Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations
by Grace Ioppolo

Astrological symbols for the days of the week:

☀ Sunday

☽ Monday

☉ Tuesday

♀ Wednesday

♀ Thursday

♀ Friday

♀ Saturday

Marginal symbols used by Alleyn for extra emphasis

☞ [used in left margin]

☜ [used in right margin]
A

a of or from

abyrators arbitrators, who settled legal disputes

ac: abbreviation for ‘acre’

ackt: abbreviation for ‘acknowledgement’, used in the legal sense of acknowledging a legal document

acquitaunce acquittance, a written agreement or receipt that a debt has been repaid

action legal document

admytted admitted, a legal term

Affydvitt Office Affidavit Office, an office in which a person makes an oath before an authorized official

aiorning adjourning,

alasactryna a medicine

alcumy cup a brass cup

Aldermen local council officials

allam alum, a mineral salt used in dying, tanning or other processes

allcomy or allcouny or alchymy brass or another metal

allowanc allowance

All Souls day Feast of All Souls, November 2

alteracons alterations

amber lech food, with unclear origin

an° abbreviation for ‘anno’ (Latin), i.e., year

answer legal document

anuitye annuity, an annual payment, such as a pension or grant
apill abbreviation for ‘April’
apl abbreviation for ‘apple’
apobation abbreviation for ‘approbation’, a legal document of confirmation
apotecarie or a poticarie apothecary, a dispenser of medicine
apoynt appoint
arbitrement arbitrament, or absolute decision
ashen sides a term of unknown origin
asier rods
Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, set 46 days before Easter Sunday
attached attached, meaning seized, possibly with illness
augur augure, a type of spear
axeing axing, i.e., furnishing with an axle
axell tree axel-tree, a wooden bar, on the ends of which wheels of a carriage revolve.
ayd aid
ayght eight

B
bagg animal
balderich baldric, a leather belt used to support a sword or shield
bale bail
balld nagg bald nag, an elderly or ill horse
balye bailiff, an officer of the law under jurisdiction of a sheriff, who executes writs and arrests
band pott pot decorated with bands?
barbar barber
barberyes  barberry shrubs or the berries themselves
barge  a small ship
bargehowse  barge house, a storage building for barges
barley creame  barley-cream, i.e., barley-milk, a type of porridge made with barley and milk
Barthollmewe Eaue  St Bartholomew’s Eve, i.e., the evening of August 23
barowe  wheelbarrow
barre  at the bar, i.e., at court
basone  basin
battens  pieces of squared timber, used for flooring, and construction
bavins  bundles of wood used in ovens
baybands  baize bands, collar bands made of baize, a finely-textured fabric
bayes  material used for saddle-making
bayghting  bear- or animal-baiting
bays  berries
bayted  baited, as in bear or animal-baiting
bazell  basil, a type of tanned sheepskin
bead head  headboard or bolster for a bed
beast  animal
bedds tester  decorative material, as in a canopy on a bed
bed coard  cord used to stretch the sacking of a bed (OED)
bedleb  a unit of measurement
bellows  hand-machine used to blow air
ber  beer
bever  beaver, i.e., beaver fur
bibbs  bib
bill legal document

bird used by Alleyn to denote wooden boards

bise byss, a fine type of paint

bich or bitch female dog

bigg barley a type of barley

bish: abbreviation for ‘bishop’

bitt bit used in horse’s mouth and attached to the bridle

blew Hows a blue house on Dulwich Common bequeathed by Alleyn to the parish of St Botolph’s

blud blood

blud letting bloodletting, used for medicinal purposes

boand bond

boane i.e., whalebone used in clothing to stiffen it

bobbin lace a type of lace sewn on a frame made of a pillow with bobbins (i.e., spools)

body trases sewing patterns, possibly traced from a person’s body

bodyes bodice, the upper part of a garment, usually stiffened with whalebone

bombast cotton

bond legal document

booses stalls for cows or horses

bosse of armes embossing of coat of arms

borders boarders at Dulwich College

bothier a legal term, possibly related to ‘bot’, compensation for harm done

bound indentured as an apprentice for a period of time

bowes bows

bowlts bolts
bownt bound

boxeing used by Alleyn in conjunction with ‘wheels’, hence encasing some part of the wheels in a wooden structure

boxe nayles nails used in the construction of wooden items

br: abbreviation for ‘brother; see brothers

bran and washe the process of cleaning an item by boiling it in bran-water

brase to apply fire to

brassile or brassill brazil wood, used as a red dye

brawn brown

breadths a measure of cloth by widths

brefe or breefe legal brief

broad, broads or broad cloth a type of fine cloth

brothers 6 elderly men to whom Alleyn gave housing and accommodation

brwar brewer

brwe brew

brymstone brimstone, i.e., sulphur

buck male deer

buckeram or buckrem or buckrome or bucketum buckram, a type of fine linen or cotton cloth

building book No such book survives although some expenses are recorded in Alleyn’s surviving Register of Dulwich College (MS 10); the ‘building book’ was apparently another book of accounts for the building of the College, chapel and almshouses.

bullocks bulls

burd Lyme bird lime, a sticky substance used to trap birds on twigs or branches

burnisht nayls polished or bright nails used in construction (for decorative effect?)
bushe or bushell  bushel, a measurement of grains or vegetables equalling eight pecks or four gallons
butry  buttery, a pantry or storage area for food and drink
butt of Leather  thicker part of an animal hide
buttatton  buttonhole
buttress  buttrice, a farrier’s knife used for paring horses’ hoofs
byll  legal bill
bynding off  apprenticing of

