Some dramatic records from Percy household accounts on microfilm

Earls of Northumberland since the fourteenth century, the Percies spent large sums of money on drama and music perhaps, as Suzanne Westfall argues, 1 to enhance their wealth and national power. Whatever their reasons, one can best understand the Percies' contribution to theatre by examining records of the family's daily activities, especially the household accounts. 2

To see many of these documents, one does not — unfortunately — require a summer in England. During World War II the American Council of Learned Societies photographed many British mss, and one can find the Percy microfilms listed in British Manuscripts Project: A Checklist of the Microfilms Prepared in England and in Wales for the American Council of Learned Societies 1941–1945 (Washington, 1955), 83–90. The films may be examined at the Library of Congress in Washington or ordered from the Library at $23 per reel. All of the Percy documents on microfilm are at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland. Not included in the microfilms are other accounts at Alnwick; West Sussex Record Office, Chichester; Gloucester Public Library, Gloucester; and the Public Record Office, London.

During the period covered by most of the microfilmed household documents, Percy finances were directed by the ninth and tenth earls, Henry (1564–1632) and Algernon (1602–68). 3 Many different kinds of documents record the Percy expenditures. One must examine all of these documents, because a dramatic record may appear in only one ms of a given year. Closest to the original transaction are the bills presented by accountants for tabulation at the end of the account period, usually about one year. From these bills were prepared books for disbursements which have different sections, such as apparel, rewards, suits-in-law, and building repairs. Specific expenditures and dates are given in a clear, semi-formal hand.

Books of disbursement were used to prepare draft declarations of account which list different sections, with some particulars given and others summarized. These draft declarations, with many cancellations and interlineations, are scribbled on individual, poor-quality sheets of paper. Dates of the account period are sometimes omitted.

From the draft declarations were prepared the formal declarations of account, usually on two to sixteen paper sheets stitched to form a roll. Clearly written in a formal hand, the declarations of account are dated at the heads of the rolls. Sometimes several declarations of account are summarized in a 'general' or 'joint' account roll.

In the headings for the following extracts, dates on first lines are from heads of rolls. Types of documents, on the second line, are followed by the ms shelf number at Alnwick Castle, and the third line gives:

a) reel number/number within the reel,
b) listing in the British Manuscripts Project Checklist,
c) accountant when listed on the original.

In the text, these editorial signs are used:

... ellipsis
(...) damaged, lost, or obliterated letters
[ ] cancellations, deletions, or erasures
[ ] interlineations originally inserted above the line
† left-hand marginalia

The notes do not identify all names; I would be grateful for any further information.
18 June 1582 — 25 March 1583

*Declaration of Account* UI 1

(81/10 r693 William Wycliffe)

mb [3] *(Rewards)*

...more paid to Therle of Arrundelles Trumpeters' xxss, to Therle of Leycester's vs' and Therle of worcesters' vs' drummers, xxxss...to Therle of Leycester his players xxss...to Therle of Darbie his players xxss...to the Queenes maies'ties' Trumpetors' the iiij of February xxss...

...

12 February 1597 — 6 May 1598

*Declaration of Account* UI 2

(82/5 r731 Edward Francis)

mb [8] *(Rewards)*

...to hir maies'ties' trumpeters' xxss...to the Earle of Essex Drummers, xxss...

*(Rewards and Gifts)*

...to the gentlemen of the Temple against Christmas, towards their sports xx li...^4

12 February 1600 — 27 March 1602

*Declaration of Account* UI 3 (1)

(83/4 r765 Christopher Ingram)

mb [4] *(Rewards)*

...to Sir flavncys veres his players in Holland xxss...^5

...

1 May 1600 — 27 March 1602

*Declaration of Account* UI 3 (1)

(83/1 r762 Roche Church)

mb [2] *(Rewards)*

...to the Queenes trumpeters...

...

mb [8] *(Rewards)*

...to the Dromes at zerickrea' xxss...the sargeantes 'ss ixd' of the Convoye & to the Dromes 'ss ixd' liis ijd...to the Englishe dromes xxss to the ffrenche and Dutch Dromes xxss to his Excellences Trumpeter xxss...

...

