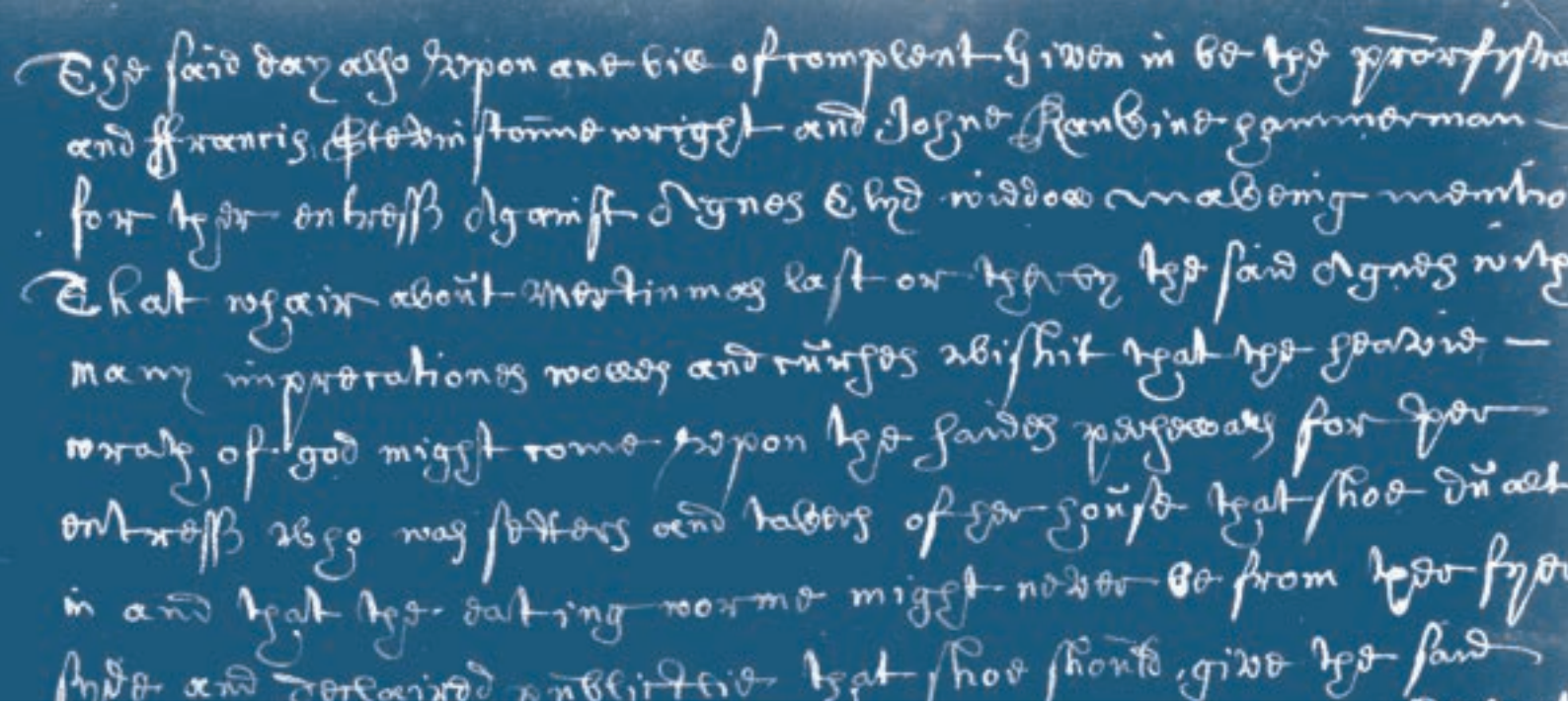
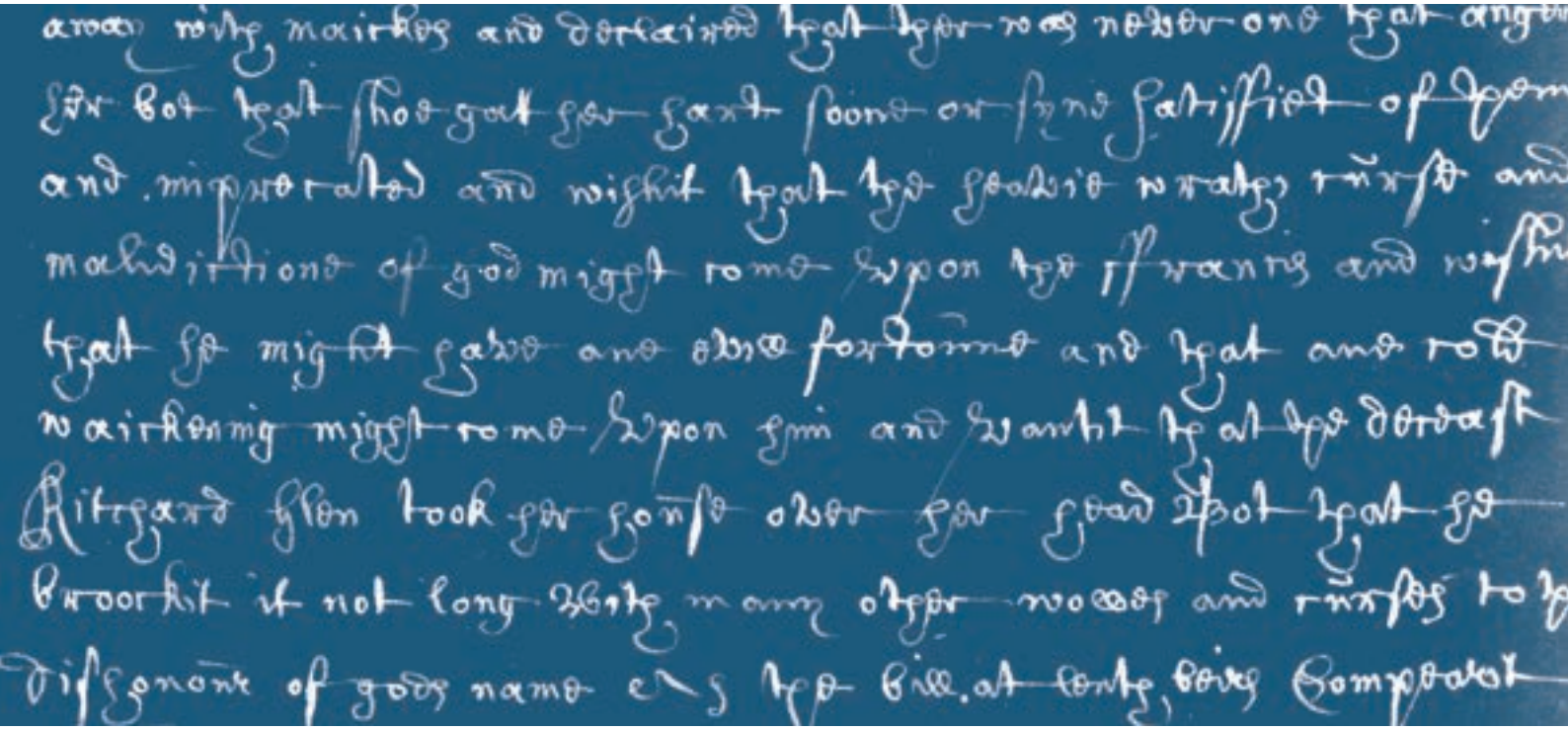


SCOTTISH HANDWRITING

1500-1700

A self-help pack



National Records of Scotland

Scottish Records Association

SCOTTISH HANDWRITING

1500-1700

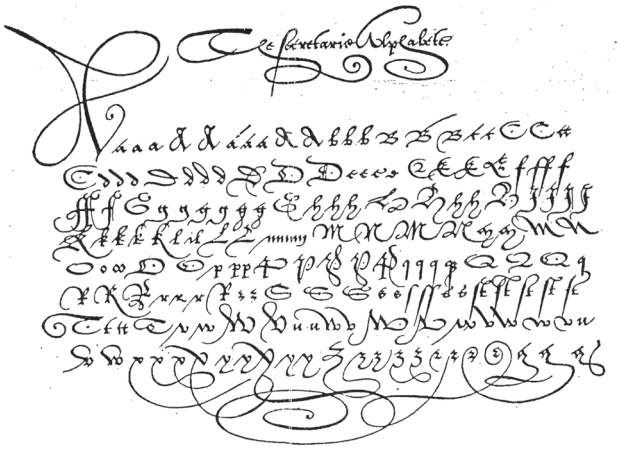
Documents written in the Scots language, as opposed to Latin, begin to proliferate after 1500. For the following two centuries the dominant script was known as the 'Secretary Hand'. Most beginners are daunted when faced with reading documents from this period. Not only is there the initial problem of 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

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*'

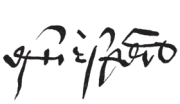
doc.2, line 19  = '*lettres*'

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. = 'is' or 'es' as in doc.8, line 4 = '*handis*'

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

eg. doc.6, line 11 = '*successouris*'

b. = 'ses' or 'sis' (it looks similar to the German scharfes 's')

eg. doc.2, line 17 = '*assyses*',

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

eg. doc.2, line 18 = '*answer*'

doc.6, line 22 = '*observe*'

doc.5, line 43 = '*necessar*'

c. = 'con' or 'com' eg. doc.5, line 2 = '*consent*'

doc.8, line 4 = '*conteining*'

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

d. or = 'per' or 'par'. Commonly a horizontal stroke is made through the descender of the 'p'.

