palaeography

tutorial

Document 3: Examination of James Machary, 29 December 1588

(Catalogue reference: SP 63/139 no 25 folio 82)

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About this document

This document is the examination of James Machary regarding his enforced service with the Spanish Armada, dated 29 December 1588. (Catalogue reference: SP 63/139 no. 25 folio. 832)

Machary's statement was made before the Lord Deputy of Ireland, William Fitzwilliam, in December 1588. Fitzwilliam then included the statement in one of his despatches to Sir Francis Walsingham, the Secretary of State in England.

Machary, an Irishman, was press-ganged onto a ship in Portugal and was therefore present at the invasion of the Armada, on the Spanish side. Machary was left behind on the coast of Ireland by the Spanish when they departed. He would have been a very useful source of information for the Lord Deputy, as he was able to provide information about the Spanish ships and in particular about Don Alonso de Leva.

The document is mainly written in secretary hand. This style of writing was used for business purposes, and was the main hand used in Britain in the Tudor and Jacobean periods. The italic hand, which we saw in document 1 (the letter from Princess Elizabeth), existed alongside secretary hand, and writers of secretary hand would sometimes write certain words in italic hand to make them stand out. An example of this can be seen in this document, which has the names of the Spaniards written in italic.

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Introduction to transcribing document 3

Transcription tips - READ THESE FIRST!

In this document you should watch out for:

- Capital letters - as in document 2, the capital letters are particularly tricky. Refer to the alphabet to help you.

- Watch out for the 'h' with a long descender (tail), particularly when it is joined to the preceding or following letter.
  See for example, *fflemmyshe*: **line 6**.

- The letter 'x', which could be mistaken for a 'p'.
  See for example, *examinac*[i]*on*: **line 1**.

- The long 's' which can also be hard to distinguish when it is joined to other letters.
  See for example, *fflemmyshe*: **line 6**.

- Sloping ascenders (upwards strokes) on some 'd's and 'a's. They can be particularly confusing when they cross other letters. See for example *and*:**line 5**. The word *souldiors* (for example line 7) is particularly hard to read, as the ascender of the 'd' goes completely through the 'l'.

In this document you will meet some abbreviations that you have already learnt in earlier documents, as well as some new ones.

- 'cion' / 'tion': The second word of the document contains a common abbreviation sign found in words which end 'tion' or 'cion'. Usually it is just a dash over the 'o', but here it is a bit more elaborate.

- 'w^{t} : This is the abbreviation for 'with'. It is also sometime written 'wth'.

- 'r'
  In this document this symbol is being used for a terminal 'r' precede by a missing letter . See **line 19**, *armo*[u]*r*.

Also in this document the writer tends automatically to put a full stop after Arabic numbers and a colon after proper names. Do not include these in your transcription unless of course the full stop represents the end of a sentence.

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glossary

Apparell	Clothing and equipment.
Armada	Armada is the Spanish word for a fleet of ships. The Spanish Armada of 1588 was made up of approximately 150 ships. King Philip II of Spain intended to invade England and bring it under Spanish rule. There were many reasons behind this, both religious and political. Since Philip had been married to Mary I, he had been king of England for a few years. Under Elizabeth, England had reverted from the Catholic rule of Philip and Mary to Protestantism. Elizabeth I was also encouraging unrest in the Netherlands, which were ruled by Philip. Further provocation was provided by her refusal to condemn the English privateers who were attacking Spanish ships. England was also competing with Spain for trade and expansion in the New World or Americas. The execution of Mary Queen of Scots in 1587 brought matters to a head, and the Armada set out to invade England the following year. Unfortunately for Philip, bad storms meant that the Spanish ships were unable to meet up with the forces of the Duke of Parma in the Netherlands as originally intended. They were also blown off course after the Battle of Gravelines. Intending to return to Spain by sailing north around Scotland, many ships were in fact wrecked off the coast of Ireland and Scotland. Of the 150 ships that set out, only 65 managed to return to Lisbon.
Cables	Strong thick rope (in a nautical context).
'Capestele'/Capstan	Capstan, a winding mechanism for weighing anchor, hoisting heavy sails etc.
Erris St Donnell	Blacksod Bay on the coast of Erris, a district of County Mayo in Ireland.
Examination	A statement or testimony that is taken down in writing as evidence.
'Flemmysshe'/Flemish	Of or belonging to Flanders. King Philip II of Spain had inherited Flanders from his father, Charles I, who was also the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V.

