

Letter 1: Background

William Dunlop is in Dordrecht (Dort) in the Netherlands in May 1681. This first letter is written fairly neatly, with well formed Secretary Hand letters although he reverts to his more natural hand, Italic, when he signs off at the end.

Several placenames are mentioned:

Scots	English
<i>Barastones</i>	B'oness, a Scottish port on the river Forth
<i>Dort</i>	Dordrecht, a Dutch port
<i>Edinbruch</i>	Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland
<i>Rotterdam</i>	Rotterdam, a Dutch port

Although phonetic spelling may cause a few problems, most of the vocabulary is straightforward. Exceptions are:

Scots	English
<i>Billies</i>	friends
<i>Cifering</i>	ciphering, in the sense of book-keeping and arithmetic using arabic numerals
<i>Pile-grass</i>	a crop of some kind, possibly used as livestock fodder

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Letter 1: Image

Dort May 21 1681

Loving father I thought it fit to let you know ^{that} I am com to Dort to
 school & ⁱⁿ Ma^r M^r Ruffel by John Frelmings orders given me an letter of re-
 commendation & I thank god I was never in better health in my life then
 5 at this present time & there are only two Scots men in school who came from Edin-
 burgh & I my self & we are now learning somewhat of ^{the} language & to write
 & within ~~or~~ 10 or 12 days we shall proceed to sephoring. Neither John Frelmg
 nor John Miller is come to Rotterdam for ought ^{as yet} & I know ^{not} James Alford
 when I came from Rotterdam was intended to go home to Andrew Burnside
 10 therefore if John Frelmg ^{or} John Miller com ~~not~~ to Rotterdam before Andrew
 Burnside go out of it I think it fit to send home ^{the} calf to ^{the} pilgrimage to
 Andrew Burnside to Mr Arastones Loving father we hear at school get
 very good dayes & have our stomach very well our dayes being alwayes
 flesh, fish, butter, & Chise & peates ^{so} I am very desirous to hear from
 15 you if ye be all in good health being desirous of nothing more in ^{the} world
 & ^{then} then to hear ^{that} ye are all well; since I came to Dort I have dreamed
 of my mother 3 or 4 times therefore I intreat you especially in ^{the} first occasion
 to let me certainly know if she be in good health having written to you from
 Rotterdam ^{the} 8 day of this month I expect to hear from you shortly & when
 20 you direct your letters direct them to Mr Ruffel & he will have a care
^{that} they come to my hand, you & int cannot ^{the} love of my heart to you all
 express therefore I shall say no more but having my services presented to you
 my loving father & to my dear mother to my two dearest brethren & sisters
 James & John to my good brother & to his wife my sister Joan & to all ^{the}
 25 rest of my brethren & sisters to my Aunt & to my Aunt Jean Alford being
 very desirous to hear from you I rest

your Loving and obedient son
till death

William Dunlop

30 ^{S^r}
 Have my services presented to James Robertson to Patrick Alford & to
 all friends & acquaintances in Glasgow

Letter 1: Test

1. Dort May 21 1681
2. Loving father I thought it fit to lat you knou th[a]t I am com to Dort to
3. schoul & th[a]t Mr Russell by John stirlings ordors given me an letter of re-
4. commendation & that I thanck god I was _____ in better helth in my life then
5. at this _____ time & ther ar only tuo _____ men in schoul who cam from Edin
6. bruch & I my self & we are nou learning somewhat of the language & to write
7. & within 10 or 12 days we shall _____ to cephering Nether John stirling
8. nor John Miller is come to Rotterdam for ought th[a]t I knou as yet & James Bell
9. when I cam from Rotterdam _____ to go home w[i]t[h] Andreu Burnsyd
10. therfor if nether John stirling nor John Miller com to Rotterdam befor _____
11. Burnsyde go out of it I thing it fit to _____ home the calf w[i]t[h] the pile-
grass w[i]t[h]
12. Andreu Burnsyd to Barastones Loving father we hear at _____ get
13. very good dayet & have our stomoch wery weel our dayet being alwayes
14. flesch, _____, butter, _____ & syllets S[i]r I am _____ to hear from
15. you if ye be all in good helth being desyrous of nothing mor in the
16. then to hear th[a]t ye ar all weel; _____ I cam to Dort I have dreamed
17. of my mother 3 or 4 _____ therfor I intreat you earnestly w[i]t[h] the first
occasion
18. to let me certanly knou if she be in good helth having _____ to you from
19. Rotterdam the 8 day of this moneth I expect to hear from you shortly & when
20. you _____ your letters direct them to Mr Russell & he will have a _____
21. th[a]t they com to my hand, pen & ink cannot the love of my hert to you all
22. express therfor I shall say no mor bot having my humble service presented to you
23. my loving father & to my dear mother to my tuo _____ & billies
24. James & John to my good brother & to his wife my sister Jean & to all the
25. rest of my _____ & sisters to my Ant & to my Ant Jean Blair being
26. very desyrous to hear from you I rest
27. Your Loving and obedient son
28. till death
29. William Dunlop
30. S[i]r
31. Hawe my _____ presented to James Robertone to patrick Bell & to
32. all friends & _____ in Glasgou

Letter 1: Transcription

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25. rest of my brethring & sisters to my Ant & to my Ant Jean Blair being
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28. till death
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32. all friends & acquaintences in Glasgou