

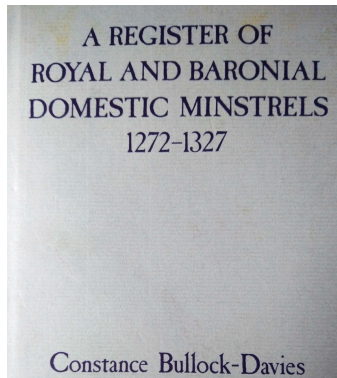
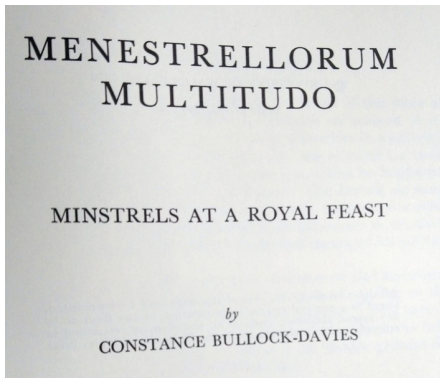
The names of medieval minstrels

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Previous work: a royal feast in 1306, and a register

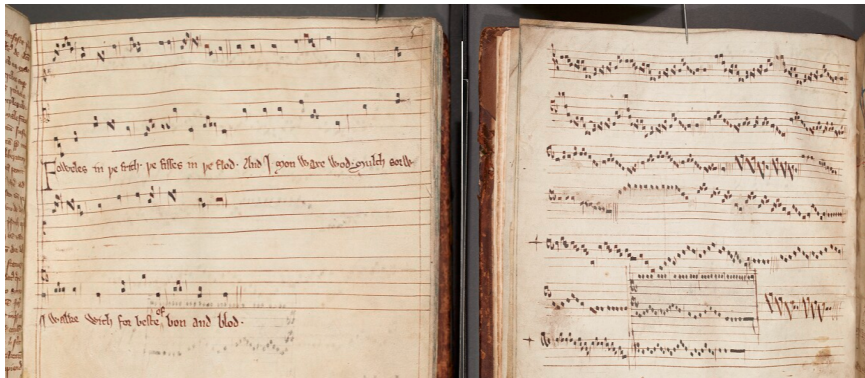


Constance Bullock-Davies, *Menestrellorum multitudo: minstrels at a royal feast*. University of Wales Press 1978 (based on TNA E101/369/6). Idem., *A register of royal and baronial domestic minstrels 1272-1327*, Boydell 1986.

What do we know about music *circa* 1300?

- Church music: chant and polyphony, recorded in a notation similar to the present system.
- Secular instrumental music: much less is known, very few examples survive.
- Instruments: the names of many are known, but actual examples are limited to fragments, such as of bone flutes. We rely on illustrations for the appearance: paintings, sculpture, manuscript illuminations.
- Actual names of performers at specific events may be limited to the two documents discussed in this talk.

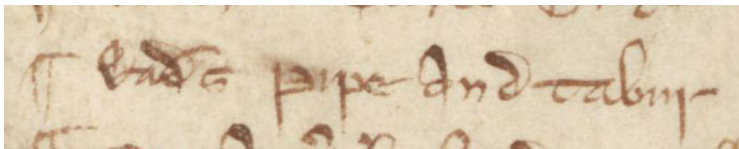
Oxford Bodleian Library MS Douce 139 (13th century)



From the Benedictine cathedral priory of St Mary the Virgin, Coventry (folios 5, 5v). Images from www.diamm.ac.uk.

Musicians in pre-1300 Ipswich local documents

- *Roberti Cithared'* c.1270 (OED **cither** 1596; cf. related word-group zither, citole, cittern, gittern, guitar; ?all ultimately < Greek *kithara*).
- *Petr' le Taburer* 1275 'drummer' (OED c.1400).
- *Semann' le Ruter* 1283 OFr *routeur* 'rote player'.
- *Radulfus Pipe and Tabur* 1283 (OED c.1290, ?ultimately < Persian *tabīrah*).



