

## THE ACCOUNTS OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE SAVOY FOR THE YEAR 17 TO 18 HENRY VIII

By MOLLY TACHELL, B.A.

A roll of accounts acquired some years ago by the London County Record Office<sup>1</sup> in a miscellaneous collection of documents has recently been identified as relating to the Hospital of the Savoy for the year 17 to 18 Henry VIII.<sup>2</sup> Although it does not add anything substantial to the full and scholarly account of the Hospital contained in Mr. R. Somerville's book *The Savoy* (1960), the following translation of the Latin text is of interest as providing some further detail about the Hospital under its first master, William Holgill.

Founded by the executors of Henry VII under the terms of his will, the Hospital was completed in 1517 and named the Hospital of Henry VII, King of England, of the Savoy. It had been endowed by Henry VII with 500 marks (£334) annual value in land. At the date of the Valor Ecclesiasticus in 1535 the Hospital's net income amounted to £529 15s. 7½d.

The main part of the Hospital, a cruciform building like a church with transepts and an overall length of 320 feet, must have been an impressive sight. Holgill had been surveyor of works, and Humphrey Cooke, who had also been responsible for the roofs of Corpus Christi and Christ Church, Oxford, was master carpenter. The hundred beds provided for the poor were only intended to afford one night's lodging, but there was nothing to prevent anyone from coming back night after night; only the sick were allowed to remain in.

The Hospital was administered by the master and four chaplains, assisted by four paid priests and other officials and servants, including a physician and surgeon. There were in addition thirteen sisters, of whom one was matron.

In 1553 the Hospital was dissolved by Edward VI and all its household furnishings and fittings were handed over to Bridewell. In 1556, however, it was refounded by Philip and Mary and continued in existence as a hospital until 1702.

Of this great building, once one of the sights of London, only the Savoy Chapel now remains.<sup>3</sup>

The document consists of a single paper roll of three membranes, with a covering flap, measuring in all  $16\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 64 in. It is beautifully written in a common law hand with a decorated initial letter. The flap is endorsed "Anno XVIIJmo", which suggests that the roll was one of a series.

In the following free translation paragraphs have been numbered for ease of reference and repetitive phrases omitted.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>1. Annual payment in cash to the Rector of the Parish Church of St. Clement Danes without the Bar of the New Temple for tithes and oblations for the whole Hospital ... ..</b>							1	6	8
<b>2. Annuity of the Master of the Hospital, Salaries of the Chaplains, Stipends of the Officers of the Church:</b>									
Annuity of Mr. William Holgill, <sup>4</sup> Master of the Hospital, per annum	40	0	0						
Stipends or salaries of the four chaplains, at £4 each per annum ...	16	0	0						
Stipends of the four paid priests, <sup>5</sup> at £3 6 8 each per annum ...	6	13	4						
Annual stipends of officers and servants of the Church:									
Subsacrist ... ..	2	13	4						
Subhospitaller ... ..	1	6	8						
Four altarists, at £1 6 8 each ...	5	6	8						
Annual stipends of the thirteen sisters of the Hospital, at £4 each ...	52	0	0						
							124	0	0
<b>3. Stipends of Officers and Servants of the Hospital:</b>									
Clerk of the kitchen ... ..	3	6	8						
Head cook ... ..	2	0	0						
Butler ... ..	2	0	0						
Head porter ... ..	2	0	0						
Under porter ... ..	1	6	8						
Gardener ... ..	1	6	8						
Woman to wash the linen cloths ...	1	6	8						
Stipend of two of the Master's servants or clerks ... ..	2	13	4						
Stipend of his groom ... ..	2	0	0						
							4	13	4
									18 0 0
<b>4. Expenses of the Church:</b>									
For 7,000 "breads" for celebration of masses in the church for the same year ... ..		5	4						
To Robert Bayly <sup>6</sup> for wine ... ..	1	14	0						
							1	19	4
To William Rogers, wax-chandler, for wax and making of wax candles and tapers ... ..	3	4	1						