= 'pro'

eg. doc.5, line 26 = '*person*'

doc.8, line 6 = '*p[ar]t*'

doc.8, line 52 = '*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 'viij' = 8
   Four is often rendered as 'iiij' rather than 'iv': eg. doc.3, line 16

2. Two raised 'xx's denote a score:
   eg. Iijxx = 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

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 and a wider Scots terms glossary, including law, abbrievations and measurements at: 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 Beauchesne 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[1]

Messingerris oure s[herjeffis in [th]at parte co[n]iunctlie and seueralie specialie constitute greting Forsamekill as It is

h[u]mlie menit 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[2]

[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 befoir oure iustice or his depu//[3]

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 befoir 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[4] [th]at incontinent [th]ir[5] 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 knawis [th]e veritie

in [th]e said mater To sufficient nomer To compeir befoir 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

[1] The names of the sheriff officers have been inserted later in a different hand.
[2] 'Burgh' and 'Edinburgh' are usually suspended thus with a superfluous 't'.
[3] '//' denotes word continues on to the next line.
[4] The 'co' is obscured where the paper has become worn.
[5] 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.

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^{c} four scoir yeiris
Contenyng the names and nowmer of his hienes ordinar officiaris and
houshald 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

Allane lord cathcart Johnne murray youngare of tullibardin James Coluill of eist
wemys and mungo grahame of Rathernis maisteris of his hienes houshald appointit
a[th]er of [th]ame ~~ilk~~ v^{c} m[er]kis to s[er]ue quarterlie thre monethis togidder Euerie ane of thame for thair feis, and for
the meitt and drink of thair s[er]uandis and thair hors[es]meitt be the comptroller ij^{c} xxij li' iiij s' v d 2 p[ar]t d^{1} And to all the foure _____ viij' lxxxviij li' xv s' vj d 2 p[ar]t d

And to euerie ane of thame for thair leveray claithis be the
thesaurair ___ j^{c} xj li' ij s' ij d 2 p[ar]t d Inde to all the
foure _____ iiij^{c} 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
I[tem] sex monethis To ather of thame be the comptroller _____ j^{c} xxxiij li' vj s' viij d And
to thame baith _____ ij^{c} lxvj li' xiij s' iiij d

And to ather of thame for his leveray claithis be the
20. thesaurair _____ lxvj li' xiij s' iiij d Inde to thame
baith _____ j^c xxxiij 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^c xxxiij li' vj s' viij d And
to thame baith _____ ij^c lxvj li' xiij s' iiij d
And to ather of thame for his Leveray claithis be the
25. thesaurair ___ lxvj li' xiij s' iiij d Inde to thame
baith _____ j^c xxxiij li' vj s' viij d

I[tem] Andro wod of Largo and michaell elphingstoun carvo[u]r[is] To ather of thame be the comptroller
j^C xxxiij li' vj s' viij d And to thame baith _____ ij^C lxvj li' xiij s' iiij d
And to ather of thame be the thesaurair ___ lxvj li' xiij s' iiij d Inde
to thame baith _____ j^c xxxiij li' vj s' viij d

Comptroller _____ j m vj^c lxxxviij li' xv s' vj d 2 p[ar]t d
The[saurai]r _____ viij^c xliij li' viij s' x d 2 p[ar]t d

[1] '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[1] Testament testamentar and Inuentar of
the guidis geir sowmes of money and dettis Pertening[2]
to vmq[uhi]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[uhi]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[uhi]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 availl[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]mlay
cruik raxis[3] 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' xiij s iiij d Item twa pa[n]nis pryce
of baith xxvj s viij d Item twa brasin laiddellis p[ry]ce
30. Liij s iiij 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[4] bowsteris pryce of [th]ame xiij s iiij d
35. Item twa feddir coddis pryce of [th]ame xiij s viij d
Item twa chandler[is] pryce of baith xl s Item ane
girdill pryce xl s Item ane tarffoll[5] buird pryce
xx s. Item [th]e haill brewing veschell estimat to vj li'
Item the abuilyement 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][6] was awand be [th]e defunct To Jonet
45. elphinstoun guidwyf of wodsyde thriescoir sax pund
xiij s iiij 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[7] for [th]e new kirk four pund[is] mo[ne]y

[1] 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.
[2] The extension on the 'g', and the other terminal letters in each line, is a line filler.
[3] Although the suspension in 'chy[m]mlay' 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.
[4] 'Calf' meaning chaff filled.
[5] 'Tarffoll', 'taiffle' or 'taffle', a small table.
[6] On this occasion the scribe has neglected to write the superscript 'r'.
[7] '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[1] **Lord Lindsay** with [con]sent of my Curato[u]r[is]
vndersubscryveand And also with [con]sent of m[r] 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[2]] 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[uhi]ll Sir George Bruce of Carnok knicht 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 Togither with the richt [and] priviledge of the Custodie [and] keiping
10. of [th]e Cocqueit seill[3] [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[r] Robert [and] his foirsaid[is] [thei]r entrie q[uhi]lk 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] disponed 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^{r} 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[eve]r Coallis, salt [and] other gudes [and] merchandice,
quhilkis sall at any tyme heireftir be Imported or exported by sea to or fra quhatsum[eve]r 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 subscryve
[and] dely[ve]r Quhilk salbe alssufficient to the receaueris As gif I had subscryved [and] dely[ve]red the same[n] my
selfe And als with po[we]r To the said m^{r} 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 themselfes Or be [thei]r saidis Clerkis deputtis [and] substituttes To direct
[and] giue furthe Cocqueit[is] To whatsum[eve]r p[er]sone or persones And to wplift [and] receave quhatsum[eve]r dewties
[and] Casualities 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[4] 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 heirof Firme [and] stabill hauldand and for to hald
all [and] whatsum[eve]r thingis the said m^{r} 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 witsonday yeirlie

35. Beginnand the first t[er]mes pey[men]t [the]rof AT the feist [and] t[er]me of Witsonday 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[r] 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[5]
My Lau[chfu]ll pro[curatou]r[is] Promitten[s] de rato etc IN
Witnes q[uhe]rof Writtin 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[r] patrik Lindesay 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[r] James Bruce /my/ s[er]veand m[r] Adame hepburne
[and] James broune s[e]ruitor to the erle of Hadingtoune
50.

