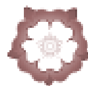
A Compendium of Common Knowledge

1558-1603



Elizabethan Commonplaces For Writers, Actors, and Re-enactors

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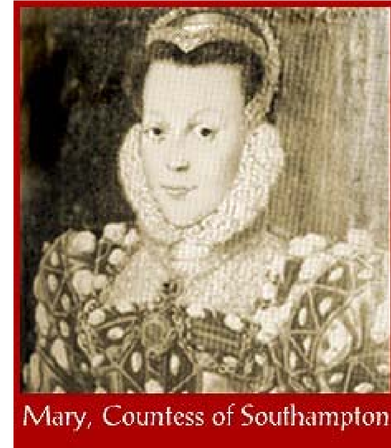
Preface: Short Attention Span History


Mary, Countess of Southampton

This little book has been through a lot of changes. It has been circulated a few pages at a time, in sections, in whole, and in part through three large Renaissance Faires--and more, for all I know. People recite parts of it in my hearing, unaware that they are using my words. Parts of it turn up verbatim and unattributed in other people's handouts. The folk process in action!

I passed out about 10 pages under the current title. A few weeks later, I had added a few more. Any time I learned something new, or when someone asked a question that sent me looking for answers, new pages appeared. Eventually it grew to about 35 pages, and the Compendium: The Next Generation appeared, this time with pictures.

The organization on any particular page was as you see it here: short, brief, snappy, 1-lesson-at-a-time. One topic per page, one page (no more than two) per topic. One factoid per paragraph. Where there is more than enough to fill that guideline, break it up, put it a little further away, give it another snappy title, cross reference it. Just don't get bored with it. Pick it up any time, and learn one new thing. This is history for the MTV generation. These aren't essays, they are fact bites.

If you learn just one new thing today, you're ahead. The layout of this little book always was designed to make that one new thing immediate, interesting, and accessible. Here we are years later with exactly the same organization, as if it had been designed with the web in mind. And as before, it's common knowledge.

(You see. I can write a clean, grammatical, properly punctuated English paragraph-in its place.)

Acknowledgments

The information here comes from my own research and that of many others. Most particularly, I am indebted to the following people for providing either questions or answers at significant times: Kevin Brown, Lloyd Winter, Walter Nelson, Malcolm Scott, Nan Earnheart, Stephen Gillan, and Jeff Bissiri. Also Gereg Blaidd, Luis Rodriguez, Donna Moran, Fred Louaillier, Cathleen & James Myers, Terri Saffouri, John Hertz, and Dr. Ron Love. Not to forget Jess Miller, Cecily Thompson, Paul Giles, Linda Abrams, Jerry & Judy Gorelick, Elizabeth Pruyne, Angie Grimes, Andy Bradshaw, Ari Berk, Alan Chudnow, and Dorothy Dunnett. And a special nod to Ron and Phyllis Patterson for giving me a place to play and providing the basis for a 20-year research project.

With a particularly deep reverence to the generosity and patience of the Guilde of St. George, RPFS '79-'91.

North Hollywood, California
Spring 1998

Philosophical Introduction

The past is not all the same place. This is important.

For that matter, the Renaissance is not the same thing from beginning to end. Our own world has changed substantially from the middle of the century to its last decade. Is it safe to suppose that because absolute monarchs still ruled Europe and the steam engine remained undiscovered that the world was static through out the period? Well, no. So it seems important to point out right now, up front, that this little bit of the Renaissance in Northern Europe under discussion here is not the Middle Ages and is not the Baroque. It is its own special thing. It is Elizabethan, with a little edge of Tudor.

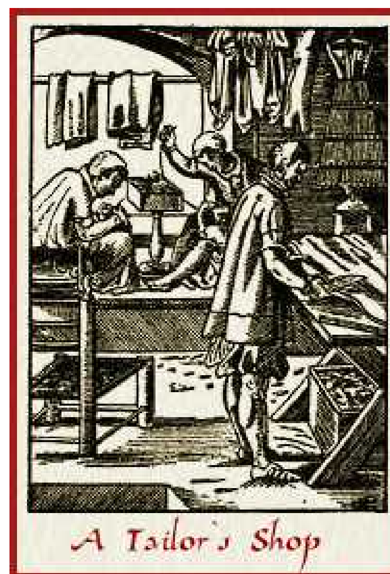
As writers and particularly as actors (or re-enactors), we often speak of the past in the present tense. Not because we can't tell the difference between then and now, or even because we wish to have lived then, but because while we're doing it, we need this information to be real and immediate and everyday. For us, the past is very present indeed. And when we talk in persona, or write dialog, or develop a scene, it is useless to speak of what they *did*, when we need our audience to understand what they *do*. Which is why, you will notice, this little book is presented more or less entirely in the present tense.

So this is not a series of essays or articles, but rather bites of Elizabethan life that are, have been, or should be "common knowledge" for those of us who work and play in the 16th Century on a regular basis. It is primarily social history, not political or military. It is neither exhaustive nor comprehensive, but it is what the Elizabethans do, present tense. Links to other sites should fill in the blanks, although I can't account for anyone's authority but mine own.

In living history, we often say that we are playing a chapter, not a page of history. It's a very big chapter. Elizabeth reigns for 45 years, but there are only 10 years between the end of Henry VIII's reign and the beginning of Elizabeth's. We tend to think of Shakespeare and that lot as quintessentially Elizabethan, and central to our whole idea of what Elizabethan means. But Will was born in 1564, very near the beginning of the reign. His adult career (or our awareness of it) doesn't begin until 30 years later, way near the end. The Elizabethan experience was well under way by the time he entered it, and he outlived it, after all. But this is a chapter, not a page.

Throughout this chapter, lots of things change, but not the legal age for marriage. In '99 as in '58, pennies are made of silver, and an Angel is worth 10 shillings. Gentlemen still put their servants in livery, but the army (such as it is) does not. Peers cannot be arrested for anything except felony, treason, and breach of the peace. Turnips are still on the common man's menu while potatoes are not. The world is still composed of Air, Earth, Fire, and Water, and Judgment Day still awaits us all.

Services and Occupations


A Tailor's Shop

You get...	*From the...*
Books	Stationer or bookseller
Cloth	Mercer
Hats	Milliner or Hatter
Suit of Clothes	Tailor
Shirts/Smocks	Seamstress
Ready made clothes	Draper
Arrows	Fletcher
Bows	Bowyer
Horseshoes	Farrier
Other iron work	Blacksmith
Armour	Armourer
A Portrait	Limner
Legal Service	Lawyer
Drugs etc.	Apothecary
Dentistry	Barber Surgeon

In the City...

A Stapler	Buys and sells raw wool; also silk and linen.
A Draper	Deals in cloth (wholesale), plus some ready-made garments and dry goods.
A Mercer	Is the cloth retailer: the local fabric store is a mercer's shop. One may be a silk mercer or a wool mercer, for example.

On your own staff, your...

Man of Business	Is your accountant, looks after your investments
Steward	Oversees the running of your estates.
Factor	Does business for you in London, or in another country.
Nurse	Takes care of infants and young children.
Wet Nurse	Breast feeds the baby (maybe as long as the first 2 years.)
Tutor	Educates your children

Numbers & Measures, Dates & Clocks

The metric system has not been invented yet, so don't use it:

- Land is measured in acres.
- Beer comes in pints and is stored in gallons..
- Distance is measured in miles, feet, and inches.

Counting up

Teenage numbers are as we use them now: sixteen, seventeen, etc. Never say ten-and-six to mean 16. Nor six-and-ten, for that matter.

Numbers are correctly expressed in "long" form only after 20. That is, you are one-and twenty (21) or five-and-thirty (35) but never thirty-and-five.

Reckoning the time

Clock time may be expressed either as :

- Two o'clock (yes, really)
- Two of the clock
- Half past 2 (or quarter past)
- The bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon!

Numbers are frequently written in lower case Roman numerals, with the last "i" in a number written as a "j", such as *vij* for 7.

Reckoning the date

While the rest of Europe went over to the Gregorian calendar in the 12th century, England refuses to give up the Julian date, even though it is clearly "off". We will not submit to the Popish plot to steal 10 days from the calendar God gave us until 1752.

This leads to historical confusion when an event, such as the Armada, is known to be taking place on a particular date in England and 10 days later in Spain-at the same time.

For the first three months of any year, we are also not entirely sure what year it is. The legal or civil year begins on March 25, Lady Day, which is also a quarter day. But everyone knows that New Year's Day is January 1.

This leads to events in January, February, and most of March being recorded with a stroke or slash. The earl and countess of Southampton, for example, were married on 19 February 1566/67. That is, legally it was still 1566, but for calculating anniversaries, it was already 1567.

New year's gifts are exchanged on January 1.

Games

Drinking may be done in taverns, alehouses, or *tippling houses*.

Gambling is *gaming* (game-ing).

Playing at dice is *dicing*.

At the table

A popular dice game is Hazard, played rather like Craps.

The word for backgammon is *tables*. The "ace-deuce" version is called *the Corsican game*.

You can lose a good deal of money in a *tabling den*.

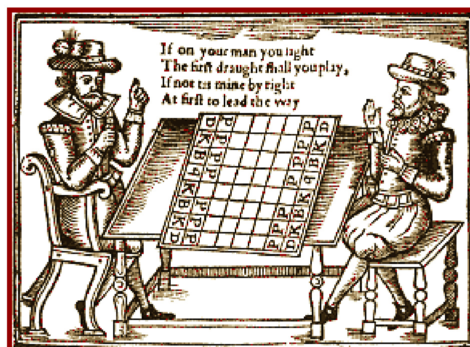
An easy card game is Landsknecht. Two much harder ones are *Primero* and T*arocch*o (ta-ro'-koh), played with tarot cards.

Other sport

A whorehouse or *stew* is also a *bawdy house* or a *leaping house* or a *shugging den.*

A *drab* is a woman of low character or a prostitute. A *drabber* is someone who spends too much time with such women.

A *punk* is a whore who may work in a *stew*. Working girls in Southwark in the domain of the Bishop of Winchester are also called *Winchester geese*.



Note: Scottish money is worth about one-quarter of the English in the same denominations. That is, a Scottish pound is worth about five English shillings. Irish money is worth even less, and they may want to pay you in nails. (Be wary when gaming with either.)

Money: The Basics

The Basics

All coins are silver or gold, including the pennies.

In times not too long past, copper was used to extend (debase) the coinage without actually spending any more silver. But no money is actually minted as a copper coin. If someone gives you a modern copper penny, laugh and tell him to come back with some real money.

There is no paper money. You cannot, for example, have a 5-pound note.

The basic denominations are pounds, shillings, and pence.

12 pence make a shilling

20 shillings make a pound

In writing, the abbreviation for:

penny is d

shilling is s

pound is £

The Coins In Your Pocket

A *sovereign* is a gold coin worth 1 pound (but try to think of it as 20 shillings). There is no coin called a "pound" until after 1583, although that is the basic monetary unit.

The *angel* is one of the most common gold coins in circulation. An angel is worth 10 shillings (1/2 pound).

An Angel (Ten Shillings)

You would never say you owed somebody 6 angels. But you might say you gave your servant an angel to spend at the faire. To coerce someone's servant, you might suggest that the sweet voice of an angel would convince him.

The *crown* is the most common coin in circulation. Worth 5 shillings, it is issued in both gold and silver.

The crown is also equal to a *Venetian ducat*, a *Flemish gelder*, or a *French êcu* (sometimes called a *French crown*).

Half-a-crown is worth 2 shillings 6 pence (sometimes expressed as "2 and 6").

The *shilling* is a silver coin worth 12d.

The *sixpence* is a silver coin worth six pence.

A *groat* is a silver coin worth 4 pence.

The *penny* is a silver coin worth a penny (never a pence). You might have several pennies in your pocket, to the value of several pence.

A coin worth 2 pence is called *tuppence*.
A half-penny is called a *ha'-penny* (not a ha'pence).

The *farthing* is a 1/4-penny fragment so tiny as to be impractical, but still in circulation from less inflated times.

The *guinea* does not yet exist, and will not be minted till the late 17th century. Don't refer to it.

The *mark* is "money of account". That is, it is a value worth 2/3 of a pound (13s 4d) but there is no coin worth that amount in the 16th century. It is often used in high-level transactions, such as selling land, figuring feudal fines, or calculating dowries.

Spending

In practice, people seldom speak of ordinary amounts of money in terms of pounds, unless it was in thousands, like the annual value of an estate, or a special "voluntary" tax.

You probably think of ordinary, daily expenses in terms of shillings and pence. ("I lost 30 shillings last night at tables.")

Money bought more in those days. Do not just substitute pounds for dollars. Try using shillings, or even pennies, depending on the item.

Thirty pounds for a pair of gloves is highway robbery. But 30 shillings for a pair of gloves doesn't sound so bad, at least theatrically speaking. (Actually 7 shillings is closer to the truth, unless they are finely decorated.)

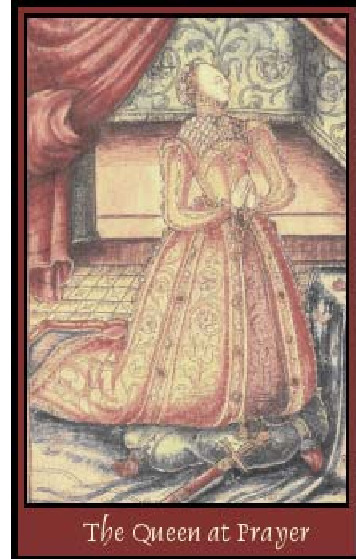
For smaller items, like food and drink, use pennies. A penny or two for a pot of ale is about right, where 2 pounds or even 2 shillings is unthinkable.

Tip a household servant no more than a few pence. Remember, he only makes £2-5 per year! (*Note:* that tip is called a *vail*.) A common vail is about a penny.

If you're buying information or a favor from anybody besides a servant use gifts instead of money. *See Greasing the Wheels*. For servants--use money!

Religion

Everyone has one. We were all brought up to be Christians of one sort or another. If you were born before 1555, or so, your parents were Catholic. Until later in the reign, it's safe to say your grandparents were Catholic.


The Queen at Prayer

The official established state religion is the Church of England. It is referred to as the *new religion* or the *established church*, but not yet as "C of E". (Do not give in to the modern inclination to acronyms and initialisms.)

Puritanism is not a separate religion, but a Calvinist leaning within the Anglican church. Puritans do not yet look like Pilgrims (*see Comparative Religion*).

Being a Roman Catholic is not a crime, but there is a fine for not conforming to the established religion; that is, for not going to church on Sunday. And every church is a protestant church..

Being a Roman Catholic is not a crime, but there is a fine for not conforming to the established religion; that is, for not going to church on Sunday. And every church is a protestant church. It is illegal to be a Catholic priest in England. It is *very* illegal to be a Jesuit.

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A non-conforming Catholic is called a *recusant* (rec-YOU-zant) and is guilty of *recusancy.*

Everyone is required to attend a church service once a month. The service is referred to as the Prayer Service, or the Prayer Book Service, and sometimes as Common Prayer, Holy Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper.

Mass is a Catholic service only. It is illegal to hold or attend one at any time in the reign, though punishment varies. People of high rank are less likely to get in trouble.

Older people may still refer to the service as a Mass, but it is politically touchy. Reformers refer to the detestable enormities of the "Mass priests".

The *rosary* is period in several forms, including the modern one, and used only by Catholics. The rosary cross usually does not include a corpus, or figure of Christ.

The Protestants sometimes refer to Roman Catholics as *Romanists.* Catholics do not refer to themselves as Papists.

The term *Puritan* is common in period, although sometimes the word *precisionist* is used.

The Pope published a writ (1570) absolving English Catholics from allegiance to the Queen, since she is (he says) a heretic. Anyone who kills her is pre-absolved from the sin of murder.

You can apply the term *atheist* to anyone who disagrees with you in religion. In usage, it does not entirely mean you believe that there is no God, but that you don't believe in my God. Any heretic can be called an atheist. So can a Jew.

Language: Thee and Thou

This is not some special grammar you are taught in school, but simply the ordinary way people talk. Your excuse for incorrect usage cannot be that you were poorly educated.

*Say***:**

"How art *thou*", never "how are thee"

What would*st thou* have of me?

I will go *with thee.*

Thou art a rogue.

When the next word begins with a vowel, use thine for thy)

I like *thy* face.
but
I applaud *thine* effort. (

The "-st" ending is only used with "thou" and only with verbs.

Say:

I did see him go with *thee*.
not I didst see him
and ***never*** I didst see-eth him

Wither thou goest I will go.

The “-eth” ending is only used with he, she, and it.

Say:

He *loveth* best that *loveth* well.

God knoweth why!

Using Thou familiarly

Thou and thee are familiar or informal forms of you. You use it to address your children, your servants, your wife, your most intimate friends, your dog, and God. (Hey, who knows you better than God?)

Use the more formal you when addressing your parents, your master, your social superiors, your patron, your customers, your officers, and your horse, who may be worth as much as you are.

Don't panic: The familiar and formal forms (thou and you) get mixed in a sentence even in Shakespeare. But only downward or to an equal, never up.

That is, you might address your servant using both thou and you together, but he wouldn't do that to you. Anger and strong feeling, of course, cancel other conventions.

Still, his lordship may take offense if his tenant chats him up using "thou", or he may simply ignore it, but you never know!

Weddings & Betrothals

With parental permission, boys are legal to marry at 14, girls at 12, though it is not recommended so early. One comes of age at 21.

Sir Thomas More recommended that girls not marry before 18 and boys not before 22.

In non-noble families, the most common age for marriage is 25-26 for men, about 23 for women. This is because it's best to wait until you can afford a home and children. Also, most apprenticeships don't end until the mid 20s.

Noble families may arrange marriage much earlier. Robert Dudley's sister Katherine, who became the countess of Huntingdon, did go to the altar at age 7, but that was extraordinary.

When the participants are very young, it is principally to secure a dynastic alliance. They generally do not live together as man and wife (by any definition). Often, the bride may go to live with the groom's family to be brought up in domestic management by her mother-in-law.

The Contract

Marriage is a contract that begins with a *betrothal.*

At a betrothal, the two people join hands. He gives her a ring to be worn on the right hand. It changes to the left at the wedding.

They seal the contract with a kiss, and signatures.

A marriage contract includes provision both for the bride's dowry and for *a jointure*, or *settlement,* in cash and property by the husband's family, which guarantees her welfare should her husband die first.

If he breaks the marriage contract without good cause, he has to give back any tokens or gifts received.

Betrothals can be terminated by mutual consent. In certain circumstances, one can withdraw unilaterally if the other is:

- Guilty of heresy or apostasy (conversion or re-conversion to Rome)
- Guilty of Infidelity
- Seriously disfigured
- Proved to be previously (and still) married or contracted to marry
- Guilty of enmity or wickedness or drunkenness
- If a long separation has occurred between them.

A proper wedding is based on three things: consent, exchange of tokens (such as the ring) and consummation. It can be annulled only if it is not consummated.

It is luckiest to have the wedding in the morning.

Weddings

Bridesmaids see to the floral decorations, make little flower bouquets as favors for the guests, and make the garland.

The wedding *garland* should be rosemary and roses.

The bride carries her garland till after the ceremony, then wears it on her head.

The father of the bride usually pays for the festivities, including favors or small gifts to everyone. Common gifts include ribbons, gloves, and scarves. According to Machyn's Diary, James Sutton gave away 100 pairs of gloves when his daughter was married in 1559.

On changing names

The bride takes her husband's family name on marriage.

In some deeply rural communities, however, women and men alike are still known as much by their occupation or location as by surname. Lucy Baines who lives at River Farm becomes "Lucy at River" in the parish record. When John Baines buys the mill, he may become known as John Miller.

Where there are many families of the same surname, wives may also be known by their husband's first or first and last name. Adam Tychy's wife Bridget could become Bridget Adam or Bridget Adam Tychy as well as Bridget Tychy. (This is a common form in the Germanies as well.)

Sources

Cressy: *Birth, Marriage, and Death*

Duffy: *Voices of Morebath*

Jones: *Elizabethan Age*

Orlin: *Elizabethan Households*

Pearson: *Elizabethans at Home*

Marriage and Family

It is generally considered foolish to marry for love, although love may occur in marriage.

Your parents and friends are better equipped than you are to look out for your best interests, being mature and experienced in the world. Let them negotiate and recommend and you're much more likely to be happy in marriage.

Just because a marriage is arranged doesn't mean you've never met the other person. Except among the lofty nobility, most people arrange their children's marriages with the children of neighbors and friends.

The lower on the social scale you are, the more likely you are to have a choice in the matter.

Exemplary (and disastrous) love matches: Robert Dudley and Amy Robsart; Lord Darnley and Mary Queen of Scots; Edward earl of Oxford and Anne Cecil.

Rare successful love matches: the 7th Baron and Lady Berkeley; the 2nd Earl of Bedford and his 3rd countess.

Children

Everyone wants (and expects) to have children.

Children are the property of their parents, and give them the respect a servant gives his master. Or else.

Wives

Wives are the property of their husbands. *See previous admonition*.

Some women are more independent than others, and some fear marriage. However, every woman expects to be married, and to depend on her male relatives throughout her life.

Of course, not everyone is in a hurry to get married, but marriage means being in charge of your own home.

Women who would have been drawn to convent life in the old days no longer have that option, and must either marry or be a burden to their families.

Widows

Widows can own property and run their own businesses.

A widow is entitled to 1/3 of her husband's estates (after the bills are paid), if he has heirs. All of it if he does not. This "widow's third" is separate from and in addition to her *jointure*.

It is still considered a good idea to re-marry to protect one's interests, however, and the interests of minor children.

Since there are tedious problems to do with whether a woman's word or signature is legally binding, she really must have a husband.

If she doesn't, her friends will worry about her being taken advantage of by sharp servants. This worry increases if she wants to marry one of them.

Men

In general, every man wants to marry too, or at least acknowledges that he must.

If he is not noble, he must be married to become the legal head of a household and eligible to hold public or ecclesiastical office and other positions of civic responsibility.

When he is widowed, a man also looks to remarry, especially if he has children. The traditional waiting period is a *month's mind*. To marry again after a month is not considered hasty.

Divorce is actually more difficult to obtain in the protestant regime than in the Catholic, even with cause. Since you can't apply to the Pope anymore, you have to get an Act of Parliament! That's a lot more people to buy.

Sources:

Cressy: *Birth, Marriage, and Death*

Duffy: *Voices of Morebath*

Pearson: *Elizabethans at Home*

Comparative Religion: The Catholics

This is a selection only of the principal attributes of the Roman Catholic faith as understood in period. It is by no means complete, but in general covers the points on which the Lutherans and other Protestants disagree with Rome.

Salvation is gained through *faith* in God, the prayers of the Church, the grace of the sacraments, and doing *good works.* Good works include both acts of mercy and major church building projects.

Only the Church, through its priests, can interpret God's will to Man. The laity do not read the Bible for themselves.

The source of the Church's authority is *Scripture,* the divinely inspired writings of the Church Fathers, and an amorphous thing called Sacred Tradition.

The seven *sacraments* are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Grace is conferred by a sacrament simply from your participation in it, and your faith in its power.

The *Pope,* as the rightful heir of St. Peter, is the head of the Church. He is considered to be infallible in matters of faith and morals, although this is not yet dogma.

There is a half-way point between Heaven and Hell called *Purgatory,* where a person's sins are purged to make him worthy of Heaven. The prayers of the living can shorten a soul's stay in Purgatory, so it is good to pray for the dead.

The saints were more virtuous than they needed to be to get into Heaven, so there is this reserve of leftover *grace* available. Drafts on this reserve are called *indulgences,* and they are for sale.

Worship is directed to God but prayers are often addressed to one of the saints. The saints are Mankind's advocates before God the Father.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the most revered holy personage who is not actually divine. The Mother of God is thought to be more compassionate than the sternly just Father.

All *rituals,* simple or elaborate, are carried out in Latin. Priests cannot marry, and are required to remain celibate.

Comparative Religion: The Church of England

Most of these basically Lutheran tenets apply to all protestants. The Calvinist ("puritan") refinements are presented further along.

Man's wickedness is so great that no amount of good works could hope to atone for our sin. God, being all good, would not require something of us that is impossible. Therefore, the only thing necessary for salvation is believing in His Name ("*justification by faith*").

The Church exists to guide but is not necessary for salvation. There is no need for priests to interpret God's will. Supporting the Church, or denying the flesh, does not bring you closer to God. If you are united with Him at all, it is completely and absolutely.

The Roman church has corrupted the original doctrines and teachings of Christ and his apostles for its own purpose, and no longer represents the true faith of Christ. The only source of religious authority is *Scripture.*

The two *sacraments* are Baptism and Holy Eucharist (Communion). The other so-called sacraments are worthy but not Scripturally justified.

No sacrament is efficacious without understanding and faith.

There is no principle of Papal authority: the *Pope* (or Antichrist) is just a man and subject to error. He is not the leader of the true church.

The doctrine of *Purgatory* is denied as being un-Scriptural. You go straight to Heaven or Hell, according to God's judgment. Thus prayers for the dead, including Masses and purchased indulgences, are of no value. In fact, to pray for the dead is heretical.

The selling of *indulgences* is a particular vice because a) it is not in Scripture and b) it encourages sin. The Church cannot put divine forgiveness up for sale.

Your relation to God is not mediated by priests or saints, but is a personal acceptance of the message of Scripture. The Virgin Mary almost disappears from protestant consciousness, and the role of the saints is greatly diminished.

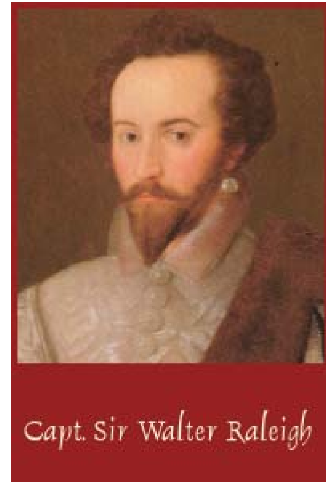
All rituals are performed in the vernacular. Rituals are less elaborate, although candles and church bells are still in use.

Ministers can marry, although the Queen would prefer they did not.

Titles and Forms of Address

Even small children know how to address their social superiors.

Sir goes only with a man's given name. To address a knight using only his surname, say *Master* (see examples below).


Capt. Sir Walter Raleigh

Lord implies a peerage whether temporal (baron or better) or spiritual (bishops).

Not every knight is a lord; not every lord is a knight. It is best not to say *my lord* to anyone not so entitled.

A *territorial title* is one which is attached to a particular piece of land, such as a county.

Peers sign their names and refer to themselves and each other by their territorial titles, such as "Henry Southampton", "Francis Bedford", or "Thomas Rutland".

Every woman married to a knight or better can be called *my lady*. For unmarried women, see the various examples.

The children of a knight, baron, or viscount have no titles at all other than Master and Mistress.

All the sons of a marquis or a duke are styled *lord*.

Only the eldest son of an earl is called *lord* (because he takes his father's secondary title and is one, by courtesy) though all an earl's daughters are styled *lady*. They retain this courtesy even if they marry a commoner.

Your Grace belongs properly only to royal blood: the queen, dukes, and visiting princesses. It does not apply to Earls or Countesses in the 16th century. Archbishops share this honor as princes of the church.

The styles of *Honourable* or *Right Honourable* for younger sons and daughters of peers has not yet come into use. Peers, however, often receive dedications in a form such as "the right Honourable the Lord Chandos".

Esquires are the younger sons of peers, the heirs male of knights, esquires of the body, and officials such as judges, sheriffs, and officers of the royal household.

Esquire is not a title, and it is used only after a gentleman's surname; as, William More, Esquire.

If you are not noble, you may wish to address those above you as *Your Worship, Your Honour,* or *Your Lordship/Ladyship.*

Children are taught to address their parents as *Sir* and *Madam*, or *my lord* and *my lady.* A noble child refers to *my lady mother* and *the lord my father*.

Direct Address

Peers

Francis Russell, the Earl of Bedford can be called
Lord Bedford,
But *not* Lord Russell
And *not* Lord Francis

Thomas Howard, Viscount Bindon can be called
Lord Bindon,
but *not* Lord Howard
and *not* Lord Thomas

Sir William Cecil, Baron Burghley, the Lord Treasurer can be called
Sir William (before his elevation to the peerage) or
Lord Burghley or
My Lord Treasurer,
But *not* Sir Cecil

Margaret Stewart, the Countess of Lennox, whose maiden name was Douglas, can be called
Lady Lennox, or
Lady Margaret
But *not* Lady Douglas
and *is never styled* Margaret Douglas Lady Stuart, Countess of Lennox

Jane, the Baroness Lumley is a baron's wife. Her maiden name was Fitzalan. She can be called
Lady Lumley
but *not* Lady Fitzalan
And *is never styled* Jane Fitzalan Lady Lumley.

Mary Wriothesley, the dowager countess of Southampton can be called
my lady countess or
the dowager lady Southampton
even after her re-marriage to Sir Thomas Heneage.
In letters she sometimes appears as “my old lady Southampton”, to tell her from the new one, her son’s wife.

Usage: A woman takes her husband’s name at marriage, and leaves her father’s name behind. The apparent custom of using the lady’s maiden name as if she had never changed it comes from the historian’s need to differentiate one countess of Bedford from another, and to emphasize family connections. It is not Elizabethan usage.

Knightly Rank

Sir John Packington can be called
Sir John or
Master Packington,
but not Sir Packington

Captain Sir Walter Raleigh can also be called
Sir Walter or
Master Raleigh or
Captain Raleigh,
but never Sir Raleigh

Sir Thomas Jermyn’s wife Catherine, whose maiden name was Killigrew, can be called
Lady Jermyn or
Dame Catherine
but *not* Lady Catherine
and *not* Catherine Killigrew Lady Jermyn

Usage note: The designation Dame appears to be applied to the Christian name of a knight’s lady or the surname of a citizen or burgess’s wife or widow. Later it will be used for female members of knightly orders, but there aren’t any of those in this reign.

Courtesy Titles: Maids of Honour and other unmarried children

Courtesy titles are used only with Christian names, never with surnames. Use the following samples as guidelines.

