnderwr[itt]in Lattin Lykeas I be [th]ir p[rese]ntis  
with [con]sent foirsaid sett [and<sup>2</sup>] in tak  
and asseda[tio]une for the maill [and] dewtie eftirspec[ifei]t Latt To my weilbelouit Maister  
Robert bruce sone lau[chfu]ll
5. to wmq[ui]ll Sir George Bruce of Carnok knight And to his airis [and] ass[ig]neyis  
quhatsum[eve]r The haill Customes  
great and small off all and quhatsum[eve]r Coallis, Salt, [and] othir gudes & merchandice  
quhilkis sall at anie tyme heireft[ir]  
be Imported or exported by sea To or frome quhatsum[eve]r creeke, herberie, road, Or to any  
othir place betuix the  
burne Called The Newmylne burne within the Lordschipe of Culrose and Torrieburne within  
the s[he]refdome  
of Fyiff and Regalitie of Sanctandrois Together with the richt [and] priviledge of the Custodie  
[and] keeping
10. of [th]e Cocqueit seill<sup>3</sup> [and] giving and dely[ver]ing of Cocqueittis be himselfe his Clerkis  
s[e]rvand[is] [and] o[the]ris in his  
name To whatsum[eve]r Schipes barkis crear[is] or other Veschellis Arryveand to or fra any  
p[ar]t of the said[is] bound[is]  
And that for all the day[is] space yeiris & t[er]mes of Nyne yeiris nixt [and] Im[m]ediatlie  
following the said  
m<sup>r</sup> Robert [and] his foirsaid[is] [thei]r entrie q[ui]llk salbe and begin at the day [and] dait  
heirof And frome thyne

- 
- furthe to Indure And to be peaciablie possest bruiked Joysit Intromettit with wsit [and]  
 dispone vpone
15. be him [and] his foirsaid[is] during the haill space abouemen[tio]ned as they sall think gude  
**With full Poware**  
 To the said m<sup>r</sup> Robert and to his airis [and] ass[ig]neyes foirsaid[is] To intromett with vplift ask  
 craive [and] receaue  
 the saidis haill Customes great and small of all and what sum[ev]er Coallis, salt [and] other  
 gudes [and] merchandice,  
 quhilkis sall at any tyme heireftir be Imported or exported by sea to or fra quhatsum[ev]er  
 Creeke herberie, roade  
 Or to any othir place Betuix the boundis abouespe[cife]it during the space abouewr[itt]in  
 And Gif neid
20. beis To chairge [con]vein call follow and p[er]sew [the]rfoir Compone transact [and] agrie  
 [the]rane[n]t And wpone the  
 receat [the]rof In haill or in p[ar]t Acquittances & dischairges in their awin names To mak  
 giue subscriye  
 [and] dely[ve]r Quhilk salbe allsufficient to the receaueris As gif I had subscribed [and]  
 dely[ve]red the same[n] my  
 selfe And als with po[we]r To the said m<sup>r</sup> Robert and his foirs[ai]d[is] during the said space  
 Clerkis de  
 puttis and substituttis ane or mae vnder them To elect creat [and] caus be sworne And to  
 Imputt [and] out
25. putt them at [thei]r pleas[ou]r And be themselves Or be [thei]r saidis Clerkis deuttis [and]  
 substituttes To direct  
 [and] giue furthe Cocqueit[is] To whatsum[ev]er p[er]sone or persones And to wplift [and]  
 receive quhatsum[ev]er dewties  
 [and] Casualties belonging [the]rto And [th]e same[n] to their awin vse to apply And  
 G[e]n[er]allie All  
 [and] sundrie wther lau[chfu]ll deid[is] to doe Co[m]mit vse [and] exerce anent the premiss[es]  
 Siclyke [and] als frielie  
 in all respectis [and] [con]di[cio]unes as I or<sup>4</sup> any wtheris In my name by my deputa[tio]une  
 & substi
30. tu[tio]une micht haue done o[u]r selfes befoir the making heirop Firme [and] stabill hauldand  
 and for to hald  
 all [and] whatsum[ev]er thingis the said m<sup>r</sup> Robert bruce or his foirs[ai]d[is] during the space  
 abouemen[tio]ned  
 sall Lau[chfu]llie doe a[n]e[n]t the p[r]emiss[es] **Payand thairfoir yeirlie** The said Mr Robert  
 and his airis [and] ass[ig]neyis foirs[ai]d[is] during the haill space aboue exprest To me my  
 airis [and] ass[ig]neyis  
 The Soume of Tuentie pundis vsuall money of Scotland AT the t[er]me of witsunday yeirlie
-

35. Beginnand the first t[er]mes pey[men]t [the]rof AT the feist [and] t[er]me of Witsunday In the  
 yeir of god Jaj  
 Sex hundrethe and Threttie yeiris nixtocume And that for the dewtie of the yeir preceiding  
 And sua furthe yeirlie during the space foirs[ai]d And bindis [and] obleiss[es] me [and] my  
 foirs[ai]d[is] To warrand  
 thir p[rese]ntis To the said m<sup>r</sup> Robert Bruce [and] his foirs[ai]d[is] fra my awin proper fact  
 [and] deid allennerlie  
 And for the mair securitie I am Content [and] Consentis That [th]ir p[rese]ntis be ins[e]rt  
 [and] reg[ist]rat in the buik[is]

40. of Counsall [and] Sessioune THat Ane decreit of the lordis [the]rof be int[er]ponit [the]rto And  
 that l[ette]ris [and] exe[cutiona]ll[is] of horning be direct [the]rwpone On ane simpill chairge  
 of Sex dayis allennerlie  
 And all otheris exe[cutiona]ll[is] necess[a]r in forme as effeiris  
 And for that effect [con]stituttis<sup>5</sup>  
 My Lau[chfu]ll pro[curatou]r[is] Promitten[s] de rato etc IN  
 Witnes q[uhe]rof Writin be James Bennewie s[e]ruito[u]r to Johne ker wryt[er] to his  
 Maj[esties] signet I and

45. my said[is] curato[u]r[is] vndersubscryveand [and] the said m<sup>r</sup> patrik Lindsay of wormestoune  
 In toikin of th[ei]r consent to  
 the premiss[es] haue subscryved thir p[rese]ntis w[i]t[h] o[u]r hand[is] AT Edinburghe The  
 Tuentie  
 Fourt day of Julii The yeir of god Jaj Sex hundrethe  
 Tuentie Nyne yeiris Befoir [th]ir witness[es] m<sup>r</sup> James Bruce /my/ s[er]veand m<sup>r</sup> Adame  
 hepburne  
 [and] James broune s[e]ruior to the erle of Hadingtoun

50. M Ja Bruce witnes Lindsay  
 A hepburne witnes Hadinton consents  
 James broune witnes Binning consents  
 M Hamilton consents

sub[scrivi]t at Ed[inbu]r[gh] 24 July 1629 befor M<sup>r</sup> Ja[me]s bruce my lo[r]d lindsayis s[e]rvant  
 m<sup>r</sup> adame heburne  
 and James br[oune] ..... s[e]rvitor[is] to the erle of hadinton<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 'Johne' added later in a different hand.

