

Émigré Weavers working in London 1558-1619

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I - The Great Wardrobe employees

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I - The arras men employed in the Great Wardrobe 1559-1639

Men from the Barcheston area italicized, only those who worked there underlined. As many alternative versions of names as possible have been given; the version used in the text is the first given in the index version; names are cross referenced in green. Dates have been left as originally cited and have not been standardized, except for wills. All references to TNA documents refer to material in The National Archives, Kew, London, those to LMA are in London Metropolitan Archives.

Alford, William 1580/81-1587/88

He performed miscellaneous errands for the Sheldons at Barcheston in May and June 1587; he served only 18 of 256 working days in the year Michaelmas 1587-88 in the Wardrobe where he was employed from 1581.¹ He made his will on 26 February 1588; probate was granted on 12 March.² Other than a bequest to John Tiler, his kinsman of the parish of St John's Worcester and the gift of his gown to Anthony Diston, his gifts were in cash; they totalled £48. He arranged 'a potation' for his fellow weavers, for two pounds to be given to the crippled child of his colleague Harman van Bell while others, including Hyckes and Edward Graveley, his wife and daughter all received gifts. Graveley, then working amongst the royal tailors, was his executor, Anthony Diston and Richard Kent his witnesses. He left £5 to widow Onyons for her children, enabling her to send her son to Christ's Hospital for his education.³ It is possible she was his landlady, widow presumably of William Onyons assessed in the tax list of 1582 as having goods worth £3; he paid 3s. He was listed in the 1577 returns of Catholics in St Andrews of the Wardrobe.

A search for Alford's kinsman in the St John Bedwardine parish registers revealed that John Tyler was regularly identified as an orriswever at the birth of all of his many children. He was buried 24 August 1602.⁴ But it also emerged that Alford himself had lived in the parish. William married Alice Burnford in 1559; children were born to them in 1562, 1563, 1568, 1569, 1571 after which the family disappears from the registers. It seems possible that William moved to Barcheston and was one of those who hoped to take advantage of William Sheldon's loans, about which he would have been well placed to know. He had lived in the same parish as Thomas Chaunce, one of those Sheldon nominated in his will in connection with the Barcheston venture.

NOTES

1. Warwickshire CRO CR 2632, fols. 10, 78, 79, 126, 158; TNA LC 9/73-79.
2. TNA PROB 11/72.
3. TNA E 179/25/16, rot.28; R.G.Lang, *Two Tudor Tax Assessments Rolls for the City of London, 1541 and 1582*, London Record Society, 29, 1992, 183; G.A.T.Allan, *Christ's Hospital Admissions 1544-1599*, (1937), 212; Catholic Rec Soc, 21, 178.
4. Worcester Record Office, transcripts, St John Bedwardine Parish Registers.

Awsten, Awstine, Thomas 1587/8-1639/40

Son of a grocer, he served an apprenticeship with Peter Wallys at Christ's Hospital,¹ and was employed in the Wardrobe 1587 until 1639/40.² He married Mary Grange 24 May 1609, St Andrews by the Wardrobe.³ For Wallys see

<http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre2Independents.pdf>

NOTES

1. G.A.T.Allan, *Christ's Hospital Admissions 1544-1599*, (1937), 167.
2. TNA LC 9/79-103
3. LMA, Ms 4503/1, St Andrews parish registers, marriages.

Badger, John 1567/8-1569/70; TNA LC 9/60-61, TNA AO 3/1107, anno xi-xii.

Baerd, Arnold 1557/58-1563/4

Arnold Baerd (also Baerde, Beyerd, Bride, Birde, Berde, Beard and possibly Briet). Payments to him for work with the Wardrobe team begin in 1557 and continue for a further eight years; they may not be the earliest, for at Easter 1567 he and his wife Anne are said to have been in England for 19 years already, which implies that he came, from his birthplace, Oudenarde, in or around 1548.¹ At that time, and indeed much later, even when, in 1563 he got his denization papers,² he is recorded within St Faith's parish in Castle Baynard ward. As a denizon he would have the right to have his own workshop and it must be presumed that this is what he had planned when, after working only 43 days in the year Michaelmas 1563/64, payments in the Wardrobe cease.³ He does not however seem to have moved away for in 1568, when he had two children, Peter and Jacob, his landlord was said to be one Nicholas Myn.⁴ By May 1571 he was presumably making ends meet because he was described as a householder and not as a tenant; in November 1571, when he admitted to having come only 'seven years since', exactly the date of his naturalization, a Jillis Bird, a sack-cloth weaver and presumably a relative, was living with them, still in St Faith's

parish.⁵ He was taxed there in 1576 when his goods were assessed at £5.0.0 on which he paid 10 shillings and a further poll tax of 4d each for Anne his wife and Jacob his father.⁶ Only after that did he leave the area in which he had lived most of his life; in February 1580 his will states clearly that it was written ‘at the house of me, Arnold Baerd at London Wall near Bishopsgate’.⁷

In July 1581 he contributed 6s. 8d annually for three years for the upkeep of a student at Cambridge or elsewhere.⁸ In August 1582 he was assessed for the second payment of the subsidy granted the previous year on goods worth £3, paying 6s. on property in St Benet Fink parish, Brodestrete ward.⁹ But within the next six months Arnold died; his widow gave £1.0.0 to a collection for the Brussels church in December 1582 and his will, witnessed by Zeghen van Pilken and Martin de Gande, was proved on 25 February 1583.¹⁰ Arnold left an annuity of £10 to his father, 20s and a bed with its furnishings to his maid while the astonishingly high sum of £300 was to be paid to his son Jacob when of age; in the meantime his appointed guardian was one of the Church elders, John Radermaker. His other son, Peter, was not mentioned and had perhaps died. Jacob was born before 1568, so his majority cannot have been far off; it may be that the Jacob Berd described as merchant in 1583 living in Dowgate ward was that same boy.¹¹ Certainly, there is no indication that he followed his father’s craft and became a weaver.

Arnold Baerd was amongst the wealthiest weavers; he died leaving both his son and his widow well off. Anne Baerd widow and Jacob ‘an old man’ were listed amongst the stranger residents of Brodestrete ward in a document securely dated between Nov 1582-Nov 1583.¹² Anne married again on 26 January 1584, taking the merchant Michael Corselis alias Griffin of Rostar as her husband.¹³

NOTES

1. TNA LC 9/52-57; E.F.Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), i, 319; Kirk, *Aliens* hereon.

2. C 66/987, m.10, 4 February 1563, W.Page, *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 21.

3. TNA LC9/57.

4. Kirk, *Aliens*, iii, 389.
5. Van Aken and Wallys were similarly economical with the truth, Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 477; ii, 88, TNA SP 12/82.
6. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 183, TNA E 179/145/252.
7. TNA PROB 11/65; first identified by W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. G. Demarcel, (2002), 47; the further information available confirms her opinion.
8. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 205.
9. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 255, E 179/251/16.
10. A.J. Jelsma and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), App ii, p.791 (Jelsma hereon) and TNA PROB 11/65.
11. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 339.
12. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 277.
13. Jelsma, 3222.

Beaver, Francis,¹ 1537-38; TNA LC 9/51, fol 274; 1557-58, TNA LC 9/52, fol. 45v.

1 Said in 1541 to have been in England for 40 years, W. Page, *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 22, TNA C 66/987, m.10.

Beaver, William, 1584/85-1636/37; TNA LC 9/76- AO 3/1121

Bucke, Birkett, Lawrence 1605/06-1614/15; TNA AO 3/1115-1117. He returned 1623-24 to 1632/33, TNA AO 3/1119- LC 9/101

Bucke, Paul, 1607/08-1612/13; TNA AO 3/1116-1117

Canninge, Ralph, 1593/94-1630/31

Almost certainly from Barcheston and not, as previously suggested, a member of a family amongst the Norwich weavers, their name corrupted from the Flemish Ganning.¹ He was identified by Barnard with a baby born in Beoley in 1567. If this is correct, aged 26 this man entered employment with the Queen in 1593, remaining in service until 1631.² Though two members of the Canning family, old and young George, are recorded in the Sheldon accounts for 1587,³ possibly members of the socially superior family at Foxcott, no link between this family and the one at Barcheston is known.⁴ Ralph was appointed arrasmaker in succession to the Hyckes (q.v. below) in September 1608, in survivorship to his son, William.⁵ He probably

married Phoebe Nicholson, 27 November 1606, St Gregory's by St Paul's. William was born in the same same parish 6 January 1610; there is an uninformative administration for a will, probably for Ralph.⁶

Between April-May 1624 he was called as witness in the trial of the Lord Treasurer (Lionel Cranfield Earl of Middlesex) caught out in peculation in Great Wardrobe monies, *House of Lords Journal*, vol 3 1620-1628 (1802), pp. 316-320, 336-338, 342-361, 3-24 April, 3 May, 3-7 May respectively.

NOTES

1. H.L. Turner, 'Finding the Sheldon weavers: Richard Hyckes and the Sheldon tapestry works', *Textile History*, 33 (2), (2002), 137-61, 148, on-line at <http://tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/FindingtheWeavers.pdf>
2. E.A.B. Barnard and A.J.B. Wace, 'The Sheldon tapestry weavers and their work', *Archaeologia*, lxxviii, (1928), 255-314, esp. p.272; Worcestershire Record Office, Beoley parish registers; LC 9/85-99, headed the list from 1607/08 (TNA AO 3/1116-1120). Died 23 August 1631, TNA LC 5/50, 309.
3. Warwickshire CRO CR 2632 fols 49, 53, 73, 150.
4. International Genealogical Index (IGI), Warwickshire, sv Canning.
5. TNA LC 5/50, 198-200.
6. IGI, London; TNA PROB 6/14A; administration, to Richard Alexander als Zinzan and Phoebe his natural daughter, Richard Canning recently of the parish of St Gregory, City of London.

Canning, William 1631/32-1637/38; son of the above, TNA AO 3/1120-21; appointed head, TNA LC 5/50, 198-200

Cattell, Richard 1577/78-1602/03

Described himself in 1576 as of the parish of St Andrew's London, close to the royal wardrobe and where several others in the royal employ lived, aged 24 and servant with Richard Hyckes (q.v. below); Cattell was not listed amongst the royal arras workers until Michaelmas 1577-78.¹ The implication is that he was Hyckes' servant at Barcheston before transferring to London where he remained, with only a single year's intermission (1590-91), until 1603. His name was no longer listed in the 1605 account when records resume, and he may have died in the 1603 plague, having buried his wife and children. He would have been around 53 years old.³ He married in 1580. He was taxed 3s. on goods of £3 in 1582, as English.⁴

NOTES

1. TNA Req 2 /215/1-63, no.37.
2. TNA LC9/69-93, with one year's intermission, 1590-91, TNA LC 9/82.
3. LMA, Ms 4502/1, St Andrew by Wardrobe parish registers, marriages - 14 February 1580, Richard Cattell and Joan Abbott; Burials LMA, Ms 4507/1; 18 January 1600 - Jone Cattell; 9 September 1603; possibly not related, Elizabeth Cattell, buried 31 March 1623 – possibly as Elizabeth Kettle.
4. TNA E 179/25/16, rot. 28; R.G.Lang, *Two Tudor Tax Assessments Rolls for the City of London, 1541 and 1582*, London Record Society, 29,1(992), 183.

Clay, William, 1606/07-1639/40, LC 9/95 - 103

Admitted to Christ's Hospital before his second birthday, he was the son of a merchant taylor resident in St Andrew in Wardrobe parish. Clay was apprenticed at the age of 11 to William Sothern, mercer, and by him to Peter Wallys on February 8 1591.¹ Clay was later employed in the Great Wardrobe from 1606, and perhaps before; he worked there continuously until 1639/40.²

NOTES

1. G.A.T.Allan, *Christ's Hospital Admissions 1544-1599*, (1937), 149.
2. TNA LC 9/95 - 103.

Claus, Claes, Philip 1560/61-1561/62¹

1. TNA LC 9/55,56.
2. He may be the man who paid 13s 4d for his denization, TNA C 66/928, m.36, *Cal Pat Rolls 1560-63*, 20 February 1563, 455. 2 children noted, c.1550, E.F.Kirk, and R.E.G.Kirk, eds. 1900–8. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, i, 277, 213.

