Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Books

Introduction

1554-1920, but there is relevant material only between 1579 and 1634. There is a separate volume for each year, containing between 28 and 54 paper leaves. Some attempt has been made to standardise the size of leaves, which vary between 284 and 310 mm. in height and between 191 and 210 mm. in width. A few volumes still have their original cream vellum bindings, each with two pairs of thongs so that the book could be tied shut. As with the later Bursar's Books, of which the Treasurer's Books are a continuation, expenses are divided into categories, each of which begins a new page, and many pages are partly or completely blank. Most expenses are payments of salaries and wages to the Dean and Chapter and their employees, but there are also pages for Necessary Expenses, Alms, Repairs, etc. As the series progresses, more and more of these expenses are referred to simply as 'a bill from x', without any details of the reason for the payment, and in the last few volumes Necessary Expenses with and without bills are separated into distinct categories. The terminal date is Michaelmas throughout.

After the death of the first dean (and last prior), Hugh Whitehead, in 1548, Durham had a succession of strongly protestant deans, one of whom, William Whittingham, dean 1563-79, had even spent some years in Geneva and was married to John Calvin's sister. It is therefore not surprising that most Treasurer's Books from this period yield no evidence of performance, and the solitary payment to the Earl of Leicester's players on 28th July 1580 probably reflects the unique privileges enjoyed by that company as a result of its royal patent rather than any appreciation of drama by the dean and chapter (see End Note). But a more relaxed attitude began to appear in the affairs of the cathedral after the arrival of William James (as dean 1596-1606, then as bishop until 1617), for he was famous for the quality of his entertainment. This trend was maintained under Bishop Richard Neile (1617-28) and Dean Richard Hunt (1620-38), when the Cathedral came under increasing Laudian, high-church influence.³

The Dean and Chapter's statutes also required continued annual accounts in roll form, but these continue the trend towards mere formality which is already apparent in the late Bursar's rolls. Treasurer's rolls survive between 1547 and 1607 and have all been searched, but they present the Cathedral's finances in such a summarised form that they contain no material relevant to performance.

Texts

1580 (28th July)

Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Book 12♦ DUL

f.25r

Elemosine: ...

Pauperibus geve to the earle of Lecesters players the xxviij th off July ex mandato vice decani) xxvj s. viij d.

See *The Rites of Durham* 216-17.

This entry is the only relevant one to receive notice in Surtees Soc. 103 (see p. 717), where it is summarised but not given verbatim; the other entries from the Treasurer's Books are all previously unpublished.

³ See *Lists of Deans and Major Canons of Durham 1541-1900*, DUL, 1974, p. 3. For William James's reputation for hospitality, see *DNB* XXIX, 225-26.