<sup>2</sup> Ampersand used to denote 'and'. Found throughout document.

<sup>3</sup> 'Cocqueit seill' is the seal of the Custom House given as evidence of having satisfied custom requirements.

<sup>4</sup> The scribe has had to make a large 'o' to cover up a mistake.

<sup>5</sup> A gap has been left in the document for the names of the procurators.

<sup>6</sup> The bottom edge of the document has been damaged and some words are illegible.

---

## 6. Bond, 1630

*John Duy Mcillmartine, and a number of his relatives and their servants, undertake for themselves and their heirs, to serve Robert Campbell of Glenfalloch and his heirs in 'all services and businesses', 11 January 1630.*

This is a variation of the Bond of Manrent which had died out at the beginning of the century and in which service and counsel was offered to a superior in return for his protection. Apart from problems with minims and capitals this large bold hand should present few difficulties if you take care to read what is there and not what you think you have read. It is easier to make more transcription errors in a simpler hand than in a more difficult one.

---

1. Be it Kend till all Men be Thir P[rese]ntt l[ette]rs Ws Johne duy  
mcillmartine in ferlochane duncane Mcillmartine in Cuilcharane  
Euir mcillmartine [th]air Gillmartine Mceandoy s[e]ruitor to Johne mc  
dougall in ferlochane and gillpatrik Mccondachykean s[e]ruitor to
5. patrik campbell in barrachaldane Q[ui]lk we foirsaidis Mcillmartines  
ar all Surnamit Mcnacroinis Induellers in lorne and benderalliche  
We fayt[h]fullie bind[is] and oblischis ws our airis Successors and poste  
ritie Q[ui]tsumeuer To gife our spe[ci]all s[e]ruicis and Atendance  
To the ry[ch]t honno[urabi]ll Robert campbell off Glenfalloche dureing
10. his lyfytyme And eftir the said Ro[ber]t his deceis To Johnne campbell  
Eldest and law[ful]l sone to [th]e said Robert his airis [and] Successo[n]r[is]  
IN all s[e]ruicis and bissinessis Q[ui]rintill we our airis or<sup>1</sup> Success[ou]r[is]  
Salbe requyritt be tham [th]air airis or Successo[u]r[is] And forder  
we binde and oblischis ws our airis and Successo[u]r[is] To caus pay
15. and delyuer at euerie ane of our depairto[u]r[is] furt[h] of this life  
To the said ro[ber]t campbell dureing his lyfytyme As is foirsaid  
ane sufficient tydie koue or ells ane hors wmt h sextein pound[is]  
Money And eftir his deceis to the foirsaid Johnne campbell  
his airis and Successo[u]r[is] And [th]at for Menteing and defend
20. ing of ws our airis and Successo[u]r[is] in all our lau[chfu]ll affairis  
and bissinessis And we the foirsaidis Mcnacroines bind[is] and ob  
lischis ws our /air[is]/ and Successo[u]r[is] Q[ui]tsumeuer To obs[e]rue and  
keipe this p[rese]ntt Obliga[ti]oun unviolat and vnbrokine in all thingis  
lykas the said ro[ber]t and Johne campbells bind[is] and oblischis tham thair
25. Airis [and] successo[u]r[is] To defend and Mentein ws our airis [and]  
Successo[u]r[is] in all our lau[chfu]ll affairis and bissines as is foirsaid

---

IN witnes Q[uhai]rof bayt[h] the saidis pairties hes Sub[scrivi]t [th]ir  
P[rese]nttis w[i]t[h] thair hands At drissack the lynt<sup>2</sup> day of Januarij  
the yeir of god Jaj vj c and threttie yeiris Befoir thir witnes

30. Allexander campbell off Achnareire Malcolme M<sup>c</sup>in  
tyr eldest and law[fu]ll sone to Johne mcintyr in Corries and  
Williame mitschell Notar Publick Wreitter heirof

Allexander Camp:           Ta est gullielmus mitschell No[ta]rius  
bell witnes                   publicus in premissis requisitus

malcolme mcinty:           [et]de mandato predicta personaru[m]  
re wittnes                   Scrivere Nesciens vt asserint  
                                  Teste Mann Propri<sup>3</sup>

W Mitchell No[ta]r witnes

<sup>1</sup> The word 'our' has been crossed out.

<sup>2</sup> A variant spelling of 'lynth' meaning eleventh.

<sup>3</sup> Translation: It is so. William Mitchell notary public called to the foregoing on the request of the aforesaid who do not know how to write as they have asserted. Witnessed by his own hand.

---

## 7. Montrose Kirk Session Records, 1635

*List of elders and deacons of Montrose kirk session.*

Lists of names are good starting points for tackling early handwriting styles as your learning of the secretary letter forms is greatly assisted by knowledge of Scottish names. It also helps familiarisation with capital letter forms. This example from the Montrose kirk session minutes displays a variety of christian names and surnames with some idiosyncratic spelling and unusual names to watch out for.

---

1. The names of the elderes  
and deacones of Montroise  
Choissen the 28 of october  
1634 yeires
5. Elderes.  
Robert keith provest.                      Deacones.  
Jhone Geardin                                  Jhone Lyndsay  
and    Alex[ande]r dunne  
James Williamsone bailyeis              Alex[ande]r Reid
10. Patrik Lightoun                              Alex[ande]r Gray  
Jhone Tailyor                                  Thomas horne.  
Jhone Bettie                                    Robert dunice  
Hercules Tailyor.                              Alex[ande]r Medden.  
James Scott.                                    William Erskyne.
15. david Guithrie                                James smith elder  
Mr david Erskyne                              Androw duncan  
George Pettrie elder                           James milne  
George Pettrie younger                       Jhone Nepper  
Robert Bettie                                   Jhone fyff.
20. William Grime                                Patrick Thomsone  
Thomas Ranny                                  Alex[ande]r Peirsone.  
George Gilbert.                                James smith youn[ger].  
Thone Gral                                      Thomas Ogilvie  
Alex[ande]r Runald                               Williame smith
25. David Sewane                                Androw Raitt  
Jhone Grahame                                 Robert stronoch.  
Androw gray                                    Alex[ande]r andersone  
Androw Gilbert.                                Alex[ande]r Alex[ande]r  
Jhone Wood
30. Walter Arbuthnot.                           Alex[ande]r Alex[ande]r

---

## 8. Instrument of Sasine, 1654

*Instrument of sasine by John Earl of Casillis and Margaret Kennedy his daughter, in favour of Thomas Mortoune of Dalquharn, of lands in Dailly parish, Ayrshire, 7 January 1654.*

The instrument of sasine was the crucial document which established that a change of ownership of property had taken place. In it, the notary recorded the physical transaction (the handing over of 'earth and stane'), the time and place of the event and the names of the witnesses present. The instrument had to be presented for recording in the Register of Sasines, complete from 1617, within 40 days and was then returned to the owner with a note of its registration on the back. As these documents are so common, being found in many collections of private papers as well as the Register of Sasines itself, and because of the valuable information they provide for local and family historians, it is worth getting to grips with the standardised terminology.