Coals, John 1618/19-1639/40; TNA AO 3/1116-LC 9/103

Crutter, John 1563/64-1574/75; TNA LC 9/57-66

Davelieu, John 1564/65-1578

Also as Davelewe, Danelu, Davelu, Dayefelowe, Deflue and possibly Defludd, he came from Brussels. In both 1571 lists he was said to have been 'of continuance' seven or eight years.¹ Although he started work in the Wardrobe at Michaelmas 1564 he was the first to be paid off, after 181 days, and was taken on again the following year, again to be paid off early. He then absented himself until Michaelmas 1568, the first year he served the full term.² He was then living in the parish of St Olaves,

Bridge Without, Southwark with his wife, later named as Angel, born in Antwerp, who 'hath been continually with him' and one child.³ By 1570 he had moved across the river into the parish of St Mary Somerset within the City, closer to his fellows and to his work. By then his child had died; no others are recorded.⁴

Exceptionally for the formulaic lists of 1571 Davelieu was picked out as 'having a care for Goddes' word'; he was listed (as Danelu) as a member of the Dutch Church in 1567, already a deacon.⁵ He was an exceedingly active member of the congregation and the range of duties he performed and of cases where his help was sought, from supporting the applications of new members to mediating in disputes and quarrels, is revealed by the fact that few pages of the consistory records go by without his name appearing. But his obvious diplomatic talents do not seem to have extended to his own home. In December 1570 he and his wife were summoned because rumours of a dispute between them had reached the consistory and because Angel had not been to Communion since Easter. Davelieu admitted that his wife did lots of things without his knowledge including borrowing money without returning it. They were reprimanded and adjured to make up their differences. Not long afterwards Davelieu was again troubled by Angel's unspecified behaviour and sought advice; by June it was decided to wait until some serious charges were brought against her.⁶

Several years later, in July 1578, Angel again received a summons; she had created a situation which was public knowledge by misbehaving with Francis Cordier, possibly the butcher of that name.⁷ John Soillot(q.v. below) declared that he had heard tales of bad language and drunkenness, which of course Angel denied. While she professed herself ready for reconciliation she refused to conform to the practice which required her to confess her wrong in public. For several weeks she managed to defer her public confession, claiming that she had made an attempt, which had been rebuffed, to apologize to Cordier; she made it clear she was not prepared to offer him recompense. Each refusal, there were four in all, earned her a talking to from the Elders and by the time she did make her confession she possibly did not greatly care; her husband had already departed for the priesthood abroad. Her indignity must have been final when, having agreed, three months later, to join him, she was given 'for her comfort' thirty shillings travel allowance from the church's coffers.

Davelieu never applied for denizon status, perhaps because his interest lay in becoming a minister. It may have been with some relief that he abandoned the Wardrobe, once again after serving only short time, 146 days out of the 183, in 1578.

His departure from England, to Oudezeel, (now in northern France) was ordered by the church in Flanders who in August of that year requested that Jan Davelyn (*sic*) be sent at the first opportunity. Three days later the same message came from Jacob Regius who wrote from Ghent: ‘I exhort and pray John Danelu not to withhold his talents from the community; do you do likewise.’⁸

NOTES

1. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884), 211, records him as a deacon in the church as early as 1550; it seems unlikely that this was so; J H Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes*, (1889-97) II, no.170, note, discusses whether the name Danelu and Davelu could refer to the same person; other variants, E.F. Kirk, and R.E.G.Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, (1900-08), hereon Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 447, ii, 93.

2. TNA LC9/58, 59,61-69. Davelieu’s place was taken by Arnold van den Bome (q.v above.).

3. Kirk, *Aliens*, iii, 368.

4. Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 447, TNA SP 12/84; *ibid.*, ii,93, SP 12/82.

5. Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 373.

6. A.J. Jelsma, and O.Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993) 509, 674, 697, hereon Jelsma.

7. Jelsma, 2059, 2064, 2066, 2096,2098, 2111, 2136, 2192. For Cordier, Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 476, TNA SP 12/84 and Kirk, ii, 137, TNA SP 12/82.

8. Hessels, III, ii, 571, 27.8.1578 and *Ibid*, II, no.170, 30.8.1578.

De Lenne, Delome, Henry, 1557/58, 1561/62-1583/84; TNA LC 9/52, 56-75

De Panne, Henry, 1561/62-1563/64; TNA LC 9/55-57

De Wea, William, 1581/2 only; TNA LC (/73

Derick, Henry, 1562/63 only: TNA LC 9/56

Diston, Anthony, 1586/87-1592/93

From Barcheston; he is known to have been paid for a variety of services to the Sheldon family; in royal employ from 1586 until 1593; whether he returned to

Barcheston to work for the Sheldons there, found alternative employment or died in the plague of 1593/4, like his children, is uncertain.¹

NOTES

1. Warwickshire CRO CR 2632 fols 172, 182, 196. TNA LC9/78-84 when he worked only 184 days of the possible 283. St Andrews by Wardrobe Parish Register, LMA, Ms 4502/1, 4507/1, baptism 11 July 1591 William son of Anthony Diston; burial 30 July 1593 Susan buried 31 July 1593 daughter of Anthony Diston - both were plague victims according to the register. No note of Anthony's burial.

Donesse, Denove, John, 1636/37-1639/40; TNA AO 3/1121, LC 9/102-103

Dowler, Joas, 1612/13-1639/40

From Barcheston. He was probably born 1580, son of William, named in Sheldon's will (1570);¹ died 1654, brother to Thomas of Shipston on Stour.² Baptised and buried six children in London.³

NOTES

1. TNA AO 3/1117-1121; LC 9/103; Warwickshire CRO, DR 0055 A/1; H.L.Turner, 'Tapestries once at Chastleton House and their influence on the tapestries called Sheldon: a re-assessment', *Antiquaries Journal*,. 88, 2008, 313-46, now on-line at <http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP41Chastletonrevision.pdf>

2. Thomas Dowler died 17 April 1646; his will, TNA PROB 6/21, bequeathed his goods to Joshua his brother. Joshua's will 27 August 1653/4 TNA PROB 6/30, left everything to Margareta, relict of Joshua, late of the parish of St Andrew on the hill.

3. LMA, Ms 4502/1, 4507/1, St Andrews by the Wardrobe, Parish Register
bap.William, 13 January 1615, bur.2 February 1616; 24 February 1617 - a child still born of Dowler; John bap.26 April 1618, bur.5 August 1623; bap. Thomas 9 September 1621, bur.23 January 1622; bur. Josia,22 August 1625; bur. Mary 19 July 1626.

Farnanboam, van der Boam, van der Bome, Arnolde, 1565/66

Arnold van den Bome served in the Wardrobe for only 63 days.¹ As Arnolde Farnanboam he appears in the Dutch Church list of Easter 1567, said to have been in England for two years, no denison, with his wife, one son, one daughter and 2 maids, in Cripplegate.² An Aert van der Boom, said to be living in Gripstrete (Grub Street) between Moorgate and Cripplegate, was summoned before the Consistory in August 1572.³ How then was he surviving; had he a workshop ?

NOTES

1. TNA AO 3/1107 Mich 7-8 Eliz, W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. G. Delmarcel, (2002), 46.

2. Kirk, *Aliens*, i.357.

3. A. J Jelsma and O.Boersma,eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), 1105.

Farrington, John, 1578/79 only; TNA LC 9/70

Fyssher, Charles, 1602/03-1639/40¹

1. TNA AO 3/1118-1121

2. Married Mary Catell in St Andrew in Wardrobe, 4 October 1619, GLMss, 4502/1. He lent money to Peter Peterson and was a witness to his will. For Peterson see <http://www.tapestriescaledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre3Orris.pdf>

Geerts, Henry, 1570/71-1577

He described himself as 'servant' to Richard Hyckes in 1576, aged 33.¹ He is found amongst the royal arras workers from Michaelmas 1570-71, until 1576-77, when he worked only 189 days out of a possible 225.² No burial recorded.

1. TNA Req 2/215/1-63, no.37

2. TNA LC 9/62-68.

Good, William, 1639/40

1. TNA LC 9/103

Graveley, Edward, 1589/90-1614/15, 1618/19; TNA AO 3/1118-1119, and listed again in 1620/21, TNA AO 3/1118. He also appears as a clerk to the Taylors of Wardrobe and may have performed the same function for the arras men.

Grinkin, Giles, 1582/3-1628/9; TNA LC 9/74 - AO 3/1120, probably a clerk

Higgins, John, 1593/4-1600/01

Possibly from Bromsgrove; associated by Barnard with a man of the same name in the Wardrobe from 1593 to 1600/01.¹ His will bequeathed his house to his kinsman John Etkins who was charged with paying 40s each to Francis Heekes, Henry Disson and Ann Patchet. To John Hill, his wife's son, he left his whole 'brode lome and two narrow loomes' and to his apprentice he left the linen loom standing next the wall. His three godchildren received 2s each and the residue went to his unnamed wife. Higgins signed with a mark. The inventory, appraised by four Bromsgrove men, lists one

‘brod’ loom and four narrow looms which, together with all yarns and furniture were valued at £4; his household goods, totalled £56 2s. Probate was granted on 17 October 1604. Higgins obviously had his own workshop and is possibly not the Higgins of the Great Wardrobe. That man felt he owed something to Francis Heekes.

NOTES

1. TNA LC 9/85-91 when he worked the full year; Worcester Record Office, Worcester Consistory Court Wills, vol. vii, 1584-1642, fol 136 for the will, E.A.Fry, ed. *Worcester Wills*, British Record Society, xxxi, xxxix, (1904, 1910), 1604/155h for the inventory. Wealthy enough to be listed in the lay subsidy for 1603, J. Amphlett, ed *The Worcestershire Lay Subsidy 1603*, Worcester Historical Society, unnumbered volumes, (1899-1901), 2-4.

Hollant, John, 1559/60, LC 9/53, but possibly as **Peter Holland** 1562/63, TNA LC 9/56

Huckvale, William, 1618/19-1628/29

He may be the son of Alice daughter of Richard Hyckes (q.v. below) who married Cuthbert Huckvale, also written Huckvord and perhaps of Brailes, in 1588.¹ Their first and second children, Mary and Francis, were baptized in Barcheston, 11 January 1590 and 15 July 1593 respectively. [Par Reg] A William, however, was baptized in Chipping Norton on 4 March 1594/5 where another family of this name lived. [Par Reg] He is not known to have worked in Barcheston and would have been too young for apprenticeship there.

1. E.A.Fry, ed *Worcester Wills*, British Record Society, xxxi, xxxix, (1904, 1910), 1588/144a; H.L.Turner, H L ‘Finding the Sheldon weavers: Richard Hyckes and the Sheldon tapestry works’, *Textile History*, 33 (2), (2002), 137–61, esp. 148 and n.66. TNA AO 3/1118-20, <http://tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/FindingtheWeavers.pdf>

Hurlestone, Nathaniel, 1639/40; TNA LC 9/103

Hyckes, Francis, 1584/5-1609

Son of Richard Hyckes, Francis’ date of birth – 1566 - is deduced from the date of his matriculation at St Mary Hall, Oxford, in 1579; the place is unknown, but the fact that he was given a name belonging in the Sheldon family might suggest it was within the family’s sphere of influence.¹ Little of the information recorded in the genealogy of

the family presented to the Heralds' Visitations of Worcestershire in 1634 and 1682-83, or that in Anthony Wood's account, can be substantiated.²

He took his degree in April 1583; at Michaelmas 1584 he entered service in the Great Wardrobe, a department of the royal household in London which repaired the sovereign's collection of tapestries, serving as its head from 1588, having been associated in survivorship with his father from 1575.³ His name ceased to head the list of Great Wardrobe workers after 1603/04; like his father earlier, he appointed deputies. Absence of his name led to the suggestion that it was at this time that he returned to Barcheston to run the works there, even though the parish records suggest that he had never been long absent. His formal resignation from the royal post came in 1609.⁴ It is possible that his name was woven into the Elizabethan tapestry *Map of Oxfordshire*, since it appears in the second, later weaving. There is no evidence for other tapestry commissions.