Maids of Honour

Lady Margaret Russell, a Maid of Honour and an earl's daughter can be called
Lady Margaret Russell *or*
Mistress Russell,
but never Lady Russell
and is *never ever* styled "Lady Margaret Mistress Russell"

Margaret Radcliffe, a Maid of Honour who is a knight's daughter, should be called
Mistress Margaret or

Mistress Radcliffe,
But not Lady Margaret (a Royal Household office does not confer a title.)

Children of peers

George Paulet, the Marquis of Winchester's second son, is
Lord George or
Master Paulet (but this sort of familiarity may be insulting)
but never Lord Paulet

Elizabeth Cecil, the Baron Burghley's daughter, can be
Mistress Elizabeth, or
Mistress Cecil

See Forms of Address for Non-Nobles

Masters & Servants

Terms

Grooms are generic household serving men; grooms of the stable, chamber, etc. Females of the same order are called *maids* or *serving maids*: of the kitchen, chamber, still room, etc.

Most of the servants in any household are men, including the cooks.

Personal attendant is a descriptive term, not a job title. In general, it separates everyone else's personal servants (of all ranks) from household grooms and maids.
Usage note: Never introduce anyone as "my P.A." This was a term commonly used in some Renaissance faires c.1975-1995. While I am assured that it has fallen out of fashion, it may at any time rear its awkward head again. Don't let this happen.

The term *valet* is in use in English as early as 1567. According to the OED, a valet is "a man-servant performing duties chiefly relating to the person of his master; a gentleman's personal attendant."

> From 'varlet': the British pronunciation is (and almost certainly was) "val'-ett". Valet (val-ay) is a little too French, don't y'think?
> The most common term for the job is gentleman, manservant, or just man. For example, in *Romeo and Juliet*, Benvolio refers to Romeo's ever present servant as "his man", as in "Romeo came not home tonight. I spoke with his man."

Female equivalents are *waiting gentlewoman* or maid, depending on the rank of the relevant parties. A lady might refer to her gentlewoman or her maid. Only the Queen has *Ladies in Waiting*.

As a verb, say that you serve, or wait upon, or attend (but not "work for") someone. Or that you are waited on or attended by someone.

General Attitudes

Credit, or reputation, has to do with one's personal dignity or honor. Frances Countess of Sussex once said (1588) "My credit is more to me than my life."

A servant and master strive to do each other credit. As a lady of quality, it is unbecoming to your dignity to carry your own shopping basket. As that lady's servant, it is unbecoming to your dignity to let her.

As a gentleman of quality, it befits your dignity to dress yourself and your servants well. As a servant, you do your master credit by looking and behaving well. Sir Thomas Smith said, "A gentleman should go like a gentleman." People do not dress their servants in rags. (See Livery.)

Servants are not democrats. In general, they approve of the social order, just like their masters. And they intend to take advantage of it.

A servant in a fine house expects (if he is clever) to rise in the world, improve his fortunes, and create an even better place for his children. A stable groom might aspire to become butler or steward in the same or a greater house. The pot boy might hope one day to be chief cook.

Servants take money from anyone. They will accept a *vail* (tip) for any service rendered. ("Here's a penny to drink my health.") Or a *douceur* (sweetener) for favors requested. They expect to be vailed for delivering a gift or message. Their masters are aware of this, and do it themselves to other people's servants.

It is not considered dishonest unless loyalties become confused and compromised. It all evens out.

The good servant, like a good waiter, is attentive. The best servant is a little bit psychic. He is there when you need him but never hovers. He finds some virtuous occupation when you disappear. He is neither lewd nor vain, but maintains a respectable countenance, to the credit of his master. He is modest but never craven, humble but never base, candid but not insolent.

The good master is proud but never despotic. He is patient, governing his household with fatherly care. He does not twist your sincere desire to serve into a sincere desire to punch him out. He lets you do your job. He maintains his superior station, as God has given it him, by honourable behavior, not by argument.

Patronage: Retinue, Companions, & Livery

Men

Young men go to Court to find a patron. Any of the great nobles draws such gentlemen to him in an essentially feudal relationship, based on personal loyalty, service, gifts, and favors.

These can include knights and younger sons, often with substantial incomes of their own. They might instead be scholars, musicians, and intellectuals, depending on the lord's inclinations.

Some of the gentry put their sons into great homes for their education and advancement.

The Earl of Essex

Retainers, companions, or personal attendants are not necessarily poor relations. The earl of Essex has a knight in his train worth £1,000 per year!

Some of these companions are the armed (and often dangerous) men who go everywhere with their patron, to back him in a quarrel or simply to be there for the party.

The lord maintains them, pays them a fee (wages or favors), puts them in his livery, and gives them nominal positions in the household such as gentleman or yeoman usher.

Their main function is to increase the prestige of the patron while putting themselves in the way of advancement.

Women

A noble lady draws her waiting women from her relatives (and/or her husband's) and the daughters of the local gentry.

She helps her unmarried girls of good family to find suitable marriages and introduces them at Court. If they marry any of the Earl's followers, they may stay in attendance upon the Countess.

A great lady's gentlewomen join her in sewing, minding the older children, dispensing charity in the neighborhood, nursing the household. They also take charge of her clothing, jewelry, etc.

The Queen's Maids of Honor are (or should be) in this same client relationship to the Queen. They are her servants; she looks after their future. She is supposed to be finding them good husbands.

Livery

A nobleman provides livery for his servants in both summer and winter weights and sometimes variant colors. Sir William Petre put his household in blue for summer and a marbled grey for winter.

Livery can mean uniform clothing, or a badge of the lord's family on the sleeve, or a cloak in the lord's colors with the livery badge on the shoulder. The Earl of Southampton gave his followers each a gold chain as their livery token.

If you take a nobleman's livery (sometimes called *taking his cloth*) you become his follower (that is, his servant) and you owe him loyalty and other services as required.

You also share his exemption from certain laws. Peers cannot be arrested except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace, and neither can anyone in their livery. They cannot be put to torture without being attainted first.

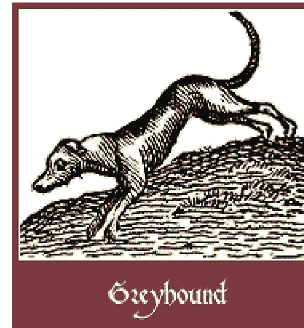
A statute in every Tudor reign forbade the wearing of livery by any but household servants, to discourage factional fighting and the build up of private armies. For a while this threatened the freedom of liveried actors.

Greasing the Wheels

The sending and receiving of gifts (never money!) in exchange for recent or future favors is common practice all through courtly society.

This is not considered corrupt. It's just the way things work. In fact, the system couldn't run without it.

There is no undue delicacy about defining what would be an acceptable gift, even to naming "a pretty dog" or a specific kind of hawk.


Greyhound

Quails are a prime delicacy, and can be used to sweeten a request, attract attention, or turn away wrath. (In the '40s, Lord Lisle bought them in large lots to give away a dozen at a time.)

You can send a gift just to let someone important know you're here, even without having a specific request or favor in mind. They'll owe you.

You may pass on a request from someone else. For example:

> "My friend, if you will send my lord of Leicester that hound of yours that he admired, he'll know it came from you and that I suggested it. He and I will both be in your debt, and he will be in mine." Get it?

Most frequent *douceur* (sweetener) type gifts include:

Game (often quail or deer)

> Includes all game birds, such as herons, plovers, cranes, egrets, as well as cooked venison, boar's head, sturgeon, wild swine, salmon. May be cooked or caged, as appropriate.

Wine

> The best wines are clarets from Gascony, though tastes differ.

Hawks

> All kinds of hawks are good. So are caged song birds, such as linnets.

Hunting dogs

> Mastiffs, Talbot hounds, bloodhounds, coursing hounds, and so on.

Rare or special books

> Manuscripts in Greek and Latin, translations from Arabic and Hebrew, certain devotional texts

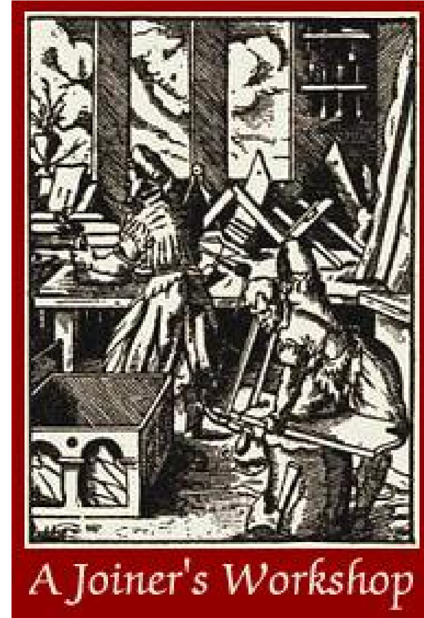
Also home made things like marmalade, beer, and honey

Hartley: *Lost Country Life*

Rowse: *Life of the Society*
Stone: *Crisis of the Aristocracy*

More Services and Occupations

Notice how many of these are also surnames:



A Joiner's Workshop

You get...	From the...
Barrels	Cooper
Candles	Chandler
Gloves	Glover
Glass Windows	Glazier
Tile for the roof	Tiler
Saddles, bridles, etc.	Saddler
Knives	Cutler
Furniture	Joiner

The...	Is ...
Landlord	The man who runs the tavern
Ostler	The man (or boy) in charge of the horses and stabling at an inn. Also stable boys and grooms.
Fuller	The "dry cleaners".
Acater (uh-KAY-ter)	The agent you hire to order and buy food or goods you do not supply from your own estates.
Warrener	The man who catches rabbits on your land. (Rabbits live in warrens.)
Fowler	The man who supplies game birds for your table
Cocker	The man who handles the birds at cockfighting
Sawyer	The man you contract with for sawn wooden planks (and so on) for building
Turner	The person the joiner buys lathe-turned items from, such as table legs, finials, etc.

Domestic Details

Oak Paneling c. 1550

Wainscoting is the full- or half-high wall paneling made of a series of vertical boards set together "tongue and groove".

Paneling is wainscoting divided into squares by frames or other details.

When the ceiling is carved wood or fancy plaster work, divided into boxes or frames, it is a *coffered* ceiling.

In great houses the whole household eats in the Hall or Great Hall. Most of the male servants sleep there on palettes, which are taken up during the day.

The family sits at the high table, and everyone else at trestle tables (sort of a board on saw horses) in order of household precedence.

The trestles in the Hall are drawn (taken down) to make room for other things, like games, dancing, and sleeping room for most of the servants.

The private Dining Parlour or Dining Chamber, separate from the Great Hall, is a fairly new (that is, Tudor) innovation. His Lordship's family is pulling itself away from communal living.

Privacy in general is rare and not much valued. Everybody shares a room and probably a bed. A household steward's job is not so much to see that all the staff or guests have rooms, but that "gentlemen should abide with other gentlemen, and the yeomen with yeomen."

The solar is Her Ladyship's bed-sitting room, always on the top floor, to catch as much daylight as possible for sewing.

The floor is probably covered with rushes just as in the Middle Ages. These must be turned and cleaned every so often. Nicer housewives in the later reign use rush mats instead of loose rushes. Extravagant and wealthy houses probably have some Turkey carpets.

If you do use rushes, you also make sure to strew herbs and flowers among them to mask the other smells of the house. Popular herbs for this purpose are:

Basil	Marjoram	Balm	Mawdelin
Chamomile	Pennyroyal	Cowslips	Rose petals
Daisies	Red mint	Sweet fennel	Sage
Germander	Tansey	Hops	Violets
Lavender	Winter savory	Lavender spike	Lavender cotton

See the Plan of Ingatestone Hall, a Country House of the Latter Sixteenth Century

Sources:

Emmison: *Tudor Secretary*
Harrison: *A Description of England*
Orlin: *Elizabethan Households*
Scott: *Book of Orders and Rules*

Food

Breads

These qualities of bread were commonly baked at Ingatestone Hall in the 1550s.

Baking Bread

Manchet	(Pronounced as it looks, not man-shay.) A very fine white bread made from wheat flour. Harrison says that one bushel of flour produces 40 cast of manchet, of which every loaf weighs 8 ounces going into the oven and 6 coming out.
Cheat	A wheaten bread with the coarsest part of the bran removed.
Ravelled bread	A kind of cheat but with more bran left in. Harrison says that the ravelled cheat is generally so made that out of one bushel of meal, (after two and twenty pounds of bran be sifted and taken from it), they make thirty cast, every loaf weighing eighteen ounces into the oven, and sixteen ounces out. This makes a "brown household bread agreeable enough for laborers."

Note that bread is baked up by the cast, a batch of 2–3 loaves.

The gentle folk commonly eat wheat bread. Their poorer neighbors often use only rye or barley. In very hard times, beans, peas and (shudder) oats may be used.

Drink

Perry	A (very) slightly alcoholic pear cider
Verjuice	A very sharp vinegar made from grapes; used for cooking or as a condiment.
Wines	include malmsey, canary, rhenish, claret, sack, and sherry
Sack	Sherry, some times called "Jerez wine"
Aqua vitae	Any strong spirit such as brandy

Brandywine A distilled wine

Most **wines** are sweet and rather heavy. They probably have to be strained before you want to drink them, and may still have solid matter floating in them..

Sugar and spices ("cinnamon and ginger, nutmeg and clove") are often added to wine and even to beer.

Rhenish is a German wine, and very strong.

Claret comes from Gascony (southern France).

Canary is a white wine from the Canary Islands.

Sack comes from Spain. Sack is popularly sweetened with sugar.

Beer in England is usually ale, made without hops, and is relatively flat. It can be flavored with just about anything, including pepper, ivy, rosemary, and lupins.

Measuring it out

A tun is equal to:

2 butts (as in malmsey) or

4 hogsheads (as in wine) or

252 gallons

A puncheon equals 84 gallons.

A runlet is various smaller amounts.

See More Good Things to Eat

Sources:
Emmison, F.G., *Tudor Secretary, Sir William Petre at Court and Home*
William Rubel, Correspondence.
See http://www.williamrubel.com/artisanbread
and http://www.williamrubel.com/forum
Tusser, Thomas, *Five Hundred Points of Husbandry* as explored in Dorothy Hartley, *Lost Country Life,* Pantheon Books, NY 1979.
Harrison, William, *A Description of England, 1577/1587*

More Language

Your use of old fashioned words should make you sound old fashioned, not ignorant. Notice these usages.

Wherefore means Why.

'Whyfor' is a made up word. Use wherefore when you mean "why", and where when you mean "where".

(Juliet did not say "Whyfor art thou Romeo?")

Mayhap is 'singular.'

Don't say 'mayhaps.'

(You're thinking of 'perhaps.') To avoid confusion, try 'belike'.

Stay means "to wait".

If you mean to say that someone is waiting for you, and you are late (or whatever),

Say: I am stayed for.

Ta'en is short for taken.

Use ta'en for to mean "mistaken for". As in:

I fear thou hast ta'en me for someone else.

My brother is oft ta'en for me and I for him.

Department of Redundancy Dept., pet peeve division

A penny is a coin. One of them is always a penny, not a pence. Pence is only used for amounts of more than one penny. Only, only, only.

If you have a pocketful of 1-penny coins, you have several pennies, to the value of several pence.

More Religion

The Act of Uniformity (1559) provides punishments and fines to be levied for various offenses against the Established Church (the Church of England).

Fine for failing to attend English prayer book services:

Before about 1580: 12d per guilty verdict

After 1580: £20 per month

Also after 1580, it is treason for you to convert to Catholicism or attempt to convert anyone else. Also to reconcile (re-convert) any English subject to Rome. The penalty is the same as for any other high treason: you will be hanged, drawn, and quartered.

At any time, you can be fined and jailed for attending Mass or hiding priests. More often prosecuted after 1580.

There are not very many (openly) Catholic priests left, anyway, since most of them converted along with the populace, according to the prevailing wind. Said the vicar of Bray, having seen too many people burnt for their beliefs: "I always keep my principle, which is this--to live and die the Vicar of Bray."

There is an English college in Douai (France) training Catholic priests. At the end of the 1570s, these priests begin returning to England and creating trouble. Edmund Campion is one of these.

The Catholic stronghold in England is in the North (notably Northumberland and Cumberland, but anything north of Norfolk). The Puritan stronghold is in the West Country (Devon, Somerset, and Cornwall.)

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Of the two great universities, Oxford is said to be the most Catholic, Cambridge the "hot-bed of Lutherism".

Burghley, Bedford, and most of the other notable Protestants were educated at Cambridge. However, Bedford sent his sons to Oxford.

Anyone may be required to swear to the Oath of Supremacy, which states that you believe that the Pope, being a foreign potentate, has not and ought not to have any spiritual power in England. Peers are assumed to agree. Others may have to prove it.

The text of the Oath of Supremacy, 1559

I, *A. B.*, do utterly testify and declare in my conscience that the Queen's Highness is the only supreme governor of this realm, and of all other her Highness's dominions and countries, a s well in all spiritual or ecclesiastical things or causes, as temporal, and that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate hath or ought to have any

jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence or authority ecclesiastical or spiritual within this realm; and therefore I do utterly renounce and forsake all foreign jurisdictions, powers, superiorities and authorities, and do promise that from henceforth I shall bear faith and true allegiance to the Queen's Highness, her heirs and lawful successors, and to my power shall assist and defend all jurisdictions, pre-eminences, privileges and authorities granted or belonging to the Queen's Highness, her heirs or successors, or united or annexed to the imperial crown of this realm. So help me God, and by the contents of this Book.

People take an oath very seriously, and thus honest people are not inclined to swear to an oath they don't believe in. (See *A Man for All Seasons* for a graphic demonstration.)

Anthony Viscount Montague speaking in Parliament against the Oath of Supremacy, 1559

A redaction of salient points:

Montague boldly pointed out that the prince or commonwealth that will make a new law ought to consider three things: First, that it be necessary, then that it be just and reasonable, and finally that it be apt and fit to be put into execution. He argued:

For the first point, *the law is not necessary* because "the Catholics of this realm disturb not, nor hinder public affairs of the realm, neither spiritual nor temporal."

For the second point, *it is neither just nor reasonable*, for it is "contrary and repugnant to all laws of man, natural and civil. No man ought to be constrained in a matter he holds doubtful."

And for the third, *the law is not enforceable*. "What man is there without so much courage and stomach, or void of all honour that can consent... to receive an opinion and new religion by force and compulsion? ...And it is to be feared [that] rather than to die, they will seek out how to defend themselves."

As for the lay Lords, he added:

"Let them take good heed and not suffer themselves to be led by such men that are full of affection and passions, and that look to wax mighty and of power by the confiscation, spoil, and ruin of the houses of noble and ancient men."

Precedence, Preferment, & Attainder

Precedence refers to your ranking, either above or below (or before or after) other people. An earl takes precedence over a baron, a baron over a knight, and so on. That is to say, he goes into dinner first, or gets his head cut off first; whatever.

Unmarried women take precedence from their fathers; married women from their husbands, with some exceptions. A widowed countess who marries a mere knight, however, is permitted in courtesy to retain the title of Countess, though her husband does not become an earl, unless by royal grant.

The Phoenix Jewel

Strictly, precedence depends on birth (or marriage), not on money, land, or popularity with the Queen.

For those of equal station, precedence depends on the date of creation, not what "number" you are.

Date of creation is the year in which that title came to the family. The 3rd Earl of Derby (1485) out-ranks the 3rd Earl of Sussex (1529) who out-ranks the 3rd Earl of Southampton (1547).

The numbers start over if the title goes to a new family: William FitzWilliam, 1st Earl of Southampton was succeeded by Thomas Wriothesley, 1st Earl of Southampton, just to be confusing. Note: Do not refer to *Titled Elizabethans,* which just continues the numbers from the beginning of time.

Precedence is affected by the Government or Royal Household offices you may hold. Sir Christopher Hatton is "only" a knight, but when he is Lord Chancellor of England, he takes his precedence from that.

Maid of Honor is a household office, and confers precedence (but not a title). A Maid of Honor takes precedence over a knight's Lady, but not over an Earl's daughter.

Preferment refers to offices, grants, monopolies, gifts, and other "perks" of court life. A major reason people go to Court is to gain preferment (or "advancement").

Preferment does not necessarily imply a gain in precedence, just income.

A loss of preferment does not imply a loss of precedence, unless you lose an office that conferred some. An earl is still an earl, unless he's attainted.

The Queen has titles to bestow but does so very seldom. She created only a few new peers and as few knights as she could get away with.

Attainder refers to a person or family losing a noble title, plus any or all the rights and privileges attached to it, due to treason. The Crown may by a bill (or writ) of attainder deprive you and your family of lands and goods as well as your precedence and title, and possibly your life.

When Henry Wriothesley was attainted and in the Tower after the Essex Rebellion (1601) he was referred to as "the late earl of Southampton."

Many great families have been attainted once or twice, including the Dudleys, Greys, and numerous Howards. However, it is not true that the Howards are born with a dotted line on their necks bearing the motto "Cutte here".

Queen Mary caused the Dudleys to be "restored in blood" so the remaining sons (Ambrose and Robert) could take their precedence as sons of a duke.

Queen Elizabeth made each of the Dudley boys Earls in their own right later on, although she restored Ambrose to his father's precedence as earl of Warwick, which rather elevated him above his younger brother Robert earl of Leicester.

Ranks & Files

The ordinary ranking of the English Court, disregarding various offices, parents, patents, or orders of knighthood is as follows:

Men	Women
Duke	Duchess
Marquis (MAR-kwis)	Marchioness (MAR-shon-ess)
Earl	Countess
Viscount (vEYE-count)	Viscountess (vEYE-count-ess)
Baron	Baroness
Knight	Knight's lady

Royalty refers only to the monarch and his/her immediate family.

Nobility refers to peers and their families.

The *peers* are barons and above, and sit by right in the House of Lords.

Gentry refers to anyone gentle but untitled, usually descended from nobility.

Knights are not noble. They are knightly. Knights and peers' sons may sit, by election or appointment, in the House of Commons.

An ordinary, undifferentiated knight is a *Knight Bachelor*.

Knight Banneret is an honour conferred on a man who distinguished himself on the battlefield in front of his monarch. It is a battlefield promotion which permits him to cut the tails off his pennon (making it a banner) and permits (requires) him to lead a company of his own men under it. In Elizabeth's reign, there are only three, including Sir Ralph Sadler.

The Queen Before Parliament

Knights of the Garter outrank all the other knights.

Note: *The rank of Baronet (an hereditary knighthood) will not exist until James I invents it as a money making scheme.*

In 1558, there were no more than about 600 knights in the country.

Minors and women holding rank in their own right may not sit in the House of Lords. Minors must wait till they are old enough. A woman may send her eldest son "in her right," when he comes of age.

Bishops and archbishops are ranked with the peers. A *bishops* has a rank equal to that of an earl. *Archbishops* rank with the dukes, and are addressed as Your Grace.

The Queen has little use for churchmen, however, and seldom invites them 'round to dine.

The Senior Peers of England

This is just a very simple table, and it doesn't include the barons or bishops.

The creation date shown is when this branch of the family came into the senior title. For example, 1550 is the year John Russell became Earl of Bedford.

Notice that Northampton has to die (without heirs) in 1572 before Viscount Hereford can become the Earl of Essex.

Viscounts do not have secondary titles. Modernly, an earl's second title is a viscounty. In period it is almost always a barony.

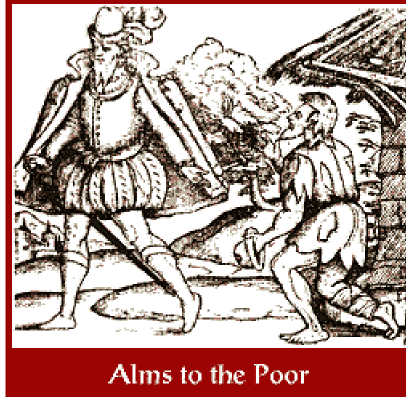
Codes: VC = Viscount E. = Earl B. = Baron

Title	Created	Surname	Secondary Title
Dukes			
Norfolk	1483	Howard	Surrey
Marquises			
Northampton	1547	Parr	E. Essex
Winchester	1551	Paulet	E. Wiltshire, B. St. John
Earls			
Arundel	1137	FitzAlan	Maltravers
Oxford	1142	deVere	Vere
Northumberland	1377	Percy	Percy
Westmoreland	1397	Neville	Neville of Raby
Shrewsbury	1442	Talbot	Furnival
Kent	1465	Grey de Ruthen	Grey
Derby	1485	Stanley	Strange
Worcester	1514	Somerset	Somerset
Rutland	1525	Manners	Roos
Cumberland	1525	Clifford	Clifford
Sussex	1529	Radcliffe	VC Fitzwalter, B Fitzwalter
Huntington	1529	Hastings	Hastings
Bath	1536	Bourchier	Fitzwarrin
Warwick	1547	Dudley	Lisle
Southampton	1547	Wriothesley	Wriothesley of Titchfield

Title	Created	Surname	Secondary Title
Bedford	1550	Russell	Russell of Cheynies
Pembroke	1558	Herbert	Herbert
Hertford	1558	Seymour	Beauchamp
Leicester	1564	Dudley	Denbigh
Essex	1572	Devereaux	VC Hereford, B Ferrers
Lincoln	1572	Fiennes	Clinton
Nottingham	1597	Howard	Howard of Effingham
Viscounts			
Montague	1554	Browne	
Bindon	1559	Howard	

The Noble Style

The prime proof of rank and nobility is liberality. People want to be known for their hospitality. The ideal is a substantial house, plenty of servants, a lavish table where anyone is welcome.



Alms to the Poor

As further evidence of liberality, the *broken meats* (table leavings) are customarily given to the poor at the kitchen door. (Incidentally, this also counts as "good works".)

As a great compliment, it was said of the 3rd Earl of Derby: "His house in plenty was ever maintained."

This has to be tempered by the need to live within one's income and avoid oppressing the tenantry to raise the cash. One Earl and Countess of Rutland got so carried away they had to be put on a budget of £200 a year!

Income is usually discussed as rentals, and does not take into account profits from offices, industry, land farmed by the lord himself, profits of court, bribes, douceurs, and sale of offices.

Very few noblemen have an accurate notion of their full income, gross or net. That's what you have servants for.

Honor and Dueling

…is nowhere described better than by Lawrence Stone in *Crisis of the Aristocracy*:

> Tempers were short and weapons easy to hand. The basic characteristics of the nobility, like those of the poor, were ferocity and childishness and lack of self control.

Calling someone a liar, or otherwise impugning his honor, his courage, or his name is a challenge in itself.

Dueling is illegal, so you take the fight out of the way, and sometimes out of the country (any war-zone will do). Usually this is single combat, unlike the group duels of France, which lead to long-standing feuds.

If you are angry enough, you may not wait for a duel, or even for a fair fight. One (or some) of your men may lie in ambush. People get killed this way all the time, though often it's a gentleman's retainers who take the brunt of the attack.

Sir John Hawkins was killed by someone who mistook him for Sir Christopher Hatton. Sir Drew Drury was killed in a dispute over precedence.

The City of London

From *Shakespeare*, Anthony Burgess, 1978:

...The city meant roughly what we mean by the City of London--a crammed commercial huddle that smells the river. The Thames was everybody's thoroughfare. The Londoners of Chaucer's time had had difficulty bridging it; the Elizabethans had achieved only London Bridge. You crossed normally by boat-taxi, the boatmen calling 'Eastward-ho' and 'Westward-ho'. There was commerce on the river, but also gilded barges, sometimes with royalty in them. Chained to the banks there were sometimes criminals, who had to abide the washing of three tides. The river had to look on other emblems of the brutality of the age--the severed heads on Temple Bar and on London Bridge itself.

The streets were narrow, cobbled, slippery with the slime of refuse. Houses were crammed together, and there were a lot of furtive alleys. Chamber pots, or jordans, were emptied out of windows. There was no drainage. Fleet Ditch stank to make a man throw up his gorge. But the City had its natural cleansers--the kites, graceful birds that made their nests of rags and refuse in the forks of trees. They scavenged, eating anything with relish. ... And countering the bad, man-made odors, the smells of the countryside floated in. There were rosy milkmaids in the early morning streets, and sellers of newly gathered cresses.

It was a city of loud noises--hooves and raw coach wheels on the cobbles, the yells of traders, the brawling of apprentices, scuffles to keep the wall and not be thrown into the oozy kennel. Even normal conversation must have been loud since everybody was, by our standards, tipsy. Nobody drank water, and tea had not yet come in. Ale was the standard tipple, and it was strong. Ale for breakfast was a good means of starting the day in euphoria or truculence. Ale for dinner refocillated the wasted tissues of the morning. Ale for supper ensured a heavy snoring repose. The better sort drank wine, which promoted good fellowship and led to sword fights. It was not what we would call a sober city.

From the report of a Venetian envoy, about 1500:

It abounds with every article of luxury, as well as with the necessities of life. But the most remarkable thing in London is the wonderful quantity of wrought silver. I do not allude to that in private houses, but to the shops of London. In one single street, named the Strand, leading to St Paul's, there are fifty-two goldsmith's shops, so rich and full of

silver vessels, great and small, that in all the shops in Milan, Rome, Venice, and Florence put together, I do not think there would be found so many of the magnificence that are to be seen in London. And these vessels are all either salt cellars or drinking cups or basins to hold water for the hands, for they eat off that fine tin [*pewter*] which is a little inferior to silver.

These great riches of London are not occasioned by its inhabitants being noblemen or gentlemen; being all, on the contrary, persons of low degree, and artificers who have congregated there from all parts of the island, and from Flanders and from every other place.

See "A Map of Tudor London"

More Comparative Religion: Calvinists

(Puritans, Huguenots, Presbyterians, etc.)

Refer to *the Lutherans*, then add...

Every one is predestined, according to God's plan, to be saved or damned. No action on any one's part can change this.

Those who already saved are called the *Elect*.

Good works are an aspect of the behaviour expected of the Elect, but are not required for salvation. They are not Saved because they are virtuous; they are virtuous because they are Saved.

The *prayers* of priests are no more perfect, and no more important to God than others.

Testifying, or preaching and interpreting Scripture, is encouraged and expected of both ministers and the congregation.

