

Preparations for the Queen's Visit

Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,

Document 1

The Guildhall June-July 1578

20 June 1578

This day it is agreed that it shall be lawful for **any citizen** or inhabitant to procure any **mason, carpenter, joiner, reeder [thatcher], painter**, and others of such like occupation, out of any place in the country, and **to work here in the City with the citizens** and inhabitants for **the repairing and beautifying of the houses** here between this and the last day of August next. And they to work without prejudice or forfeiture, notwithstanding any law heretofore made in this City. And that **all citizens** and inhabitants that shall have in commandment to **restore and to plaster their houses** towards the street side, and shall not do it between this and the last day of July next ensuing, shall **suffer pain of imprisonment**, and to undergo such **fine and penalty** as Master Mayor and certain of the justices shall set upon them. And that tilers, plasterers, or any other of what occupation soever they be, may without prejudice do anything for the setting forth or **beautifying of any houses towards the street side**.

24 June 1578

And that order be taken among the **lime-burners** that they sell not their lime so near but that there may be always reserved sufficient to serve the necessity of the City and the citizens.

The Arrival of Queen Elizabeth in the City of Norwich
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,

Document 2

The Guildhall August 1578

Then Her Majesty drew near the Gates of the City called St Stephen's Gate, which with the walls there were both gallantly and strongly repaired. **The gate itself was thus enriched and beautified.** First the portcullis was new made both timber and iron, then the outward side of the gate was thus beautified. The Queen's arms were most richly and beautifully set forth in the chief front of the gate. On the one side thereof, but somewhat lower, was placed the scutcheon of St George, or St George his cross; on the other side, the arms of the City, and directly under the Queen's Majesty's arms was placed the falcon, her Highness' badge in due form, and under the same were written these words: God and the Queen we serve. The inner side of the gate was thus beautified. On the right side was gorgeously set forth the red rose, signifying the House of York, [and] on the left side, the white rose, representing the House of Lancaster. **In the midst was the white and red rose united**, expressing the union, under which was placed by descent, the arms of the Queen, and under that were written these two verses:

And besides that, at this gate, the **Waits of the City were placed with loud music**, who cheerfully and melodiously welcomed Her Majesty into the City. And then passed she forward, through St Stephen's Street, where the first pageant was placed in [the] form following.

The first pageant was in St Stephen's Parish...

The Journal of Queen Elizabeth to the City of Norwich
Extract from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book

Document 3

The Colliery August 1578

Item that history sheweth near the Gates of the City called St
Stephan's Gate which with the walls there were both gallantly and
strongly repaired. The gate itself was thus enriched and beautified
first the portulls were by two sides both for the entry and the
outward side of the gate was thus beautified. The Queen's arms
were most richly and beautifully set forth in the chief front of the
gate. On the one side thereof, but somewhat lower, was placed the
effigie of St. Stephen in cross, on the other side the
arms of the City, and directly under the Queen's arms was
placed the valiant Sir Thomas Howard knight of the shire, under the
gate were written these words, God and the Queen we serve. The
inner side of the gate was thus beautified. On the right side was
engraved set forth the red rose, signifying the house of York, [and]
on the left side the white rose, representing the house of Lancaster.
In the middle was the white and red rose united, expressing the
marriage which was placed by descent, the arms of the Queen
and under that were written these two verses.

And beautified at the gate the Walls of the City were placed with
four music pipes, which continually and industriously sounded their melody
into the City, and their sound and harmony through St. Stephen's
Street where the first passage was placed in the form following.

The first passage was in St. Stephen's Church.

The Gift-Giving Masque for Queen Elizabeth
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 3,
The Guildhall August 1578

Immediately after the beginning of the oration, Her Majesty called to her the French Ambassadors, whereof there were three, and divers English lords, and willed them to harken— and she herself was very attentive, even until the end thereof. And the oration ended, after she had given great thanks therefore to Master Lymbert, she said to him, **‘it is the best that ever I heard, you shall have my hand,’** and pulled off her glove, and gave him her hand to kiss. Which before [her] kneeling on his knee, he arose and kissed, and then she departed to the Court [at Norwich Cathedral], without any other show that night, but that she sent back to know his name.

The next night, being Thursday, there was an excellent princely masque brought before her after supper, by Master Goldingham, in the Privy Chamber [at the Bishop’s Palace]. It was of gods and goddesses, both strangely and richly apparelled.

The first that entered was
MERCURY.

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then **JUPITER** and **JUNO.**

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then **MARS** and **VENUS.**

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then **APOLLO** and **PALLAS.**

Then two torch-bearers.

Then **NEPTUNE** and **DIANA.**

And last cometh **CUPID**, and
concludeth the matter.