- *Henri le Harper* 1285 'harper'.

A *kithara* player, and a pipe-and-tabur player



Left: Ancona, Museo archeologico nazionale delle Marche. Photo by KB 2022-03-25. See further L. Wright, *The medieval gittern and citole*, *Galpin Society Journal*, 30 (1977), 8–42. Right: BL MS Royal 10 E iv, f.58, image from swabianfool.wordpress.com/2019/07/21/matilda-makejoy/.

Names recorded by Bullock-Davies 1

- drummer: *Adam Taburrarius, Baudet le Tabourer, Martinet ~, Guillot le Taborer, Perotus ~*
- harpist: *Adinet le Harpour, Gillot ~, Guilleme ~, Hughethun ~, Matheus ~, Richard ~*
- player of the *crowd*: *Audoenus le Crouther, David ~, Johannes le Croudere, Thomas ~, Sagard Crouther, Tegwaret Croudere*
- *citharista*: *Galfridus citharista, Gillot ~, Hugo Daa ~, Johannes ~, Laurentius ~, Ricardus ~, Robertus ~*
- player of the *estive* (DEAF: 'espèce de flûte, de flageolet ou pipeau rustique; ATILF: 'flûte, chalumeau'; Grove: 'type of bagpipe'): *Geffrai le Estiuour, Hammond ~*
- trumpeter: *Gillot Trumpour, Janiche ~, Janin de la Tour trounpour, Johannes Trumpator, Wauter le Troupour*

Names recorded by Bullock-Davies 2

- guitarist: *Peter le Gitarier*.
- psaltery-player: *Guillot le Sautreor, Janyn le Sautreour*.
- player of the *gigue*: *Henri le Gigour*.
- lutenist: *Janin le Lutour*.
- organist: *Janin Lorganistre, Parvus Willelmus organista*
- *citoler*: *Janyn le Citoler*.
- player of the *vielle*: *Andreas vidulator, Gillot ~, Ricardus ~, Johannes le vilour, Robert le Vilour, Thomasin ~*.
- *nakerer*: *Johannes le Nakarier*.
- others: *Matillis Makejoye, Perle in the eghe, Reginaldus le Mentour (?lier)*.

Why was there a royal wedding in Ipswich?

- Edward I was in conflict with the king of France over the status of Gascony; he thus wanted Flemish noblemen as allies.
- He has already married off his daughter Margaret to John of Brabant in 1290 (when she was 15).
- He had arranged (in 1285!) for his daughter Elizabeth* (also 15) to marry John I, Count of Holland after a Christmas feast in 1296. John died in 1299.
- Ipswich was probably a convenient middle-ground for the two parties at this wedding.

* This Elizabeth was the first of that name in the English royal family! See further Louise Wilkinson, *Royal daughters and diplomacy at the court of Edward I*, in A. King and A. Spencer (eds.) *Edward I: new interpretations*, York Medieval Press 2020.

Names of instrumentalists in the wedding accounts

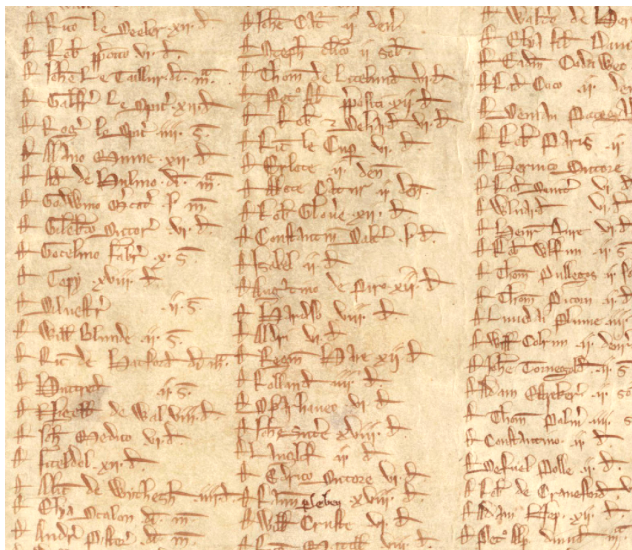
- *Johanni vidulator, Thomelino vidulator, Thomelino vidulator, Ricardino vidulatori.*
- *Henry le harpour, Laur' le harpour.*
- *Martinetto le taburer.*
- *Janin le Luetor.*
- *Hamon le Estiuour.*