This is a very typical example of a type of small and spidery secretary hand which is very cursive. You may find some of it rather tricky. The minims are poorly formed so that counting will often not help you work out what letters are present. The letters 'u', 'v', 'w' and 'n' are liable to cause difficulty. Beware also of confusing 's' and 'f'.

- 
1. IN the Name of god so be it Be it knawin to all men be [th]is p[rese]nt publik Instr[u]ment  
That in [th]e yeir  
of [th]e Incarna[c]i[o]un of o[u]r Lord Jaj vj<sup>c</sup> and fyftie Four<sup>1</sup> yeiris And wpon the Sewint[h] day  
of Januarj In p[rese]ntis of me  
Nottir publik and wittnes wndirwry[tt]in Compeirit p[er]sonallie ane discret man Thomas  
Mortoune of dalquharn  
haueand [and] keippand in his hand[is] ane Contrat of dispo[si]tioun<sup>2</sup> [con]tei[n]i[n]g in it ane  
precept of seissing maid
  5. Betuixt ane Noble and pottent erll Jon errll of Cassill[is] Lord Kennedy etc w[i]t[h] adwysse  
[and] consent  
of Lady marggret kennedy his Lo[rds]hips Lawfull daughtir on the ane p[ar]t And the said  
Thom[a]s Morto[u]n<sup>3</sup>  
on the wthir pairt of [th]e daitt at Cassillis and the dayis of Nowembyr  
Jaj vi<sup>c</sup> and fyftie thrie yeiris of All and haill ane yeirlie anuell rent of Thrie skoir puind[is] money  
wsuall<sup>4</sup> of [th]is Nattioun To be wpliftit yeirlie AT twa t[er]mes in [th]e yeire witsunday and  
martmas
  10. in wunttir be equall porttiones furth of all and haill the mark land of Clasilballoch lyand  
w[i]t[h]in  
[th]e parishoune of daylie And bailiery of Carrik and s[he]refdome of air as in the said Contrat  
AT Length is Conteinitt for seissing to be given and grantit to [th]e said Thomas Mortoune  
his aires & assig[ne]es IN all [and] haill the said markland of Clasgalloch And Came to [th]e  
Personall p[rese]ntis of ane discret man Johne maxwell in dalquharne Baillyie to [th]e said

- 
15. Noble erll eftir spe[cife]itt spe[ci]allie Constitute be wertew of [th]e said precept of seissing  
 And  
 With rewerence as becam presentit to [th]e said baillyie the said Contrat contening the said  
 precept of seissing desyreing [and] requyreing him humblie [tha]t he wald put [th]e said  
 precept to dew execut[iou]n  
 Quhilk baillyie resaud in his hand[is] the foirs[ai]d Contrat and precept of seissing and  
 delyverit the samyn  
 to me nottir publik to be red and published of [th]e Q[ui]lk precept the Tennor followis and is
20. eftir [th]is forme Attour the said Noble hes mad [and] constitut Johne maxuell in dalquharn  
 and ilk ane of them Conjunctlie [and] sewerallie his werrie Lau[chfu]ll ballyeis in [th]at part  
 Co[m]manding<sup>5</sup>  
 and chairgeing them and eithir of thame Incontenent eftir [th]e sight heirof They pase to [th]e  
 Grund of [th]e foirsaid[is] Land[is] abouewrittin and wndirwrytine And thair give and delyvir  
 heritable  
 staite [and] seassing actuall Reall and Corporall possessio[u]n off all and haille the Foirsaid  
 anellrent
25. yeirly off thrie skoir pund[is] money and of [th]e said markland of Clasgalloch out of [th]e  
 q[ui]lk the said  
 anuellrent is to be wpliftit by and as saidis To [th]e said Thomas Mortoune or to his c[er]tane  
 ATTurney in his Name presentar heirof Be delyverance to thame of ane peny money in  
 name of anuellrent[is] and of eard<sup>6</sup> and staine of [th]e saidis Land[is] as vse is eftir [th]e  
 forme and  
 Teno[u]r of [th]is Contrat And wndir Rewersso[u]n of [th]e said prin[cipa]ll sowme of ane  
 thowsand
30. Pundis money and all anuellrent of [th]e samyne [th]at sall hapin to be restand awand  
 vnpayit the tyme  
 of [th]e redemptioun [the]rin Conteinitt To [th]e doeing q[ue]rof The said Noble erll  
 comit[is] to his said  
 Baillzies in [tha]t pairt his full powir to [th]e tenor heirof So it/is Subscryveit Cassill[is] etc  
**JM** m<sup>r</sup> Williame Cokburne Wittness ministir at kirk michall mr hew eikles ministeir  
 At Straittounne Thomas Eltounne s[er]vitour to [th]e said noble erll Witness JShaw wittness  
 Eiftir [th]e reid
35. ing<sup>7</sup> owir of [th]e said precept of seissing publiklie The said Johne maxuill baillyie foirsaid  
 be wertew  
 of [th]e said precept of seissing and strength of his seissing [and] ofice of baillery gave staite  
 [and] seissing  
 herittable atuall reall and corporall posessioun of all and haille the Foirsaid anuellrent of  
 thrie skoir  
 puind[is] money foirsaid and of [th]e markland of Clasgalloch out of [th]e quhilk the said  
 anuellrent is to be

wpliftit by and as said is To [th]e said THomas<sup>8</sup> Mortoune present and aceptand  
 personallie himself

40. Be delyverance of ane penny money in name of anuellrent and of eard [and] staine of  
 [th]e saidis land[is]  
 AT the maner [and] eiftir [th]e forme [and] tenor of [th]e said Contrat and precept of seissing  
 [the]rin contenitt  
 Wndir rewersso[u]n of [th]e said prin[cipa]ll sowme of ane thowsand pund[is] money foirsaid  
 and all anuellrent[is]  
 of [th]e samyne that sall happin to be restand wnpeyit the tyme of [th]e redempti[o]un  
 Q[ue]rvpon  
 All and sundrie the premiss[es] THE said Thomas Morttoun fra me notir publik wndir