His wife, identified in the Worcestershire Visitation of 1634 as Elizabeth Mundy of Bagshot, Surrey, was buried at Barcheston in 1617.⁵ Three children were baptised there, Richard in 1594, Margaret in 1595, William in 1596, the youngest, Thomas, in Shipston in 1599.⁶ Margaret also baptised her children in Barcheston, and had married William Crofte of Sutton under Brailes.⁷ Francis himself is said to have died in 1630 at the home of a kinsman and to have been buried at Sutton under Brailes.⁸ No will survives.

Details of his later life are scant and sit awkwardly with his position in the Great Wardrobe. Described many years later by Wood as 'enjoying a country retirement', he seems to have employed his time writing and translating. Lucian's *Dialogues* for use in schools was printed and two other texts were given to Christchurch Oxford by his son, Thomas.⁹ Francis briefly held a lease of land at Chastleton.¹⁰ He must have moved to Shipston on Stour where he was twice taxed; first in 1600 when he was assessed on the basis of having £1 in goods, on which he paid 8s. and again in 1610 when he was assessed on the basis of goods worth £5.¹¹ He served on a jury in a local dispute at Moreton in Marsh in 1607, and stood bail for a neighbour's appearance in court in 1611.¹² He made a gift to the organ fund of Worcester cathedral in 1613, as did most local notables.¹³ According to the prosecution of another case in 1616, he had become involved in an affray at Shipston; he also witnessed a deed concerning the uses of land belonging to the parish church there in 1619.¹⁴ His sister Alice married a Cuthert Huckvale, also written as Huckford,

in 1588; they may have lived in Brailes, but another family of the same name lived at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

If indeed Francis is the son of an immigrant, his life is an example of integration into English society, revealed in his descendants' attempt, albeit unsuccessful, to claim the right to the use of arms.¹⁵

NOTES

1. J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714*, 1891, Hyckes; Tredington parish registers, originals at Warwickshire County Record Office (WaCRO), DR 0079, now on Ancestry, do not substantiate Barnard's statement that Francis was born there, E.A.B. Barnard and A.J.B. Wace, 'The Sheldon tapestry weavers and their work', *Archaeologia*, xxviii, p. 275.

2. Both printed Visitations, A.T. Butler, *The Visitation of Worcestershire 1634*, Harleian Society, 90, 1938, p. 44 and W.C. Metcalfe, *Visitation of Worcestershire begun 1682-83*, privately printed 1883, p. 56, have considerably augmented the information given in the originals, College of Arms, Ms C.30, fol.109, and K.4, fol. 92; P. Bliss, ed. s.v. Anthony Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses*, Oxford, 1892, ii, p. 490. ODNB ignores Francis' position in the Great Wardrobe amongst the arras men, and is drawn almost exclusively from sources which can be shown to be incorrect; Hilary L. Turner, 'Finding the Sheldon Weavers; Richard Hyckes and the Sheldon Tapestry works', *Textile History*, 33, no. 2, November 2002, pp.137-161 and idem, 'Tapestries once at Chastleton House and their influence on the tapestries called Sheldon: a re-assessment', *Antiquaries Journal*, 88, 2008, pp. 313-46, both now on-line at <http://tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/FindingtheWeavers.pdf>

<http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP41Chastletonrevision.pdf>

3. *Cal Pat Rolls 1572-75*, no. 3268, TNA C 66/1136, m.16 and also TNA LC 5/49 f.317-19; TNA LC 9/76-93 and AO 3/1115.

4. *CPR 1572-75*, no. 3269, TNA C 66/1136, m.16 verso; *Archaeologia* 1928, p. 308, based only on LC 9 lists.

5. WaCRO parish registers, Barcheston, DR 0005/1, now on Ancestry, poor transcription. The Visitation information cannot now be verified.

6. WaCRO parish registers Barcheston DR 0005/1 and Shipston DR 0446/1 now on Ancestry; Thomas' birthplace has not previously been known.

7. WaCRO DR 0005/1.
8. The parish registers are defective; the information comes from P. Bliss, *op cit.* ii, pp. 490-1.
9. Christ Church Oxford, manuscript translations of The History of the Peloponnesian War and The History of Herodian are Ms 156 and 157; his grammar was first printed in 1633.
10. Oxfordshire Record Office, Chastleton deeds E 24/1/1D/19, 21.
11. TNA E 179/201/239 and TNA E 179/201/273. Useful only as a rough guide, the figures do not suggest that Hyckes was especially wealthy. The figures are, therefore, an indirect comment on the success of the venture at Barcheston.
12. TNA STAC 8/55/13 (where his signature can be seen) and STAC 8/78/13; J.W. Willis Bund, *Worcester County Records, Quarter Sessions*, two volumes, Worcester Historical Association, 1899, i, p.158.
13. M. Hodgetts, 'Recusant Contributors to the Worcester Cathedral Organ, 1613', *Midland Catholic History*, no.1, 1991, pp. 28-33.
14. TNA STAC 8/ 311/6 Shipston affray; Shipston parish registers WaCRO DR 0446/1 fol I^v.
15. Except for his son's testimony, one might wonder whether the lives of this Francis and of another Francis Hyckes alias Hathway, living at nearby Broadway, had become entangled in later memory. TNA C 66/1296 m.4, STAC 5/581/36.

Hyckes, Richard, 1569/70-1609

Richard Hyckes (also Hicks, Heekes) was buried in Barcheston, 'aged 97 or thereabouts' in November 1621. He was therefore born around 1524 though first mentioned in Barcheston only in 1567.¹ A seventeenth century antiquary, Anthony Wood of Oxford(1632-1695), noted, without identifying his sources, that Hyckes was sent to Holland by *Ralph Sheldon* (1537-1613) to serve a tapestry weaver's apprenticeship and that on his return he settled at Barcheston, Warwickshire.² In 1570 William Sheldon's will gave him use of the family's manor house there, rent-free on condition that he organized the weaving of arras, tapestry and a selection of cloth fabrics. Long considered to be English on the basis of Wood's unsubstantiated remarks, it now seems more probable he was an émigré Fleming.³ His wife's name is uncertain, recorded in the Visitation of 1634 as Ann Ingram; Barcheston parish

registers say that Margaret, his wife, was buried in 1611,⁴ having given him four children.⁵ His own parentage was not noted.

Before the death of Thomas White (see below) Hyckes was appointed in January 1569 to succeed him as queen's arrasmaker for life. The post paid him 1s per day and the right to an allowance for materials. The post was confirmed in May 1575 in survivorship to his son Francis and an annual fee of £10, not apparently ever paid. They were permitted their own workshop, restricted to the employment of six men born in England and not six denizens as previously allowed. From the start Hyckes had been allowed to appoint deputies to execute his duties; his first were the joint heads Anthony van de Vynnen and Henry Wells (1570-74); they were followed by John Soillot (1574-80) and Denis van Alsloot (1580-84). Father and son were jointly relieved of the post in 1609.⁶ The duties consisted of repairing Queen Elizabeth's collection of tapestries sent from the royal palaces to the Great Wardrobe, south west of St Paul's London. Although the accounts for the arrasmakers' expenses suggest that he did not take up his duties in person until 1584, in fact he was paid for work for another department, the Stables, on six occasions before that date; he retired from active service in 1588, but continued to supply materials until 1606/07.⁷ Simultaneously he directed Sheldon's venture at Barcheston, the success of which is uncertain.⁸ Apart from his name in one of the tapestry *Maps* woven for the Sheldon family, his achievements are unknown. Little supports the later suggestion that he executed a commission for the earl of Leicester, weaving the three armorial tapestries which still survive; the documentary references are ambiguous.⁹

He went to law on his own account, once to obtain payment from a client, Sir George Calveley,¹⁰ the second time to claim payment of a debt due to him of which he had been defrauded.¹¹ His other known court appearances were as Sheldon's 'servant', in connection with the right to tithes of Tredington parish, which included Barcheston,¹² and, less clearly, in another case, where the plaintiff, claimed intimidation by Hyckes.¹³ Miscellaneous other services were requested of both Richard and Francis (q.v. above), his son, in the two years, 1586-88, covered by the personal account book of Ralph Sheldon, son of their benefactor, William.¹⁴ When Sir Thomas Cornwallis wished for a coach with good suspension enabling him to ride in comfort round his park, he wrote that amongst those in London who might be consulted on its design was 'master Sheldons Arras worker also can saie as much in it as eny man, who I heare is veye connyng in the devise of many thinges.'¹⁵

In 1621 Richard died, aged 97, and was buried at Barcheston; his will was witnessed by William Bulwer, vicar of Barcheston, and three Shipston men, William Diston, Thomas Dowler and Erasmus Banburie.¹⁶ His wearing apparel, the bed furniture, books and other implements in the study totalling £20.13s. 4d., together with the remainder of two leases valued at £161,¹⁷ went to Francis because ‘his children had had portions of him’, an odd comment since only Alice and Francis are known to have survived infancy. Alice married Cuthert Huckvale in 1588 and may have been living in Brailes; their son was briefly employed in the Great Wardrobe.¹⁸

NOTES

1. Parish Registers, Warwickshire County Record Office (WaCRO) DR 0005.1, now available on Ancestry, poorly transcribed. The date was first noted by E A. B. Barnard and A.J.B.Wace, ‘The Sheldon tapestry weavers and their work,’ *Archaeologia* 78, 1928, 255-314, p. 273.

2. Wood’s words are in his notes from the Worcestershire Visitation, Bodleian Library Oxford, Ms Rawlinson D 807,f.15; “This Richard Hyckes here mentioned first was bound prentice to a Dutch arras worker in Holland by *Ralph* Sheldon (who built the great house at Weston in Com. Warw. anno 1588) and being out of his time, settled at Barston, a manour that belongs to the Sheldons and made and weaved those fair hangings that are in the dining room at Weston.” William Sheldon’s will (1570) indicates that by naming Ralph, Wood’s information is incorrect, TNA PROB 11/53.

3. Hilary L. Turner, ‘Finding the Sheldon Weavers; Richard Hyckes and the Sheldon Tapestry works’, *Textile History*, 33, no. 2, November 2002, pp.137-161, now on-line at <<http://tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/FindingtheWeavers.pdf>>.

4. WaCRO DR 0005/1; College of Arms, Ms C.30, fol. 109, repeated by W.C. Metcalfe, *Visitation of Worcestershire begun 1682-83*, privately printed, 1883, p.56, (but not in the original of that Visitation, Ms K.4, f.92) records Richard’s wife’s name as Ann Ingram; the Barcheston registers for 1611 note the burial of Margaret wife of Richard on 13 April. In the early nineteenth century the antiquary Sir Thomas Phillips noted alongside the name Margaret that of Ingram of Little Wolford; he gave no authority, Bodleian Library, Ms Phillips-Robinson b 80, p.51^v. It is also possible that since by the time he arrived in Barcheston Hyckes was already married, the name should be Ingelhran and that he had married the Margaret Ingelhran recorded twice in the congregation of the Dutch church in London, Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 271, 286.

5. His daughter Alice, his second child, was baptised on 26 October 1567; a second son, William was baptised on 20 March 1569 and buried on 8 May 1571; Edward was baptised 7 August 1571, buried 22 February 1592/3.

6. *Cal Pat Rolls 1566-69*, no. 2573, TNA C 66/1060, m.7; *Cal Pat Rolls 1572-75*, nos.3268, 3269, TNA C 66/1136, m.16; his resignation, TNA C 66/1136, m.16 verso, *Cal Pat Rolls 1572-1575*, no. 3269. The appointment is also TNA LC5/ 49 f.317-19.

7. TNA LC 9/65, f.21v-22; LC 9/67/f.29-30; LC 9/69, f.30v, 32v; LC 9/71, f.25-25v; LC 9/73, f.22v,23; L 9/75, f.12v, 13bis and did similar work in LC 9/77, f.17v, LC 9/79, f.26v,27,27v; he was in active employment LC 9/76-79, and re-imbursed for materials supplied from 1584 until 1607, LC 9/76-95. See also for background to work in the Great Wardrobe Hilary L. Turner, 'Working arras and arras workers: Conservation in the Great Wardrobe under Elizabeth I'. *Textile History* 43(1), 2012, 43-60, <http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/WorkingArras.pdf> and the associated site

http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php?title=Arras_men

8. Hilary L.Turner, 'Tapestries once at Chastleton House and their influence on the tapestries called Sheldon: a re-assessment', *Antiquaries Journal*, 88, 2008, 313-46, at <http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP41Chastletonrevision.pdf>

9. J. Clark, 'A set of tapestries for Leicester House in The Strand: 1585', *The Burlington Magazine*, cxxv, 1983, pp. 283-4, now in V&A T.320-1977, Burrell Collection, Glasgow, 47.1, 2.

