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978-1-108-01768-8 - The Paston Letters, A.D. 1422-1509, Volume 5

Edited by James Gairdner

Excerpt

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THE PASTON LETTERS

Edward IV

695

WILLIAM EBESHAM TO SIR JOHN PASTON¹*To my moost worshupfull maister, Sir John Paston,
Knyght.*

MY moost woorshupfull and moost speciall maister, with 1469(?)
all my servyce moost lowly I recomande unto your
gode maistirship, besechyng you most tendirly to see
me sumwhat rewardid for my labour in the Grete Booke²
which I wright unto your seide gode maistirship. I have
often tymes writyn to Pampyng accordyng to your desire, to
enforme you hou I have labourd in wrytyngs for you; and
I see wele he speke not to your maistership of hit. And God
knowith I ly in seint warye [*sanctuary*] at grete costs, and
amongs right unresonable askers. I movid this mater to Sir
Thomas³ late, and he tolde me he wolde move your maistir-

¹ [From Fenn, ii. 10.] By the date of one item in the account subjoined to this letter it must have been written after the year 1468, probably in the year following.

² This 'great book' has been identified, on evidence which at first sight seems conclusive, with ms. 285 in the Lansdowne library in the British Museum. But probably this latter is only another transcript by Ebesham of a very similar volume. See Account of this ms. in 'Sailing Directions for the Circumnavigation of England,' published by the Hakluyt Society in 1889.

³ Sir Thomas Lewis, a priest.

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1469(?) ship therein, which Sir Thomas desirid me to remembir wele what I have had in money at soondry tymes of hym.¹

And in especiall I beseche you to sende me for almes oon of your olde gownes, which will countirvale much of the premysses I wote wele ; and I shall be yours while I lyve, and at your comandement ; I have grete myst of it, God knows, whom I beseche preserve you from all adversite. I am sumwhat acqeyntid with it. Your verry man,

W. EBESHAM.

Folowyng apperith, parcelly, dyvers and soondry maner of wrytyngs, which I William Ebesham have wreetyn for my gode and woorschupfull maistir, Sir John Paston, and what money I have resceyvid, and what is unpaide.

First, I did write to his maistership a litill booke of Pheesyk, for which I had paide by Sir Thomas Leevys² in Westminster *xxd.*

Item, I had for the wrytyng of half the prevy seale of Pam-pyng *viiijd.*

Item, for the wrytynge of the seid hole prevy seale of Sir Thomas *ijs.*

Item, I wrote viij. of the Witnessis in parchment, but aftir xiiij^{d.} a peece, for which I was paide of Sir Thomas . . . *xs.*

Item, while myseide maister was over the see in Midsomer-terme

Calle sett me a warke to wryte two tymes the prevy seale

¹ Here (according to Fenn) follows the account as stated more at large in the subjoined Bill.

² Fenn's modern transcript reads Lewis. Is 'Leevys' in the other a misprint for 'Lewys'?

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in papir, and then after cleerely in parchement	iiij ^s . viij ^d .	1469(?)
And also wrote the same tyme oon mo of the lengist witnessis, and other dyvers and necessary wrytyngs, for which he promisid me x ^s . whereof I had of Calle but iiij ^s . viij ^d . car. v ^s . iiij ^d	vs. iiij ^d .	
I resceyvid of Sir Thomas at Westminster, penultimo die Oct., anno viij.	iijs. iiija.	
Item, I did write to quairs of papir of witnessis, every quair conteynyng xiiij. leves after ij ^d . a leff.	iiij ^s . viija.	
Item, as to the Grete Booke —First, for wrytyng of the Coronacion, and other tretys of Knyghthode, in that quaire which conteyneth a xiiij. levis and more, ij ^d . a lef	ijs. iia.	
Item, for the tretys of Werre in iiij. books, which conteyneth lx. levis aftir ij ^d . a leaff	xs.	
Item, for <i>Othea</i> ¹ pistill, which conteyneth xliij. leves	viis. ija.	
Item, for the Chalengs, and the Acts of Armes which is xxvij ^{ti} less	iiij ^s . viija.	
Item, for <i>De Regimine Prin-</i> <i>cipum</i> , which conteyneth xlv ^{ti} leves, aftir a peny a leef, which is right wele worth	iijs. ix ^d .	

¹ *Othea* means a treatise on Wisdom.—F. The name is derived from the Greek ὠθεα, but was used in the Middle Ages as a proper name. See a poem beginning

‘Othea of prudence named godesse,’

mentioned in the Third Report of the Historical mss. Commission, p. 188.

