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# Chronology

## 1554

### January

Spanish ambassadors arrive in London to finalize marriage terms between Queen Mary and Philip of Spain.

30–3 February Rebellion in London objecting to the Spanish match, led by Sir Thomas Wyatt, the son of the poet. Wyatt first gathered supporters in Kent, although WS and HS were uninvolved. WH1 leads military forces to suppress the rebels (*CSPD*, 58; *CSPS*, 79–122).

### February

7/10(?) WS dies at Penshurst.

12 Lady Jane Grey and her husband Guildford Dudley executed. MDS's four other brothers, John, Ambrose, Robert and Henry, confined to the Tower.

26 Burial of WS at Penshurst Church (BL Additional MS 26676/89).

### March

13 HS joins the entourage to Spain of John Russell, Earl of Bedford, and Thomas Radcliffe, Lord Fitzwalter, to accompany Philip to England. WS's granddaughter, Jane Dormer was a member of Queen Mary's household (see also Stewart, 326).

18–19 May Princess Elizabeth confined to the Tower.

### April

2–5 May Queen Mary's Second Parliament accepts terms for the Spanish marriage.

### May

28 Queen Mary grants wardship of Robert Pakenham (Pagenham) to his cousin (?) HS.

### June

23/24 Formal audience of HS's diplomatic party at Santiago de Compostela with Philip of Spain who signs the marriage contract.

### **July**

- 13 HS's escorting party sails from La Coruña with Philip and arrives at Southampton with an English and Dutch escort on 20.
- 25 Queen Mary marries Philip, then King of Naples and Jerusalem. Philip is never formally crowned King of England. HS befriends Philip's counsellors, the Duke of Medina Celi and Don Diego de Mendoza.

### **October**

- 18 John (who is seriously ill), Ambrose, Robert, and Henry Dudley are released from the Tower, although still attainted of high treason.
- 21 John Dudley dies at Penshurst.

### **November**

- (early) Letters Patent and various offices previously granted to WS and HS by Edward VI are confirmed by Queen Mary. HS joins Lord Cobham's welcoming party for Cardinal Pole (who had lived in Italy since 1532), and accompanies him from Rochester to Gravesend (Collins, I. 84).
- 12–16 January 1555 Queen Mary's Third Parliament restores papal supremacy.
- 30 Birth of PS 'on Friday the last of November being St Andrew's day, a quarter before five in the morning' ('Sidney Psalter'). Philip of Spain, is a godfather for the christening at Penshurst. When in late 1586 Philip hears of PS's death at Zutphen he annotates the message: 'He was my godson'. PS's other godparents are John Russell, Earl of Bedford (c.1485–1555), and Jane Dudley, Duchess of Northumberland.

## **1555**

### **January**

- 22 Jane Dudley, Duchess of Northumberland dies aged 46 (buried at Chelsea, 1 February).

### **March**

- 14 PS's godfather, John Russell, Earl of Bedford dies.

**April**

- (?) HS's sister, Frances Sidney, marries (with Philip of Spain in attendance) Thomas Radcliffe (1525?-83), Lord Fitzwalter (later Earl of Sussex).

**May**

- 4 Ambrose Dudley is allowed to inherit his father's wealth, despite his attainder.
- 6 HS to undertake an embassy to the King of the Romans and King of Bohemia to announce Queen Mary's (falsely suspected) impending confinement, with an allowance of 500 marks (*CSPD*, 98; *APC*, 126).

**October**

21-9 December Queen Mary's Fourth Parliament.

- 25 Emperor Charles V resigns the Netherlands in favour of Philip of Spain.

**November**

- 30 PS's first birthday. A horoscope, cast in 1570, records that PS had been sickly during his first year (Bodl. MS Ashmole 356/5; Osborn, 518).

**1556****January**

- 16 Queen Mary's husband, Philip, becomes King Philip II of Spain on the abdication of his father, Emperor Charles V.

**April**

- 27 HS appointed Vice-Treasurer and General Governor of revenues in Ireland. He travels with the Lord Deputy (his brother-in-law) and reaches Dublin on Whitsunday (*CSPI*, 133).