M Ja Bruce witnes	Lindesay
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[r] Ja[me]s bruce my lo[rd lindsayis s[e]rvant m[r] adame heburne
and James br[oune] ..... s[e]rvitor[is] to the erle of hadinton[6]

[1] 'Johne' added later in a different hand.
[2] Ampersand used to denote 'and'. Found throughout document.
[3] 'Cocqueit seill' is the seal of the Custom House given as evidence of having satisfied custom requirements.
[4] The scribe has had to make a large 'o' to cover up a mistake.
[5] A gap has been left in the document for the names of the procurators.
[6] 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[uhi]lk we foirsaidis Mcillmartines
ar all Surnamit Mcnacroinis Induellers in lorne and benderalloche
We fayt[h]fullie bind[is] and oblischis ws our airis Successors and poste
ritie Q[uha]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 lyftyme And eftir the said Ro[ber]t his deceis To Johnne campbell
Eldest and law[fu]ll sone to [th]e said Robert his airis [and] Successo[n]r[is]
IN all s[e]ruicis and bissinessis Q[uhai]rintill we our airis or[1] 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 lyftyme As is foirsaid
ane sufficient tydie koue or ells ane hors wmth sextein pound[is]
Money And eftir his deceis to the foirsaid Johnne campbell
his airis and Successo[u]r[is] And [th]at for Menteining 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[uha]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[2] day of Januarij
the yeir of god Jaj vj c and threttie yeiris Befoir thir witnes
30. Allexander campbell off Achnareire Malcolme M^{c}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 Propris[3]

W Mitchell No[ta]r witnes

[1] The word 'our' has been crossed out.
[2] A variant spelling of 'lynth' meaning eleventh.
[3] 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	
Thomas Ranny	Patrick Thomsone
George Gilbert.	Alex[ande]r Peirsone.
Thone Gral	James smith youn[ger].
Alex[ande]r Runald	Thomas Ogilvie
25. David Sewane	Williame smith
Jhone Grahame	
Androw gray	Androw Raitt
Androw Gilbert.	Robert stronoch.
Jhone Wood	Alex[ande]r andersone
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[c] and fyftie Four[1] yeiris And wpon the Sewint[h] day of Janvarj In p[rese]ntis of me
Nottir publik and wittnes wndirwry[tt]in Compeirit p[er]sonallie ane discreit man Thomas Mortoune of dalquharn
haueand [and] keippand in his hand[is] ane Contrat of dispo[si]tioun[2] [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[rdships] Lawfull daughtir on the ane p[ar]t And the said Thom[a]s Morto[u]n[3]
on the wthir pairt of [th]e daitt aT Cassillis and the dayis of Nowembyr
Jaj vi[c] and fyftie thrie yeris of All and haill ane yeirlie anuell rent of Thrie skoir puind[is] money
wsuall[4] of [th]is Nattioun To be wpliftit yeirlie AT twa t[er]mes in [th]e yeire witsonday 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[neyes] IN all [and] haill the said markland of Clasgalloch And Came to [th]e
Personall p[rese]ntis of ane discreitt 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[uhi]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[5]
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 haill the Foirsaid anellrent
25. yeirly off thrie skoir pund[is] money and of [th]e said markland of Clasgalloch out of [th]e q[uhi]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[6] 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[uhe]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[r] Williame Cokburne Wittness ministir at kirk michall mr hew eikles ministeir
At Straittoune Thomas Eltoune s[er]vitour to [th]e said noble erll Witness JShaw wittness Eiftir [th]e reid
35. ing[7] 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 haill 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[8] 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] tennor 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[uhe]rvpon
All and sundrie the premiss[es] THe said Thomas Morttoune 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] aboue 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 dalvyne 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[9] of Justice to
n p [th]e people in Scotland Be[cer]tane[10] whill all and sundrie the premisses
wer so done [and] said I with the aboue nameit Wittness wer p[er]sonall[ie]
Jure Deum[11] present and heard saw [and] knew the samyne so to haue bene
55. done and took A note [the]rof Q[uhe]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] requyreit to [thi]s
premiss[is] etc. etc.

[1] The scribe uses slightly different forms of the letter 'f'. Another example of his double 'ff' is in line 24.
[2] The suspension mark is tagged on to the start of the letter 't'.
[3] 'Thomas Mortoun' has been written over another name written in error.
[4] The second 'l' has been almost obscured by the descending stroke from the line above.
[5] 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'.
[6] 'Eard' meaning earth.
[7] Another example of too many minims.
[8] The first two letters of 'Thomas' have been capitalised to cover up the scribe's error in writing 'John'.
[9] The seven central minims of 'administ[rat]io[u]n' are not precisely formed. The rest of the word is formed by a tittle attached to the 'i' indicating the missing letters 'rat', an 'o' followed by a superscript 'u' and a final 'n'.
[10] This is not such a clear example as in line 26. Here, a suspension stroke has been added to the final 'e'.
[11] 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 dispossed 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[1] 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 dispossed
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[2] apples be distribute thws to wit a horse
15. Loade 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[3] owine wse except
The earle of Roxbwr[gh]t or his Leddie sie Fite to call foir whate
20. qwantittie 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 fwll 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 tiviotdaill or Ed[inbu]r[gh] Liberttie to send foir frwites of aney kynd
foir present eattinge withe the samy[n] Libertie to dam margrat haye

our spous and we ordain our gairnder andro robssoun to give allways
frie accese to the said W[illia]^{m} 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]

[1] The down stroke of the 'y' in 'reqwayres' is a good example of the descender impinging on the line below.
[2] The final 'e' is run on cursively from the top of the letter 'g'. There are further examples in later lines.
[3] 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.

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

THe quhilk day In obedience of ane proclamatione of thair
Majesties privie counsell narratting and relative to, Ane act of [th]e second
Sessione of [thei]r majesties currant 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 subscryve the certifficat
and assurance mentionat in and subjoyned to the said act of parliament
vnder the certiffications [the]rin containit Betuixt and the Tuentie
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 proclamatione 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]
certificat and assurance at the marcat croce of the said bur[ch]t And [the]refter
Did conveine w[i]t[h]in the Tolbuith of the said bur[ch]t And in ane fensit court red
the s[ai]d proclamatione certifficat and assurance of newagaine And did all
Signe and subscryve the same efter the forme and tenno[u]r of [th]e s[ai]d proclamatio[un]
certificat and assurance in all poynt[is] Followes the certifficat and assurance
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 acknouledge 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
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[the]r[is] enimies who a[the]r by oppen or secreit

attempts sall disturb or disquyet thair majesties in the excersice [the]rof
Subscryvit this Patrick wallace baillie James Alex[ande]r baillie
Jo[h]n Walker James Robertsone William grig Jo[h]n collyear James nicolsone
Johne Mayne W[illia]m Birrell Johne Aitken James hoggane Ro[ber]t forster W[illia]m
Forrester Mathew law Johne Richardsone ITa est Ro[ber]tus Schaw no[ta]rius
publicus in premiss[is] requisitus de specialli mandato dicto Jacobi burnlie
Alex[and]ri gordoune Robert drysdaill et dawidis dowie scribere nescierunt
(vt ass[e]ruerunt) ass[e]ro R. Schaw scriba dicti burgi Extractu[s]
e libris actoru[m] dicto burgi per me

R. Schaw scriba[m][1]

[1] 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'.

---

decreit Rankine and Stevinsone [con]tra Clyd

The said day also vpon ane bill of complent Given in be the pr[ocurat]or fiscall
and Francis Stevinstoune 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
many imprecationes wowes and curses wishit that the heavie
wrath of god might come vpon[1] the saides persewar[is] for ther
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 publictlie that shoe[2] should give the said
Francis her malisone everie day that shoe rose and wishit that
he might never have ane dowing[3] day And not being
satisffiet therwith about sex weiks since or therby declaired and
affirmit most disdainfullie and wickedlie that John Thomsone father
in Law to the[4] s[ai]d John Rankine Lay in ane holl whill he was eaten
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 fortoune and that ane cold
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 wowes and curses to the
dishonour of gods name As the bill at lenth beir[is] Compearit
the def[end]er and denyit the bill And the justices of peice
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[5]
30. and to take her tongue betuixt her finger and her thoumb
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 forsaids wowes and curses and then the persewars q[uhi]lk shoe
did and fynit her in tuintie pounds and to remaine in waird till
35. that ware payed therafter quatt[6] of the fyne & putt out of the
toune

[1] 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.
[2] An example of the scribes use of the italic form of the letter 'h'.
[3] Meaning 'useful'.
[4] The 'h' has been written over the letter 'e'.
[5] Meaning 'bench'.
[6] 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 ressauit yowr .lo.[rdship's] letter togidder with the kings
Bik quharof I rander yowr .lo.[rdship] maist humble thankis, I persaue that
Yowr lordschip hes[1] considerit my In[n]ocencie in that con[strainit][2] 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[3] to serue
Yow: Baith in consideration of that, and the constant affetion I knaw
yowr .lo.[rdship] bearis to me and myne. This berrar wil remember
yowr .lo.[rdship] of the suit I requistit anis yowr .lo[rdship] for, concernig[4] Richart
abercrombie my seruand, belieuing that yowr lo.[rdship] wil graunt /to/ the same
10. the rather that it is no[ch][t5] 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 keiping From court the 15 of July 1587

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

Lenox

[1] The 'h' appears to overwrite a 'b' but remains poorly formed.
[2] The legibility of this word had been affected by candle or sealing wax on the paper.
[3] The first 's' was originally written in its long form.
[4] There is no mark signifying the omission of an 'n'.
[5] The superscript 't' is just legible.
[6] 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][1]
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][2] before I
came out and they think that I am the black

man back as a white man[3] 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 quils & 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.

