

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

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

action legal document

admytted admitted, a legal term

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

aiorning adjourning,

alasacatryna 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

allteracons 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

asiers rods

Ashe Wednesday Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, set 46 days before Easter Sunday

atached 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

bayhting 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 accomodation

brwar brewer

brwe brew

brymstone brimstone, i.e., sulphur

buck male deer

buckeram or buckrem or buckrome or buckerum 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 canves 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 chaldron 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

chamblet 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

clarck 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 clypses 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

collermaker 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 composition composition, the settling of a debt by mutual agreement

consecration 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

copriss copperas, a compound made of green vitriol and used in dyeing and tanning

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

Cordivaunt 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 crimson 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

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

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

dind or dinde 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*)

dong 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 dyes fabric or clothing

dyapason or dyapason stop diapason, foundation stop of an organ

dyet diet, i.e., food

E

eawe ewe, a female sheep

Escusing 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

entred an action officially entered a legal document into the record

entrest 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 exsaminacons 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

fellon 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 tuggs 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 collar collar or chain around a flagon

flaskett small flask

flaxe 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

flosh 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

forc boyled a method of boiling

forhorshalter halter for a horse at the front of a team of horses

fort 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 fornied 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 gelding castrated male horse

generall practis 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 guilding 1) gilding, 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

golloshes 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

harow 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

howshold 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

indenturs 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 dogs 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 & hayr 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

maligoe 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

mascote massicot, a yellow pigment

mat mate?

ma^{tie}: 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?

M^r: abbreviation for ‘Master’

M^{rs}: abbreviation for ‘Mistress’

muffs coverings for the hands, often made of fur

mulkt mulct, i.e., swindle or cheat?

musitions 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

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

nothi 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^r: 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 Paviers

pay Alleyn’s error for ‘play’

payer pair

pecher preacher

pcells 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

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

pigiows pigeons

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

pickaxe

pillering 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

plinge 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 almswomen, 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

powders 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

ppetuanee abbreviation for ‘perpetuanee’, 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

q^{rt}: 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

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

raised 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 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

reecat 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?

reioyder 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'

replycasion 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'

rudering or ruddering 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 sevensnight, or one week

sessions sessions of the peace, i.e., periodical sittings of magistrates or justices of the peace to hear cases

setts 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 left 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

size 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 gelder 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)

sporr 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?

steple 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

T

tabyne tabin, a silk taffeta

tacking pinning a garment

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

thuisse 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

treffet 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

trinity 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

tyltyng jousting

tymb: abbreviation for ‘timber’

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

V

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

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

vellome vellum, a type of writing parchment made from calfskin

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

venson venison

verdgrease or verdij greas verdegris, a greenish blue pigment

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

vermillyon scarlet-red pigment

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

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

victualls victuals, i.e., food

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

vids foote on foot?

vinteners vintners: wine merchants

violets violet flowers, used medicinally

vmber umber, a brown earth used as a pigment

vnder stocking under-stocking,

vngrubbed uncleared

vpp: 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 wadmoll 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 wadmoll wadmol, a woollen cloth

waye right of way?

wayghter waiter

wayne dounge cartt wain cart, used for carrying large loads

waynscott wainscot, a type of wood panelling

w^{ch}: 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 wharfedg 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 Sunday or Whitt Sondaye or whittson Whitsunday or Pentecost, the 7th Sunday after Easter Sunday

win wine

winch iron pulley or reel

wings collar tips?

witnes 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

wormes 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^t: abbreviation for 'with'

woodmen hunters

X

x: ten (Roman numeral)

xth: or **x^{the}**: abbreviation for 'tithe', a duty or tax

Y

yeawe ewe, a female sheep

yoak yoke

Younger Brother, The a play

yrd: abbreviation for 'yard'

y^rne abbreviation for 'yarn'

y^t: an abbreviation for 'that'