

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:

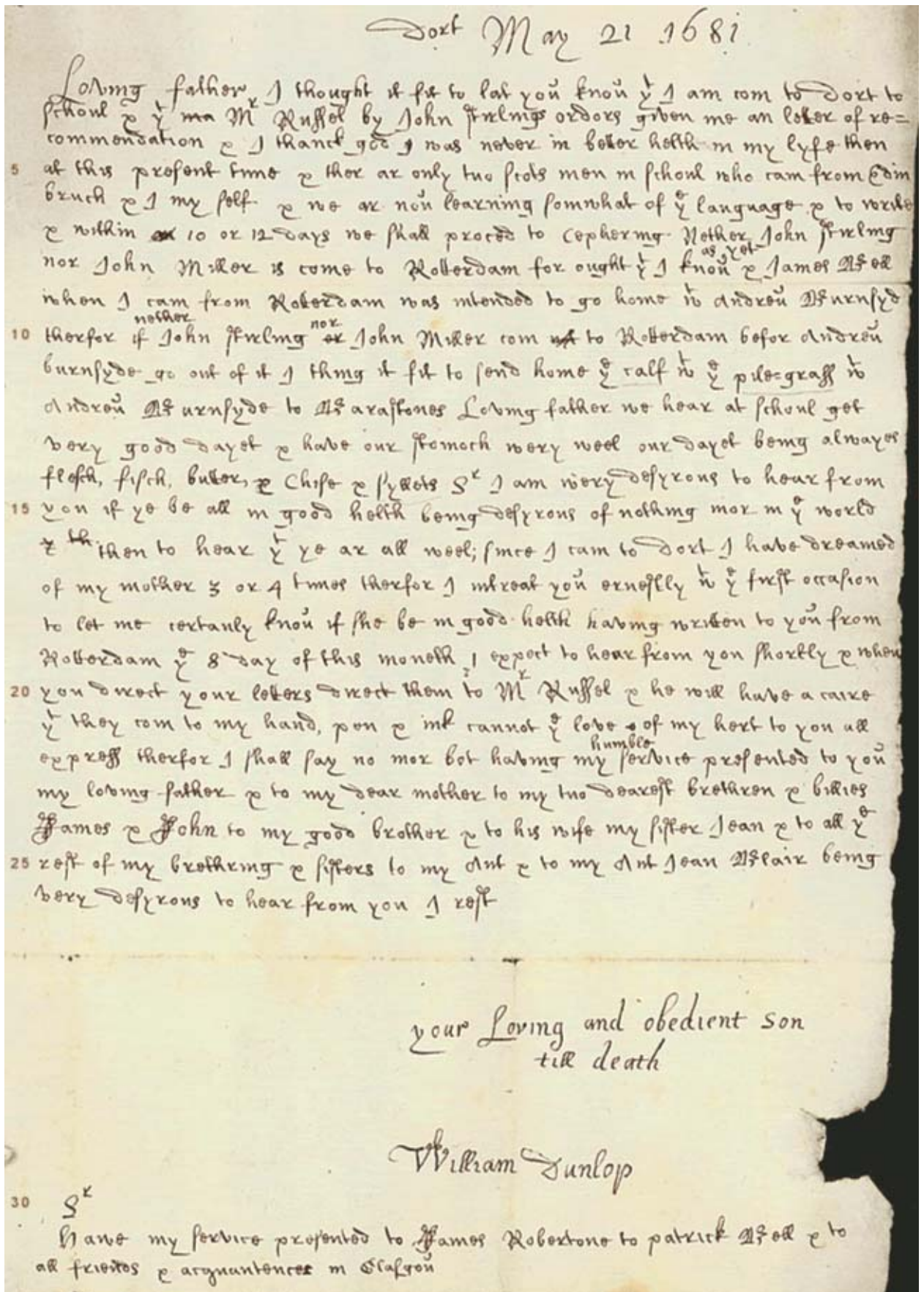
Scots	English
<i>Barastones</i>	B'oness, a Scottish port on the river Forth
<i>Dort</i>	Dordrecht, a Dutch port
<i>Edinbruch</i>	Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland
<i>Rotterdam</i>	Rotterdam, a Dutch port

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



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 & 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-
12. grass w[i]t[h]
13. Andreu Burnsyd to Barastones Loving father we hear at _____get
14. very good dayet & have our stomoch wery weel our dayet being alwayes
15. flesch, _____, butter, _____& syllets S[i]r I am _____to hear from
16. you if ye be all in good helth being desyrous of nothing mor in the
17. then to hear th[a]t ye ar all weel; _____I cam to Dort I have dreamed
18. of my mother 3 or 4 _____therfor I intreat you earnestly w[i]t[h] the first
19. occasion
20. to let me certainly knou if she be in good helth having _____to you from
21. Rotterdam the 8 day of this moneth I expect to hear from you shortly & when
22. you _____your letters direct them to Mr Russell & he will have a _____
23. th[a]t they com to my hand, pen & ink cannot the love of my hert to you all
24. express therfor I shall say no mor bot having my humble service presented to you
25. my loving father & to my dear mother to my tuo _____& billies
26. James & John to my good brother & to his wife my sister Jean & to all the
27. rest of my _____& sisters to my Ant & to my Ant Jean Blair being
28. very desyrous to hear from you I rest
29. Your Loving and obedient son
30. till death
31. William Dunlop
32. S[i]r
33. Hawe my _____presented to James Robertone to patrick Bell & to
34. all friends & _____in Glasgou

Letter 1: Transcription

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28. till death
29. William Dunlop
30. S[i]r
31. Hawe my service presented to James Robertone to patrick Bell & to
32. all friends & acquaintences in Glasgou