

An Account Book of an Oxford Undergraduate in the years 1619-1622

By H. V. F. SOMERSET

THROUGH the kindness of Miss Margaret Prothero, of Goodrich House, Goodrich, Herefordshire, the account book of William Freke, who was an undergraduate at St. Mary Hall, Oxford, from 1619 to 1622, has lately come into our hands. The volume contains his accounts during his time at Oxford, and also those which he kept at later periods of his life in London (at the Bar) and in the country. The book also contains various random jottings concerning himself and his family; notices of deaths, of his and his brothers' weights, of dealings in property, of the times the carrier left his home, etc. But perhaps the most interesting pages are those concerning his Oxford expenses, which we print below.

William Freke was the sixth and youngest son of Sir Thomas Freke, Knight, of Shroton, Dorset, and of Elizabeth Taylor his wife. He was born on 6 April 1605, and came up to Oxford in 1619.¹ He later went to the Bar. In 1639 he married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Culpeper of Hollingborn, Kent. We know little of his later life; but the fact that he records that he was weighed² in 1643 and in 1644 at Utrecht seems to show that he was either studying or in voluntary exile there, or both, in those years.

There are various points of interest in his Oxford accounts, the meticulousness of which seems remarkable in a boy of fourteen to seventeen. His total receipts from his father during that time were £128, of which he appears to have spent £108.2.5. The following are some of the more noticeable items of his expenditure: the cost of his admission to St. Mary Hall was 16/-,³ the cost of his matriculation 5/-, his fee to the University 'at beeing a knights sonn' 10/-, his quarterly Battels were usually around £3.7.0 to £4.0.0, his quarterly payment to his Tutor was £1, his quarterly 'chamber rent' 5/-, his quarterly bill to his Laundress 3/-, and that to his fencing master 1/-; his monthly payment for lessons on the viol was usually 5/-. We do not read of any dancing lessons. The only books which he mentions are 'a Riders

¹ The usual age for matriculation at that date appears to have been just under 17, though the age of coming up was often 'distinctly lower'. *Brasenose College Quartercentenary Monographs* (O.H.S., 1909), II, xi, 18.

² He weighed 150 pounds in 1643, and 146 pounds in 1644; while at Blandford in 1635 he weighed only 7 stones 17 pounds.

³ At Brasenose a Fellow Commoner paid 13/4 to the Bursar 'for entering his name'. *Ibid.*, p. 16.

H. V. F. SOMERSET

dictionary⁴ (8/4), 'Johnsons Stafford and Abbotts geographie'⁵ (4/-), 'Bacons Essaies'⁶ (9d), 'ye supplication of Saints' (1/6),⁷ a 'Coopers dictionary'⁸ (6/-), 'the Art of hauking and hunting' (2/6), and a 'Ribera'⁹ (5/6). Most of his expenses seem to have been for the purchase of clothes and for various stuffs; ribbands, hats, strings, gold lace and other lace, etc. The number of entries referring to buying shoes and to having shoes repaired is remarkable. He bought, apparently, 22 pairs of shoes and boots (19 pairs of shoes, one pair of 'pantophles', and 2 pairs of boots) during his three years at Oxford, and he makes 9 entries for the repair of shoes, and 4 for the purchase of shoe strings. But we leave the reader to peruse at leisure the various items of his accounts at Oxford, which, together with the summary of his receipts from his father, we print below.

1619

A true accompt of the moneys which I have received by my Father's allowance since my first going to Oxford and how I have laid it out.

Imprimis

Rec. September ye 28	8	0	0
Rec. December ye 16	10	0	0
Rec. March the 25	10	0	0
Rec. July the 1st	10	0	0
Rec. September the 25	10	0	0
Rec. December ye 27	10	0	0
Rec. April ye 15	10	0	0
Rec. June the 5	10	0	0

Imprimis

for admission to the house St. Mary Hall	0	16	0
I gave the Butlers	0	3	0
I gave the Cooke and Mansiple	0	3	0
for a Truncke	0	10	0
for a Laced ruffe and cuffes	0	13	8
for making drawing and cloth for the cape of my gounne	0	9	0
for furring my gounne	0	12	0

⁴ The Dictionary of John Rider was first published in 1606 (S.T.C. 21032, etc.).

