Aberdeen Registers Online: 1398–1511
Editorial principles and structure

Aberdeen Registers Online: 1398–1511 is a digital transcription of the textual content of the Aberdeen Council Registers, volumes 1-8. It is one of the outputs of the project *Law in the Aberdeen Council Registers, 1398–1511: Concepts, Practices, Geographies,* funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Aberdeen City Council, and the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen.

General principles
A semi-diplomatic transcription of volumes 1-8 of the Aberdeen Council Registers (archival reference CA/1/1/1 - CA/1/1/8) has been produced. Volumes 1-7 were transcribed, then checked by the transcribers themselves, before being edited. Volume 8 formed a sub-project and was subject to a different process: it was transcribed and then cross-checked by a different transcriber, but not edited. The transcription for volumes 1-7 has been subjected to text enrichment checks and structural, attribute and content checks and processing. Details of these processes will be reported in due course. The principles set out below are valid for the transcription of text in all of the languages appearing in the volumes. Some of the particular features of the text will be indicated by means of annotating the text in xml/TEI.

Transcription
Abbreviations
The Latin utilized in the corpus has generally been abbreviated in a standard manner, and the vast majority of abbreviations can be expanded using the standard manuals used for medieval abbreviations, such as Cappelli's *Dizionario di Abbreviature latine ed italiane* and Trice Martin's *The Record Interpreter*. In addition, there is very little variation in spelling in Latin texts. For this reason all standard Latin abbreviations are expanded silently.

The Scots utilized in the corpus is also generally abbreviated in a standard manner. However, as the spelling of Scots was still very much in flux from the late fourteenth to the early sixteenth century and as our corpus could serve as an important source for linguistic research, suspensions and contractions in the entries in Scots are expanded semi-silently (that is to say that the expanded words are annotated as 'expanded' without indicating the letters that have been added) and superscripted letters have been lowered. Common words with different possible spellings, such as master, alderman and Aberdeen have been expanded in a standard way. A list of these words is included here. The ampersand is expanded silently.

Expansions have not been annotated in volume 8.

In cases where there is an abbreviation mark or flourish, but the word already appears to be complete (or is understandable without any further additions, such as hous', becaus' etc.), an apostrophe is added at the end of the word. Where a flourish is used in the middle of a word, in addition to at end of word, only one apostrophe is used at the end. If the word is a compound, apostrophes are added both after the first part of the compound and after the second part. None of these words are marked as abbreviations.

An apostrophe is also used in cases where the nature of the intended expansion is in doubt or not immediately obvious. For particular rules concerning the expansion of currencies, dates and number, see 'Currency' and 'Dates and numbers'.

Some scribes use more flourishes or tildes than others. For examples of scribes using many flourishes, see vol. 7, p. 911 and p. 920. The letter 'd' often has flourishes or tildes. Only those curving clearly up or down have been considered tildes and are indicated in the transcription using an apostrophe. Other flourishes have been ignored as being purely decorative.

Capitalisation
The capitalisation is rendered as it is presented in the original. In cases where there is doubt whether a letter is a capital or not, the letter is transcribed in lower case, with the exception of names, which are capitalised. As it is often difficult to differentiate between lower-case and capital letters 'd', 'k' and 'w', these have been treated differently: these are always rendered in lower case, with the exception of names and proper nouns.

Compounds
Certain infinitives are sometimes written as compounds, especially 'tocum' and 'tobe'. These have been rendered as compounds, but they have also been annotated using a <w> annotation for each of the two words. As such, it is possible to count them as two separate tokens. There are also one or two scribes who tend to write words very closely together so that two or more words sometimes appear as one. These have not been rendered as compounds as this usage appears to be more accidental than deliberate. An example is the text in vol. 6, pages 345ff.

Currency
In the transcription, abbreviated currencies are presented as they are in the original and followed by an apostrophe to indicate the abbreviation mark. Complete words, including those with minor contractions or suspensions, are transcribed in full.