C
cadaz or cadis or cadiz garters  leg garters popularized in Cadiz, Spain
calues  calves
callyco  calico, a cloth
camber  chamber
canapey bedsted  a bed decorated with a canopy and headboard
canarie or canary sack  a Spanish wine from the Canary Islands
caninons  canions, decorative rolls at the bottom of breeches
caping  coping, i.e., finishing off brickwork or masonry that is slanted to repel rain
capity lands  capital lands, i.e., the main areas of a manor or estate
capon  a castrated male chicken
caponett  caponet, a young or small chicken
capp or capp paper  cap-paper, a type of wrapping paper
car  cart
cariag or carid:  carriage, i.e., delivery
Carie  carry
carsey  see kersey

cartage  delivery by cart

cartooses  cartouses, i.e., decorative carvings

cashano or casang or cassano  term signifying annual expenditures and receipts, from Latin capias ‘thou mayest take’
cassia fistula  medicine deriving from the cassia fistula, or Pudding Pipe, tree
cassock  long coat or cloak traditionally worn by scholars
cavas or cancase or canvases or canyans  canvas, a rough cloth made of hemp or flax
Cathakismes  catechisms, i.e., books laying out the principles of Christianity
catholyey  a medicine
certay  certain
cestron  cistern, a water container or reservoir
cha:  or cham:  abbreviation for ‘chamber’
chaff  husks of grain removed in threshing
chaffing  probably meaning ‘to mix something with chaff’
chaing  the Royal Exchange, the centre of London commerce, located in the City of London
chall or challdr or challdron  cauldron or pot
chamber pot  pot or bowl kept in a bedroom and used as a portable toilet
chamber keep  abbreviation for chamber keeper, an official at court
chambrlet  a type of decorative cloth originating in the East
chanc  an abbreviation for the Court of Chancery, a court of equity, which handled property and estate matters, held in Westminster Hall (now part of the Houses of Parliament) in London
charge  expense
chary  charity, i.e., in fellowship
chaynd  exchanged
chayres  chairs

**Checker or cheke or Cecker**  the Exchequer, the royal office responsible for collecting taxes, and government, located at Westminster Hall

cherris  cherries

**chi: or chill:**  abbreviation for ‘children’

chirched  churched, i.e., the act of a woman appearing in church after childbirth to give thanks

chiping or chipping  chipping or chopping wood

chopin  chopping

cittisen  citizen

clapboards  pieces of split oak used for barrels or wainscoting

clap nett  clap-net, used to trap birds and shut by pulling a string

clapps:  abbreviation for ‘clappers’, wooden rabbit cages

clark  clerk

clarrett wine  claret, a type of light French red wine

clease  clees, animal hoofs or claws

clerd  cleared

cleving  cleaving

cloke  cloak

clowts  pieces of iron placed on equipment to reinforce them

cloysters  cloisters, an enclosed area or arcade, usually leading to a church

clypps or clypes  clippers for shearing?

cock  wood or turf used for roofs

cocks  roosters
codling or codlying  codling, a type of apple

cokers  harvest labourers

colars  colliers, supplier of coal or charcoal

cole  to chop (v.); coal (n.)

coling  colling, to chop or shear

colley floreys  cauliflowers

collemaker  a man who made animal harnesses

collers  collars, used variously to mean shirt collars or harnesses for livestock

collegiants  students of Dulwich College

colling  chopping or cutting

collororing  colouring

collyar or collyear or collyer  collier, supplier of coal or charcoal

comine  cumin or other plant or seed

comine  common, i.e., official communication, used by Alleyn in connection with his dealings with the Exchequer

cominion  holy Communion

comishon, or comision or commision  commission, a command or official directive

comon  common, a common area (as in park or square)

comon pleas  Court of Common Pleas, used for civil cases, one of three superior courts

composition or compsition  composition, the settling of a debt by mutual agreement

consecretion  consecration, a formal dedication

connies  rabbits

Conserue  conserve, a kind of jam

cordyall plaster  medicinal dressing

conveighing  legally transferring
Coopers or cops dictionary  Cooper’s Dictionary, a thesaurus compiled by Thomas Cooper in 1565

copic or copis or copice  coppice, a thicket or small group of trees

copie book  copybook, a blank notebook

coping  making the sloping point of brickwork or masonry, designed to make rain drain from a roof

Cople man  man who embosses brass?

coporacion  corporation, a corporate body authorized by law, and having authority to preserve certain rights in perpetual succession.

copp  abbreviation for ‘copper”, either the element or an item made of copper

copriess  copperas, a compound made of green vitriol and used in dying and tanning

cor  possibly used by Alleyn to mean a measurement of 8 bushels

Cordovaunt or Cordyvant  leather from Cordoba, Spain

cornett  cornet, a wind instrument

corpacon  see coporacion

cors  coarse

corslett  a tight fitting piece of clothing for the upper body

cort  court, i.e., the royal court

coulter or coultur  the iron blade in a plough

Counter or cownter  countour, or serjeant-at-law

court of requests  Court of Requests, a minor equity court for poor people’s lawsuits

courtyer  courtier

cowleech  a cow-doctor

crab lock  a claw lock?

creacion  the opening of Dulwich College
crosskerffs  furrows or cross-cuttings

cross posts  wooden posts marked by a cross; by the early 18th century this expression meant
the cross country postal service

crwell  crewel, yarn made of two threads and used for embroidery

crymsons or crysones or crimsin  crimson or crimsons

cullers  colours, used by Alleyn in reference to paint

cuntrye  country

curbe  strap or chain attached to a horse’s bit

curones  corones or crowns, possibly including coins worth 5 shillings

current off newes  current of news, i.e., broadsheet with news

currie combe  curry-comb, a metal comb used to rub down or dress a horse

cushine  cushion

cutens  cottons

cwt  cut

D

d:  abbreviation for ‘day’ or ‘days’

d  abbreviation for ‘denarius’, i.e., pence (one penny), usually written as a superscript above a
number

dafter  daughter

damsones  damson plums

dayes man  daysman, a mediator or arbitrator, or a labourer hired by the day

dd  abbreviation for ‘delivered’, spelled out in the text as ‘delivered’
dealls  planks of wood measuring 7 inches wide and 3 inches thick

declaracon  legal declaration
ded  deed

demise  grant of land or an estate for a specified number of years or for life

denshering  to clear or improve land by paring off turf, stubble, weeds, etc., burning them, and spreading the ashes on the land (OED)

depe  deep

deroy  duroy, a coarse woollen fabric

devident  divident or dividend, i.e., a sum of money paid or owed

diching  ditching, i.e., making ditches or furrows in the earth

dind or dine  dined

discharging  paying a debt or fee

distrayning  distraining, i.e., seizing property of or exacting a levy on a debtor

distress of highway  roads in need of repair

distringe  distringas (Latin), a legal writ to command the sheriff to distrain or seize the goods of a debtor or other person who has failed to deliver goods

distringers  distringas juratores (Latin), a legal writ to command the sheriff to distrain or seize jurors to force their appearance on a jury

diuers  divers, i.e., various or sundry

dockett  abstract of the contents of a proposed Letters Patent (OED)

don  dung

drac  a unit of measurement of medicine

draffe or draft  used variously to mean: draught, i.e., weight; draffe, i.e., refuse; and draft, i.e., drawing-up

drawige off  drawing or finishing off clothing

dren or drench  forcibly administer medicine to an animal

dressing  preparation of clothing or food
dreying   drying
drifs   the driving of animals
dromes   drums
duff tayles   dovetails, i.e., carpentry joints in the shape of a dove’s tail
dubb   puddle
dublett   doublet, a man’s close fitting garment, often worn with hose
duble composition   settling of two debts?
duble myll or mill   to mill twice
duch   Dutch
dung   manure
dwe   due
dwtyes   duties
dyar   dyer, a tradesman who dies fabric or clothing
dyapason or dyaposon stop   diapason, foundation stop of an organ
dyet   diet, i.e., food