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1469(?)	Item, for Rubrissheyng of all the booke	iiis. iiijd.
	Summa rest'	xxijs. iiijd.
	Summa non solut'	xljs. jd., unde
	pro magno ¹ libro scripto xxvij ^s cum diu' chal. ²	
	Summa Totalis	<u>iiijli. iijs. vd.</u>

WILLIAM EBESHAM.

In further illustration of the payments made in that age for writing, etc., Sir John Fenn gives the following extracts from an original quarto MS. then in his possession, containing—

The various expences of Sir John Howard, Knight, of Stoke by Neyland, in Suffolk (afterwards Duke of Norfolk), page 136.

Item, the vijth yere of Kyng Edward the iiith, and the xxviij. day of July (1467). My master rekened with Thomas Lymnour of Bury, and my master peid hym—

	For viij. hole vynets . . . prise the vynett, xiid.,	viijs.
	Item, for xxj. demi vynets . . . prise the demi vynett, iiijd.	vijjs.
	Item, for Psalmes lettres xv ^c and di' . . . the prise of C.	
iiijd.		vs. ijd.
	Item, for p ['] ms letters lxiiij ^c . . . prise of a C., jd.	v. iiijd.
	Item, for wrytyng of a quare and demi . . . prise the quayr,	
xxd.		ijs. vjd.
	Item, for wryteng of a calender,	xijd.
	Item, for iij. quayres of velym, prise the quayr, xxd.	vs.
	Item, for notyng of v. quayres and ij. leves, prise of the quayr, viij[d.]	iijs. vijd.
	Item, for capital drawyng iij ^c and di', the prise,	iijd.
	Item, for floryshyng of capytalls, v ^c	vd.
	Item, for byandyng of the boke,	xijs.
		<u>cr. ijd.</u>

The wyche parcellis my master paid hym this day, and he is content.

This is an account of a limner or illuminator of manuscripts, who resided at Bury.

¹ *magno*, 'm^o' in Fenn.

² So in Fenn. *Qu. cum diurnali challengiorum?* Fenn omits the whole of this clause, *unde* *chal'*, but notices its occurrence in a footnote.

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THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON¹

*To the worshipfull, and with alle myn hert right entierly bilovyd
Sir John Paston, Knyght, this lettre be delivered.*

TH'ERLE OF OXINFORD.

RIGHT hertly welbilovyd, I grete you wele. And where ^{1469(?)}
I am for trowth enformyd that the Duchesse of ^{JAN. 7}
Suffolk wolle hold a court on Monday next commyng
at Coton, to th'entent that she wolle fynde the maner of
Thempnals holde of hir by knyghts service and they that
ben possessioners of the same shulde payle certeine of the
Parke of Weverston; and by cause this is nat performyd
nor don, thoo that ben possessioners shall at the said court
be amersid. And it is agreed that Sir William Yelverton,
Sir Thomas Hoo, shalle be at the said court and wolle pay
the amercyment, and to delyver the said Duchesse possession
of the said service and palyng, and so by this meane to be
come tenautes to the said Duchesse. And what wolle be
falle more herof I kan nat sey. Wherfor me thinkith it
were welle don ye were at the said court with your counsell,
and to do therin as they wolle avise you. Also as ye come
to the said court take your wey by the said Duchesse to
th'entent that ye come to se hir welfare, &c. Do herin
as your counsell wolle avyse you. I wolde ye dud welle.
And to my power I wolle help you. And our Lorde kepe
yow. Writyn at Tatyngston the vij. day of Januer.

Endorsed: Th'Erle off Oxenfford.

¹ [From Paston mss., B.M.] It will be seen by No. 690, that in October 1468 the Duchess of Suffolk had a design of suddenly entering the manor of Cotton and dispossessing Sir John Paston. This letter, in which it is said she proposes to hold a court there, was probably written in the beginning of the following year.

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ABSTRACT ¹

1469 W. COTING to JOHN COOK, draper of Norwich, ‘and that he deliver or
JAN. 9 send this bill to Richard Kalle in all goodly haste, for the matter is of
substance.’

This day in the grey morning three men of my Lord of Norfolk with long spears carried off three good horses from John Poleyn, ‘one of your farmers at Tichewell,’ telling him to treat with my Lord of Norfolk. Wishes to know what to do, ‘for such an open wrong unremedied knew I never.’ Saturday after Epiphany.