10. TNA Req 2/228/16, Req 2/215/37,

http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php?title=REQ_2/228/16

11. TNA Req 2/146/15.

12. TNA STAC 5/H31/35, TNA STAC 5/H19/13, documents not known to Barnard, *Archaeologia* 78, 1928.

13. TNA C 2/Eliz/T10/3.

14. WaCRO CR2632, fols. 16, 25, 66, 68 and many others.

15. J. Scott-Warren, 'News, Sociability and Bookbuying in Early Modern England' *The Letters of Sir Thomas Cornwallis*, *The Library*, The Transactions of the

Bibliographical Society, 7th series, 1, no.4, December 2000, 380-402, p.398. Written in August 1592 the reference might of course be to Francis.

16. Worcester Record Office, wills, 1622/95. Neither William Diston nor Thomas Dowler were ever at the Wardrobe, as J. Humphreys, 'Elizabethan Sheldon Tapestries', *Archaeologia*, lxxiv, 1924, p.187; for his many errors of fact see <http://tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/ElizabethanSheldonTapestriesreviewed.pdf>

17. Lease of land in Shipston from the See of Worcester to Francis Hyckes in 1625, later held by his son William, was registered in T. Cave and R.A. Wilson, eds., *The Parliamentary Survey of 1649-50*, Worcester Historical Society, unnumbered volumes, 1924, 130.

18. Worcester Record Office, marriage licence, 1588/144a.

Laen, Lens, Lince, James, 1630/31-1635/36; TNA AO 3/1120, 1121.

Mende, John, 1602/03 only; TNA LC 9/93

Molyneux, Richard, 1560/61 only; TNA LC 9/54

Morrells, Henry, 1560/61-1574

He arrived in London aged around 50, and was received into the Dutch Church on 29 September 1560 through the recommendation of the Antwerp congregation where he had been accepted late in December 1558; he was listed amongst the London congregation in 1561.¹ However, this may not have been his first stay in England because a Henry Morells 'tapitsier' is listed in the earliest register of the Dutch Church dating to c.1550 as resident in St Martyns in the Fields with his wife Magdalena; whether he was here even earlier and is also the Henry Morrell recorded in three separate tax lists of the 1540s cannot be established.² He might therefore be the man condemned by the congregation of Oudenarde for his membership of the London church.³ The English records however state that he was Brussels born so that if that event has been correctly interpreted Henry led a peripatetic life, leaving his home town for work first in Oudenarde, then in England, forced back by political changes to Antwerp and finally returning to England.

After his return, he found work almost immediately in the Wardrobe, for he was paid for 202 of the 232 days of the year 1560-61; this suggests that his coming might have been a matter of arrangement between him and Jacob von Aken (q.v. below) whom he may have replaced since between them their total working days would give service for the whole year, a suggestion strengthened by the Church's

permission in December for Henry to move to the house of Jacob van Aken 'if the landlord does not fear danger'.⁴

Morrells was heavily involved in the early disputes over the appointment of the radical Haemstede as minister of the congregation, pressing his points in petitions to the consistory on several occasions late in 1560.⁵ Early in 1562 he appeared before the consistory as a witness for Peter Mol in the latter's action to recover money owed to him by the wealthy tailor, Anthony Ash; Mol's daughter, Sarah, was Henry's god daughter.⁶ Though there is no record of appointment to any church office, his standing in the congregation in August 1562 was sufficient for him to be able to support the plea for shelter from John Rydemaker (also Radermaker) of Brussels, subsequently a pillar of the community.⁷ In April 1563 he participated in a debate on the human nature of the Deity (expressed in the Consistory records by the Greek word *anthropomorphosin*) against an obstinate member of the congregation, a matter which it was agreed should be hushed up as far as possible. In the same month he stood in the annual elections for office, coming bottom of the poll with only 29 votes (the highest was 73, the next to lowest 33).⁸

The continuous disputes over the nature of their beliefs and consequently over the suitability of one minister over another seem to have driven him out of the church, at least for a time and, in a list of 1568 he, like a number of others, is said to be frequenting the English church.⁹ However, in 1570 he had returned to the fold and in February he spoke up for an Antwerp man who sought admission to the London congregation.¹⁰

Whatever his religious affiliation he was employed continuously in the Wardrobe; the last record is of 15 days worked in the year starting in Michaelmas 1574 and it is likely that, aged 64 or thereabouts, he died. Despite four marriages, to Magdalena in 1550; to Susan by 1567, already for a year by May 1571 to Jocien, and by November of the same year to Lozine, no children were recorded.¹¹

NOTES

1. *Kerkerdaads-protocollen der Nederlandsche Vluchtelingen-Kerk te Londen 1560-1563 (Resolutions of the Council of the Dutch Church in London 1560-1563)* ed. A.A. Van Schelven in the publications of the Historisch Genootschap, Utrecht, third series no. 43, Amsterdam 1921 (K-P I hereon), 51; age given in Nov 1571, E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from*

the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (hereon Kirk, *Aliens*), ii, 86 = TNA SP 12/82 and 1561, i, 274.

2. A Henry Morells was taxed in 1540, Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 24, E 179/141/131; in 1542, Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 68, TNA E 179/141/127 and in 1544, Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 205, TNA E 179/141/139.

3. Recorded by Martine Vanwelden in I. de Meûter, *Tapisseries d'Audenarde du XVIe au XVIIIe siecle*, (1999), 64, 70.

4. TNA LC 9/54; K-P I, 92.

5. Background to these controversies in A. Pettegree, *Foreign Protestant Communities in London*, (1986), 164-181; K-P I, 60, 66, 76.

6. K-P I, 49, 498.

7. K-P I, 235.

8. K-P I, 305bis.

9. Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 386.

10. *Kerkeraads-protocollen der Hollandische Gemeente te Londen, 1569-1571*, (Resolutions of the Council of the Dutch Church in London 1569-1571), ed A. Kuyper in publications of the Marnix Society, series I, part I, Utrecht 1870 (hereon K-P II), 84; A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569-1585*, Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis, The Hague, (1993), 175, 180.

11. TNA LC9/54 - 65; Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 205, 319, 478, ii, 86.

Mumford, Momford, Simon, 1613/14-1627/28

He was possibly born in Brailes 6 March 1587, son of Thomas,¹ and employed as arris worker in the King's Wardrobe Michaelmas 1613 -1624.² Described as an 'orrice weaver', he married Dorothy Welch, mayden, on 23 January 1617 in the parish of St Peter's, Paul's Wharf.³ Their children, as recorded in the registers of St Andrew by the Wardrobe were Fransis, son of Symond bap 24 April 1621; Symon, bap 21 July 1622 and Elizabeth 22 January 1626. Another, Grace daughter of widdow Mounford, was buried 2.4.1629. Simon himself was buried 27 May 1627.⁴

The will asks that he be buried in St Andrews.⁵ His goods were to be divided between his wife and child and the house 'lying in Brayles' was also to be divided

between his wife and daughter after the decease of his mother in law; gloves were to be bought as a remembrance for his (un-named) brothers and sisters and for his cousin Ben a pair of value 2/6d. His witnesses were Benjamin Welch and two of his fellow arris workers, Charles Fisher (q.v. see above) and Joas Dowler (q.v. see above). The will was proved on 23 June 1627; no values were given to the goods.

He witnessed the will of Peter Peterson to whom he had lent 5s. for whom <http://www.tapestriescaledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre3Orris.pdf>

NOTES

1. International Genealogical Index, Brailles.
 2. TNA AO 3/1117-1120
 3. Parish Registers of St Peter's, Paul's Wharf, *Harleian Society*, vol 40, ed W. Littledale, 1911.
 4. LMA, Ms 4507/1.
 5. LMA, Ms 9051, Archdeaconry Court, Reg. 7.8; Ibid, Mss 9050 and Act Book 6.31.
- Nightingale, Nachtegael, John, 1578/9 only**

There are at least four men called Nightingale, also Nachtegael and variants.

A John Nightingale started work at Michaelmas 1578, and was employed 132 days.¹ He complained about working conditions, particularly about John Soillot (q.v. below) and left, taking them to the consistory court of the Dutch church, where they were recorded in some detail.²

At Michaelmas 1578, John Nightingale, a new recruit from Oudenarde, started work and worked 132 days, roughly half the period served that year by the others. He found conditions not to his liking because he and a fellow townsman, already twelve years in the Wardrobe, Anthony van der Muelen took their complaints against a fellow worker, John Soillot, to the Church consistory on April 30 1579, roughly the end of the number of days Nightingale would have worked. John Soillot's statement survives; he agreed with the accusation of his fellow workers and admitted that he had caused annoyance to others in the community by not staying as long as they did in the royal workshop, while receiving the same wage. He pleaded that his absences took place only with the consent of the Master (by which he presumably meant Richard Hyckes) and that those absences were not for his own good, nor for his personal financial gain nor for 'loose pleasures' but were in the service of the community, a fact also known to the Master. But two other men said they had also heard the complaints; an investigation was promised. When the matter was heard again, on May

10th, the complainants expressed the opinion that Soillot's behaviour should lead to the ending of his link with the Wardrobe though they also confessed that they themselves did not always do their job as they should. Their admission earned them a reprimand. The court then informed Soillot of what had passed. Possibly to their astonishment, his reply was that he would like to be freed either from his duties to the Church or, because of the opinion of his colleagues, from the Wardrobe, because he knew that he could not do both jobs nor do either properly. Van der Meulen and Nightingale were then recalled and told that all parties were to work together in good faith and, since the elders were not sufficiently familiar with routines in the Wardrobe, those differences must be resolved by the parties themselves. The outcome was that Nightingale left.

A John Nightingale, described as a 'tapestre' weaver in one 1583 list and as an arras worker in the other, was recorded in Langbourne Ward³ In July 1593 a Joyce, tapestry worker, wrote his will, witnessed by his servant Thomas Glasskins, and by Roger Preston and Richard Smith.⁴ He left £5 each to two cousins abroad and £4 to the poor of the Dutch church. He appointed his brother, John, as executor to whom he bequeathed half of his suite of tapestry hangings measuring eighty ells in length. The other half, together with his goods and chattels which totalled £25. 8s 0d, were to go to his wife Perren (Perynken) in trust for his son Elias. An Elias was born in 1580 to a Jois Nachtegael while a Jan from Oudenarde had married Pieryntge s'Rijken in October 1578, compatible with what is known of the arrival of the Wardrobe employee; Jan and Jois may be alternative forms of the same name.⁵ A year after her husband's death, the widow was listed, as Parnell, amongst the congregation of the Dutch church living with her in-laws, John and Margaret Nightingale, in Gracious (= Gracechurch) Street, which extended across the wards of Bishopsgate, Langbourne and Bridge within.⁶

Whether or not John-Joyce is the owner of a workshop identified in the Returns of April-May 1593 hard to establish; they name a Jeyes Niyghtingall (*sic*) and his wife, described as 'howseholder, no denizen, of the Dutch church'.⁷ kept one English apprentice and set one English person to work. Said to have been in England for 24 years. Possibly therefore confused with

John Nightingale II:

Same name listed November 1571 when a Joise together with Perenken his wife and George his son were living in St Martin's parish in Vintry Ward; Joise was described

as a twister of silk.⁸ Eleven years later Joyce, Perren and John his man were taxed in St Ethelborowe's parish in Bishopsgate ward and in 1589 a Joos, also in St Ethelboroughe's parish, was assessed on goods of £5.0.0 and paid 10s., the same amount on which he had been assessed in 1582.⁹ Both names probably represent the same man listed in Bishopsgate ward in both surveys of 1583 as Joose Nitingall or Joos Nightingall, both described as 'silk twister'.¹⁰ In the years Michaelmas 1584/85 and 1585/86 a Joos Nygtingale was in arrears with the 16d he owed for parish dues in St Ethelborough's parish; he was last recorded, able to pay them, in 1589/90.¹¹ In 1585, in the list of Dutch Church congregation a Joys de Nygtingale and his unnamed wife were recorded, in St Ellins parish also in Bishopsgate ward;¹² no profession was given. A Joos Nightingale, silkwinder, who must be one of these two, if they are not the same person, had been of sufficient standing to present a petition to the Lord Mayor in January 1584 against harassment by other members of his trade, which 'had received no good answer'. He took his problems to the Church consistory whose members offered to help redraft it, adding ambiguously that he might perhaps consider other ways of tackling his difficulties.¹³ A month later one Joos gave 30s to the exiles from Ghent living in Ostend; in August he contributed £2.0.0 to the Privy Council levy.¹⁴ A Joos and two Johns appear in the Church list of 1588, a single John and no Joos in that of October 1594, so that both men who might be that of the 1593 Returns seem to have perished in the plague year of 1593.¹⁵

Both the tapestry worker and the silk twister might have had a workshop, but it is unclear which one did. Confusion existed also in the minds of contemporaries when, in 1584, the consistory of the Dutch Church summoned John Nightingale, 'baker' and 'the other Jan Nightingale living in Lombarte Strete' (Langbourne ward) before them.¹⁶ It was, however, a common name; another John, his profession not given, lived in Farrington Without.¹⁷

NOTES

1. TNA LC 9/70.
2. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), nos 2254, 2259, (hereon Jelsma).
3. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of

the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens*, hereon), ii, 270 and ii, 336.