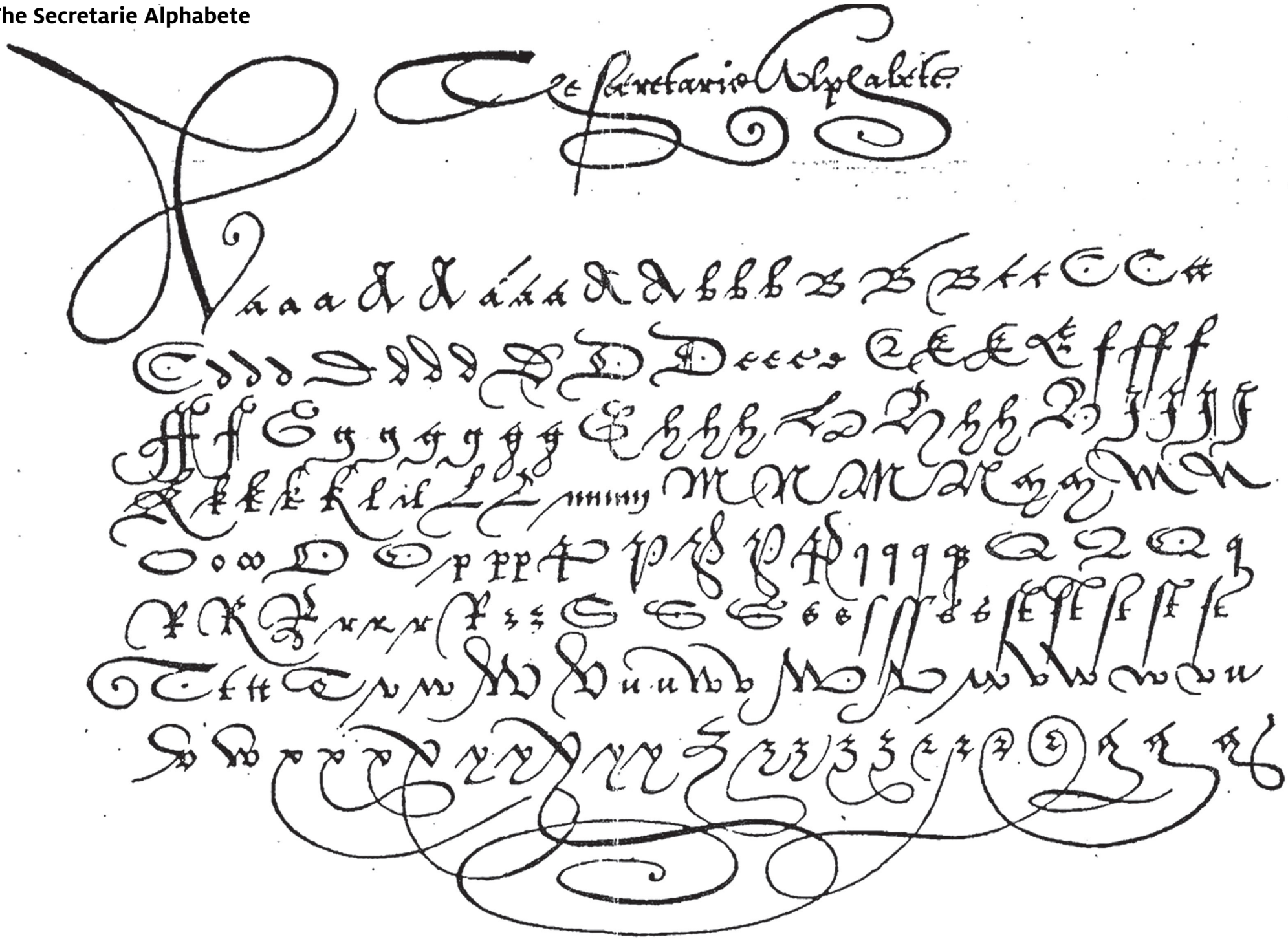
[1] A small tear in the paper affects the ends of lines 18 - 20.
[2] The word 'ago' has been stroked out for no apparent reason.
[3] A fold in the letters makes the text difficult to read.

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 Alphabete



2. Summons of Inquest, 1558/9

Assise for Mutha:

Francis and Marie by ye grace of god kyng and Quene of Scotte Dolphin and Dolphiness of Auvergne
To our Lovinge Robert Bowes knyght greeting
Wheresoever we oure Justices in yat parte commyttie and generalie speciallie constituite greeting Forasmuchas ye
hudre merke and Jehoan to vs be oure lovinge Thomas Hoppringill and James Hoppringill breyr and sonne
to robert hoppringill of mylltromesome That yhar in the courte of inquisitione holden in oure borrowstoun of edinbur
ye xxij day of November last past Alexander Lauder of ersinghie Alexander Lauder in bissynle thomas
Dalmahoy in hartrigs and thomas Lauder in Wormestone fand sowrnt to compyr before oure justice or his deputes
in oure said borrowstoun of edinbur ye penult day of January instant for ye cruell hurtinge and wounding
of ye saide thomas and James and mutilacione of ye said thomas As ane accusand in ye hudre of oure
idiornale parliamentis mare fullelie proportes Yeallbeit ye persones yat bise knaillis ye bezrie in ye said
mater will nocht compyr before oure said justice and his deputes ye saides day and place To pas upone ye
assise of ye saides persones wont yai be compellit yarto be grete paine As is allegit Oure will
is therfore and we charge zow straithie and commandis yat incontinent ye oure lettres sene zee pas and
in oure name and auctoritie Lauchlanne Sidmond Warne and charge ane assise of ye best and worthiest
persones of oure sheirdome of peblis and foure halfabout best suspect and yat best knaillis ye bezrie
in ye said mater To sufficient nomber To compyr before oure said justice or his deputes ye saides
day and place To pas upone ye assise of ye saides persones delaittit of ye saides crime
persone under ye pane of forty pundis As ze will ansir to vs yarupone The quhilk to do we
commit to zow commyttis and generalie oure full power be ye oure lettres delivering ye tuit be zow
done ye execute and indorsit ayant to oure justiceiarie Gifin under oure signet At edinbur ye
Tueisday of January And of oure reigne ye first and Dolphine zeire 1558

Form 1576

3. Estate of the Household of James VI, 1580

The estate of the Kingis maiesteis house made be his highnis with auise of the lordis of his prime counsale the xviij day of may The yeir of god j^m v^c lxxx yeiris Contening the names and rewmis of his highnis ordinar officiaris and sonsald seruandis and the fees appointit thairto for thair fies thair seruandis and sorsmatt and in contributioun of thair liberaiis clauthis be his highnis thesaurar and comptrollar respectiue at the tymis and in manir following

Iame lord ochiltree Iohne murray sonne and air of tulibardin Iamis colvill of dysk prince and maistir stabilar of kettrinit maistiris of his highnis sonsald appointit to serue quarterlie thre monethis twelfe Entrie ane of thame for thair fies, and for the mett and drink of thair seruandis and thair sorsmatt be the comptroller — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d by the yeir And to all the prince — iiij^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

And to entrie ane of thame for thair liberaiis clauthis be the thesaurar — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d yeirly. Finis to all the prince — iij^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

Thomas Erskin and William Alpynstoun secretis aittis of thame appointit to serue for the monethis twelfe aittis of thame be the comptroller — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d And to thame baith — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

And to aittis of thame for his liberaiis clauthis be the thesaurar — xxxiij li vj s iiij d Finis to thame baith — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

Iamis Alpynstoun and David murray Coppriis aittis of thame appointit to serue for the monethis twelfe aittis of thame be the comptroller — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d And to thame baith — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

And to aittis of thame for his liberaiis clauthis be the thesaurar — xxxiij li vj s iiij d Finis to thame baith — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

Andro lord of Lidge and michaill Alpynstoun cauberis aittis of thame be the comptroller — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d And to thame baith — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

And to aittis of thame be the thesaurar — xxxiij li vj s iiij d Finis to thame baith — j^c xxxiij li vj s iiij d

Comptroller — iij^c lxxxiij li vj s iiij d yeirly

— xxxiij — iij^m xxxiij li vj s iiij d yeirly

4. Testament Testamentar of John Tod, 1609

Tod

The testament testamentar and Inventar of the goods gear sowmes of money and dettis pertaining to umquhile Johnne Tod in Halltman burgess of Glasgow the tyme of his decease who deceist in the moneth of the zeir of god 1609 zeiris quhilk maid and gevin up be him the last day of December the zeir of god forsaid Inventar as ten tenning the nomina of debtis legaceis and dettis aland be him and partis maid and gevin up be Elizabeth Andersone his wedsyfe his onlie executrix and be Barbara Burrell spouse to the said umquhile Johne tenteinning the Inventar of his goods and gear moveit and plenishing within his hous as his Barn and testament at lenth beiris.