‘Anno viij^o’ is written below.

[The signature of this letter is written in an abbreviated form, ‘W. Cot.’ According to Blomefield, W. Cotyng was rector of Titchwell from 1450 to 1457, and he had been previously rector of Swainsthorp, to which he was presented by Judge Paston in 1444. This letter is twelve years later than the date at which his incumbency of Titchwell is said to have terminated; but doubtless he is the writer. He is referred to as living even in the year 1485, in a letter written by Dame Elizabeth Browne, who says that he and James Gresham were clerks to her father Judge Paston.]

698

EDWARD IV. TO SIR JOHN PASTON ²

To our trusty and welbeloved Sir John Paston, Knight.

BY THE KINGE.

JAN. 18 **T**RUSTY and welbeloved, we grete yow well. And how be it that we late addressed unto yow our letters, and commanded yow by the same, for the consideracions in them contened, to have ceased of makinge any assembleye of our people for the matter of variance de-

¹ [From Paston MSS., B.M.]

² This letter is reprinted from the Paston Genealogy in the *Norfolk Archaeology*, to which we have already several times referred (see Nos. 484, 641, 643, etc.). Edward IV. was at Salisbury in January 1469, one of his privy seals being dated there on the 16th of the month.

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pendinge betwixt yow on that one partie, and our right trustie and right entirely beloved cosin the Duke of Norffolk on that other, and to have appeared before the Lords of our Councell at our Palleys of Westminster at a certeine day in our said letters specified; yett nevertheless we understonde not as yet if ye have conformed yow to the performinge of our said commandement or not. We therefore eftsones write unto yow, willing and straitly charging yow to cease of the said ryotts and assemblies; and that incontinent upon the sight of these our letters that ye dispose yow personally to appear afore the said Lords of our Councell at our said Pallis, there to answeere to such thinges as in that behalfe by them shall be laid and objected against yow, not failinge hereof, all excuses laid aparte, as ye will avoide our displeasure. Yeven under our signet at our citey of Salesbury, the xviiij. day of January. 1469
JAN. 18

699

SIR JOHN PASTON TO ROGER TOWNSEND¹

*To the ryght worshipfull and hys best betrustyd
Frende, Roger Townesende.*

RIGHT worshipfull sir, I comaunde me to yow, praying yow hertly to remembre that by the award made by-tween yow and me by Roger Townesend for a tenement in Stratton in Norfolk callid Rees, I shuld delyver yow all the evydens apperteynyng to the said plase, and not from thens forth to chalenge nor interupte my lady your wife ner yow of the said tenement; And that for thes said causes ye shuld and therto were agreyd to geve me an horse and xli. to an harneys. And moreovir before Cristemasse in the kynges chambre ye ther ageyn promysed me that ye wold such tyme as I send to yow home to yowre plase by any servant of myne er any man 1467-9
FEB. 12

¹ [Add. ms. 34,889, f. 186.] This letter was probably written after the death of John Paston, the writer's father, but the precise year is uncertain.

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1467-9 FEB. 12 from me, that ye wold delyver it hym and send it to me by hym. My brothir John hath send me word that he remembird yow therof on my behalfe and that you answerid hym that ye wold gyfe hym or me a fayre harneys at your comyng to London. I deme in yow that ye thynke par case to bye a fayre harneys here for x. markz; but, cosyn, as God help me, I bowte an harneys syn that tyme for my self, which cost me xxli. But I con not desire of yow so moch. Wherefore, cosyn, with all myn hert I pray yow accordyng to yowre promyse that it like yow to send me by my servaunt, berer herof, the said somme of xli., as my trust is in yow, and as I wolde in like case have don to yow, and as in the premysses I delt feithfully with yow and evir so shall dele, with the grase of God, Who have yow in Hys kepyng. Wretyn at London the xii. day of Feveryer.—Youris,

JOHN PASTON, K.

700

JOHN PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON¹*To my mastyr, Sir John Paston, knyght, in Flet stret.*

1468-9 (?) SYR, &c. It is so that, with owght ye have hasty reparacyon doon at Caster, ye be lyek to have doubyll cost in hast, for the reyn hathe so moystyd the wallys in many plasys that they may not tylle the howsys tyll the wallys be reparyd; or ellys ye shall have doubyll cost for to untylle your howsys ayen at syche tyme as ye shall amend the wallys. And if it be not do thys yer, many of the wallys wyll lye in the moot or longe to; ye knowe the febyllnesse of the utter coort of old. John Pampyng hathe had hame to Caster as good as x^ml. tylle fyr the plase at Yermeuthe, and it wer pete that the tyll wer lost; and the lenger that it lythe unleyd the wers it wyll be. I have thys day bespok as myche lyme as wyll serve for the tyll. Wherfor I prey yow re-

¹ [Add. ms. 33,597, f. 4.] The year in which this letter was written is doubtful, but it was most probably either 1468 or 1469, at the beginning of Lent.