4. GLMss 9171, Commissary Court Registers 18.88v; M. Fitch, ed. *Testamentary Records in the Commissary Court of London*, vol III 1571-1625, Index Library British Record Society, 97, (1985), notes that the will was proved in the parish of St Stephen Colman (= Colman Street ward), LMA Ms 9168 Act Book 14.274. The probate record, 6 September, latinizes Joyce as Jocosa, (corrected in pencil to Jocosus) and may refer to a will which has not survived, that of Jocosa Nightyngale 'dutchwoman' who died in that parish on July 28 1593. The will discussed, however, describes the testator as Jocosus, tapestry worker.

5. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884), under surname.

6. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 464. John the brother probably died in 1604. His will made provision for his second wife, Helen Schollockens, whom he had married in 1595 (Moens, op cit., 1884), for his daughter in law and her son John, her husband, his own son James, having clearly predeceased his father, TNA PROB 11/103.

7. I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no.820.

8. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 123.

9. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 243; *ibid*, ii, 420

10. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 326 and ii, 262; LMA, Ms 4241/1, Churchwardens Accounts St Ethelboro, Bishopsgate, fol 87v, 92, 104.

12. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 383.

13. Jelsma, 3217 16 Jan 1584

14. Jelsma, iv, p.795, v, p.799.

15. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 410, 411, 413; Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 464, 468.

16. Jelsma, 3106.

17. R.G. Lang, *Two Tudor Tax Assessments Rolls for the City of London, 1541 and 1582*, London Record Society, 29 (1992), 243, St Bride's parish, assessed on £8, pays 8s; probably the John whose will was written in June/July 1608, LMA, Ms 9171, Commissary Court Register, 16.75. Two others, both with a connection to one or other of the London families, are found in J. H. Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae*

Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes, 1889-97, III, i, 1246, 1473.

Offeilde, Edward 1605/06-1637

Edward, son of Joys, (see list of independent workers, II) born in England in 1583,¹ went into service in the Wardrobe in 1606, aged 22, remaining there at least until 1633.²

NOTES

1.I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 826.

2.1605/6-1618/19, TNA AO 3/1115-1118; returns 1629/30-1632/33, TNA AO 3/1120-1121 and from 1634/35 listed as Edward Field until 1636/37 TNA AO 3/1121. Whether this is the same man or *his* son is unclear.

Oliver, Orlibere, John, 1628/29-1630/31.

1. TNA AO 3/1120, TNA LC 9/99

Ots, Otes, Oots, Hoots, Makeard, Michael, 1574/5-1586/7

Mighel Ots, described as in the employ of the earl of Pembroke, was listed as a resident in Castle Baynard ward in 1583 with his wife Margerie; as a member of the Dutch Church he was listed there again in July 1585.¹ How valuable in monetary terms his position might be is open to debate, since Ots was also employed long before that in the Wardrobe, from Michaelmas 1574 until his last forty days service in 1587.² Like Anthony van der Muelen (q.v. below), he held two jobs. It may have been their arrasman's position in the Wardrobe which encouraged Mary Dudley Sidney to request the loan of hangings from there 'to warme her room'.³ Ots gave 6s. to the collection for the exiles from Ghent and 4s. to those from Ostend in February 1584.⁴ He should almost certainly be identified as the Michael Makeard of Vianen in the country of Aelst (thus perhaps explaining the origin of his name as Ots, Oots and Hoots) who made his will in April 1577, an unusually long time before his death. It was proved only on 17 May 1589; no estimate of its value can be given.⁵ After a lengthy preamble, he left all his goods to his wife. His executors were Gerrard van Beddoe, Martin Boomaert and John Soillot (q.v. below); a year later, the latter married the widow, Margaret Roelands of Tournai, clearly identified in the Dutch registers as the widow of Michiel Vots.⁶

NOTES

1. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens*, hereon), ii, 299 and ii, 386 as Hoots.

2. TNA LC 9/66-78.

3. British Library, Ms Cotton Vespasian F.xii, fol 179, 1st February 1574

4. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), App. iv, p.797; v, p.801.

5. LMA London, Ms 9171, Commissary Court, Registers 17.224; LMA London, Ms 9168, Act Books 14.181.

6. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884), 1884 listed under name.

Outsever, Matheo, 1557/58-1564/65

1. TNA LC 9/52-58

Panne, Henry, 1561/62-1563/64.

1. TNA LC 9/55-57

Pover, Power, William, 1563/64-1567/68

Listed as a member of the Dutch Church at Easter 1567 in Cripplegate Ward;² possibly buried in St Mary Somersette on 18 July 1568.³

1. TNA LC 9/57-60

2. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), i, 357.

3. Parish Registers, *St Mary Somersett*, ed. W Bruce Bannerman, *Harleian Society*, 59,60, under name.

Rause, James, 1557/8 only

1. TNA LC 9/52

Soillot, John, senior, 1559/60-1579-80

When, in 1593, John Soillot was called as to witness the will of John Willimetts (q.v. below), a fellow arrasman, he was said to be three score years and more; he was probably born, therefore, in or before 1533.¹ Other records state that his birthplace was Brussels, so that when he is found first in the payments for work in the Wardrobe

in 1559, he would have been about 26.² He was already married, to the unusually named AllHallowes, and they had a son, John, born in Brussels. By 1561 they had a daughter, Abigail, born in England, still living in 1571.³ Rachel was baptised on 30 Mary 1563 in the parish of St Andrew's by the Wardrobe and buried there on 6 January 1568, Helyas their second son lived less than six months (12 December 1566 – 24 April 1567) while Hesther, born on 14 January 1565, for whom provision was made in her father's will, was the only child to survive.⁴

The eldest son, John, born before 1559, married Rachel le Queienure from Antwerp on 23 October 1576; they had two children John born 23 September 1578 and Abigail, born 23 October 1580.⁵ John (q.v. below) was employed for a mere six days in the Wardrobe in 1573/74 but worked all the available days from Michaelmas 1574 until summer 1581.⁶ He worked only 72 days in the year 1581/82 after which there is no further mention of any of this family.

Although in November 1571 John senior was said to have come 'for religion' he seems for his first ten years or so not to have attended the Dutch Church but his parish church, St Andrews by the Wardrobe. Despite being recorded in that parish in 1568, the two lists of 1571 claim that he had been resident in the parish of St Giles without Cripplegate for twelve years where his family and their servant, Adrian Hoste born in Henowde, shared a house with a French tailor and his wife and a French sister and brother, the latter a silk weaver.⁷ It opens up the possibility that Soillot had a small workshop which he later abandoned in favour of service to the church. By 1576 he had moved again and for the payment of the second part of the subsidy of 1576 was listed in St Peter's (at Paul's wharf) in Quenehithe Ward as Seliot, paying only the minimum 4d poll;⁸ he was one of the few Wardrobe employees ever to be charged. In 1593 he is recorded in 'the sixth precinct of Aldersgate ward'; in October 1594 he was said to be in Mark Lane in Aldgate ward, not incompatible with the address he gave when he made his will, in January 1598, when he lived in the parish of St Dunstan in the East.⁹

He gave very solid service in the Wardrobe and was always amongst those engaged for the maximum number of days from his entry in 1559 until his last year in 1580; for the six years from Michaelmas 1574 until his retirement he was the acting head and he also received payment for supplying the materials.¹⁰ But his last days were overshadowed, and possibly even hastened, by a quarrel which developed between him and the recently arrived John Nightingale (q.v. above) in which Soillot

was accused of giving too much time to God's service while others had to carry his work in the Wardrobe.¹¹ There may have been some truth in their accusation; in 1576 he appears to have served a brief spell of duty at Maidstone and in 1577 he embarked on a course of study for the ministry, presumably with the intention of accepting a post abroad.¹² A visit to Ghent is recorded in August 1578, when, at least according to the regulations, the Wardrobe team should have been at work.¹³

Certainly duties within the Church administration seem to have been taking over, but it is unclear whether his interest was new.¹⁴ In 1580 he is recorded as the minister in London.¹⁵ Early in 1581 he was acting Minister in Maidstone, on condition that the community there made every effort to find themselves a permanent appointment.¹⁶ In September 1581 the Maidstone Consistory reported to London that Soillot had received a letter offering him a post across the sea; they said that they had provided for him for the coming winter and, 'as he is weak and the cold days and nights are approaching,' they thought it was better he ran no risks. Soillot himself told London about the letter, from Bassevelde, and asked their advice. He was advised to accept.¹⁷ However, he decided against the post and remained in Maidstone for at least another two anxious years, representing the community at the Colloquia of 1582 and, though not then their Minister, in 1584.¹⁸ He must have been recalled to London around midsummer 1583 when his fellow minister received a letter expressing regret that he received so little help from Soillot on account of the latter's increasing blindness and his inadequate English; the latter would have compromised his negotiating position where there was need for it with the English authorities. A year later the London consistory wrote to the Ghent consistory saying that they could no longer manage with only the services of Soillot and Wingen, both ageing men, and requesting the return of the student for whose education abroad the London congregation had paid.¹⁹ Their request was turned down. By the middle of 1585 Soillot was with the small community at Halstead, Essex before returning sometime in 1586 for a second term to Maidstone.²⁰ In March 1589 he wrote that he would stay on there for a further year, but 'I can hardly see to read and find it extremely difficult to administer the Lord's Supper and to preach twice on Sundays.'²¹ Correspondence suggests that he was loved and respected by both congregations.

His failing sight may also explain why, after the death of his first wife sometime after 1583, he married again, three times; firstly on 21 July 1590 to Margriete Roelants from Tournai, the widow of Michael Vots, alias Michael Makaerd

of Aelst (and also Ots q.v. above). The date of her death suggests she may have been a plague victim; on 20 November 1593 he married Maeijken Valx from Meenene and on 26 December 1595 he married another widow, Lynken Seijsens from Ghendt.²²

Soillot's lengthy and elaborate will, begun on 31 March 1597, shows him to have had remarkably substantial resources for a man whose income from 1580 onwards must have derived largely from his stipend; a minister could not expect much more than a weaver, £10-12.0. 0 per year.²³ His personal bequests total £16.10s; £3 each went to the minister, the poor and the poor students of the Dutch church while the current student got 5s and two serving ministers received a mere 10s each. The poor of the parish in which he died received 10s. A further £6.0.0 was distributed between cousins, godchildren and friends. His fourth wife was to have a choice between £30 and all his household stuff, his books, their joint wearing apparel and her rings if she renounced any claim under their marriage contract or, 'if she preferred it better' £50.0.0 and the same goods, but with the obligation to pay his legacies. If, after 14 days consideration, she liked neither but chose to adhere to the terms of the marriage contract she was to have only her apparel, 'lynnen and woollen' and her rings, but all his own goods were to be sold to satisfy her. The only surviving child of his first marriage, his daughter Hesther, married since June 1595 to Hans Ketelbouter from Brussels,²⁴ was to receive £20 after his wife's decision was reached and was to be excluded from 'all his goods, actions and credits'. A further £6 was given to his executors. His witnesses were Assuerus de Reghemortel, the Church's then minister, Daniel leBlance, Daniel Hoste and the notary Paul Typotts.