45. wry[tt]in askit Instrement[is] ane or mae necessar Thir thungis wer done wpon the grund  
 of [th]e said[is]  
 Land[is] aboute Ten hor[is] in [th]e fore noone or [the]rby Befoir [th]ir Wittness dawid  
 mcmartein bro[th]er  
 to Johne mcmartein in dalwyne dawid maxuel sone to Johne maxuel in dalquharne Johne  
 Mccolline  
 in dalwyne and andro kirk in dalwyne  
 And I foirswth Andro Sloand nottir publik

50. A S ane of [th]e Clerkis w[i]t[h]in [th]e dyocessie of glasgow admittit  
 by warrand of [th]e Commissioner[is] for administ[rat]io[u]n<sup>9</sup> of Justice to  
 n p [th]e people in Scotland Be[cer]tane<sup>10</sup> whill all and sundrie the premisses  
 wer so done [and] said I with the aboue nameit Wittness wer p[er]sonall[ie]  
 Jure Deum<sup>11</sup> present and heard saw [and] knew the samyne so to haue bene  
 55. done and took A note [the]rof Q[ue]rvpon I formed this present  
 publick Instrment I haue sub[scrivi]t [th]e samyne with my name  
 sygne [and] surname wseit [and] wont in the faith strength and  
 Testimony of Weritie being Callit [and] re quyreit to [thi]s  
 premiss[is] etc. etc.

<sup>1</sup> The scribe uses slightly different forms of the letter 'f'. Another example of his double 'ff' is in line 24.

<sup>2</sup> The suspension mark is tagged on to the start of the letter 't'.

<sup>3</sup> 'Thomas Mortoun' has been written over another name written in error.

<sup>4</sup> The second 'l' has been almost obscured by the descending stroke from the line above.

<sup>5</sup> A good example of the problems arising with this scribe's use of minims. The two minims of the 'n' are barely visible while there is an extra minim added to 'ing'.

<sup>6</sup> 'Eard' meaning earth.

<sup>7</sup> Another example of too many minims.

<sup>8</sup> The first two letters of 'Thomas' have been capitalised to cover up the scribe's error in writing 'John'.

<sup>9</sup> The seven central minims of 'administ[rat]io[u]n' are not precisely formed. The rest of the word is formed by a title attached to the 'i' indicating the missing letters 'rat', an 'o' followed by a superscript 'u' and a final 'n'.

<sup>10</sup> This is not such a clear example as in line 26. Here, a suspension stroke has been added to the final 'e'.

<sup>11</sup> This is Sloan's notarial mark, with his initials A S 'n p' for notary public and his own motto, 'Jure Deum'. The translation of the latter is problematic – literally 'by the right of gods', though this seems strange in a presbyterian context.

---

## 9. Earl of Cassillis Agreement, 1662

*An agreement of the Earl of Cassillis concerning the disposal of fruit from his orchards in Roxburgh, 6 June 1662.*

The scribe of this document uses a clear, if rather loopy, hand which has adopted some of the more modern letter forms of the italic. For example, he uses italic 'a' and, at this transitional stage, is comfortable with both secretary and italic forms of the letter 'h'. The secretary combination of the 'th' may cause some problems as will the eccentric spelling. Abbreviations and suspensions are used sparingly however. Watch out for descending strokes which interfere with the line below.

---

1. We Johnn earle off Cassillis foir anie intrrest we have or may have doe allowe that the frwites of this yeare 1662 in the yeardes of eist ro[x]bur[gh]t to be disposed of thws To witt that the wholle swmer frwites strae berries chirries etc: be maid wse of by the gairdner himself except
5. what the earle off Roxbwr[gh]t or his Leddy reqwayres<sup>1</sup> a share off as they as they think good foir thair owine wse and efter them what Robert meine thair chalmerlane shall reqwayre foir his wse and speciallie that twa timber boxfwlles of strae berries and als manie of chirries be sent to our sonn Johnn in swche
10. boxes as the gairdiner knowes they wse to carrie swch frwittes saiflie in also that the airlie plowmes be sent to broxmouth or disposed off as Robert meine shall think Fitt in caic we ourselves doe not call foir them at the rypeness Lykewayes we ordaine the beste kyndes of the keippeinge<sup>2</sup> apples be distribute thws to wit a horse
15. Loades of the best kyndes be sent in creilles maid of pwrpose be sent to Biggar foir our wse wpoun advertisement befoir to gilbert haye at Cassillis to send a horse to meitt them and that the reste of those apples be delyvred to Robert meine foirsaid foir his<sup>3</sup> owine wse except The earle of Roxbwr[gh]t or his Leddie sie Fite to call foir whate
20. quantittie they please of them and we allow the gairdner himself to mak wse off the com[m]on apples and peeres foir his owin wse except the frwite of aney on or twa peere tries whiche We allow Robert meine to tak foir himself And we reserve to William Ancrum a hand creill fwill off grose berries another of chirries a thrid of good
25. apples a fourt of good peeres as also we res[e]rve to ourselves iff we be in tividotdail or Ed[inbu]r[gh] Liberttie to send foir frwites of aney kynd foir present eattinge withe the samy[n] Liberttie to dam margrat haye

---

our spous and we ordain our gairnder andro robssoun to give allways  
frie accese to the said W[illia]<sup>m</sup> Ancrum our chalmerlan to the said[is] yeard[is]  
30. foir seinge and Considreinge of the samy[n] in witnes of thes p[rese]ntes we  
have swbscryvet the samy[n] at melross the saxt day of June 1662 be  
foir thir witness[es] gilbert kenniddie appeirand of kirkhill and  
thomas Eltin our s[e]rvito[u]r[is]

<sup>1</sup> The down stroke of the 'y' in 'reqwayres' is a good example of the descender impinging on the line below.

<sup>2</sup> The final 'e' is run on cursively from the top of the letter 'g'. There are further examples in later lines.

<sup>3</sup> There is a danger of confusing the 'h' with the letter 'p'. Compare the 'p' in 'except' at the end of the line.

---

## 10. Oath of Allegiance, 1690

*Oath of Allegiance to King William and Queen Mary made by the baillies, councillors and town clerks of the Burgh of Kinghorn, 18 August 1690, taken as part of royal measures to ensure the loyalty of public officials after the Revolution.*

Though at first sight a rather crabbed hand, a bit of patience is all that is required. Letters to look out for are 'c's and 't's. There are very few abbreviations in the document but as with the previous document, watch out for the loopy descenders which can interfere with words in the line below.

