

Inventory of Brechin Castle for Marie Stewart, Countess of Mar, 1627.

National Library of Scotland MS 5114 ff. 1-5, (Catalogued as 'Buchan Castle')

The inventory is based on a survey of 1611. Some pewter plates had been lost during the royal visit in May 1617. Some of the woodwork described in the final section is new, but the house was not fully furnished.

Some textiles had been taken to the Mar lodging at Holyroodhouse, other furnishing sent to Banff. The earl of Mar used to hunt from Braemar in August in September, a meeting described by John Taylor in his *Pennyles Pilgrimage* (1618). Taylor also stayed a night at Brechin Castle.

The inventory places the lord's chamber south of the entry which is probably at the corner of the present 'L' shaped house, where older masonry survives. There was a fish dam on the river below.

Headings in bold below indicating categories and rooms are original, or if supplied, in square brackets. Some punctuation supplied.

Inventar plenishing in the castle of Brechin tane upoun ye 9 May 1627 be
Williame Lyndesay at direction of my ladie Mar, being conformit with the auld
inventar maid upoun 12 December 1611, and with certain notes of augmentation &
diminishing sen that tyme.

Wardrobe

Thair wes in the auld inventar of fedder beds xvij quhairof send to Banff¹ to my lord
Buchane² upoun the xii of August 1618 be my ladies warrand iiij, Sua restis threttene
quhairof tua unfilled with fedder ___ threttene.

Item augmentit sen the auld inventar of doun bedds ___ thrie.

Inde ___ sixtene.

Item thair wes of woll mattis 6 quhairof send to Banff 4 restis as yet in the hous ___ tua

Item, thair wes of Scottis bosteris xxij quhairof send to Banff to my lord Buchane
viiij, and tynt in Braymar at syndrie tymes iiij,

So restis and left in the wardrobe xii quhairof ane unfilled ___ twelff.

Item augmentit sen that tyme of doun bosteris ___ thrie

Inde ___ ffyftene.

Codis³

Item thair wes of codis of Scottis tyking ten, and of leddir codis vij, Item augmentit
sen that inventar of new cods xii, Inde, xxix quhairof send to Banff to my Lord
Buchane as the warrand beiris xvj, and tynt in Braymar j,

Item send with my Lord bairnis out of Brechin to Alloway,⁴ quhilk cam not bak ij,
Restis in the hous ___ ten.

Item, augmentit of doun cods sen the auld inventar iiiij.

Inde ___ ffourtene

¹ Banff Castle.

² James Erskine, 6th Earl of Buchan, de jure uxoris, March 1617.

³ Cods - pillows

⁴ Alloa Tower.

Playding blancottis⁵

Item, in the auld inventar of blankcottes – xliii pair, mair augmentit in the [?samen] in November 1613, x pair, Inde Liiij quhairof send to Banff to my Lord Buchane xvj pair, quhairof worne and castin away iij pair, and tynt in Braymar at syndrie tymes iij pair. Restis xxxj pair, quhairof ar walkit iiij pair and of sprenyet v pair ___ threttie ane pair.

[f. 1r.]

Palisches

Item thair wes in the auld inventar of palisches ___ xij quhairof send to Banff to my Lord Buchane v Restis in the hous ___ sevin

Coverings

Item thair wes in the auld inventar of Scottis wovin coveringis ___ xxiiij quhairof send to Banff viij thair being thair of lynnit vij And tynt in Braymar 1626 j lynnit Item ane uther tynt in Braymar 1626 befor Sua restis in the hous threttene quhairof lynnit vj and unlynnit vij ___ threttene.

Item thair wes in the auld inventar of ruche mantling coverings ij And of roche grein mantling coverings ij Sent to Stirling in may 1612 to my lady j, Mair send to hir ladyship in Februar 1620 to Halyruidhouse j uther The uther tua direct to hir Ladyship in my 1627 [?Eque]

Item thair wes ane covering of Irisch work⁶ callit in the auld inventar lynnit and ~~wes unlynnit~~ can not be had ___ Ane.