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'Gallias'/Galleass	A galleass was an oared sailing ship, a cross between a galleon and an oared galley.
Gerona	The Gerona, (also known as Girona), was a galleass in the Spanish Armada. She was forced to undergo repairs in the port of Killibegs in Donegal, Ireland. While in port, the Gerona took on the crews of the Rata Santa Maria Encoronada and the Duquesa Santa Ana. Upon leaving Donegal, the Gerona headed for Scotland but, on 30 October 1588, she was wrecked off Lacada Point near the Giant's Causeway, County Antrim, Ireland.
Gran Bello, Don Thomaso de	Don Tomaso de Granvelle.
'Hulke'/Hulk	A large ship of burden or transport.
Imprest	Impressment or press-ganging. Enforced service in either the army or navy.
Leva, Don Alonso de	Don Alonso Martinez de Leiva de Rioja, Knight of Santiago and commander-designate of the Armada.
Longherris	Loughros Mor Bay, Donegal.
Lord Deputy of Ireland	The English monarch's representative and head of his/her administration in Ireland. Sir William Fitzwilliam, who was born at Milton in Northamptonshire in 1526, held this post during the attempted invasion by the Spanish Armada. His appointments in Ireland commenced in 1555 when Mary I appointed him temporary Keeper of the Great Seal of Ireland. In 1575 Fitzwilliam resigned as Lord Deputy and returned to England owing to ill health. As the governor of Fotheringay Castle during the incarceration and subsequent execution of Mary Queen of Scots, he was said to have shown great respect and kindness to his prisoner. In 1588 Fitzwilliam was reappointed Lord Deputy of Ireland. Almost immediately, he had to deal with the issue of apprehending Spanish stragglers from the Armada both on land and off the shores of Ireland.
'Lysbon'/Lisbon	Capital of Portugal. In 1580 Portugal was united with the other Spanish kingdoms

by King Philip II. It continued under the rule of the Spanish crown until 1640. The Spanish kingdoms were known collectively as Spain but were not actually a unified state at this time.

'Mc Swine ny Does Countrie'/McSweeney ne Doe	McSweeney ne Doe (gaelic - Mac Suibhne na d'Tuath) was an underchief of the Earl of Tirconnel. The area is now Donegal, Ireland.
'Narrowe Seas'	The English Channel.
'Ordinaunce'/Ordinance	Military supplies, large guns, cannons etc.
Paris, Counte de	The Count de Paredes.
Plate	Metal tableware.
Ratt	A ship called La Rata Santa Maria Encoronada.
Secretary hand	A style of handwriting which developed in England in the 16th century. It was used for business purposes. It is a cursive style (from the Latin 'currere' - to run) so called because it was written at speed and 'runs' across the page. The pen does not leave the page between letters. The use of secretary hand had begun to wane by the mid17th century.
St Ann	A ship called Duquesa Santa Ana.
The King	'…w[it]h the K[ing]…' document 3, line 14. Philip II, King of Spain 1556-1598, born 1527.
Tipperary	A county situated within the Irish Province of Munster. There is also a town of the same name.
Victuals	Food and provisions.
Walsingham, Sir Francis	1530[?]-1590. A zealous Protestant, he lived abroad during the reign of the Catholic Queen Mary I. Walsingham's knowledge of foreign affairs, combined with his many overseas acquaintances,

led to his employment in the area of foreign secret intelligence under Elizabeth I on his return to England. In 1573, he was created joint Secretary of State with Lord Treasurer Burghley, with special responsibility for foreign affairs. Walsingham was renowned for his capabilities in intelligence gathering; his detection of Babington's plot against the life of Elizabeth I, in which Mary Queen of Scots was heavily implicated, led to the latter's execution for treason in 1586.   With many agents in Spain, Walsingham was aware of the Armada's preparations, down to minute detail in some cases. He died in 1590 and was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

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how to use the
interactive transcribing exercise