---

1. AT the burghe of kinghorne the Aughteine day  
of August Jaj vj c Fourscoir Ten yeires

THE quhilk day In obedience of ane proclamacione of thair  
Majesties privie counsell narrating and relative to, Ane act of [th]e second

5. Sessione of [thei]r majesties current parliament Be w[hi]ch act it is statut  
and ordanit That all persones who in law ar obleist to suear and tak the  
aith of alledgance to thair majesties Sall also subscrivye the certifficat  
and assurance mentionat in and subjoyned to the said act of parliament  
vnder the certifficatione [the]rin containit Betuixt and the Tuentie
10. Day of August instant And to record the samen in thair re[specti]ve book[is] And to  
transmit to [th]e clerk[is] of [thei]r Majesties privie counsell extract[is] [the]rof vnder [thei]r  
clerk[is] hand[is] Betuixt and the first day of September nixtocum Conforme  
to w[hi]ch proclamacione and act of parliament THE baillies counsell [and]  
Com[m]on clerk of [th]e said bur[ch]t of kinghorne causit proclame the s[ai]d proclamatio[un]
15. certifficat and assurance at the marcat croce of the said bur[ch]t And [the]refter  
Did conveye w[i]t[h]in the Tolbuith of the said bur[ch]t And in ane fensit court red  
the s[ai]d proclamacione certifficat and assurance of newagaine And did all  
Signe and subscrivye the same efter the forme and tenno[u]r of [th]e s[ai]d proclamatio[un]  
certifficat and assurance in all poynt[is] Followes the certifficat and assurance
20. We the baillies counsell and com[m]on clerk of the burghe of kinghorne  
vndersub[scrivan]d Doe in the sinceritie of our heart[is] assert acknowledge and  
Declair that [thei]r majesties king William and queen Marie ar the lau[chfu]ll  
Soverane king and queen of Scotland alsweill de juri as de facto and  
in the exercise of the goverment And thairfor we doe Sincerlie and
25. faithfullie promise and ingadge that we will w[i]t[h] heart and hand lyff and  
guids Mainteine And defend [thei]r majesties Tytill and goverment Ag[ain]st the  
late king James his adherent[is] and v[er]y[is] enimies who a[the]r by oppen or secret

---

attempts shall disturb or disquiet their majesties in the exercise [the] of

Subscribed this Patrick Wallace baillie James Alexander baillie

30. John Walker James Robertson William Grig John Collyear James Nicolson  
John Mayne William Birrell John Aitken James Hoggan Robert Forster William  
Forrester Mathew Law John Richardson Ita est Robertus Schaw notarius  
publicus in premissis requisitus de speciali mandato dicto Jacobi Burnlie  
Alexander Gordon Robert Drysdale et David Dowie scribere nescierunt
35. (vtasserunt) assero R. Schaw scriba dicti burgh Extractis  
e libris actorum dicto burgh per me

R. Schaw scriba<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Translation: It is so. Robert Shaw notary public called to the foregoing by special order of the said James Burnlie Alexander Gordon Robert Drysdale and David Dowie who do not know how to write (as they assert) I assert R Shaw writer of the said burgh Extracted from the Register of Acts of the said burgh by me R Shaw writer.

---

## 11. A Case of Slander, 1676

*Agnes Clyd appears before the Justices of the Peace in Glasgow accused of slandering Francis Stevinstone and John Rankin, 11 September 1676.*

One of the most interesting features of this document is the vividness of the language used. Early court records are often brought to life by the expressive vocabulary reported in their text. One of the main problems with this document is the spelling. Otherwise, there are virtually no contractions or abbreviations to cause difficulties and the script itself is a nicely formed, if sometimes rather loopy, secretary hand. Letters to look out for are 'w' and 'v'.

---

1.                   The said day also vpon ane bill of complent Given in be the pr[ocurat]or fiscall  
decreit           and Francis Stevinstone wright and Johne Rankine hammerman  
                      for ther entress Against Agnes Clyd widdow makeing mention  
                      That whair about Mertinmas last or therby the said Agnes with
5. Rankine and   many imprecationes woves and curses wishit that the heavie  
Stevinsone      entress[-] who was setters and takers of her house that shoe dualt  
                      in and that the eating worme might never be from ther fyer  
                      syde and declaired publictlye that shoe<sup>2</sup> should give the said
10. [con]tra      Francis her malisone everie day that shoe rose and wishit that  
Clyd              he might never have ane dowing<sup>3</sup> day And not being  
                      satisfiet therwith about sex weiks since or therby declaired and  
                      affirmit most disdainfullie and wickedlie that John Thomsone father  
                      in Law to the<sup>4</sup> s[ai]d John Rankine Lay in ane holl whill he was eaten
15.               away with maickes and declaired that ther was never one that angered  
                      her bot that shoe gatt her hart soone or syne satisfiet of them  
                      and imprecated and wishit that the heavie wrathe curse and  
                      maledictione of god might come vpon the Francis and wishit  
                      that he might have ane evill fortune and that ane cold
20.               waickening might come vpon him and vantit that the deceast  
Ritchard Glen took her house ower her head Bot that he  
                      broockit it not long With many other woves and curses to the  
                      dishonour of gods name As the bill at lenth beir[is] Compearit  
                      the def[en]der and denyit the bill And the justices of peice
25.               admittit the samyne to the persewar[is] probat[io]une Who for  
                      proveing therof adduced divers famous witness[es] sworne  
                      admittit and examined and being examined Proved the

---

samyne sufficientlie And therfor the said justice of  
peice Ordainit the defender to stand wp vpon the binsh<sup>5</sup>  
30. and to take her tongue betuixt her finger and her thoub  
and to say false tongue shoe lied in vttering the fors[ai]ds words  
annent the deceast John Thomsone and to crave god pardone  
for the haill forsaidis woves and curses and then the persewars q[ui]k shoe  
35. did and fynit her in tuintie pounds and to remaine in waird till  
that ware payed therafter quatt<sup>6</sup> of the fyne & putt out of the  
toun

<sup>1</sup> The 'v' is a good example of how misleading the lead in stroke on a letter can be. There is the danger of misreading it as a separate letter.

<sup>2</sup> An example of the scribes use of the italic form of the letter 'h'.

<sup>3</sup> Meaning 'useful'.

<sup>4</sup> The 'h' has been written over the letter 'e'.

<sup>5</sup> Meaning 'bench'.

<sup>6</sup> Meaning 'quit'. Tricky letter 'a'.

---

## 12. An Italic Letter, 1587

*Letter from the young Ludovick Earl of Lennox to 'my Lord and father, My Lord Hamilton' requesting a favour for his servant, 15 July 1587.*

The italic hand, the forerunner of our modern handwriting, was created by the humanist scholars of the Italian Renaissance. They believed they were returning to the clear scripts of classical times when they were actually copying the handwriting of later Carolingian copies of classical texts. The arrival of italic and its diffusion in Britain is considered to be a barometer of the spread of humanist learning. At the period of this letter, the script was still rarely used in Scotland and generally limited to the educated and cosmopolitan aristocracy or clergy although, as we have seen, italic letter forms can appear alongside pure secretary forms in many scripts.

This thirteen year old's script is carefully formed and pleasing to read though not without error and the spelling is unorthodox at times. Characteristics of the italic to be noted in this document are the modern style letters 'h', 'r' and 's', the letter 'f' with its descender curling slightly to the left and the simpler capitals.