**May**

- 26 Thomas Radcliffe, Lord Fitzwalter, sworn in as Lord Deputy of Ireland.

**June**

HS sees active military service in Ireland, including the English defeat of James MacConnell, a Scottish captain who had invaded Ulster.

**November**

30 PS's second birthday.

**Undated**

Mary (Margaret) Sidney (d.1558) born, daughter of HS and MDS, with Queen Mary as godmother.

HS speculates in New World exploration (*DD*, I.254).

**1557**

**February**

17 Thomas Radcliffe becomes Earl of Sussex, following the death of his father, Henry.

**April**

HS, now Lord Justice in Ireland, returns to England to seek funds for the Irish campaigns.

**May**

27 Articles touching the state of Ireland are carried by HS from Lord Deputy Sussex to the Privy Council (*CSPI*, 137).

**Summer**

HS is sent by the Earl of Sussex to Rathlin Island (Raghlyns) in Ireland, a trouble-spot for English troops ('Memoir', 193).

**July**

(early) HS returns briefly to the English court.

19 HS resident at Athlone Castle.

**August**

10 (St Lawrence's Day) The combined English-Spanish victory over the French at the Battle of St Quentin in France inspires Philip II's Escorial Palace. Both WH1 and his son, HH, distinguish themselves at the battle, as do Ambrose

and Robert Dudley; but MDS learns that her brother, Henry (Harry) Dudley, is among the dead.

### November

30 PS's third birthday.

### Dedications

Giovanni Battista Gelli, *Circes*, translated/dedicated by Henry Iden, *STC* 11708 (HH).

### References

Jean Boucher, *Les annales d'Aquitaine* (Poitiers), Bibliotheca Bodmeriana (Geneva), contains PS's only surviving autograph poem, *Certain Sonnets* 6, 'Sleep baby mine'. The volume may have belonged to PS's secretary, William Temple.

## 1558

### January

7 Calais lost to the French.

20–7 March First session of Queen Mary's Fifth Parliament.

### March

7 Attainder lifted on Ambrose and Robert Dudley (Collins, I.37).

### April

7/13(?) Burial of Margaret Sidney (b.1556), daughter of HS and MDS (Penshurst Church brass).

24 Marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the French Dauphin, later François II.

### November

5–17 Second session of Queen Mary's Fifth Parliament.

17 Death of Queen Mary and accession of Queen Elizabeth I. Cardinal Pole dies. HS's niece, Jane Dormer (later wife of the Count of Feria) exiles herself to the Spanish court.

20 Sir William Cecil appointed Secretary of State and Queen Elizabeth's principal adviser for her first Council Meeting at Hatfield.

- 22 Queen Elizabeth arrives at court from Hatfield. MDS is appointed as Gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber, allowing her considerable intimacy with the queen.
- 30 PS's fourth birthday.

### **December**

- 12 HS promoted to Lord Justice in Ireland. The Earl of Sussex returns to England until August 1559.

## **1559**

### **January**

- 11 Robert Dudley appointed Master of the Horse.
- 14/15 Queen Elizabeth received into London for her coronation.
- 25–8 May Queen Elizabeth's First Parliament.

### **February**

Philip II of Spain offers to marry Elizabeth but is refused. She advises Parliament that she will not marry unwisely.

### **April**

- 3 Treaty of Câteau-Cambrésis, marking the end of a 65-year struggle between France and Spain for control of Italy. It also finally surrenders Calais to the French.
- 14 HS to the Privy Council, pleading for additional artillery and munitions in Ireland (Collins, I.6–7).
- 18 The Spanish ambassador, Feria, reports on Robert Dudley's intimacy with Queen Elizabeth (*CSPS*, 57).

### **July**

- 10 Death of Henri II of France and accession of François II, husband of Mary Queen of Scots.
- 22 HH, the future husband of MSH, repudiates his former wife, Catherine Grey Herbert (Bodl. MS Tanner 193/224–7).

