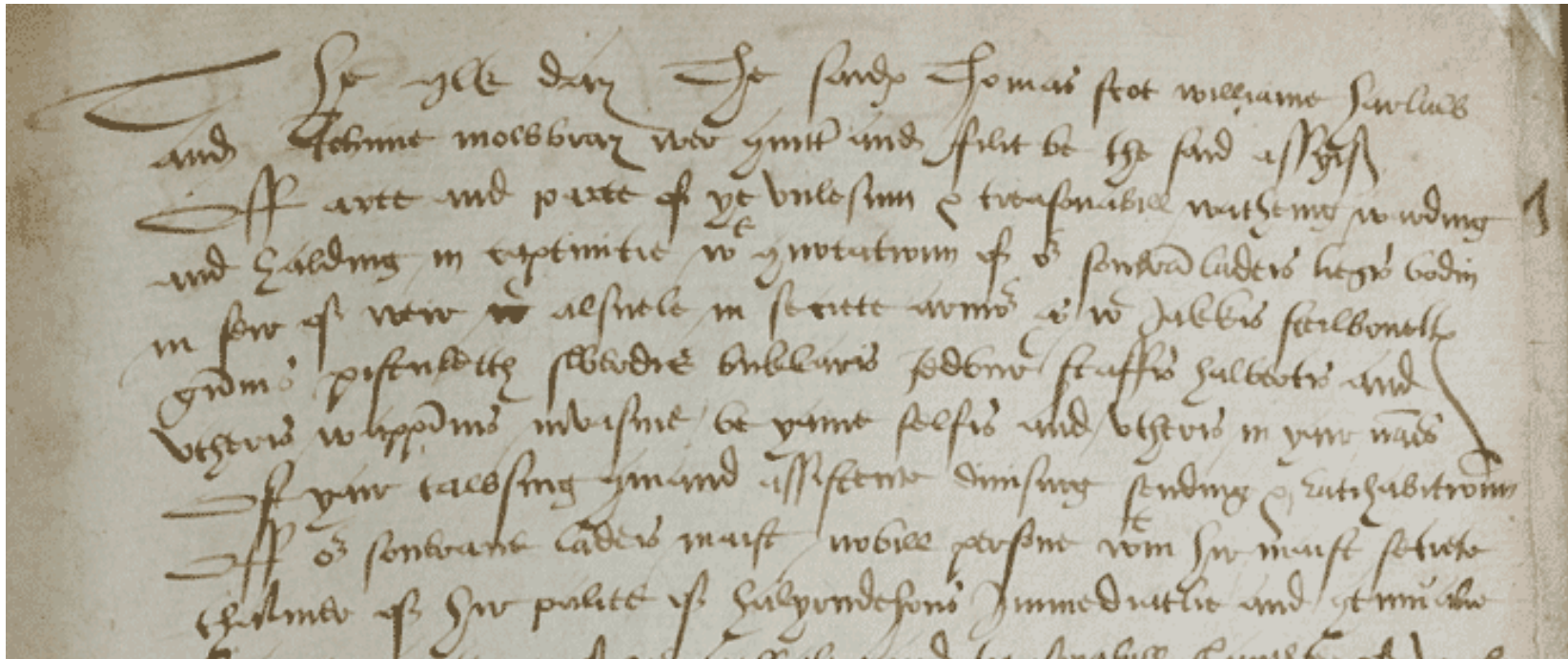


**Weekly Poser 386 – court books of the High Court of Justiciary, 1566 (part 1)**

This week's poser is the first of a series of three and is taken from the court books of the High Court of Justiciary – the highest criminal court in Scotland (National Records of Scotland, JC1/13). It relates to a famous murder trial which took place in 1566.

The hand is fairly regular. Watch out for abbreviations and phonetic spelling.



**This week's questions:** who were the accused and what weapons did they have?

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com>

**Weekly Poser 386 – court books of the High Court of Justiciary, 1566 (part 1)**

**Answers:** The accused were Thomas Scot, William Harlaw and John Mowbray. They had guns, pistols, swords, small shields, Jedburgh staffs, halberds and other weapons.

**Transcription**

The qu[hi]lk day The said[is] Thomas scot, willieme harlaw  
and Johnne mowbray, were [con]vict and filit be the said assysis  
Off artt and parrt of the vnlesum & treasonabill wacheing warding  
and halding in captivitie, w[i]th [con]vocation of o[u]r soveran ladeis legis bodin  
in feir of weir alswele in secrete armo[u]r as w[i]th Jakkis steilbonett[is]  
gu[n]nis pistulett[is] swardis bukларis Jedbur[cht] staffis halbertis and  
vtheris wapp[e]nis invasiue be thame selfis and vtheris in thair na[m]is  
Of thair cawsing [com]mand assistence diuising sending & ratihabitoun  
Off o[u]r souerane ladeis maist nobill persone wit[h]in hir maist secrete  
chalmer of hir palice of halyrudehous Immediatlie and [con]tinualie

**Glossary**

filit – found guilty  
assysis - court  
arrt and parrt – participated in a crime  
vnlesum – unlawful  
wacheing warding – holding captive  
convocation – assembly or gathering  
legis – lords  
Bodin- bidding, on the orders of  
in feir of weir – in fear of danger  
alswele – as well as

Jakkis – thick leather coats or tunics  
steilbonett[is] – helmets  
pistulett[is] - pistols  
buklaris – small shields  
Jedbur[cht] staffis – Jedburgh staffs (weapons similar to halberds)  
halbertis - halberds  
vtheris wapp[e]nis – other weapons  
ratihabitoun – sanction, approval  
chalmer - chamber

If you would like to contribute palaeography posers to the website contact us ([onlineresources@nas.gov.uk](mailto:onlineresources@nas.gov.uk)).