The codicil added on 24 January (1598), only days before his death, was also witnessed by Reghemortel, and by Leuven van der Stelt, merchant stranger. Soillot made elaborate arrangements for the disposition of his money if any children either of his own marriage or of his daughter's died before the age of 21. It included provision for inheritance by kinsfolk of his father's living in London. At that time, but not until, he also remembered the craft he had not practised for so long; his 'patrens of Tapestrie' were to be 'equallie divided' between his cousin Herman Soillot (possibly Gelott and Severin Moestincke (for whom see

<http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre2Independents.pdf>

‘halfe and halfe’. It is a melancholy touch, an indication perhaps of disappointed ambitions; Soillot, never known to have had a workshop, held on to a pattern book, the one he had presumably brought with him from Brussels nearly forty years before.

It was an unusual gesture for fellow tapestry weavers are rarely named in wills; there was also a bequest to Anne, the wife of Denis van Alsloot (q.v. below), briefly a former comrade in the Wardrobe and, at one time and possibly still, an employee of the fourth earl of Sussex, interesting to us because it implies that van Alsloot was still in touch with the London community. Still less common were the specific bequests of three books. His *Josephus* was left to one of his executors, Christian de Kirke, merchant stranger in London, and his other executor, another merchant stranger Abraham van Delden, received a title indecipherable to the copyist and inserted later as *Sladanus*. A little book, *The Cantells of the Measse* was given to Perenkin, wife of Liven vander Stott.²⁵ These bequests are of a pattern with his life for Soillot is one of only two men amongst the weaving community known to have contributed towards the expenses of ‘a student at Cambridge or elsewhere’ funded by the Dutch Church. In July 1576 he contributed ten shillings a year for three years.²⁶

No more is known about his daughter though she appears to have been living either with or near Kettelbouter in 1594 in East Smithfield.²⁷ But the reason for the equal division of his patterns may have been that his cousin Herman and Moestincke may have been working in partnership in a small workshop. The former may first be mentioned in 1583 as Harman Sloten in Algate Ward.²⁸ For these men

<http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre2Independents.pdf>

NOTES

1. LMA, Ms 9171, Commissary Court Register 18.160v; Ibid, Ms 9168, Act Book 15.21v.
2. LC 9/53, f. 54v, Mich 1559-60; AO 3/1106. Said by A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis, The Hague, (1993), (hereon Jelsma) p.xxvii, to have been born in Brussels before 1520 and wealthy enough to have been taxed in London in 1549; this is not substantiated by the English records and probably represents confusion with Jan Celot, an older dignitary of the Church. See note 14.

3. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens*, hereon), i, 275, 271, 319.
4. LMA, Ms 4505/1, St Andrew in Wardrobe burials.
5. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884), under name.
6. TNA LC 9/65-72. An unidentified Peter Soillot, for whom there is no apparent link to this family, worked for 180 days, not the full term, in 1579/80, TNA LC 9/71; he may be the Peter Cilly who applied for denization in May 1577, TNA C 66/1153, m.38, W. Page, *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 46.
7. Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 402; ii, 20.
8. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 173.
9. I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 940; Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 467; TNA PROB 11/91.
10. TNA LC 9/53-71.
11. Jelsma, 2254, 2259, see below.
12. J. H. Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes*, 4, (1889-97), II, 429 (1576); S. Ruytinck, *Geschiednissen de Nederduytsche Natie ende gemeeynten, wonende in Engelandt*, (1873, 133.
13. Hessels, op cit., II, no. 170; TNA LC 5/49, fol 330.
14. His name appears in several forms (Celos, Celot, Selot, Chellet, Sullot); the congregation of the Dutch church embraced two others, a Jan Celos and a Hermes Celosse. In the mid 1560s a J Celot was amongst the signatories of a series of letters to the church at Emden, presumably as one of the elders in England. This may have been the other Jan Celot for Soillot does not seem to have attended the Dutch church at this time; 12 April 1565, 26 December 1565 and 23 June 1566, *Kerkeraads-protocollen der Nederlandsche Vluchtelingen-Kerk te Londen 1560-1563 (Resolutions of the Council of the Dutch Church in London 1560-1563)* ed. A.A. Van Schelven in

the publications of the Historisch Genootschap, Utrecht, third series no. 43, Amsterdam (1921), 373-75, 383-85, 390.

15. Moens, op cit, 289.

16. Hessels, op cit, III, i, 700.

17. Hessels, op cit, III, i, 741-43.

18. J.J. Van Toorenbergen, ed *Acta van den Colloquia der Nederlandsche Gemeenten in Engeland 1575-1609*, II, (1872-75), i, 57, 64, 65-69, 78; Hessels, op cit, III, i, 750, 767.

19. Hessels, op cit, III, i, 767, 800; II, 204, para 3; Ibid., III, i, 915.

20. Hessels, op cit, III, i, 975, 981, 982, 988.

21. Hessels, op cit, III, 1101.

22. Moens 1884; Elkin was last recorded in 1583, Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 285.

23. Hessels, op cit, III, i, 1624 for pay; PROB 11/91, proved 13 February 1598.

24. Moens, op cit,.

25. The works of Josephus existed in many editions and in several languages, so it is not possible to know whether it was *De Antiquitatibus Iudaicis* or the *History* that Soillot owned; Sladamus should probably be identified as Joannes Philippon, known as Sleidanus, a German historian (1506-56) who wrote several books including *De Statu Religionis et Reipublicae Carolo V* (1555), published in English in 1560 as *A famous cronicle of our time, called Sleidanus commentaries..reigne of the Emperor Charles the fifth. Also An epitome of Froissart*, 1608. His works were popular and frequently reprinted on the Continent. The English editions are STC 19847 and 19848. The last one is puzzling; the only close title is Nicolaus Hendrik's *Cantica. Certen of the songes of H.N. Tr. out of Base-almayne*. [Cologne, 1575]8vo. I am grateful to Paul Grinke, working on the library of Ralph Sheldon (1623-1684) for these identifications. In 1583 the gift of a treatise translated from French to German had been sent to Selot, Hessels, II, 206, para 17.

26. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 203.

27. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 473.

28. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 320, tapestre worker.

Soillot, John, jnr, 1574/75-1581/82

1. TNA LC 9/66-73 and see also John Soillot, Senior note 6.

Soillot, Peter, 1579/80 only

1. TNA LC 9/71

Stanley, Charles, 1623/24-1624/25

1. AO 3/1119

Symons, William, 1574/75 -1576/77

1. TNA LC 9/66-68 and recorded in 1571 in Bridge Without St Olaves, E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, ii, 104, SP 12/84.

Tandy, Isaac, 1577/78-1579/80 and again 1589/90-1612/13

1. TNA LC 9/69-71; and TNA LC 9/81- AO 3/1117

Trace, James, 1562/63 only

1. TNA LC 9/56

Tyus, Robert, 1559/60 – 1590/91

1. TNA LC 9/53-83, probably a clerk

Van Aken, Jacob, 1559/60-1560/61; returns 1564/65-1577/78

Born around 1534 at Brussels in Henego (Hainault), arrived in England in February 1559, aged 24, ‘for religion’.¹ His first stay was relatively brief; the earliest payments to him as an employee in the Wardrobe were made for the 203 days of 1559-60. He worked a further 31 days from Michaelmas 1560 before taking letters to Brussels on 22 December, exactly the time when Morrells took over his lodgings and, presumably, his rent.² He must have stayed abroad, possibly for as long as two years, because an appeal was made to him to contact in Brussels the father of a prospective bride to get his consent to the wedding of his daughter, furnishing an interesting sidelight on the speed of postal communications; the initial letter was written 27 January, and the answer read out to the London consistory on 6 February 1561.³ It may have been at this time that he married, Lyvien who gave him two sons, Jacob born in Brussels and Abraham in Antwerp. His return to England is signalled by his acceptance into the Dutch church, recorded on 9 May 1563 when his letters of commendation from the Antwerp congregation were accepted.⁴

This tallies with the information found in Rowe’s list of 1568, when his landlord was given as Mr White - was this Mr Thomas White of the Wardrobe ? - and the later list of May 1571 which state that Jacob is ‘in this realm vij yeres or vj yeres’ (i.e. 1563) when at Michaelmas 1563-1564 he resumed work in the Wardrobe, the beginning of a long stretch which lasted until 1578.⁵ How far his decision to leave

England was influenced by the fact that only 26 weeks were worked in his last year must remain unknown. At the end of August 1578 John Soillot (q.v. above) accompanied by a Jacob van Alven, otherwise unidentified and so possibly a mistranscription, were welcomed by Jacob Regius, the minister at Ghent.⁶ Von Aken remained on the continent.

His two eldest sons died in England; Abraham was buried in St Andrew's by Wardrobe on 16 May 1573, his brother Jacob on 7 April 1575. Other sons were born in London (David before 1568, still living 1571), Israel (born 1573), Elias (born 1576) and four daughters, Sara before 1568, Ann (between 1568 and May 1571, buried 25 February 1575) Isabel buried 1576 (no birth recorded) and Susanna, born 1578, all in the parish of St Andrews by the Wardrobe.⁷ Little is known of his activities; possibly took little part in the divisive controversies that split his countrymen, though in 1570, in the context of a Consistory debate on the freeing of religious prisoners and on the use of violence, he was called upon to give an account of what he remembered about discussions on the same subject at Antwerp during his stay there in 1562.⁸

NOTES

1. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds., *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (hereon Kirk, *Aliens*, (1900-08), ii, 86, SP 12/82; *Kerkerads-protocollen der Nederlandsche Vluchtelingen-Kerk te Londen 1560-1563 (Resolutions of the Council of the Dutch Church in London 1560-1563)* ed. A.A. Van Schelven in the publications of the Historisch Genootschap, Utrecht, third series no. 43, (1921), 91.

2. TNA LC 9/53,54; see also Henry Morells, and K-P I, op cit., 93.

3. K-P I, op cit., 108-110, 115.

4. K-P I, op.cit., 412.

5. TNA LC 9/57-69; Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 86, TNA SP 12/82; i, 478, iii, 388. The contradictions in the three surveys of 1568 and of May and November 1571 are resolved by the external testimony of the Church and Wardrobe records. Quite why von Aken should have been economical with the truth about his residence is a mystery, but he is not alone in concealing the true length of his time here.

6. J. H. Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes*, 4, (1889-97),

II, no. 170, para 8, where the name is taken to refer to Jan Celosse.

7. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 86, TNA SP 12/82; W.J.C.Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884); St Andrew in Wardrobe burials, LMA, Ms 4507/1. Later references to a William von Aken (Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 402, 285; TNA LC 9/74- TNA AO 3/1121 1582-1637), do not appear to have any connection with Jacob.

8. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds., *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, Institutet voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis, The Hague, (1993), 538, 539.

Van Aken, William, 1582/83-1636/37

1. TNA LC 9/74-AO 3/1121 (as Wanaker), not apparently related to either of the two other men called Jacob van Aken.

Van Aken, Jakob, 1605/06

1. TNA LC 9/94

Van Alsloot, Dionisius, Denijs, 1579/80-1584/85

He is known to have commissioned tapestries for a monastery near Antwerp before coming to England and entering the service of the earl of Sussex. On behalf of the earl he arranged with the Flemish artist William Tons that the latter should design cartoons for tapestries.¹ He deputized for Richard Hyckes, serving as the acting head of the arrasworkers 1580/81-83/84 when he also supplied the necessary materials.² He was probably still in touch with the London Flemish community in the late 1590s and more certainly with William Trumbull, the English agent in Brussels, in 1604/05.³

NOTES

1. W. Shrickx, 'Denijs van Alsloot en Willem Tons in London in 1577', *Artes Textiles*, Ghent, (1974), viii, 47-64; C. Maeyer, 'Denijs van Alsloot (voor ca 1573-1625) en de Tapijtkunst', *Artes Textiles*, Ghent, i, (1953), 3-11

2. TNA LC 9/72-75.

3. A.B. Hinds and E.K. Putnell, eds., *Report on the Mss of the Marquess of Downshire at Easthampstead Park, Berks*, 2, Hist Mss Comm, (1936), 2 vols, 2.