---

1. My lord, I haue ressautt yowr .lo.[rdship's] letter togidder with the kings  
Bik quharof I rander yowr .lo.[rdship] maist humble thankis, I persaeue that  
Yowr lordschip hes<sup>1</sup> considerit my In[n]ocencie in that con[strainit]<sup>2</sup> suit  
and hes pleasit yowr lo.[rdship] to excuse my onseimlie facon of doing
5. quharof I think me na lass addettit to yowr lo.[rdship] then oblissit<sup>3</sup> to serue  
Yow: Baith in consideration of that, and the constant affetion I know  
yowr .lo.[rdship] bearis to me and myne. This berrar wil remember  
yowr .lo.[rdship] of the suit I requisit anis yowr .lo.[rdship] for, concernig<sup>4</sup> Richart  
abercrombie my seruand, belieuing that yowr lo.[rdship] wil graunt /to/ the same
10. the rather that it is no[ch]<sup>5</sup> hurtfull to yowr lord.[ship's] rent, swa refaring this  
and vthers things to this berar[is] information. com[m]ittis yowr lo[rdship]  
to godis holye keeping From court the 15 of July 1587

Yowr lo[rdships] maist affectionat  
so[u]ne to do yow ser[vice]<sup>6</sup>

Lenox

---

<sup>1</sup> The 'h' appears to overwrite a 'b' but remains poorly formed.

<sup>2</sup> The legibility of this word had been affected by candle or sealing wax on the paper.

<sup>3</sup> The first 's' was originally written in its long form.

<sup>4</sup> There is no mark signifying the omission of an 'n'.

<sup>5</sup> The superscript 't' is just legible.

<sup>6</sup> Again, the word is obscured by wax in the folds of the letter.

---

### 13. Crossed Letter from Australia, 1839

*A letter written home to his mother in Coupar Angus from D S Murray on China Farm, Canning River in Western Australia, giving the latest family news. In his letter Murray comments on the difficulty of obtaining good writing materials. As was common in this period, it is written in both directions in order to save paper and thereby cost less to send such a long distance.*

At first sight rather daunting to read, it is the criss-crossing of the words and the entangled letters which cause problems rather than the letter forms themselves which are modern. Of course bad handwriting, in the sense of badly formed letters, is a problem at any period.

---

From top down.

1. ...amiable Lady shares with him the feeling  
of the colonists, they leave us in a few days  
What manner of man the new Gov[ernor] Mr John  
Hutt will be remains to be proved. I was
5. truly grieved to see by your letter as bad an account  
of Uncle Mungos health. I do hope the fine  
weather would put him on his legs again entirely  
What a pity this Colony is so far from home otherwise  
I think a trip might do many invalids good and I
10. would be very much tempted to send your little  
Grand daughter home to you to amuse your solitary  
hours, sixteen thousand miles is a long journey!!!  
Our natives have been much more quiet lately  
and I think every year they will become more
15. accustomed to our ways, if not civilised; they now  
begin to find out that powder & ball is more deadly  
than their spears. Many of them understand a little  
English and most of the settlers after being two o[r]<sup>1</sup>  
three years in the Colony pick up a [few] 2 letters o[f]
20. their language so that we manage to unders[tand]  
one another. It is a common belief among them  
that all the white people were at one time black  
that they died & jumped up white people in  
England. I am claimed by two tribes as a brother
25. one of their number died some time [ago]<sup>2</sup> before I  
came out and they think that I am the black

- man back as a white man<sup>3</sup> because I am  
 a big fellow boulu. I am still at my Brothers  
 in Law on the Canning River, my plans are not  
 30. quite fixed but in the mean time our intentions  
 are, if Mr Phillips goes down to the Williams  
 River as Gov[ernmen]t Resident, to get his Farm which  
 is directly on the opposite side of the River  
 and by that means secure the whole run  
 35. on both sides of the River for our stock and  
 save us the expense & trouble of moving ....

From left to right.

1. ...90lbs weight no joke to carry on your back four good miles of a hot day  
 The pigeons mentioned to you in my last that I intended to send home  
 to you, have all been lost. If Mungo would send me a sett of those long  
 handled dissecting Knives and some of the liquid preparation he once had for  
 5. preserving small birds, I could send him some beautiful skins & small birds  
 - too small to skin. If he would not grudge the expense of freight I would  
 send him a box of native spears & some Kangaroo skins and my other  
 curiosities to ornament his hall with. I have got the promise of some  
 skins of the black swan which I will send home to you. Bessy desires  
 10. me to give you her best thanks And love for your Kind letter which she will  
 endeavour to answer. She likewise unites with me in love to Mungo &  
 Anne and wishing all the compliments of the season to you & them  
 Any letter or parcel that may                      I remain my dearest Mother  
 be sent to me had better be                      Your affectionate Son  
 15. addressed to the care of Capt[ai]n }      D S Murray  
 Scott Harbour Master Fremantle  
 If at any future time any of the family think of sending out any thing to us  
 some paper of this size with a few quills & a bottle of ink would be very useful  
 as my stock is nearly exhausted & you cannot get those things good here.  
 20. Calico is very scarce very bad & very dear here, a piece of it would be very  
 acceptable.

<sup>1</sup> A small tear in the paper affects the ends of lines 18 - 20.

<sup>2</sup> The word 'ago' has been stroked out for no apparent reason.

<sup>3</sup> A fold in the letters makes the text difficult to read.

---

Copyright © 2022

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission of the copyright holders.

The text by Scottish Records Association, c/o National Records of Scotland, H M General Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY.

Documents 2-10, 12 and 13 National Records of Scotland (documents 2, 3, 4 and 10 are Crown Copyright, National Records of Scotland)

Document 11 Glasgow City Archives, Mitchell Library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN

1. The Secretarie Alphabet

*The Secretarie Alphabet*

V a a a d d a a a d d b b b z z z t t c c t  
c c c d d d d d d e e e e e f f f f  
f f g g g g g h h h h h i i i i i  
k k k k l l l m m m n n n o o o  
p p p q q q r r r s s s t t t u u u  
v v v w w w x x x y y y z z z