⁵ Robert Johnson's Book on Virginia appeared in two parts in 1609 and 1612 (S.T.C. 14699, 14700.) Robert Stafforde's *Geographically and anthrologically description of all the Empires in this globe* appeared in 1607 (S.T.C. 23135). George Abbott's *Briefe description of the whole worlde* was printed in 1599 (S.T.C. 24). The author was Archbishop of Canterbury.

⁶ The first edition of Bacon's Essays came out in 1599.

⁷ This must be Thomas Sorocold's immensely popular book of prayers. First printed in 1608, it reached its 45th edition in 1754. It is now of almost incredible rarity. Of the first twenty-six editions less than ten copies have been traced.

⁸ The first edition of Thomas Cooper's *Thesaurus linguae Romanae et Britannicae* appeared in 1565. (S.T.C. 5686).

⁹ This probably refers to Francisco de Ribera's *Lyfe of the Mother Teresa of Jesus* of which the English version was printed at Antwerp in 1611 (S.T.C. 20971). For the above notes on books I am indebted to Mr. John Crow of King's College, London.

AN ACCOUNT BOOK OF AN OXFORD UNDERGRADUATE

for 5 oz. 3 qzters of Lace	0	14	4
for 1 oz. of silke	0	2	8
for 3 qzters of fustion ¹⁰	0	0	9
for canvas	0	0	4
for a Riders dictionarie	0	8	4
for Paper	0	0	3
for Johnsons Stafford and Abbotts geographic	0	4	0
for 3 yards of frize	0	10	6
for Buttons and silke	0	2	11
for making a jerking	0	1	6
for mending stockings	0	0	10
for a paire of Shooes	0	2	4
for a laced ruff and cuffes	0	11	6
for a hatt and band	0	9	0
for a paire of greene stockings	0	10	0
for my battles	3	17	10
for my Tuter	1	0	0
for my Landress her qzterige	0	3	0
for chamberrent	0	5	0
for 3 sacks of coales	0	3	6
for a hatbrush	0	0	6

12 15 9

for mending cloathes	0	2	10
for mending ye furr of my gowne	0	1	6
for a pair of Stockings	0	6	6
for 2 pairs of Shooes	0	5	0
for mending a hatt	0	0	10
for mending stockings	0	1	9
for my Battles	3	16	7
for Chamber rent	0	5	0
for my Tuters qzterige	1	0	0
for Phisick and for the Physitian's advice	0	15	0
for my Landress her qzteridg	0	3	0
for a round capp	0	1	0
for Admitian to Mr Sandies fencing schoole	0	8	0
for a paire of shooes	0	2	6
for mending shooes	0	0	10
for Ribon for Shoo-strings	0	1	6
for a paire of Shooes	0	1	0
for mending stockings	0	0	3
for a girdle	0	1	8
for the materials of my chamlett ¹¹ suit of clothes	4	11	6
for making the suite	0	9	0

¹⁰ A kind of coarse cloth made of cotton and flax.

¹¹ A stuff made of the wool of the Angora goat.

H. V. F. SOMERSET

for Poynts	0	5	0
for mending cloathes	0	2	0
for my Battailes	3	18	0
for Chamberrent	0	5	0
for my Tuters qzteridg	1	0	0
for my Landress her qzteridg	0	3	0
for 2 paire of Shooes	0	5	0
for a hatt and Band	0	11	0
for Band strings	0	1	0
for a paire of Garters	0	7	0
for a paire of Stockings	0	6	6
for 2 yeards of ribbon to make shoostings	0	1	0
for a Cloake Bagg	0	5	0
	20	4	9
Expended from Oxford	0	7	0
for a paire of Bootes	0	7	0
for a ruled paper booke	0	1	0
for mending my cloathes	0	2	0
for a moneths learning of Mr Gollidg on the violl and strings	0	5	6
for my Tuter Paule his qzteridg	1	0	0
for 1 yeard qzter and halfe of watered Grogorim ¹²	0	8	2
for 3 yeards of lace weying 3 qzts. and a halfe	0	2	2
for 3 paires of Shooes	0	3	2
for 2 doz. of poynts	0	4	10
for mending my shooes	0	0	6
for mending both my hatts	0	0	10
for Battailes	2	7	6
for chamberrent	0	5	0
for my landress her qzteridg	0	3	0
for mending stockings	0	1	2
for the fencers qzterig	0	1	0
for a sack of coales	0	1	2
for a paire of Pantophles	0	2	4
money which I spent that I cannot accompt for	0	16	9
for a months learning on ye violl and strings	0	6	0
I gave Thom Gollidg	0	1	8
for 3 yeards of freeze	0	9	9
for 3 dozen of silver buttons	0	2	6
for silk	0	0	8
for 2 sacks of coales	0	2	4
for 2 paire of shooes	0	5	0
for Bacons Essaies	0	0	9
for glewing the violl	0	0	4
for a paire of yearne stock	0	3	0