### **September**

- 7 De Quadra, Bishop of Aquila, informs the Duchess of Parma that MDS had advised him (while conversing in Italian) to pursue a possible marriage between Queen Elizabeth and the Archduke Charles of Austria, a cousin of Philip II. But by early November Robert Dudley advises MDS to drop her interest in this match (*CSPS*, 95–6).

**November**

- 25 Rumours that HS will be appointed Lord President of Wales (*CSPF*, 137).
- 30 PS's fifth birthday.

**December**

- 1 HS proposed by Sir Thomas Challoner as the ideal emissary to King Philip of Spain, although he wonders about HS's rudimentary Spanish (*CSPF*, 154).

**1560****January**

- (early) HS appointed Lord President of the Council in the Marches of Wales, holding the office for the rest of his life (*CSPD*, 152; *DD*, I.322–32). WH1 had been president, 1550–53, 1555–58; and his son, HH (husband of MSH), holds the post, 1586–1601.

**February**

- 20 HS proposed by Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, English ambassador to France, as his replacement (*CSPF*, 390–1).

**July**

French troops withdraw from Scotland. Treaty of Edinburgh.

**September**

- 8 Amy Robsart, Robert Dudley's wife, found dead at the foot of a staircase at Cumnor Hall, Oxfordshire.

**October**

- (early) Elizabeth Sidney (d.1567) born, daughter of HS and MDS, with Queen Elizabeth as godmother.

**November**

- 1 HS petitions the queen for levies and expenses in Wales (*CSPD*, 163).
- 30 PS's sixth birthday.

**December**

- 5 Death of François II of France and accession of Charles IX.

## 1561

### January

22–May HS and MDS involved in a scheme for Robert Dudley to marry Elizabeth, with the re-establishment of Catholicism in England.

### April

25 Elizabeth orders HS to levy 200 men from Wales for service in Ireland (*CSPD*, 175).

### June

21 Thomas Ashton (d.1578) appointed headmaster of Shrewsbury School, where PS studies from 17 October 1564. Ashton is headmaster until c.1571 and then employed as a secretary by the earls of Essex.

### August

4 Christening of John Harington, a distant relative of the Sidneys, with Elizabeth as godmother and WH1 as godfather. Lucy Harington, Countess of Bedford, (WH3's friend) was the daughter of John's kinsman, John, Lord Harington of Exton, whose mother was Lucy Sidney, HS's sister. A manuscript of *Old Arcadia* (BL Additional MS 38892) was owned, and partly in the hand of, Harington. It was perhaps given to him by either RS1 or MSH. He also had access to both *Astrophil and Stella* and to some of MSH's own writings, and owned a copy of PS's 'A Letter to Queen Elizabeth'. He inherited from his father the Arundel-Harington MS, into which he added eight poems by PS (Woudhuysen, 341–8).

(mid) Return of the widowed Mary Queen of Scots from France to Scotland. Elizabeth refuses her passage over English soil.

### October

27 Mary Sidney (MSH) born, daughter of HS and MDS, at Tickenhall (Ticknell) near Bewdley, Worcestershire ('Sidney Psalter').

### November

30 PS's seventh birthday.

**December**

- 26 PS's uncle Ambrose Dudley (1528?–90) created Earl of Warwick, following the lifting of his attainder.

**Undated**

(January 1561–January 1562) Sidney accounts by Rafe Knight: clothing for HS and MDS (£269), embroiderer (£88), charges for PS, legal costs and purchase of books, including a Bible (£17), keeping the house at Penshurst (£76), for PS and his attendants (£34) (*DD*, I.240–1).

*References*

PS's schoolboy copy of François de Belleforest's French translation of Bandello's *Histoires tragiques*, is at King's School, Canterbury (Walpole Collection) with the inscription: '*Je suis appartenant a monsieur Philipe Sidnaie qui me trouve cy me rende a qui je suis*', and a jotting 'foulke grivell [Fulke Greville] is a good boy' (Robertson 1966, 326–8).