E

eawe   ewe, a female sheep
Esckusing   excusing, i.e., making a legal plea
els   else
ells   unit of measurements for cloth or other items of approximately 45 inches each
Elyphangias   medicinal pills
ench   inch
enrol or enrollment   the process of entering or copying a document into an official record
(usually a long roll of parchment). The Enrolment Office was part of the Court of Chancery.
Enterogatories Interrogatories, questions submitted in writing for civil law cases, which opponents would be required to answer

tred an action officially entered a legal document into the record

trest interest charged on a loan

esp: abbreviation for ‘expenses’

Ess or Esses s-shaped hooks used on carts and other equipment

evidence or evidence evidence, in the form of documents, submitted in a legal case

examinaco or examinacons examinations, i.e., interrogations, used by Alleyn in reference to his cases heard in Star Chamber

Excker: abbreviation for ‘Court of Exchequer’, responsible for collecting taxes and government revenues, located at Westminster Hall

execution the enforcement by a sheriff or other public officer of an order by a court of justice

exemplifid exemplified, i.e., having made a an official copy of a document under the seal of a public official or court

exigent or exigentt a writ of exigent, which commands a sheriff to summon a defendant in a legal case to appear in court; often used by Alleyn to recover debts

expulcd expulced, i.e., expelled

F

fact faced, i.e., the lining in a garment

fadome fadom or fathom, a measure of approximately five feet

faggetts faggots, bundles of sticks or metal rods bound together

falls false

fayer fair at which livestock and produce are sold
**fayer copies** copies of manuscripts, usually made by professional scribes or scriveners

**fayer Horne** used by Alleyn to mean some type of horned animal

**fe** abbreviation for ‘field’?

**fee** used by Alleyn in reference to his fee as Master of the Royal Game of Bears, Bulls and Dogs

**fellow** felon?

**ferring** scaring away animals or birds

**ferrey** ferry, used by Alleyn to cross the Thames, for example, with his horse

**fetters** chains or restraints, on horses, for example

**fier** a landholder?

**fiffe** fife, a type of flute

**fill tugs** used by Alleyn in reference to blacksmiths, possibly meaning ropes or chains used to lead or pull ox or other animals

**flaggon** flagon, a wine bottle

**flaggon coller** collar or chain around a flagon

**flaskett** small flask

**flax** linseed, used to make linen and other cloth

**flesh forke** fork used to remove meat from a cooking pot

**florin tyne** florentine, i.e., a meat pie

**floss basting silk** a type of silken floss or thread used for basting and sewing

**flwe out** flew out or acted intemperately

**foddering** feeding animals (fodder=food)

**footing** making socks

**foot way** foot path

**fore parts** ornamental coverings for the chest worn by women
force boyled  a method of boiling
forhorshalter  halter for a horse at the front of a team of horses
fot  one foot or 12 inches
fowndacon  foundation, Alleyn’s charitable foundation, incorporating Dulwich College,
Chapel and almshouses
fownder  a man who casts bells or other metal items in a foundry
fram  frame
free mason  a worker in freestone (i.e., limestone or sandstone)
freses or fryesz  friezes, decorative areas on walls usually below the cornices
frost naylyng  shoeing a horse with nails used to prevent slipping in ice
fyleying  filing down
fryse  a type of coarse woollen cloth with a nap on one side
fryse forned  baked or heated fryse?
furd  furred
fulling  baptizing
furnas or furniss  furnace
furring  adding fur to cloth or clothing
fustian  coarse cloth made of linen and flax
fyfe  fife, a small flute
fyne  legal fine, referring to a fine on the Dulwich property noted in Muniment 589
fyr poles  fire poles, used for stoking a fire

G
g:  abbreviation for ‘given’
galarey  gallery, often a long hallway decorated with paintings or portraits
galls  bare spots or furrows in a field or coppice

gamashes, gambathoes or gambathols  galoshes; specifically, large boots or gaiters, attached to a saddle, to protect the rider's legs and feet from the wet or cold.

game  blood sports

garded  decorated or embroidered

gardes  decoration on a man’s doublet, possibly for the hilt of a sword

gats  gates

gelding or gellding  castrated male horse

generall pracktis off phisick  The General Practice of Physic, translated from C. Wirtzung by Jacob Mosan, London, 1605; this book remains at Dulwich College

gentleman vsher  a gentleman acting as usher to a person of superior rank.

gilding or building  1) gilting, i.e., covering with gold; 2) paying taxes

gillt  golden

ginge: abbreviation for ‘ginger’

girths  belts, used, for example, to saddle horses

giuers  givers, i.e., people who presented Alleyn with gifts on New Year’s Day

glasier  glazier, a glassmaker

glasing  inserting glass into windows

Glass Howse  a building in which glass is made

glisters  suppositories

glwe  glue

gnoman  used by Alleyn to mean a part of a sundial

gololoshes  galoshes or boots

goodman  title for a male householder or holding the rank of gentleman, including yeomen or farmers
**goody**  abbreviation for ‘goodwife’, the wife of a goodman

