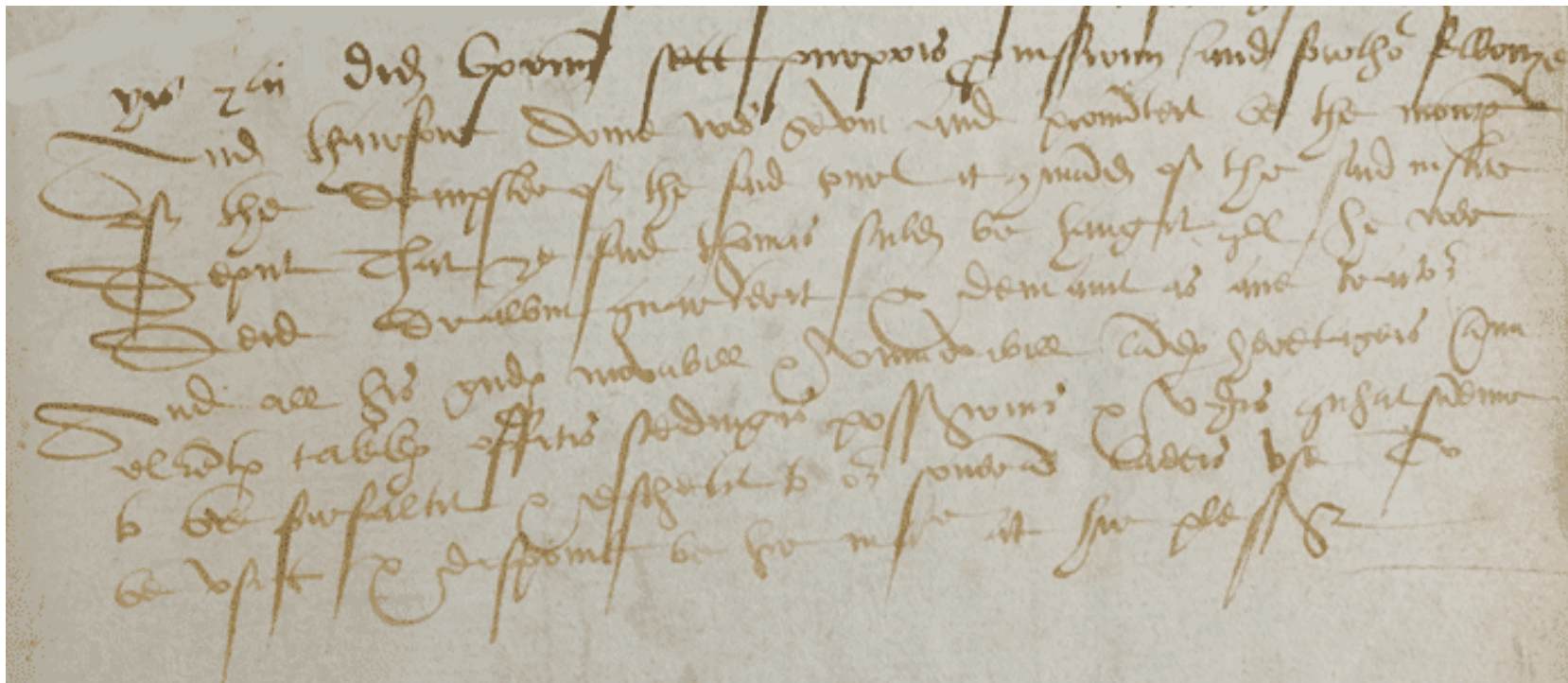


Weekly Poser 388 – court books of High Court of Justiciary, 1566 (part 3)

This week's poser is the last of three and is taken from the court books of the High Court of Justiciary (National Records of Scotland, JC1/13). It relates to a famous murder trial which took place in 1566. Over the last two weeks we learned that Thomas Scot, William Harlaw and John Mowbray were holding Mary Stewart captive at Holyrood Palace, killed David Rizzio and that Mary managed to escape to Dunbar castle. This week we will find out about the sentence.

As last week: watch out for abbreviations and phonetic spelling.



This week's question: what was the sentence?

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Answers: Thomas was to be hung, drawn and quartered and all his moveable goods and lands were to pass to the crown.

Transcription

this thai did vpon sett purpois prussioun and fourtho[ugh]t felonye
And thairfore, Dome was geven and pronoc[un]ceit be the mouthe
of the Dempster of the said court at [com]mande of the said iustice
Deput That the said Thomas suld be hangit q[ui]ll he were
Deid drawin quaterit & demanit as ane traitor
And all his guides movabill & vnmovabill landes heretageis, a[nn]-
ual rentes takis officis steidings po[sse]ssions & vtheres quhatsu[m]euer
to be forfaitit & escheit to o[u]r souerane ladyes vse To
be vsit & despousit be her m[ajesti]e at hir plessur

Glossary

dempster – judge
dome - judgement

If you would like to contribute palaeography posers to the website contact us (onlineresources@nas.gov.uk).