Dates and numbers
Dates are represented as they are written in the original. Superscripted letters are not lowered and abbreviations are not expanded. For example, xxj^{mo} die Octobris; anno Domini xliiij^{to}. Numbers, generally Roman numerals, are represented as they are written in the original. Capital I/J is rendered as 'j' to avoid confusion.

Dating
Dates have been included in corpus as a 'date' annotation [associated with the higher divisions of the xml hierarchy (how best to phrase this?)]. The majority of entries are dated unambiguously in the original manuscript. A 'high' certainty has been attached to these dates.

In cases where an entry is undated and not clearly linked to an entry that is dated, it has been assigned an approximate date based on the material around it with a 'low' or 'medium' certainty. Especially in volumes 1 and 2 there is a lot of undated material. This has been given an approximate date, but with 'low' certainty, as the pages may not have been bound in the right order. Sometimes the date consists of only a year, or of a year and a month. At other times *termini post quem* and *ante quem* have been indicated through the 'not before' and 'not after' attributes.

Admissions of burgesses were often listed together for a whole administrative year (Michaelmas to Michaelmas). Sometimes these admissions are separately dated, but they are still included under a single heading. At other times they have not been individually dated. All the admissions have been rendered in the same way: i.e. as a single division with a date from the year of the first Michaelmas to the year of the second Michaelmas (for example 1496-1497) and a 'medium' certainty. In cases where the entries are individually dated, these dates have also been marked up as dates.

There are a number of entries which were included as documentation under the heading of a court. These entries are usually dated to an earlier date. In these cases this date has also been marked up with a <date> tag.

Editorial interpolations

When a letter or word has erroneously been omitted by the copyist, this is supplied. When words or letters are missing as a result of damage to the manuscript, these have also been supplied in cases where it is absolutely clear what is missing. All these editorial interpolations are annotated as 'supplied'. See also 'Uncertain readings and illegible script'.

When an obvious mistake has been made by the scribe, this is annotated as 'sic'. The correction has been supplied as 'corr'. A 'choice' tag has been included in order to allow for a choice between the original and the corrected version of the word. The 'sic' annotation has also been used when a word has been spelled in an unusual manner which is not utilised elsewhere. If a word appears regularly in a seemingly unusual or even erroneous manner, it has not been annotated. An example of this is the appearance of 'octobis' and 'octobas' for 'octabis' and 'octabas' in volume 1.

Emendations (medieval)

Deletions and additions are annotated with the relevant XML tags, with the place of the addition indicated. Editorial notes have been added when a change could not be indicated in a straightforward manner (for example when a letter is overwritten with another letter).

In accounts, any items that are struck through as a result of payment of the amount included, will also be represented as deleted.

Foliation/pagination

The council registers are paginated. Page breaks are indicated through the annotation, and page numbers have been added. Any additional pages or leaves have been numbered by adding a letter to distinguish it from the previous page (A, B), for example 198A. A list of anomalies in the pagination is included below.

Font

Any underlined text is reproduced as it is represented in the original. Letters written in a large and/or bold script have been rendered as 'bold'.

Language use

The majority of entries are either in Latin or in Scots. There are two entries in Dutch. The language of each entry is indicated as an attribute to the relevant division of text. In cases where a word or a number of words appear in another language, these words have been annotated as 'foreign' and the language is indicated as an attribute. There are a number of entries which show a mix of Latin and Scots. These are mainly lists of names in which it is not always clear which language is used for each name. These entries have been indicated as being multi-lingual.

A few words that are Latin in origin but that were commonly used in Scots (and that can be found in the Dictionary of the Scottish Language (http://www.dsl.ac.uk/)) have not been indicated as foreign when used in a Scots entry. These are: 'et cetera', 'memorandum', 'in primis' and 'videlicet'.

The marginal headings are sometimes in Latin, sometimes in Scots and sometimes in a mix of the two. In some cases it is unclear which language it is in, as only a name is given or an abbreviation that can be used in both Scots and Latin. In these cases, the marginal heading is indicated as being in the same language as the relevant entry.