25 March 1604 — 28 March 1605

*Book of Disbursements* UI 50 (1)

(117/2 r872)

p [63] *(Account No. 2) 25 March 1604 — 28 March 1605)*

given at winsor the 22'rh of Iuly when his Lordshi'p did offer to the keeper of the S't' Georges Robbs xxss
to Quiristers of the Church

p [69]  (1 January 1605) (Rewards to the King's Servants)

To the King's Drumers and fifes 10s
To the Princes Drumers and fifes 6s
To the trumpeters 2xs
Given in reward the same daye to the Noble mens drumers and fifes 1s

p [71]
Given in reward to Garatt the Prince his foole at his Lordship's Lodginge at the Court the 31 of January vjs

p [72]
Given in reward to Clarke the foole of the starchamb'rs by his Lordship's Commande the 12th of February xs

26 December 1604 — 11 May 1605
Book of Disbursements ui 50 (3)
(117/3 f872)

Given in Rewarde to the blacke garde the 27th of December vjs
Given in Rewarde to A companaye of Drumers and fifes that Came to playe before yo'ur' Lordship beinge seven in all by yo'ur' Lordshipes Commandemente the 29th of December (blank)

Given to three of the Connsayles 'C' Drvmers that played before yo'ur' Lordship the xxx'th' of Desember vs

Given to another Companeaye of the Connsayles Drvmers that came for yo'ur' Lordshipes Rewarde the firste of iannarye xs
Given the same daye to Sir Richard Persyse7 foole that you'ur' gave him for A philipe vjd

(3 January 1605)

Given to the Queenes sargente of hir Drvmes the same daye xxs

p[34]
Given to the Queenes trvmpeters the 4th of Iannarye xxs
Given to (...), Sir Richard Pessie, fool at his goinge away being the thirde of January by your' Lordshipes Commandemente

(6 January 1605)

Given to stone the fool by yo'ur' Lordshipes Commandemente

p [35]

Given in Reward to Iacobo the Italeyan by yo'ur' Lordshipes apoyntemente the xxvij'th' of February

(ijs li lxs)

p [36]

(12 March 1605)

Given to a Cotish bagpiper by M'r' Grene by his Lordshipes Commandemente

Given to three Cornetes that played before his Lordship in Eseckes house garden the 10 of January

p [41]

Given to the Children of the Chapell that carried his Lordshipes th' trayne the 11'th' of July

16 February 1607 — 4 February 1608

Book of Disbursements ui 50 (5)

Apparell for Thomas Wiggen the fool.

† Disburse for Thomas Wiggen the fool by his lordships commandment to goe to Virginia as apearis by a bill thereof

1607—9

Taylor's Bills ui 14

A Jerkin & hose of Cloth
A greene wastcoate
A payre of Knytt Stockinges
A payre of Shooes
A monmoath Capp with a band
A Shirt And two falling bandes

(reverse:) Thomas ffooles bill for Virginia paid September 29

1 1 li 17s 6d
6 February 1609 — 6 February 1610
Declaration of Account SH — AC ui 3 (1)
(83/11 f772 Edmund Powton)
mb [7] (Charges of teaching Lord Percy to write and dance)

... Mr Jerman for teachinge his hono’r to Dance for a moneth ended the vij of Febrarie 1609

6 February 1610 — 6 February 1611
Declaration of Account ui 3 (2)
(83/33 f794 Henry Taylor)
mb [7] (Rewards)

... given in reward by my lord Percy viz for seeinge the lyons ’vis’ with the lady Penelope and his ij sisters the showe of Bethlehem ’xs’ the place ’ijxs’ wher the prince was created and the fierwoorkes ’xs’ at the Artillerie garden (...). xxvijis to Mr Chambers his man ’vij’ and Richard Swynfeile xijjs to the lord Brayes ffrenchman iijs vjd to Mr Leiuetenates Coachman xvs to twoe footemen runninge by him ij seuerall tymes ijjs her ladys footeman for lightinge him home with a torch vs the seruantes at Syon vs to Swynhowe the ffencer xis...

29 January 1633 — 15 January 1634
Declaration of Account ui 5
(112/17/15 f850 Henry Hearon)
mb [3] (Money issued)

... for his Lordshi’ps dinner at Medleys xlvijs his Lordshi’p and his Companie seeinge playes xixs...