The prayers of noblemen are no more valuable to God, either. Every man is equal in the sight of God. This is dangerously revolutionary thinking.

The rituals of the English church are still too Roman to suit the Puritans. They would prefer that candles, bells, saints and vestments of any kind be removed.

Certain evangelical preachers are even more radical. They also maintain:

- Scripture is not the only source of God's truth.
- It is still possible for the Holy Spirit to speak through an individual. A man (or more rarely, a woman) can have personal revelations not only of the nature of God but about matters of daily life.
- While revelation is an intensely personal experience, the person so visited has an obligation to communicate his vision with the rest of the Christian community.

Still More Language

Instead Of...	Say...
Okay	Very well, 'Tis done, As you will, Marry shall I
Wow!	Marry! 'Zounds (God's wounds, pron: ZOONDS) I'faith! Hey-ho! God's Death! What ho!
Excuse me	Forgive me, Pray pardon, I crave your forgiveness, By your leave
Please	Prithee (I pray thee), If you please, An thou likest, An it please you, By your leave, An thou wilt, An you will
Thank you	Gramercy, I thank thee, My thanks, God reward thee
Gesundheit!	God Save You!
Air head	Lightminded, Airling
Bottom line	In the end, At bottom, In the main, Finally, In the final analysis
Bathroom	Privy, Jakes, Ajax, Little room of office
Certainly!	Certes! (sir-tees) *Usage Note:* Certes means certainly, not certain. Do not say "I am certes that I paid that account." And never use it to replace "sure" as in "They will be married for certes."

Strange, but True, Department

Hello is not actually a period greeting but an exclamation of surprise.

You can say instead:

Good day

Good morrow

God ye good den (or just, Good den)

God save you, sweet mistress

How now, Sir Toby Belch

Household Management

Bills are due and servants are paid on the traditional Quarter Days (so called because they divide the year into quarters.) Curiously, each of these falls on or about an equinox or solstice. (NAG: This is quarter day, not quartering day!)

Feast Day/Date		What it's about
Lady Day	March 25	Feast of the Annunciation. When the Angel told Mary she would be the mother of Christ. Also the first day of the New Year in the old calendar, and an ancient date for Easter.
St. John's Day	June 24	St. John the Baptist. Also called Midsummer Day (because it falls in the middle of the whole warm season, even though it is actually the beginning of "official" summer.)
Michaelmas	September 29	St. Michael the Archangel. Celebrations in the North often include horses: racing, selling, stealing, etc. And something to do with carrots.
Christmas Day	December 25	The Birth of Christ. A solemn holy day, slightly less important than Easter.

In the country...

You may pay for some services *in kind* instead of money: such as an amount of firewood, the use of land, or a number of fish from your stream by the quarter or by the year.

Some of your tenants may pay part of their rents in kind: calves, honey, milk, wool, etc.

The lady of the house, even a noble lady, may do or at least oversee many homely things herself, such as the brewing of ale or mead. Even noble ladies take responsibility for making shirts for the gentlemen of the house.

If you live mostly in the country, you are likely to be very proud of your ale, or how pure your milk is, or what excellent honey your bees produce.

Bees love gossip. It is considered lucky for your estate and family to tell the bees every bit of news. If you don't, they may leave and take their good luck with them.

See the Plan of Ingatestone Hall, a Country House of the Latter Sixteenth Century.

Science and Health (without key to the scriptures)

Everything in the world is composed of four elements:

Earth, Air, Fire and Water

In the human body, the humours are the natural bodily fluids. They correspond to the elements and have various qualities: cold, dry, hot, and moist.

The nature or complexion of anything is a combination of two of these humourous qualities.

Here is a simple chart of the relationships of the humours and elements. Most people are aware of this chart to some degree. (Hypochondriacs have it memorized.)

Element	Humour	Quality	Nature
Fire	Choler (yellow bile)	hot and dry	Choleric (angry, temperamental)
Air	Blood	hot and moist	Sanguine (jolly, lusty)
Water	Phlegm	cold and moist	Phlegmatic (sluggish, slow)
Earth	Melancholy (black bile)	cold and dry	Melancholic (sad, lovesick)

When the humours are all in balance in a person, he or she is completely healthy. If they get out of balance, illness results.

Doctors *bleed* their patients to restore this balance, because blood is considered to have pre-eminence over the other humours.

Bleeding is performed with a lancet and a bowl, not with leeches (ick). In fact, leeching is a separate type of operation.

Blood is usually drawn from the arm or the foot.

Someone with a natural abundance of choler is said to be *choleric*, or naturally angry and quick-tempered. (Does that mean you could call them 'pissy'?)

Black bile is considered to be the foam off the top of the blood. Whatever that is.

Andrew Boorde's *Breviary of Health* is a popular text around many households for advice on staying healthy.

There is nothing that doth comfort the heart so much beside God as honest mirth and good company. And wine moderately taken doth comfort the heart, and good bread doth confirm and steady a man's heart. And all good and temperate drinks the which doth engender good blood doth comfort the heart. All manner of cordials and restoratives and all sweet and soothing things do comfort the heart, and so doth nutmeg and ginger and poached eggs not hard, their yolks a cordial… But above all things, mirth is best to bedward.

— *A Breviary of Health*, 1547

The *liver*, not the heart, is considered the source of the emotions, although the heart is the source of love.

The *stomach* is the seat of courage.

The *spleen* is the source of anger.

Ireland

What does an ordinary Englishman know (or think he knows) about Ireland? Simple beliefs (as opposed to simple facts) are marked with **.

**The weather is dreadful, the morals of the people worse. They need to be dragged kicking and screaming into the civilized 16th century, or be wiped out.

On the other hand, the girls are pretty, buxom, and willing.

**It's nothing but bogs and marshes and Catholics who speak no English or other human tongue.

On the other hand, there's land for the taking for any gentleman adventurer with the guts to go get it and hang onto it.

**The country is a dagger aimed at England, for use by Spain or any other Catholic power, and thus must be subdued and made as English as possible.

Irish Costume, Lucas de Heere

The English Crown never seems to provide enough money, men, or supplies. Ireland just sucks up whatever we send over there, and nothing ever seems to be accomplished.

There has been an English presence in Ireland since 1172, when an Irish king invited English knights in to take care of some earlier invaders.

English government is centered in Dublin and the area around it, called The Pale.

Lord Sussex, Sir Henry Sidney, Sir William FitzWilliam, Lord Grey, and others have taken a shot at governing it with varying degrees of success.

Shane O'Neill and (later) his nephew Hugh O'Neill give us the most trouble in the northern parts of Ireland. The English title they hold is Earl of Tyrone. Gerald Fitzgerald Earl of Desmond, with his cousins, gives us the most trouble in the southern parts.

The earls of Ormond and Kildare are our allies; Kildare's mother was English, and he is married to Lady Southampton's sister Mabel.

The English in general behave very badly while on duty in Ireland, even gentlemen of otherwise pleasant disposition. Must be the rain.

A Map of Ireland c. 1500 showing the Pale and the Great Lordships

Good Reading:

The Twilight Lords, Richard Berleth (history)
Itineraries, Fynes Morrison (1601-primary text)
Image of Irland, John Derrick (1597-primary text with woodcuts)

Scotland

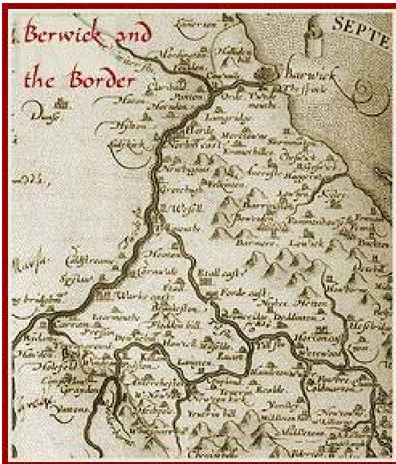
*What does an ordinary Englishman know (or think he knows) about Scotland? Simple beliefs (as opposed to simple facts) are marked with **. The last few entries are things you may not know.*

The capitol of the country is Edinburgh [ED-in-buh-ruh]; we've almost captured it once or twice.

**It is overrun with Frenchmen, which means it is a continuing threat on our northern flank and ought to be subdued by England for our own good. (However, the "Auld Alliance" with France was actually dead by 1570.)

**The Scots are untrustworthy, incapable of keeping a bargain, treaty, or their word, even amongst themselves. There is no word for loyalty in Scottish.

**Barely civilized, they are almost as bad as the Irish.



The Borders comprise the West, Middle and East Marches of England, facing the West, Middle, and East Marches of Scotland. Each march is governed by a warden.

Being *at feud* is a way of life. A truce may be pledged and may include marriages between feuding families, although this does not create a permanent peace.

A common soldier in the Scottish border garrison at Berwick (BEAR-ick) gets food, clothing, equipment, and 8 pence a day, from which 4 pence is kept back for food, clothing, equipment, etc.

Although still in transition, Scotland is rapidly going protestant. Scottish Protestants are Presbyterians, following the Calvinist teachings of John Knox. The Highlands are predominantly Catholic.

In the Lowlands, the proper term is "family", not "clan". Clan is a Gaelic word.

The word Celt is not used in English until the early 18th century. Various clansmen should be referred to as Irish or Scots, or even "Scotch", which is the period word for Scottish.

The clans are tribal Highlanders of the far north, who do not speak English. The fighting on the borders never involves Highland troops.

The English have a stake in keeping the situation on the border unstable. As long as the Scots government has to spend time and money trying to maintain the peace at home, it's not making war on England.

See the Map of Scotland and the Borders.

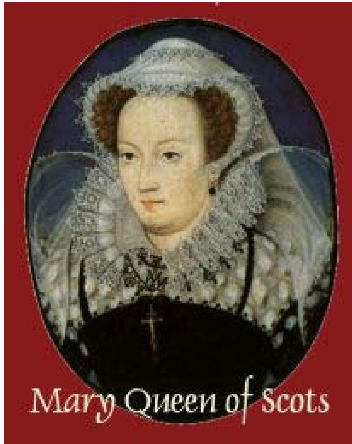
Good Reading

The Steel Bonnets, George MacDonald Fraser (history)

The Game of Kings, Dorothy Dunnett (fiction)

Mary Queen of Scots, Antonia Fraser (biography)

Mary Queen of Scots: an incredibly brief account



She is Mary Stuart (originally *Stewart*), daughter of James V of Scotland and Marie de Guise, daughter of the duke of Lorraine. She was Queen of Scots from the time she was six days old. She was a staunch Catholic until she died.

She is not "Bloody Mary." That charming title belongs to Elizabeth's sister, Mary Tudor, who created a lot of protestant martyrs.

Mary Stuart's grandmother was Henry VIII's sister Margaret. Henry's will and the Act of Succession excluded this branch from the English succession, but since Elizabeth is officially a bastard and heretic (according to the Pope) Mary feels she is the rightful Queen of England. A lot of people (mainly foreigners and English Catholics) agree with her.

She became Queen of France and Scotland by marrying the French prince who became Francis II, who died in 1560. Widowed at the age of 18 she returned to Scotland the following year.

In 1565 she married Henry Stuart Lord Darnley, son of the countess of Lennox, a granddaughter of Henry VII. Their son James was born in July 1566. Her husband, who had all the morals of an ape, was a jerk who conspired against her.

While Darnley was convalescing in '68 (of a "shameful illness"), he was killed when the basement of the house he was staying in exploded. However, he was not killed in the explosion. His body was found in the garden, stabbed and strangled. Many people accused Mary of arranging it.

In May of 1568, after a variety of military actions and her third marriage (to the earl of Bothwell, possibly by force) she left Scotland to throw herself on England's mercy. Various Stuart, Tudor, and deGuise ancestors proceeded to roll over in their graves.

She spent 19 years in England, with various jailers at various houses. Elizabeth wouldn't agree to see her until Mary had been cleared of the accusation of murdering her husband, but Mary claimed (rightfully) that a foreign court had no right to try her, a sovereign queen. Several investigations produced a number of damning letters (probably forged) but nothing was ever resolved.

In captivity, she eventually signed papers officially abdicating in favor of her son. During this time, her special emissaries to Elizabeth were Sir James Melville and John Leslie, Bishop of Ross.

A number of serious plots revolved around her, the main ones being the Ridolfi Plot (to marry her to Norfolk and place them both on the English throne, with Spanish help) and

the Babington Plot (to kill Elizabeth, rescue Mary, and put her on the throne, possibly with French help). The latter plot is covered nicely in part 5 of the BBC's *Elizabeth R*.

In 1586, Mary was tried in England by a panel of peers and justices, and condemned. Elizabeth put off signing the death warrant as long as she could, but Mary was executed at last on 7 February 1587, at Fotheringhay Castle.

See The Tudor Succession, A Family Tree.

Shopping in London

You do not "go shopping". You go *to the shops* or *to market*.

The *Royal Exchange*, built by Sir Thomas Gresham, was opened by the Queen in 1571, just in time for the shopping season, as sort of an Elizabethan shopping mall. A very prestigious building in the classical style, fine merchants of all sorts have set up shop here.

The main building features a huge, gilded grasshopper on the roof: Gresham's personal badge.

One-stop-shopping includes: Feather shops, Milliners, Wig makers, Ready made clothes (drapers), Imported accessories, Embroidered goods, Perfumes, Starches (used for ruffs).

When you can't find it at the Exchange...

Trade	**Street, Neighborhood, or District**
[from John Stowe, A Survey of London, 1603]	
Mercers and Haberdashers	West Cheape, & London Bridge
Goldsmiths	Gutherons Lane
Pepperers and Grocers	Bucklesberrie
Drapers	Lombard Street and Cornhill
Skinners	St. Mary Pellipers, Budge Row, & Walbrooke
Stock-fishmongers	Thames Street
Wet-fishmongers	Knight-riders Street & Bridge Street
Ironmongers	Ironmongers Lane, Old Jurie, & Thames Street
Vintners	The Vintree and various
Wigmakers	Silver Street
Brewers	Near the river (it's the water!)

The most exclusive jewelers and mercers are in Cheapside.

You can buy second-hand clothes in Birchin Lane, but people "of appearance" do not shop there.

There are no zoning laws. Shops, taverns, and residences live noisily side by side all over the city.

Most of the really low company you may be looking for is probably hanging out in Southwark across the river. (Pronounce it SUTH-ook, "th" as in "bathe" and "ook" as in "book".) Naturally the bear garden (for bear baiting) is here, as are (eventually) the play houses and many of the stews.

See A Map of Tudor London.

A Fashionable Vocabulary: Clothing and Fabrics

The jeweled roll at the front of your French hood is called a billiment.

A necklace is commonly called a carcanet (KAR-ka-net) before about 1575, when the word necklace comes into use.

Gardes or welts are ornamental bands, often edging a gown or forepart, but also used as strips of trim.

Needlelace

Lace is a general term for all kinds of trims and braids, as well as cords or points to fasten a garment.

Lucerne is lynx fur. Other furs are marten, sable, and so on.

Cloth of gold is gold metal thread woven on a linen or silk warp, and may come in colors, especially crimson or violet, depending on the color of the warp thread.

Pinks and cuttes are small, decorative cuts on the fabric. Slashes are larger, and may have the lining pulled through.

When a fabric is described as *printed*, the design has been stamped with hot irons.

The light weight silk you lined your slashes with is probably *sarcenet* (sar-sa-nett); so called because it was understood to have originated with the Saracens.

Your gold trim is really silver-gilt thread or *Venice gold*. Your good glass pearls are *Venice or Venetian pearls*. (You wouldn't wear the natural ones on Progress, now would you? Of course not.)

We go brave in our apparel that we may be taken for better men than we be. We use much bombastings and quiltings to seem fitter formed, better shouldered, smaller waisted, fuller thighed than we are. We barbe and shave often to seem younger than we are. We use perfumes both inward and outward to seem sweeter than we be. We use courteous salutations to seem kinder than we are; and sometimes graver and Godlier communications to seem wiser than we be.
— Sir John Harrington

You might tell an interested party that your very fine, sheer cotton chemise is made of *lawn* (a very fine linen). Those of China silk (habotai) are probably of *cypress*.

Changeable taffeta can also be called *shot silk*. What they called taffeta was a much different fabric.

Merchant class women (citizens' or burggesses' wives) do not always wear a *bumroll* and seldom wear a *farthingale*. See drawings by Lucas de Heere and the "Wedding at Bermondsey" painting for examples.

All kinds of pants (*slops* or *venetians,* etc.) are called *hose*, specifically *trunk hose*, because they cover the trunk of the body.

A better, less vulgar, term for slops is *round paned hose*.

Hose that cover the lower part of the leg are called *nether hose* or *nether stocks*

See More Fashionable Vocabulary.

Forms of Address for Non-Nobles

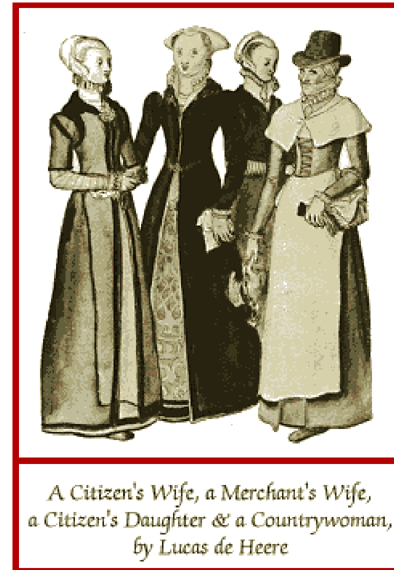
The term Gentles should be reserved for those who are of gentle birth: nobles, knights, and their descendants (with or without titles). To address a crowd, say "good folk" or "good people" or some such thing; not "good gentles".

The *gentry* are un-titled landholders, who come from noble families. In particular, they are descendents of younger sons of the nobility.

Gentility has to do with land owning and acenstry, not good manners, though manners may be considered a mark of gentility.

Only those of gentle birth are addressed as Master and Mistress.

Gentle birth also has little to do with money. You may be gentle and "land poor", meaning you have plenty of land but no cash. This sometimes applies to noble fmailies, though it is not fair to say that any merchant has more money than any nobleman.



A Citizen's Wife, a Merchant's Wife, a Citizen's Daughter & a Countrywoman, by Lucas de Heere

Knightly estate

Knights are not noble but they are gentry. Knighthood is not hereditary.

A knighthood is essentially a battlefield honour, sometimes given for other kinds of service. Walsingham's is for diplomacy, you might say.

Knighthood no longer comes with land or an income, as it did in earlier times, although it will require you to spend more to maintain your estate or standing..

Sir Henry Sidney turned down a barony because he believed he couldn't afford to maintain a baron's estate.

The middling sort

The term middle class is unknown in period. People are much more specific about their place in society. Say instead: merchants, yeoman, tradesmen, craftsmen, and so on.

The yeomanry are essentially prosperous, non-gentle (and non-husbandmen) tenants, worth no less than £6 per annum, according to Harrison. Their landlords are the gentry landowners.

When yeomen get a little money, they tend to buy land, which makes them landowners, but still not gentlemen. Address them as Goodman and Goodwife, but not Master or Mistress.

If the family is provident and continues to acquire and hold the land for at least three generations, they can apply to be counted among the gentry.

Citizens and burgesses may be considered the urban equivalent to the yeoman class. Refer to this solid backbone of England as good folk or sturdy yeomen.

Working men

In the countryside, the lowest rung on the social ladder are those tenants (*cottars* or *husbandmen*, but rarely *peasants*) who work on someone else's land for wages. Their wives may pick up the odd ha'penny here or there for services to wealthier neighbors, such as mending or helping with laundry.

They pay rent in money but also in kind and in services. They are often in debt. Their employers are often yeoman farmers.

In town, people who do common labor for wages are simply *laborers*. Harrison (1577) lists tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, brickmakers, masons, and other handicraftmen as having the same social standing.

City people of any rank consider themselves superior to country people of the same sort.

Think of them as common or rustic, lesser folk or local villagers, husbandmen or cottagers, or something else pleasant but non-gentle. In Shakespeare, "peasant" is used only as a term of abuse. He preferred to call working men *handicraftmen* and "rude mechanicals".

Your liveried retainers are not peasants (even if their parents are).

What We Eat

Elizabethan cookery is generally sweeter than today's; meats are often cooked with fruits, producing a mix of sweet and savory.

Some medical texts advise against eating raw vegetables as engendering wind (gas) or evil humours.

It is important to remember that while many things were period somewhere, not everything was eaten in every part of the world. Things which are common in Constantinople may never make their way to England.

The *potato* is still a novelty. It is not yet a crop in Ireland, nor is it found in our stews. The *turnip*, which has that honour, is followed closely by the parsnip.

Tomatoes are considered doubtful, if not actually poisonous, although they have already begun to appear in some southern European cooking.

Chocolate has not yet come in, except for medicinal purposes. The Swiss have not yet added milk and sugar to it. If you have ever tasted chocolate (which is very doubtful) it was a thin and bitter drink, probably flavored with chiles.

The much-touted *St. John's Bread* (carob) may taste somewhat like chocolate but is not being used as a flavoring in baked goods. Any brown cake on your table must surely be gingerbread.

Just to be fair, *vanilla* isn't a period flavoring in Europe either.

Almond is the most common flavoring in sweets, followed by cinnamon, clove, and saunders (sandalwood). Almond milk—ground almonds steeped in honey and water or wine, then strained—is used as flavoring and thickener.

Coffee is period in the strictest sense, but has not arrived in England.

The law says we may not eat meat on Fridays *and* Saturdays. This is not a religious fast but a way of supporting the fishing industry. Exceptions are made by special license for the old, the very young, and the infirm, and anyone else who applies for the license.

A typical fish day meal can include eggs, butter, cheese, herring, cod or other whitefish, etc.

Sugar is available, but is rather more expensive than honey, since it has to be imported. Grown as sugar cane, it comes as a 3- or 4-pound square or conical loaf, and has to be grated or pounded into useful form.

- The finest sugar (from Madera) is white and melts easily in liquid.
- The next grade is Barbary or Canary sugar.
- The common, coarse sugar is brown and rather gluey, good for syrups and seasoning meat.

Spain, France, Germany, Italy, & other despicable places

The English are professionally paranoid of anything foreign. The word insular might have been coined to describe us.

On the other hand, we are habitually jealous of all things foreign: Italian manners, French fashions, Spanish gold, etc.

We have always been enemies with the French, except when necessary to unite against Spain.

On the other hand, we have often been allied with Spain, until that unfortunate episode of the Armada in 1588.

Spain

In her will, Mary Queen of Scots left her claim to England to King Philip of Spain, which provided him with the impetus to finally launch the Enterprise of England.

Philip's primary motive was both religious (really wanting to bring England back to the Roman Catholic church) and political (wanting to be able to keep France surrounded.)

France

At the time of Richard the Lionheart (1188-1199) the Plantagenet empire included England, Normandy, Anjou, Aquitaine, and vast tracts of France. (Also the lordship of Ireland.)

By the time of Bloody Mary (1553-1558), the only English possession on the Continent was the town of Calais (pronounced CAL-iss by the English) opposite Dover, on the French coast.

We lost Calais in a war with the French about 1556-57. The English were severely depressed over this loss. Queen Mary said that when she died, they would open her up and find the word **Calais** written over her heart.

Like Spain, France is a Roman Catholic country. French Protestants are Calvinists called *Huguenots* (pronounced HEW-ga-nots by Englishmen).

In the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, 1572, the king allowed thousands of Huguenots to be massacred in religious riots. Even English Catholics were shocked and appalled.

The French Calvinists have asked the English, as co-religionists, for money and military aid. They will not get it till 1625.

Germany

Germany is not a country but a collection of little "countries", whose people all speak some dialect more or less recognizable as German. We English refer to it as "the Germanies".

The Empire refers to the Holy Roman Empire: in the middle of the century, it includes most of the German states, Spain, Flanders, and even parts of Italy. Border disputes with France are common. There has also been a good deal of fighting in Italy.

The Empire, particularly Spain, claims the Netherlands and keeps trying to establish sovereignty there.

The Dutch have asked for English men, money, arms, and officers. When we say we are fighting in the Low Countries, this is where we mean.

The Landsknechts are crack mercenary troops from all over the Empire, primarily from the German states.

Their life is so nasty, brutish, and short that the Emperor Maximilian granted them dispensation from all sumptuary laws, which explains their flamboyant attire. ("Max said we could!" is a period expression.)

Germans come in both Catholic and Protestant varieties. It is safe to say that most German Protestants are Lutherans.

Both the Catholics and the Lutherans despise the Calvinists as well as each other, and the Calvinists return the sentiment (one of the benefits of revealed Truth). There is no conformity among Protestant sects.

Italy

Like Germany, Italy is not a country but a language group.

The Italian peninsula is made up of a number of city-states such as Florence, Genoa, Venice, Milan and so on, ruled by powerful families such as the Medici, Gonzaga, Borgia, Sforza, and so on, respectively.

As well as being the center of the Catholic Church, Rome is the center of the secular political territory called the Papal States, ruled by the Pope.

Since the Pope is a temporal ruler as well as a spiritual one, it is possible to declare war on him, which Catholic rulers (such as King Philip) have done.

Italians and Spaniards are most likely to be Catholic, although there are feeble Protestant movements in both places, effectively countered by the Inquisition.

See the Map of Western Europe c. 1550.

Children & Childhood

Lady Pope with her Sons and Daughter

A little boy is dressed in skirts, pretty much like his sister. When he is between 3 and 7, depending on his parents' and nurse's assessment, he gets his first pair of breeches or breech hose.

This event, called *breeching,* is celebrated with a party. The boy is now said to have been breeched. Before this he was just "an unbreeched boy."

Infants are wrapped in *swaddling bands* for the first 6 to 12 months. It is considered unhealthy to give them the free use of their limbs.

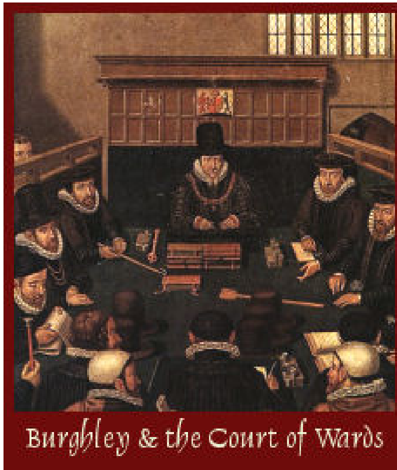
Bastards cannot legally own or inherit property, hold public or ecclesiastical office, marry, or any number of ordinary things. It is not a romantic thing to be. A bastard "deserves to be slapped."

Hugh Rhodes's *Book of Nurture* (1577) provides lessons in the behavior expected from children and, presumably, from properly brought up adults. After all, "If a youth be void of virtue, in age he shall lack honour."

Here are a few of them. I have distilled some longer ones [*] to an easier mouthful.

> Reverence thy father and mother as Nature requires.
> *If you have been out of their presence for a long while, ask their blessing.
> Stand not too fast in thy conceit.
> Rise early in the morning to be holy, healthy, and wealthy.
> *Say your morning prayers.
> *In church, kneel, sit, or stand devoutly. Do not cast your eyes about or chatter with women, priests, or clerks.
> At dinner, press not thyself too high; sit in the place appointed thee.
> Sup not loud of thy pottage.
> Dip not thy meat in the saltcellar, but take it with a knife.
> Belch near no man's face with a corrupt fumosity.
> Eat small morsels of meat; eat softly, and drink mannerly.
> Corrupt not thy lips with eating, as a pig doth.
> Scratch not thy head with thy fingers, nor spit you over the table.
> If your teeth be putrefied, it is not right to touch meat that others eat.
> Wipe thy mouth when thou shalt drink ale or wine on thy napkin only, not on the table cloth.
> Blow not your nose in the napkin where ye wipe your hand.
> *Chew with your mouth closed.

Heirs & Inheritance


Burghley & the Court of Wards

Male primogeniture is the rule. That is, the eldest son inherits everything (including debts) unless provision is otherwise made for younger sons. In particular, he gets the title if there is one.

This applies even if the oldest child is a girl.

In very rare occasions, a title and lands may pass in the female line. For example, a secondary title to the Manners earls of Rutland is the barony of DeRoos (one of the oldest in the kingdom), in which the title passes simply to the eldest child, regardless of gender. Although her younger cousin (as eldest male) became the earl, Lady Elizabeth Manners (as eldest child) became the Baroness de Roos in her own right.

A will takes into account provision for a daughter's dowry, which the heir is bound to honour.

When a peer dies leaving a minor heir, that child becomes a ward of the Crown. That is, the Crown takes responsibility for the education and marriage of the heir until he comes of age at 21.

The costs of this responsibility are paid out of the third of the deceased peer's estate that is dedicated to the upbringing of the heir as a Crown ward. The Office of Master of Wards (held for a long time by Burghley) is a very lucrative one.

Often some other nobleman applies to buy the marriage rights of such a ward, and takes the responsibility for the child's upbringing. Usually this means taking the child into his own home. Sometimes the heir's mother may buy the rights herself.

When the heir comes of age, he must sue the crown for the return of his livery and maintenance.

An heiress is a daughter with no brothers and no clear male heirs. If there are several girls, they will be co-heiresses. (This can get complex. Consult a herald.)

In a noble family, when there are only daughters and no clear male heir, the girls inherit the property and the title goes into abeyance until or unless a male heir can be proved.

A bastard is a child born out of wedlock. By law, any child born in wedlock is legitimate, with some exceptions. If you are living openly with another man and having his children, your lawful husband doesn't have to accept them as his own.

A bastard is often called a natural child. Illegitimate children can be legitimated only by royal decree.

Naming the Baby

Englishmen do not have *middle names*, as a rule. Middle names are in general found only in Europe, especially in Germany and Spain, until the 17th century. Where we find them in some lists, the odds are good that the records from which they were taken were contradictory, illegible, or wrong.

Jane Sybilla Morrison	The 2nd earl of Bedford's stepdaughter, born abroad.
Thomas Posthumous Hoby	Son of Sir Thomas Hoby and Elizabeth Cook, born after his father's death (i.e., posthumously).
Anthony Maria Browne	Lord Montague's grandson, 5th in an unbroken sequence of Anthony Brownes, and born in the lifetime of both his father and grandfather. Perhaps given in honor of his aunt, Mary Countess of Southampton.