Inventar

Item the said umquhile Johne had all and sundrie goods gear sowmes of money and dettis following pertaining to him the tyme of his decease quhilk of the avail pertaining effeirand his fow Christis pyrtie of ane tua tha same sapiem ti. pyrtie of ye tyde tua hyre Item ane prob pyrtie hyre ti. Item ane chymbla tumb vaple pyrtie of all aught pund Item ane aldiere pyrtie four pund Item ane Langsettill with ane chill bord and ane fyrine pyrtie of all xxl pund Item ane brasin pott pyrtie thre pund xiij s iiij d Item ane lynd pott pyrtie xl s. Item tua stane weight of poldiw xl stell pyrtie of ye pund xj s viij d Item v ti pon smith Item tua panis pyrtie of bark xxxj s viij d Item tua brasin candellis pyrtie xiij s iiij d Item tua thrid pyrtie of bark xxxj s iiij d Item fiw todrinnis pyrtie of ye pond xxxj s iiij d Summa v li xj s iiij d. Item fiw pair of shettis pyrtie of ye pair xxxj s iiij d Summa v li xj s iiij d Item tua tolch bolsteris pyrtie of ymie ... iiij s iiij d Item tua pelin coddis pyrtie of ymie ... iiij s iiij d Item tua thandlis pyrtie of bark xl s. Item ane gridie pyrtie xl s. Item ane fawsie bord pyrtie xl s. Item ye sall brewing desteid estimat to xl li Item the abilzement of ye defunct his die estimat to ... xxl pund money

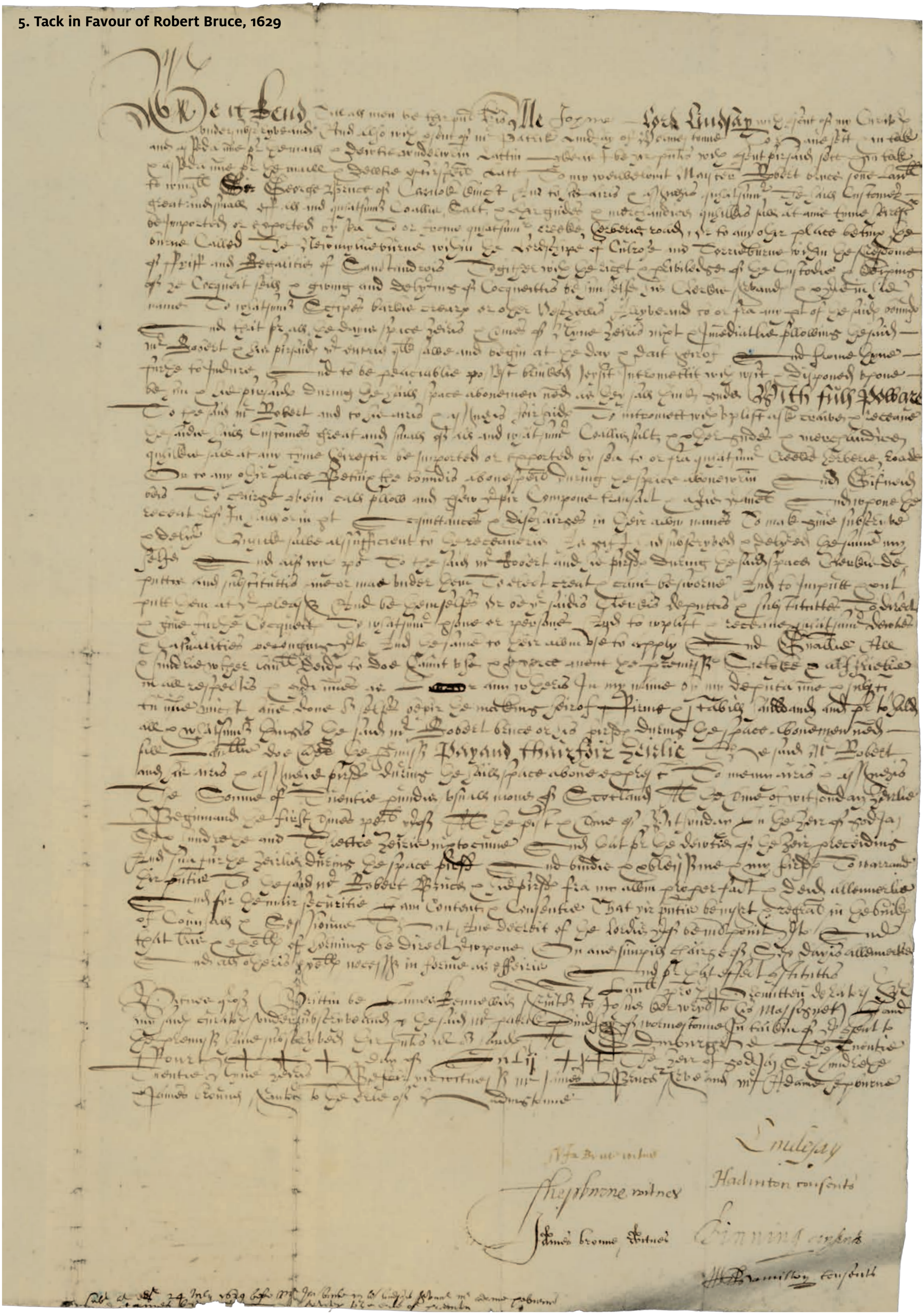
Summa of ye Inventar — Lxxxij li xj s iiij d

Dettis awand to ye dead.

Dettis awand be ye dead

Item ye wat awand be ye defunct — to Innes velphmstoun grind wrs of wedsyfe tyme stone ... pund xiij s iiij d Item to patrick m[illegible] maltman for xxxvi mesis of malt xxxvi pund Item Thomas Lindsayis barrinis grnaris amangis thame twentie pundis of hors mais Item to ye tym ye summer last bygone ... for ye mell bark pund ...

5. Tack in Favour of Robert Bruce, 1629



6.
Bond,
1630

Be it kend till all Men be these presents We Johne dhy=
mt illmartine in Corlochane Donnane Mt illmartine in Cnilcharanc
Quhr mt illmartine vane Gillmartine Mt Daidoy servitore to Johne mt=
donald all in Corlochand and Gillpatrick Mt rondathy ytean servitore to
Patrick Campbell in Bortathaldand Quhr we for sadis Mt illmartine
We all Surnamit Mt Matrennis Induellere in Lorne and bondere allowed
We fayt fullis bind and oblisshis vs our aires Succesoris and poste=
ritis Quhr t simonde To vise one speciall service and Retourd
To the eyt Johne ll Robert Campbell off Glenfallochie During
his lyfytime Quhr ofte the said Robert his decreis To Johne Campbell
Eldest and Lawfull son to the said Robert his aire Succesoris
Quhr all servitis and bissinesis Mentill vs our aires and Succesoris
Also requirrett be them yane aires or Succesoris And forder
We bind and oblisshis vs our aires and Succesoris To cause pay=
and delyver at Qudeis and of one Dispaizeoe fur of his ofe=
To the said Robert Campbell Quhr ony his lyfytime Quhr is sufficiand
sufficient lydie Kow or dilis and fowis worth sixtem pownd
Money Quhr ofte he decreis to the sirsaid Johne Campbell
his aires and Succesoris Quhr yat he Wantonnis and disobed=
ing of vs our aires and Succesoris in all our Lawfull affairis
and bissinesis And vs the sirsaidis Mt Matrennis bind and ob=
lisshis vs our aires and Succesoris Quhr t simonde To observe and
keipe this pritt Obligeam unviolat and unbrokin in all thing
lykeis the said Robert and Johne Campbell bind and oblisshis them thair
aires Succesoris To dispend and Wantonn vs our aires
Succesoris in all our Lawfull affairis and bissinesis as is sirsaid
In witnes Quhr of hayt the saidis partis set Their pri=
pittis vt thair landis Quhr t Dreistate the eyt day of Januarij
the Zere of God Jaj lj and threttis Zeris Before thir witnes
Alexander Campbell off Glenzorne Walter Malcolme Mt in=
tyre eldest and Lawfull son to Johne Mt intyre in Coreis and
William Mutchell Notare Publick vbe ordinare Zeir of