15 January 1634 — 14 January 1635
Declaration of Account ui 5
(112/17/21 f850 Henry Hearon)
mb [3] (Necessary payments)

... given at the playhouse in Blackfriers seuerall tymes vj li xvijs... for ticketts to see the Maske xis...

15 January 1635 — 15 January 1636
Declaration of Account ui 5
(112/17/26 f850 Henry Hearon)
mb [3] (Necessary payments)

... paid for his Lordshi’p & Company and the young Ladies seeing the dancing on the ropes xijijvs vjd Laid out for his Lordshi’p at plays wi’ th’ xiijd for a lurch on Petworth greene xxvs...
1636

**General Account**

(117/17/34 H850)

mb [2] (Housekeeping-expenses)

... Apparrell and necessaryes for you'r Lordshirps Covntesse & young Ladies with xj li xs for teaching my Lady Katherine to daunce vixij li xjs xjd...

mb [4] (Foreign payments)

... Spent at Playes ... Cviijs vjd

15 January 1636 — 15 January 1637

**Declaration of Account**

(112/17/32 H850 Henry Hearon)

mb [3] (Foreign payments)

... to the singing boys vs... money spent at playes Cviijs vjd... Charges incident to his Lordshirps sea voyage viz... damaske taffata lace silke and other necessaryes bought of mercers and silkmens for the furnishing of his Lordshirps trumpeters', mvsicions and drummers li xi xviijs vjd hattes and Cappes for them iiiij li xviij vjd taylers woork makeinge Coates for the Musitions and trumpeters Cvijjs... painteing trumpeters banners xxviij li... fees in getting allowance of his Lordships enterreynement xj li... 15

16 January 1636 — 16 January 1637

**Declaration of Account**

(112/17/36 H850 Peter Dodsworth)

mb [4] (Necessary payments)

... Also allowed... for the Charge of his Lordshirps sea voyage... Cloth for Carpettes & for trumpeters' & musicions Liuries xxix li xjs...

mb [5] (Necessary payments)

... to a frenchman for teaching my Lady Katherine to daunce xj li xs...

15 January 1637 — 16 January 1638

**Declaration of Account**

(112/17/42 H850 Peter Dodsworth)

mb [4] (Necessary payments)

... to a frenchman teaching my Ladies, Katherin & Dorothy to dance xix li...

15 January 1638 — 15 January 1639

**Declaration of Account**

(112/17/49 Henry Taylor, Humphrey Taylor, Lancelot Thornton)

mb [2] (Mercers)

... Walter Trumpeter lxix li xviij... Silkmen for lace, silke frindle buttons & other necessaryes bought of them by Mr Hearon... Trumpeters xxxviiij li xvijs
...to Mr Buroughes' for playbooke vs li iiijs vjd...Crimson taffaty ribben and frindge for Trumpeters banners xviij li iiij...  

16 January 1638 — 16 January 1639

Declaration of Account  SH — AC UI 5
(112/17/51 F850 Peter Dodsworth)
mb [4] (Sundry payments)
...expended at 2 playes Cvijs...