Item ane sewit covering groundit with blew and sewit with yallow worset lynnit with playding quhilk now inlaikis and ane uther delyveret for the same groundit with reid and sewit with dyveris cullouris unlynnit ___ Ane.

⁵ Plaid blankets.

⁶ Possibly a bed covering worked in Bargello stitch.

Item thair is in the auld inventar ane stekkit covering of changing tafitie of blew and yallow And ane uther stikkit covering of grein schearge Thir same tua direct to my Lady in may 1627 [?Eque]

Item ane cannabie of gray damis frenzeit with gray silk quhilk is extant in the hous ____ Ane.

Curtains & pandis

Item thair wes in the auld inventar thrie pandis of figurit velvott reid & grein and frenzeit with reid & grein silk Thir same send to Stirling to my Lady 1622 [?Eque]

Item in the auld inventar thrie curtingis of reid champit chamlet with ane frenzie of reid and grein silk about the curting The same send lykwayis send to my Lady to Sterling 1612 sik [? eque]

Item in the auld inventar thrie pandis of grein clayth broderit with thrie curtingis of grein clayth also broderit The bed heid referand therto all freinzeit with reid quhyt and grein silk with ane ruiff of grein clayth The same send to my Lady to Halyrudhous 1620 [? sik eque]

Item in the auld inventar thrie pece of grein pandis of clayth broderit with blak velvott & yeallow [f.2r.] silk The same send to my lady to Halyrudhous be hir warrand, [?Sik eque]

Item thrie curtingis of grein claith all frenyeit with blak, orienge and grein silk, pestmentit with blak velvott pestmentis, luggit with orange silk, bed heid referand, and ruif of grein clayth.

Item mair tua pandis of blak velvet pestmentit & frenyeit with blak silk,
Item thrie curtingis of blak burrot pestmentit with blak walling pestments and frenzeit with blak silk quhilk is yit extant in the hous.

Item tua curtingis of pirnet stuff frenzeit with the same cullor of worsat And ane covering of Irisch work unlynnit referand thairto.

Item, in the auld inventar four pands sewit with blew & yallow worset freinyeit with the same cullor of worset.

Item, four courtingis of yallow playding pestmentit with blew worsett and frenyit with blew & yallow worset, quhairof send to my Lord Buchane tua pandis with tua curtingis,
Sua yit restis the hous tua pands & tua curtingis.

Item, ane tapie clayth quhilk is present in the hous.

Grein burdclaythes

Item of grein burd claythes v quhairof tua is lang and, mair eikit in November 1613 tua schoirt claythes quhairof send ane lang burd clayth to Banff with ane schoirt clayth,

Sua restis yit in the hous iiij schoirt claythes and ane lang clayth,
Inde ___ ffyve

Item in the auld inventar four pece of tapestrie quhilk George Hwme sayis past to Edinburgh lang sence.

Chyres

Item of chyris 8, the bak and seatt coverit with Inglis reid ledder whereof sent to Banff & my Lord Buchane tua,
Sua restis in the hous ___ sex.

Item, of stuills coverit with Inglis sex quhairof send to Banff, tua,
Sua restis yit in the hous ___ ffour

[f. 2v]

Cuscheonis

Item, in the auld inventar of reid velvot cushons ___ ane.

Item, of Irishe work⁷ cuscheonis, twelf, quhairof send to Banff ___ Sex,
Sua restis in the hous ___ Sex.

Stuills of ease

Item, of stuills of ease coverit with ledder, tua, lokit and bandit,
quhilk is yit in the hous ___ tua.

Watter pottis

Item, of watter pottis yit in the hous ___ aucht

Item of stulles covered with ledder⁸ for the carriage of wyne and uther things, - ane.

Scheitts and codwairis⁹

Item, in the auld inventar of scheittis xl pair of lynyng scheittis, quhairof send to
Banff, sex pair,
Sua restis yit in the hous ___ ~~threttie four~~ quhairof ane pair tynt,
Sua restis only ___ threttie thrie pair.