Alexander Camp: bell witnes

Walter Malcolme mt intyre witnes

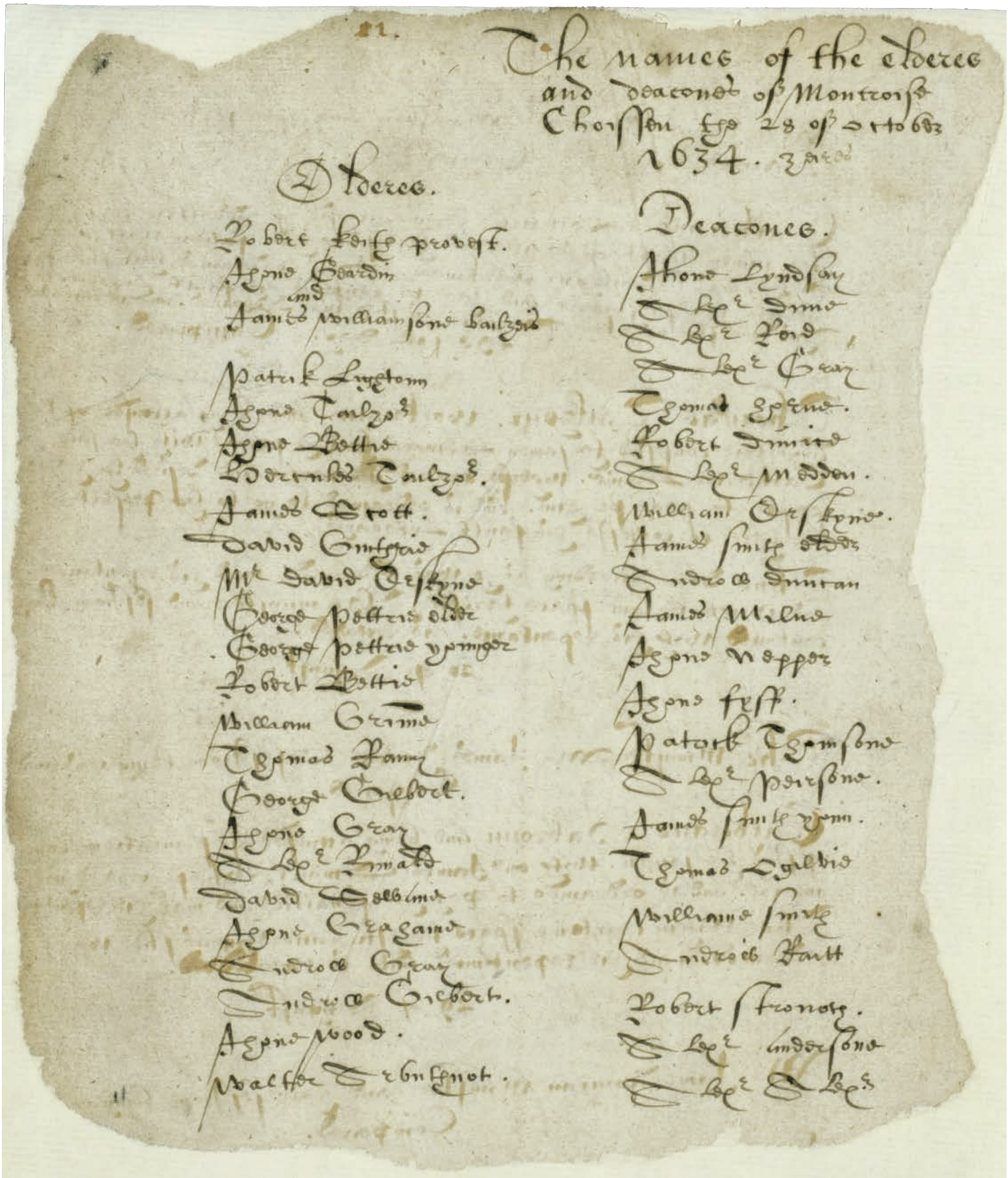
Gilleonanan Mt intyre witnes

Gilleonanan Mt intyre witnes

Mr William Mutchell Notar Publick in premissis requisitus de mandato prouisorum hospitalis Scriboro Notarium hic apposuit Signum meum

Mr William

7. Montrose Kirk Session Records, 1635



11.

The names of the elderes and deacones of Montrose Chossen the 28 of Octobr 1634. zeres

Elderes.

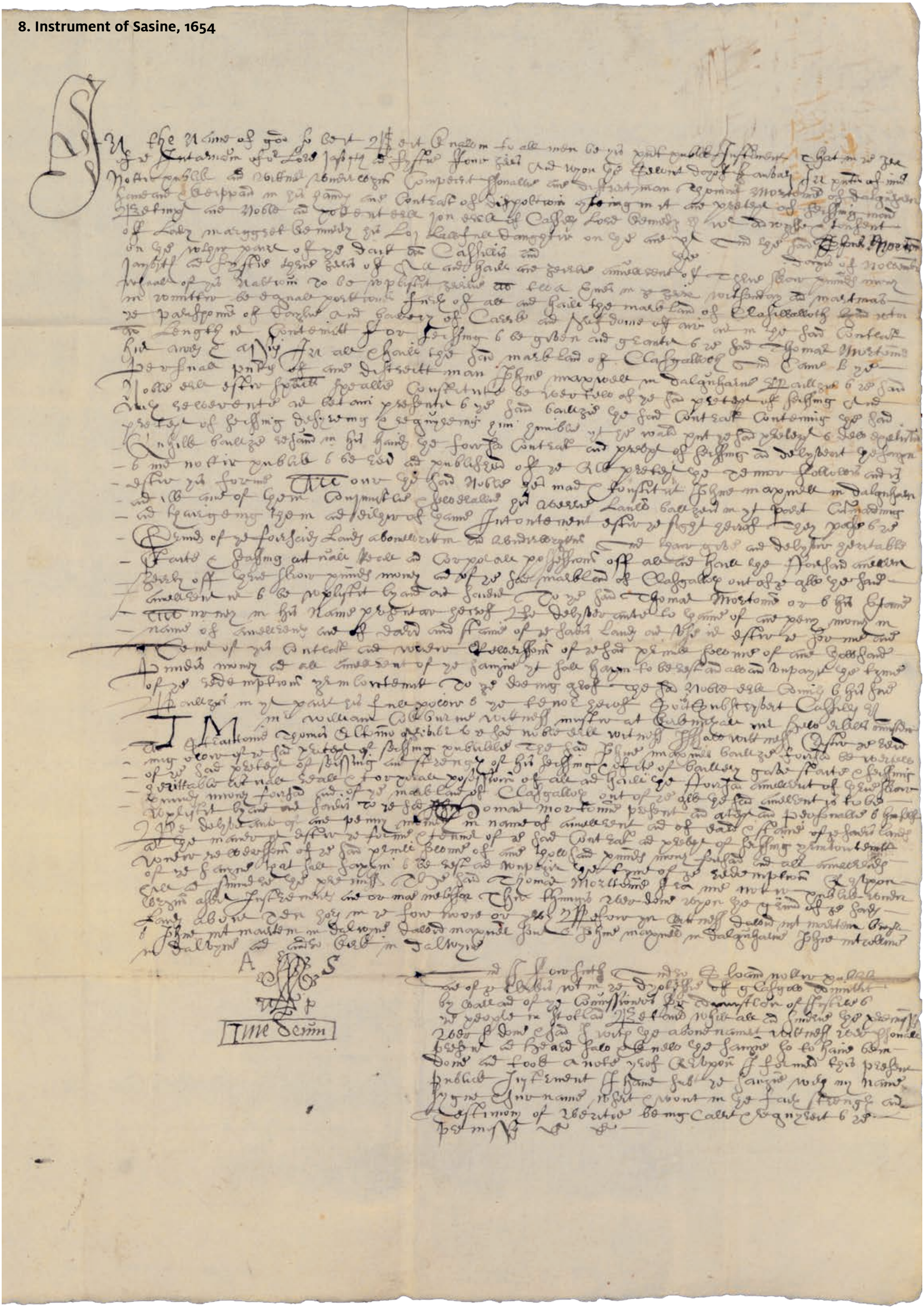
Robert Keith provost.
Agnes Gordon
and
James williamson bailzies