Help - using the interactive transcribing exercise

Step 1: Study the line of text from the document image

Step 2: On the document image, use the interactive magnifying glass to zoom in/out of image by clicking on a particular word

Step 3: Using the textbox below the document image, type in your transcription

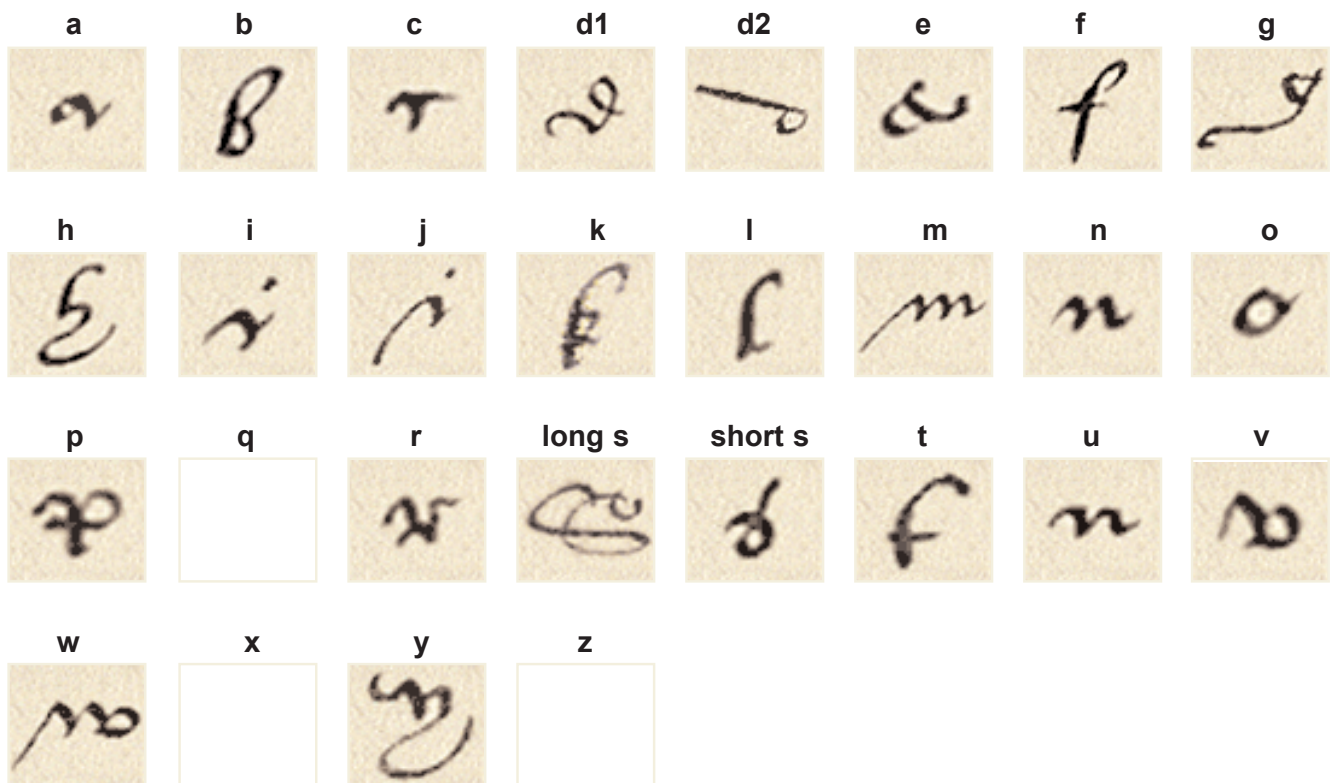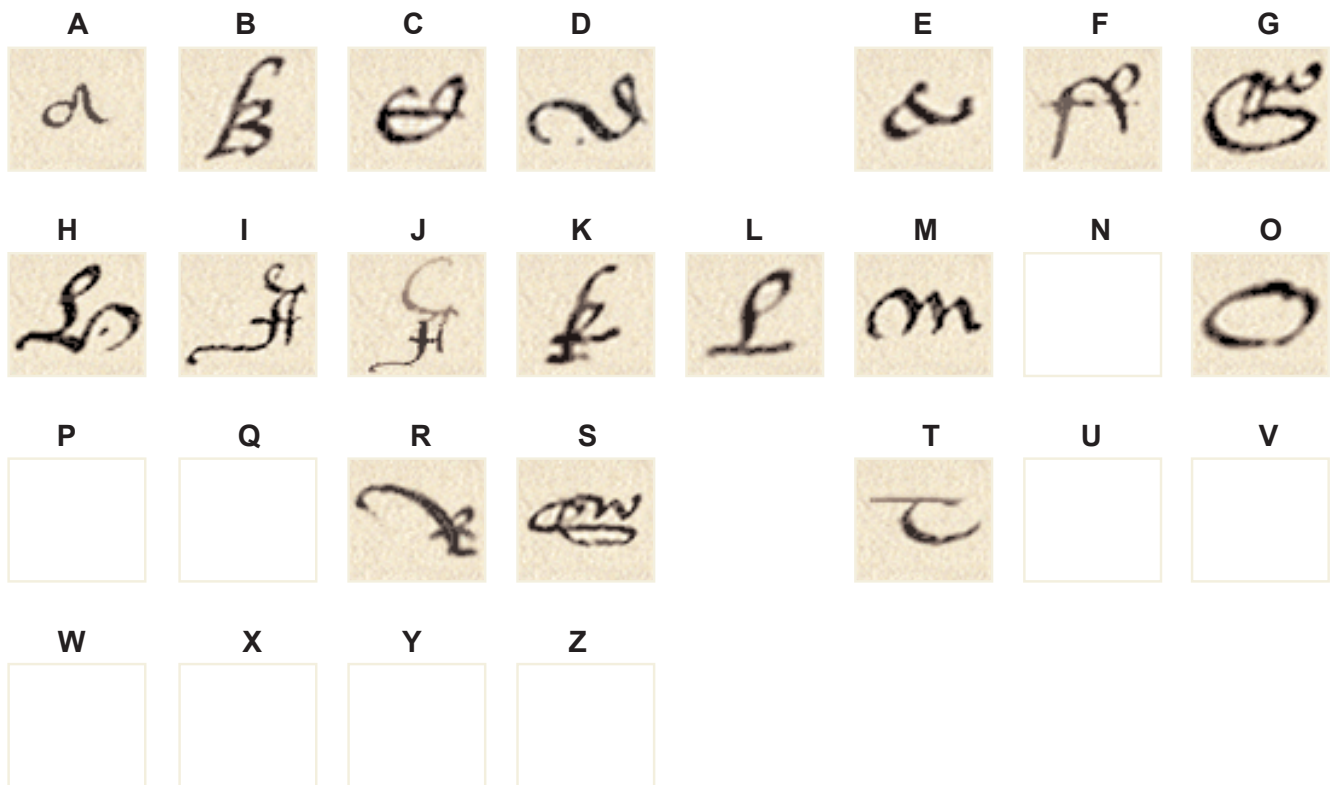Step 4: When you have finished the current line of text, click on the Submit button