**goun**  gown

**gotwitts**  godwits, a type of bird used in cooking

**gowld**  gold

**gramars**  grammar books

**graunts**  grants

**green geese**  young, and thus tender, geese

**gridiron**  a cooking utensil formed of parallel bars

**grind ston**  grindstone, used for sharpening knives and other utensils

**groat**  coin worth 4 pence

**grograine or grograyne**  grosgrain, a corded fabric or ribbon

**grome**  groom, a servant who handles horses

**groobin or groobing**  grubbing, or clearing ground of trees or plants

**groopes**  drains or gutters in animal stalls

**grub or grubbe**  to clear ground of trees or plants

**gumb**  gum or resin

H

**h:**  abbreviation for ‘half’

**haftying**  setting or establishing

**hallters**  collars, used by Alleyn both in terms of animal halters and as collars on clothing

**hamer**  hammer, used by Alleyn to mean a lever used to strike a bell

**hames**  two curved pieces of wood or metal forming the collar of a draught horse

**hand or hant**  handwriting or signature

**harnes**  harness
harrow or harrow  heavy timber frame used to break up land for ploughing

harrow teeth  iron teeth of a harrow

haspe  hinge

hayer  a type of coarse or rough cloth

harthpace  hearth or fireplace

hayer line  clothesline

he  here

head stalls  horse halter or bridle that fits around the head

Hecfords  Hereford cows

hedging or heding cuffs  cuffs used while hedging, i.e., gardening gloves

heds  portraits or busts

hempe  plant woven into a stiff fabric

her  here

hering  legal hearing

hersse  hearse

hether  hither

hewing  chopping down trees and plants

Hexford  Hereford cow

high way men  highwaymen, used by Alleyn to denote those responsible for maintaining roads

hinds  back parts of a set of wheels or other object

hings  hinges

hobe nayles or hobnayles  hobnails, short nails with large heads used in shoemaking

hogg rings or hog-rings  rings of bent wire put into the snout of a pig to prevent it from grubbing in the ground (OED)
**hoggsheds**  hogsheads, casks for wine

**Hollan**  Holland-cloth, a type of linen

**homage**  a legal term meaning the acknowledgment of the bond of tenure between lord and tenant

**homes fustyan**  a type of linen cloth, possibly homespun

**Home spone**  homespun or homemade cloth

**Hopps**  hop-plants used in brewing

**horskep:**  abbreviation for a ‘horse-keeper’, a servant who held or watched over a horse while the rider was away

**horsst**  mated horses

**horsspice**  horse spice, an aromatic powder

**horstanding**  paying a servant to hold or watch over a horse while the rider is away

**howlde fasts**  holdfasts: staples, hooks or bolts that secure part of a building

**hows**  house

**howse of correction**  house of correction or prison

**howhold**  household

**Hunder**  unit of measurement of 10 x 10 or 5 score

**Hurtters**  hurters, shoulders of axles, for example, on carts

**husbandry**  the management of an estate or farm

**hyds**  cow or sheep hides

I

**ii**  2 (Latin numerals)

**iermonger**  ironmonger

**ies**  eyes, the counterpart to hooks

**Imp: or impmi:**  abbreviation for ‘imprimis’ (Latin), meaning ‘to begin with’
incle a kind of linen tape
indenters pieces of equipment that produce indentations
indentures indentures, i.e., legal covenants or agreements
indicoe indigo, a blue dye
ingross engross, i.e., to write out or express in literary form a legal document
ingrossing the act of engrossing
insids insides
interogatiue interrogatives, i.e., interrogatories, questions submitted in writing for civil law cases, which opponents would be required to answer
iron doggs iron-dogs, which support logs in a fireplace
isinglass isinglass, a substance similar to gelatine and used in food, liquor, and animal hide preparation

J
jack a piece of equipment used to raise, lower or turn other objects
jack lyne jack line, a thin rope or line
jack spindle a spindle upon which a jack turns
jeanne fustian a type of fustian, a cloth made of linen and flax
jent abbreviation for ‘gentlemen’
jerkin or jerking jerkin, a close-fitting garment for the upper body worn by men
jeyes eyes, the clasps for hooks
jonicks decorative carvings?
Jordayn almonds Jordan almonds, possibly candied
joyce joist, one of the timbers on which the boards of a floor or the laths of a ceiling are nailed
joyner joiner, a craftsman who builds objects by joining wood, often ornamentally

juryes juries

K

K: or Ks: abbreviation for ‘King’ or ‘King’s’, often used by Alleyn to refer to King James I

kachches door catches

keen sharpen

keep abbreviation for ‘keeper’, a custodian or guardian

kerffs kerfs, i.e., cuttings or carvings

kertle or kirtell kirtel, a man’s tunic or coat

kien female oxen

kill or kill howse kiln house where tiles were made

kithine kitchen

L

l: abbreviation for ‘libri’ (1 pound) in money or weight; usually written as a superscript over a numeral.

La: abbreviation for ‘Lady’

La: daye or Lad day Lady Day, March 25, the feast of the Annuciation of the Virgin Mary and the first day of the calendar year

La: fayer abbreviation for the Lady Day fair or festival, held on March 25

laches latches

lan or lane land or lane

lather iron iron used in making laths?
laths thin, narrow strips of wood used to form a groundwork upon which to fasten the slates or tiles of a roof or the plaster of a wall or ceiling (OED)
lattice a structure made of laths, or of wood or metal crossed and fastened together
laye laid down, i.e., stayed or spent the night
Leafe lease
lenth length
leaues leaves of wood in wainscot (wood panelling)
lectorer lecturer
lether Jacks leather jackets?
leuery or leveris livery or liveries, used by Alleyn to mean either the distinctive dress worn by the liverymen of a Guild or City of London livery company or simply an item of clothing
li: abbreviation for ‘libri’, or one pound in money or weight
lince pins linch-pins, which passed through the end of an axle-tree to keep the wheel in its place (OED).
linine linen
liter litter, i.e., cart on which someone or something is carried
litoridg used by Alleyn in reference to coal, possibly meaning the transportation of coal by litter
Lo: abbreviation for ‘Lord’
loader load horse?
loame loam, a type of clay or mud used in building
loaming making or preparing loam
locherome or lockerrum or lockrum lockram, a type of linen fabric
lod load
Longe bill used by Alleyn to refer to a type of legal bill or petition
loop or lope lace  loop lace, a kind of lace consisting of patterns worked on a ground of fine net (OED)

Lorde mayors shoe  Lord Mayor’s show or pageant, held annually in London

lyeurs  livers fed to pigs

lyme  sticky substance prepared from holly bark and used to make mortar and other substances

lyme & hayer  lime and hair, a kind of plasterer's cement to which hair is added to bind the mixture closely together (OED)

lynce woolsey  linsey woolsey, a type of coarse linen and wool fabric

lyn  flax, used to make fabric

lynd  lined

lynine  linen

Lyueries  liveries, distinctive dress worn by the liverymen of a Guild or simply items of clothing