¹² A coarse fabric of silk, of mohair and wool, or of these mixed with silk.

AN ACCOUNT BOOK OF AN OXFORD UNDERGRADUATE

for mending shooes	0 0 2
for mending stockings	0 1 0
for a months learning on the violl	0 5 0
for a paire of Shoostings	0 1 0
for my supper at our Dorst. sheire meeting with my acquaintance at Mr Grishes	0 5 0
for making my Jerking and for mending other clothes	0 4 6
for my landress her qzteridge	0 3 0
for my battailes	4 0 0
for chamberrent	0 5 0
for my Tutor's qzteridge	1 0 0
for dressing my hatt and for a hat band	0 3 0
for the fencer's qzteridge	0 1 0
	15 0 9
Owing my selfe since last qtr.	1 0 0
for a month learning on ye violl and for strings	0 6 6
for 2 paire of socks	0 1 0
for 2 paire of Bandstrings	0 0 8
for mending shoes and for mending stockings	0 0 6
pd. a fee to the universitie at beeing a knights sonn	0 10 0
for a month learning and for strings	0 6 0
for a paire of shooes	0 2 6
for mending my shooes	0 0 2
for 12 yards and half of black Phillip and Cheney ¹³ for to make a Goune	1 19 8
for 4 yards of bayes ¹⁴	0 10 0
for 2 yards of Cotton	0 1 2
for a qzter of Silke	0 0 11
for a qzter of canvas	0 0 4
for furring my gowns	0 11 6
for Battailles	4 0 0
for my Tuters qzter	1 0 0
for chamberrent	0 5 0
for my landress her qzter	0 3 0
for 3 y ^{eds} . of coloured Phillip and Cheney	0 10 0
for dressing and faring of 2 hatts	0 1 6
for a monethes learning on the violl	0 5 0
for a paire of stockings	0 6 6
for 2 yards 3 qzters of white holmes ¹⁵ fustion	0 3 6
for half an ell of taffita	0 7 0
for 4 doz. of buttons	0 1 0
for di yeard of Poledavise ¹⁶	0 0 6
for 1 ell of canvas	0 1 2

¹³ A kind of woollen stuff.

¹⁴ Or baize, a coarse woollen stuff.

¹⁵ A fustion made in Ulm, Germany.

¹⁶ Or Poldavis, or Poldavy, a coarse canvas or sacking, as made at Poldavide in Britanny.

H. V. F. SOMERSET

for pastebord and whalebone	0	0	4
for 3 qzters of silke	0	2	0
	12	17	5
for the Taylors Bill	0	19	0
for Ribbon	0	2	0
for a paire of shooes	0	2	6
for mending shooes and stockings	0	0	11
for a month learning on ye violl and for strings	0	5	10
I gave Mr Hopper ye Phisitian	0	11	0
I gave the Physitian	0	11	0
I put in my pockett	0	5	0
I gave the physitian	0	11	0
for learning of a moneth on the violl	0	3	4
More put into my pockett	0	5	0
I gave the physitian	0	11	0
for a womans attendance on mee 3 weeks beeing sick	0	15	0
for Fustion and Inkle ¹⁷ to make a wastcoate	0	4	6
for ye Apothicaries bill	2	12	6
for a black worke capp with gold lace	0	7	0
for a hatt and Band	0	10	0
for my Battles	3	15	0
for chamberrent	0	5	0
for a paire of shooes	0	2	6
for my Tuters qzteridg	1	0	0
for my Taylors bill	0	15	0
for a paire of shockings	0	7	0
for 2 paire of socks	0	1	0
for my Landress her qzteridg	0	3	0
	14	19	1
from ye 28 of September 1619 unto ye 23 of June 1621			
I have rec.	78	0	0
whereof I have spent	75	17	9
soe yet there remaineth	02	02	3
remaining of the last accompts		2	2
rec. July the 6th		10	0
rec. In October		10	0
rec. December the 3d		10	0
rec. Aprill the 1		10	0
rec. about ye 27 of June		10	0
Spent going to and at Coleshill		0	10
for fretting mending and for stringing the violl		0	1

¹⁷ A kind of linen tape.