We do not put Junior after a name, or use "the Third" except when counting monarchs. We may, however, say "the Younger" to refer to the junior generation.

It is not true that there are only five names each for men and women in England; it just seems that way. The most common names for girls appear to be: Elizabeth, Anne/Agnes, Jane, Mary/Margaret, and Katherine. And for boys: Henry, Thomas, Edward, John, William, and Robert.

Nobles sometimes use nicknames, but generally with intimates, children, or servants. Some of these familiar names maybe unfamiliar to you:

Use...	For...	Use...	For...
Jack	John	Kit	Christopher
Nan	Anne	Meg	Margaret
Harry or Hal	Henry	Robin	Robert
Ned	Edward	Nell	Eleanor or Helen
Bess	Elizabeth	Kate or Kitty	Katherine
Mall or Molly	Mary	Jennet	Jane

Nominal Curiosities

Names like Lettyce (for Letitia), Douglas, Peregrine, Fulke, Susan, Valentine, Reginald, and Ambrose are more or less unique.

James is common only in Scotland until the end of Elizabeth's reign.

Joan is a common (i.e., low) form of Jane.

Mary and *Margaret* often seem interchangeable in parish records.

Bridget is not considered particularly Irish, but is a fairly ordinary English girl's name. The earl of Rutland has a sisted called Bridget.

Magdelyn is pronounced "Madelyn" or "Mawdlin".

Agnes is pronounced and sometimes spelled "Anys" (an'-nis.) *Anthony* is always pronounced "Antony".

When a child dies, the next child may be given the same one.

Children are often named for a godparent whom the parents wish to honour. This is another reason why we often find duplicate names in the same generation.

Most Christian names come from relatives and godparents, rather than current trends.

The Queen's Suitors: The Short List

Archduke Charles von Hapsburg

The Emperor's second son. Negotiations on and off from 1564-67. Supported by Cecil, undermined by Leicester who still has aspirations. Represented at court by his Chamberlain, VonBreumer.

Francis de Valois, **Duc d'Alençon** et d'Anjou

The younger brother to the king of France. Negotiations throughout the late '70s. His mother is Catherine di Medici. Fairly serious. Supported by Burghley, opposed by Walsingham and Hatton. Representation: Baron Jean de Simier.

Robert Dudley, **Earl of Leicester**

A widower after 1563, but perpetually under a cloud because of the manner of his wife Amy's death. With Cecil, HRM's best friend--except when he's being a jerk. Out of contention after '78 when he is married to Lettyce Knollys.

King **Eric of Sweden**

Not considered a good bet, although he sends lots of presents. Representation: his brother Duke John of Finland and sister Princess Cecilia with her husband the Margrave von Baden Baden. (Gossip: Cecilia was known to be "flirting heavily" with the Earl of Arundel.)

King **Philip of Spain**

Actually imagines he has a chance, since he used to be married to her sister. The queen let him think so briefly at the beginning of the reign, then the matter was dropped.

Emanuel Philibert, **Duke of Savoy**

Originally proposed by Philip of Spain when Elizabeth was still the Princess. Savoy has almost nothing to recommend him except a title and a swagger. Most of his duchy has been taken by the French, and he's broke.

English Hopefuls (beside Leicester) include at various times:

Sir Christopher Hatton

Sir William Pickering

Henry FitzAlan earl of Arundel

Thomas Howard duke of Norfolk

Sir Thomas Heneage

The Royal Sweepstakes

According to the Will of Henry VIII, the legal heirs to his throne were his children: Edward, Mary, then Elizabeth. By the principle of male primogeniture, sons always come first, even when they are younger than their sisters.

After the King's children (should they all die childless), the order should by custom have been:

1. Margaret, Henry's elder sister, who married King James IV of Scotland and
    - Her children and their heirs, then
    - Her children by her second husband, the Earl of Angus, then
2. Mary, Henry's younger sister, who married (secondly) Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, then
    - Mary's children and their heirs.

However, for some reason, Henry disinherited his elder sister, so technically the Scottish claims are all bogus—according to the old king's will, which Parliament has confirmed as the ***Act of Succession***.

Blood (and policy) is often more important than statute. Hence the real threat of the Stuart claim.

Notice that all claims are through female descent, which may explain why there is no clear heir.

The English Claims

Lady Catherine Grey. Her mother was Frances Brandon, whose mother was Henry VIII's sister Mary. Her elder sister Jane was manipulated into exercising this claim, to her sorrow. Dies in 1568.

Her sons: *Thomas* (b. 1561) and *Edward* (b. 1563) Seymour. Catherine Grey's sons by the earl of Hertford, though the marriage was declared invalid by a special commission in 1562.

Lady Mary Grey. Younger sister to Catherine Grey. "Crouchback Mary" (said to be dwarfish and horribly ugly) was never seriously considered, although understood by many to be heir presumptive after her sister's death. Dies in 1578, without issue.

Lady Margaret Clifford, Countess of Derby. Her mother was Eleanor Brandon, Frances's younger sister. Granddaughter to Mary Tudor. Next in line after the Grey girls, according to the Will. Dies 1596. Her sons maintain the claim:

> *Lord Ferdinando Stanley.* Eldest son. 1555-1594.
> *William Stanley.* Younger son. 1561-1630.

Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntington. His mother was Katherine Pole, a descendant of Edward III, and thus the last Plantagenet heir. Claim displaced by the rise of the Tudors, but still valid, especially since he is a man. Supported by Dudley and Norfolk. Dies childless in 1571.

The Scottish Claims

Lady Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox. Her mother was Henry VIII's sister Margaret. Quarreled with Henry over religion, and he disinherited her. Dies 1578. Her son, *Charles Stewart*, Earl of Lennox. Dies 1577 (pre-deceasing his mother.)

His daughter, *Arabella Stuart*. Her mother is Elizabeth Cavendish. She was brought up by her grandmothers to think of herself as the Queen's heiress. 1575-1615.

Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots. Her grandmother was Henry VIII's sister Margaret. Dies 1587.

Her son, *James VI*, King of Scots. Born 1568. Declared the Winner in 1603, when he becomes James I of England.

Order of Play

Notice the dates. Not all of these people were contenders at the same time. Catherine Grey dies the year James of Scotland is born, for example. Of the English, only William Stanley and Arbella Stuart outlive the Queen.

Can't tell the players without a scorecard. *See the Chart of the Tudor Succession.*

Filling the Time

As we know, there is nothing as dangerous as a bored nobleman (unless it's an idle soldier). These are some of the ways – besides hunting – that a courtier might fill his or her time.

***Gossip*, of course.** But, like flirting, you can do that anywhere, especially while doing almost any of the following.

***Tennis* is popular.** It's played indoors or in a high-walled outdoor court. (The grass court comes into use in 1591.)

The ball is made of leather and stuffed with hair.

In one version, there are no rackets; you hit the ball with the palm of your hand over a tasseled rope stretched across the center of the court.

Other sports include *bowls* (lawn bowling) for which Henry VIII set up an alley at White Hall. Bowling alleys exist about London for ordinary people, too.

Also *shuttlecock* (like badminton), archery, billiards, hunting and riding, wrestling, and political maneuvering.

Pall Mall has probably not yet come to England, but is popular in France and Scotland. It is not exactly croquet, so you can do what you like with the mallet and balls in the prop box.

Attend the *theatre*. Remember, this is in the afternoons, since there is no artificial lighting.

Young gentlemen of appearance can, for an extra fee, have their chairs put right up on the stage.

There is a different play every day; perhaps 4-6 plays in a repertory season.

There are no playhouses until 1576; the performance is very likely in an inn yard.

Ladies may attend, but are usually veiled or in masks.

Have the players in. Have them bring the play to your house. Count the silverware before they leave. Make sure you know who their patron is. Try to avoid Richard II (with its deposition scene) and other controversial works, just in case. Do not sell tickets.

Food & Your Life Style

In general, people eat two meals a day:

Dinner, at midday say 11:00 or 12:00

Supper, in the evening, about 6:00.

Husbandmen and others whose work is never done may have their supper as late as 9:00.

It is best to refer to having dinner instead of lunch or even luncheon. Invite people to dine with you, or ask "Where shall we dine today?"

Schoolboys, working people, and housewives get up around 5 or 6 am, or even earlier. These people do not wait till 11:00 to eat.

Breakfast is simply a matter of breaking one's fast on arising, and is not considered a formal meal. It is also not considered to be "the most important meal of the day."

At Court, depending on the day's activities, or last night's, you probably arise somewhat later, and have a little bread and ale while being fussed over by your servants as they get you dressed and barbered, made-up and perfumed, and so on.

Of course, if (like a personal servant or a Lady of the Bedchamber) you are in charge of getting someone else dressed, you get up before they do. And *your* servants get up even earlier. Which may be one reason why the kitchens at Court never close.

A gentleman often has his dinner "out", either eating at an *ordinary* or buying food at a cook shop and taking it home. An ordinary is both the tavern that serves a daily fixed-price meal—plate of stew, loaf of bread, pot of ale—and the meal itself.

A gentleman who can't cadge a dinner invitation may say he is "dining with Duke Humphrey tonight."

In town, many houses have no proper kitchen. You may cook over the hearth, or prepare food and take it to a cook shop, and pick it up later, ready to eat. Few homes have their own oven, so you may make up your own bread but take it to a baker who, for a fee, will bake it for you.

Since we do not yet have tea, we do not yet have Tea Time.

More of What We Eat

Here are some lists of period foods for your dinner table:

Vegetables Available in Europe

Garlic	Asparagus	Peas	Spinach
Eggplant	Onions	Cabbage	Carrots
Mustard	Leeks	Lettuce	Endive
Lentils	Celery	Parsnips	Beets
Broadbeans	Turnips	Radishes	Artichokes

Fruits and Nuts Available in Europe

Apples	Plums	Quinces	Sloes
Currants	Lemons	Oranges	Dates
Apricots	Melons	Sesame	Wardons
Almonds	Strawberries	Limes	Grapes
Prunes	Gooseberries	Figs	Olives
Mulberries	Pomegranates	Cherries	Raisins
Hazelnuts			

Meat and Fowl Available in Europe

Domestic animals: beef, veal, pork, chicken, duck, rabbit, goat. Also swan, peacock, goose, pigeon, doves. Swans were fairly common in the Thames, and not especially an upper class item.

Wild animals: Deer, boar, rabbit (or coney), quail, bustard, curlew, plover, cormorant, badger, hedgehog, heron, crane, pheasant, woodcock, partridge, etc.

Fish: Eels, pike, perch, trout, sturgeon, cod, haddock, ling, conger, plaice, roche, carp, salmon, porpoise, etc.

Snack Foods

The sweet tooth is not a new invention. Here are a few of the things we reward ourselves with.

Marzipan or *marchpane.* Almond paste that is sweetened, colored, and made into shapes, often very elaborate ones.

Gingerbread - Both the crisp, cookie kind and the cake. The familiar gingerbread men are called *gingerbread husbands*. The cake form may be German. (In Germany, gingerbread is popular for breakfast, accompanied by brandy.)

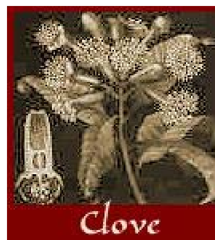
Fruit pies, sweetened with sugar, thickened with almond milk.

Sweet cakes (or *cates*) of various kinds.

Puddings - This means more than just dessert.

Daryole (cheesecakes) and custards.

Pretzels and bagels are both period.



Sweets are commonly flavored with ginger, nutmeg, mace, cloves, anise, coriander, rose water, sherry (sack), almond and/or saffron.

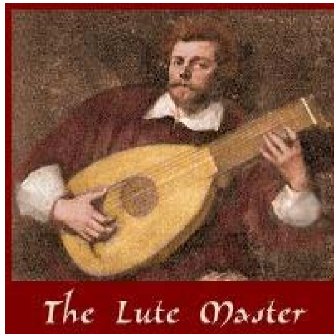
More Things To Do

Still bored? Here are some more activities to usefully occupy your days at Court.

Take lessons. There are plenty of professional fencing masters and dancing masters. (Sometimes they're the same people.)

Dancing lessons are important to keep up on the latest dances and latest steps, which you are expected to know.

You might find a master to keep up your skills at the lute or virginals or other refined instrument.



Brush up your French, Italian, or Spanish. Castiglione says one should be seen to be good at these languages.

Embroider. Like gossip, you can do this nearly anywhere. Ladies may gather in the garden, or in the Queen's Privy Chamber, or some other well-lighted room to do this. You might do it while watching a friend take a lute lesson or sit for a portrait.

Play cards, chess, tables (backgammon) or draughts (i.e., checkers, pronounced DRAFTS). Card games include Primero, Taroccho or Trumps, and many others.

Sing. Like dancing, this has to be practiced, especially since some madrigals are quite difficult. The English are famous as sight-readers. Says William Byrd:

> First, it is a knowledge easily taught and quickly learned where there is a good master and an apt scholar.
> 2. The exercise of singing is delightful to nature and good to preserve the health of Man.
> 3. It doth strengthen all parts of the breast, and doth open the pipes.
> 4. It is a singular good remedy for a stuttering and stammering in the speech.
> 5. It is the best means to procure a perfect pronunciation, and to make a good orator.
> 6. It is the only way to know where Nature hath bestowed the benefit of a good voice, which gift is so rare as there is not one among a thousand that hath it: and

in many that excellent gift is lost because they want [lack] Art to express Nature.
7. There is not any music of instruments whatsoever comparable to that which is made of the voices of Men, where the voices are good, and the same well sorted and ordered.
8. The better the voice is, the meeter it is to honour and serve God therewith: and the voice of Man is chiefly to be employed to that end.

Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum
Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learn to sing. — William Byrd, *Psalms, Sonnets, and songs of sadness and piety*, 1588.

Prepare a presentation. Such as an elaborate masque. One must rehearse, after all.

Visit your tailor. This can take hours, especially if you take along some friends.

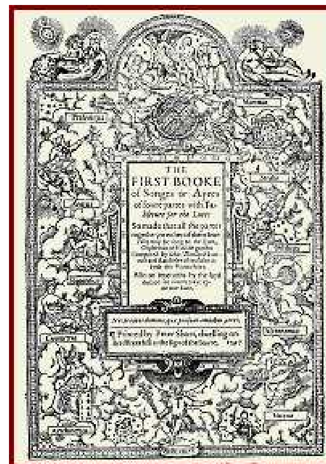
Sit for a portrait. The painter will make several visits, or you may visit him. You approve his sketches and his progress, and promise to pay the bill. A miniature by Hilliard will set you back about £40.

Visit the bear pit. Bear baiting consists of letting a pack of crazed hounds loose on a chained bear, and watching from a safe distance while the beasts fight. Very popular. Almost as good as a public hanging. Even the Queen thinks this is great fun. One of the most famous of these bears is called Sackerson.

Practice riding at the ring and other tourney sports.

Still More Things To Do

Try reading.


THE
FIRST BOOKE
of Songes or Ayres

Everyone is literate (with odd exception of the 1st earl of Pembroke). Also, most people read out loud, even when alone.

Councilors and border wardens and generals have reports to read. Or you may have reports from your steward(s) to consider.

Others may spend time with the Classics (Greek and Latin).

Chaucer is popular, as are other romances.

And there are devotional books (as well as the Bible) for both Catholics and Protestants.

Writing letters

Sending messages is exactly like calling someone on the phone.

People send messages back and forth all day in all directions, whether around the Palace, to the house next door, across the City, or out to the countryside.

These are often brief notes, inquiring after health or inviting to dine, reminding you of favors owed, or notifying you that the Queen has decided to hunt your deer park next week.

See Writing Letters.

Writing poetry

One does not publish, but one may circulate one's poems in manuscript among friends. That's how the sonnets of Shakespeare, Sidney, and others originally appeared.

Translation and other study

Not merely for students and professionals. This is open to ladies as well as gentlemen. Well-known lady scholars include the Countess of Pembroke and the Baroness Lumley.

And of course, depending on your age, sex, and inclination:

Walking in the gardens

Shopping in the City ("going to the shops")

Having your fortune told

Visiting friends

Dining

Negotiating a marriage contract

Planning your daughter's wedding

Having tradesmen in to show you their wares

Seeing a physician

Disciplining your servants

Hanging out in taverns

Gambling, and patronizing various low establishments on the wrong side of town.

See also Shopping in London.

Paying the Servants

Ordinary household servants are hired at an annual wage and paid by the quarter (on Quarter Days). Most such servants earn between £2 and £5 per year, not adjusting for vails and fines.

They also get bed and board and 2 or 3 suits of livery clothing per year.

Some servant wages for 1550, Ingatestone Hall, Essex,the country manor of Privy Secretary Sir William Petre:

By the quarter:

The laundress, cook, butler, and the children's nurse were paid 10s each.

The youngest housemaid got 5s, as did a part-time brewer.

The gardeners got 10s 6d each.

Best paid:

Chaplain: 13s/4d (£3 5s per year)

Bailiff: 11s/8d (£ 2/6s/8d per year)

By contrast, in 1568 the Queen's laundress, Mistress Taylor, got £4 per year, with an extra £6 for her livery gown.

The Queen's Maids of Honor get a stipend of £40 per year. The Privy Secretary gets an annual income of £100, exclusive of fees, fines, bribes, doucers, etc.

Royal accounts show the Queen's household expenses at about £55,000 per year. For the period of July 1566 to April 1567, her master embroiderer, David Smith, was paid £203/15/7 from the Privy Purse from the Privy Purse to cover his salary and all expenses of his office. His assistant, William Middleton, got £25/11/11.

Henslow's *Diary* shows actors being paid 10s a week in town and 5s on the road in the 1590s. Actors!

Staffing a Great Household

Anthony Viscount Montague, 1595

from *A Book of Orders and Rules*, edited from the original ms. by Sir Sibbald David Scott, Bart., in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. vii, London 1854.

"A Book of Orders and Rules, established by me Anthony Viscount Montague for the better direction and gouvernment of my household and family..."

1. Steward of the Household
2. Comptroller
3. High steward of the Courts
4. Auditor
5. General Receiver
6. Solicitor
7. Other principal officers
8. Secretary
9. Gentlemen Ushers
10. Carver
11. Sewer (server)
12. Gentlemen of the Chamber
13. Gentlemen of Horse
14. Gentlemen waiters
15. Marshall of the Hall
16. Clerk of the Kitchen
17. Yeomen of the Great Chamber
18. Usher of the Hall
19. Chief cook
20. Yeomen of the chamber
21. Clerk of the Officer's Chambers
22. Yeoman of the Horse
23. Yeoman of the Cellar
24. Yeoman of the Ewery
25. Yeoman of the Pantry
26. Yeoman of the Buttery
27. Yeoman of the Wardrobe
28. Yeoman waiters
29. Second cook, and the rest
30. Porter
31. Granator
32. Bailiff
33. Baker
34. Brewer
35. Grooms of the Great Chamber
36. Almoner
37. Scullery man

An Ambassadorial Household: 1604

In 1604 the Earl of Hertford's embassy to Brussels included: 20 Knights, 2 barons, and 7 gentlemen, plus their servants to a total of 90.

And in the earl's personal train:

2 chaplains	1 surgeon	6 pages
1 steward	1 physician	3 wardrobers
1 secretary	1 apothecary	16 gentlemen waiters
1 gentleman of the horse	8 musicians	30 yeoman waiters
2 gentlemen ushers	8 trumpeters	30 kitchen, buttery, & pantry staff
1 harbinger	6 footmen	4 gentlemen of the chamber
1 master of carriages	10 lackeys	

Some fines and rules in Sir John Harington's house

- A servant must not be absent from morning or evening meals or prayers lest he be fined 2 pence for each time.
- Any servant late to dinner would be fined 2 pence.
- Any man waiting table without a trencher in his hand, except for good excuse, would be fined 1 penny.
- For each oath, a servant would be fined a penny.
- Any man provoking another to strike, or striking another, would be liable to dismissal.
- For a dirty shirt on Sunday or a missing button, the fine would be sixpence.
- After 8:00 am no bed must be found unmade and no fireplace or candle box left uncleaned, or the fine would be one penny.
- The hall must be cleaned in an hour.
- Any man leaving a door open that he found shut would be fined one penny unless he could show good cause.
- The whole house must be swept and dusted each Friday.

See the Plan of Ingatestone Hall, a Country House of the Latter Sixteenth Century.

Proverbs & Wise Sayings

On Husbandry:

A wife, a spaniel, a walnut tree:
The more you beat them, the better they be.
A woman fit to be a man's wife is too good to be his servant.
Women commend a modest man but like him not.

How to tell character by coloring:

Red wise
Brown trusty
Pale envious
Black lusty

On international relations

Germans woo like lions,
Italians like foxes,
Spaniards like friars,
and Frenchmen like stinging bees.

On various topics:

Age and wedlock tames man and beast.
Many kiss the child for its nurse's sake.
As seasonable as snow in Summer.
Three may keep counsel if two be away.
Four pints of ale at a meal is three too many.

The Perfect Servant?

A trusty servant's portrait you would see,
This emblematic figure we'll survey.
The porker's snout - not nice in diet shows;
The padlock's shut - no secret he'll disclose;
Patient the ass - his master's wrath will bear;
Swiftness in errand - the stag's feet will declare;
Alluded his left hand - apt to labour saith;
The vest - his neatness; open hand - his faith;
Girt with his sword, his shield upon his arm,
Himself and master he'll protect from harm.
-- Graffiti on the kitchen wall at Winchester College, dated 1563

What Every Schoolboy Knows

In general, only boys go to school. A girl's education is accomplished at home, although it usually includes reading and arithmetic.

Of course, noble children get their education at home, from private tutors.

It is understood that students must have their education beaten into them, like their manners and deportment. Parents tend to support this theory.

Public education refers to going out to school, as opposed to being tutored at home. It does not mean they are paid for out of public funds. Hence, the great "public schools" like Eton.

The school day begins at 7:00am in winter or 6:00am in summer. After prayers, they work till about 9:00 when they are permitted breakfast, then they work till 11:00. Dinner is from 11:00 to 1:00. The school day ends at 5:00 or 5:30pm.

The most elementary level of schooling is called *petty school*. You learn to read and write in English and do sums, but the main idea is to get you into grammar school.

The petty school is often run by a young wife who teaches the local children in her home for a small fee, like the "dame schools" of Colonial days.

The primary study of a *grammar school* is Latin grammar, using Lily's Grammar as the basic text, with Plautus, Terence, and Seneca as classical sources. Any history, literature, or drama is mainly a vehicle for illustrating the grammar.

The function of the grammar school is to prepare you for *university*, where courses are conducted in Latin, even after the Reformation. Music, modern languages, and science are irrelevant.

Latin is also the language of international affairs, and men of affairs are expected to be able to communicate in it. Or employ someone who does. Anyone who wants to make his way in the world must have at least a working knowledge of Latin.

A private education takes a slightly broader view. The young earl of Essex followed this daily programme while a ward in Burghley's house:

7:00-7:30	Dancing	1:00-2:00	Cosmography
7:30-8:00	Breakfast	2:00-3:00	Latin
8:00-9:00	French	3:00-4:00	French
9:00-10:00	Latin	4:00-4:30	Writing
10:00-10:30	Writing and Drawing	4:30-5:30	Prayers, Recreation, Supper
10:30-1:00	Prayers, Recreation, Dinner		

Notice that there is time for writing but not for spelling. After all, what good is a man who can only spell his name one way?

Classical References

The Muses

The Muses are nine sisters, daughters of Zeus and Memory, who preside over the arts and philosophy. They reside on Mount Helicon, and are under the patronage of Apollo.

In the Classical period, the following names and assignments were accepted, although they may vary (and may be useful when planning Masques).

Calliope	Poetry
Clio	History
Polyhymnia	Mime
Euterpe	Instrumental music
Terpsichore	Dance
Erato	Choral music
Melpomene	Tragedy
Thalia	Comedy
Urania	Astronomy

Other Deities of Our Acquaintance

Morpheus is the winged god of dreams, one of the children of Sleep.

Jupiter (or *Jove*) is the king of the Gods in the Roman pantheon. His Greek counterpart is *Zeus*. Both are into thunderbolts.

Mars (*Ares*) is the god of war. Note: Ares the god is **not** Aries the ram of the Zodiac.

Venus (*Aphrodite*) is understood to be the goddess of Love; she is married to Vulcan, who forges thunderbolts for Jupiter in a volcano. Her son is *Cupid* (*Eros*).

Vulcan (*Hephaestus*) is lame and ugly; Venus was once caught *in flagrante* with Mars!

Minerva (*Athena*) is the goddess of Wisdom. (Yes, we comfortably interchange Greek and Roman names. Hey, it's the Renaissance.)

Iris is the goddess of the Rainbow.

Hermes (her-meez) is messenger of the gods, and has special winged sandals for speed. He is also god of commerce, and speeds travelers on their way.

His son is pastoral *Pan*, who makes us panic.

Ganymede (gan-ee-meed) is the cup bearer of the gods, and thus any young boy or girl serving at table, or a page.

Letter Writing

> *The Elizabethans and their friends do not seem to have settled on any one form of salutation for letters, such as "Dear Mom..." Overall, the conventions of letter writing were as formal as if they were speaking in person, or perhaps even more so!*
>
> *Perhaps the most nearly standard brief opening is something like: My humble duty remembered...*
>
> *Salutations are often long and full of blessings and humility. The date is usually at the end.*

In these examples, I have left the punctuation more or less intact, except that they often used a virgule (/) instead of a period to indicate a full stop. They also used commas with considerable abandon, and they do ramble on. The word *(sig.)* indicates the signature.

Note: Numbers are frequently given in lower case Roman numerals, with the last "i" in a number written as a "j". For example, *viij March*.

Short notes for special occasions:

To a very noble mother.

> Right honourable, with our most humble and dutiful thanks for your ladyship's bountiful goodness towards us all times, my wife and I have made bold to present your Honourable Ladyship with such poor and homely things for a simple new year's gift as this place can afford, beseeching that according to your ladyship's accustomed goodness, you will vouchsafe them in good part; and we shall pray most earnestly to God almighty to send your honourable ladyship many happy healthful new years.
>
> The almighty preserve your ladyship in health and send you a good and comfortable end of all your great troubles and griefs. Wynfield this Tuesday the v of November at viij of the clock at night 1588
> Your honour's most dutiful bound obedient servant
> (sig.)

The Privy Council to Master William More

> (The direction reads: To our very loving friend W. More, Esquire)
> After our very hearty recommendations we have thought meet, for good consideration, to require you to signify unto us by your private letter, whether the Earl of Southampton, at present remaining in your house, do come to Common Prayer or not; and in case he have not so done already, then we require you as of yourself to move and persuade him thereunto, and of that he shall do or hath done, and shall answer thereupon, we pray you to advertise us

with convenient speed. And so we bid you farewell. From Windsor, the xviij of October, 1570
Your loving friends,
(signed by) North, Bedford, Leicester, Howard, Cecil, Knollys, Mildmay, & Crofts.

Opening Lines

To a relative

Good uncle, after my heartiest commendations to you and to mine aunt...

To a friend

After my very hearty commendations...

To a mother

My humble duty remembered...

To a noble man

Right Worshipful, My humble duty remembered, hoping in the Almighty of your health and prosperity which on my knees I beseech him to long to continue...

Closing Lines

To a noble relative

Your lordship's assured friend and kinsman
(sig.)

To an equal who has done (or perhaps been asked) a favor

Thus indebted to you for your pains taken for me, I bid you farewell. Sprowston, this xx of April. Your friend,
(sig.)

To a friend

Thus I commit you to god's good protection.
From Hampton Court the 2d of January 1592. Your very assured friend
(sig.)

To a parent

And thus with commendations from my partner and sister with thanks for our good cheer, and not forgetting Aunt Lettyce, with blessing to Mall, nephews Lewis, Harvey, and Nick, and Nan, with our humble duty to my mother we commit you to God this Saturday
17 December
(sig.)

To the Queen

And so I bid your Grace and the rest heartily farewell.
From my house in the Strand this xix of March, 1596, Your assured loving friend
(sig.)

To a noble mother

And so humbly craving your ladyship's daily blessing to us both, we most humbly take our leave, Tutbery the last of December 1605
Your ladyships humble and obedient son
(sig.)

To a brother

I pray you remember my duty to my good mother. This with my kindest commend to you and my good sister, wishing you all happiness, I rest your loving sister
(sig.)
Court at Woodstock
this 26th August 1599

To a kinsman

Your very assured loving friend and kinsman
(sig.)

To a mother

With the remembrance of my humble duty unto you, I humbly take my leave and rest,
Your dutiful and obedient son,
(sig.)

Sources

Dawson and Kennedy-Skipton: *Elizabethan Handwriting*
Rowse: *Southampton, Shakespeare's Patron*
The Lisle Letters, Muriel St. Clare Byrne, ed.

Random Bits & Pieces

Theatrical Costumes

Actors apparently have access to very good castoff clothes to use as costumes. From an inventory of the Lord Chamberlain's Men (Shakespeare's company) comes this gaudy note in Henslow's Diary: "Bought: a doublet of white satin laid thick with gold lace and a pair of round hose [slops] of cloth of silver, the panes laid with gold lace."

Jewelry & Decoration

In spite of the fact that Puritan preacher Philip Stubbs complains of people wearing rings on every finger of the hand, the middle finger is very unpopular. This is apparently evidence of a common notion that the middle finger is for fools.

Among the nasty elements of that very white face makeup are antimony and lead.

School terms

The legal, Parliamentary, and university year (Oxford) is divided into four sessions or terms, designated by the feast day which begins them.

Hilary
Easter
Trinity
Michaelmas

At Cambridge the terms are Lent, Easter, and Michaelmas.

Heraldry

The "bend sinister" across a coat of arms does not indicate bastardy. (Refer to Fox-Davies.) Bastards are not entitled to their fathers' coat of arms without special application, when any of several marks maybe used for this purpose.

Medicine

Medicines prescribed by physicians are made up by an apothecary. The apothecaries belong to the Grocers Company and have to serve an apprenticeship.

