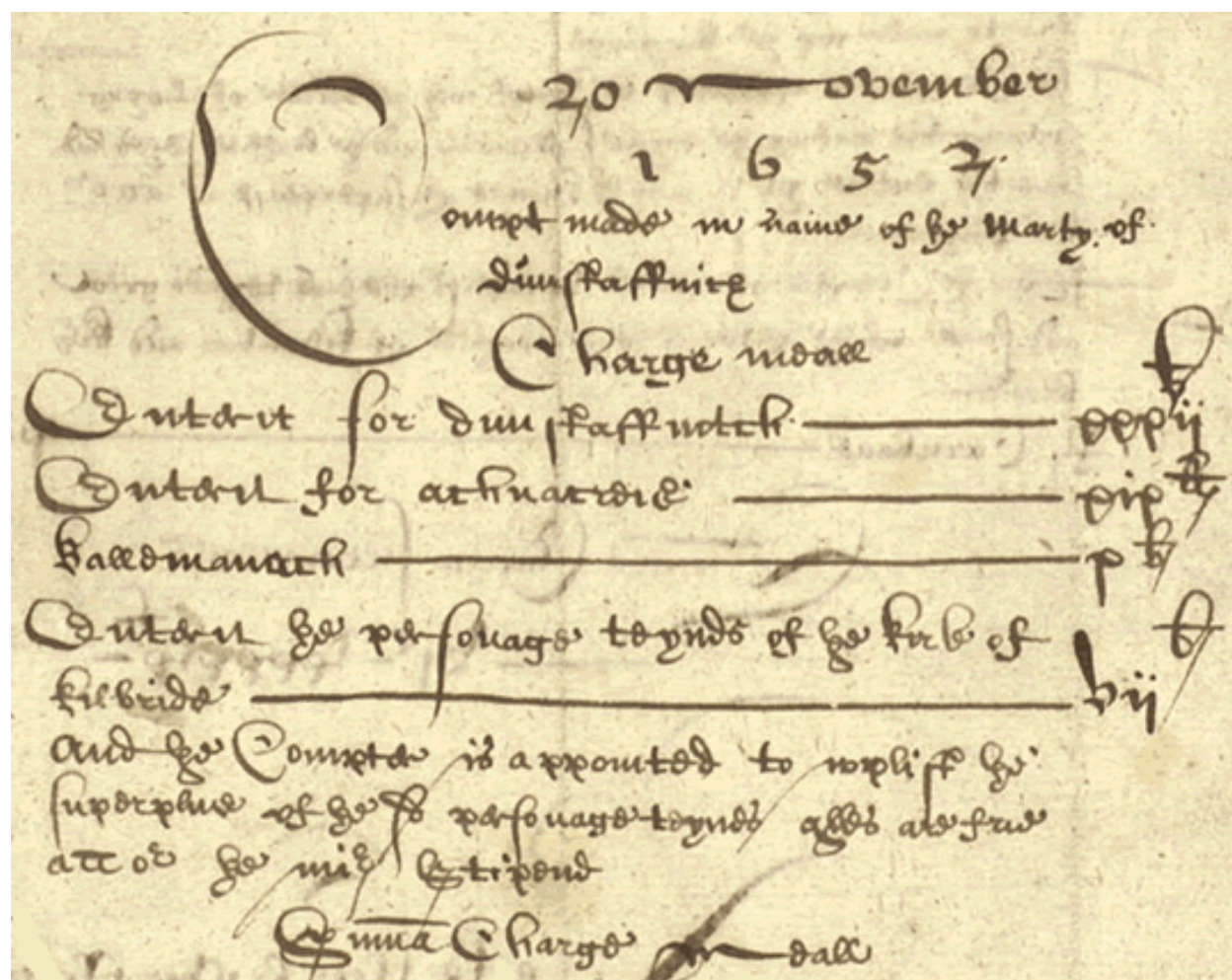


Weekly Poser 332 - Rental of Dunstaffnage (Regality Court of Argyll), 1652

This week's poser is taken from a rental of Dunstaffnage for 1652, recorded in the records of the Regality Court of Argyll (National Records of Scotland, RH11/6/3).

The writing is quite neat and most of the secretary hand letters are well formed, but if you decide to transcribe the whole extract you might find the Argyll place names and some legal terms problematical. The writer uses three forms of the lower case letter s: the long s (for example in the word *dunstaffnich* in line 4), the common short s (for example in the word *is* in line 11), and a less-common, elaborate form of s (for example in the place name *achnacreis*, in line 6). The text includes words from three languages: Scots, Latin and Gaelic. In line 5 the term *Charge meall* means the amount of rent due, and the document then specifies four separate amounts due for four places.



This week's questions: calculate the total amount of the four rents and, therefore suggest what Latin numerals should follow *Sum[m]a Charge Meall* in line 14.

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Answer: The total rent (Sum[m]a Charge Meall) is 68 pounds (Lxviiij lib~).

Transcription:

20 November

1657

*Compt made in naime of the Marty of
dunstaffnich*

Charge meall

Enterit for dunstaffnitch – xxxij lib~

Enterit for achnacreis – xix lib~

Ballemanach – x lib~

*Enterit the personage teynds of the kirk of
kilbride – vij lib~*

*and the Compter is appointed to uplift the
superplus of the s[ai]d personage teynds q[uhi]lks are frie
atto[u]r the mi[niste]r[is] Stipend*

Sum[m]a Charge Meall

Lxviiij lib

Glossary:

atto[u]r – line 13 – above, apart from

Charge – lines 4 and 14 – cost, amount

Compt – line 3 – account

Compter – line 11 – person who renders accounts, treasurer

Enterit – lines 6, 7, and 9 – entered, recorded

Marty – line 3 – constable, keeper of a castle, from the Gaelic maor tìghe ('keeper of the house')

meall – lines 5 and 14 – rent

personage teynds – lines 9 and 12 - teinds due to a parson

q[uhi]lks – line 12 – which

Stipend – line 13 – minister's salary

superplus – line 12 – excess

Sum[m]a – line 14 – total

This poser was devised by 'Fodiator', a researcher from Fife.