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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Paid in cash to the sacrist:									
For thread bought to mend albs and for the washing of vestments ...	3	0							
For washing the "corporas" <sup>7</sup> and "le Tuckyng gerdylles" <sup>8</sup> ...	1	2							
					4	2			
							5	7	7
<b>5. Expenses of the Poor and Impotent living in the Hospital:</b>									
From Michaelmas year 17 Henry VIII till Christmas: for gifts to 1,156 poor people in daily receipt of food, drink, necessaries for health, all sacraments with shrouds and decent burial after death, at a cost of 1½d. per day each for food and drink, £7 4 6d. With a deduction of 3/1 for those remaining in, leaving ...	7	1	5						
From Christmas till the Annuncia- tion: for gifts to 991 poor people at 1½d. per day each, £6 3 10½. With a deduction of 3/3½ for those remain- ing in, leaving ...	6	0	7						
From the Annunciation till the Nativity of St. John the Baptist: for gifts to 1,135 people at 1½d. per day each, £7 1 10½. With a deduction of 3/10 for those remaining in, leaving ...	6	18	0½						
From the Nativity of St. John the Baptist till Michaelmas, year 18 [Henry VIII], 1,147 people at 1½d. per day each, £6 19 3 [sic]. With a deduction of 4/4½ for those remain- ing in, leaving ...	6	14	11						
							26	14	11½
Paid in cash to Edward Bekk for linen cloth bought for burying poor people:									
For two pieces containing 92 yards	1	2	0						
And for two other pieces con- taining 94 yards at 10/4 per piece ...	1	0	8						
							2	2	8
Paid in cash from Michaelmas year 17 [Henry VIII] to Christmas:									
For 30 bushels or measures of ashes <sup>9</sup> at 2d. per measure ...	5	0							
4 yards of sackcloth for bags for the ashes ...	1	0							
For candles in the Hospital in the same period:									
3 dozen candles called "Cot- ten Candeles" ...	3	0							
4 dozen candles called "Watching Candelles" ...	5	0							









	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
delivered by him for the new [tenements] in the parish of St. Sepulchre, with carriage of the same and wages of workmen, paid in cash ...				6	16	4			
For wages of masons, carpenters, tilers and labourers engaged on the new work for the Hospital, viz., the new tenements in the parish of St. Sepulchre, without Newgate, lately called "the Harpe" in Old Bailey, according to the accounts of Mr. Robert Jopplyn, chaplain, wherein are set out the names of the workmen with the amounts paid to each to the sum of ... ..				64	17	8			
Paid in cash to Mr. Robert Jopplyn, chaplain and supervisor of the said works for the Hospital, for divers materials for himself and others bought and used in the new works				124	17	7			
Paid in cash to the glazier for glass for the eleven new tenements in the parish of St. Sepulchre without Newgate ... ..				6	4	7			
							207	17	9½
Sum total of all the above payments and allowances ... ..							682	9	2
["There is thus a debit" deleted]									
Thus leaving a surplus of £192 11 11½									

## NOTES

- 1 L.C.C. Q/HAL/330.
- 2 Michaelmas 1526—Michaelmas 1527.
- 3 For this brief account of the history of the Hospital I am indebted to Mr. Somerville's book.
- 4 Appointed master 1517, died 1548.
- 5 "Capellanorum Conducticiorum".
- 6 Presumably Robert Bayly, Holgill's clerk of works. See Somerville, *The Savoy*, page 12.
- 7 "Corporas"—cloth placed beneath the consecrated elements.
- 8 "Tuckyng gerdylles"—girdle worn with the alb which is then drawn through it until the skirt is of the proper length.
- 9 Ashes were used for washing purposes before the introduction of soap.
- 10 "pro Canteris Carctaribus et Cautis vocantur Bollis ligneis pro esiamentes vomitum infirmorum": the Latin text is obscure but this appears to be the meaning.
- 11 "Wasshyng betilles"—washing-beetle, a wooden bat used to beat or pound clothes in the process of washing.
- 12 "Coloris blodij".
- 13 The clerk of the kitchen was lay assistant to the vice-master, Roger Assh, who acted as steward of the household. See Somerville, *The Savoy*, p. 28.
- 14 Roger Assh, or Ashe, vice-master and steward of the household.
- 15 "Artificiariorum".
- 16 John Halys or Hales, presumably the same who was appointed third baron



- of the exchequer in 1522, father of Sir James Hales, the judge, who was steward of the Hospital's lands in Kent in 1535 (*D.N.B.*).
- 17 Humphrey Cooke or Coke, master carpenter of works to Henry VIII, well known for his work at Oxford, died 1531, buried in the Hospital chapel. See Somerville, *The Savoy*, pp. 12, 36.
- 18 William Haydon, clerk to the Duchy of Lancaster 1523-1545. See Somerville, *History of the Duchy of Lancaster* (1953) I, p. 413.
- 19 "infra." A house with garden was occupied from 1521 as an office of the Duchy of Lancaster. Somerville, *The Savoy*, p. 22 and *History of the Duchy of Lancaster*, I, p. 239.
- 20 "nuper vocati Veteris Turris."
- 21 Robert Jopplyn or Joplyn, hospitaller. See Somerville, *The Savoy*, pp. 27, 244.
- 22 "infra."

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer wishes to thank for their assistance in the preparation of this paper the members of the palæography class promoted by the University of London Department of Extra-Mural Studies. She is specially grateful to the lecturer, Miss I. Darlington, M.A., F.S.A., F.L.A.