

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

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 third quarters of 1570, see TNA SP 15/19/38, ff. 89-90 and TNA SP 15/19/40, f. 93.

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: (illegible) 1570

Payments made for the behoof of Edward, Earl of Oxenford, the Queen's Majesty's ward, for one quarter of the year of 13 weeks beginning the 26th of March and ending the 24th of June An{n}o R{egni} R{egi}ne Elizabethe xijmo

To John Spark, draper, for 5 yards of fine black for my Lord's 2 cloaks, & for tawny for 3 liveries, as by his bill, £8 10s

To Miles Exelby, tailor, for one Dutch cloak of velvet guarded with the same, with all the furniture, for 2 fine canvas doublets, one other of cambric, and one of silk mockado, as by his bill, £24 10s 1d

To John Martin, hosier, for 2 pair of velvet hose with taffeta, satin of Bruges, silks, and 2 pair of silk netherstocks to them, and for one pair of black kersey hose lined with velvet, with black silk stocks, and all the furniture to the three pair, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £33 6s 8d

To William Tary, capper, for one velvet hat and one taffeta hat, 2 velvet caps, a scarf, 2 pair of garters with silver at th' ends, a plume of feather for a hat, and another hatband, as by his bill it particularly it [sic] appeareth, £4 6s

To Lancelot Burton, apothecary, for 5 dozen & di{midium} of codinack [=codiniac?] boxes, for a sweet bag for lignum aloes [=lign-alies?], sparnia, cete(?) and saffron with other drugs, as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £7 14s

To Riche, the apothecary, for pills, prunes preserved, whey, lotions, syrups etc., as by his bill it particularly appeareth, £4 15s 2d

To John Brown, shoemaker, for 11 pair of Spanish leather shoes and 5(?) pair of pantofles, as by his bill, 28s 4d

RM: verte

To George Hill, saddler, for 2 Spanish leather saddles with all the furniture, with bits and one collar of leather hangs(?), as it appeareth by his bill, 41s 4d

To John Hart, Chester Herald, for so much by him disbursed for my Lord's servants' wages & board-wages, for the laundress' wages, and for other rewards, and for my Lord's diet whiles he lay near Charing Cross, and for keeping in the stable and shoeing of his horse for this quarter of the year, appearing particularly by his bill by me seen & allowed, in all coming to, £48 9s 2d

S<sup>u</sup>m<sup>ma</sup> totall<sup>is</sup>, £135 9d

Mr Receiver, I pray you to cause the parcels herebefore expressed amounting to the sum of one hundred thirty and five pounds and nine pence to be paid unto this bearer, John Hart, Chester Herald, that he may make payment thereof whereas is due, and this bill by me subscribed, together with his acknowledging of the receipt there[of] hereunder, shall be your sufficient warrant in that behalf. Given at Oatlands the 27th of June 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 abovesaid of one hundred thirty and five pounds and nine pence the 13th of July A<sup>n</sup>no R<sup>egni</sup> R<sup>egi</sup>ne Elizabethe xijmo, p<sup>er</sup> me Joh<sup>ann</sup>em Hart, Chester Herald.

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