Lay-out
The division of the text into paragraphs has largely been maintained in the transcription, with a few exceptions which are listed below. The use of columns in the original is indicated in the annotation using 'column break'.

Short lists of names which are linked to another line through a bracket have been rendered as a single sentence, with commas dividing the names from each other and from the line that they are linked to (for example: Johannes, Thomas, Robertus, quilibet in amerciamento curie).

In most cases the court heading is completely separate from the following entry (Curia ballivorum etc.), but there are regular occurrences of the court heading and the first entry not being separate. In these cases the heading and entry have only been separated if this did not break up a sentence. So, for example, the entry 'In curia ballivorum … prepositus assignavit …' has been rendered as a single entry, whereas 'Curia ballivorum … quo die …' has been rendered as a heading followed by an entry.

If two consecutive entries concern the same person, and the second does not include this person's name, these entries have been rendered as a single entry.

Somewhat problematic are the long lists of forestallers which are included in the corpus. Sometimes these include names and amounts, whereas at other times they consist of narrative lines. For the sake of consistency, all of these have been rendered as one large division. However, on occasion these lists are interspersed with other, sometimes unrelated material. In such cases, the text has been split into separate divisions. This illustrates that occasionally choices had to be made which divide the text where no such division in a list was intended by the original scribe. We have attempted to avoid the rendering of individual names in separate divisions.

Entries which are undated and not linked to the previous one through words like 'eodem die' have been rendered under a separate division with an approximate date (see also 'dating').

Letter forms
Later medieval scribes either used thorns or y's to represent 'th', and yoghs or z's to represent 'y'. As it is difficult to differentiate between the two, both are transcribed silently as 'th' when the word would have been pronounced with 'th', and as 'y' when it would have been pronounced as 'y'. In cases where the yogh cannot be differentiated from a 'z', the context has been used as an indication how to transcribe the letter, for example in the cases of 'burgez' and 'witnez'. The long-s with a curl attached to it ('scharfes s') is transcribed in three different ways as the context suggests: as -s', as -sis in case of plurals, and as 'ser' when it is used as the title of the person.

Line breaks
Line breaks are indicated.

Marginalia
The majority of marginalia appears in the form of a catchword or catchwords for an entry, either consisting of a name, or names, or of a description of the type of entry (for example: protestacio,

inquisicio). These words are indicated as marginalia, but are placed at the start of each entry, annotated as a header. For other marginalia, see Emendations.

Notes
Editorial notes are included to indicate the presence of drawings (manicula, faces), decorated initials or signature marks. Notes are also included in cases where an editorial remark is necessary because a change cannot be indicated in a straightforward manner (see emendations), and when the lay-out of a page in the original cannot be reproduced satisfactorily (for example when brackets have been used to link several lines or when a marginal heading is linked to two entries).

Punctuation
It has been attempted to reproduce the punctuation in the original as faithfully as possible, using mainly full-stops and forward slashes. The lines between names and amounts in account and other lists have not been rendered. Instead the amount comes directly after the name.

Scribes
Individual hands have not been noted.

Spaces
Spaces in the original text are indicated by means of the XML annotation, including an indication of the size of the space (i.e. one word, two words, one line, one paragraph, etc.). This size is based on the nature of the space where relevant (i.e. two words for a full name, one word for a first name, etc.). If it is unclear what the nature of the words that are left out is, the size of the space is based on the amount of words that take up the same amount of space in the previous sentence. If the space is included in the first sentence, the second sentence has been utilised to estimate the amount of words.

Spelling
The spelling has been transcribed as it is written in the original, including i/j, u/v/w. The capital I/J has been transcribed in accordance with the pronunciation of the word (Jus, Jugement, Inquisicio, etc.). In cases where the c and t are indistinguishable, the letter c is transcribed in words ending in -cio(n) preceded by a vowel (for example obligacion, inquisicio), and 'ct' when there is a double consonant (for example actio(un)).

