

# THE GOODS OF A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY PARSON

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INVENTORIES among Buckinghamshire Wills are not numerous, and those that do exist usually ignore the less important chattels of the deceased. An exception, however, is to be found in the inventory of the goods of Sir Antony Carswalle, sometime vicar of Whitchurch.

In his will, dated 6th May and proved 6th July, 1521, he desired to be buried in the quire of his church, before the image of St. John the Evangelist. He gave to his kinswoman Alice Hewson, 20s., and to his servant Walter Tomson, 20s., for the residue of his year's wages. His lands at Garsington, co. Oxon, were devised to his cousin William Coton, whom, with Master Matthew Smythe, Principal of Brasenose, he made executor.

The inventory of his goods was made 27th May, 1521. They are meticulously appraised, and it must embrace practically all his worldly effects.

Imprimis an habett w <sup>t</sup> ij hoodes	xijs.	
Item a sarsynet typet		xxd.
Item viij crysomes		viijd.
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of gold weyghtes		iijd.
Item a drynkyng pote of pewt <sup>r</sup>		iijd.
Item a nother pewter pote		iijd.ob.
Item a chafyng disshe		vjd.
Item a surplesse w <sup>t</sup> a lynnon bagge	vs.	
Item a table clothe		xvd.
Item ij pillow berys		iiijd.
Item iiij brusshes		ijd.
Item a bowe		xjd.
Item ij staffes		jd.
Item iiij boxes		jd.
Item ij old paynted clothes		iijd.
Item a cod piece of mayle		iijd.
Item a lecturn		jd.ob.
Item a horne w <sup>t</sup> ynk		jd.
Item a glasse w <sup>t</sup> a cover		jd.
Item ij hoodekerchers	ijs.	
Item a longe gowne w <sup>t</sup> a hode furred w <sup>t</sup> calabur <sup>r</sup>	xxs.	
Item a longe gowne w <sup>t</sup> owte a hode furred w <sup>t</sup> blake lamb	vjs.	viijd.
Item a shorte gowne lyned w <sup>t</sup> saten of sypresse	viijs.	
Summa pagni lxs. xd.		
Item a chamlet jaket and a dublet of the same	vjs.	
Item a dublet of wursted	ijs.	
Item a jakkett of clothe furred w <sup>t</sup> whit lambe		xijd.
Item ij cappes	ijs.	

Item a hode w <sup>t</sup> owte a gowne		viiij.
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of hosen		xvjd.
Item a hatte		viiij.
* Item a hode furred w <sup>t</sup> mynevere	iijs.	iiij.
Item iij shirttes	ijs.	ijd.
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of knyves		vd.
Item ij hangars	iijs.	
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of shoes		vjd.
Item a horsse brydell and saddle	xviijs.	
Item a male w <sup>t</sup> a bogett		xvjd.
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of bootes		vjd.
Item a ryding hode of chamlet & a nother of sarsynet		xxd.
Item a javelyn and a byll		vd.
Item a horsse combe		jd.
Item iij pey <sup>r</sup> of sheetes	vjs.	
Item ij fedder beddes	vjs.	vjd.
Item iij bolsters and fyve pyllowes	ijs.	
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of blankettes		xxd.
Item ij coverlettes	iijs.	ijd.
Item a mantyll and a sylver sponse	ijs.	vjd.
† Item a surplesse	iijs.	
Item iiij table clothes		xxd.
Item fyve table napkyns		vjd.
Item a hand napkyn		iiij.
Item iij hedekerchers		vijd.ob.
Item iiij towelles		xd.
Item an ynkhorne		jd.
Item a tryvett		jd.
Item iij brussches		jd.ob.
-Item a chayre		vjd.
-Item iiij coffers	ijs.	vd.
Item halffe a garnysse of pewter vessell	iijs.	ijd.
Summa pagni lxxiij. xd.		
Item a hand bassen		iiij.
Item a bytte for a brydell		vjd.
Item iij pey <sup>r</sup> of bedes		xiiij.
Item iiij candilstikkes		xiiij.
Item ij lantarnes		iiij.
Item a grydyron		ijd.
Item a brasse potte of iij gallons		xvjd.
Item a little potte of brasse		vd.
Item a chaffer		vd.
Item a bokett		vjd.
Item ij queyers of paper		iiij.
-Item a tester for a bedde		vjd.
Item ij saltesellers		vd.
Item drynkyng pottes vj		iiij.
Item all the bokes be preyed at xls.	xls.	
Item xvij shepe & viij lambes	xxvijs.	
-Item a table and ij trestellys		vjd.
Item all the woodde	iijs.	
Item ij capons j cock & a henn		vjd.
Item a pey <sup>r</sup> of spectacles		ob.
-Item a deske		ijd.

\* 'Vacat hic quia antea' in margin.

† 'Vacat quia antea' in margin.

Item a rakke		ijd.
Item a shovell		jd.
	iiijl. xvijjs. xjd. ob (deleted)	
Item in redy money recevyd of Walter Tomson servant w <sup>t</sup> Mr. Antony Caryswalle decessed		vijli. xvjd.
	Summa xjli. iijd. ob.	
The total is not given, but amounts to £17 14s. 0½d.		

#### GLOSSARY

Sarsynet: a fine silken cloth originally made by the Saracens.

Crysmes: the linen cloths in which infants, anointed with chrism at baptism, were swaddled.

Paynted Clothes: The reference to painted cloths is of interest. Such things are mentioned by Shakespeare and took the place of the more costly tapestry hangings in rooms in the later Middle Ages. They were to some extent replaced by the familiar late-sixteenth- and seventeenth-century wall-paintings; and the hanging framed picture later still.

Calabur: a kind of fur apparently obtained from a foreign species of squirrel.

Chamlet: a stuff originally made of a mixture of silk and camel's hair.

Mynevere: the fur obtained from the ermine or stoat.

Hangars: short swords hung from the belt.

Male: a bag or trunk, usually of leather.

Boget: a pouch or wallet, usually of leather.

Garnyshe of pewter: this comprised 12 platters, 12 dishes, 12 saucers.