

Letter 2: Background

In this second letter, written from Dort shortly after letter 1, William Dunlop reverts mainly to Italic, but there are some Secretary Hand forms, such as the *long s*.

The main problems for modern readers are phonetic spelling of some words and the writer's idiosyncracies, such as the use of the letter *v*, where we would use *w*, for example in the word *vhom* at the end of line 3. He also uses *-ine* in words where we would expect *-een* or *-ene*, for example in *bine* at the end of line 1.

Scots	English
<i>Dort</i>	Dordrecht, a Dutch port
<i>Rotterdam</i>	Rotterdam, a Dutch port
<i>Stedable</i>	steadfast
<i>Cifering</i>	ciphering, in the sense of book-keeping and arithmetic using arabic numerals
<i>Stretnes</i>	straitness or tightness (his clothes are becoming too small for him)
<i>Gulders</i>	guilders (Dutch currency)

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Letter 2: Image

Loving father
 Having the occasion of this bearer John Stirling who his sine
 and stedable friend to me sine I cam to this countray with whom
 I thought it fit to write not having received ~~not~~ any letter from
 5 you as yet at which I am sore grieved thinking that something is
 befallen some of you having twice written once by post when we here
 at Rotterdam had landed and once with our schipper Andreu
 Osurnsyde whom I thought should had a good care in bringmg
 10 of it to your own hand I long greatly to hear if ye be all in good
 health therfor I humbly request you as a son should a father
 to let me know with every occasion if ye be all in good helth
 mind clothes y^t I got at my sisters marriage shall soon be skuffed
 because I have not another s^t out that I can put on for you know
 15 mind other clothes is so short that I cannot put them on without
 vehement warm e if it please god y^t I cannot induer y^t vader is so
 y^t winter season I shall not be able to wear them for ~~stret~~ stretnes
 because I cannot put on an little cott beneath them, they ar 5 scots=
 20 to advice with John Stirling e M^r Ruffel in that case for our
 Master in dort at shoul with me therfor I cam down to Rotterdam
 y^t language, writing, e Cifermg, ~~the~~ cifermg e writing I shall
 attme unto in on quarter therfor if it be your will I think it great
 folly to remain here in Dort halfe a year when y^t last quarter I
 25 shall learn nothing but y^t language therfor I went to M^r Ruffel
 with John Stirling e he advices me y^t next quarter to com to Rotter=
 dam to on y^t teaches book holding for he says y^t ther ar no other
 about y^t can teach it perfectly but it shall be very dear M^r Ruffel
 informs me y^t I shall pay 60 guldens in quarter for my bordmg
 30 e 50 guldens mor to y^t sam man for book holding e if I shal hire
 remaine an halfe year I shall cast myself to com hom in y^e dead of em=
 ter for I entred to schoul in ther dette here in holland y^e 14 of May
~~e y^e know y^e m~~ e you know mind half year shall be run out in y^e
 14 of Novemb. therfor if it pleas god that shall here remain half
 35 an year I am affrighted that y^e river be frofme e we shall not
 come home till y^e spring e y^e shall be 3 quarters which shall be very
 expensive e I pray you to advice y^e best e send me word with first
 occasion before mind quarter be out in dort I have no mor at this occasi=
 on but my service presented to you my Loving father I rest
 your Loving son till death
 William Dunlop

Letter 2: Test

1. Loving father
2. Having _____ John Stirling who his bime
3. ane _____ to me sinc I cam to this countray _____
4. I thought it fit to _____ any letter from
5. you as yet at which I am _____ thincking that somthing is
6. befallen _____ having tuice vritten once by post vhen ve hire
7. at Rotterdam had landed and once with our _____
8. Burnsyde vhom I thought should had a good care _____
9. of it to your oun hand I long greatly to hear if ye be all in good
10. health therfor I humbly _____ should a father
11. to lat me knou _____ if ye be all in good helth
12. mind clothes th[a]t I got at my sisters marriage shall soon be skuffed
13. becaus I have not another sout that I can put on for you knou
14. mind other clothes is so short that I cannot put them on without
15. mind _____ aboun them & th[a]t I cannot _____ the _____ is so
16. vehement varm & if it please god th[a]t I shall soon be in this countray in
17. the vinter season I shall not be able to vear them for _____
18. becaus I cannot put on an little cott beneath them, They ar 5 scots-
19. men hire in dort _____ therfor I cam doun to Rotterdam
20. to advice vith John Stirling & Mr Russell in that case for our
21. Master in dort can teach littel or no book holding he teaches only
22. the language, vritting, & Cifering, cifering & vritting I shall
23. attine unto in on quarter therfor if it be your will I _____
24. folly to remain hire in Dort halfe a year when the last quarter I
25. shall learn nothing bot the langauge therfor _____
26. vith John stirling & he _____ me the nixt quarter to com to Rotter-
27. dam to on th[a]t teaches book holding for he says th[a]t ther ar no other
28. about th[a]t can teach it _____ it shall be very dear Mr Russel
29. informs me th[a]t I shall pay 60 guilders in quarter for my bording
30. & 50 guilders mor to th[a]t sam man for _____ & if I shal hire
31. remaine an halfe year I shall cast myself to com hom in the dead of vin-
32. ter for _____ ther dett hire in Holland the 14 of May
33. & you knou mind half year shall be run out in the
34. 14 of Novemb[er] therfor if it pleas god that I shall hire remain half
35. an year I am _____ that the river be _____ & ve shall not
36. wine home till the spring & th[a]t shall be 3 quarters which shall be very

Letter 2: Test (continued)

37. _____ & I pray you to advice the best & send me word with first
38. occasion befor mind quarter be out in dort I have no mor at this occasi-
39. on but my service presented to you my Loving father I rest
40. your loving son till death
41. William Dunlop

Letter 2: Transcription

1. Loving father
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5. you as yet at vlich I am sore grieved thincking that somthing is
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7. at Rotterdam had landed and once with our schipper Andreu
8. Burnsyde whom I thought should had a good care in bringing
9. of it to your oun hand I long greatly to hear if ye be all in good
10. health therfor I humbly requist you as a son should a father
11. to lat me knou vith every occasion if ye be all in good helth
12. mind clothes th[a]t I got at my sisters marriage shall soon be skuffed
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15. mind riding cott be aboun them & th[a]t I cannot induer the vader is so
16. vehement varm & if it please god th[a]t I shall soon be in this countray in
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19. men hire in dort at shcoul vith me therfor I cam doun to Rotterdam
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30. & 50 guilders mor to th[a]t sam man for bookholding & if I shal hire
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