M

mac  mace, a spice made from nutmeg trees

maligo  Malaga, a fortified wine from Spain

mallows  the marshmallow plant, used medicinally

malt  barley or other grain used in making beer, vinegar or other items

maks  makes

mana Calabra  used by Alleyn to refer to a medicine

mange  skin disease in animals caused by mites

manner or mannore  manor, a mansion or country house

mantell  mantle, a blanket or cloak
marcks  coins worth 13 shillings and 4 pence each
mars  marsh?
mary bones  marrowbones, i.e., bones with edible marrow used in cooking
masse  used by Alleyn to denote an item of clothing made of velvet
mastcote  massicot, a yellow pigment
mat  mate?
ma[le]:  abbreviation for ‘majesty’
matock or mattock  mattock, a spade or other instrument used to break up earth
maynes  i.e., having the best or main qualities
Md:  abbreviation for ‘memorandum’
meale  ground grain
mercury sublymatur  used by Alleyn to refer to a type of medicine
mess  a serving or portion
methrydat  mithridate, a medicine
Mic or Michellmass term  Michaelmas term, a term or session beginning soon after Michaelmas (29 September) of the English High Court of Justice in England and of universities and schools.
minikines  minikins, thin strands of catgut used for the treble strings of a lute or viol (OED)
mockado  a velvet-like fabric
morrisko pillars  Morisco pillars, i.e., pillars in the Moorish style
mortmayn  mortmain, the process of acquiring the authority of a statute or Crown licence before land could be vested in a corporation without it being subject to forfeiture to the Crown.
mother  usually used by Alleyn to refer to his mother-in law Alice Henslowe
motion  a request or application made to a court of law
mowld  surface soil
mowld straud  equipment for strewing soil?
Mr: abbreviation for ‘Master’
Mrs: abbreviation for ‘Mistress’
muffs  coverings for the hands, often made of fur
mulkt  mulct, i.e., swindle or cheat?
usitions  musicians
muskadell  muscatel, a sweet wine made from muscat grapes
muskett  musket, a long-barrelled gun or a sparrow hawk
musket dyamonds  ammunition?
muster or mustering  i.e., rounding up people or animals to take a census, used by Alleyn in terms of counting his stock of animals
mydling  middling, of medium size or less than high quality
mydsomer  midsummer, the middle of the summer season
mydsomer daye  midsummer day, June 24

N
nagg  a small or feeble pony or horse
naue  nave, 1) The central part or block of a wheel, into which the end of the axle is inserted, and from which the spokes radiate (OED); 2) the main area in a church
nayes or nayles  nails
nayles [of cloth)]  refuse from spun flax or wool
neat  an animal such as an ox or cow
neal  to brand with a hot iron?
neyghter  neighbour
noat note

noble coin worth 6 shilling 8 pence, or half a mark

northern dozens northern dozens, 12 units or lengths each of ‘northerns’, i.e., bolts of coarse cloth

nothing abbreviation for ‘nothing’

noyse of trumpeters noise of trumpeters, i.e., a company of musicians

nwe new

O

off of

oker 1) a ploughman’s boot; 2) a yellow or reddish pigment

one on

orace or orase orris, used by Alleyn to mean some element in the church organ

order a command issued by an English court

osteler ostler, a hotelier or innkeeper

ou our

ought owed

out wrighting paying for the services of a copyist outside of the household

owld old or elderly

ownces ounces

Oxe gears gears used in oxbows or other equipment for a team of oxen

Oxe bows oxbows, bow-shaped pieces of wood forming collars for yoked ox, with the upper ends fastened to the yoke

oxe ward abbreviation for ‘warden’ or guardian of oxen?

oz: abbreviation for ‘ounce’
P

p: or p’: abbreviation for ‘pair’

p: abbreviation in secretary handwriting for pro, per or par

pale  pail

paling  i.e., putting up a fence with wooden pales, or planks

pantbles  pantofles, slippers or other indoor shoes

pap: abbreviation for ‘paper’

paper, royal  a type of paper measuring 24 by 19 inches

pastbord  pasteboard, a pastry board or a type of board used for pasting

paste or paster  pasture, i.e., putting animals into pasture

pastrye  pastry

patten  letters patent, i.e., documents containing public directions from the monarch, for example to establish the foundation of Dulwich College

pauors or pav: paving stones

pavior  a workman who lays paving stones, usually a member of the Worshipful Company of Paviors

pay  Alleyn’s error for ‘play’

payer  pair

pecher  preacher

pecells  abbreviation for ‘parcels’

pd  abbreviation for ‘paid’

pformance  abbreviation for ‘performance’

pe:  abbreviation for a legal ‘petition’

pece (v.) to piece together
peces (n.) coins

peck a unit of measure of approximately 2 gallons

pectoral Lotio a medicinal lotion for the chest?

pen or pencion or penion pension

person parson, a clergyman

petecion legal petition

petticoat or peticote or petty cot men’s tight-fitting undercoats

pewster Lymbeck a pewter alembic, i.e., flask

pexe possibly Alleyn’s spelling of pix, a pickaxe

piche or pitch or pitche pitch, a resin made from boiling tar and used for sealing or preserving wood

picktuers pictures, i.e., paintings

pied Hecford pied, i.e., speckled or dappled, Hereford cow

pigiows pigeons

pikes 1) unit of measurement of cloth of approximately 18-30 inches; 2) a type of bird; 3) pickaxe

pillarering howse pillory house, a prison in which inmates were physically punished with the pillory, a wooden framework mounted on a post, with holes or rings for trapping the head and hands, in which an offender was confined so as to be subjected to public ridicule, abuse, assault, etc. (OED)

pillyon 1) cap or hat worn by a doctor of divinity; 2) a type of saddle used by women

pincking or pinckt pinked, i.e., cutting cloth or leather in a zig-zag pattern to prevent the ends from fraying

