

CASTLE KEEPER PAYMENTS

In medieval Scotland, the king's officials received payments for helping to run the country. The person in charge of handing out payments was called the **chamberlain**. If you wanted to receive your payments, you either had to send someone to the chamberlain to collect them, or wait for him to deliver them to you. Because of this, payments were not paid in a regular way. However, the chamberlain did write these down in **account books** so that he could keep track of how much people had been paid each year.

Castle keepers (also known as **constables**) were royal officials who were in charge of running the men, food and defence of a castle. Because they had to be appointed by the king himself, castle keepers were usually very important people in the kingdom.

Below are the payments to different castle keepers in Scotland. They were made by the English chamberlain because the castles were controlled by Edward I while the long process of deciding who would be the next king of Scots took place (between 13 June 1291 and 18 November 1292). The list gives you payments recorded by the chamberlain between various dates in 1291 and 1292. Both the old money and today's equivalent (rounded to the nearest £) are given for each payment.

By comparing the payments to each castle keeper, you can see who generally earned the most in a year. However, it is important to remember:

- **The size of the castle:** some may have been bigger, meaning they needed more money to keep it running.
- **The records:** some records may have been lost, or some payments not recorded, so we probably only have a slice of the evidence. This is why we have more entries for some castles than others within this year.
- **The war:** this is the period (1291–92) when Edward I had control of the Scotland's royal castles and was paying his officials to run the castles. Therefore this is more an insight into how the English paid their castle keepers, rather than the Scots.

See 'Money' for an explanation about medieval money and how to convert it to present day money using The National Archives Currency Converter: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/default0.asp#mid>

ABERDEEN CASTLE

November 1291 – November 1292

25 marks = £8,947

£33 6s. 8d. = £17,894

£113 5s. 10d. = £60,818

£22 15s. 10d. = £12,235

£12 12d. = £6,470

£73 6s. 8d. = £38,294

25 marks = £8,947

TOTAL = £153,605 (in today's money)

BERWICK CASTLE

August 1291 – September 1292

£25 12s. 6d = £13,756

£43 = £23,083

£13 = £6,980

£14 = £7,516

£27 = £14,494

£14 3s. 3d. = £7,600

£13 = £6,980

£42 14s. 4d = £22,932

TOTAL = £103,341 (in today's money)

DUMBARTON CASTLE

June 1291 – June 1292

£120 = £64,419

£40 = £21,473

£23 = £12,347

£38 = £20,399

£16 13s. 4d. = £8,947

£13 16s. 8d. = £7,426

TOTAL = £135,011 (in today's money)

DUMFRIES CASTLE

August 1291 – November 1292

40 marks = £14,315

£20 = £10,737

£8 = £4,295

£60 = £32,210

TOTAL = £61,557 (in today's money)

EDINBURGH CASTLE

August 1291 – October 1292

40 marks = £14,315

£80 = £42,946

40 marks = £14,315

£13 12s. 6d. = £7,314

TOTAL = £78,890 (in today's money)

ELGIN CASTLE

November 1291 – June 1292

£40 = £21,473

£18 6s. 8d. = £9,842

£45 12s. = £24,480

£39 12s. 10d. = £21,260

TOTAL = £77,055 (in today's money)

INVERNESS CASTLE

August 1291 – October 1292

£18 = £9,663

109 marks = £39,010

£26 13s. 4d. = £14,315

£41, 12s = £22,332

6 marks = £2,147

£40 = £21,473

£50 = £26,842

TOTAL = £135,784 (in today's money)

STIRLING CASTLE

August 1291 – September 1292

£26 13s 4d. = £14,315

£106 13s. 4d. = £57,262

£26 13s. 4d. = £14,315

16 marks = £5,276

134 marks = £47,957

TOTAL = £139,125 (in today's money)

ROXBURGH CASTLE

October 1291 – October 1292

£20 = £10,737

£112 = £60,125

£60 = £32,210

£23 = £12,347

£80 = £42,946

£12 = £6,442

£162 5s. 8d. = £87,119

TOTAL = £251,926 (in today's money)

SUMMARY OF CASTLE KEEPER PAYMENTS 1291–1292 IN TODAY'S MONEY

Roxburgh
£251,926

Aberdeen
£153,605

Stirling
£139,125

Inverness
£135, 784

Dumbarton
£135,011

Berwick
£103,341

Edinburgh
£78,890

Elgin
£77,055

Dumfries
£61,557