The Giving Masque for Queen Elizabeth

extracted from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings 1605

Document 2

The Goddesses Act 1605

Immediately after the beginning of the masque the Majesty called
to her the French Ambassador, whereat there were three, and
divers English Lords, and wished them to the masque, and the French
was attentive, and with the end thereof, the masque ended
after she had given great thanks thereto, to wit, for the good
will to our Majesty, the best that ever I heard, yet shall have my
hand, and pulled off her glove, and gave him his hand to kiss, which
before that she had done, she kissed his hand, and then she
departed to the Court for Norwich Cathedral, without any other
show that night, but that she sent back to know her name.

The next night, being Thursday, there was an excellent princely
masque brought by the French Ambassador, of which I will say
the first part, and the Bishop's Palace, it was of gods and
goddesses, both very gently and richly costumed.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Then first appeared more | The first that entered was |
| Then APOLLO and PALLAS | MERCURY |
| Then two torch-bearers | Then two torch-bearers more |
| Then NEPTUNE and DIANA | Then JUNO and JUNG |
| And last cometh CUPID, and | Then two torch-bearers more |
| concluded the masque | Then MARS and VENUS |

Thomas Churchyard's Fairy Farewell Show for Queen Elizabeth
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,

Document 4

The Guildhall August 1578

On the Friday, chose I a ground, by the which the Queen must pass, enclosing my company in the corner of a field, being defenced with high and thick bushes, and there some parts I made, which the boys might miss because the time was short for the learning of those parts. But I, being resolved to do somewhat **might make the Queen laugh**, appointed that seven boys of twelve should pass through a hedge from the place of our abode which was gallantly trimmed and deliver seven speeches, which follow in the next leaf [page].

And these boys, you must understand, were **dressed like nymphs of the water**, and were to play by a device and degrees **the Fairies, and to dance** like the Fairies. Their attire, and coming so strangely out, I know made the Queen's Highness smile and laugh withal. And I, hearing this good hope, being apparell'd like a water sprite began to sound a timbrel. And the rest with me, all the twelve nymphs together when the seven had repaired sounded timbrels likewise. And although I had no great hearting, yet as I durst, **I lead the young foolish Fairies a dance**, which boldness of mine bred no disgrace, and, as I heard said, was well taken. The Queen, upon our retiring in, hastened to Her Highness' lodging which was seven miles off. And at that present, **when the show ended, it was past 5 of the clock.**

Thomas Gainsborough, Fairy Landscapes, 1780s (London, 1780s)

Document 1

The Goodly, August 13

On the Friday, cross is grown by the which the Queen must pass
enclosing my company in the corner of a field being desired with high
and thick bushes and there some called made when the day is bright
my dress the like was used for the winter, I was dressed in
being resolved to do somewhat might make the Queen laugh, and when
the seven boys of twelve should pass through a hedge from the park
out which was readily furnished and behind seven or eight
which follow in the next page

And there dove you must understand, were dressed like nymphs of the
water, and were to play by a device and device the ladies, and to
dance like the fates, their attire, and coming so strangely out I know
made the Queen's highest smile and laugh what not, making the
good hope, being called like a water spirit, began to sound a timble.
And the rest will give all the twelve nymphs together when the seven
had returned, and the twelve boys, and although I had no great
beating yet as I said, I had the young foolish ladies, which with
a boldness of mine had no disgrace, and the hand was well taken
The Queen upon our return, is hastened to her highest, laughing which
was never called off, and at that present, when the show ended, it was
past 5 of the clock

Thomas Churchyard's printed account of the entertainments
prepared for Queen Elizabeth in Norwich

Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,

Document 5,

The Guildhall October 1578

TO THE READER

To write of the receiving of Her Highness into **Norfolk** in every point as matter may move me, would contain a great time, in making a just rehearsal thereof.

The **Norfolk gentlemen**, hearing how dutifully their neighbours had received the Prince, prepared in like sort to show themselves dutiful. And so, in most gallantest manner, assembled and set forward with **five and twenty hundred horsemen**, whereof were six hundred gentlemen, so bravely attired and mounted, as indeed was worthy the noting [observation], which goodly company waited on their Sherriff a long season. But in good sooth the **banquets and feasts** began here afresh, and all kind of triumphs that might be devised, were put in practice and proof. The Earl of Surrey did show most sumptuous cheer in whose park were speeches well set out, and a special **planned entertainment** much commended. And the rest, as a number of gentlemen whose names I have not [do not know], were no whit [not at all] behind to the uttermost of their abilities, in all that might be done and devised.

But when the **Queen's Majesty came to Norwich**, the substance of the whole triumph and feasting, was in a manner there new to begin, for order was taken there, that **every day, for six days** together, a show of some strange device [entertainment] should be seen.

Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Volume 1, Number 1, 1862

Advertisement

Published October 1862

TO THE ADER

The object of the present volume is to present to the public a selection of the most interesting and valuable papers read at the meetings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences during the year 1862.

The papers are arranged in the order in which they were read, and are divided into two classes, the original and the translated.

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The Guildhall June-July 1578

20 June 1578

This day it is agreed that it shall be lawful for any citizen or inhabitant to procure any mason, carpenter, joiner, reeder [thatcher], painter, and others of such like occupation, out of any place in the country, and to work here in the City with the citizens and inhabitants for the repairing and beautifying of the houses here between this and the last day of August next. And they to work without prejudice or forfeiture, notwithstanding any law heretofore made in this City. And that all citizens and inhabitants that shall have in commandment to restore and to plaster their houses towards the street side, and shall not do it between this and the last day of July next ensuing, shall suffer pain of imprisonment, and to undergo such fine and penalty as Master Mayor and certain of the justices shall set upon them. And that tilers, plasterers, or any other of what occupation soever they be, may without prejudice do anything for the setting forth or beautifying of any houses towards the street side.

24 June 1578

And that order be taken among the lime-burners that they sell not their lime so near but that there may be always reserved sufficient to serve the necessity of the City and the citizens.

The Arrival of Queen Elizabeth in the City of Norwich
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 2

The Guildhall August 1578

Then Her Majesty drew near the Gates of the City called St Stephen's Gate, which with the walls there were both gallantly and strongly repaired. The gate itself was thus enriched and beautified. First the portcullis was new made both timber and iron, then the outward side of the gate was thus beautified. The Queen's arms were most richly and beautifully set forth in the chief front of the gate. On the one side thereof, but somewhat lower, was placed the scutcheon of St George, or St George his cross; on the other side, the arms of the City, and directly under the Queen's Majesty's arms was placed the falcon, her Highness' badge in due form, and under the same were written these words: God and the Queen we serve. The inner side of the gate was thus beautified. On the right side was gorgeously set forth the red rose, signifying the House of York, [and] on the left side, the white rose, representing the House of Lancaster. In the midst was the white and red rose united, expressing the union, under the which was placed by descent, the arms of the Queen, and under that were written these two verses:

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Then JUPITER and JUNO.

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And last cometh CUPID, and

Then MARS and VENUS.

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Thomas Churchyard's Fairy Farewell Show for Queen
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On the Friday, chose I a ground, by the which the Queen must pass, enclosing my company in the corner of a field, being defenced with high and thick bushes, and there some parts I made, which the boys might miss because the time was short for the learning of those parts. But I, being resolved to do somewhat might make the Queen laugh, appointed that seven boys of twelve should pass through a hedge from the place of our abode which was gallantly trimmed and deliver seven speeches, which follow in the next leaf [page].

And these boys, you must understand, were dressed like nymphs of the water, and were to play by a device and degrees the Fairies, and to dance like the Fairies. Their attire, and coming so strangely out, I know made the Queen's Highness smile and laugh withal. And I, hearing this good hope, being apparelled like a water sprite began to sound a timbrel. And the rest with me, all the twelve nymphs together when the seven had repaired sounded timbrels likewise. And although I had no great hearting, yet as I durst, I lead the young foolish Fairies a dance, which boldness of mine bred no disgrace, and, as I heard said, was well taken. The Queen, upon our retiring in, hastened to Her Highness' lodging which was seven miles off. And at that present, when the show ended, it was past 5 of the clock.

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entertainments prepared for Queen Elizabeth in Norwich
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 5, The Guildhall October 1578

TO THE READER

To write of the receiving of Her Highness into Norfolk in every point as matter may move me, would contain a great time, in making a just rehearsal thereof.

The Norfolk gentlemen, hearing how dutifully their neighbours had received the Prince, prepared in like sort to show themselves dutiful. And so, in most gallantest manner, assembled and set forward with five and twenty hundred horsemen, whereof were six hundred gentlemen, so bravely attired and mounted, as indeed was worthy the noting [observation], which goodly company waited on their Sherriff a long season. But in good sooth the banquets and feasts began here afresh, and all kind of triumphs that might be devised, were put in practice and proof. The Earl of Surrey did show most sumptuous cheer in whose park were speeches well set out, and a special planned entertainment much commended. And the rest, as a number of gentlemen whose names I have not [do not know], were no whit [not at all] behind to the uttermost of their abilities, in all that might be done and devised.

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and feasts began here afresh, and all kind of triumphs [processions] that
might be devised, were put in practice and proof. The Earl of Surrey did show
[display] most sumptuous cheer [festivity], in whose park were speeches
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triumph [procession] and feasting, was in a manner there new to begin, for
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