pine aple pineapple

ingleton paddock or pasture
pintes  pints, units of measure
piony  peony
pipins or pipkins  pippins, a type of sweet apple
pipps  some portions of a collar, possibly the stays
pissea  possibly used by Alleyn to refer to a sea horse
pish:  abbreviation for ‘parish’
pitch  a resin made from boiling tar and used for sealing or preserving wood
pivie  privy, an outdoor toilet
plashing or pleashing  plashing, i.e., making a hedge or lattice
plat or plate  gold plate
playster of paris  plaster of Paris, used for sculptures and decorative items
plonging  i.e., cleaning an outdoor drain
plor or plore  abbreviation for ‘parlor’
plott  plot of land, with possible use of plot as play outline
plough sled  the sledge or lower portion of a plough?
plowe irones  plough irons, the iron parts of a plough
plowgh copps  plough cops, movable frames attached to the front of a wagon or plough?
pnage  abbreviation for ‘parsonage’
pollards  i.e., trees
pole deeds  deed polls, deeds made and executed by one party only; so called because the paper or parchment is ‘polled’ or cut even, not indented (OED)
pols  wheat grains, used in brewing
poore brothers  poor brothers, six elderly almsmen, for whom Alleyn provided food and accommodation in Dulwich
poore sisters  poor sisters, six elderly almshwomen, for whom Alleyn provided food and accommodation in Dulwich

poore scholars  poor scholars, twelve male students for whom Alleyn provided education, accommodation and food at Dulwich College

popingay  popinjay, an ornamental representation of a parrot

porkling  a young pig

poter  used by Alleyn to mean a unit of measure of alcohol

pottell or pottle  pottle, a pot or tankard holding approximately half a gallon of alcohol or other liquid

portall  portal, a door or gate

poynter  pointer, used by Alleyn to mean a sharpener

powlders  powders, medicinal or otherwise

powling off heads  cutting hair

powlterer  poultry merchant

pownd  used by Alleyn to mean 1) a wheelbarrow or other similar piece of equipment; or 2) enclosure

pownding a mare  treating a female horse with powder

ppetuance  abbreviation for ‘perpetuance’, a kind of glossy cloth

prayese  appraise

prishe  abbreviation for ‘parish’

priue or priuve seall  privy seal, a seal that is an intermediate between a great seal and a signet seal, used for authorizing charters and grants (for example, of land) from the monarch

propas  used by Alleyn to mean a type of cloth or fabric

prunes piked  used by Alleyn to mean some type of cooked prune dish

psing  abbreviation for ‘perusing’
psons or psones  abbreviation for ‘persons’

pticl or pticuler or pticuls  abbreviations for ‘particular(s)’, used to mean particular or itemized items, as in legal documents or contracts

pty  abbreviation for ‘party’, i.e., a person named in a legal document

pullett  a young, hence tender, chicken

purss  purse

p: anno  per anno (Latin), per year

purge  laxative

purslayne  purslane, a succulent plant used in salads

pvision  abbreviation for ‘provision’

Q

qqt:  abbreviation for ‘quart’ or ‘quarter’

q’tern  abbreviation for ‘quartern’, a unit of measure meaning one quarter

quicksett  quickset, a type of hedge or thicket

quicksiluer  quicksilver, liquid mercury

quen  queen, used by Alleyn to mean the wife of a nobleman

querne  a hand-operated mill used by blacksmiths and other workmen

quier or qire  quire, commonly a measure of twenty-four sheets of paper

quier  choir

quitt rent  quit-rent, a small rent paid by a freeholder or copyholder in lieu of services which might otherwise be required (OED)

quittance  acquittance, a document stating that a debt has been paid
R: or Rd: abbreviation for ‘received’, used to denote receipt of money

r or re: abbreviation for some part of a horse shoe

rab: abbreviation for ‘rabbit’

rance a type of white stone or marble

ransome ransom, used by Alleyn to mean a payment made to free himself of a penalty

rapacons or reparacions abbreviation for reparations, i.e., repairs

rarfters rafters

rased razed, as in velvet cloth, which has a raised finish or nap

rash smooth cloth or fabric of silk or worsted

rat rate

ratett rated

raue rave, a rail at the top part of a cart to allow it to be overloaded

rayn or raynes raynes, a fine fabric made of linen or lawn

read red

ream or reame ream, a unit of measurement of paper, commonly 20 quires or 480 sheets

reason solis used by Alleyn to mean a type of food

rec: abbreviation for ‘recognizance’, an obligation or bond acknowledged before a court or magistrate and enrolled in court of record

receat or recet receipt

recognisance or recognizaunce recognizance, an obligation or bond acknowledged before a court or magistrate and enrolled in court of record

reconed reckoned, i.e., tallied up out financial sums or accounts

recordary recordari, a writ by which a legal action to recover goods could be removed to a superior court (OED)

reffrenc reference, i.e., authorization
regesters registrars?

rejoyder or rejoy rejoinder, the defendant’s answer to the plaintiff’s reply in a lawsuit

remoue remove: 1) departure or dismissal; 2) horseshoeing with old, rather than new shoes

rep: abbreviation for ‘repairing’

repycasion or replycaton replication, the plaintiff’s plea delivered to answer the defendant’s plea or answer

rept reaped

requests, court of Court of Requests, a minor equity court for poor men’s lawsuits

res received or receipts

resete receipt

resient resident

respitt of Homage respite of homage, either the action or an act of postponing feudal homage by paying a small sum into the Exchequer at intervals or the payment itself (OED)

riband ribbon

ridge tyles ridged tiles

ridlynge syue riddle, a coarse-meshed sieve

rie rye or other grain

rieing sieving grain

rigates riggots, i.e., fleeces or hides

riping used by Alleyn in terms of roof repairs, so possibly clearing out old thatch?

riss or rist ale-barrel

rod or rode rod: 1) staff or stick; 2) unit of measurement of approximately 16½ feet

ropps ropes

rose Rose playhouse, built by Philip Henslowe in 1587, and whose management and revenues Alleyn shared
rotes  roots

rowles or rowells  Rolls Court, the court presided over by the Master of the Rolls, who heard cases as the Lord Chancellor’s deputy

rping  abbreviation for ‘repairing’

ruderer or rudderer  the action of using rudders or paddles in farming or brewing?

ruff  rough timber

rule  used by Alleyn in reference to a rejoinder, hence meaning an official statement or doctrine

Rules of Lyfe  Rules of Life, a book purchased by Alleyn

rundletts  wine casks or barrells

rusett fustian  russett, a red-coloured coarse woollen cloth

ryngs  rings used as part of a horse’s saddle or bridle

S

s  abbreviation for ‘solidus’ (1 shilling), usually written as a superscript over a numeral

sack  a type of Spanish white wine

sacking  a type of closely woven material of flax, jute, hemp, etc.