Assess for Murther

*[Large decorative initial 'F' with intricate flourishes]*

Francis and Marie be ye gract of god King and Quene of Scotland, Delfhin and Delfhinis of Brittain  
 To ours Louthis Warlon Kyng of Scotland  
 Messingours oure Session yat parit cometh and generalit specialit confidencit thairin Abzuntill the  
 hadis intent and schew to us be ours Louthis Thomas hoppingill and James hoppingill breyer and soun  
 to robert hoppingill of myllstonefroum That quhar in the court of myllstonefroum haldu in ouris tollbuch of Edinbur  
 ye xxij day of November last past Alexander Lander wright alderman Lander in hispild Thomas  
 Dalmaroy in harbess and Thomas Lander in Wormeston found fault to comper befor ouris iustice or his depu  
 tib in ouris said tollbuch of Edinbur ye xxij day of Januar instant for ye cruel harting and wounding  
 of ye said Thomas and James and mutilation of ye said Thomas And ane attour in ye bukis of ouris  
 diornale yairpoun maia fullit proportis That wherit ye persons yat best knawis ye verite in ye said  
 matir will nocht comper befor ouris said iustice and his deputis ye said day and place To paye vpon ye  
 assis of ye said persons wout yai be compellit yairis be greit paine And allegit **OURE WILL**  
 Is herfor and we charge zoll seruice and commandis yat intonment yer ouris lres sent ze pad and  
 in ouris name and ane thelauchfulle sirmoun warne and charge and assis of ye best and worthiest  
 persons of ouris Session of ye buris and foure half about lest suspect and yat best knawis ye verite  
 in ye said matir To sufficient number To comper befor ouris said iustice or his deputis ye said  
 day and place To paye vpon ye assis of ye said persons delictit of ye said matir all  
 person vnder ye paine of forty pundis And ze will assis to us yairpoun The quill to do we  
 count to zoll cometh and generalit ouris full power be yer ouris lres Delimiting yairit be zoll  
 deulis speid and indorsit ayant to ouris iustice clerk Gebun vnder ouris signet At Edinbur ye  
 Twenti day of Januar And of ouris regne ye first and Edinbur zairis 1558

1578



The estate of the Kingis maisteris house  
made be his grace the lord of his grace  
the day of may the year of god 1580  
Containing the names and numbers of his grace  
sonsaids seruandis and the seruandis appointed  
to be payit to him for his  
servandis and seruandis and in continuation of his  
clerkis be his grace the seruandis and comptroller  
respective at the  
tyme and in mane place

James lord catwart James Murray younger of Bullbardin James Colville of East  
wemyss and Mungo Graham of Kettymore maisteris of his grace sonsaids appointed  
to his grace quarterly the moneth of february. And to be payit to him for  
the milt and drink of his grace seruandis and his grace seruandis be the comptroller  
the sum of 1000 l. And to all the sum of 1000 l. by the year  
And to be payit to him for his grace clerks be the  
comptroller the sum of 1000 l. And to all the  
sum of 1000 l. by the year

of 2000 l.  
by the year

James Colville and William Elphinstoun seruandis of his grace appointed to be payit  
to him quarterly the moneth of february. And to be payit to him for  
the milt and drink of his grace seruandis and his grace seruandis be the comptroller  
the sum of 1000 l. And to all the sum of 1000 l. by the year  
And to be payit to him for his grace clerks be the  
comptroller the sum of 1000 l. And to all the  
sum of 1000 l. by the year

James Elphinstoun and David Murray Copparis of his grace appointed to be payit  
to him quarterly the moneth of february. And to be payit to him for  
the milt and drink of his grace seruandis and his grace seruandis be the comptroller  
the sum of 1000 l. And to all the sum of 1000 l. by the year  
And to be payit to him for his grace clerks be the  
comptroller the sum of 1000 l. And to all the  
sum of 1000 l. by the year

James Wood of Largo and Mungo Elphinstoun seruandis of his grace appointed to be payit  
to him quarterly the moneth of february. And to be payit to him for  
the milt and drink of his grace seruandis and his grace seruandis be the comptroller  
the sum of 1000 l. And to all the sum of 1000 l. by the year  
And to be payit to him for his grace clerks be the  
comptroller the sum of 1000 l. And to all the  
sum of 1000 l. by the year

Comptroller the sum of 1000 l. by the year  
And to all the sum of 1000 l. by the year







The names of the elders  
and deacons of Montrose  
Chorison the 28 of October  
1634. 3<sup>rd</sup> year

Elders.

Robert Kirk provost.  
Agnes Boardin  
James Williamson bailzie

Patrick Lyetom  
Agnes Carlye  
Agnes Bette  
Dorinde Carlye.

James Cott.  
David Gunguis  
Mr David Deshno  
George Petrus olde  
George Petrus yonger  
Robert Bette

William Grimo  
Thomas Jamy  
George Crebock.

Agnes Gray  
John Small  
David Selbim  
Agnes Greagand  
Andrew Gray  
Andrew Crebock.

Agnes Wood.  
Walter Debnott.

Deacons.

John Lindsay  
John Dime  
John Ford  
John Gray

Thomas Greene.  
Robert Dime  
John Madden.

William Deshno.  
James Smith olde  
Andrew Dime

James Milne  
Agnes Nappe  
Agnes fess.

Patrick Tompson  
John Persone.  
James Smith ym.

Thomas Gilbie  
William Smith  
Andrew Hartt

Robert Stronach.  
John Lindsay  
John Debn



We John earle of Cassillis for our interest we have or may have  
 doe allowe that the fruite of this year 1662 in the year of castigate  
 to be disposed of thow so with that the whooe summe fruite of straw  
 berries thieries etc. be maid use of by the gardner himself except  
 what the earle of Roxburt or his Lady requyre a share off  
 as they are they thinke good for their owne use and after com-  
 what Robert meine thair of almerlane shall requyre for his  
 use and speciallie for his timber boe full of straw berries  
 and als manie of thieries be sent to our sonn John in such a  
 bope as the gardner knowes they use to carrie such fruite saiflie  
 in also that the aillie plowme be sent to be sowne or disposed  
 off as Robert meine shall thinke fitt in tair we our selves doe  
 not take for them at his expence by wayd we ordaine be best  
 cyndes of be sowinge apples be distribute thow to wit a horse  
 load of be best kynde be sent in tair maid of purpose be sent  
 to Bigger for our use upon advertisement befor to Gilbert  
 have at Cassillis to send a horse to moill com and bat be rest of be  
 apples be delivred to Robert meine for his owne use except  
 the earle of Roxburt or his Lady sic ffit to take for a  
 grantittie they please of com and we allow be gardner himself  
 to make use of the tomou apples and pears for his owne use except  
 the fruite of any one or two pears tree wchic we allow Robert  
 meine to take for himself And we referre to William Antrim a  
 hand trees full of gorse berries and of thieries a bud of good  
 apples a furt of good pears and also we referre to our selves if we  
 be in tair daies or of Libertie to send for fruite of any cynd  
 for present eatinge with the same Libertie to Sam margrathave  
 our son and we ordain our gardner and so Robson to give all the  
 fruite attese to be send wch Antrim our of almerlane to be send year  
 for forage and consideny of be same in virtue of his pater we  
 have subscribed be same at melross be sept day of June 1662 be  
 our own wch Gilbert homiddie apparand of Kirkcaldie and  
 Thomas Elth our scribe



