

Early Theatre Paleography Guide (REED Style)

Last updated: 15 March 2021

- Manuscript punctuation has been retained, except that excessive scribal pointing is usually ignored.
- Virgules are indicated as / and //.
- All line fillers have been overlooked.
- Capitulum marks and other marginal marks in financial accounts and inventories have for the most part not been transcribed.
- The spelling of the original has been preserved, along with the capitalization.
- The letters 'ff' have been retained for 'F'; the standard and elongated forms of 's' are uniformly transcribed as 's'.
- Ornamental capitals and display letters have been transcribed as ordinary letters.
- Arabic '1' has been substituted for Roman 'i' when adjacent numbers are also Arabic.
- Abbreviated words have been expanded with italics to indicate letters supplied by the editor.
- Where manuscripts yield insufficient evidence to judge individual scribal habits, abbreviations are expanded to classical forms in Latin and modern British forms in English.
- First names have been expanded wherever possible.
- Italics and other special typefaces in printed sources are not observed; they are silently printed as roman.

- Abbreviations that are easily understood today ('li.,' 's.,' 'd.,' 'ob.' [for half-pence], 'qua.' [for farthing], 'viz.,' and 'etc' or '&c'), and abbreviations cumbersome to expand, including those typical for weights and measures ('lb.' for 'pound' and 'di.' for 'half'), are retained. 'Mr' is expanded only when used as a noun or when occurring before another title (for example, Master Mayor); it is left unexpanded when introducing a proper name. 'Xp-' and 'xp-' are expanded as 'Christ-' and 'christ-' while 'ihs' and 'lhs' are transcribed as 'ie{su}s' and 'le{su}s'.
- Where the number of minims is too many or too few by obvious scribal error, an editorially corrected version is supplied in the text and the textual oddity is footnoted.
- Otiose flourishes such as the barred 'ell' are ignored.
- Superlineated letters are lowered to the line except when used with numerals.
- Where an unfoliated manuscript has a small number of leaves or membranes, these have been counted by hand and conjectural folio numbers placed in square brackets.

Symbols

<...>	lost or illegible letters in the original
text	cancellation or erasure in the original
(blank)	a blank where writing would be expected
° °	matter in the original added in another hand
⸰ ⸱	[ie, top half brackets] text written above the line

⏟	[[ie, bottom half brackets]] text written below the line
^	caret mark in the original
...	ellipsis of original matter
	change of folio, membrane, page, or sheet in continuous text
®	right hand marginale
†	marginale too long for the left hand margin