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EDWARD IV

membyr the cost of the werkmanschep and purvey the money 1468-9
 by oo mean or othyr, what shefte so evyr ye make. And, for (?)
 your owne profyte, remembyr to goo thorow with Hwge of
 Fen; for by my trowthe ye wyll ellys repent yow er owght
 longe. For bothe ye shall loose hys good wyll and lett pera-
 venture that avantage that he myght do yow in your lond
 recoveryng; wher as he may do yow harme and [*if*] he wyll
 and then, to late wyse. Item, that ye remembyr your relesys
 and gounys of my Lord of Norffolk er ye com hom. Item, I
 send yow by the berer herof a lettyr dyrect to yow that a
 man of my Lord of Oxenfortheys delyverd me; whych lettyr
 comyth fro the Kyng. Item, that ye remembyr in eny wyse
 to serche for the fyne in syche plasys as my modyr sent you
 woord of in a lettyr; for myn oncyll and my graunt-dam report
 that they have serchyd in all plasys thar as it shold be, but
 they can not fynd no thyng of it. Also that ye look whedyr
 the fyne was reryd to eny feeffeys mor then to my graunt-
 fadyr and my graunt-dam and ther issu; for and ther wer eny
 feoffeys namyd in the fyn, it is the bettyr for yow. My
 Lady and my graunt-dam be com to London for the same
 mater; wherfor it wer well do that the jwgys wer enformyd
 of your mater befor they spok with theym. I prey yow
 hye yow hom hastyly and se your owne profyte your sylf.
 Pampyng and I shall clowt up your howsys as we may with
 the money that we have tyll more come, but ye shold do
 bettyr your sylf. I prey red thys byll onys on a day tyll ye
 have sped thes maters wretyn her in; thowe it be to your
 peyne to labore theym, remembyr your profyt. Nomor, &c.,
 but God kep yow thys Lent fro lollardy of fleshe. Wretyn at
 Norwyche the Twysday next aftyr that I departyd fro yow.
 J. P.

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MARGARET PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON¹*To Sir John Paston, knyght, be this delivered in hast.*

1469

MARCH 12

I GRETE you wele and send you Goddes blyssyng and myn, desiryng you to recomaund me to my brother William, and to comune with hym and your counsell in such materis as I wryght to you, that ther may be purveyd be some wrytyng fro the Kyng that my Lord of Norffolk and his counsell seas [*cease*] of the wast that thei done in your lordsheps, and in especiall at Heynford; for thei have felled all the wood, and this weke thei wull carie it a wey, and lete renne the wateris and take all the fyssh. And Sir William Yelverton and his sone William, John Grey and Burgeys, William Yelvertons men, have ben at Guton and takyn distresses, and with ought that [*unless*] thei wull pay them thei shall not set ought no plow to till there lande; thei byd them lete there land lye on tilled but if [*unless*] thei pay them. So that if the tenauntes have no remedy that thei may pesibly, with ought assaught or distresse takyng, be the seid Yelverton or his men, or of any other in there names, at there liberte hereye there landis, with in this vij. days there tylth in the feldis be lost for all this yere and thei shall be on doon; and though ye shuld kepe it here after pesiblyly ye shuld lese the ferme of this yere, for thei may not pay you but if [*unless*] thei may occupie there landis; thei set not so sone a plow ought at ther gatis but ther is a felesship redy to take it. And thei ride with speris and launyegays, like men of werre, so that the seid tenauntis arn a ferd to kepe there owyn howses. Therefore purvey an redy remedy, or ellis ye lese the tenauntis hertis and ye gretly hurt; for it is gret pety to here the swemefull² and petowse compleyntis of the pore tenauntis that come to me for comfort and socour sometime vi. or vij.

¹ [Add. ms. 34,889, f. 202.] This letter must have been written in 1469, after the Duke of Norfolk and Sir William Yelverton had taken possession of Fastolf's lands.

² *swemeful*, sorrowful.—Halliwell.