Note Italianate diminutives: *-etto*, *-elino*; also pet form *Janin* for 'John'.

Other names in the Ipswich wedding accounts

- *Grisecote* 'grey coat', *Visage* 'face', *Magote*.
- *Dureme*, *Baudetto*.
- *Guilloto de Ros*, *Thom' le fol* 'the fool'.
- *Morello Regi*; *Druetto monthaut*, *Jaketto de Scot' regibus*.
(?OED †**king herald** 'a herald who grants the right to wear or display arms' 1475.)
- *Saltatrix* ... *Matilda Makeioie saltaria* (*facienti saltus suos coram domino Edwarddo filio Regis*). She was an acrobat, and also occurs in the 1306 document. *Makejoye* is a nickname also recorded elsewhere.

Do we get one-word names in other 13th-century records?



Conclusions

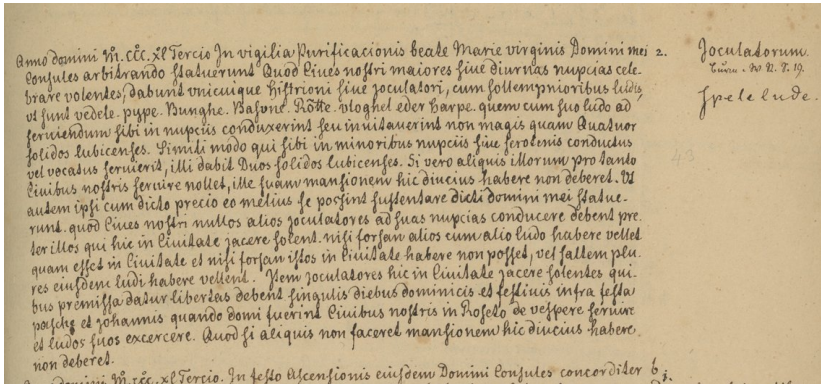
- The Ipswich accounts allow a quite detailed reconstruction of the entertainments at the royal wedding in 1297.
- A wide range of entertainers were present.
- Most performers were referred to by an occupational surname, often in Latin.
- One-word stage-names (English, French, ?or Italian) were used by some performers.

Appendix

Abstract

There are very few records of names of medieval minstrels who performed at specific events, with perhaps only two documents (both unpublished) from the 13th century recording these names. One of these documents contains the accounts for the wedding of the daughter of Edward I in Ipswich at Christmas 1296. Here many details of the entertainments provided are recorded, along with the names of the minstrels who performed. Some of these are of one-word nickname type, a precursor of the current fashion amongst popular musicians. Others are of the occupational surname type, telling us about the types of instruments played. In this talk, I will give the background history of the Ipswich wedding, and describe the results of my researches into the types of names used and their meaning.

The 1343 *Spielmannsordnung* from Wismar



Wismar Stadtarchiv, Ratswillkürbuch f.31 (19th-century copy). Courtesy of Nils Joern, Wismar city archivist.

Instruments mentioned in the *Spielmannsordnung*

- *vedele* 'fiddle'.
- *pype* 'pipe'.
- *bunghe* Grimm DWb: *bunge*, tympanum, trommel.
- *basune* 'Posaune' (trombone or trumpet).
- *rōtte* Grimm DWb: "*rotte*, harfenartiges saiteninstrument des mittelalters" (cf. *ruter* above).
- *vloghel eder harpe* literally 'wing or harp'.