

## Durham Priory: Master of Farne's Accounts

### Introduction

1357-1537, but there is no relevant material before 1432; one membrane, length 236-547 mm., width 173-266 mm. Single column, with undivided expenses and a separate line for each item, except during the 1450s, when there is a tendency to group two or more items together in a single line (and see also 1514-5). Until 1526 the usual terminal date is the Monday after Ascension, except:

1432 – 9<sup>th</sup> February to Monday after Ascension (possibly because of a change of masters, but the account for the earlier part of 1431-2 is lost)

1513-15 – Pentecost.

From 1526 onwards the terminal date is Pentecost.

Great Farne Island was famous as the hermit retreat of St. Cuthbert,<sup>1</sup> and the eremitic life had been revived there in the mid- twelfth century, providing an opportunity for one or two Durham monks to live a semi-eremitic life if they felt a vocation to do so. Often, however, a transfer to Farne seems to have been regarded as the equivalent of exile in Siberia, and its finances were also minute and precarious.<sup>2</sup> There was of course no possibility of performance on Great Farne itself, which was uninhabited except for the monk(s) from Durham, so its only relevance here is its small contributions to the Almonry Bishop in Durham.

### Texts

**1432** (9<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> June)

**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .

Item *episcopo elimosinarie* xij d.

**1436-7** (21<sup>st</sup> May – 13<sup>th</sup> May)

**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .

Item *Episcopo puerili elemosinarie* xij d.

. . .

**1452-3** (22<sup>nd</sup> May – 14<sup>th</sup> May)

**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .

Et *episcopo puerili* xij d.

**1453-4** (14<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June)

**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

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<sup>1</sup> Bede, *Vita Cuthberti*, in *Two Lives of St. Cuthbert*, ed. B. Colgrave, Cambridge, 1940, 214-17.

<sup>2</sup> See Dobson, *Durham Priory* 314-15.

Expense: . . .  
    . . . Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d. . . .

**1454-5** (3<sup>rd</sup> June – 19<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d. . . .

**1455-6** (19<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *episcopo puerili elemosinarie* xij d. . . .

**1466-7** (19<sup>th</sup> May – 11<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *Episcopo puerili hoc Anno* xij.d.

**1467-8** (11<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d.  
    . . .

**1468-9** (30<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d.  
    . . .

**1469-70** (15<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *<e>piscopo . . .* xij d.  
    . . .

**1471-2** (27<sup>th</sup> May – 11<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
    Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d.  
    . . .

<b>1472-3</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1474-5</b> (23 <sup>rd</sup> May – 8 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1484-5</b> (31 <sup>st</sup> May – 16 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1487-8</b> (28 <sup>th</sup> May – 19 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d. <sup>3</sup>
<b>1488-9</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1489-90</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> June – 24 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>?1490-1</b> (24 <sup>th</sup> May – 16 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo puerilie</i> . . .		xij d.

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<sup>3</sup> This item is inserted in a different ink between the last two lines of ‘Expense’, in what is probably a more untidy version of the same hand and evidently as an afterthought.

<b>1494-5</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . d . . . Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili		xij d.
<b>1495-6</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> June – 16 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili		xij d. <sup>4</sup>
<b>1496-7</b> (16 <sup>th</sup> May – 8 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili . . .		xij d.
<b>1497-8</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> May – 28 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense <i>necessarie</i> : . . . Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili . . .		xij d.
<b>1498-9</b> (?28 <sup>th</sup> May – ?13 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
. . . Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili . . .		xij d.
<b>1499-1500</b> (13 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
. . . Et <i>episcopo</i> puerili . . .		xij d.
<b>1501-2</b> (24 <sup>th</sup> May – 9 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo</i> puerili . . .		xij d.

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<sup>4</sup> Added at the end of the Expenses in a different hand and ink.

<b>1502-3</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> May – 29 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1503-4</b> (29 <sup>th</sup> May – 20 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1504-5</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> May – 5 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1505-6</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> May – 25 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
<i>Superplusagia:</i> . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1506-7</b> (25 <sup>th</sup> My – 17 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo Puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1507-8</b> (17 <sup>th</sup> May – 5 <sup>th</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1508-9</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> June – 21 <sup>st</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne’s Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.