Item, of hardin scheittis sevin pair quhairof send to Banff thrie pair and tua pair being
send tursingis¹⁰ and uthiris guids and cam not agane,
Sua restis yit in the hous, - tua pair.

Item, of codwairis twenty thrie, quhairof thair wer thrie tynt, and left in the kist xj,
and Barbaras hir hand ‘//’ that the washing to be giffin in,

⁷ Possibly embroidery like flame stitch or Bargello work.

⁸ In other inventories called a ‘wine cellar,’ this was freestanding piece of furniture like a stool. The vessels for serving wine are described below under the heading ‘wine cellar.’

⁹ Sheets and pillowcases.

¹⁰ Used as “tursings.” means used as wrapping cloths, which was a common use for ‘hardin’ canvas.

[margin] ‘//’ nyne,

[Margin:] quhilk is gottin sen-syne¹¹

Inde, in the hous __ twenty

Neaprie

Item, in the auld inventar of lynning burdclaythes xxiiij quhairof thair is xvij lang and
aucht thair of send to Banff, and ane uthir lang clayth tynt,
quhairof restis in the hous sex schoirt and aucht lang,
Inde __ fourtene.

Item, of hardin burdclaythes presentlie in the hous, - thrie
[margin] aggries with the auld inventar.

Item, of copbird claythes sevin, quhairof send to Banff four,
and restis yet in the hous, - thrie.

Item, in the auld inventar of lynning servittis ten dosone quhairof send to Banff, thrie
dosone, and tynt & worne four dosone,
Sua restis only __ thrie dosone.

Item, of hardin servittis thrie dosone and four, quhairof ane dosone and four tynt &
worne in Brechin & Braymar,
Sua restis in the hous, tua dosone.

[NLS MS.5114 f.3v.]

Item, of washing claythes conforme to the auld inventar iiij dosone and vj quhairof
worne & tynt viij,
Sua restis in the hous – thrie dosone xj.

¹¹ Barbara was washing these sheets while the inventory was made.

Kitchen pottis

Item, of brasin pottis sevin, quhairof tynt the tyme of his umqle maiestie being in Brechin, ane pott,
Sua restis yit in the hous, 6.

Panis

Item of brasin panis __ ffyve.

Plaittis

Item, of gryt charger plaittis, tua dossone, quhairof tynt quhen his majestie wes in Brechin in may 1617 thrie.
Sua restis yit in the hous __ twenty ane.

Item, of tyn plaitts and coveris, 9 dozen 6 in auld inventar, quhairof stollin & meltit at several tymes in my Lord hous in Brechin & Braymar,¹² and quhen his majestie wes in Brechin, be the space of 16 years bygane,¹³ thrie dozen four plaittis & coveris,
Sua restis yit in the hous – six dosone

Speittis raxis & ladills

Item, of iroun speittis in the auld inventar sevin, with ane laverok speitt,¹⁴ quilks ar yit in the hous __ aucht.

Item, ane pair of lang raxis yit in the hous.

Item, thrie iroun ladills yit in the hous,

Item, ane scummer yit in the hous,

Item, ane mortar with ane pestell yit in the hous,

Item, ane pair of new tayngis not in the auld inventar quhilk restis now in the hous.

¹² Braemar – presumably Kindrochit Castle.

¹³ Since the making of the 1611 inventory.

¹⁴ Laverock – hare.

Pantrie bassingis

Item of tyn bassingis with thair coveris yit in the hous ___ thrie

Item of saltfattis with coveris yit in the hous ___ tua

Item, of tyn trunscheoris in the auld inventar, six dosone xj, quhairof inlaikit xij,

Sua restis in the hous ___ ffyve dosone ten.

~~Item, of tye trunscheoris & baseatts worne~~

[f.3v]

Wyne sellars

Item, in the auld inventar fore flaccottis of tyn, thrie of thame tynt.

Item ane choppin stop of tyn.

Item, ane fillar with ane gutter giltit ar all tynt,

Restis only in the hous ane flaccott without ane seil.