AN ACCOUNT BOOK OF AN OXFORD UNDERGRADUATE

for a violle Bowe	0	2	6
for my musitian	0	2	6
for a paire Garters	0	8	0
for a paire of Bootes	0	8	6
for a paire of Shooes	0	2	6
I put in my pockett when I went into the countrie	1	11	6
for a paire of Shooestrings	0	1	0
for a paire of Spurres	0	1	0
for my Battles	1	1	4
To my musitian and for strings	0	5	6
for Gloves	0	6	6
for the carriag of my cloke bag	0	2	6
for a Button for my cloke	0	0	6
for a paire of Shooes	0	2	4
for a scabbard to my sword	0	2	6
for Gallone ¹⁸ Lace	0	0	8
for 8 pounds of candles	0	3	6
for the fencers qzteridg	0	1	0
for ribonning	0	0	6
for making a girdle	0	1	1
for ye carriage of my Cloake bagg	0	4	6
for dressing my hatt	0	0	6
for my Tuters qzteridg	1	0	0
for my chamber	0	5	0
to the musitian and for strings	0	5	6
for a violle to Mr Golligg [<i>sic</i>]	2	10	0
for a chest to cast him in	0	6	8
for my Matriculation	0	5	0
for 5 sacks of coates	0	6	0
for a paire of bootes	0	8	0
for mending Shooes	0	1	2
for my Taylor's Bill	0	1	0
for mending stockings	0	1	2
for a yard and di of silver lace	0	2	0
for Gold lace for a capp and for dying stockings	0	2	0
for my Supper at the Dorst sheire meeting	0	5	0
for Battailes	4	0	0
for chamberrent	0	5	0
for my Landress her qzteridg	0	3	0
for the fencers qzteridg	0	1	0
for my Tuters qzteridg	1	0	0
to the musitian	0	2	6
for Ribera for my co: Estmond	0	5	6
	<hr/>		
	17	16	5
for a month learning on ye violle	0	5	0
for 2 sacks of coales	0	2	4
for ye supplication of Saints	0	1	6

¹⁸ Braid.

H. V. F. SOMERSET

for mending bootes and shoes	0	1	2
for a Coopers dictionarie	0	6	0
for mending my windowes	0	2	6
for a paire of shoes	0	2	8
for scouring my coverlett	0	1	4
for scouring my goun	0	1	4
for 3 qrters and di of silk	0	2	4
for galloone Lace	0	5	2
for 7 doz. of buttons for my coate	0	3	6
for drawing my coate and for drawing my hose	0	3	8
for Pocketts	0	0	9
My Taylors Bill	0	8	6
my Tuters qzterig	1	0	0
The fencers qzterig	0	1	0
for mending stockings	0	1	6
to the musitian and for Strings	0	5	6
for dying a paire of stockings	0	0	6
for making knotts and for Strings	0	0	4
for mending ye furr of my gown	0	2	0
for a Trunk	0	6	0
my Landress her qzterig	0	3	0
for my battailes	4	0	0
for chamber and studdie rent	0	9	2
	<hr/>		
	8	16	9

for mending Shooes	0	0	6
for dressing my hatt	0	0	6
for a paire of Shooes	0	2	8
for the Art of hauking and hunting	0	2	6
to my musitian	0	6	0
spent at and going unto Colleshill	0	5	0
for blacking my Bootes	0	0	4
for a doz. and di. of Poynts	0	4	6
to my tuter	1	0	0
my Taylors Palmers bill	0	3	0
my Landress qzteridg	0	1	6
for my Battailes	2	14	4
for chamberrent	0	6	8
the fencers qzteridg	0	1	0
	<hr/>		
	5	11	6

I have received from October 1621 unto June 1622

the some of	50	00	0
And there rem ^d since last yeare	02	02	3
The which is	52	02	3
And I have spent in this time	32	04	8
So then there clearly remaineth	19	17	7

Will: ffreke