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1610 (19<sup>th</sup> January)
Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Book 20
                                                                 DUL
f.20r
Expense:
                Soluti to be waightes 'January 19. 1609'
Necessarie
                                                                         iii s 4 d.
Necessary
Expenses:
                Given to the waits, 19 January 1609
                                                                         3s 4d
1612-3 (19<sup>th</sup> December, 29<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> June)
                                                                 DUL
Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Book 21+
f.21r
Expensæ:
necessariæ
                Soluti to be waightes ex consensu capituli 'december.19 1612'
                                                                                         iii s 4 d
                                                                                         iii s 4 d
                Soluti to be waightes ex consensu capituli January 29 1612
&c
                Soluti to the waightes at my lords visitation
                                                                                          VS.
Necessary
                Given to the waits by consent of the chapter, 19 December 1612
                                                                                          3s 4d
expenses
                Given to the waits by consent of the chapter, 29 January 1612
                                                                                          3s 4d
etc.
                Given to the waits at my lord's visitation
                                                                                          5s
1616-7 (29<sup>th</sup> September – 29<sup>th</sup> September)
Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Book 23*
                                                                 DUL
f.20r
Expensæ:
                                                                                 vi 's' viii 'd'
necessariæ
                To the waits of Durham
Fees to the officeres of the court.
                To the kings litter men
                                                                                 xxij 's'.
                                                                                 x1^{s}
                To the trumpeters
                                                                                 vij li.
                To the footemen of the Canopy
                                                                                 xj li
                To my lord of Buckingham mr: of the horss
                To the porters
                                                                                 XXX s.
                                                                                 ij 's' vj 'd'.
                To the wax chandellers
                To the groomes of the kings chamber
                                                                                 xxij s.
                To the kings coatchmen
                                                                                 xxij s.
                                                                                 iij <sup>li</sup> vj s viij d.
                To the sargeants at armes
                                                                                 iiij 'li' 8 's'.
                To the gentlemen vshers
                                                                                 \mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{r}\mathsf{s}}
                To Mr. Norton the surueier of highwais
                To the officers of the wardrope
                                                                                 xxii 's'.
                To the Mr. carpenter Thomas Kinge laid out
                                                                                 vi 's' 8 'd'.
                        Summa totalis: Thomas kings 6 's' 8 'd' and all –
                                                                                  xxxiiij <sup>'li'</sup> vj <sup>'s'</sup> x <sup>'d'</sup>
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1633 (11 th February, 2 nd June and 5 th November) Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Book 24◆ f.27r DUL					
1632	Expensæ Necessariæ sine Billa				
f.27v 1633	february 11	Paid be waights for Candlemas 0	06	8.	
1033					
	November 5	Geven be Ringers 1	0	0	
		Geven be Queir for singinge) 0 on be Topp of be Steeple)	10	0	
		for making 2 bonefires 0	02	0	
f.28r	June 2 1633	•••			
		Giuen to a singingman of Peterborough 02	0	0	
1633-4 (29 th September – 29 th September, but see end note for previous year) Durham Cathedral, Treasurer's Book 25◆ DUL f.31r					
Expen	sæ necessariæ 2 Billis	& communes			
	february 3	To be Towne waytes for all beir winter play	0	6	8
	November 5				0
		To be Ringers on be day	is) 1 1	0	0
f.35r To Hi	n for Extraordi	inaries			
for a gift d <i>elivered</i> by Mr Dean to a wandring Singingman				0	0

End Notes

1580:

The Earl of Leicester's players, led by James Burbage, were the most important acting company in England until the formation of the Queen's Men in 1583; since 1574, they had been protected by royal patent and were subject only to the control of the Master of the Revels. This may explain the payment from a dean and chapter who were of decidedly puritan sympathies at this period and show no other sign of having tolerated drama; further see Andrew Gurr, *The Shakespearean Stage 1574-1642*, Cambridge, 1970, 20-22.

- Because of the long-established practice of counting the year-end as being on 25th March, '9th January 1609' actually refers to January 1610 see also the Treasurer's Book extracts for 1612-13 and 1633.
- 1612-3: 'My lord's visitation' is that of Bishop William James on 21st June 1613 (see Reg.8, f.279r, which names those who were present).
- Individual items in this list are not exactly dated on this page, but King James I's visit to Durham was on 8th May, 1617 (*DNB* XXIX, 225). For an account of the King's reception by the civic authorities of the City, including a speech of welcome by the Mayor and some verses of complaint against the bishop recited by an apprentice, see The Order Book of the City of Durham 1617, p. 35, f.21.
- According to its heading, this account runs from Michaelmas (29th September, 1632) to the same date in the following year, but in practice this applies only to the payment of salaries, while Expenses seem to run from some time in midto late November (the first item is dated November 28th 1632, the last November 13th 1633. The same appears to be true for the account for the following year.
- 1633-4: 'Him' in the heading to the last item refers to Dean Richard Hunt. The 'wandering singing man' may have been a cathedral singer (as may the similar man from Peterborough in the previous year), but the wording makes this seem unlikely. On the other hand, both payments seem too large to be rewards for a single performance; perhaps the dean was making a very large charitable gift each year in order to lift a gifted musician out of poverty on a long-term basis.