The Seasons

The expression *St. Martin's Summer* refers to what Americans call "Indian summer": an unusually summery period sometime in the Fall. St. Martin's Day is November 11.

The seasons are understood to begin not on the equinox or solstice but when the weather and land actually change:

Spring	Candlemas	February 1
Summer	May Day	May 1
Fall	Lammas	August 1
Winter	All Saints Day	November 1

Sources

Henslow's Diary
Hutton: *Seasons of the Sun*
Kuntz: *Rings for the Finger*
Fox-Davies: *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*

More Fashionable Vocabulary

A nightgown is called a *night rail*, presuming you sleep in something besides your shift or your nudity. A veil is also a *head rail*.

The ties on your shirt (etc.) are called *points*. The metal tags on the ends of the points are called *aiglets* (AGG-lets).

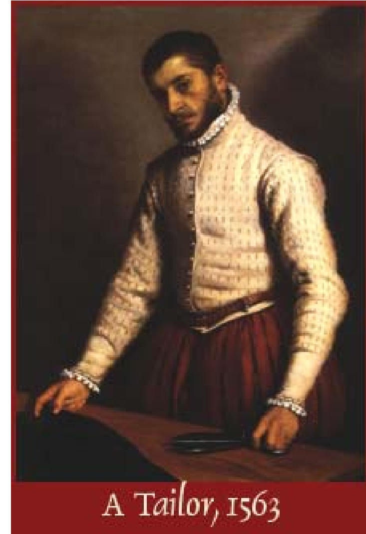
Your sleeves are *trussed* (tied) to your doublet with points.

Your hoop skirt is called a *farthingale*.

Ruffs come as a *suite*—collar and cuffs.

Pockets are period. So are functional buttonholes. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Fabric comes on a *folder* instead of on a bolt.



A Tailor, 1563

Fashionable Expenses

An account for the making of a man's doublet (including sleeves), breeches, and cloak in 1595 shows the tailor being paid 14 shillings for his work.

The cost for *materials* came to almost £14 for velvet, fustian (for lining), double taffeta, gold braid and gold lace (at 10s. an ounce), silk for lining and hose, and 3 dozen buttons for the doublet.

Good velvet went for 12s per yard in 1536 and 26s per yard (24-30" wide) in 1565. It was certainly more than that in 1580.

Seed pearls, bought in bulk for use on gowns, cost a penny apiece.

Virtue and Vice, or vice versa

Vices

According to the Church, and thus to Western man, the most deadly sins are these. Violations involving them may be great (mortal) or small (venial).

Despair	Hatred
Vanity	Greed
Anger	Gluttony

and of course Pride

In one point of view at least, all these are variations on Pride. Judas's sin of Despair, for example, was in maintaining that his sin was so great that even God could not forgive it, which furthermore presumes that God's power is limited.

Virtues

The Virtues come in several categories: Moral, Worldly, and Divine.

The chief moral virtues are Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance, Religion, Obedience, Chastity, and Humility. (The first four of these are also called "natural" virtues.)

The worldly virtues are Understanding, Wisdom, Knowledge, Prudence, and Art (applied Knowledge).

The divine virtues are Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Passion

The Passions are:

- Joy
- Despair
- Sorrow
- Choler (anger)
- Fear
- Hope
- Boldness
- Desire
- Love
- Eschewing (self-sacrifice)
- Hatred

A Classical Education

If you have a university education (or know someone who has), you should be at least slightly familiar with the following course of study, which has been in place since medieval times. Courses in beer and mayhem are supplementary.

In the Faculty of the Arts

The principal authority is always Aristotle on...

> Logical or Rational Philosophy: *Organon, Categories, On Interpretation, Analytics,* etc.
>
> Moral Philosophy: *Ethics, Politics, Rhetoric, Poetics*
>
> Natural Philosophy, or Natural History: *Physical Discourse, On the Heavens, On the Soul, On Parts of Animals, Meteorologics,*, etc.

The Seven Liberal Arts

Grammar: Priscian, Donatus, Villedieu, Cassiodorus, and some pagan and early Christian writers.

Rhetoric: Quintillian, Cicero, Eberhard de Bethune

Logic: Porphyry, Gilbert de la Poré, Hispanus

Arithmetic: John of Holywood, John of Pisa

Geometry: Euclid, Boëthius

Music: Boëthius, Jehan de Muris of Paris (*Ars novae musicae*, 1319), Plato's *Timaeus*, Aristoxenos

Astronomy: Gerard de Cremona

In the Faculty of Law

The principal Latin authorities are:
In civil law

> *Corpus Juris Civilis, the Code, the Pandects (a digest), the Institutes, the Novellae*

In canon (church) law

Gratian, Bartholomew, Pope Gregory IX, Pope Boniface VIII, *Constitutiones Clementiae*

In the Faculty of Theology

The Bible, Peter Lombard, Church Fathers, and great doctors of the church such as Origen, Augustine, and Aquinas.

In the Faculty of Medicine

Hippocrates, Galen, Arabic and Jewish medical texts, Theodore of Lucca, Lanfranci, Chauliac

Some specialized authorities

Isidore of Seville: *Etymologiae (On Language)* and *Sententiae (Maxims)*

Rabanus Maurus, *On the Universe* and *On the Instruction of the Clergy*

(Emperor) Frederick II, *The Falcon Book*

Gordanus Rufus, *On Horse Healing*

Dinner at Cowdray House, 1595

The writer points out that although this is late reign, the house is stubbornly Catholic, and the new young Viscount Montague is interested in preserving the stately habits of his grandfather's household, to which he is heir.

Edited from Sir S. D. Scott, Bart., in *Sussex Archæological Collections*, 1926.

Ten o'clock has just struck, and the household is mustering in the Hall, it being covering time, or the hour for preparing the tables for dinner. The Steward in his gown is standing at the uppermost part of the Hall, surrounded by most of his chief officers and some visitors, perhaps also some travelers, "strangers" who had availed themselves of His Lordship's hospitality.

The tables are neatly covered with white cloths, salt cellars, and trenchers, under the supervision of the Chief Usher. The Yeomen of the Ewery and Pantry conducted by the Yeoman Usher pass through to the great Dining Chamber. When they arrive in the middle of that room they bow reverently (although no one else be present) and do the same on approaching the table.

The Usher, kissing his hand, places it on the center of the table indicating to his subordinate where the cloth is to be laid.

The Yeoman of the Pantry steps forth and places salt and trenchers for my lord and lady, with bread, knives, and spoons, making a little bow as each item is laid down.

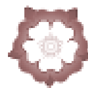
The trio then reverence and retire.

Next comes the Yeoman of the Cellar who dresses the sideboard with wines, flagons, drinking cups and such vessels as are in his charge. The Yeoman of the Buttery follows and brings up beer and ale, and arranges the pewter pots, jugs, and so forth on the sideboard. It now being dinner time, the Gentleman Usher proceeds to take his Lord's commands. Having received his orders, he sees that the carver and server wash their hands and have clean cloths for their arms. The Usher of the Hall standing at the screen [the decorative barrier to the kitchen] calls out, "Gentlemen and Yeoman, Wait upon the Server for my Lord!", half a dozen gentlemen and yeomen at least following him to the sideboard. When they return, each carrying a dish, the Usher calls, "By your leave, my masters," and all who are present in the Hall stand while the Lord's dinner processes through the Hall to the dining chamber, where it is met by the Gentleman Usher, who sees the dishes placed on the table. The Viscount, having been informed by the Gentleman Usher that all is ready comes forth leading his lady, followed by her gentlewomen.

Sir Henry Unton's Great Dining Chamber

When dinner is over and the table cloth removed, the Gentleman Usher comes forth with a towel, and basins and ewers are produced for the lords' and ladies' ablutions. The attendants are dismissed and depart with reverences, to take their dinners with all those who have been occupied in the service for the "second sitting" in the Hall.

While they are so engaged, the Steward and those who sat at his table repair to the Lord's dining chamber and remain in attendance until the Gentlemen Waiters return, and all await the rising of the Viscount from his table.



The assemblage is now dispersed. Those who have leisure and desire it are at liberty to call for cards in the Hall, which the Yeoman officers provide, each player bestowing a gratuity in the "playing box" for this service, the contents of which are proportionately divided.

More Wedding Customs

A bride is not expected to wear a white dress. It can be any fashionable or current color and cut. White as a color for brides does not become entrenched until the 19th century.

Depending on the social status of the families, the bride might have a new gown made, or simply wear her best clothes, freshened up with new ribbons or flowers. She certainly wears flowers in her hair.

However, the dress is a gown like any other. It is not a unique style, unsuitable for any other use and sentimentally preserved for later generations. Even a specially-made gown would become part of the lady's ordinary wardrobe.

The costs of the wedding festivities are generally borne by the bride’s father. In less prosperous neighborhoods, the food may be supplied by the neighbors, pot-luck style or cooked in the *church house*.

Sometimes the costs of the day are defrayed by holding a *bride ale*, usually in the churchyard. There the bride sells cups of ale for as much as her friends will pay. This is not the same thing as a "bridal shower", and is not limited to female attendance.

Various social elements of the parish also hold church ales occasionally as a fund-raising event.

Crying the Banns

The intention to marry must be announced in the church three times; that is, on three consecutive Sundays or holy days, in the same parish.

If the two people live in different parishes, the banns must be read in both. This allows time for any objections to be raised or pre-contracts to be discovered.

Any marriage not published before-hand is considered clandestine, and illegal.

There is no set form of wedding invitation. People do, however, send messages to their friends and relations, and gifts are cheerfully received. If the wedding is at Court, everyone simply understands they are expected.

The Bridal Procession

Any bridesmaids (*i.e.*, the bride's maids) help the bride to prepare, then they, the bride, the groom, the families, and all the guests assemble, and go in procession from the house or houses to the church.

The bridal procession is generally noisy, accompanied by musicians, laughter, and bawdy jokes. Town councils have been known to complain about the noise and general disorder.

If the groom is not part of the procession, he meets the bride either at the side door of the church or at the altar.

They all enter the church at once and stand through the ritual.

The wedding is always a religious ceremony, conducted by a minister. No getting married in the Registry, or at a Justice of the Peace, and no running off to Gretna Green.

The words of the English service are essentially the same then as now, since they come from the Book of Common Prayer of 1559.

Since the church is open, anyone can attend as long as there is room, although fairly strict social order is observed. Poorer neighbors, tenants, and passers by stand at the back.

Contract, Dowry, Jointure

For noble and other propertied families, the most significant part of a wedding day is the signing of the wedding contract, which sets out the terms of dowry, jointure, and other elements for the financial security of both parties.

The dowry is an amount of money, goods, and property the bride brings to the marriage. It can also be called her marriage portion.

The jointure is an agreement by the groom 's family to guarantee specific money, property and goods to the bride if her husband dies before she does, aside from or in addition to what is in his will. Sometimes this agreement is assured by promises from the family's friends.

Viscount Montague provided his daughter Mary, who became Countess to the 2nd earl of Southampton in 1567, with a dowry of £1,333.

In 1591, Lord Compton demanded a dowry of £10,000 plus the redeeming of an £18,000 mortgage on his land from Sir John Spencer, Lord Mayor of London, whose daughter he wished to marry. Spencer fought it, but in the end, the marriage took place. This is not, however, the normal circumstance.

In many noble cases, the event is commemorated with individual portraits of the bride and groom, completed before the wedding. Many of the "unknown girl" pictures one finds were painted for such an occasion.

Hugh Rhodes's *Book of Nurture* (1577) provides lessons in the behavior expected from children and, presumably, from properly brought up adults. After all, "If a youth be void of virtue, in age he shall lack honour."

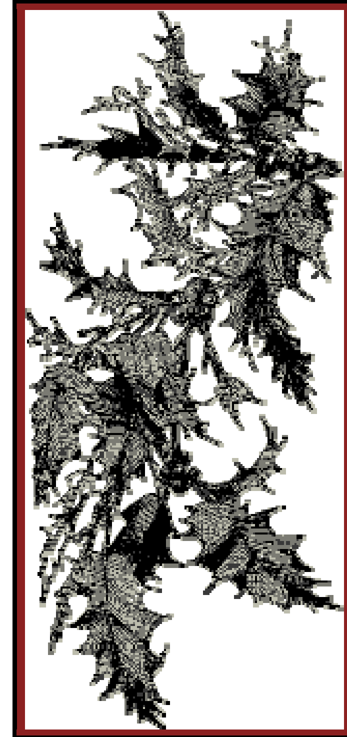
Some resources:

Cressy: *Birth, Marriage, and Death*
Duffy: *Voices of Morebath*
Pearson: *Elizabethans at Home*
Stopes: *Southampton*

Keeping Christmas

Caution: Christmas customs are hard to pin down and harder still to identify as genuinely Elizabethan. Here are the things we're sure of.

So now is come our joyful'st feast,
Let every man be jolly.
Each room with ivy leaves is drest,
And every post with holly.
Though some churls at our mirth repine,
Round your foreheads garlands twine,
Drown sorrow in a cup of wine,
And let us all be merry.
George Wither (1588-1667)



The Christmas season or Christmastide runs the twelve days from 24 December to 6 January; that is, Christmas Eve to Epiphany or Twelfth Day. The evening of that day is called Twelfth Night, and is the last party of the season.

It is a festival season with only passing reference to religion, although in Catholic reigns there are three Masses for Christmas Day, starting with Matins.

Feasting, generosity, disguisings, pageants, role-reversal, and silliness are the principal elements. Also gambling, especially card playing and tables. (Puritans do not approve.)

Hospitality

Hospitality is the rule. All who can do so furnish their tables with all the meats, marchpanes, pies, custards, and so on that they can afford, and more.

Entertainments in the season include mummer's plays of various kinds, often incorporating music and morris dancing (also performed at May Day). The story of St. George and the Dragon is especially popular. Morris dancers are regularly invited to perform at Court.

Such entertainments are meant for the whole manor or household, including tenants; the whole village; or the whole Court.

The Queen keeps Christmas most often at Greenwich Palace, which is relatively small. Alternate locations in certain years are Hampton Court (in 1568 and 1579) and Nonesuch Palace.

Court festivities, as at other times, include dancing, gambling, and plays.

Greenery

The decorations about any house include holly, ivy, box, yew, bay, laurel, holm oak, and in fact, anything still green. Both church records and household accounts show money spent for holly and ivy to be brought in for the holiday.

In the church itself, along with the greenery, a wooden figure of the Christ Child sometimes rests on the altar. The "nativity scene" hasn't come to England from Italy yet.

Mistletoe grows only on oak and apple trees. It isn't mentioned in a Christmas context before 1622, at which time it seems a fond custom, not newly introduced, but we can't tell how far back its use in England goes, or if it was regional, or what.. If it was common, it should be easy to find.

Kissing under the mistletoe has not yet become traditional, even in 1622.

Yule or Christmas log. The young men of the household go out on Christmas Eve and dress (trim) a log or block of wood from the central trunk of a tree specially chosen for the purpose. They drag it into the fireplace in the hall, where it is lit with a bit saved from last year's log, and is expected to burn all night.

Sensible people save pieces from the Christmas log through the next year to protect the house from fire.

Food

The most popular Christmas dinner is brawn (roast pork) with mustard or roast beef.

Also popular are mince pies, frumenty, plum porridge, and a Christmas pie of neat's tongue, eggs, sugar, lemon & orange peel, spices.

Good husband and huswife, now chiefly be glad,
Things handsome to have, as they ought to be had.
They both do provide, against Christmas do come,
To welcome their neighbors, good cheer to have some.
Good bread and good drink, a good fire in the hall,
Brawn, pudding, and souse, and good mustard withal.
Beef, mutton, and pork, and good pies of the best,
Pig, veal, goose, and capon, and turkey well drest,
Cheese, apples and nuts, and good carols to hear,
As then in the country is counted good cheer.
What cost to good husband, is any of this?
Good household provision only it is:
Of other the like, I do leave out a many,
That costeth the husband never a penny.
Thomas Tusser, *500 Points of Husbandry*, 1573

Sources:

Hartley: *Lost Country Life*
Hubert: *Christmas in Shakespeare's England*
Hutton: *Seasons of the Sun*
Monson: "Elizabethan Holiday Customs"

More Measures

"It is to be lamented that one general measure is not in use throughout all England, but every market town hath in manner a several bushel. Such is the covetousness of many clerks of the market, that in taking view of measures they will always so provide that one and the same bushel shall either be too big or too little…so that divers unconscionable dealers have one measure to sell by and another to buy withal; the like also in weights."

Trade goods of various kinds traditionally have their own customary measures, although some actual amounts are variable. A dozen is always 12, but barrels come in varying sizes.

A Scottish *ell* is about a yard (16 *nails* of two-and-a-half inches), but an English ell is 45 inches (20 nails).

These	*Are sold by the*
Butter, beer, herring, salmon and other fish, eels Tar, pitch, gunpowder Wines	Barrel
Honey and other thick liquids	Bolle
Sackcloth, sailcloth, and quantities of haircloth	Bolt
Hay, straw, wood, lime, rushes (In smaller quantities, rushes are sold by the creel or the shoulder load)	Cartload
New coal, salt, quicklime, shells.	Chaldron
A 7-pound quantity of wool	Clove
Glass	Cradle
Hurdles, tanned hides, napkins, sheepskins, needles	Diker
Candles (also sold by weight)	Dozen

Linen and small lengths of haircloth	Ell
Soft fruits	Frail
Smaller quantities of goods otherwise sold by the barrel	Firkin

Sources:

Dorothy Hartley, *Lost Country Life*
Lena Cowen Orlin, *Elizabethan Households*, 1995
William Harrison, *A Description of England,* 1587

To Set a Fine Table

We eat from *trenchers* (plates), usually with a spoon or simply fingers, assisted by a knife. A trencher is generally made of treen (wood) or pewter. The old habit of carving a plate from sturdy or twice-baked bread is no longer common.

Forks have not yet become popular in England, except as a tool for holding large pieces of meat while carving. People who put a fork right into their mouths are either too, too fastidious, too Italianate, or terribly brave.

Napkins (not serviettes) are slung over the shoulder or arm, often secured with a pin — never tucked into the neck or laid on the lap.

Table linens are referred to as *napery*, and are the responsibility of the chief usher.

A well-set table is laid with a *carpet*, then a white damask cloth, trenchers, and bread (one loaf for every one or two diners).

In a fine house, a servant or two takes a ewer and basin to each diner so they can rinse their hands before eating. Another follows close behind with a cloth to dry the hands.

When the meal is finished, any *broken meats* that remain are given to the servants or distributed to the poor at the kitchen door.

The Steward and His Office

The management skills required to coordinate a great house and its staff are extraordinary. This list of duties is drawn from the Book of Rules and Orders prepared and enforced by Anthony Maria Brown, Viscount Montague, 1595. According to this rule, only the Clerke of the Kitchen and the Gentleman Usher come close to having this much responsibility.

In matters foreign and without the house

1. Make sure provisions are ordered and acquired. This includes beef, mutton, grain, livery, badges, wood, coals, wild fowl, wines, salt, hops (for brewing), spices, fruits of all sorts.

2. Make sure repairs are carried out as needed in any of his lordship's houses, both inside and outside, including maintenance of fences hedges, marshes, walls, ponds, etc.

3. Distribute wages quarterly to household servants and other manor employees, and provide whatever each one is due in cash or in kind.

4. Deliver money as appropriate to the:

    - Clerke of the Kitchen for purchasing fresh supplies of anything not supplied by the manor

    - Purveyors of beef and mutton

    - Gentleman or Yeoman of the Horse for buying feed, equipment, and other necessaries for the stable.

    - Granator for buying wheat or malt, as needed

5. Collect bills and expense receipts from all these under-officers, review and enter them in his book of accounts (livery book).

6. Ride out into the parks, pastures, marshes, and other grounds to see that they be not abused or disordered, either by his own bailiffs or anyone else.

7. Support the Bailiff of Husbandry in his efforts to carry out his lordship's orders.

8. Arrange to sell the hides, skins, horns, wool, etc of any sheep or oxen slaughtered for the table.

9. Arrange to dispose of the tallow from such sales, keeping part to make candles and rush lights, part for use in the kitchen, and the rest to sell.

10. Get a receipt from anyone to whom money is paid out, all to be filed against the annual audit.

11. Sign off the livery book for all monies received from his lordship to pay household expenses, each entry to be dated with name of the person paid, location, and nature of the expense.

12. Once a month report to his lordship with the livery book for review, and once a year to the Auditor.

In My Lady's Chamber

The *chamber* or *bedchamber* is a very public room in a great house; you receive guests there, play cards or chess, and even dine intimately there with a few close friends. The best bedchamber in the house is the *great chamber*.

If you want some actual privacy, you retire to your *wardrobe* or *closet* — a small, private room off the chamber, used for dressing and other private pursuits such as devotions or letter-writing.

The bed itself is an extravagant affair with embroidered or appliquéd or velvet curtains or *hangings*. Your bed-clothes include linen or *holland* sheets and woolen blankets with a decorative *coverlet*, *coverlid* or *counterpane*, and pillows or bolsters. Pillow cases are called *pillow-beres*.

Countess of Southampton
Note the carpet and
the decorated jewel casket

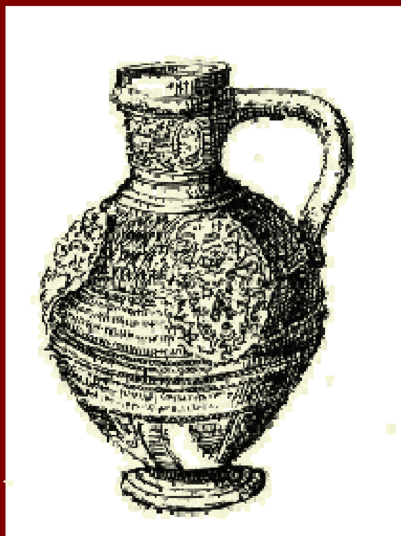
Along with the bed, your chamber is furnished with one or two chairs, some stools, and an assortment of tables and *chests* (wooden storage boxes), all made of good English oak. Your tables may be covered with *Turkey carpets*, if you can afford them. Each stool has its cushion, embroidered by the ladies of the household.

Your valuables - jewels, perfumed gloves, love letters - are kept in various smaller boxes called *coffers* or *caskets*, which might be of metal or wood, often highly decorated. The classic dressing room picture of Elizabeth Vernon, Countess to the 3rd earl of Southampton, shows such a table covering and casket. The other items are jewels and a pin cushion, without which no lady can get dressed.

You probably store your clothing in a press, a wooden cupboard with shelves, sometimes with sliding drawers below. Others simply keep clothes in a chest or hang them on pegs. (No built-in closets with hangers.) You may keep smaller items in chests or coffers.

At the Sideboard: A Jack and a Gill

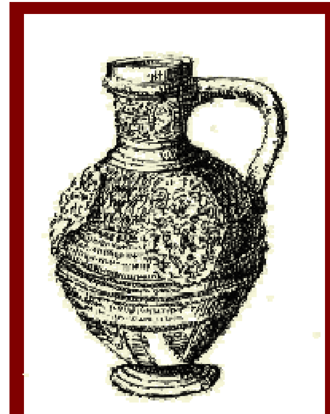
A *jack* is a waxed leather bottle or tankard such as a huntsman, traveler, or soldier might carry. Not to be confused with *jack*, a stout leather jacket worn by moss troopers, border reivers, and other rowdies.



A Pottle

A *gill* (pronounced "jill") is a measure equal to a quarter of a pint (4 ounces), or any cup of this size.

A *pottle* (rhymes with "bottle") is a measure equal to two quarts (half a gallon), or a vessel of this size.



A Pottle

A cup or bowl for soup, broth, and the like is called a *porringer* ("poran-jer"), especially when it has one or two flat handles (parallel to the ground, not perpendicular to the cup). In Northern counties and along the Scottish borders, this is also called a *pottinger* ("pott-in-jer")

> *Come landlord fill the flowing bowl*
> *until it doth run over!*
> *For tonight we'll merry merry be!*
> *Tomorrow we'll be sober!*

A cup for drinking ale or wine is often called a *pot* or a *bowl*. Ask for "a bowl of brown ale" or "a pot of brandywine." (Thus, a drunkard may be called a tosspot.)

A tapering, cylindrical cup without handles is a *beaker*. A beaker with three (sometimes four) evenly-spaced handles is a *tyg* (pronounced "tig").

A *tankard* is a large drinking cup with a handle. It does not have a glass bottom.

Plate is all your pewter, silver, or gold dishes, utensils, and serving pieces collectively. When times are hard, you can always pawn your plate. When you refer to the plates you use while laying the table, say *dish*, *platter* or *trencher*, as appropriate.

Some good words:

- *Leathern* - made of leather, as "a leathern jack"
- *Treen* - made of wood (from "tree"), as "a treen platter"

The Steward in Matters Domestical

continuation of the duties laid down in Lord Montague's Book of Rules and Orders of 1595.

The Steward will at all times:

1. Bear himself like the chief officer of a great house.

2. Maintain a submissive and dutiful attitude towards his lordship and his wife and (to a lesser degree) the children, both as his own duty and to set an example to the rest of the staff. Assist his lordship with sound advice and great deliberation, and keep all his secrets.

3. Hire and manage all domestic officers, servants and attendants and, when appropriate, recommend them for advancement (promotion).

4. Be obeyed by every servant and officer in all things whatsoever, no matter how inconvenient, unless the task is dishonest, illegal or harmful to his lordship or his family.

5. Regularly hold a staff meeting of the officers and domestic servants to encourage and remind them of their duties. Remind them that they want to do well for hope of reward and to contribute to both their own and his lordship's credit (good name).

6. Admonish and correct negligent and disordered persons of any degree (both gentlemen and yeomen), and reform them by his grave and vigilant watch over them.

    1. He has some discretion in punishments, including suspending them from duties.

    2. When he finds them reformed, he can restore them to attendance.

    3. Bring the incorrigible and outrageous to his lordship for his direct consideration.

    4. No servant is ever to appear before his lordship out of livery.

7. Give appropriate notice if he is going to be away from the house for longer than normal, so the master can find a replacement for the interim.

    1. He is not under any circumstances to appoint his own deputy.

    2. This is a replacement in terms of ordering of the household only, not for receipts and payments, because he has to be accountable for those himself.

8. Appoint any of the household to carry messages to neighbors or elsewhere, with these stipulations:

    1. Never send a groom of the great chamber or of the wardrobe without informing the Gentleman Usher, or send anyone by horse without informing the Gentleman of the Horse. This is so someone knows where the animal has gone, and so duties can be covered.

    2. Get permission in advance before sending any of his lordship's own chamber servants.

9. Share out at his discretion any gifts or rewards (vails) given by guests to the house.

10. Take an inventory of all the plate and silver vessels in the house, including the weight and type, and goldsmith's mark on each, and make a copy for the Gentleman Usher and another for his lordship.

The Oath of a Privy Councillor, 1570

Here is the text of the oath given to every Privy Councillor on his appointment to that office. He swears, his hand upon the Bible.

You shall swear to be a true and faithful councillor to the Queen's Majesty as one of her Highness's Privy Council.

You shall not know or understand any manner of thing to be attempted, done, or spoken against her Majesty's person, honour, crown, or dignity royal but you shall let and withstand the same to the utmost of your power, and either do or cause it to be forthwith revealed either to her Majesty's self or to the rest of her Privy Council.

You shall keep secret all matters committed and revealed to you as her Majesty's councillor, or that shall be treated of secretly in council.

And if any of the same treaties or counsels shall touch any of the other councillors, you shall not reveal the same to him, but shall keep the same until such time as by consent of her Majesty, or the rest of the Council, publication shall be made thereof.

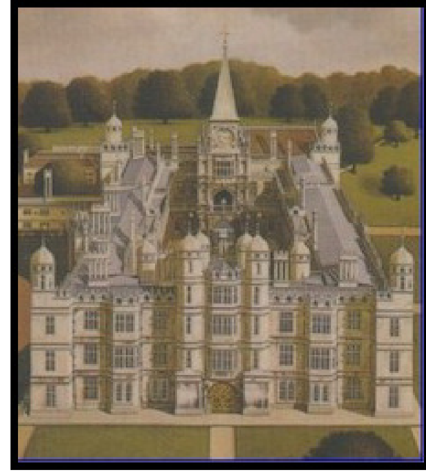
You shall not let to give true, plain, and faithful counsel at all times, without respect either of the cause or of the person, laying apart all favor, meed [reward], affection, and partiality.

And you shall to your uttermost bear faith and true allegiance to the Queen's Majesty, her heirs and lawful successors, and shalll assist and defend all jurisdictions, preeminences, and authorities granted to her Majesty and annexed to her Crown against all foreign princes, persons, prelates, or potentates, whether by act of Parliament or otherwise.

And generally in all things you shall do as a faithful and true councillor ought to do to her Majesty.

So help you God and the holy contents of this book.

The Great House



The ancient manors and houses of our gentlemen are yet and for the most part of strong timber, in framing whereof our carpenters have been and are worthily preferred before those of like science among all other nations. Howbeit such as be lately builded are commonly either of brick or hard stone, or both, their rooms large and comely, and houses of office further distant from their lodgings. Those of the nobility are likewise wrought with brick and hard stone, as provision may best be made, but so magnificent and stately as the basest house of a baron doth often match in our days with some honours of a princes in old time. So that, if ever curious building did flourish in England, it is in these our years wherein our workmen excel and are in manner comparable in skill with old Vitruvius, Leo Baptista, and Serlio. - William Harrison, *The Description of Elizabethan England,* 1577

The familiar half-timbered Tudor house is becoming quaint and old-fashioned. If your family is still occupying a house of this style, it's time to re-design, remodel, or relocate.

Building and remodeling are all the rage—not just palaces and monuments but country houses and even yeoman farmhouses.

If you have an ancient family property, you may be adding a new wing with larger chambers and more windows.

If your family is up-and-coming, you may be busy in the land market, acquiring property on which to establish a notable seat suitable to your current dignity. Or you may be modernizing a monastic property acquired by your father or grandfather in the time of Henry VIII.

Those looking for preferment must be prepared to entertain the Queen when she is on progress—sometimes on a moment's notice. The importance of a commodious Great Chamber, a fashionable dining parlour, and galleries for entertaining and display cannot be underestimated.

