

In this exercise you are provided with a transcript from several pages of the treasurer's accounts of King James VI of Scotland, which detail his spending on unique and luxury items in November 1583. There are 12 blanks to fill in below, using the following words and phrases:

'tua dosane of golf bals'; 'holand' (appears twice); 'halk' (appears twice); 'ruffis and naipkynniss', 'halkis'; 'hingand chandleris'; 'naipkynniss'; 'hattis'; 'leg sockis'; and 'half ane dosane of clubis'.

Use the image files for each of the pages, and the transcript below, to find and match the blanks to one of these words and phrases. An answer file, including a full modernised English transcript, is also available (no peeking before you've had a go!). Good luck!

[fo. 129 verso] **November 1583**

The expenssis debursit be the

kingis maiesties preceptis and spe[ci]ale comand

in the moneth of November 1583

Item be his hienes precept to david

gairdin burges of dysart for the furnessing

of certane Irone bullettis for nyen

double falcoun and inglis sacres to be put

in the provisioun hous ¹of his hienes castell

of edinburgh as [th]e said p[re]cept² productit upoun

compt beris _____ i^{ch} ii li xii s

Item be his hienes speciale command to alex[ande]r

moncreif his ma[jes]ties falconare tua dosane

pareis bellis soudit³ with silver for halkis

price⁴ of the pece x s Inde _____ xii li

¹ Mark on page; not a letter.

² Note the abbreviations here: 'ye' – the y-shaped symbol known as 'thorn' and 'e' – is actually always short for 'the' except when it is being used to say 'you'. It is not (as is commonly misunderstood) ever spoken – for example 'ye olde pub'. Also note the stylised 'p' here is a short-hand version of 'pre' – you get similar abbreviations that look slightly different for 'pro', 'per', and 'prae'.

³ Note the line above the u, which is what we call a 'cup-mark' – if you were fully transcribing it, it would be 'ü'. The letters 'n', 'm', 'u', and 'w' are all rendered as a series of lines known as minims, and can look very alike. Here the writer is making sure you can tell this is a 'u'.

⁴ This should strictly be transcribed as 'prece', as there is no dot above the minim for 'i' in most examples in this text. But you have to think of the reader – it makes more sense from a readability point of view to be transcribed as 'price'.

Item ane uther do[zen] of halk bellis price

of the pece iii s Inde _____ xviii s

Item ane do[zen] of pareis ~~of of~~⁵ chaisis

to halkis _____ xviii s

Item ane do[zen] of garnitouris to **1.** _____ feit _____ xviii s

Item ane do[zen] of ladder leischis to **2.** _____ feit _____ xviii s

Item half ane do[zen] of grite lorane bellis

to **3.** _____ price of the pece x s Inde _____ iii li

Item Thre⁶ dosane of halk huidis⁷ price

of the pece v s Inde _____ ix li

lat[er]is⁸ i ch xxxi li xiiii s

[fo. 130 *recto*]

November 1583

Item Lxxxx elnis of **4.** _____ clayt to be

his hienes tua dosane of sarkis price of

the eln xl s Inde _____ i^{ch} Lxxxx li

Item xx elnis of fine camerage to be

5. _____ price of the eln v li

vi s viii d Inde _____ i^{ch} vi li xiii s iiiii d

Item half ane pund of violet ~~ane~~ cramosie silk to sew the **6.** _____ and mark

the sarkis price _____ viii li

Item ~~of~~⁹ four hankis of gold and silver thairto price of the hanck L s Inde _____ x li

Item ane punde of Lynca[n] twine to sew

the sarkis _____ x li

⁵ Crossed-out errors.

⁶ Note random capitalisation here.

⁷ Note the transcription would actually be 'hwidis', but remember that 'n', 'm', 'u' and 'w' are all interchangeable, so it makes more sense here to transcribe it as 'u' – but what is the word?

⁸ 'Lateris' is a stock accounting phrase (and note abbreviation) literally meaning 'it is borne or carried over' – it is used at the end of each page to keep a running total of costs (though like all handwritten accounts, don't expect these summary totals to always match the totals on the page or recorded in full at the end of the account!).

⁹ Crossed out.

Item aucht elnis **7.** _____ clayt to be half

ane dosane of pairis of **8.** _____ to his

hienes price of the eln xl s Inde _____ xvi li

Item ane unce of quhyit silk to sew

thame _____ xx s

Item tua springis to his hienes chalmer _____ xxvi s viii d

Item ane dosane of elnis of small

Lynni[n]g¹⁰ to be rowis to his hienes stuill of eass

price of the eln x s Inde _____ vi li

Item for tua **9.** _____ to the

galry and turnpyik of the tour of braiss _____ Liii s iiiii d

Item for ane bowat to hing in the

entrie of ^{ve} galrie _____ viii s

Lat[er]is iii^{ch} Lii li xvi d

[fo. 130 verso]

November 1583

Item 10. _____ to his

hienes price of the pece ii s vi d Inde _____ iii li

Item 11. _____ price

of the pece v s Inde _____ xxx s

Item tua blak **12.** _____ to his hienes

Lynit with velvet and their stringis of

craip of silk price of the pece iii li xiii s

iiii d Inde _____ vii li vi s viii d

Item half ane eln of ^{blak} velvet to his

hienes buittis _____ v li

Modernised Version (of the first part of the text)

[fo. 129 verso] November 1583: The expenses disbursed by the king's majesty's precepts and special command in the month of November 1583

¹⁰ Note the loop here back up and over the 'i' to mark out the missing 'n' from the word.

Item by his highness' precept to David Gairdin burgess of Dysart for the furnishing of certain iron bullets for nine double falcon and English sakers¹¹ to be put in the provision-house of his highness' castle of Edinburgh as the said precept produced upon compt¹² bears: £102 12s

Item by his highness' special command to Alexander Moncreif for his majesty's falconer two dozen Paris bells soldered with silver for hawks price of the piece 10s inde: £12

Item another dozen of hawk bells price of the piece 4s inde: 48s

Item a dozen of Paris *chaises*¹³ to hawks: 18s

¹¹ Saker hawks and goshawks were common hunting hawks used in the sixteenth century.

¹² This is still a recognised word in modern Scots English, but you could use 'account' for further clarity for your reader.

¹³ Perches.