Demerit

35

Rankine and

Stoddinson

John

Phy

The said day also upon and by of complaint given in to the justices  
 and Francis Stoddinson wright and John Rankine-gammerman  
 for their entreaty against Agnes Elye widow concerning mention  
 that again about Martinmas last or thereabouts the said Agnes with  
 many imprecations words and curses wished that the said  
 words of god might come upon the said Agnes for her  
 entreaty also was fathers and labors of her house that she should  
 in and that the said Agnes might never be from her house  
 and decreed publickly that she should give the said  
 Francis her malison every day that she was and wish that  
 she might never have and do any day and not being  
 satisfied therewith about her words she or thereabouts decreed and  
 affirmed most disdainfully and wickedly that John Thompsoe father  
 in law to the said John Rankine lay in and soe was she was taken  
 away with maithes and decreed that there was never one that agreed  
 for her that she got her heart soon or she was satisfied of her  
 and imprecated and wished that the said Agnes words curses and  
 maledictions of god might come upon the said Francis and wish  
 that she might have and have fortune and that and that  
 working might come upon him and wish that the said  
 Ritzgard Glen took her house over her head that she  
 brook it not long while many other words and curses to the  
 dishonour of gods name as the bill at court says Comprobat  
 the date and demerit the bill and the justices of peace  
 admittit the same to the justices probalme also for  
 proving proof adduced diverse famous witness sworn  
 admittit and examined and being examined proved the  
 same sufficientlie and herfor the said justice of  
 peace comdairit the defendant to stand up upon the bench  
 and to take her <sup>tongue</sup> finger betwixt her finger and her tongue  
 and to say false tongue she had in uttering the for the words  
 amount the deceased John Thompsoe and to make god pardon  
 for her said forsaide words and curses and then the justices gave her  
 did and fynyit her in thirtie pounds and to remaine in ward till  
 that was payed her after givell of the fyne & putt out of the  
 town

35



1587

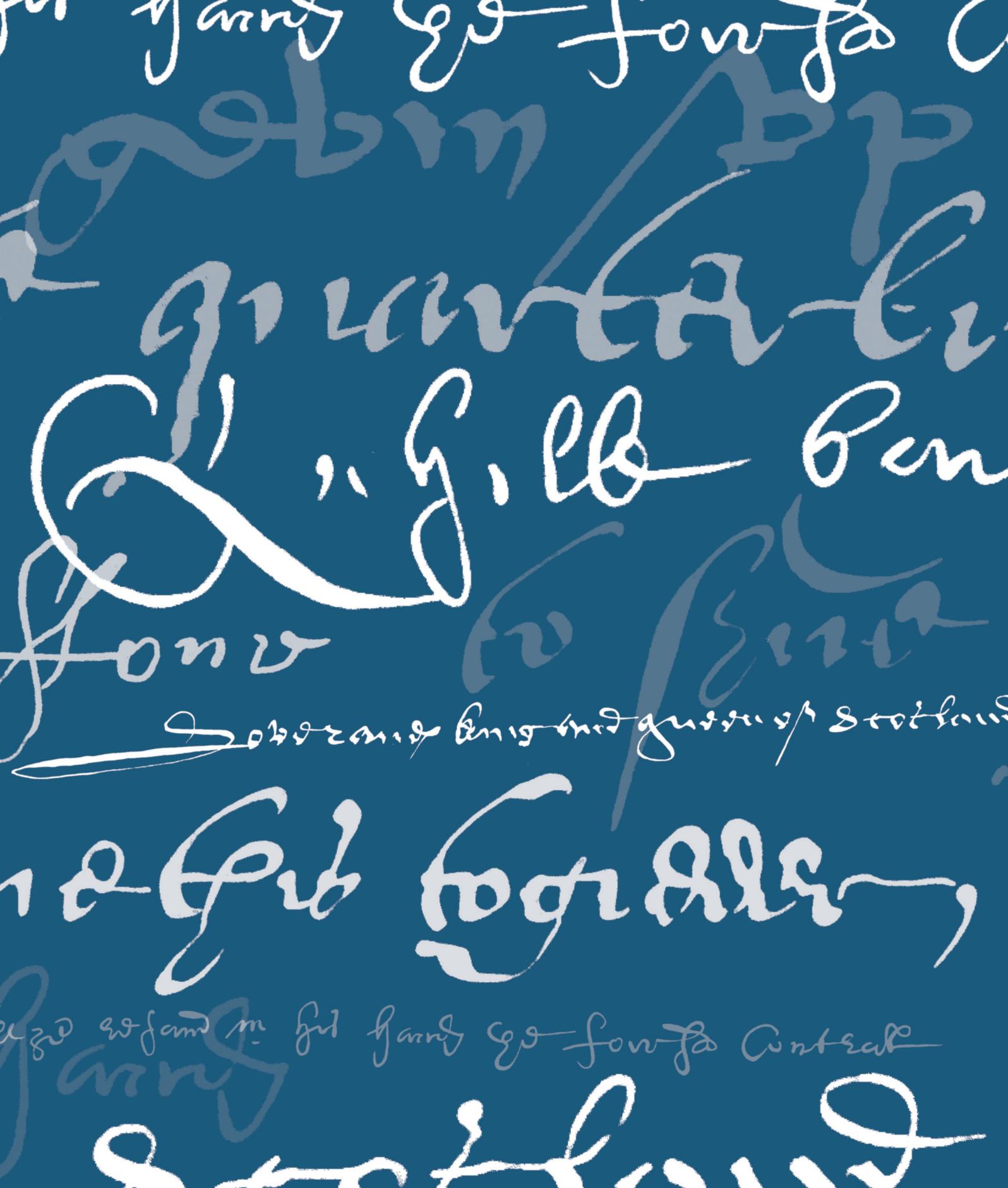
GD 40611/401

My lord, I haue ressauit your lo. letter togidder with the Kings  
 Bik quharof I rander your lo. maist humble thankis, I persauie that  
 your lordschip has considerit my Inuencie in that constrainit suir  
 and has pleasit your lo. to excuse my onseimlie facon of doing  
 quharof I think me na lass addettit to your lo. then obliissit to serue  
 you: Baith in consideration of that and the constant affetion I know  
 your lo. bearis to me and myne. This berrar wil remember  
 your lo. of the suit I requestit anis your lo. for, concernig Richard  
 abercrombie my seruant, belieuing that your lo. wil graunt the same  
 the rather that it is no. hurtfull to your lord. rent. swa refering this  
 and vthers thing to this bearyng information. comittis your lo.  
 to godis helpe keiping From court the 15 of Julij 1587

Your lo. maist affectionat  
 sone to do your seruice

LENOX





[www.scottishhandwriting.com](http://www.scottishhandwriting.com)

© National Records of Scotland and the Scottish Records Association



The Scottish Records Association is a Scottish Charity, SC008896, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

ISBN 978-0-9957776-1-3



9 780995 777613 >