Uncertain readings and illegible script
Uncertain readings and illegible script are annotated in the transcription with the relevant XML tags, with an indication of the reason of the uncertainty or illegibility. In cases where it is clear which letters or words are illegible, these have been supplied and have been indicated as such. See also emendations.

Words or letters that are hidden in the fold in the images, but that are legible in the original manuscripts have been transcribed without indicating these as 'supplied'.

List of pagination anomalies
Vol. 1
pp. 129-130 bound in the wrong way round
Vol. 2
pp. 81-82 bound in the wrong way round
p. 98A
Vol. 4
p. 468A

p. 473A
Vol. 5
p. 180A
p. 442A and 442B
Vol. 6
pp. 380-89 do not exist
p. 477A
p. 558A
p. 744 does not exist
p. 773 does not exist
p. 781A
p. 790A
pp. 819-820 missing
pp. 867-876 do not exist
p. 959A
Vol. 7
p. 1009A

Other anomalies
In volume 6 a section of pages is bound in in the wrong place. The pages 237-248 are from
January to March 1486, where the pages before and after are from April 1473. These pages
should have been bound in between pages 944 and 945. Within this section the sequence is also
muddled up. The text starts on page 241 and continues until p. 248. The text then continues on
page 237. The folio numbered 239-240 is bound in the wrong way round: the text continues
from 238 to 240 to 239. The court that starts on p. 239 is then continued on pp. 945-6.

In volume 7 a few sheets with admissions of burgesses have been bound in in the middle of a
court, for example the court that starts on page 484 continues on page 487. Pages 485-6 include
admissions.

XML/TEI structure
The corpus was annotated using xml in accordance with the TEI P5 guidelines (https://tei-
c.org/guidelines/P5/). The text is structured by dividing the text into two levels of divisions
(<div>). The first level is that of the overarching court or unspecified gathering. The second
level is that of the heading and entries which belong to such a court or unspecified gathering. A
date is attached to each first level division, which may also be a date range. This is then also valid
for all the second level divisions within that division. For example:

```
<div type="court">
        <p><date when="1490-03-20" cert="high"/></p>
        <div type="heading" xml:id="ARO-7-0175-03" xml:lang="la">
        </div>
        <div type="entry" xml:id="ARO-7-0175-04" xml:lang="sc">
        </div>
        <div type="entry" xml:id="ARO-7-0175-05" xml:lang="sc">
        </div>
        <div type="entry" xml:id="ARO-7-0175-06" xml:lang="sc">
        </div>
</div>
```

There are four types of first level divisions: "court", "unspecified", "running" and "other". A division is attributed the type "court" when the text specifically states that a court or curia was held. When an entry or a group of entries were included in the registers without specifying the type of gathering in which this business was recorded (it might include which officials were present), the division was attributed the type "unspecified". Admissions of burgesses were usually recorded throughout the administrative year that ran from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, but the admissions are often listed under a single heading. These divisions have been attributed the type "running". They are mostly dated to the relevant administrative year. Any material that does not fall under these three categories has been attributed the type "other". This material includes, among other things, accounts and correspondence.

There are three types of second level divisions: "heading", "entry" and "incompleteEntry". The first is used for headings which indicate the type of material that is to follow and often a date, but not anything concerning actual court proceedings or legal business. An entry is any material which is not a heading (though it may also include information on the type of gathering and the date). Any material which is incomplete has been artibuted the type "incompleteEntry". Each second-level division has been assigned a number (xml:id), starting the letters ARO, followed by the volume, the page numer, and the entry number on each page. These divisions have also been attributed a language (xml:lang).

The material within the second-level division usually consists of one paragraph (<p>), but sometimes of two or more paragraphs, for example in the case of several depositions concerning the same case. These division sometimes include a heading (<head>), which can be a title or description either above the entry or in the margin. Line breaks (<lb/>) have been used to indicate the beginning of a new line. Page breaks (<pb/>) were used to indicate the beginning of a new page. This may be within a division. Where either break splits a word into two, it has been attributed break="no". Any columns appearing in the original have been indicated with a column break (<cb/>).