Porter

Item, in the auld inventar of brasin chandleris, iij, quhairof tynt in Braymar ane chandellar, sua restis yet in the hous, thrie.

Item mair of littell brasin chandellars not contentenit in the auld inventar, yet in the hous, ffyve.

Item, of chandellars of tyn all broken, 6

Item, ane culing fatt of tyn yit in the hous.

Tymmerwark & lockis

Hall

Item, in the hall ane lang burd of wanescott, ane lang forme of wanescott, ane banke on the baksyd of the burd of wanescott with ane fringing of fir.

Item, twa syd burds, the ane thereof with tua fixed formes of aik, the uthir with ane fixit forme of aik on the baksyd with ane forme of fir on the foursyd.

Item, ane clois copburd of wanescott joyned in the wall.

Item, ane uthir lous copboard of fir.

Item, ane window caiced with 4 brods of burdwork.

Item four paintit brods hinging on the baksyd of the burd.¹⁵

¹⁵ Painted boards on the back of the dais seating, or on panelling?

The haill windowis of the said haill glassed & bandit with irowne.

The flure of the haill layit with new gaistes and dealls.

Little pantrie [?wainsco] and key

Item in the end of the said haill ane pantrie of tymmer with ane skelf of tymmer.

Item, ane bund dur with twa halffs ~~falding~~ haiffing lok and key with ane doubill dur of wanescott at the entrie of the said hall, wanting lok & key. Item ane portell¹⁶ ~~dur~~ therof bund work wanting the dur.

[Laich & heich gallrie]

Item, in the laich gallrie at the west end of the said hall, ane lang burd of fir with twa treistis, quhilk now is standing in the wardrope. Item four wyndoiois tua bund brods and everie ane of thame Item ane dur of fir enterand to the heich galrie therof Item ane doubill dur of aik at the entrie of the said galrie laich haiffing lok & key The haill windowis therof haill in glasbands with iroune and caises with weir

Nota the spyce hous [?vans] and key

Item in the Spyce hous at the north end of the said gallrie ane skelf of fir.

Item tua windowis haiffing tua brods faldit & bandit And ane single dur of wainscot haiffing lok & key The windoiois therof haill in glas & bandit with iroun.

[NLS MS. 5114, f. 5r]

The pantrie at the west end of said galrie.

Item in the said pantrie tua burds with ane lang sadell under ane,

Item tua pantrie cadgits bund under the uthir with bands,

Item ane dur of fir with cheiks of fir with key lok & bandis fixit in the wall and tua skelffis within the same,

Item, thrie windowis and tua brods on everie ane of thame of bound work snekkit & bandit,

¹⁶ 'Portell' – an internal porch.

Item ane doubill dur of wanscott with lok & key, the windowis haill in glass & bandit with iroun, and ane of thame caissed with weir.

The foir tarras

Item, in the foir tarras, ane window with tua brods snekit & bandit,

Item, ane fir dur standand lows,

Item ane doubill dur at the entrie of the galrie lokkit & bandit.

The windowis haill in glas bandis with iroun,

Item, ane pair of stokis for presonirs in the lang galrie.

Owir galrie

Item, in the owir galrie, fyve windows with tua bund brods on everie ane of thame and ane previe dur of single wanscott but lok or key.

Item, ane doubill dur of wanscott at the entrie of the said gallerie lokit & bandit,

Item, all the windowis haill glassit and bund in iroun, the four of thame caissed with weir.

Item augmentit ane standing bed of sauche [willow],

Item, ane uthir bed of fir,

Item, ane gryt fir kist lokit & bandit.

[Littil chalmer at the west end of the said gallrie]

Item, in the littil chalmer at the west end of the said gallrie, ane standing bed of aikin tymmer,

Item, ane lyttel burd of wanscott,

Item, ane schort forme of fir,

Item, ane single previe dur of wanscott snekkit,

Item, tua windows of bund work caissed, broddit, snekkit & bund,

The dur thairof of single wanscott lockit & bandit,

The windowis haill g[las] & bandit and ane of thame caissed with weir.

