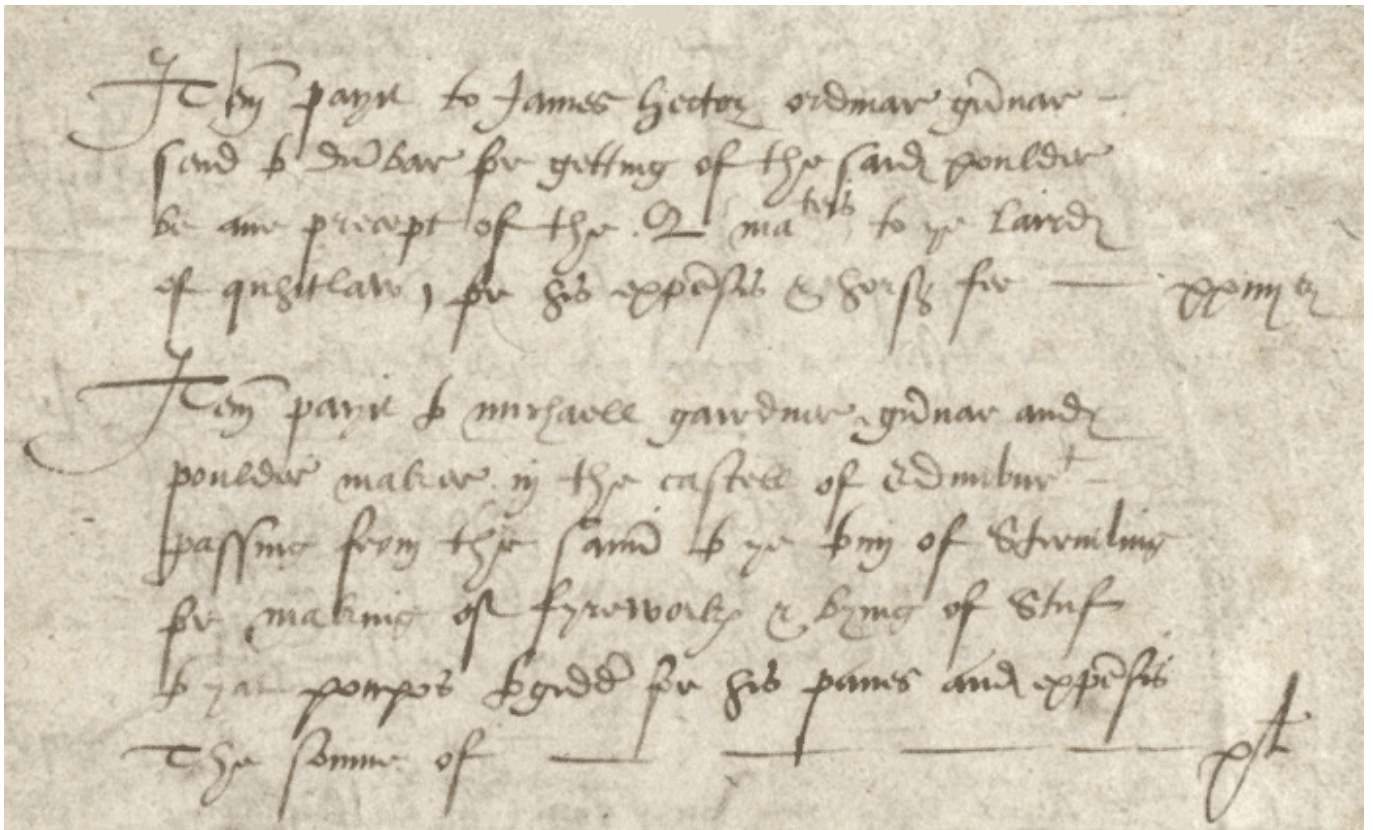


Weekly Poser (303) – Account for fireworks, 1566

This week's poser is taken from an account for fireworks used to celebrate the baptism of James VI at Stirling Castle in December 1566 (National Records of Scotland, E23/3/45 page 1).

Watch out for elaborate ascending or descending strokes after letters n, m or u which curl back to interfere with the rest of the word. This was a device used to indicate that one or more letters had been omitted, for example in the last word of line 1 (gu[n]nar) the curl after the letter u indicates that an n has been omitted.



This week's question: which laird had received the precept of the *Q[uenes] ma[ies]teis* (line 3) and what were the names of the two gunners who carried out the work?

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Answer: The laird of Whitelaw (*quhitlaw*) received the precept of the *Q[uenes] ma[ies]teis*, and James Hector and Michael Gairdner were the two gunners who carried out the work.

Transcription

*Item payit to James Hector ordinar gu[n]nar
send to du[n]bar for getting of the said poulder
be ane precept of the Q[uenes] ma[ies]teis to the Laird
of quhitlaw, for his expe[n]sis and horss fee ----- xxiiii s.*

*Item payit to michaell gairdner gu[n]nar and
poulder makar in the castell of Edimbur[ch]t
passing from the sami[n] to the toun of Stirviling
for making of fyrework[is] and bying of stuf
to that poirpos togidd[er] for his panes and exp[en]sis
The soume of ----- x L.*