In the material in Scots in volumes 1-7, expanded words have been annotated (<expan>).

Other annotations that are used indicate various characteristics of the content, such as deleted and added letters or words, text that is superscripted, bold or underlined, but also any material that is unclear or illegible, or that has been supplied for various reasons. Words that are in a different language than the majority of a division have been annotated as foreign (<for>). Words that have been written as compounds, but are not, have been annotated as two words (<w>). Spaces left by the scribes are also indicated (<space/>). Scribal errors are corrected using a combination of <choice><sic> and <corr>.

Overview of annotations and attributes used
division (<div>): type (court, unspecified, running, other; heading, entry, incompleteEntry); xml:id (ARO-[vol. no (0)]-[page no (0000)]-[entry no (00)]); xml:lang (lat, sco, nld, mul)
paragraph (<p>)
page break (<pb>): n (page number); break (yes, no)
line break (<lb>): break (yes, no)
column break (<cb>): n (number)
date (<date>): when/notBefore/notAfter/from/to (date); cert (high, medium, low)
heading (<head>)
expansion (<expan>)
addition <add>: place (above, below, bottom, inline, margin, overleaf, top)

illegible (<gap>): reason (conservation, damage, deleted, faded, fold, hand, overwriting, rubbing)

supplied (<sup>): reason (conservation, damage, faded, fold, incompleteLetter, omission, overwriting, rubbing)

unclear (<unc>): reason (conservation, damage, deleted, faded, fold, hand, incompleteLetter, overwriting, rubbing)

deleted (<del>): rend (expunction)

foreign (<for>): xml:lang (lat, sco)

space (<space>): quantity (number) unit (chars, lines, paragraphs, words)

word (<w>)

highlighted (<hi>): rend (bold, superscript, underlined)

choice (<choice>)

sic (<sic>)

corr (<corr>)

List of standard spellings

- Abirdene (Scots and Latin)
- alanerly
- aldirman/aldirmannus
- altar
- amerciament
- Andirson
- anerly
- baxtar
- bettir
- broustar
- buitir
- burges
- chaldir
- Chalmer
- chamer
- chartir
- chaumerlane
- cheker raw
- citiner
- commissar
- community
- consider
- countar
- coupar
- deliver
- Dunbrek
- eftir
- eldar
- enteres
- entir
- entromet
- estirlyne (easterling)
- ever(e) (=every)
- evir (=ever)
- faddom
- fadir
- fasternevin
- flandris
- gaddir
- Greg
- guttar
- [to] gyddir
- heritage
- honorable
- Hunter
- immediatlie
- instant
- intromet
- Kennarty/-dy
- langar
- lentrinwar
- letter (but lettres for lres)
- litstar
- lorymar
- maddir
- maner
- marche/marcij
- martimes
- mastir
- matir
- matrace
- mercat
- merchand
- merkit
- merk (but marca in Latin)
- minster
- modir
- mystir
- numbir
- notar
- offir
- ordinar
- othir
- ottir
- nathir
- nerrast (ie add -er- rather than -e-)
- nevir
- paper
- par (pair)
- parson (=office, but person for a person)
- part
- parties
- perempturlie
- perile
- pertinence
- portar
- price
- quhedir
- quartar
- quarterius
- recounter
- reparacion
- Ruthirfurd
- sattirday
- sclatar
- ser/sere
- serplar
- sikir
- silver
- sistir
- sovertee
- strek
- strubulance
- terme
- thar (for 'there' and 'their')
- thir (for 'these')
- tymmer
- undir
- uthir
- uvir
- virtu
- Walter
- wattir/watir
- yongar

Other standard expansions:
- b' = barrel pl. barrelis
- h'/hambr' = hamburgh
- d'/di' = demi/dimidium
- seriand/seriandus and sergeand/sergeandus are both used.
- months (Scots) ending in -bre

Other rules:
- dies M unless conjugated as F
- barella F unless conjugated as M
- dimidium N unless conjugated as F

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