At the same time, knowledge of classical treatises on architecture and continental trends based on them is a sign of your education and taste, and a new or expanded house in the latest fashion is a symbol of your rank and power.

The *stone* for all this building may come from your own quarries, if you have them. Abandoned monasteries often provide dressed stone, timber, and paving tiles, as well as tin and lead for the roof.

Bricks and *tiles* are usually baked on site from local clay.

On window glass

Traditionally, many building elements are thought of as moveable: shutters, doors, window frames, chimney pieces, wainscoting, even staircases. As the great house becomes more of a symbol of family permanence and power, these elements come to be seen as fixtures rather than furnishings.

As late as 1567, glass is thought too fragile for constant use. When you're not in residence, you may instruct the staff to remove the glass panes and place them in storage. They will fill in the space with panels of translucent horn or woven *lattices* fixed into wooden frames.

As glass becomes cheaper, and windows more numerous, they come to be seen as a permanent part of the installation.

With the proliferation of glass, the new houses springing up in the countryside have a tendency to glitter. (Happily, no one will think to tax them for another 100 years or so.) The countess of Shrewsbury's great house in Derbyshire indulges the passion for glass to such a degree that people say: *Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall.*

On design

Architecture is a newly revived science, largely promoted in England by Dr. John Dee (1570) and John Shute (1563). It is not a profession but a gentleman's avocation.

If you cannot import an architect from Italy, you probably design your new house yourself, with assistance from a *Master Mason* or *Carpenter*, with a *Surveyor of the Works* to supervise the workmen.

Some things never change: In 1594, Lady Shrewsbury sought legal redress against a workman who had absented himself from work already begun and paid for.

The principal influences:

- Vitruvius, *Ten Books on Architecture* (1st century Roman)
- Leo Baptista Alberti, *On the Art of Building,* 1435
- Serlio, *On Architecture,* 1537
- John Shute, *The First and Chief Grounds of Architecture,* 1563
- Palladio, *The Four Books of Architecture,* 1570

If like Dr Dee you've been reading the Classical authors or the more modern Italians, you understand that the ornamentation of a house should be appropriate to the rank, dignity and style of the people who live in it. Thus, a great lord's house should have more "curious" ornament than a yeoman farmer's house.

Classical ornament includes columns based on modern interpretations of Roman

and Greek models, molded terra cotta medallions, and symmetrical facades.

Don't feel obliged to copy anything too closely, however. Even your neighbors are borrowing only the ornamental elements that please them, rather than whole floor plans.

In fact, your new facade may be totally unrelated to the style of the room plan behind it, which is likely still traditional. If you are merely remodeling, you may choose to tack on a new facade to your present but unfashionably medieval building.

Propriety arises when buildings having magnificent interiors are provided with elegant entrance courts to correspond; for there will be no propriety in the spectacle of an elegant interior approached by a low, mean entrance.
- Vitruvius

Sources:

Nicholas Cooper, *Houses of the Gentry, 1480-1680,* Yale 1999
Malcolm Airs, *The Tudor and Jacobean Country House: A Building History,* Sutton, 1995
Lena Cowen Orlin, *Elizabethan Households,* Folger Shakespeare Library, 1995

Gardens in Season

Francis Bacon held that "in the royal ordering of gardens there ought to be gardens for all months of the year, in which severally things of beauty may then be in season..." He then recommended these flowering plants and trees from those in season in each month.

"These particulars are for the climate of London."

The latter part of November, December, January,

Such things as are green all winter:

Holly, ivy, bays, juniper, cypress trees, yew, pineapple trees, fir trees, rosemary, lavender, periwinkle (white, purple and blue varieties), flags, orange trees, lemon trees, and myrtles (if they be stoved), and sweet marjoram, if warm set.

The latter part of January and February

The mezereon tree (daphne) which then blossoms, crocus (both yellow and grey), primroses, anemones, early tulips, hyacinth, charmaris, fritellaria.

March

Violets (especially the single blue), yellow daffodil, daisy, almond tree in blossom, peach tree in blossom, cornelian tree in blossom, sweetbriar.

April

Violet (the double white), wall-flower, stock gillyflower, cowslip, flower-de-luce (iris), lilies of all kinds, rosemary flowers, tulips, double peony, the pale daffodil, French honeysuckle, cherry tree in blossom, damascene and plum tree in blossom, white thorn in leaf, the lilac tree.

May and June

Pinks of all sorts, especially the blush pink; roses of all kinds, except the musk rose which comes later; honeysuckle, strawberries, bugloss, columbine, the French marigold (*flos africanus,* also called African marigold). Also, cherry tree in fruit, ribes (currants), figs in fruit, raspberries, vine flowers, lavender in flowers, sweet satyrion (white), *herba muscaria, lilium convallium,* apple tree in blossom.

July

All kinds of gillyflowers, musk roses, the lime tree in blossom, early pears and plums in fruit, gentians, quadlins.

August

Plums of all sorts, pears, apricots, barberries, filberts, muskmelons, monks-hoods of all colors.

September

Grapes, apples, poppies of all colors, wardens, quinces.

October and early November

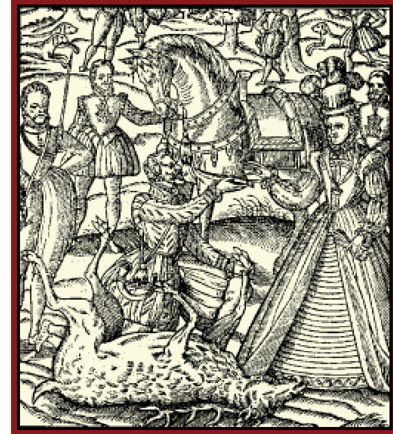
Services, medlars, bullaces, roses that have been cut or removed (pruned) to come late, hollyoaks, and such like.

And because the breath of flowers is far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes like the warbling of music) than in the hand, therefore nothing is more fit for that delight, than to know what be the flowers and plants that do best perfume the air.

- Violets
- Musk rose
- Sweet briar
- Wall-flowers, which are very delightful to be set under a parlor or lower chamber window.
- Pinks (carnations) and gillyflowers, especially the matted pink and clove gillyflower.
- The flowers of the lime-tree.
- Then the honeysuckles, so they be somewhat afar off.

Source: from Francis Bacon, *On Gardens, in Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral* (1597)

The Hunt is Up



Hunting is aristocratic privilege, sport, exercise, social occasion, and a means of putting fresh meat on the table. The Queen is very fond of hunting, as are we all, at whatever early hour and in all weathers.

All men and many women of the upper classes hunt unless prevented by age or infirmity. Very few people are squeamish about hunting, and none but the youngest child is sentimental about the fate of the prey.

The prey

The most dangerous prey is the *wild boar*, which is hunted only by men, on foot, with dogs and spears.

The most common prey is *deer,* hunted on horseback and foot.

Venery (from Latin) refers to "hunting", and *venison* is any game meat, but usually means specifically the meat of the deer. The words for collections of animals, such as a herd of deer or a pride of lions, are the *terms of venery*.

The *red deer* is the great deer of medieval legend, though is now becoming rare even in the remotest regions. The male is a *hart* or *stag*, and the female is a *hind*. A yearling is a *calf*.

The *fallow deer* is the common deer, and is easier to hunt than the red deer. The male is a *buck* and the female is a *doe*.

The *roe deer* is a smaller deer, and is very rare except in old songs.

June is *calving season*. The two weeks either side of midsummer are known as "fence month". To let the deer drop their calves undisturbed, the foresters put up fences at key access points to the forest, and charged a toll to any vehicles passing through.

The chase

A *forest* is not defined as wild, impenetrable woodland, but rather royal property which has been managed by officials called *foresters* for hundreds of years to protect the "vert and venison" - the deer and the plants they rely on for food and cover - for the benefit of the Crown.

In legal terms, even open, unwooded land can be a forest. In the time of King John, all of Essex including towns, villages, and farms was forest.

When the forest is a hunting preserve, it is a *chase*.

"A forest must always have beasts of venery abiding in it, otherwise it is no forest: and if there be no beasts of forest, nor beasts of chase in the same, then may men fell their woods that they have within the forest and destroy their covers" - John Manwood, *Treatise on the Lawe of the Forests* (1598)

A *park* is a gentleman's private deer reserve. Most great estates have their own attached park for the hunting pleasure of the lord and his guests, and to provide fresh meat year-round.

Sources:

Seeing the Forests for the Trees
A. J. Pollard, *Imagining Robin Hood,* 2004
R. Whitlock, *Historic Forests of England,* 1979

Gifts at the New Year

New Year feasting and gift giving goes back to the Romans, who started the year on January 1. Although the legal year starts in March, the midwinter custom is too entrenched to change.

Gifts are given at New Year's, not on Christmas day. Such giving is mentioned in every full set of household accounts available between 1400-1550.

Christmas has not yet been personified, or associated with St Nicholas. No one in England expects to receive gifts from a supernatural agent such as Father Christmas or Santa Claus. However, you might hire a fool for the day, and give him that job.

Courtier's gifts given to the Queen include:

- Gold coins in an embroidered pouch
- Garments (sleeves, foreparts, partlets, suites of ruffs, etc.)
- Sweet bags (scented, usually embroidered pillows, sometimes with a pocket for a coin)
- Jewelled fan
- Looking glass
- Embroidered smock
- Jewelry (for example, the Heneage jewel)

Gifts to the Queen from the royal household are often related to the office: a marzipan chessboard and chessmen from the Master Cook, a pot of green ginger from the doctor, a fancy meat knife from the Cutler, a gilded quince pie from the Sergeant of the Pastry, and so on.

From the Queen, a courtier can generally expect to receive a silver cover cup of a particular weight, delivered by messenger, or picked up on a voucher.

Schoolboys at Eton play games to win prizes, and make presents of verses to their masters and each other.

Among ordinary folk, according to Ben Jonson, gifts may include oranges, a bunch of rosemary, brooches, marzipan, and wine.

Prosperous citizens may send gifts of fowl or rabbits to the mayor, who will provide a feast in return (using the gifts, we presume).

In one account, the earl of Northumberland was awakened on New Year's morning by minstrels, followed by a fanfare of trumpets. He received his gifts, and then gave gifts to his household. He held a feast at noon, processing into the Hall in great state. He then watched a play followed by a bergomask, interspersed with pageants.

Note: The celebration of the day after Christmas as Boxing day is not recorded till 1621.

Sources

Hartley: Lost Country Life
Hutton: Seasons of the Sun
Monson: “Elizabethan Holiday Customs”

Good English Ale

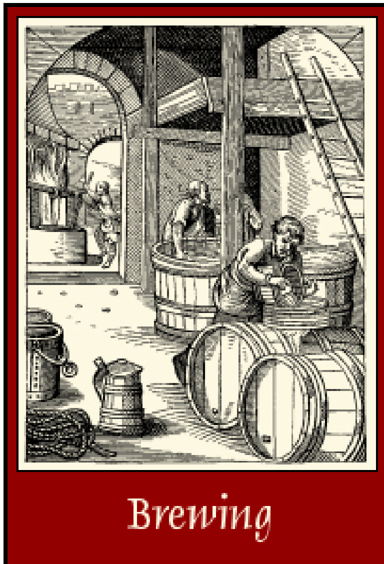
Hops and heresy, bays and beer
All came to England in one year.

—old rhyme

Ale is made from barley, but it can be flavored with just about anything, including pepper, ivy, rosemary, bilberries, and lupines, among many other things. When it's flavored with hops, it becomes *beer.*

Andrew Boorde (c. 1452) tells us that "Ale is made of malt and water, and they the which do put any other thing to ale … except yeast, barm, and God's good doth sophisticate their ale…" He does not mean "sophisticate" as a good thing.

Hops were added to ale in England for the first time in the early 16th century, to keep it from going off.


Brewing

Caxton tells us that "beer was made in England by beer brewers who were Flemings and Dutchmen." By now, we've pretty much stopped whinging that it "tastes foreign" and that it isn't "good English ale".

Neither drink is any more than slightly carbonated so no frothy head to blow off, no bubbles to speak of.

Ale is the sweeter drink, but when it goes off it becomes syrupy and nasty. Hops make it bitter but also make it last longer in the barrel.

At market fairs, the *ale-conner* is an officer appointed by the steward of the Fair (and in larger towns by the *leet court*), to review the wholesomeness of bread, ale, and beer offered for sale, and ensure that it is sold at a fair price.

Beer's natural effects often lead to colorful names. The last two of these surely refer to the aftermath of too much time at the ale house.

- Huffcap
- The mad dog
- Merry-go-down
- Angel's food
- Dragon's milk
- Go-by-the-wall
- Stride wide

Beer drunk too soon is sour. Sour beer that has also suffered from the vagaries of weather, heat, and time is just vile. On Progress one year, the local brew was so awful that the Queen refused to drink it, and sent back to London for her own brewmaster.

In gentlemen's homes, brewing is usually done in March; thus references to *March beer*. The best beer is about a year old, and has had time to mellow.

Most other people are content to make beer once a month on brewing day. This small beer has less alcohol, but the hoppy bitterness is reduced enough to be a pleasant drink.

> *Now bring us in good ale, good ale, and bring us in good ale.*
> *For our blessed Lady's sake, bring us in good ale.*
> —15th century carol

Brewing is traditionally women's work. In a great house, the stillroom maid and sometimes the lady of the house take responsibility for providing beer for the household.

A housewife brews once a month for her own household's use. Her costs (in the 1570s) come to about 20 shillings for 3 hogsheads yield. If she does this for a living, as many widows do, she is an alewife.

The fermenting liquor is stirred with a besom (bundled broom). When it is hung out to dry over a door or window, it shows the neighborhood that the new batch is ready. The "bush" in pub names like "The Bull and Bush" refers to this broom.

Other uses: Hops give a good yellow dye, and the young tops can be cooked with butter and eaten.

Sources

Chappell: *The Ballad Literature and Popular Music of the Olden Time*
Harrison: *Description of England 1577*
Hartley: *Lost Country Life*
Beer & Real Ale: A Brief History at http://www.pubs.com
Workshop: Angela Grimes

The Marriage Ring

The modern engagement wedding set is unknown, although diamonds are popular. Mary Queen of Scots sent a diamond ring to Thomas duke of Norfolk as a symbol of her willingness to marry him. And Queen Elizabeth gave the duc d'Alencon a diamond ring with a pledge of her hand in marriage.

The ring goes on the third finger of the left hand (ring finger) as it does today. The common belief was that women have a vein in that finger that leads directly to the heart. Even people who know that can't be true believe it at weddings.

Margaret Audley, the duchess of Norfolk, is shown with a simple, if rather large, diamond on the third finger of her left hand.

In 1567, Elizabeth Polsted's wedding ring cost 4 shillings, which included 9d for extra gold.

Many marriage rings have mottoes inscribed on the inside or outside of the band, usually in French or Latin. These are usually brief:

> Love True
> Forever
> With everlasting Love

Or they may be longer:

> I am yours, love me truly.
> After consent, ever content.
> Love me and leave me not.

Some may be in Latin, for the loftier minded:

> *Maneat inviolata fides* (Let your faith be inviolate)
> *Conjugii firmi et casti sum pignus amoris* (I am the pledge of loyal marriage and chaste love.)

There are a few variations, including the interlocking *gimmel* or *joint ring*, rather like a puzzle ring. The gimmel consists of from 3 to 8 interlocking bands.

Some versions open to reveal a heart. Some have a motto on each band creating a little poem or *poesy*. These are also called *poesy rings*. For example:

> Love is fix'd, I will not range
> I like my choice, I will not change
> Wit, health, and beauty all do dwell
> But constant Love doth far excel

or

> The eye do find
> The heart doth choose
> And love doth bind
> Till death doth loose

And so on…

Among the poor, many wives may go their whole lives without a ring, due to the cost. (In a country village, everyone knows who is married.) In some families, the ring may be one that has been preserved and passed down.

However, wearing the espousal or marriage ring isn't either universal or sentimental. Many portraits show no ring at all, on men or women.

Although Vives and others praise the wedding ring as a symbol of the bonds of marriage, no one ever offers to explain why men don't wear them. Puritans disapprove of them as intolerable Romish superstition.

Scottish protestants don't use a ring in their ceremonies, and English Puritans resist it furiously.

Widows put away their marriage rings since they are no longer considered to be married.

Sources

Cressy: *Birth, Marriage, & Death*
Pearson: *Elizabethans at Home*
Kuntz: *Rings for the Finger*

More Christmas Revels

In many homes, they play *flapdragon* or *snapdragon.* You take turns picking raisins out of a dish of flaming brandy and popping them into your mouth. Try not to get burnt! Wager on each person's chances of success.

On Christmas Eve, girls play fortune-telling games, especially hoping to divine who they will marry.

Ordinary rural people enjoy feasting, dancing, card playing, carol singing, storytelling, party games like *hot cockles* and *shoeing the mare* and attempting to bit an apple with a candle stuck in it hung on a string from the end of a stick.

Caroling

Christmas *carols* are mainly associated with Christmas Eve and morning, often performed by the town waits (musicians hired by the town).

Originally a carol was a song to accompany a ring dance for men and women, holding hands. The word acquired its current meaning sometime in the 15th century. They are never sung (or danced) in church.

Most carols are about the nativity, but may also be generally devotional. Others can even be satiric, amorous, or funny!

Musicians and carollers visit the principal houses in the parish, in ascending order of importance. Householders are expected to reward them with a penny, cider, cakes, and so on.

Caroling is intimately associated with wassailing, which is mainly performed by young men.

Wassailing

Wassailing involves blessing the land, especially apple groves, and livestock with cider. In Kent, groups of young men make a round of the orchards, performing the rite for a reward.

In the towns, groups of girls and boys go round the neighborhood with a be-ribboned but empty drinking cup or bowl begging for the master of each house to fill it with spiced ale to drink his health, or with cakes, or cheese, or a silver penny. It's bad luck for the host to decline.

Wassailing outings are also a holiday diversion among the gentry. Great county families often have wassail cups of considerable value, which they preserve and pass down as an heirloom. However, the custom has not been followed at Court since old King Henry’s time.

When someone greets you with a cheery "Wassail!" you should reply "Drink hail!"

Lord of Misrule

All "persons of worship" including Lieutenants and Sheriffs of counties, and even bishops, appoint a Lord of Misrule to manage the merriment of the Twelve Days.

At the inns of court and at the universities, Misrule is usually elected on St Thomas's Day, so there is plenty of time to plan. He then chooses officers for his Court of Misrule such as Marshal, Master of the Game, Constable, and Chief Butler. For Christmas 1561, the Lord of Misrule at the Inner Temple was Lord Robert Dudley.

On each of the twelve days of Christmas, his rule runs from evening until breakfast the next day. His duties consist consisting mainly of presiding over the feasting, games, and dancing.

At supper, the courtiers of Misrule are cried in to the hall with silly names like Sir Francis Flatterer, Sir Randall Rakabite of Rascall Hall in the County of Rakehell, Sir Morgan Mumchance, or Sir Bartholomew Balbreech of Buttocksbury. All very Blackadder.

Twelfth Day and Night

The day begins, like Christmas, with a dramatic religious service featuring the coming of the Three Kings. It had become traditional for the king to make offerings at Mass of gold, frankincense, & myrrh to symbolize his connection with those kings and with Christ. This custom survived the Reformation.

The festivities are the most sumptuous of the year, filled with royal balls and parties.

For Twelfth Day and Night among less exalted folk, a bean is baked into a cake and pieces distributed among the children and servants.

Whoever finds the bean is pronounced King of the Bean, and reigns for the rest of the day and night. If a pea is used as well, whoever finds it becomes (or chooses) the Queen of the Pea.

Sources

Hutton: *Stations of the Sun*
Hubert: *Christmas in Shakespeare's England*
Machyn: *Diary*
Strong & Oman: *The English Year*

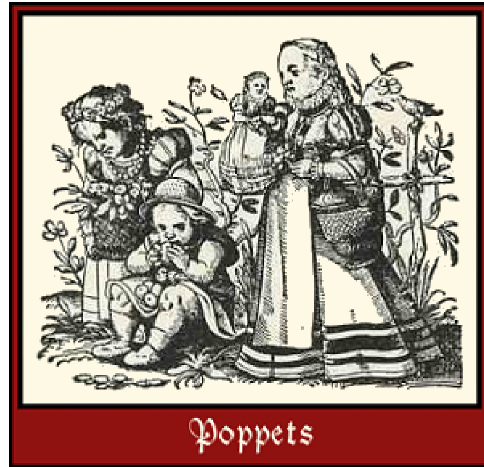
A London & Westminster Directory

Not every nobleman needs or wants to keep a house in London. In the 1570s and '80s, these are some of those who do. The first part of the entry is the name of the house, the second part is the street or district in London.

Arundel	Henry Fitzalan, earl of Arundel	Arundel House, the Strand
Bacon	Sir Nicholas Bacon	York House, the Strand
Burghley	William Cecil, lord Burghley	Burghley House, the Strand
Derby	Henry Stanley, earl of Derby	Derby House, Canon Row
Effingham	Charles Howard, lord Howard of Effingham	Kings Street, Westminster
Hatton	Sir Christopher Hatton	Ely Place, Holborn
Hertford	Edward Seymour, earl of Hertford	Hertford House, Canon row
Hunsdon	Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon	King's Place, Hackney (technically out-of-town, Hackney is north of the city)
Leicester	Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester	Leicester House, the Strand
Lincoln	Henry Clinton, earl of Lincoln	Lincoln House, Canon row
Lumley	John Lumley, lord Lumley	Crutched Friars, Tower Hill
Oxford	Edward deVere, earl of Oxford	Oxford Court, London Stone; Fishers Folly, Bishopsgate
Pembroke	Henry Herbert, earl of Pembroke	Baynard's Castle, Blackfriars

Ralegh	Sir Walter Ralegh	Durham House, the Strand
Southampton	Henry Wriothesley, earl of Southampton	Drury Place, the Barbican
Southampton	Mary, dowager countess of Southampton	Southampton House, Chancery Lane
Sussex	Thomas Radcliffe, earl of Sussex	Sussex House, Canon Row
Willoughby	Peregrine Bertie, lord Willoughby d'Eresby	Willoughby House, the Barbican

More Language: Some random vocabulary


Poppets

When you talk about having a tooth pulled at the dentist's, say you have had it *drawn* by the *barber or barber surgeon*.

When we refer to *corn*, we are referring, mainly, to barley. If not barley, then it is whatever the major grain crop in the region is (rye is common). It is never corn-on-the-cob or maize.

Englishmen speak of living *in* a particular street instead of *on* it. Shakespeare lived for a time in a house in Silver Street, or one knows a tailor with a shop in the High Street.

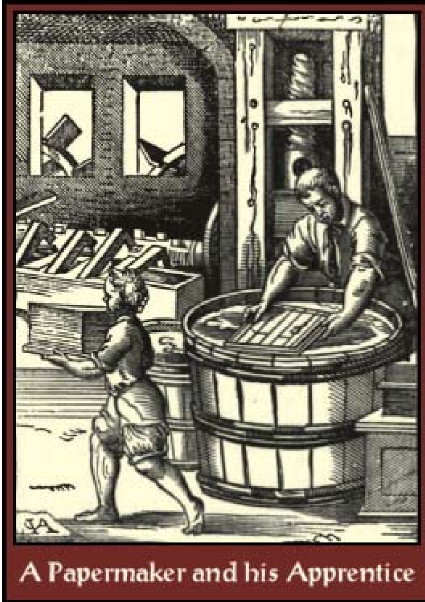
Where American towns have a Main Street, the main drag in an English town of any size is usually called the High Street. There are also regional variations, such as Fore Street or Silver Street.

A *village* is likely to be built around a *village green* and may not have a street running into or through it at all.

If traffic actually does run nearby, you might say that children were playing in the *lane* or the *road*.

You can call a doll a *poppet*. You can call a child a poppet too. *Sweeting* is a pet name both for lovers and for children.

Apprentices


A Papermaker and his Apprentice

As ever, youth are running wild in the streets. Just ask anyone

There is a general belief that the world is going to hell in a hand basket and tumbling towards the Last Judgment, as confirmed by the disrespect of children and young people for their parents and their masters.

This is of course due to too much cherishing, coddling, and permissiveness breeding "great incurable vices."

Ascham was disturbed by young people's light-minded pursuit of fashion and frivolous use of slang. If he'd had a lawn, he'd have told you to get off of it.

The solution is to round them all up and put them to work. Masters are responsible for the moral upbringing of their apprentices, as well as the skills they need to earn a living. Morals include duties to both God and society.

Nowell's Catechism (which all are meant to learn by heart) defines "parents" as anyone to whom any authority has been given by God—the source of all authority. Masters are empowered to apply "fatherly corrections" as necessary.

Statute of Artificers, 1563

The Statute of Artificers governs all trades and crafts. In the usual repetitive language of the law, it summarizes the acts and statutes relating to work and wages, vagrancy, apprenticeships, and price setting. [Google books, scroll down]

It also governs retaining, departing, wages and obligations of apprentices, servants, and laborers: "to banish idleness, advance husbandry, and yield unto the hired person a convenient proportion of wages."

No one may take up a trade or craft practised in England without serving at least seven years' apprenticeship.

Employment is to be for no less than a year at a time in any of the sciences, crafts, mysteries or arts of clothiers, woolen cloth weavers, tuckers, fullers, cloth workers, sheermen, dyers, hosiers, tailors, shoemakers, tanners, pewterers, bakers, brewers, glovers, cutlers, smiths, farriers, curriers, sadlers, spurriers, turners, sappers, hatmakers, feltmakers, bowyers, fletchers, arrowhead makers, butchers, cooks, or millers.

Having retained a servant or employee for a year's term, you can't let them go at the end of that term without a quarter's notice. Unless you can prove (with 2 witnesses) reasonable and sufficient cause. Fine: 40s.

If an employee is under 30 or unmarried, (unless they come into an inheritance of at least 40s or property worth at least £10) they can't leave that employ during the 1-year term without good and just cause and the approval of two Justices of the Peace or the town mayor.

There's no point in leaving a bad master unless you have another position to go to. A masterless man is a considered a vagrant. You can be imprisoned for up to 21 days unless you can get someone to vouch for your reasons. And after that you'll be whipped out of the town as a vagabond.

Indenture

We may apply the term "infancy" to any child up to age 15.

Adolescence is perceived to last until age 25, a period in which young men especially are troubled by both Cupid and Venus. [Google books, scroll down]

Apprenticeship prepares an English youth for a life in a trade, whether farm laborer or merchant. Its nearest analog in the modern world is a compulsory formal education. Just about every type of job has a more or less formal apprenticeship, even if they are not part of a guild.

Indenture provides moral instruction and control of young people as well as an education and a career.

Apprenticeship generally begins in the late teens and runs for 7 years. On the farms it can start as early as age 10, but the Statute requires they be kept until they are at least 21.

An apprentice cannot marry and can't start a household. This is one reason why the average age of first marriage is so high (25) for men.

A young person aged 12-20 may not refuse to become an apprentice if a householder of sufficient means demands it, unless they are already apprenticed elsewhere.

In cities and incorporated towns, the parents must be worth £3 a year or more, or be a 40 shilling freeholder. This is meant to keep agricultural laborers from streaming toward the cities, and to curb social climbing.

Masters can be fined £10 for taking an illegal apprentice.

Apprenticeships let gentlemen give their younger sons a useful skill so they can support themselves instead of living off what might not be a great estate.

You may be able to get out of an apprenticeship if the terms of the contract are not met; that is, if you do not receve training in the skill or craft you signed up for. A master may, and probably does, treat his apprentices as servants but he is also obliged to teach them their trade.

An apprentice goes to live with his master's family and is raised by him during this difficult term of his adolescency.

Girls are eligible for apprenticeships in some trades but not all. Generally this is fine work for which smaller hands are well suited: buttonmakers, lacemakers, and tailors, among others. The record also shows some girls apprenticing to bakers and stationers

Literacy

Literacy takes a big jump in the 1560s, driven by increases in trade and the Bible printed in English.

Illiterate master craftsmen make sure their sons are taught to read, write, and cypher as necessary business skills.

By the 1580s, most London craftsmen and tradesmen can both read and write—which are separate skills. Those in outdoor trades (thatchers, bricklayers, fishermen...) presumably have less need of writing but may well be able to read.

Sources

Jones, *Birth of the Elizabethan Age*

Aughterson, *English Renaissance*

Ladies of Honour

This is not a complete or comprehensive list, because it can't be.. The record appears to be full of holes, and there are no extant lists showing who was a Maid of Honour, Lady of the Bedchamber, or whathaveyou at any time during the reign. The best we can do is poke through inventories, wardrobe books, New Year's gift lists, side references, and anecdotes to identify these ladies by the stories in which they appear.

It is uncertain even how many Maids of Honour there were at any one time, although 6 appears to be the most common. The number of ladies altogether seems to have been between 12 and 24 at various times, including Ladies and Gentlewomen of the Privy Chamber, Bed Chamber, and ordinary chamberers. The Maids apparently were there to be decorative and run errands, carry messages, and entertain with singing and dancing. Other more senior ladies had more particular duties, such as keeper of the jewel box or mistress of the robes. Blanche Parry seems to have served as librarian.

All dates are approximate. The date I have is probably a reference to a particular occasion or event. It doesn't mean that was the only year the lady was in royal service. Some Maids returned after marriage on and off for years as ladies of the Bed or Privy Chamber. Also, some families are better represented than others, notably the Howards, Careys, and Russells. Where possible I've noted the family connection, even if I'm not sure of the relationship, just for family recognition.

Forms of address: Among maids of honour, the title "Lady" is used only when it belongs to the girl by virtue of her birth. An unmarried lady of honour was not addressed as "Lady" at any time during the reign unless she was an Earl's, Marquis's, or Duke's daughter. All others were addressed as Mistress. A title came with marriage, never with royal office.

Ladies who share a name, I have sorted out and marked with a number. Ladies who had several positions over time are marked with a letter. "Connections" refers to family connections, even if it's not certain what that relationship was.