Patrick Lyndsay
Agnes Tailzor
Agnes Bettie
Lorentie Tailzor.
James Scott.
David Guthrie
Mr David Erskyne
George pettie elder
George pettie yonger
Robert Bettie
William Grime
Thomas Fairn
George Grebert.
Agnes Gray
Mr Ronald
David Gellime
Agnes Gragand
Andrew Gray
Andrew Grebert.
Agnes wood.
Walter Tebuffnot.

Deacones.

Thom Lyndsay
Mr Jame
Mr Ford
Mr Gray
Thomas Greme.
Robert Jamie
Mr Madden.
William Erskyne.
James smith elder
Andrew Jamran
James Milne
Agnes Nepper
Agnes fest.
Patrick Thomsone
Mr Peirsone.
James smith yonn.
Thomas Lyelbie
William smith
Andrew Stott
Robert Stronach.
Mr Anderson
Mr Mr

8. Instrument of Sasine, 1654



9. Earl of Cassillis Agreement, 1662

The Johnn earle off Cassillis for anie interest we have or may have
We allowe that the fruitis of this yeare 1662 in the yeardis of Bishopbrae
to be disposed of thus to witt that the whole sumer fruitis strawberis
thistleis sall be maid use of by the gairdiner himself except
what the earle off Robert or his Lady requeyrit a share off
as they are they thinke good for their owne use and after com-
mon that Robert meine their palmerlane shall requeyre for sid
use and specially that twa timber boxis full off strawberis
and alsa manie of thistleis be sent to our sonne Johnn in Siorthe-
bopeis as the gairdiner knowis they use to tarrie siorth fruittis saifliie
in also that the airlie plowmis be sent to Broymonie or disposed
off as Robert meine shall thinke fitt in their we our selfis do
not tace for them at the expenses Lybertie we ordaine the restie
kyndis of the foirsaid appiis be distributit thus to wit a horse-
load of the best kyndis be sent in trielis maid of purpose be sent
to Biggar for our use upon advertisement befoir to Gilbert
hayie at Cassillis to send a horse to meitt them and that the restie of those
appiis be delyvered to Robert meine forsaid for pai owine use except
the earle of Robert or sid Lddie sie fitt to tace for their
g wantittie thay plaice of them and we allow the gairdiner himself
to make use off the common appiis and peeris for sid owin use except
the fruitis of anie on or twa peeris frich we sitthe allow Robert
meine to take for himself And we reserve to William Autinne a
hand trielis fruis off grose berris another of thistleis a bird of good
appiis a fourt of good peeris as also we reserve to our selfis iff we
be in libiot daies or the Libertie to send our fruitis of anie kynd
for present datinge we withe the saiid Libertie to dam mar gratiand
our sonne and we ordain our gairdiner and to Robbinn to give allegis
frie attestis to the said John Autinne our palmerlan to the said yeardis
for service and residence of the saiid in virtue of his pritis we
have subscryiet the saiid at mel ros the sext day of June 1662 be
for thir witnesses Gilbert Homiddie apparand of Kirkpatrick and
Thomas Kelly our servitors

10. Oath of Allegiance, 1690

At the burghe of Kinghorne the twelfteme day of August fyve hundr ffourscore tenyeres

Quhilk day In obedience of and proclamatione of their Majesties privie counsell notification and relatione, anent act of the second session of ye maiesties current parliament Quherin act is statut and ordeint That all persones wha in law are obliesit to swear and take the oathe of allegiance to their maiesties Sall also subscryve the certificat and assurance mentionat in and subjoynd to the said act of parliament under the certificatione yrin contained Betwixt and the twentie day of August instant And to record the same in their burgh books And to transmit ye ane of the said Majesties privie counsell ye other under ye burgh lands Betwixt and the first day of September ane thousand sevin hundr and fyftie yeres conform to ye proclamatione and act of parliament The Bailies counsell and merchants of ye said burgh Kinghorne convened clame the said proclamation certificat and assurance at the mercat cross of the said burgh And yrafter did convene within the tolbuth of the said burgh and there the said proclamation certificat and assurance in manner aforesaid did all sign and subscryve the same after the forme and tenour of ye said proclamation certificat and assurance in all poynts Followed the certificat and assurance

We the bailies counsell and common clerke of the burgh of Kinghorne hereby Doe in the Imperitie of our Lord testifie and declare that ye maiesties King William and Queen Mary are the lawfull Soveraine King and Queene of Scotland all power de jure as de facto and in the exercise of the government And farther we doe Sincerlie and faithfullie promise and engage that we upon our Lives and lands assist and defend ye maiesties Civill and government against the late King James his adherents and all ye enemies who are or shall appear or prevail attempt to Distrub or disquiet their maiesties in the exercise yrof

Subscryvit the day Patrick Wallace bailie James Oliver bailie Alexr Gillespie James Robertson William Grieg for tolbyer James Wise Thomas Mayne William Kerrell John Cattaer James Keggan Robt Fyffer William Gardner Alexr Wishart James Ashie Thomas Stevenson notarius publicus in premissis requisitus de mandato dicti Alexri Gardiner Robertus Bruce et David Drummond scribere nescientes (Ita testor) Alexr Stirling Clerk to the said burgh

Robert Bruce

11. A Case of Slander, 1676

Dorrdit

Rankine and

Thomsone

pleas

Plyd

The said day also upon ane bill of complaint given in be the procurator
and Francis Stodinstone younger and John Rankine gammerman
for their entress against Agnes Thid widow making mention
That upon about Martinmas last or thereby the said Agnes with
many imprecations words and curses wishit that the gravid —
wrath of god might come upon the landes possessors for their
entress upon which was fathers and takers of her goods that shee dwelt
in and that the darling worme might never be from their fyre
side and declared publicklie that shee should give the said
Francis her malisone otherwise than that shee wish and wishit that
he might never gaine and doing than — not being
satisfied therewith about the notices sworn or thereby declared and
affirmit most disdainfullie and wickedlie that John Thomsone falsely
in Lasso to the pl John Rankine lay in and that upon he was taken —
away with mairkes and declared that there was never one that angered
her but that shee gave her heart sorrow or syne satisfied of them
and imprecated and wishit that the gravid wrath curse and
malidictione of god might come upon the Francis and wishit
that he might gaine and other fortune and that ane rolle
waitkenning might come upon him and wanthit that the dereast
Kittyard Glen took her goods over her head shot that he
broorkit it not long with many other words and curses to the
dishonour of gods name & to the bill at lenth being Compleat
the defer and denyit the bill — the justices of peace
admittit the samyne to the pursuers probatione which go for
proving thereof addited divers famous witness sworne
admittit and examined and being examined proved the
samyne sufficientlie — and therefore the said justice of
peace decerned the defender to stand up upon the bench
and to take her ~~finger~~ tongue betwixt her finger and her thumb
and to say false tongue shee lied in uttering the forsaid words —
amend the dereast John Thomsone and to crave god pardone
for the said forsaids words and curses and upon the pursuers offer shee
did and fynit her in twentie pounds and to remaine inward till
that wee payed the after quiett of the fyne & put out of the
toune