Wardrobe

Item, in the wardrobe, ane schoirt burd and ane stull of wanscott.
Item, ane auld daske, baksyd and foirsyd of wanscott,
Item, the uthir littil [lost] and ane auld portell dur of wanscott for the hall.
Item, thrie standing beds of fir,
Item, tua auld dealls standing upoun tua treistis of aik.
Item, thrie windowis with tua brods of fir on everie ane of thame & thair baris thairto.
The dur thairto enterand of wanscott lokit & bandit.
Item, ane gryt mekill pres of fir with ane lok & key, 2 mekill kists of fir.
Item, ane littell hous of dealls maid for keeping of fedderris.
Item mair, tua wand beds.
Item ane old cadgit.

Chalmer of Dease

Item, in the chalmer of dease ane folding burd of wanscott,
Item ane almerie in the wall haiffing tua brods and ane lok wanting the key.
The windowis with four brods of bund work,
Item, thrie doubill duris of wanscott, tua of thame lokit & bandit, the uthir wanting lok & key.
The windois haill in glas and bandit with iroun The flure layit with spar and dealls
Item augmentit ane new fir kist

My lords chalmer

Item, in my lords chalmer, ane standing bed of aik,
Item, ane standing bed of fir,
Item, ane schoir burd of wanscott,
Item, ane schoir forme of fir,
Item, ane syuill, tua windowis tua brods on everie ane of thame,
Item, thrie duris of bund work equall with the parpell wall,¹⁷
Item, ane doubill dur of wanscott lokit and bund,

¹⁷ Parpell wall – a wooden partition wall.

Item, ane stupe of wanscot at the entrie.

The windowis haill glassit & bund

[f. 5v]

Littell heiche chalmer within my lords chalmer

Item, in the littell heich chalmer within my lords chalmer, ane stand[ing] bed
joyned to the portell, thrie windowis doubill caissed glass[it] and bandit with
iroun,

Item, ane single dur of bund work but l[ok] or key.

[Heich chalmer within my lords chalmer]

Item, within the heich chalmer within my lords chalmer, ane liticam bed of
ffir,

Item, ane window with ane brod glassit,

Item, ane previe dur of fir,

The wind[ow] haill in glas.

[Littell hous at the south turn-gres]¹⁸

Item, in the little hous at the south turne gres fra the entrie, dur thair of
haiffi[ng] lok & key and ane uthir dur of fir without lok & key.

The doubill yett now of fir haiffing lok & key at the entrie of the said
turngres.

Item, ane iroun yett without lok & key, and the windowis of the turngres
glaissit, lokit & bandit.

My ladies chalmer

Item, in my ladys chalmer, ane standing bed of aikin tymmer,

Item, tua schoir burds of wanscott with ane schort fourme of aik thairto,

Item, tua stuills worne & gone,

Item ane previe dur of wanscott bund work. Item ane window with tua brods
of bund work.

¹⁸ Turngrece – a turnpike stair forming part of, and an external entry to, the lord's chamber suite, probably leading down to the inner close inside the main entry to the house.

Item, ane doubill door of aik enterand doun the turngrece thairfra, loikit & bandit.

The flure layd [with] of new with spar and deall.

Item ane bund burd of sauch [willow] augmentit.

Item, in the chalmer within my ladies chalmer, ane window with four bund brods of wanscott,

Item, ane dur but lok or key.

The haill windowis glassit & bandit.

Item, augmentit, tua standing beds of fir.

Cabinit

Item in the cabinit, ane pres with thrie brods of wanscott but lok or key.

Item ane lang saiddil with wanscott,

Ane previe dur of wanscott, the windows with doubill brod.

Item ane doubill dur of wanscott loikit & bandit.

Orator

Item, in the orator ane doubill dur of wanscott lockit and bandit,

The windowis haill cassit and bandit and caissit,

Item augmentit, tua new skelffis of fir,

Item, augmentit, ane new chyre of fir

[Auld chalmer]

Item in the auld chalmer above my ladies chalmer, ane bed of aikin tymmer,

Item, ane schoirt burd of wanscott, tua auld stuills, tua windowis ane thairof haiffing four brods of wanscott, and the uthir tua brodis.