Name	Position	Approx. years of service	Notes /Connections
Anne Knollys	MoH		earl of Essex
Elizabeth Howard	MoH		duke of Norfolk
Frances Johnson	MoH		
Frances Vaughn	MoH		
Philadelphia Carey	MoH		later Lady Scrope. The Carey girls are all sisters, Hunsdon's dtrs, granddtrs of Mary Boleyn
Mary Howard	MoH	early reign	Effingham's dtr; Douglas's sister
Mary Mackwilliam	Privy chamber		nee Hill
Anne Carey	Privy Chamber	throughout	nee Morgan. Lady Hunsdon
Blanche Parry	Privy Chamber	pre1558-90	Chief Lady of the Privy Chamber, Keeper of the Jewel Box, also librarian
Katherine Ashley	Bed Chamber	pre1558 - 65	First lady of the bed chamber
Mary Sidney	Privy Chamber	1558-62	Sir Henry Sidney's wife, Philip Sidney's mother, Leicester's sister
Katherine Carey (a)	MoH	1558	The Carey girls are all sisters, Hunsdon's dtrs, granddtrs of Mary Boleyn
Elizabeth Hardwick	Bed chamber	1558, 1565-68	"Bess of Hardwick" served between marriages 2&3 and 3&4
Dorothy Stafford	Privy Chamber Mistress of the Robes	1558-1603 1562-1603	Lady Stafford (but not baroness Stafford)
Lady Catherine Grey	MoH	1559-61	Suffolk's dtr, later countess of Hertford
Lettice Knollys	MoH	before 1561	later Countess of Essex

Name	Position	Approx. years of service	Notes /Connections
Mary Ratcliffe	MoH	1561-1603	Never married. Granddaughter to the 1st earl of Sussex.
Dorothy Broadbelt (a)	Privy Chamber	1562-68	Served with Kat Ashley.
Kathryn Dudley	Privy Chamber	from 1563/64	Countess of Huntingdon
Katherine Carey (b)	Privy Chamber	1560s	The Carey girls are all sisters, Hunsdon's dtrs, granddtrs of Mary Boleyn
Catherine Knyvett (a)	MoH	1562-63	
Catherine Knyvett (b)	Bed Chamber	after 1564	as Lady Paget
Helena von Snakenberg	MoH	from about 1564	Came to England with Princess Cecilia and stayed as QE's maid of honour; later Marchioness of Northampton
Lady Anne Russell (1)	MoH	before 1565	Bedford's dtr, later Countess of Warwick
Lady Mary Grey	MoH	before 1565	Suffolk's dtr, married the serjeant porter
Anne Windsor	MoH	1565	Lord Windsor
Dorothy Brooke (a)	MoH	1565	.
Katherine Brydges	MoH	1565	Lord Chandos
Mary Howard	MoH	1565	
Margaret Stanley	Privy Chamber	1568-70	Countess of Derby, nee Clifford
Elizabeth Marbery	Bed Chamber	1570	
Douglas Howard	MoH	early 70s?	Effingham's dtr; later Lady Sheffield
Anne Cecil	MoH	1570-71	Burghley's dtr, later Countess of Oxford
Lady Frances Howard (1a)	MoH	1570-82	Effingham's dtr

Name	Position	Approx. years of service	Notes /Connections
Lady Elizabeth Hastings	MoH	before 1571	Huntingdon's sister. later countess of Worcester
Elizabeth Stafford	Chamberer	1572	later, Lady Drury ?
Anne West	MoH	1572	
Eleanor Brydges	MoH	1572	Chandos
Elizabeth Garrett	MoH	1572	
Elizabeth Knollys	MoH	1572	
Isabel Holcroft	MoH	1572	
Katherine Howard	MoH	1572	
Lady Susan Bowser	MoH	1572	
Mary Shelton (a)	MoH	1572	
Lady Elizabeth Clinton	Privy Chamber	1572-86 (?)	As Baroness Clinton. After 1572, as Countess of Lincoln
Lady Mary Vere	MoH	1575	Oxford's sister, later Lady Willoughby D'Eresby
Frances Vaughn	MoH	1578	.
Elizabeth Wyngfield	Mother of Maids	~1577-98	Responsible for wrangling the maids of honour
Lady Elizabeth Howard	MoH	early 1580s	Earl of Nottingham's dtr
Lady Mary Hastings	MoH	early 1580s	Huntingdon's sister.
Margaret Carey	MoH	Before 1582	later Lady Edw. Hoby. The Carey girls are all sisters, Hunsdon's dtrs, granddtrs of Mary Boleyn
Elizabeth Throckmorton	MoH	1584-91	later Lady Walter Raleigh
Lady Carew	Bed Chamber	1586-89	
Jane Brussels	Chamberer	1586-89	
Katherine Newton	Chamberer	1586-89	
Dorothy Brooke (b)	Bed Chamber	1586-89	as Lady Cobham

Name	Position	Approx. years of service	Notes /Connections
Mary Shelton (b)	Privy Chamber	1586-89	as Mary Scudamore
Dorothy Broadbelt (b)	Privy Chamber	1586-89	After marriage?
Dorothy Edmunds	Privy Chamber	1586-89	
Lady Hartford	Privy Chamber	1586-89	
Lady Howard	Privy Chamber	1586-89	
Lady Layton (Leighton?)	Privy Chamber	1586-89	Possibly Lettice Knollys's sister.
Anne Vavasour	MoH	1580-81	
Frances Vavasour	MoH	1590-91	Anne's sister
Anne Hopton	MoH	1588-89	later Lady Wentworth
Penelope Devereaux	Privy Chamber	by 1589	Lady Rich, sister to the 2nd earl of Essex
Elizabeth Vernon	MoH	1597-98	Essex's cousin, later c. of Southampton
Frances Brydges	MoH	1590s	Lord Chandos' dtr.
Mary Fitton	MoH	1590s	.
Brigit Manners	MoH	early 1590s	Earl of Rutland
Elizabeth Egerton	Privy Chamber	1590s	Lady Egerton "my sweet apple"
Mary Howard	MoH	1591-97	Lord Effingham's dtr
Elizabeth Brydges	MoH	1594	Lord Chandos
Lady Elizabeth Russell	MoH	1594	Bedford's dtr
Lady Anne Russell (2)	MoH	1594-1600	Bedford's dtr, later Countess of Worcester
Lady Elizabeth Somerset	MoH	1596	Earl of Worcester's dtr
Lady Katherine Somerset	MoH	1596	
Lady Mary Howard	MoH	1596	

Name	Position	Approx. years of service	Notes /Connections
Lady Elizabeth Clinton	Privy Chamber	1596	2nd earl of Lincoln's dtr. Lady Gorges
Lady Frances Howard (2)	Privy Chamber	1597-1600	Nottingham's dtr, Douglas's sister, later Lady Cobham
Lucy Hyde	Mother of Maids	1598-1603	
Lettice Garrett	MoH	1599	No other info but "Garrett" is an Irish variant of "Gerald".
Lord Burgh's daughter	MoH	1599	No other info
Mistress Ouslow	MoH	1599	Possibly Hounslow
Mistress Southwell	MoH	1599	Later Lady Elizabeth Southwell
Lady Elizabeth Talbot	MoH	1600	Shrewsbury's dtr, Mary Talbot's sister
Lady Mary Talbot	Privy Chamber	1600	Shrewsbury's dtr
Lady Frances Howard (1b)	Privy Chamber	off & on till 1603	Effingham's dtr. as c. of Hertford, then c. of Kildare (12th earl)

Sources:

Arnold, *Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd*,

Emerson, *Wives and Daughters: Women of 16th Century England.* Refer to this book (or the online update) for other dates and stories.

Somerset, *Ladies in Waiting*

Peerage.com

Biographical Dictionary of English Literature

Dictionary of National Biography

Treaty of Edinburgh 1560

William Cecil and Nicholas Wotton to Queen Elizabeth, from Edinburgh, 8 July 1560.

(Text taken from Haynes: *State Papers.* Side heads added for easy reference)

It may please your Majesty, yesterday the peace was here proclaimed … It seemeth surely very welcome to all parts. This day the artillery on both sides is in withdrawing … to be embarked … As yet we cannot certainly understand the state of the town [of Leith], otherwise than thus:

The number [of the French] appear to be many, and those which be seen are, for all their scarcity of victual, very well liking, all very well armed. The French demanded yesterday shipping for four thousand persons, and we think they be not under three thousand soldiers, which in all men's judgment had been able to have encountered a great number, and if they had stood to it should have been the occasion of the shedding of a great deal of blood, which is now well saved.

As for the substance of our accord, your Majesty shall please to understand that it consisteth in these points:

Reduction of troop numbers

First, A reconciliation made, and the Treaty of Casteau in Cambresey [Cateau-Cambrésis] reduced to his former strength.

Next, all the men of war to be removed, saving sixty in the Isle here, which indeed serveth to no purpose and so the French do see and confess, and sixty in Dunbar, whose new fortification shall be also, before your army depart out of Scotland, demolished. This town of Leith shall also be fully demolished.

Stop shipping war materials

Item, All hostile preparation shall cease on both parts, and no ship shall be transported with men of war or any warlike apparel out of France, or any other place by consent of the French, into England, Scotland or Ireland; nor any from England or Ireland into France.

Demolition of Aymouth

Item, Aymouth shall be also better demolished before your Majesty's army come to Berwick.

Recognition of Eliz's right to her crown

Next to this, your Majesty's undoubted right to the crown of England and Ireland is fully confessed and acknowledged, with a certain declaration that no person may use the style or arms thereof but your Majesty only.

And thereupon followeth the part for the redress and reformation of all things any wise done to the contrary, both in

France and Scotland

Calais and reparations

And where we persisted in demand of Calais and five hundred thousand crowns for a recompense, the same, as touching the recompense, is referred to a new treaty to be had betwixt us at London.

And if it be not ended by us within three months, then it is referred to King Philip for a twelvemonth; and if he end it not, your right and demand for the recompense is reserved to your Majesty.

French-Spanish treaty

Next this followeth the covenant to your Majesty for observing of the treaty now accorded betwixt the French and the Scots: which article was as hardly obtained as any, and next to it, the recognition of your Majesty's right to the crown.

And so on

After this doth follow ordinary articles for observation and confirmation of this treaty.

And, this is the sum of our treaty, which, with the accord of Scotland, hath spent us sixteen days, that is from the 16th of June to the third of July; and of that time three parts hath been spent in according of the matters of Scotland.

As to the accords of Scotland, these be the principal heads thereof:

French presence in Scotland

Imprimis, The French shall not send any French soldier or of any other nation into Scotland, except this realm shall be invaded by an army of a strange country; and yet in that case the French shall send none but by the advice of the three Estates.

Orderly withdrawal of troops

Item, All soldiers shall depart hence, saving a hundred and twenty, whereof sixty shall be in the Isle and sixty in Dunbar; which numbers shall be mustered and paid by the Lords of Scotland; and those soldiers shall be justifiable by the laws of Scotland, whereunto the French men of war here were never at any time subject.

They shall take no victual but for ready money.

They shall not receive any succour out of France of victuals or munition for the said hundred and twenty men but from six months to six months; with divers other articles to bridle them in sort as hereby is no doubt to be feared by them.

And, saving that the French King's honour is somewhat relieved hereby, we see by likelihood that these will be diminished, and the charge thereof will be abridged, and the Isle abandoned, and Dunbar committed to some lord of this land.

No new fortifications

Item, The French shall not fortify any thing in this land but by advice of the three Estates.

Debts due to citizens

Item, The whole debts due to the subjects here for victuals taken these two years by d'Oysell and others to the use of the French shall be paid.

Term of parliament

Item, The parliament shall begin the 10th of this month and shall be prorogued till the 20th, because the land cannot be well cleared of all men of war before that time.

Consent of the Estates

Item, The King or Queen shall never make war nor peace here without the consent of the three Estates.

Governing Scotland

Item, For governance of the policy of this realm the three Estates shall choose twenty-four, of the which the Queen shall choose seven and the Estates five to make a Council of twelve; without the greater [part] of which number nothing shall be done for the policy.

And if the Estates shall find it needful to make the number fourteen, then the Queen shall choose eight, and the Estates six.

The charges of this Council shall be maintained by the revenue of this crown.

Officers of the realm to be civilians

Item, For the ordinary offices of the realm either for justice, civil or criminal, or chancellor, treasurer, comptroller and such like, [they] shall be furnished only with subjects of the land; neither shall the office of treasurer or comptroller, being now void, be disposed upon any ecclesiastical person. Such is the hap of this clergy to be trusted.

Law of oblivion

Item, All things done here against the laws shall be discharged, and a law of oblivion shall be established in this Parliament, excepting only such as the Estates here shall judge unworthy of this privilege.

No private armies

Item, The three Estates shall order that whosoever levyeth any force contrary to the order of the country or without the consent of the Council of the land, the same shall be pursued as a rebel, so as the King and Queen shall not need to send any strange force to subdue the same.

Reconciliation

Item, There shall be a general reconciliation of amity amongst all the states of the land, without reproof of any one to be given to the other.

To take no vengeance

Item, The King and Queen shall never pursue nor make any avenge for any thing now past; neither shall they depose any person from any office or estate for any thing done since the 6th of March 1558[/9]; with many comfortable words on the King's and Queen's behalf to the subjects; and a provision that the lords and subjects shall render their obedience as natural subjects of this crown ought to do.

Keep the peace

Item, A covenant on the Lords' parts to keep the realm in tranquillity.

Clergy deprved of livings

Item, All the complaints of the deprived clergy shall be heard in this next Parliament, and reformation shall be made by the three Estates, which we think will be light enough.

In the meantime the ecclesiastical persons shall not be impeached to enjoy their goods.

French pensions

In the end, a grant of restitution to the Duke of Chastellerault and his son and all others of this land of all their estates and pensions in France: with which article we find more part of the Lords here offended, insomuch as they do amongst themselves devise how to accord that no Scottish man shall take pension of France.

And the Earl of Glencairn, the Lord James [Moray], and Mr. Maxwell, who hath pension, is as earnest herein as any other, such hurt they fear may come by that means.

Thus have we briefly repeated the substance of … this peace, which, being … well pondered and conferred with this time, shall be no small augmentation to your Majesty's honour in this beginning of your reign and as yet in your maidenhood, and finally shall procure that conquest of this land that none of your progenitors with all their battles ever obtained: that is, in a manner, the whole hearts and good wills of the nobility and people of this land; which surely is better for England as we guess, than the revenue of this crown.

And so we beseech God to preserve your Majesty to reign long in peace.

From Edinburgh, the 8th of July.

Your Majesty's most humble and obedient subjects and servants,

W. Cecil N. Wotton.

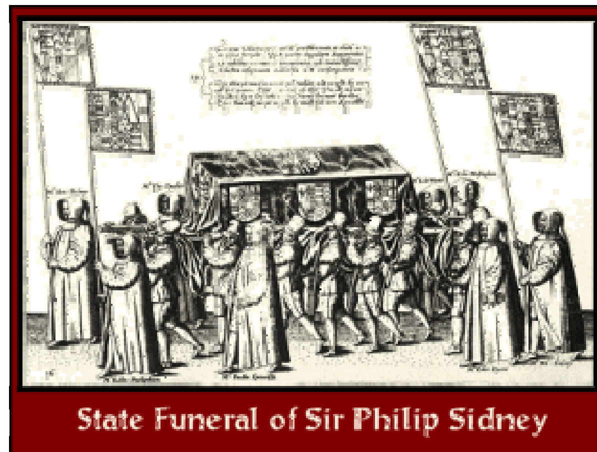
Funerals and Mourning

Parish registers show that about 8% to 16% of the population was over 60 at time of death.

The infant and early childhood death rate contributes more to low average life expectancy than death at old age. Barring plague, war, accident, crime, and childbed, if you live to be 12, you can live to be 70.

People do not get old earlier, even though the average life expectancy is lower than today. Men only start describing themselves as "old" at about 50.

Death is, however, inevitable, and like marriage, it is a community affair.



State Funeral of Sir Philip Sidney

Tokens of mourning

Black is the color for mourning. Depending on the wealth and status of the family, black cloth for gowns may be provided to invited mourners. For the funeral procession, some people even go so far as to blacken the soles of the shoes.

The family may provide black pins, ribbons, stockings, even black ruff, hoods, and gloves.

Black armbands do not appear to be an Elizabethan custom. Instead, sprigs of rosemary may be worn in a hatband or pinned to a sleeve as a way of identifying those in mourning.

Mourning gear helps to distinguish the actual mourners from mere on-lookers.

Wills often specify certain people to have *mourning rings* made for them. These are always purpose-made, usually *memento mori:* a remembrance of death, in the form of skulls, coffins, skeletons and crosses.

The most elaborate funeral processions feature servants carrying banners and escutcheons (coats of arms). Church bells are rung while the mourners walk with the coffin to the churchyard.

Attendants are dressed in black gowns and carrying black staves.

The range kinship for mourning purposes extends beyond the immediate family to include servants and other dependants, whether or not they are related by blood.

The body is washed, usually by the midwife or other sober women, and wrapped in a winding sheet before being placed in the coffin.

The corpses of maidens are always decked with flowers.

Suicides cannot be buried in the churchyard or any hallowed ground. It is believed that sailors buried at sea are more likely to become ghosts, as their burial ground is unhallowed.

Graveside

Both the grave and the coffin itself are draped in black. Aubrey reports the custom of putting a penny in the corpse's mouth to give to St Peter at the pearly gates. Christians don't believe in a ferryman.

A cross of folded linen strips would be draped over the coffin. In fact, crosses may be used all over the place in remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection.

Candles are also commonly used to light the soul's way.

There is no evidence of cut flower arrangements or sprays. The only flowers mentioned are those cast into a child's or maiden's grave. For men and married women, herbs such as rue and rosemary are more common.

Feasting

Money is often distributed to the poor and a feast held afterward, to which the whole village or neighborhood is invited.

For more modest families, the feasting may be limited to cakes baked in funereal shapes and ale, claret, and brandy.

Memorials

For ordinary parishioners, there are no headstones or markers in the church graveyard. If you can afford to be buried inside the church, they ordinarily lift a flagstone or two from the floor and dig the grave there, then re-lay the stone. The stone may be cut with suitable biography and mottoes in Latin or English, or it may be left blank.

When the churchyard becomes so crowded that digging a new grave means turning up old ones, the bones are collected and stored in a charnel house—usually a building behind the church.

The wealthy may prefer to be interred in a monument in a private chapel or memorial vault, usually in or near their own manor church.

Widowhood

Queen Dowager of France

Between 25% and 30% of widows remarry, generally in the first year of their widowhood. For widowers, especially those with young children, the percentage is even higher.

The widow's third and any other inheritance is her property for life, and returns to the estate at her death, unless she marries. Then she can take it with her into the new marriage.

Widows with property of their own are more in demand for remarriage during times when land is scarce or expensive to come by.

A young man generally prefers a young wife when land is cheap or when he has established himself successfully. Otherwise, a wealthy widow is a desirable commodity.

Not all widows are old, especially those who married much older men as a second or third wife.

Sources:

Cressey, *Birth, Marriage, and Death*

Duffy, *The Voices of Morebath*

Diary of Henry Machyn

Jones, *Birth of the Elizabethan Age*

Hanawalt, *Ties that Bound*

McDermott & Berk, *Life and Times of William Shakespeare*

More language: heard in the wild

Many of these were inspired by recent visits to Renaissance faires in California.

Instead of	**Say**
Ego	Self-love
Ego-maniac	One who is too full of himself
Flirtatious, unfaithful	Inconstant
Laid back, relaxed	Of a sanguine nature or disposition
Depressed, neurotic, psycho	Melancholic, overcome by melancholy, beset with sorrow
Suicide	Self-slaughter, self-destruction
In a good mood	Feeling sanguine
Creative, clever	Witty, of a good or ready wit
Brave (as in, courageous)	Of a good stomach
Well-dressed	Bravely clad
Annoying	Vexing, vexatious
Army, armies	Forces, powers, troops
In the army, navy, marines, etc.	Serving with her majesty's forces
Fighting in Iraq or Afganistan	Taking service in the Levant
Rifle	Arquebus (the rifle hasn't been invented)

Lady in waiting, handmaiden	For the Queen: Maid of Honour, lady (or gentlewoman) of the bedchamber, lady (or gentlewoman) of the privy chamber For other ladies: waiting gentlewoman, maid
Metaphor, figure of speech, idea	Conceit
A good idea	An excellent conceit
Joke	Jest, jape
Medieval times	Gothic times
Bill or check	Account or reckoning
Another thing to say instead of "Hi"	What news? (especially for gossip-loving women)

Music by the book

Music is threaded through the Elizabethan day. Everyone sings whether at work or for pleasure, and many people play instruments.

Every gentleman, most ladies, and practically every other adult in England is, if not an accomplished musician, at least acquainted with singing in harmony.

The queen herself was an accomplished player of the virginals (an English harpsichord); her father had been a very gifted musician. In fact, Henry owned rooms full of instruments, and could play them all.

William Byrd acknowledges that not everyone is blessed with a good voice, a gift "so rare that not one among a thousand have it." Still he felt that one should learn to sing in order to avoid wasting a rare talent.

The English school of madrigals flowers from about 1588 and on beyond the reign. The earliest madrigals are based on Italian models and often are simply the same song with English lyrics.

In general, music is a part of some other event, concert--dinners, dances, parties, plays, masques--and not performed as a concert. Professional musicians are most likely to be instrumentalists.

Any noble household may employ servants specifically for their singing voices, even if that is not their primary duty. Great nobles may keep consorts, choristers, and players for their own and their guests' entertainment.

A set of like instruments playing together are a *consort*, because they consort with each other. A play on these two meanings appears in Romeo & Juliet (III, 1). Tybalt says, *Thou consort'st with Romeo*, to which Mercutio replies, *What! Dost thou take us for minstrels?*

A set of unlike instruments playing together is a *mixed or broken consort.*

Instruments of the same family (such as all recorders, all viols, etc.) are a *noyse* of instruments. When a complete family is used (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass), it is referred to as the *whole noyse*.

Music books with familiar notation are in print. Thomas Morley and John Dowland have the most music left to us today, possibly because they published so much of it themselves.

Italian madrigal books are also available with songs by Palestrina and others.

Tallis and Byrd jointly held a monopoly on the printing of music books and manuscript paper. Tallis died in 1585; Byrd later passed the monopoly on to his pupil Morley.

Nearly every printer was publishing madrigals as well as *part books* for vocalists. These are printed with each part facing in a different direction, so four people can stand around one copy of the music.

Tallis, Byrd, and Dowland all created sacred music, especially when hired for that purpose by a cathedral or, best of all, by the Chapel Royal. Any position with the Chapel Royal is extremely prestigious, although music is no occupation for a gentleman.

Books for the lute include *The Schoole of Musicke* by Thomas Robinson. It featured music for the lute, pandora, orpharien, and viol de gamba. Another instructional book was Ravenscroft's *A Briefe Discourse of the true (but neglected) uses of charactering the degrees.*

Morley's *A Plaine and Easie Introduction to Practicall Musicke* (1597), an important treatise on music theory, is still in use today.

For Your Eyes Only: Because of their ability to travel and mingle in all sorts of circles, musicians are often employed in espionage on the Continent. Thomas Morely occasionally served in this capacity for Robert Cecil and possibly Francis Walsingham.

Sources

Lang, *Music in Western Civilization*

Correspondence with early music professional Tim Rayborn, *Cançoniér*, Berkeley, CA www.timrayborn.com

Correspondence with Ingrid Waterson, University of California, Irvine

Some workmen's wages in 1588

From a statute given at Westminster 24 August 1588

These are wages for hire given "to the best and most skillful workmen, journeymen, and hired servants of any of the companies hereunder named." Masters paying these wages surely make rather more.

Having a special care and regard to the high and very chargeable prices of victuals, fuel, raiment, and apparel both linen and woolen, and also of house rents and other special and accidental charges wherewith artificers and labourers dwelling within the city are very many and sundry times, after their power and substance charged and burdened with the residue of the citizens of the same.

To the best and most skillful workmen, journeymen, and hired servants of any of the companies hereunder named.

Wages by the year, with meat and drink

Clothworkers	£5
Fullers	£5
Shearmen	£5
Dyers	£6 13s 8d
Tailor's hosier	£4
Drapers, being hosiers	£4
Shoemakers	£4
Pewterers	£3 6s 8d
Whitebakers	£4 6s 8d
Brewers	£10
The underbrewer	£6
The foredrayman	£6
The miller	£6
The other draymen	£3 6s 8d
The tunman	£3 6s 8d
Alebrewers by the year	£6
Alebrewers by the day	8d
Saddlers	£4

Wages by the year, with meat and drink

Turners	£4 6s 8d
Cutlers	£4 6s 8d
Blacksmiths	£6
Curriers	£6
Brownbakers	£3 6s 8d
Farriers	£4
Glovers	£3 6s 8d
Cappers	£4 13s 4d
Hatmakers & feltmakers	£4 13s 4d
Butchers	£6
Cooks	£6

To the workmen, journeymen or hired servants of any companies hereunder named

Craft	Terms	Wage
Goldsmiths	With meat and drink By the year	£5
	By the week	3s 4d
	By the day	7d
	Without meat and drink by the week	6s
	By the day	12d
Skinners	With meat and drink, by the year	£4
	By the week	3s 4d
	By the day	8d
	Without meat & drink by the week	6s
	By the day	13d
Painter stainers	With meat & drink by the year	£4
	By the week	4s
	By the day	9d
	Without meat & drink by the year	£8
	By the week	6s 8d
	By the day	13d
Linen weavers	With meat and drink by the year	£4
	By the day	6d

Craft	Terms	Wage
	Without meat & drink by the day	10d
Glaziers	With meat & drink by the day	9d
	Without meat & drink by the day	13d
Longbow stringmakers	With meat & drink by the year	£4`
	By the day	8d
	Without meat & drink, by the day	12d
Founders	With meat and drink by the year	£5
	By the day	12d
	Without meat & drink, by the day	16d
Barbers	With meat and drink by the year	£3
	By the week	20d
Carmen (carters & drayers)	With meat and drink by the week	2s 6d
Watermen	With meat and drink by the year	40s
	By the week	12d
	By the day	4d
	Without meat & drink, by the week	3s
	By the day	7d
Porters	With meat & drink, by the day	8d
	Without meat & drink, by the day	12d
Carpenters	With meat & drink, by the week	4s 6d
	By the day	9d
	Without meat & drink, by the week	6s 2d
	By the day	13d
The carpenters apprentice that hath served 3 years	With meat & drink, by the week	3s 4d
	By the day	7d
	Without meat & drink, by the week	5s
	By the day	11d
Sawyers	With meat & drink, by the week	4s
	By the day	8d
	Without meat & drink, by the week	6s
	By the day	12d

Craft	Terms	Wage
To him that saweth 100 (board feet)	With meat and drink by the day	10d
	Without meat & drink, by the day	20d
Common laborers	With meat & drink, by the day	5d
	Without meat & drink, by the day	92

Source:

Aughterson, *The English Renaissance*

Now merrily to horse

In the days before wagons had springs and were enclosed for comfort, nearly everyone who travelled went by horseback.

The term *horse* applies to the whole race of E*quus caballus*, to an individual animal, and to the male of the species whether *stoned* or *gelded*.

Henry VIII decreed that in the interest of improving the native English horse, all male ungelded horses were to be kept in their stalls so that their breeding could be controlled. In the common way of English with such words, those in the stalls became stallions: the stalled ones.

Thus, a stallion is a male horse with all his parts intact, also called *stoned* or *unsplayed.* If he is less than four years old, he is also a *colt*.

A castrated male is called a *gelding*, also called splayed, *stoneless*, or *unpaved* (in that he hath no stones). The horse you ride every day, whether you are gentleman or lady, is probably a gelding, being more manageable than a stallion and nearly as strong.

A female horse of any age or condition is a *mare*, although if she is under four years old she may be called a *filly*.

A horse's mother is its *dam*, the father is its *sire*. A horse who *services* a mare is said to have *sired* her offspring.

When the dam *drops a foal*, she has given birth. A *foal* is a newborn horse of either sex. When it is a year old, it will be a *yearling*.

Horses are big beasties, and their height is expressed in *hands*, a standardized length of 4 inches. A 15-hand horse is 5 feet tall at the withers, the highest point on the back (the point just before it becomes the neck).

Types

A middle-weight, somewhat stocky riding horse, also used as a pack animal, is a *cob*.

A pack horse can also be referred to as a *sumpter* horse. Such horses carry the freight and baggage that does not travel by wagons. Their gait is a *foot pace* or fast walk. Typical height, 15.1 hh (hands high).

Contrary to modern usage, a *nag* is a good reliable horse—sure-footed, strong, even-tempered and smooth-gaited. The *ambling nag* is the horse you choose when you're going to be in the saddle for a long trip.

A nice gentle *palfrey* is usually preferred by ladies.

A similarly useful animal is the *hobby*, a sturdy Irish breed.

A golden horse with flaxen mane, usually called an Isabella, is imported from Spain.

The *jennet*—sometimes *genet (but not jenay)*—a smooth-gaited, spotted Spanish horse with Moorish forbears, is a popular riding horse among the great and good, and often used in pageants and displays of fancy riding. Curiously, a female donkey is also called a jennet. The possibilities for humorous confusion must have been endless.

Mules were also sometimes trained for riding. A famous portrait of Lord Burghley shows him riding a mule, although that may have been merely emblematic of his stalwartness and strength.

The enormous war horse that can carry a man in full plate armour is called simply a *Great Horse* or sometimes a horse of service. Familiar types include the *Almaine* (various German breeds), the *Flanders* (Belgian and Percheron), *Frieslander* (Frisian), and *Neapolitan*. Typical height, 14–18 hands high.

The flashy mount you choose for processions and parades is referred to as a *foot-cloth horse*. A trotter, it shows off its rider to great advantage and loves a crowd. It also looks fabulous (and knows it) in the fancy *bardings* that include the long ceremonial saddle cloth that drapes to its feet, from which this horse takes its name. It may be any breed as long as it behaves well and makes you look good.

When a horse is past its prime—old, broken down, used up and worn out—it becomes known as a *jade*. This term is sometimes also applied insultingly to a woman in similar condition.

You could buy a draught horse for about £3, but for the most powerful specimens you had to go to one of the regional horse fairs.