Van Bell, Harman, 1578/79-1595/96

When he acted as executor for Willimetts(q.v.below) in 1593 he was said to be aged 60 and more, so when he is first recorded as a Wardrobe worker in 1578 he may have been making a new start, in his mid-forties;¹ he remained there until halfway through

the year 1596-97. A daughter Susanna born was born 10 May 1579 and another, Anna, on 4 August 1583;² nothing is known of his crippled child for whom he received a bequest from William Alford. Susan might be the Susan Frumbilo noted as paying a poll tax of 8d in 1604³ or earlier, as Suzan Framboull of Duke's Place in St Olave's Hart Street, identified as 'stranger'.⁴

NOTES

1. See John Willimetts, note 5; TNA LC 9/70-87, TNA AO 3/1117.
2. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).
3. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), iii, 119, E 179/146/437,1604 Lay Subsidy.
4. Kirk op.cit., iii, 21, E 179/146/372, 1598; ibid, 49, E 179/146/389, 1599; ibid., 94, E 179/146/398, 1600, in every instance 8d.

Van Campenhoute, Campenhalte, John, 1566/67-1568/69

Noted first at Easter 1567, he was said to be an arrasmaker 'of two years continuance' in the parish of St Anrews by the Wardrobe;¹ a year later in 1568 he was recorded in St Gregory's parish Castle Baynard ward, said to have been born in Brussels and living with his wife Margaret and their two children Antoine and Margaret.²

NOTES

1. TNA LC 9/59-61; E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), i, 319.
2. Kirk, op.cit., iii, 388 as Campenhalt.

Van Can, Nicholas, 1557/58 -1560/61

He may have seen service in the Wardrobe as early as 1528, and again between 1535 and 1538 before returning in 1557.¹ A Nicholas Vancan was taxed in 1544 in Fleet Bridge on 40s. worth of goods and in St Martin's in the Field in the 1550s.² He is perhaps the Nicholas van Came, coverlet maker, resident in the parish of St Martyn's, Westminster, in 1568.³

1. TNA LC 9/51, fo 183v, 247; E 315/455, unpaginated; TNA E 315/456, fo. 47; TNA LC 9/52-55.

2. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), i, 95, TNA E 179/144/123, 1544, assessed on 40s goods, pays 8d; *ibid.*, 149, TNA E 179/142/167, 1549, assessed on £40, pays £4; *ibid.*, 195, TNA E 179/142/170, assessed on 40s goods, pays 2s.

3. Kirk, *op.cit.*, iii, 399.

Van Hover, Nicholas, 1562/63-1563/64; TNA LC 9/56-57

Van Raes, Wanrases, John, 1581/82-1636/37; TNA LC 9/73-AO 3/1115

Van Spiro, John, 1597/98-1606/07

Even though he is recorded amongst the arras workers only from 1597, he may possibly be the same man as Jan van Spiers listed 1567 as persecuted for religion.¹ It may have been his son David who was baptised on 22 April 1572;² possibly listed in 1583 as John van Spere, a Duchman, silkweaver in Criplegate ward without, and again, in the same place, in 1585.³ Uncertain whether he is the Hans verSpire who testified to the Consistory of the Dutch church in a drunkenness case on 12 November 1584 and the Hans Verspire who married Berbel van der Burcht widow of Guillaume Nestelraedt, both of Oudenarde, on 8 July 1585.⁴ He may possibly also be the John Verspire and wife recorded in Pudding Lane, October 1594;⁵ and the Jan Verspire of Oudenarde who on 30 October 1604 married Elizabet Deynkens, widow of William Jong.⁶ He did not work in the Wardrobe after 1607.

NOTES

1. TNA LC 9/88-95; E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (hereon Kirk, *Aliens*), i, 385. For van Spiers see

<http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre3Orris.pdf>

2. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).

3. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 317; ii, 387.

4. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, Institutet voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis, The Hague, (1993), 3430, 3557.

5. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 466.

6. Moens, op. cit., 1884.

Van der Boam, Arnold, see Farnanboam

Van der Driessche, Joas, 1587/88-1602/03

Joas from Bruges married Josingten de Buijsson from Bruges in London on 25 May 1578; their children were baptised Esther 21 January 1579; Edwardt 14 April 1583; Elisabet 29 August 1585; Anna 13 August 1587; Joannes 7 March 1589; Judith 6 April 1595.¹ He was listed as a member of the Dutch congregation in 1588, and as living Without Aldersgate in 1594.²

Joas entered the Wardrobe in 1587 remaining there until 1602/03; he may therefore have been a victim of that plague year.³ His son Edward was alive in 1617.

NOTES

1. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).

2. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), ii, 410; ii, 463.

3. TNA LC 9/79-93

Van der Driesche, Edward, dates uncertain

Listed in 1617 as Tapitsier amongst the Dutch church congregation and a second time in a list of skilled craftsmen, as a 'tapitsier' living in the King's Wardrobe, but he was never listed in either TNA LC/ 9 or AO 3, Kirk, iii, 163 and iii, 179.

Van der Ertbrugghen, Jerome, 1574/75-1585/86; TNA LC 9/66-77

Van der Hoof, Henry, 1582/83 only; TNA LC 9/74

Van der Howte, John, 1579/80 only; TNA LC 9/71

Van der Howte, Peter, 1580/81 only; TNA LC 9/72

Van der Lese, Peter, 1557/58 only; TNA LC 9/52

Van der Lynden, Gerard, 1581/82-1585/86

His story is best recounted in the words of Thomas Wilkes, Secretary of the Privy Council on special assignment to the Hague. In April 1587 he sent the following note to Sir Francis Walsingham in London;¹

This day, April 14, I have heard that a week ago there passed from Dort to Geertruydenberg and thence to Antwerp a certain Geerardt Siven, surnamed, if I

remember rightly, Vanderlinden; who was for some years in England where he gained his living by repairing the tapestry at court and in private mansions. By this means he came into the service of a Frenchman in whose house he was working. Now he has come into Zeeland and Holland and has gone direct to Antwerp. It should be known that the said Geerardt committed two murders at Antwerp some years ago for which he was condemned to death, but when on the scaffold miraculously escaped by a sudden cry from all the spectators that he had his pardon, was forcibly taken out of the hands of justice and hidden by some townspeople. The same day, by sound of trumpet, a reward was offered to whoever should take him and a heavy penalty put on all who should hide him. But he found the means to withdraw into England where he has lived as aforesaid, and seeing that he has gone to Antwerp, where he has deserved death, and they cannot but have a very bad opinion of him, and probably having promised to do some ill deed, as to kill her Majesty, he desired by this means to seek a reconciliation. Also he is a forward man and of ill life, and known for such to many in England.

Wilkes further explained “A minister of this place has given me the advertisement enclosed. The party therein mentioned ‘to be laid for at the ports’ is said to be of these countries, of mean stature, a red beard, aged about forty years and known to the mender of tapestry at the court.”

The tale is confirmed by the Wardrobe records which show that van der Lynden was paid for 114 days, roughly half the working year, in 1581/82, and was employed for the whole period for the next four years; he is later recorded as living in Portsoken ward.² His son Roger was baptised in July 1583.³ He left at the end of the summer in 1586, presumably to the more rewarding job with the unnamed Frenchman. Whether he was the merchant recorded by Goebel with a merchant’s mark is cannot be known, but if he were then that might explain why he so easily found work; his credentials would have been above scrutiny.⁴

NOTES

1. Cal State Papers Foreign, 1587, 11; TNA SP 14/84, fo.75.
2. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), ii, 286, ii, 330; he was also recorded as being of the English church, with his wife Helen his three children and his maid, Kirk, op.cit., ii, 291; TNA LC 9/72 -77.

3. W.J.C.Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).

4. It is tempting to connect him with the Antwerp weaver listed as having a mark, H. Goebel, *Wandteppiche, Die Niederlande*, 2 vols, (1923), I, (pt i), 602.

Van der Meulen, Anthony, 1566/67-1592/93

He came to London from Oudenarde, already married, in 1566, and was paid for work in the Wardrobe from Michaelmas 1566.¹ He remained there, with only three years' absence, 1568/69, 1577/78 and 1590/91, until his death in 1593. He was described as a 'howseholder' in 1571.² The first of his four wives, Katherine, gave him one child, Jacob, baptised 13 May 1571, and still living in 1593; she was buried in the parish of St Andrew by the Wardrobe in February 1572.³ Anthony remarried,⁴ to Elizabeth vander Heyden from Louvain; their daughter, Joanna, was baptised 20 February 1575.⁵ Elizabeth was buried 3 May 1578 in St Gregory's parish church where they had certainly been living since 1576.⁶ Anthony's third marriage, which took place on 14 December 1578, was to Tanneken de Vriese widow of Andriaan Luffs (q.v.), possibly a fellow weaver, the Adrian Lusse who came from Oudenarde in 1568.⁷ (see <http://www.tapestriescaledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre2Independents.pdf>)

There were three daughters, a girl baptised in 1581 who is recorded in the 1593 survey as 12 years old; Abigail baptised 11 August 1583, who must have died because a second Abigail was baptised on 21 March 1585, the eight year old of the 1593 survey.⁸ Tanneken's death is unrecorded, but Anthony married again on 16 December 1589, to Lynken van der Bossche from Brussels, presumably a much younger woman; she was a lute string maker.⁹ Two sons, Jeremynkyn, baptised on 24 January 1591 and Anthuenis, baptised on 8 April 1593.¹⁰ Anthony died in February 1594, and Lynken remarried, to Pieter van der Molijn, on 23 June 1594.¹¹

In 1579 Anthony applied to become a denizon;¹² at much the same time he seems to have left the vicinity of the Wardrobe, his second move for, on his second marriage, he had moved from St Andrew's to nearby St Gregory's parish where he was assessed for tax in October 1576 with his wife and their man, Cornelius; he paid the minimum poll tax,¹³ but he is one of the few Wardrobe employees even to be thought rich enough to be assessed. A second move, in 1579, took him to Southwark. In 1583 he was described as a coverlet weaver living in the ward of Bridge Without.¹⁴ He was assessed for the first payment of the first subsidy granted in February 1589 on

goods valued at £3, but in 1593 the assessment dropped to £1 on which he paid 5s 4d.¹⁵ including payments for his three English maid servants.¹⁶ He witnessed various wills in the plague year of 1593, and was one of those put on short term work in the Wardrobe.¹⁷ He organised probate for the will of John Willimets (q.v. below) in February 1594, but must have died soon after.¹⁸ In 1579 he supported a fellow townsman, John Nightingale (q.v. above), in a complaint against their colleague in the Wardrobe.¹⁹

His will, written on 25 January 1594, left £4 to the poor of the Dutch Church and 40s. to the poor in the English church in his own parish of St Olave's. He bequeathed £4 to his sister's son, John Tienepont, £4 to Joyce Vermoote, a witness. His wife was to receive £70, the best bed, bedstead and coverlet, three pairs of sheets and pillowcases and her apparel; she was also to have a cupboard, table, four stools and two great chests. His children, James and Susanna, were to receive the rest, James being made executor, John Nightingale and Toby Baert overseers. His children were to pay back to the children of Henry de Honts the sum of £25 with interest at 8%, while his son and his son in law, William Dampyon, were to divide the loan of £35 made to the latter.²⁰

NOTES

1. TNA LC9/59-84; he supplied materials together with John Soillot in the year 1570-71. Both 1571 surveys (TNA SP 12/84, SP 12/82) state that he had been here for 5 or 6 years. Only in the Returns of 1593 was he said to have been here for 36 years which would mean he had arrived in 1557; the document is hard to decipher and this may be a mis-reading.
2. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens* hereon), i, 478, TNA SP 12/84; ii, 87, TNA SP 12/82.
3. Deduced from I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no.492 and W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884); LMA, Ms 4507/1, St Andrews in Wardrobe, burials 17 February 1572.

4. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis, The Hague, (1993), 1184; Moens, op.cit.
5. Moens , op.cit.
6. London, Guildhall Library, Ms 10231; Kirk and Kirk, ii, 183, E 179/145/252.
7. Moens, op.cit.; Kirk and Kirk, iii, 356.
8. Moens op.cit.; Scouloudi, Returns, op. cit, no.492.
9. Moens, op.cit.
10. Moens, op.cit.
11. Moens, op.cit.; in August 1593, Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 449 and again in October 1594 Peter is listed as a Southwark resident, *ibid.*, ii, 474.
12. W. Page, *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 241.
13. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 183, TNA E 179/145/252.
14. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 291.
15. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 422; ii, 446.
16. Scouloudi, Returns, op.cit., no. 492.
17. TNA LC 9/84.
18. LMA, Ms 9171, Commissary Court Register 18.160v and Ms 9168 Act Book 15.21v.
19. Jelsma, op. cit., 2254, 2259. The reference in Jelsma 2791, when van der Meulen was accused of owing £2.0.0, is unexplained.
20. Anthony's will was proved 28 Feb 1594, London Metropolitan Archive Surrey Probate Records, DW/PA/5/1593/204.

Van der Vynnen, Anthony, 1559/60; again 1570/71-1573/74

He worked only 30 days in 1559/60,¹ and re-appears at the head of the lists of tapestry workers in 1571-72, acting as Hyckes' deputy; he supplied materials 1570-74, but did not complete the full year, 1574.² He became a denizon in January 1572.³ When he married Tanneken van der Post from Oudenarde on 29 September 1573 he was described as born in Brussels.⁴ He died in August 1574 and was buried in St Andrew by Wardrobe.⁵

1. TNA LC 9/53.
2. TNA LC 9/62-65.

3. W. Page, *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 241, 27 January 1572, TNA C 66/1072/ m.25.

4. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).

5. LMA, Ms 4507/1, St Andrew in Wardrobe, Parish Registers, burials, 18 August 1574.

Van Dorte, Peter, 1557/58-1559/60 and returns 1562-63 and 1564/65-1580/81; TNA LC 9/52-53, 56, 58-72

Wagaman, John, 1593/94-1614/18

He arrived from Oudenarde in 1583 with a group of men, all identified as ‘Tapestre workers’, listed in Brode Street ward.¹ He may be the same man as John Wakerman of Dowgate ward.² He was admitted, with his wife, to the Dutch Church between 19 July-4 November 1585 as John Wageman.³ He entered the Wardrobe in 1593, and was still employed there in 1617.⁴

NOTES

1. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens* hereon), ii, 318

2. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 325 and ii,339, as Wakerman.

3. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 387.

4. Kirk, *Aliens*, iii, 163, 174; he was certainly there until summer 1615 TNA LC 9/85-97, but the accounts for the following year are missing in both series. He was not listed after Michaelmas 1618, TNA AO 3/1118, 16-17 Jas.

Welche, John, 1632/33-1639/40; TNA LC 9/101-103

Welles, Henry, 1557/58-1573/74

Henry Welles, born Welche in the dominions of the bishop of Liège, had by 1571 been in England for twenty years, which would mean he came in 1551.¹ However, he was here even earlier, already employed in the Wardrobe and taxed on goods of 20 s. in the subsidy of November 1540 in the parish of St Martyns, Westminster.² Whether he was one the few weavers to have remained in England in Mary’s reign is unknown, but he was paid again for work in the Wardrobe from Michaelmas 1557, the year before Mary’s death and in which the records resume; he remained in service until

1574.³ Unusually, he was reported to attend his parish church in both 1568 and 1571. Curiously his name is absent from the documents of the Dutch Church; given the Church's role as guarantor of respectability, this might explain why in 1565 he applied to become a denizen.⁴ The point might also have been to allow him to open his own workshop. In 1568 he is found in St Mary Somerset parish where his landlord was a tailor. He later moved the short distance to St Benet's parish.⁵ He took charge of the royal repair shop from Michaelmas 1571 and for the following two years 1572/73 and 1573/74. Unusually, he did not supply the materials, a job fulfilled by Anthony van der Vynnen (q.v. above), who had served for 30 days in 1559/60 and was in immediate charge for the rest of the year 1570/71 after White's death in late October 1570.⁶ It seems possible, simply because new arrangements were put in place so smoothly, that he and Wells may together have run a small workshop outside the Wardrobe.

When Wells made his will, on 30 October 1574, he stated that he was living in the parish of St Peter's without Paul's wharf.⁷ He left his clothes - his best cloak, coat and doublet, his old doublet and a pair of hose to Nicholas Kellard; all the rest of his goods were to go to his wife except for his loom, 'its stuffe and tooles thereto belonging' which he gave to Cownost de Mort who remains unidentified. His wife was to enjoy the remaining term of the lease on 'his nowe dwelling house', after which it was to pass to Peter Derrick, merchant tailor of London. He also left bequests of 5s each to the poor of his own parish and of the Dutch Church. He seems to have enjoyed an unusually long-lasting marriage, to 'Annys born in Freyseland' since hers is the only name recorded in the residence lists. It appears again in the probate deed which did not record the value of his goods. No children were named in the will. His witness was a fellow weaver, John Soillot.

NOTES

1. E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens* hereon), ii, 87, SP 12/82. Never recorded in Worcestershire and clearly identified as a stranger Barnard's supposition that he was related to the Wells family living at Bordesley is disproved, E.A.B. Barnard and A.J.B. Wace, 'The Sheldon tapestry weavers and their work', *Archaeologia*, lxxviii, (1928), 255-314, p. 272.

2. TNA E 315/456 fol 47 and W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 44; Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 25, TNA E 179/141/131, assessed on goods of 20s, pays 12d; for the historical background in Liege, a catholic diocese, see J. Puraye, J. *La Renaissance aux Etudes aux Pays du Liege au XVIe siecle*, (1949).

3. TNA LC 9/52-65.

4. W. Page, *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 253.

5. Kirk, *Aliens*, iii, 382 and ii, 87, TNA SP 12/82.

6. TNA LC 9/62-65.

7. LMA, Ms 9171, Commissary Court Register, 16.193 and Ms 9168, Act Books 13.87 proved 17 December 1574.

Wheler, John, 1601/02-1602/03; TNA LC 9/92-93, possibly a clerk

White, Thomas, 1557/58- 1569/70

For the first ten years of Elizabeth's reign the arras men were under the direction of Thomas White, appointed in 1557, but listed amongst the Tailors, responsible for lining tapestries at least from 1535; his last months of service were in the summer of 1570; he died in October 1570.¹ His name, and the contacts in his will, suggest strongly that if he is not English he had been resident in London for a long time.² He, or possibly his father, had accommodation within the Wardrobe from at least 1536³ and it is clear that he had other employment in the form of a shop. His first request was to be buried in St Andrew's in the Wardrobe 'between the brick walls where my father and mother and my two wives doe lie and my bowe window'. There were no children and his household goods, which included six beds and two identical sets of kitchen and table equipment, were divided between his two maids. His cash bequests totalled £26.3s 4d, more than half of that going to prisoners in every London gaol and to the poor of his own and of St Benet's parish. His overseer was to be Anthony Walker, his witnesses were the priest of St Andrew's parish church, Edward Graveley and Anthony van der Meulen, both Wardrobe men. Some of the quality items went to his Wardrobe colleagues. His best silver gilt cup and its cover 'painted with seashells' he gave to Anthony Walker, a Wardrobe clerk, together with an arras cushion, an arras bed valance and a set of five silk bed curtains; Anthony's wife received a ring. White's sister received gold and gems while his gossips, Thomas Clarke and Richard

Lokes, one of his livery coats each. His best cloak went to Edward Gravely, a tailor and future clerk. The contents of his shop were to be equally divided between his maids; they included silk ribbons and a 'cheeseglasse'. It looks therefore as though White were not entirely dependent on his fees for his living.⁴

NOTES

1. *Cal Pat Rolls* 1557-58, 129, TNA C 66/923, m.26 and TNA LC 5/49 p.371; amongst Tailors in TNA E 315/455 and TNA E 101/423/10; as head of both tailors and arras men TNA LC 9/52-61, TNA AO 3/1107 anno xi-xii.
2. A Thomas White was assessed amongst the English for tax on £20 in the parish of St Andrew's in 1541, TNA E 179/144/120, rot. 13, printed R.G. Lang, *Two Tudor Tax Assessments Rolls for the City of London, 1541 and 1582*, London Record Society, 29 (1992), 39; he paid 10s, but whether father, son or unrelated is not known.
3. One of the two is listed as resident within the Wardrobe, TNA LC 5/31, fol 20, TNA LC 5/32, fol 340.
4. LMA, Ms 9051, Archdeaconry Court Register 3.259v-261 and for probate, no value, Ms 9050, Act Book, 1. 82, written 12 October, proved 7 November 1570.

Willmetts, Willimetts, Willmott, John, 1580/81-1592/93

John Willmott or John Willimetts came from Oudenarde.¹ According to his evidence in 1593, he must have arrived around 1579 and seems to have found employment almost immediately for payments for work in the Wardrobe begin at Michaelmas 1580; he served until his death in 1593.² One list of 1583 places him, as John Willmott arrasworker, in Castle Baynard Ward along with Susan Acon his wife and Jane Spunter his maid servant; he may briefly have left there because the other, less securely dated, list of the same year notes a similar name, John Willimetts, orris worker, in neighbouring Vintry Ward.³ His son was born in 1586, but Susan must have died for on 7 July 1588 John married Lijnken van der Straten, widow of Brussels.⁴ Like several of his colleagues, Willimetts worked only 183 days in the plague year of 1593; he made his will on 25 June 1593 in his house in the parish of St Peter's Hill (Castle Baynard ward), 'being in my most heaviness through the decease of my well-beloved wife'. This suggests that both husband and wife were plague victims. The terms were simple enough. He gave to 'littell John my son all that which is belonging to Mr Heard or beyond the seas' except if there were goods at Emden when his aunt Anne Hellart or her child was to have 25s sterling. He gave the same

amount to the children of Nicholas Bilderbreake, another Emden resident. If littell John should die, half his goods were to go to the Dutch Church in London, the other half was to be divided into four parts between Willimetts' godson, the child of John de Mayor, and his wife's god-daughter, Rebecca Sols; the other two parts were for the two children of Nicholas Wageman, always with the proviso that 40s (*sic!*) were to be sent to the legatees in Emden. He appointed John Soillot(q.v. above), the Minister of the Dutch Church, and Harman van Bell (q.v. above), silkworke, as his executors and later added John de Mayer and Anthony van der Muelen (q.v. above); it was to the two last that probate was granted on 21.2.1594 when the value of his goods was said to be £45 8s 7d. ⁵

Someone, however, in Emden was making mischief for in February 1597 the Emden Minister, Hermannus Moded, once a minister at Norwich, wrote to the Elders of the Dutch Church in London. ⁶ It stated that they had been assured that Jan Wilmets bequeathed one half of his property to the poor of the London Dutch and the other half to certain persons in London, though his son survived him. It accused Wilmets of giving away not only his own property but also that which the child had inherited from his mother, which it was not in his power to do. He also gave away £8 which the child had inherited from his aunt. The writer declared that he himself had persuaded the aunt to leave the child the legacy of eight pounds, but that she had stipulated that not a penny was to come into the father's hands but was to remain at Emden until the child was of age and that in case the child died the money was to go to her sister, Anna Hellerts. The Elders were requested to return to the writer the £8.0.0 which had been sent by a local merchant, Quintijn Jacops, who had shown the writer Willimett's receipt.

The answer has not survived, but it clearly was not satisfactory because six months later, in July, Anna Hellerts wrote to the Minister acknowledging receipt of £3.0.0 which had been forwarded as a legacy from the late Jan Willemets, but stating that since the Consistory had received 146 guilders, she expected the return of the whole £8.0.0.⁷ The answer is missing.

NOTES

1. Also as Willmott, E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4

parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, (1900-08), (Kirk, *Aliens* hereon), ii, 299.

2. TNA LC 9/71-84; I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 1151, described as 'nerice' worker !

3. Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 323, as an orris worker, probably a phonetic spelling because Willimets was a Wardrobe employee.

4. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).

5. LMA, Ms 9171, Commissary Court Register 18.160v and Ms 9168, Act Book 15.21^v

6. J. H. Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes*, 4, 1889-97, III, i, 1370; A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569-1585*, Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis, The Hague, (1993), 787 note.

7. Hessels, III, i, 1389.

Wymond, Christopher, 1609/10-1628/29; TNA AO 3/1116-1120, possibly a clerk