**1562****January**

- 6 Shane O'Neill submits to Elizabeth at Whitehall.

**May**

- 17 HS sent to Paris on a diplomatic mission (*CSPD*, 200).  
26 HS's accounts show a payment made for child actors at Ludlow Castle (CKS A56(2)).

**July**

- 15 Royal instructions for HS's mission to Edinburgh to advise Mary Queen of Scots of a postponement in her planned meeting with Elizabeth. HS stays two weeks and meets John Knox, with whom he corresponds (Haynes 1740, 391–3).

**August**

HS at Shrewsbury.

**October**

- (mid) Elizabeth sends English troops under Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, to assist the French Protestants in the first French religious war. HS accompanies his brother-in-law as a military adviser but returns to London within the month.

Elizabeth then falls ill with the smallpox, generating fears for the succession; and MDS contracts smallpox while nursing her. In 1583 HS recalls that she was as 'foul a lady as the small-pox could make her' (SP 12/159/38). Thomas Moffet records that PS was also stricken with the smallpox (*Nobilis*, 71). PS reworks his mother's disfigurement into the tale of Argalus and Parthenia in *New Arcadia*.

- 20 Robert Dudley admitted to the Privy Council.  
27 MSH's first birthday.

### **November**

- 2 Mary Stuart sends Elizabeth congratulations on her recovery from smallpox (Wallace, 21).  
30 PS's eighth birthday.

### **Undated**

Probable birth of Barbara Gamage (BGS), later wife of RS1.

### *References*

Publication of Clément Marot and Théodore de Bèze, *Les Psaumes de David mis en rime Francoise* (a source for the Sidneian Psalms).

## **1563**

### **January**

12–10 April The first session of Queen Elizabeth's Second Parliament. The succession figures prominently in view of the queen's recent illness.

### **February**

- (?) HH marries Katherine Talbot, and his sister, Anne Herbert, marries Francis Lord Talbot, the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury's eldest son.

### **Spring–July**

Warwick attempts to defend Le Havre, with HS earnestly seeking reinforcements. When Warwick is elected a Knight of the Garter while in France, HS is installed as his proxy at Windsor (Wallace, 22).

**July**

20 Sir Thomas Challoner, English ambassador at Madrid, recommends HS to lead a proposed embassy to Philip of Spain (*CSPF*, 468).

**September**

11 Shane O'Neill submits to Sussex.

**October**

27 MSH's second birthday.

**November**

19 Robert Sidney (RS1) born, son of HS and MDS, at Penshurst. He is named in honour of his maternal uncle and godfather, Robert Dudley.

28 RS1 baptised.

30 PS's ninth birthday.

**1564****April**

26 William Shakespeare baptized at Stratford-upon-Avon.

**May**

6 PS installed as the incumbent of the parsonage of Whitford in the parish of Skyveog but names Gruff Jones as rector. PS later also installed as prebend of Llangunlo, St Davids; and as prebend of Hereford (CKS Q31/1–21, Q32/1–3).

14 HS installed as a Knight of the Garter, alongside King Charles IX of France (BL Additional MS 30808/24).

**September**

28/29 Robert Dudley created Baron Denbigh and Earl of Leicester. Rumours circulate of a planned marriage between Dudley and Mary Queen of Scots, as well as one between her and Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley.

**October**

17 PS enters Shrewsbury School, along with Fulke Greville (1554–1628) and his first cousin, James Harington. The headmaster, Thomas Ashton, is assisted by Thomas Wylton

(resigned 1568) and Richard Atkys (d.1587). The school, situated in Ratonsylone or School Lane, was directly opposite the Council House, HS's residence at Shrewsbury as President of Wales. PS lodges in the household of George Leigh, a local wool merchant.

27 MSH's third birthday.

### **November**

19 RS1's first birthday.

30 PS's tenth birthday.

### **December**

30 Earl of Leicester installed as Chancellor of Oxford University.

### **Undated**

MSH's sister, Ambrosia (d.1575), probably born.