The portell dur of bund work haiffing ane snek, Ane doubill dur of wanscott enterand thairto haiffing lok and key,

Item, ane single dur of wanscott haiffing lok and key enterand to the chalmer above, the windowis haill glassit & bandit.

Item mair, ane fir bed new maid in the [said].

[Uther heich chalmer above my ladies chalmer]

Item, in the uthir heich chalmer above my ladeis chalmer, tua standing bedis of fir,

Item tua windowis, the ane of thame haiffing tua brods, the uthir ane clois brod of fir,

Item, ane single dur of wanscott enterand upe to my ladeis chalmer loikit and bandit,

Item ane schoirt burd with ane stuill of wanscott.

[Bak galrie]

Item, in the bak galrie within the said chalmer ane standing bed of aik,

The thrie windowis, ane thairof haiffing tua brods of bund work, the uthir of thame haiffing ane clois brod of fir and the uthir window new glassit and bandit but any tymmer, Item ane single previe dur of wanscott,

Item, ane single dur of wanscott enterand thairto but lok or key.

The windows haill in glass & bands.

Item, augmentit thrie new beds of fir.

[f. 6r.]

[Fuitt of the bak turngres]¹⁹

Item in the fuitt of the bak turngres, ane irloun yett but lok key or [slot],

Item tua doubill durris of wanscott, the ane thairof lokkit and bandit, the uthir haiffing ane lok but ane key.

[Fischehous]

Item, in the fischehous, could not get entrie.

[Wellhous]

Item, the wellhous dur lockit.

[Chambers of the [?lou'n] tour]

Item, in the [lou'n] tour, in the over chalmer thairof, ane lyticam bed of fir,

Item, ane little burd of fir,

¹⁹ Perhaps the site of the present relatively modern stair descending to the river terrace.

The window with twa brods of wanscott new glassit & bandit,
Item, ane dur of wanscott lokkit and bandit,
Item, in the mid chalmer thairof, ane standing bed of fir,
Item, ane lyttell burd of fir,
Item, ane previe dur of wanscott,
The entrie dur thairto lockit & bandit,
The windowis haiffing thrie brods of fir glassit and bandit.

Kitching

Item, in the kitching, ane [?cawie] for foulls
Item ane doubill dur of wanscott, lokit and bandit, Item ane bed of fir.

[Ale cellar]

The aill sellar dur lockkit.

[Wine cellar]

The wynsellar dur ~~ane tyn~~ lokit.

[Girnell house]

The girnell hous loiket.

[My lord's stable]

My lords stabill within this clois, ane traves of tymmer with hek & manger.
Item, ane doubill dur of wanscott with lok & key.

[Out stables]

Item the tua out stables ru[iffe]s and lyke to fall.

[Doocot]

Item, the doucatt dur lockit.

[Barn]

Item, the barne haiffing tua duris lokkit bandit, ane key to serve both.

[Bakehouse]

Item, in the baikhous, ane owen and baikhous buird,

Item, ane bund window of fir with twa brods,

Item, ane dur with lok & key.

[Brewhouse]

Item, in the brewhous, ane leid with ane tymmer covir and maski(n) fatt and wortstane and threttene auld punschoirs and barrells, with ane dur lokit bandit & ane key, with ane other dur bandit that enters to the gyll hous,²⁰

Item, tua windowis with brodis & bands.

[Washing house]

Item, in the the washing hous ane dur with bands key and lok and windowis lokkit and bandit and ane dog troche with ane biggit chymly.

[The dam]

Upon the dam tua cruiffes and the fischaris to be comptabill thairfor.

Item, ane yett of fir upoun the inner clois, but key or lok.

Marie Stewart. [signed]

Since this inventar was mead thir is sundrie beds and burds mead new as the compts beares - with sum uther necessaires to the hous.²¹

²⁰ Gyle hous: holds gyle-tub in a brewhouse.

²¹ This note is in Marie Stewart's hand.