sadler  saddle-maker

saffornes  saffron leaves, a spice used in cooking

sago  a starch made from the sago tree

sallett  salad

sam, the  used by Alleyn to mean an official or a part of the Fine Office

sampire  samphire, a plant used in cooking

Sar  abbreviation for ‘sergeant’, used by Alleyn to mean the official who is responsible for arresting or summoning people to court
sattine  satin
say  a type of fine cloth
schore  score, i.e., 20
Schotish  Scottish
sco:  abbreviation for ‘scholar’
scull  1) a skull-cap, used by Alleyn to mean part of a vestment; 2) abbreviation for ‘scullery’, i.e., kitchen
sd  abbreviation for ‘said’, i.e., previously named
seach  legal title search
seale day  used by Alleyn to mean the day on which he obtained the Great Seal on his charter for Dulwich College
sealle, great  The Great Seal is the official wax seal of the monarch, usually administered by the Lord Chancellor (in this case, Sir Francis Bacon), and affixed to authorize a charter or other document.
searing candle  a candle used to cauterize or seal
seasments  cessments, i.e., tax assessments
sede  seed
sedge collers  collars made of sedge, a rough cloth
seare cloth  sere, i.e., thin, cloth
seller  cellar
selling  sealing
seminarie priest  young men studying for the Anglican priesthood
senight or senit  sevennight, or one week
sessions  sessions of the peace, i.e., periodical sittings of magistrates or justices of the peace to hear cases
settts sets, probably used by Alleyn to mean the planting of tender plants rather than plants grown in the ground from seeds

sewar a ceremonial officer at coronations

sewer sower, i.e., planting seed

shagg shag, a woollen or velvet cloth

shagge bayes shag baize, a fine cloth

shard a gap in a hedge or bank

share iron blade on a plough

shawes thickets or woods

sheaue sheaf, a bundle of plants or stalks

shews shows or entertainments

ship vessel or container

sho unknown abbreviation of some unit of measurement akin to ‘sheaf”

shores 1) ditches; 2) wooden supports?

shouell or showell shovel

sherers shearers

shert bans shirtbands

shock shuck: to husk or strip the outer membrane or cover of a grain

shockt shucked

shoe show

shore shorn

sho sleft sleft, external part of a sleeve?

shreds textile or wooden shreds?

shreue shreeve, a sheriff

Shroue Sunday the Sunday of Shrovetide, i.e., the Sunday before Ash Wednesday
shuger loaf  sugar loaf, a moulded mass of sugar
shut  lawsuit
sid  side or sides
sieth  scythe
sigell  shingle?
sife  sieve
signett  signet, the lowest grade of the monarch’s official seal, below the Privy and Great Seals
siname  cinnamon
sind  signed
sise or sises or size  a wash applied to items before painting or gilding
sisters  see poore sisters
siue or syue  sieve
skabert  scabbard, the sheath of a sword or dagger
shagbutts  the backs of animal skins?
skins  animal hides
skollops  scallops, decorative edgings
skope  tract of land
skore  a unit of measurement or marking of wood or other item
skowring  scouring
skraps  abbreviation for scrapers
skrwes  screws
sleepers or slepers or sleps  timber used to support joists
sleuing  sleeving, i.e., putting sleeves onto a garment
sling rope  a type of rope
slynges  slings

**smith or smyth or syth**  blacksmith

**smock**  a woman’s undergarment

**snaffle**  a simple form of a horse’s bridle

**snitt**  snipe, a bird

**soder**  solder

**soiorne**  sojourn, i.e., stay

**soliciting**  legal work done by a solicitor

**soma tottalis**  total sum (Latin)

**some**  sum

**sone dyall**  sundial

**sow gellder**  sow-gelder, a man who castrates pigs

**sowse**  sauce

**sparobills or sparrow bills**  sparables: iron nails used in the soles or heels of shoes

**spayeing**  neutering animals

**spic**  spice

**spie mera picra**  hiera picra, a purgative drug

**spine sherting**  clothing for the upper body?

**spiner**  wool spinner

**spining**  spinning wool

**spitt**  used by Alleyn to refer to clothing; possibly a spit-boot, a boot fastened with an iron spoke

**spitt wheels**  wheels on a spit or rotisserie

**spones**  spoons

**spok shaue**  bespoke shave (i.e., being shaved by a barber)
sporrs  spurs
sreue  sheriff

St Luke's Day  the feast day of St Luke, October 18,

stand  legally swear to

staple steres  a type of steer, with ‘staple’ referring to the fine hair on its hide

starchman  a manufacturer of starch, made from flour

starrs turning  used by Alleyn to note payments to a man who has repaired bellows and the
organ, so stars may refer to some piece of machinery

stats  states

statut  statute or legal document

statut lace  statute lace, a type of lace whose measurement was regulated by statute

staue or stave  a piece of wood used to build a cask or other vessel

stayers  stairs

stayes  stays used to stiffen the points of collars or some other piece of clothing

staying  delaying or blocking, as in the case of a seal or permission

steales  steels, pieces of metal equipment used to harness animals?

steeling  sharpening?

stemple  steeple

ster or steres  steers

stirope  stirrup, used by Alleyn to mean the footrests in carts

St James Day  the feast day of St James, July 25

stockins or stocks or stokings  stockings

stoles  long robes

stone or stons  1) rock; 2) a measure of weight of 14 pounds

stone rowlers  stone rollers, used for flattening surfaces
Straks or strakes  A strake is a part of the iron rim of a cart-wheel.