Step 5: The results will be shown and will give you the option to either retry or move onto the next line of the current document.

Help - instructions on typing your transcription

1) For every word you cannot transcribe, put in a dash character ' - '

2) Every word you transcribe should be separated with a single space

3) The transcribing text must match, whether it is in capital or lower case

4) Expand abbreviations in square brackets where necessary.

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Alphabet

A	B	C	D		E	F	G

H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O

P	Q	R	S		T	U	V

W	X	Y	Z

a	b	c	d1	d2	e	f	g

h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o

p	q	r	long s	short s	t	u	v

w	x	y	z

1 The examinacon of James Machary of the Citie
2 in the Countie of Corck mariner taken before the
3 right honorable the Lo: Deputie the 29 day of
4 September 1588 / 4

5 The said Examinat was in parte of all seson in
6 flanders the English natie of the burthen of 400. tun beinge
7 in weight about 300. mentioned, who 150 mariners, and the reste of the
8 Loading being vituals. After the fight in the chanell 8
9 The said vppon the coast of Ireland in a greate talke Erris St Donnell 9
10 and cast at there comming in they forme a greate Erris St Donnell 10
11 of 1000 tonn, or nathing a greate more, in weight was Don Alonso 11
12 the Icora, who an Erle called Connte De Paris; and a brother of the 12
13 same Erle, all a greate named Don Thomao de gran Bello: and a man 13
14 and greate, of greate reverence and a naturall ... by 14
15 borne, not longe too Baptised and officer gallant gent; theare 15
16 was in this Ship of all sort abovte 700. 16
17 After, Don Alonso: and all his companie were received 17
18 in to the English of all thegroo they go in the Ship of 18
19 my valenor as plate apparrell, mones, iwells, weapons and 19
20 leavinge behinde them vituall ordinanute and much other furiture of 20
21 nothing the English was not hable to carrie away; in weight Don they 21
22 set the Ship on fire and made hable for Spain; in weight 22
23 townd by a contrarie wynd and they mvst suffer vpon in 23
24 Connne my bod Cambrie to a plare talke Longhfoyle, in weight falling 24

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transcript

See also, N. Rodgers, The Armada in the Public Records (HMSO, 1998), p. 72.

1. The examinac[i]on of James Machary of the Crosse
2. w[i]t[h]in the Countie of Typperary, taken before the
3. right honorable the Lo[rd] Deputie the 29 day of
4. December 1588.
5. He saieth he was imprest at Lysbon in Spaine and put into a
6. Flemmyshe hulcke called St Ann of the burden of 400 and better
7. in which were 300 souldiors, and 150 mariners, and the rest of the
8. loading being victualls. After the fight in the narrowe Seas
9. she fell upon the Coast of Ireland in a haven called Erris St Donnell.
10. where at theire coming in they found a greate shipp called the Ratt
11. of 1000 tonn, or rather a good deale more, in which was Don Alonso
12. de Leva, and an Erle called Counte De Paris, and a brother of the
13. same Erle, also a gent[leman] named Don Thomaso de gran Bello a man
14. much favored w[l]t[h] the K[ing] of greate revennewe, and a naturall Spa[niard]
15. borne, w[i]th dyvers good Captens and other gallant gent[lemen]. there
16. was in this shipp of all sortes above 700.
17. After she perished, Don Alonso and all his companie were receaved
18. in to the hulcke of St Ann w[i]t[h] all the goodes they had in the shipp of
19. any valewe, as plate, apparell, monie, iewells, weapons, armo[u]r etc
20. leaving behinde them victuall, Ordinaunce, and much other stuffe
21. which the hulcke was not hable to carrie away: which don they
22. sett the shipp on fire, and made saile for Spaine, in which
23. course by a contrarie wynde they were dryven back upon mc
24. Swine ny does Countrie to a place called Longherris, where falling
25. to Anckor, there fell a greate storme which brake in sonder all theire
26. Cables, and strooke them upon grounde, whereby Don Alonso and
27. all his companie were enforced to goe on shoare taking all theire
28. goodes, and armor w[i]th them, and there by the shipp side incamped
29. them selves for the space of 8 or 9 daies.
30. Don Alonso before he came to Lande was hurte in the legge by the
31. Capestele of the shipp in such sorte as he was nether hable to goe
32. nor ride, nether duering the 9 daies of his incampinge, nor upon his
33. remove, but was carried from that place, to the place wherein the
34. Gallias (named Gerona lay), betwene 4 men, being 19 myles distaunce,
35. where likewise he and all his companie incamped 12 or 14 daies in
36. which tyme the Gallias was finished, and made readie for the
37. sea as well as she could be. He being advertised certenly from tyme
38. to tyme that the Lo[rd] Deputie was preparing him selfe to come against
39. them, put him selfe aboorde her, having for his pilott 3 Irishe men
40. and a Scott. There was in the Gallias of her own souldiors
41. (besides 300 slaves) 5 or 600 men.
42. He saieth that Don Alonso, for his stature was tawle and slender, of a
43. whitly complexion, of a flaxen and smothe heare, of behavior mylde
44. and temperate, of speeche good and deliberate, greatly reverencid
45. not only of his owne men, but generally of all the whole companie.

46. And thus being all shipped in the saide Gallias he saieth they
47. departed for Scotland, but what became of them this examin[an]t cannot
48. saie.