1 'The Entertainment of a Noble Patron: Early Tudor Household Revels,' PhD thesis (University of Toronto, 1984).
2 These extracts are printed by permission of his grace, the duke of Northumberland. Valuable assistance for this study was provided by a Point Park College Summer Fellowship; Mr Colin Shrimpton, archivist to the duke of Northumberland; and the Morden-Sniper Charitable Trust.
4 The ninth earl was at the Middle Temple in 1594; his brothers George (1580–1632), 8th son, and Allen (1577–1611), 6th son, were there in 1597. See Joseph Foster, Alumni Oxoniens... 1500–1714, iii (Oxford and London, 1891–2), 1146.
5 Leaving England on 28 June 1600, Earl Percy brought a message from the Queen to Sir Francis Vere, commander of English troops in the Low Countries. Percy returned to England in February 1601. A second mission to the Low Countries took place 1 June – 29 September 1601. Percy was thought on this trip 'to have a special mission relating to the concessions demanded by Spain on behalf of English Catholics (though he was not a Catholic) as a condition to the conclusion of peace... and was present at the sieges of Rheinsberg, Meurs and Ostend.' See Batho, 'The Finances ...' 445–6.
6 'zerickrea' is probably Zieriksee, South Holland.
8 After 'x' a tightly sewn binding obscures the rest of the line. Probably 's' or 'd' is the monetary abbreviation.
9 'Iacoboi' or 'Iacomo' was a jester paid xxs between April 1596 and 12 February 1597 'for playing a comody by himself befor his lordship'. See reel 82/4, Draft Account No 6, p[15].
10 Thomas Wigen' probably accompanied George Percy (1580–1632) to Virginia. Percy sailed for Virginia in December 1606 and left Virginia for England on 22 April 1612. He was an opponent of Captain John Smith and was temporary deputy governor after Smith's recall to England. After returning to Europe, Percy fought against Spain in the United Netherlands.
11 'Lord Percy' in this entry is presumably Algernon, the future tenth earl, for whom several tutors were engaged during the ninth earl's imprisonment. 'Jerman' or 'Jarman' is listed in several accounts of this period.
12 Perhaps these were entertainments arranged for Algernon Percy during a visit to his father in the
Tower. 'Lady Penelope' was probably Penelope Devereux, daughter of the ninth earl's wife by her first husband, Sir Thomas Perrot, d 1594. Algernon Percy's two sisters were Dorothy (1598–1659) and Lucy (1600–1660). See Batho, Household Papers, 147.

13 Algernon Percy became tenth earl of Northumberland on 5 November 1632. The 'young ladies' who witnessed the dancing might have been the tenth earl's daughters Catherine, Dorothy, and Lucy, mentioned frequently in accounts of this period. I have not been able to ascertain their birth and death dates.

14 Algernon Percy's first Countess was Ann, oldest daughter of William Cecil, second earl of Salisbury. Ann died 6 December 1637. On 1 October 1642, the tenth earl of Northumberland married Lady Elizabeth Howard, second daughter of Theophilus, second earl of Suffolk.

15 Earl Percy was appointed admiral in March 1636 and April 1637. He was appointed Lord High Admiral on 30 March 1638.

16 Sir John Borough, d 21 October 1643, was appointed Garter King of Arms in 1634. In 1622 he had assisted Robert Cotton in collecting manuscripts and in 1623 was appointed keeper of records in the Tower of London. Using his knowledge of the records, Borough assisted King Charles during discussions about calling a great council of peers.

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**EILEEN WHITE**

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**Hewet, the wait of York**

Information on itinerant musicians in Elizabethan England is difficult to compile because of the random survival of family papers that would have recorded their travels. One isolated reference to a particular musician, however, can be expanded.

The Shuttleworth family of Lancashire retained accounts of the period 1582 to 1621. From 1600 these accounts relate to the new hall at Gawthorpe, near Burnley, but until that date they describe the expenditures of the household of Sir Richard Shuttleworth, Justice of Chester, at Smithills, his home near Bolton. Amongst the entries is one for a payment made about 5 April 1591: ‘Item payed to huete the wyethe of yorke ijs’. This is only one of many payments made to musicians and actors recorded in the Shuttleworth accounts, but it is of interest because of the light it throws on the travels of a York-based musician.

The York records reveal references to waits from the time the surviving series of Chamberlains' Rolls begins in 1433. By the end of the sixteenth century, the city of York supported four waits, town musicians who kept the morning watch, played for civic ceremonies and provided fanfares for visiting dignitaries. As well as a regular fee they received cloth for livery coats each year and badges embroidered with the initials of the current mayor, and they wore silver collars of office. They also received from every citizen of sufficient means contributions that were levied by the local constables or collected by the waits themselves. It was also possible for them to travel away from York to earn additional money when they were still considered to be representing York; one of the reasons for dismissing two of the waits in 1584 was that they had discredited the city when they went into the country 'in very evil apparell, with their hose forth at their heels'.

Apart from the waits, York contained many other musicians, and in 1554 they were strong enough to be formed into an official 'fellowship' or craft guild, with ordinances agreed upon and ratified by the city council, although these were not entered into the official Register until 1561. The members were to choose a master and two searchers.