<b>1509-10</b> (21 <sup>st</sup> May – 13 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
In <i>Superplusagia</i> : . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1510-11</b> (13 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
<i>Superplusagia</i> : . . . d . . . Et in <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1511-2</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> June – 24 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1512-3</b> (24 <sup>th</sup> May – 9 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1513-4</b> (?15 <sup>th</sup> May – ?4 <sup>th</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1514-5</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> June – 27 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1518-9</b> (17 <sup>th</sup> May – 6 <sup>th</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.

<b>1519-20</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> June – 21 <sup>st</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
<E>xpense: . . . Item <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1520-1</b> (21 <sup>st</sup> May – 13 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Item <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1524-5</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> May – 29 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
. . . Item <i>episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1525-6</b> (29 <sup>th</sup> May – 14 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense <i>necessarie</i> : . . . Et <i>soluti Episcopo Puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1526-7</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> May – 9 <sup>th</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1528-9</b> (31 <sup>st</sup> May – 16 <sup>th</sup> May) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo Puerili</i> . . .		xij d.
<b>1532-3</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June) <b>Master of Farne's Account</b>	DUL	
Expense: . . . Et <i>Episcopo Puerili</i> . . .		xij d.

**1535-6** (16<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d.  
. . .

**1536-7** (4<sup>th</sup> June – 20<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Master of Farne's Account** DUL

Expense: . . .  
Et *Episcopo puerili* xij d.  
. . .

### Textual Notes

- 1432: Text from A; B substantially identical. The heading gives the year as 1431-2, following the normal practice of counting the end of the numerical year on 25<sup>th</sup> March in the following year (see *A Handbook of Dates* 4-5).
- 1436-7: Text from A; B (duplicate) and C (a version with lower receipts, probably an earlier draft) are here substantially identical.
- 1453-4: Text from B; A (Prior of Durham's fair copy) substantially identical.
- 1455-6: Text from A; B slightly damaged but substantially identical.
- 1467-8: Text from A; B damaged, but substantially identical so far as legible.
- 1468-9: Text from B; A damaged, but substantially identical so far as legible.
- 1469-70: The roll is badly damaged, and it cannot be certain that this is a Boy Bishop payment, but it is of the right amount and occupied the penultimate line in the subsection, where the Boy Bishop payment appears in other Farne accounts between 1467-8 and 1472-3.
- 1489-90: Text from B, without balance and probably a draft; A (fair copy with balance) substantially identical.
- ?1490-1: The account is clearly dated '1080-1090' in the heading, but obviously dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, and the annual rent from a tenant in Bamburgh is 5 s., as in other accounts from 1484 onwards. The Master of Farne is named as Richard Steel, who was Feretrar's assistant in 1480-1, Infirmerar 1485-90 and 1492-3 and died during the year 1493-4 (when the Master of Farne was William Yowdale). When we subtract the years 1483-1485, when the Masters of Farne were John Manby and William Ogle, and 1491-2, when it was William Yowdale, this leaves only the years 1481-83 and 1490-91. The latter is most likely, and could be explained by a careless miscopying of the date from the heading of the previous year's account.
- 1494-5: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1496-7: Text from B (uncorrected version): A, with corrections, is here substantially identical.
- 1497-8: Text from A; in B the subsection heading is 'Expense'.
- 1498-9: Heading damaged; terminal dates visible only as 'Monday' and the year; the closing and opening dates of the preceding and following accounts suggest that the opening and closing dates of this account are the Monday after Ascension, as usual in the Farne accounts. Subsection heading lost.

- 1499-1500: Text from B (draft on paper with no subsection headings); A (fair copy on parchment) has the subsection heading ‘*Superplusagia*’.
- 1501-2: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1502-3: Text from B (probably a draft); A (fair copy) substantially identical.
- 1503-4: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1504-5: Text from A; B substantially identical.
- 1513-4: Heading damaged; the years are legible, but the opening date is lost and the closing date is ‘the same feast’. The preceding account runs to Monday after Ascension 1513, the following one from Pentecost 1514; terminal dates at Pentecost are assumed here because the opening date here is given as ‘a festo . . .’ (not ‘a die lune post festum’), and the damaged space is too small to accommodate the wording for Monday after Ascension.
- 1519-20: Text from B, without *status*; A, with *status* on dorse, is identical, but has a more severely damaged subsection heading.
- 1524-5: An account without subsection headings.
- 1526-7: Text from A; B substantially identical.

### **No End Notes**