

The Oldest Extant Expense Account, Skelbo 1290

From J. Stevenson's - "Documents Illustrative of the History of Scotland, 1286-1306" published 1870 2 vols.

"Account of the Expenses of the English Agents going to Orkney and Returning 1290 September 15th - November 21st"

(1) Footnote: From the original among the miscellaneous documents in the Public Records Office. It is much defaced by damp, partly destroyed, and in some places illegible. No second copy exists.

Below is the section concerning Skelbo and Dornoch. Capital letters are used for clarity. The translation is provided by Mrs B. Mackenzie.

*Sept 28 DIE JOVIS (Friday) apud CROMBASIN (at Cromarty)
..... XXIjd (22 pence)*

*Sept 29 Die Veneris (Saturday) apud DURNACH
(at Dornoch) XIjd (12 pence)*

*Sept 30 Die Sabbati (Sabbath Day) apud SCHELBOTEL
(expenses not legible)*

*Oct 1st Die Do... assumed to be DIE DOMINICA (Monday)
Cum Nunciis Scotiae Loguendo (while speaking with the
Scottish envoys) (expenses not legible)*

*Oct 2nd DIE LU... assumed to be Die Lunae (Tuesday)
apud Holmesdale XVIIjd (at Helmsdale, 18 pence)*

*Then they went onto a place called "Hospital" probably near Latheron
and next day to Wick. Then they turned back to "Hospital" and
"Helmsdale". Then:-*

*Oct 8th (Day illegible) Skelbotel in passagis aquarum et conductione
equorum..... XIIjd*

(.. Skelbo in payment of ferry passages across the waters and for
the hiring of horses .. 13 pence)

Presumably the waters were Loch Fleet, at Little Ferry?

They then missed out Dornoch and spent the next night at Nigg, before proceeding south.