

SUMMARY: The document below is a warrant authorizing payment for expenditures made on behalf of the Queen's ward, William Carr of Northumberland, for the period 25 December 1569 to 25 March 1570. The warrant affords a basis for comparison with similar warrants authorizing payment for expenditures made on Oxford's behalf in 1570.

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

LM: At Hampton Court, 1569 [=1570]

Payments made for the behoof of William Carr of Northumberland, the Queen's Majesty's ward, for one quarter of the year of 13 weeks beginning the 25th of December 1569 and ending the 25th of March 1570, viz.

For a cloak of cloth, one pair of hose, and one canvas doublet, as by one bill it appeareth, £6 23d

For 3 shirts and 2 pair of sheets, as by one other bill, £3 5d

For a cloth cap and a felt hat, 12s

To William Seres for books, as by his bill, 5s 4d

For his shoes, points, gloves, socks, paper, ink, one pair of netherstocks, expenses on fasting nights, with other necessaries and charges, 38s 6d; for his commons, 61s 10d; and for fire and the rent of his chamber and his laundress' wages, 21s 2d; in all coming unto £6 18d

S^um^{ma} totall^{is} £16 14d

Mr Receiver, I pray you to cause the parcels herebefore expressed amounting to the sum of sixteen pounds and fourteen pence to be paid to this bearer, John Hart, Chester Herald, that he may make payment thereof whereas it is due, and this bill by me subscribed, together with his acknowledging of the receipt thereof hereafter, shall be your sufficient warrant in that behalf. Given at Hampton Court the 9th of April 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 aforesaid of sixteen pounds and [fourteen] pence the tenth of April Aⁿno R^{egni} R^{egi}ne Elizabethe xijmo, received(?) p^{er} me J^{ohannem} H^{art} Chester Herald.

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