Strang  abbreviation for ‘stranger’

Strat linings  straight, i.e., full, linings

Strond  strand, i.e., street

Stud  ‘abbreviation for ‘student’ or ‘students’

Suckarie rube  used by Alleyn to refer to a medicine

Suckett  succade, a type of fruit preserved in sugar

Suckers  valves used in plumbing

Suett  suet, an animal fat used in cooking

Sup:  abbreviation for ‘supper’

Supena  legal subpoena

Suriaynt  used by Alleyn to refer to workmanship in a list of building materials; possibly related to ‘survey’

Suretyes  sureties: 1) legal guarantees; 2) acting as a legal guarantor for another person

Surplices  loose vestments of white linen having wide sleeves and worn (usually over a cassock) by clerics, choristers, and others taking part in church services (OED)

Survaygh  building survey

Sut  lawsuit

Sut or shut  suit of clothing

Sweet  used to describe an animal in heat

Sybbills, sybils or sybles  unknown reference
taffata or taffato or taffety  taffeta, a silken fabric

taffrell  tafferel, a carved panel

tagging  1) fastening together; 2) marking

taklyme  used by Alleyn in terms of breaking up ground, so possibly a type of hard lime

tallow  animal fat used in candle-making

tares or tarers  tares, the seeds of the vetch, a bean-like fruit

taunie  tawny, used by Alleyn to refer to a tawny or light-brown coloured silk

tenners  tenor violins

tenter hook  tenterhook, a hooked nail on which items are hung

thacher  thatcher, a workman who builds or repairs thatch roofs

theys  these

thuise  used by Alleyn in terms of plough chipping

tieths  tithes, i.e., taxes or contributions usually comprised of one-tenth of the total sum produced

 to boot  in addition

tokens  stamped pieces of lead or other metal given (originally after confession) as a voucher of fitness to be admitted to the communion in church (OED)

tought  taught

towlling  tolling, the act of capturing or dragging an animal

trass collar  tarras is a kind of cement, hence a stiffened collar or yoke?

treakle  medicinal salve used on animals

trebles  treble strings on a musical instrument

treble vialls  treble-violins or violins

trefeet or trefete or trevitt  trivet

trenchers  1) carving knives; 2) wooden boards
tressell  trestle, a wooden support

trewell  trowel used by bricklayers, plasterers or other workmen

trige  used by Alleyn in reference to pensions

trinitye terme  Trinity Term, the fourth of the terms or sessions of the High Court of Justice from May 22 to June 12

tuggs  used by Alleyn in terms of collars

tune  ton

turfte  turft, turned up with a decorative facing, as in a sleeve or cap

turne sole  turnsole, a purple food colouring

tuffs  tufts, i.e., clumps of decorative feathers or hair

turned over  i.e., apprenticed

tuft tynore silk  some type of tufted silk fabric

tugges  tugs, used as part of horse’s bridle to pull the animal?

turpentyn  turpentine, an oil made from resin and used in painting or decorating

twelfe day  January 6, the 12th day after Christmas

twise  twice

tymb  abbreviation for ‘timber’

tymes  tines, the sharp points of an instrument such as a pitchfork

tyne tare wheat  some type of wheat

tyeth  tithes, i.e., taxes or contributions usually comprised of one-tenth of the total sum produced

tyle kill  tile kiln or oven where tiles are baked

tyle pins  tile-pins, pegs of hard wood used to fasten the tiles to the laths of a roof (OED)

tylery  tile kiln

tylyng  jousting
tymb: abbreviation for ‘timber’

tynning tyning, the act of enclosing a field or making or repairing a hedge

V

cacate or vacuat legal term meaning to cancel or void an agreement

callence valance, a piece of drapery attached to a curtain rod

cellome vellum, a type of writing parchment made from calfskin

ceniry facias venire facias (Latin), writs involving a summons to appear at court

censon venison

cerdgygrease or verdij greas verdegris, a greenish blue pigment

cergers officials who carry a rod or similar symbol of office before the dignitaries of a cathedral, church, or university

cermillyon scarlet-red pigment

cestry a room or part of a church in which the vestments are kept

cestry-men parishioners who deliberated or legislated upon the affairs of the parish or upon certain temporal matters connected with the church (OED)

cictualls victuals, i.e., food

vids: abbreviation for vide or videlicit (Latin), meaning ‘that is to say’

vids foote on foot?

cinteners vintners: wine merchants

ciolet violet flowers, used medicinally

cmber umber, a brown earth used as a pigment

cnder stocking under-stocking,

cngrubbed uncleared

cpp: abbreviation for ‘upper’
vppbodyeing  abbreviation for ‘upper bodying’, i.e., making clothing for the upper part of the body

vse money  use money, i.e., money obtained from a usurer or moneylender

W

w:  abbreviation for ‘weight’ or ‘weighing’

wadmol or wodmoll  wadmol, a type of woollen cloth

wagis  wages

waighting  acting as a waiter

waing  weighing

war or warants  warrants

wardens  a type of pear used in baking

ware  wear?

wark  work

warpe  a type of woven cloth

wastcot or wastcote  waistcoat

wast ma  possibly Alleyn’s abbreviation for ‘wadmoll’ (wadmal)

water or wat (by or from)  paying to cross the water, i.e., the Thames, by ferry

water, my  urine

watshed or watshod or watsot wadmall  wadmol, a woollen cloth

waye  right of way?

wayghter  waiter

wayne doung cartt  wain cart, used for carrying large loads

waynscott  wainscot, a type of wood panelling

wch:  abbreviation for ‘which’
weare were
weather wether, a male sheep, usually a castrated ram
welch Welsh
wett bran wet bran: 1) wet oxen; 2) wet wheat
wett leche used by Alleyn to refer to a food or fodder
weving weaving
whalery used by Alleyn in terms of a legal document
wharfag or wharfagd wharfage, i.e., a fee for docking a boat on a wharf
wheeler wheelwright, a man who makes wheels
whight white-coloured
whipcord a thin, strong type of cord made of hemp
whiple tree a plough or other equipment used to distribute force
Whit Sonday or Whitt Sondaye or whittson Whitsunday or Pentecost, the 7th Sunday after Easter Sunday
win wine
winch iron pulley or reel
wings collar tips?
witness witness, a person witnessing a legal document
woodcock a type of bird used as food
woolskine woolskin, i.e., sheepskin
woofe woof, a type of woollen cloth
woole cards wool-cards, used in carding or combing wool
woolsey a type of woollen cloth
wormewood beer wormwood beer, a type of ale or beer infused with wormwood, a bitter plant
wornes  types of screws?
wosted or worsted  worsted, a woollen fabric made of twisted yarn
wright  workman
writ  a written legal order or warrant
wroughte cape  wrought cape, i.e., a fashioned or shaped cape?
w: abbreviation for ‘with’
woodmen  hunters

X

x: ten (Roman numeral)
xth  or xthe: abbreviation for ‘tithe’, a duty or tax

Y

yeawe  ewe, a female sheep
yoak  yoke
Younger Brother, The  a play
yrd: abbreviation for ‘yard’
yne  abbreviation for ‘yarn’
yt: an abbreviation for ‘that’