Training and care

We are not especially sentimental about animals (witness bear baiting, for example) and this insensitivity extends to the methods for training and keeping horses. Many Elizabethan methods and tools would be considered inhumane and possibly illegal today.

A bit or *curb*, the part of the harness placed in the horse's mouth, is a powerful piece of metal with high ports and *crickets* to get and his attention. This kind of bit requires a light hand on the reins or it can damage the horse's mouth.

Some horse diseases are *fashions, fives, spavins, and lampas*. Horses can also catch random fevers (colds and even flu) from humans. Colic and belly ache, brought on by a variety of causes, can kill even an otherwise healthy horse.

> **Horse keepers and ostlers: Let the world go how it will, be there never so much alteration in times and persons, they are still stable men.** —*contemporary joke*

Breeding

Elizabeth's Privy Council was sure that "the decay of horses within the realm, ... partly riseth by stealing and carrying numbers of horses, geldings, mares, and colts out of the realm, and by neglecting the breeding and keeping of horses within the realm, according to the laws provided."

The Queen directed commissioners to places where this kind of theft was known to be going on and deal "diligently and straightly by order of law, and thereupon to proceed sharply to the execution, as the cases shall require."

Henry VIII established standards among Great Horses for his breeding program. Mares were to be at least 13 hands, stallions, at least 15.

Horses from marshy areas like the fens of Cambridgeshire were allowed to be a bit shorter.

Shorter animals were supposed to be rounded up and culled from the breeding population, although this was probably not as systematic as it sounds.

Most of the best horses are imported, or bred from imported stock, because the native stock is mainly moor ponies and plow horses. Farmers prize their native draught horses, such as the Suffolk Sorrel or Punch for their power, stamina, longevity, and docility, but not their beauty.

One of the earl of Leicester's duties as the Queen's Master of Horse, which he took quite seriously, was to re-establish and maintain a breeding program to improve English horses, especially for military use.

A stud farm or breeding facility is called a *studdery*.

Breeders and owners all identify horses by where they're from rather than by what we think of as a breed. That is, one has a fine *Spaniard,* a feisty *Barb* (Arab), or a sturdy *German*.

Riding

The modern English saddle and "posting" ride are unknown. We either sit well in the saddle or bounce, according to our skill and the horse's gait.

Gait is any of the several ways in which a horse moves along, whether walking or running at various paces.

- *Amble*: a slow rocking gait in four beats, in which the hind and foreleg on the same side move together
- *Pace*: similar to an amble but a bit faster
- *Gallop*: a gait in 3 beats intended for speed

- *Trot*: a 2-beat gait in which the alternate hind and foreleg move together
- *Career* or *cariere*: a gallop ended with a collected halt, a kind of sliding stop. Mainly a military movement or for showing off

The great riding schools of Europe are in Naples and Ferrara. The *maneggii* (manages) taught there are exercises involving the handling of a horse with specific movements and gaits in formalized figures.

Advanced leaps and movements such as *capriole*, *corvette*, and the *galloppo gagliardo* (galliard gallop) are reserved for horses which are *gagliardo* (strong, nimble, and spirited) and 'light by art and by nature.' These movements are intended for show, and have no military application while war horses are still of the Percheron variety.

The saddle is generally curved and padded both at the pommel (front) and cantle (back) to keep a rider from being knocked out of the saddle.

When a woman rides *pillion*, she is riding double on a pad behind the rider who is actually managing the horse.

Side saddles have come in but many women prefer not to use them. The *plank saddle* is basically a chair mounted sideways on the horse's back, with a plank for the lady's feet. The horse must be led by a groom at not much more than a slow amble. Those who ride astride do so in divided skirts, not men's clothes.

In 1558, the Venetian ambassador suggested that England was the land of comforts because even the peasants were accustomed to riding on horseback—usually their own draft animals.

Sources:

Guild of St George handouts created by Kathy Lear, Shelley Monson, Aurie Bradley, mid-1980s.

Mead: *Elizabethan Humour*

Edwards: *Horse and Man in Early Modern England*

Segar: *The Booke of Honor and Armes*

Raber & Tucker, *Culture of the Horse*

Cockaine*: A Short Treatise on Hunting*

For identifying the parts of a horse (fetlock, withers, gaskin, etc.) see http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/identifying-horse-parts-and-markings.html

A Midwife's oath 1567

A licence the archbishop of Canterbury granted to Eleonor Pead, to be a midwife, with the oath she took. Whereby it may be perceived what were sometimes the disorderly practices of midwives in those days... But behold the oath this woman took:

I, Eleonor Pead, admitted to the office and occupation of a midwife, will faithfully and diligently exercise the said office according to such cunning and knowledge as God hath given me.

A Lying-in Chamber

And that I will be ready to help and aid as well poor as rich women being in labour and travail of child, and will always be ready both to poor and rich, in exercising and executing of my said office.

Also, I will not permit or suffer that any woman being in labour or travail shall name any other to be the father of her child, than only he who is the right and true father thereof.

And that I will not suffer any other body's child to be set, brought, or laid before any woman delivered of child in the place of her natural child, so far forth as I can know and understand.

Also, I will not use any kind of sorcery or incantation in the time of the travail of any woman.

And that I will not destroy the child born of any woman, nor cut, nor pull off the head thereof, or otherwise dismember or hurt the same, or suffer it to be so hurt or dismembered by any manner of ways or means.

Also, that in the ministration of the sacrament of baptism in the time of necessity, I will use apt and the accustomed words of the same sacrament, that is to say, these words following, or the like in effect;

I christen thee in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and none other profane words.

And that in such time of necessity, in baptizing any infant born, and pouring water upon the head of the same infant, I will use pure and clean water, and not any rose or damask water, or water made of any confection or mixture: and that I will certify the curate of the parish church of every such baptizing.

Source:

Collected in Strype's *Annals of the Reformation* (1824 ed.)

A cry of hounds

Immediately after supper, the huntsman should go to his master's chamber...to know his pleasure in what quarter he determineth to hunt that he may know his own quarter. That done, he may go to bed, to the end he may rise the earlier in the morning....

Poachers and gamekeepers trap animals with nets and traps, but this is not sport. A gentleman hunts with his hawk or his hounds.

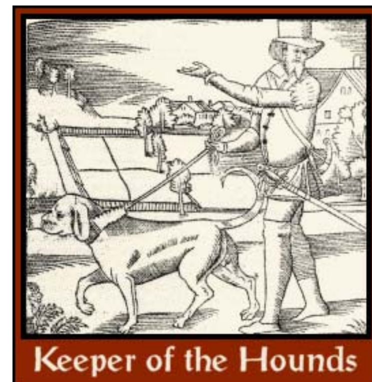
Hunting the fox is not yet an aristocratic activity, being essentially a form of pest control. Farmers use their dogs to chase down foxes who are pestering their livestock, however fox hunting with all its formalities and traditions does not yet exist.

The dogs

Gentlemen use their hounds to track, corner, and occasionally kill deer—especially the hart or stag—and boar, hare, and occasionally bear and wolf, especially if they are threatening the other game.

The use of *running hounds* to track prey dates back to ancient times; the Romans brought their dogs to Britain in the 1st century, where the Britons were already hunting with Agassaei hounds.

Sight hounds, (sometimes called gazehounds) including greyhounds and Irish wolfhounds, are prized for visual acuity and speed, crucial when *coursing,* in which the prey is sighted, stalked silently, pursued, and taken down. These dogs are also known for their ability to stalk in silence.


Keeper of the Hounds

Many sight hounds are of somewhat fragile build, but can be improved with crossbreeding. When you mix a sighthound with a sturdier working dog, the result is a *lurcher*

Scent hounds are valued for their sense of smell. They are generally used in a pack, known as a *cry of hounds*. Some breeds, such as beagles, have a bell-like bark or yell; others are known for deep, booming barks.

Turberville tells us that the huntsman should first "take a little vinegar in the palm of his hand and put it in the nostrils of his hound, for to make him snuff, to the end his scent may be the perfecter."

A *lymer* is a specially trained scent hound, such as a Bloodhound or a St Hubert's. When hunting deer, the huntsman takes him out in the field early in the day (the *quest*) to locate droppings (*fewmets*) or tracks of a deer and, with luck, find where the animal is browsing or resting, without scaring it away. This is known as *harbouring* the prey.

Several lymers and their keepers may be sent in different directions of a morning, to save everyone time when the hunt is ready to begin.

Gervase Markham suggests tuning your cry of hounds to make a more pleasant music:

> *If you would have your kennel for sweetness of cry, you must compound it of some large dogs that have deep solemn mouths, and are swift in spending, which must as it were bear the base of the consort. Then a double number of roaring and loud ringing mouths which must bear the counter tenor. Then some hollow, plain sweet mouths, which must bear the mean or middle part. ... Amongst these you may cast in a couple or two of small, single beagles, which as small trebles may warble amongst them. The cry will be a deal more sweet.*

The Hunt

The Tudor hunt is in transition from the high medieval form.

All aspects of the hunt, each part of every animal, every behavior of hound or hunter has a name, originally derived from Norman French. The old terms are still in use but many are already being replaced by good, sturdy English.

We believe that our hunting terms and practices date back to the time of King Arthur, even if they are a bit out of date. Anyone for whom hunting is a passion knows all these things by heart.

A proper deer hunt with dogs is called *par force* or *par force de chiens* (by strength).

In a hunt *by bow and stable*, deer are herded into a prepared enclosure and shot by archers from a platform. This is less sporting, and certainly less noble, but more efficient when putting meat on the table is the principal aim.

The hunter's weapon when stalking any sort of deer is the sword. The sword is usually employed in the hunt par force, the bow in the hunt by bow and stable

Boar are killed with a boar spear, ideally from horseback but occasionally on foot. The boar spear is a long, sturdy weapon with a cross piece below the blade to keep the animal from running up the shaft.

The great prize of any hunt is the buck (a male fallow deer) or stag (a male red deer). The impressiveness of the prize is determined by the number of points on the antlers. A lean and scrawny specimen is called a *rascal*, and is of no interest.

This most noble form of venery, the hunt par force, has eight formal stages: the quest, the assembly, the relays, the moving or un-harboring, the chase, the baying, the unmaking, and the curée.

Displaying Fewmets

When the lymers and huntsmen return from the *quest*, they probably find the host and his guests breakfasting--servants, good silver, and all (the *assembly*). The company listen to the report, examine any droppings, and decide how to proceed.

Turberville advises that "if [the huntsman] chance by the way to find any hare, or partridge, or any other beast that is fearful, living upon seeds or pasturage, it is an evil sign or presage that he shall have but evil pastime that day. But if he find any beast of ravine, living upon prey, as wolf, fox, raven, and such like, that is a token of good luck."

Once the path of the hunt has been determined, *relays* of dogs are positioned along the way, so that fresh dogs can easily be brought up if the leaders tire.

The call goes out: "The hunt is up!" And the *chase* is on. When the deer is *roused* from cover, it is said to be *unharboured*.

The *baying* occurs when the prey can run no further, either from exhaustion or because he is trapped, and turns *at bay* to fight. At this very dangerous stage, the hounds must be held from trying to take the animal down themselves.

Hounds who get ahead of the pack are guilty of over-topping, and require further training.

The host or his most prominent guest has the privilege of dismounting and actually killing the animal. At its death (the *mort*) the huntsmen sound a note on their hunting horns signaling all the participants that the chase has ended. This is called *blowing the mort*.

As soon as the beast is dead, the men lay it on its back and some gentleman performs the *assay,* in which the quality of the flesh is tested by drawing a knife along the "brisket of the deer, somewhat lower than the brisket towards the belly". Everyone examines and discusses the results.

This proceeds to the *unmaking*, a highly ritualized process of dissecting the carcass and distributing or packing up the parts. This, like the assay, is a task performed by a gentleman or a person of rank. The ritual is too important to leave in the hands of common men.

The final ritual is the *curée*, when all the dogs are rewarded with bits of flesh. The lymers, who were not at the chase but located the prey to begin with, get the first tidbits.

All the participants in the death may be marked with a dab of the deer's blood, and the hunt us over. The rest of the day may be spent in the usual festive country merry making.

Sources:

Guild of St George handouts created by Kathy Lear, Shelley Monson, Aurie Bradley, mid-1980s.

George Turberville, *The Noble Art of Venerie*

Gervase Markham *Country Contentments*

God save the Queen

from *Annals of the first four years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth*, Sir John Hayward, 1599

The Queen removes herself from Hatfield to London, November 18, 1558

Now, if ever any person had either the gift or the style to win the hearts of people, it was this Queen. And if ever she did express the same, it was at that present, in coupling mildness with majesty as she did, and in stately stooping to the meanest sort. All her faculties were in motion, and every motion seemed a well-guided action. Her eye was set upon one, her care listened to another, her judgment upon a third, to a fourth she addressed her speech. Her spirit seemed to be everywhere, and yet so entire in herself, as it seemed to be nowhere else.

Some she pitied, some she commended, some she thanked, at others she pleasantly and wittily jested, condemning no person, neglecting no office, and distributing her smiles, looks, and graces so artfully that thereupon the people again redoubled the testimonies of their joys. And afterwards, raising everything to the highest strain, filled the ears of all men with immoderate extolling their Prince.

Of her personal appearance and character

She was a lady upon whom nature had bestowed and well placed many of her fairest favors: of stature mean, slender, straight, and amiably disposed; of such state in her carriage as every motion of her seemed to bear majesty. Her hair was inclined to pale yellow, her forehead large and fair, her eyes lively and sweet but short-sighted, her nose somewhat rising in the middle, the whole compass of her countenance somewhat long yet of admirable beauty, not so much in that which is termed the flower of youth, as in a most delightful composition of majesty and modesty in equal mixture.

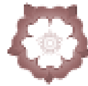
But without good qualities of mind, the gifts of nature are like painted flowers, without either virtue or sap; yea, sometimes they grow horrid and loathsome. Now her virtues were such as might suffice to make an Ethiope beautiful, which the more a man knows and understands, the more he shall admire and love. In life, she was most innocent; in

desires, moderate; in purpose, just; of spirit, above credit and almost capacity of her sex; of divine wit, as well for depth of judgment, as for quick conceit and speedy expedition; of eloquence, as sweet in the utterance, so ready and easy to come to the utterance: of wonderful knowledge, both of learning and affairs; skillful not only in the Latin and Greek but also in other diverse foreign languages.

None knew better, the hardest art of all others, that is, of commanding men, nor could more use themselves to those cares without which the royal dignity could not be supported. She was religious, magnanimous, merciful, and just; respective of the honour of others, and exceeding tender in the touch of her own.

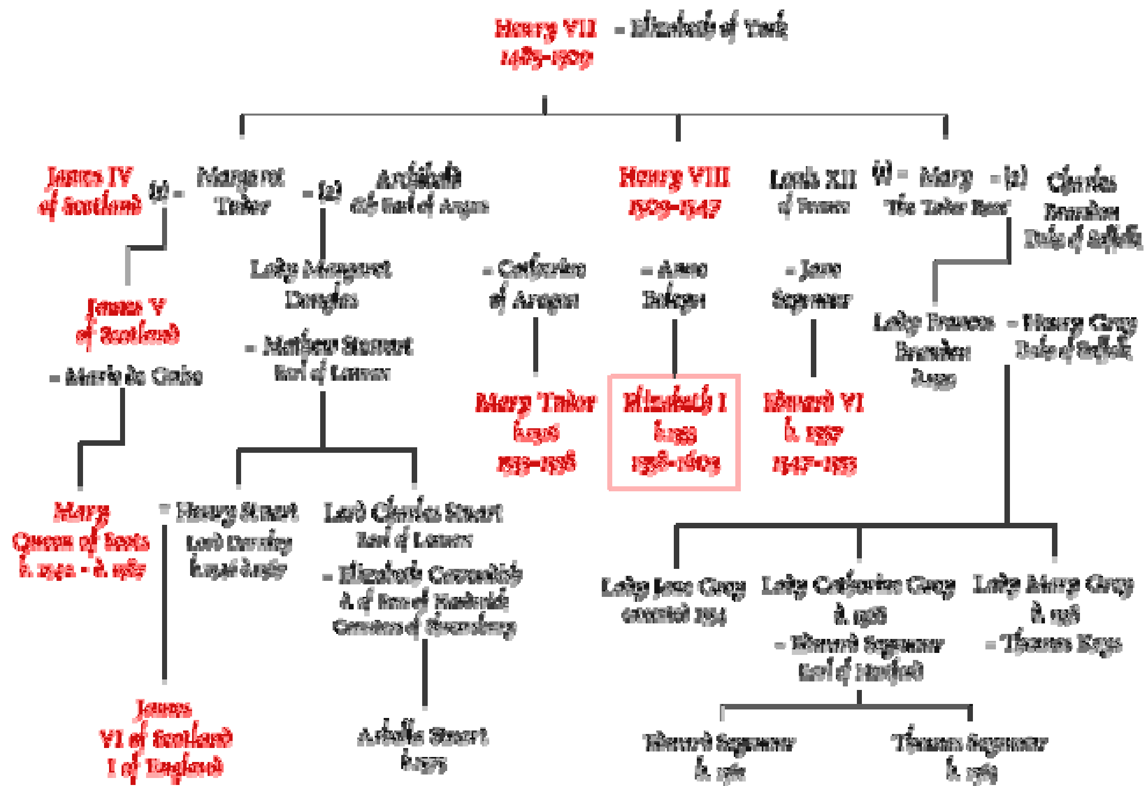
She was lovely and loving, the two principal bands of duty and obedience. She was very ripe and measured in counsel and experience, as well not to let go occasions as not to take them when they were green.

Excellent Queen! What do my words but wrong thy worth? What do I but gild gold? What but show the sun with a candle, in attempting to praise thee, whose honour doth fly over the whole world upon the two wings of Magnanimity and Justice, whose perfection shall much dim the luster of all other that shall be of thy sex?



Appendices, Flourishes, & Grace Notes

The Tudor Succession

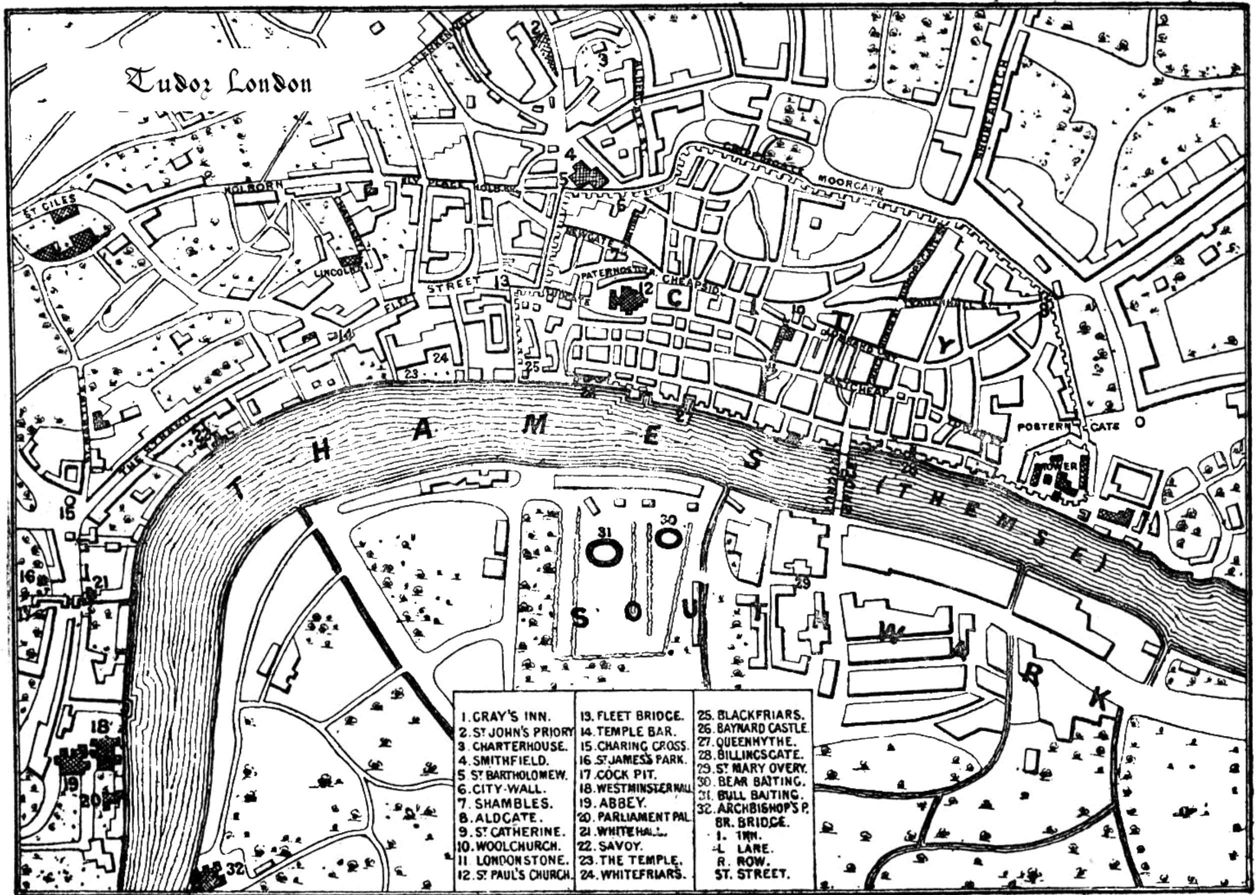


Map of Tudor England

Scotland and the Borders

Map of Ireland c. 1500

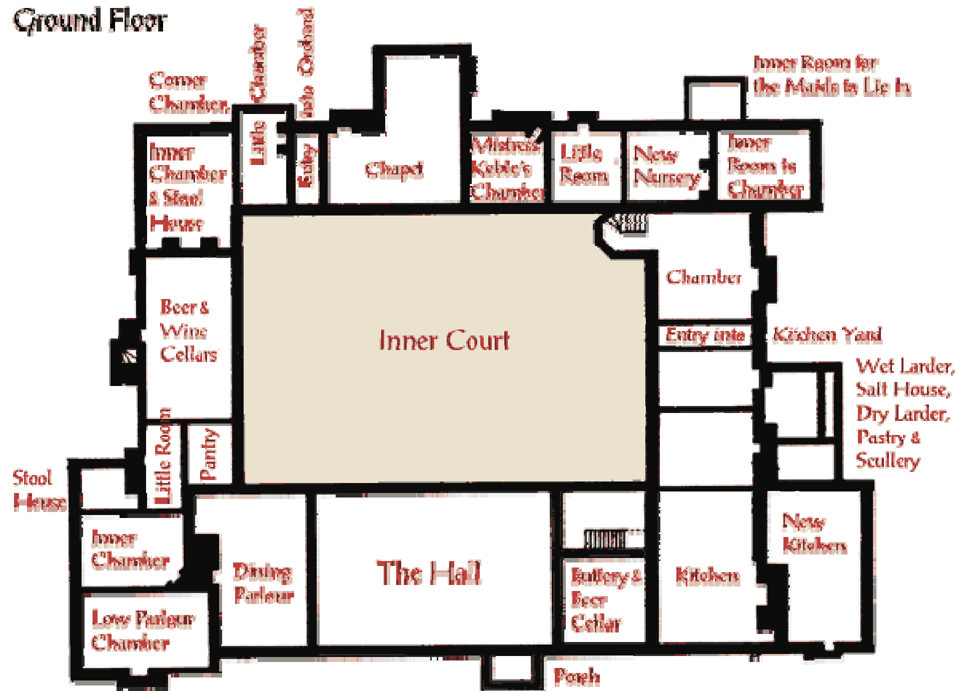
Map of Tudor London

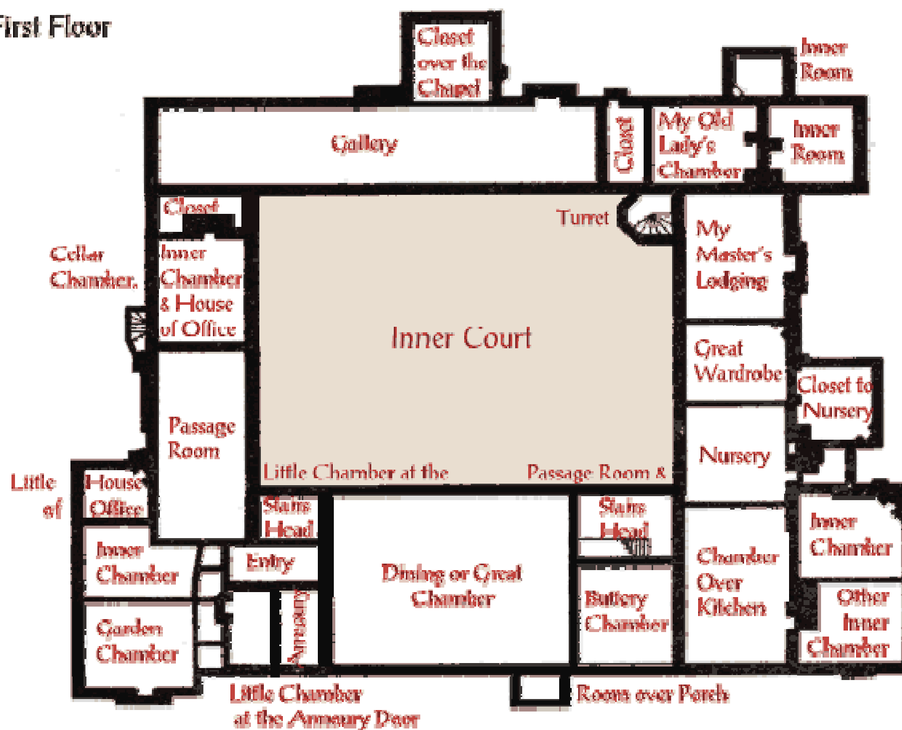


Map of Western Europe c. 1550

Plan of Ingatestone Hall

A Country House of the Latter Sixteenth Century





Ingatestone Hall was built in brick around 1540 by William Petre (it’s pronounced “Peter”) on an Essex property called variously "Gynge Abbess" or "Yenge atte Stone", which Petre bought from the Crown in 1539 after the dissolution of the wealthy nunnery of Our Lady and St. Ethelberga of Barking. The Hall is still standing.

These plans represent the main Hall in the period 1550-1600. Other buildings on the property included a gatehouse, porter's lodge, bakehouse, brewery, milk-house, stable, mews, slaughter-house, granary, wash-house, fish-house, still-house, and chambers for the majority of the servants.

A *house of office* is a privy, and a *closet* is any small private room, not necessarily used for storing clothes. Mistress Keble is Sir William's *good mother*, or mother-in-law.

These drawings are based on floor plans in *Tudor Secretary* by F.G. Emmison, Harvard, 1961. Post-1600 alterations have been omitted. - *PKM*

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This is not an attempt at an exhaustive bibliography. Rather, it is a decent reading list which happens to include most of the (printed) sources of this book.

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About the Author & Designer

Twenty Years of Improv Has To Be Good For Something

Maggie Pierce Secara has a Master's degree in English from Cal State University, Northridge, and actually writes for a living: user manuals, forms, flyers, newsletters, and notes from the teacher. Not the stuff of romance, perhaps, but words-in-a-row. She is also a working poet, with poems in small magazines no one ever heard of, all over the place.

She was for 12 years (and counting) the Countess of Southampton at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire (California) and is presently at work on a novel based on that lady's life and that of her son, the 3rd Earl, Shakespeare's patron. She has also been active in the Irish and German groups at the Faire, and directed both acting and costume in all three groups.

In the Society for Creative Anachronism, she is Mistress Máirghrèad-Rós FitzGarret of Desmond (O.L.) where among other things she used to run the Guild of St Genesius, the theatrical company of the kingdom of Caid. For three years she edited *Tournaments Illuminated*, the quarterly journal of the Society.

She has a husband and two cats and lives in suburban splendor in North Hollywood, California.

About the Designer

Paula Katherine Marmor is the editor of *Legends,* an online journal of heroic tales in history, literature, folklore, fiction and the arts [www.legends.dm.net].

By avocation she is a graphic designer and essayist with a passion for historic costume, swashbucklers, and fantasy fiction. She designed the Fantasy Association newsletter *Fantasiae* for many years.

She taught embroidery at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire (California), and her original blackwork patterns based on Elizabethan styles are available online as *The Blackwork Embroidery Archives* [www.blackworkarchives.com].

Designer's Notes

The Illustrations

Many of the illustrations and maps on this site are from the archives at ArtToday [www.arttoday.com] and are used with permission. Selected maps and map ornaments are from the Planet Arts "Antique Maps" collection.

The Tudor Rose ornament was created especially for this site.

The background borders are from Owen Jones's *The Grammar of Ornament*; they are documented Elizabethan patterns for architectural ornament, woodcarving, and embroidery. [These backgrounds do not appear in this printable version.]

The Fonts

The title page fonts are *Dauphin* and *Prose Antique*.

The calligraphic fonts *Allembert, Cadeaulx, Cymbeline, Fiorenza, Froissart, Lyonesse,* and *Terpsichore*, used on the navigation buttons, running heads, picture captions, and maps, are from the Scriptorium collection [www.fontcraft.com/scriptorium].

Additional captions are set in *Dauphin*, *Prose Antique*, and *Zapf Chancery*.

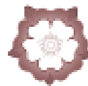
The Software

This site was originally built in HomeSite for Windows 95 v. 2.5. The site is validated HTML 3.2 with selected proprietary extensions that degrade gracefully, and is Lynx friendly.

Original artwork, calligraphic title pages, and the map of Tudor England were created in Adobe Illustrator v. 7 and Paint Shop Pro v. 4.14. Graphic manipulations were done in Paint Shop Pro.

The Tudor Succession family tree was created in Visio Professional v. 4.5.

The printable versions of this site were created from the HTML version in Microsoft Word 2003 and Adobe Acrobat Exchange.



Special thanks to Glen Blankenship, webhead extraordinaire, for technical advice (and everything else); to my brother Max, for all the books; to Peter Gariepy of ArtToday for his generous permissions policy; and to Phyllis Patterson for her vision of teaching history through festival.

God Saue the Queen!

-- Paula Katherine Marmor