12. An Italic Letter, 1587

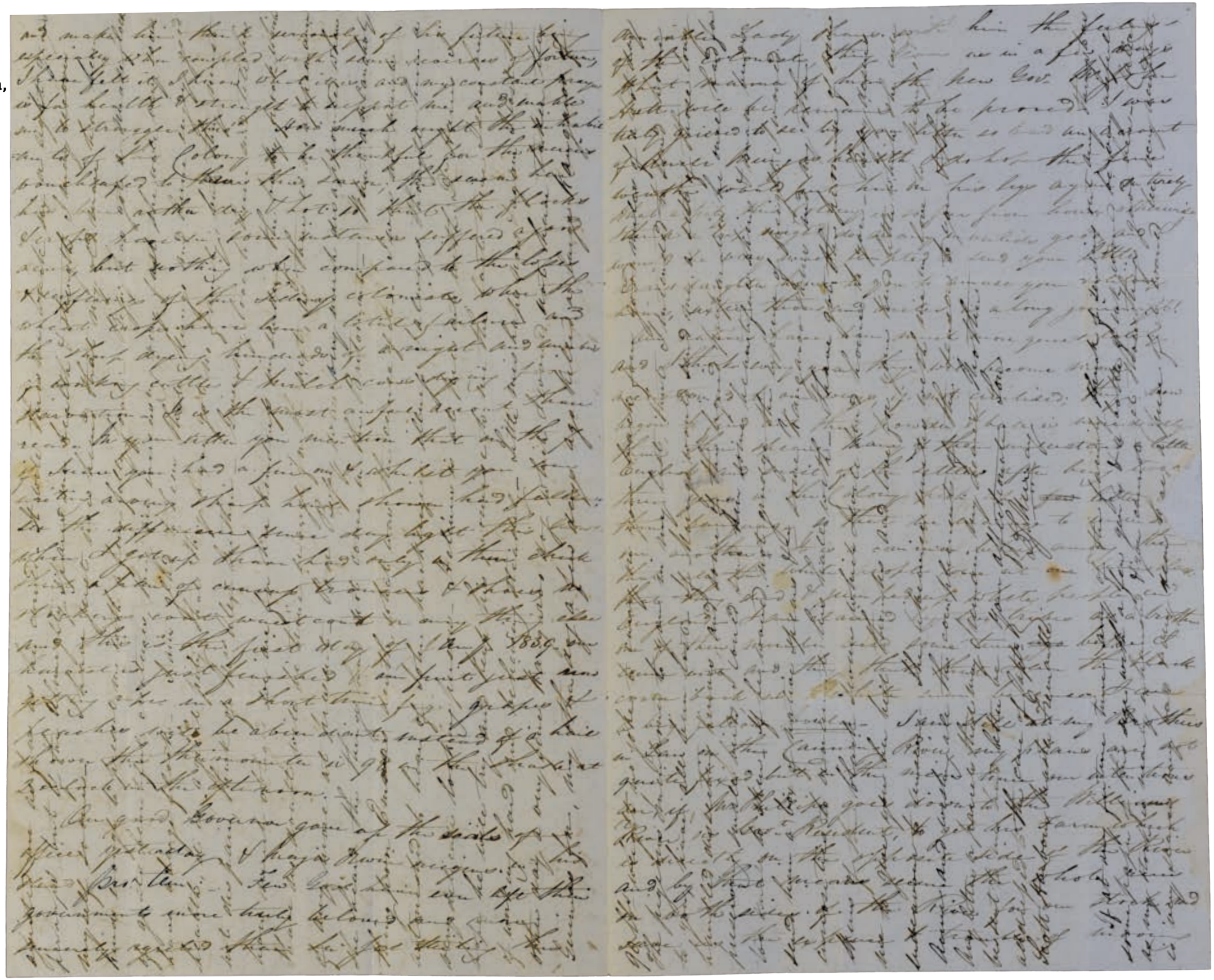
1587

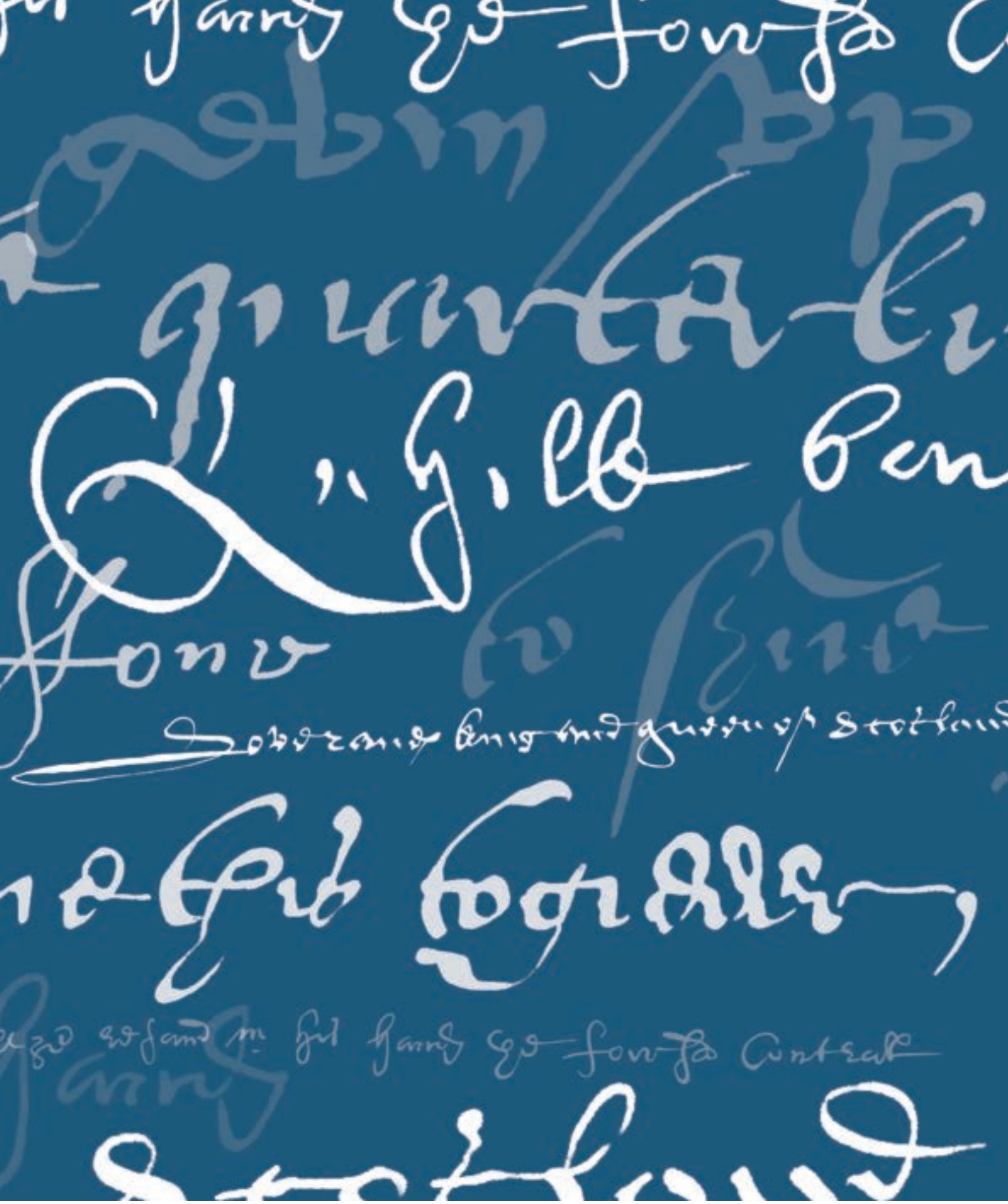
My lord, I haue ressauit zowr lo. letter togidder with the kings
Bik quharof I rander zowr lo maist humble thankis, I persaue that
Zowr lordschip hes considerit my Inteniie in that consernit suit
and hes pleasit zowr lo. to excuse my onseimlie faicon of doing
quharof I think me na lass addettit to zowr lo. nor obliissit to serue
Zow: Baith in consideration of that and the constant affetion I know
zowr lo. bearis to me and myne. This berrar wil remember
zowr lo. of the suit I requestit anis zowr lo. for, concerning Richard
abercrombie my seruand, beleeving that zowr lo. wil grauant the same
the rather that it is no. hurtfull to zowr lord. rent. swa refaring this
and vthers thingis to this berar information. comittis zowr lo.
to godis holye keiping From court the 15 of Julij 1587

Zowr lo. maist affectionat
seruit to do zow se

LCMOX

13. Crossed Letter from Australia, 1839





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