

## APPENDIX E

MINSTRELSY IN THE COVENTRY GILD-ACCOUNTS  
1449-1502

The following is a calendar of entries concerning minstrels in the accounts transcribed in Sharp/*Dissertation*, pp. 163, 197, 208 and 212. The accounts are in English.

The trade-gilds are those of the Cappers, Carpenters, Dyers and Smiths: Sharp also included some entries from the accounts of the Trinity Gild. I have rearranged entries in chronological order, and used the letters (Cp), (Cr), (D), (S) and (T) to denote the gild concerned.

The payments were made for minstrelsy at Midsummer or on the feasts of Trinity, Corpus Christi, St John the Baptist (24 June) and St Peter (29 June): these are distinguished by the letters MS, TR, CC, JB and P, with the suffix E if the eve is specified (e.g. JBE for St John's Eve).

1449 MS: 9d to the harper (S).  
P: 7d to the minstrel (S).

1450 CC: 13d to one minstrel (Cr).

8.0d to the minstrels for their hire (S).  
2.6d spent on their board on Corpus Christi Eve and Day (S).

MSE &/or PE: 14d to one minstrel (Cr).  
11d to two harpers (S).

1451 CC: 20d spent on the minstrels' dinner and supper (S).<sup>1</sup>

[189]

MS &/or PE: 6d to the minstrels (Cr).  
MS: 12d to the harper (S).  
P: 6d to the minstrel (S).

1452 CC etc: 5.5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d spent at Corpus Christi-tide, Midsummer night and St. Peter's night in bread, ale and torch-bearers for the minstrels, and all other things (Cr.)

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<sup>1</sup> Corpus Christi Day only: Sharp says that their hire cost 8.0d as before (i.e. 1450).

- 12d paid to the Waits of Coventry (S).<sup>2</sup>
- 1453 CC: 18d to the minstrel on Corpus Christi Day (Cr).  
2d to the minstrel at the friars' (Cr).<sup>3</sup>
- 1454 CC: 12d spent on the minstrel on Corpus Christi Eve and Day (S).
- 1456 CC: 3d paid to one harper (Cr).  
MS & P: 14d paid to Robert the harper for Midsummer night and St Peter's night (Cr).<sup>4</sup>
- 1457 TR: 6.8d to the minstrels of the city (T).  
JB: 5.0d to the minstrels of the city (T).<sup>5</sup>
- 1461 3d to "our mynstrelle" (Cr).<sup>6</sup>
- 1463 CC: 9.0d to the four minstrels (S).  
12d to minstrels (Cr).<sup>7</sup>
- 1464 8d paid to minstrels (Cr).<sup>8</sup>  
[190]
- 1467 CC etc: 8.8d to the Waits for their hire and board on Corpus Christi Day and St Loy's Day (S).  
MS & P: 2.0d to Metcalf and Banbreke, for minstrelsy (Cr).
- 1468 MS: 40d to the minstrel (S).  
P: 20d to the minstrel (S).
- 1471 ?CC: 6.0d paid to the Waits for "mynstrelship" (on the pageant and in the procession) (S).  
MS: 2.2d to two minstrels (S).  
P: 20d to two minstrels (S).

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<sup>2</sup> At the annual dinner on St Loy's Day (? St Aloysius, 21 June): Sharp says that the Smiths also hired a luter on this occasion.

<sup>3</sup> At the annual dinner at the White Friars'.

<sup>4</sup> According to Sharp, Robert Crudworth, harper, had been admitted to the Company in 1453.

<sup>5</sup> The Trinity Gild made a similar payment at the feast of the Assumption (Sharp's note).

<sup>6</sup> At the annual dinner at the White Friars'.

<sup>7</sup> As n. 6.

<sup>8</sup> As n. 6.

- 1473                    2d paid to minstrels (D).<sup>9</sup>
- 1474    MS:        3.4d to two minstrels for melody (S).
- 1477    ?CC:        5.0d paid to the Waits for “pypyng” (for pageant and procession) (S).  
           JB:        3.0d paid to two minstrels (S).  
                   2d to the minstrel (Cr).  
                   17d to the Waits (Cr).<sup>10</sup>
- 1478                    3d paid to minstrels (D).  
                   16d paid to players (D).<sup>11</sup>
- JB & P: 2.8d to the minstrels for these two nights (Cr).
- 1480                    4d given to the journeymen minstrels (D).<sup>12</sup>
- 1481                    The following, together with their wives, are made members of the Smiths’ Company: Thomas West, minstrel, one of the Waits; Adam West, [191] the Wait; John Blewet, the Wait; and Brese, the Wait. Their membership is on condition that they serve the craft (i.e. the Company) on Corpus Christi Day for a fee of 8.0d and their dinner (S).
- 1482    MS:        8d to the two minstrels (D).
- 1485    MS & P: 18d to the minstrel at Midsummer and St Peter’s tide (Cr).  
                   3.0d to the minstrel for his fee (Cp).
- 1487    CC:        2.2d to the minstrel (for his hire) and his dinner (Cr).
- 1490                    6.8d paid to the Waits (S).<sup>13</sup>
- In this year John Olnet of Coventry, minstrel, was admitted to the Corpus Christi Guild: Sharp/*Dissertation*, p. 213.

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<sup>9</sup> On the occasion of the Dyers’ dinner at St Nicholas’ Hall.

<sup>10</sup>Both of these payments were made by the Carpenters at their annual dinner at the White Friars’.

<sup>11</sup>Sharp does not state the occasion of these two payments – perhaps the dinner at St Nicholas’ Hall?

<sup>12</sup>As n. 11. Sharp regarded this payment as being for minstrelsy by journeymen dyers, rather than by apprentice minstrels.

<sup>13</sup>On an unspecified occasion.

- 1492                    6.0d paid to the Waits (S).  
                              4d to a minstrel at the hall (S).<sup>14</sup>
- 1494    MS & P: 16d to the minstrels on these two nights (D).
- 1498    P:            6d paid to a minstrel that night, in addition to "our owen" (S).
- 1501                    2d paid to the minstrels (Cp).<sup>15</sup>
- 1502 CC:            12d paid to the minstrel on Corpus Christi Day (Cp).

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<sup>14</sup>Both payments made at the dinner on St Loy's Day.

<sup>15</sup>At the annual dinner.