## **1565**

### **January**

14 PS inducted as prebend of Llangunlo in the diocese of St Davids (Wallace, 32).

### **May**

20 HS seeks the retention of the Presidency of Wales and the right to return home to England if he is appointed Lord Deputy in Ireland.

### **June**

22 HS confirmed as a member of the Privy Council and as Lord Deputy of Ireland.

### **July**

4 Instructions for HS's appointment in Ireland (revised 9 July). HS serves as Irish viceroy 1565–71 and 1575–78.

29 Marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to Darnley (named 'King of this Kingdom'). He deeply resents her favourite, David Riccio.

### **October**

13 HS reappointed as Lord President of Wales.

27 MSH's fourth birthday.

**November**

- 11 Marriage of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, to Anne Russell.
- 17 HS and MDS are stranded at Chester for six weeks, awaiting suitable weather to cross to Ireland.
- 19 RS1's second birthday.
- 30 PS's eleventh birthday.

**December**

- 3 HS complains to Cecil that he has no desire to go to Ireland. PS, along with his personal steward Thomas Marshall, say goodbye to him at Westchester (Wallace, 46).
- 4 Thomas Marshall, begins 20 pages of accounts (ending Michaelmas 1566), detailing PS's expenditure. MDS's signature appears at the end of the accounts, followed by two partly legible prayers beginning 'God grant me grace ...' (CKS A35; Wallace, 405–23).
- 6 PS returns to Shrewsbury, attended by a Randal Calcott, a boy companion or servant.
- 17 HS from Beaumaris to Cecil, describing how he and MDS had been constantly on the move for a month (SP 63/15/66).
- Christmas/New Year PS visits Eyton-on-Severn near Wroxeter, the seat of Sir Richard Newport, whose daughter Magdalen became the mother of Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury and George Herbert, and a close friend of John Donne. Sir Richard's son, Francis (b.1554), entered Shrewsbury School in 1569.

**Undated**

- (1565–66) Sidney accounts by Rafe Knight, including payments for PS (£57) and to 'Arnold' for a portrait of HS (£4) (DD, I.241).

**1566****January**

- 6 Elizabeth to HS about tensions between Earls of Ormonde and Desmond (Collins, I.7–8).
- 9 HS and MDS are still stranded at Holyhead, attempting to cross to Ireland.
- 13 HS and MDS arrive at Dublin, after the loss of a ship bearing most of their household goods, MDS's clothes and jewels, and many horses (Wallace, 26, 46).

**March**

9 Darnley implicated in the murder of Riccio.

**April**

17 HS pleads with Cecil to be recalled from 'this purgatory' of Ireland (SP 63/17/37–40). HS formulates a plan for each of the four provinces to have a President and Council.

**(?) Spring**

HS and MDS's letter of advice to PS (see '1591: Works' for printed text). HS thanks PS for his two letters, one in Latin and the other in French, commending his usage in both languages. He advises him to study diligently, to look after his health through moderation in food, drink and exercise, and to find time for relaxation. He also reminds PS of his noble Dudley blood and MDS affectionately reaffirms HS's advice in a postscript (*DD*, II.xv).

**May**

30 Marshall's accounts record PS's residence with Sir Andrew Corbet (of Moreton Corbet, Shropshire), whose son Robert later accompanied PS at Venice. Sir Andrew was a friend of HS and a member of the Council for Wales. Another of his sons, Vincent (b.1554), was in the same year as PS at Shrewsbury. PS also stays with Sir Richard Newport during an outbreak of the plague at Shrewsbury (CKS A35).

**June**

9 HS to Cecil on the dangerous state of Ireland (Collins, I.11–12).

19 Birth of Prince James (later James VI of Scotland and James I of England), son of Mary Queen of Scots and Darnley.

24 HS to Cecil, hoping for a recall from this 'miserable and accursed' Ireland (Collins, I.12–14).

25 Marshall purchases expensive fabric for a lavish wardrobe for PS (CKS A35).

28 HS from Kilmainham, pleading with Leicester to be extricated from Ireland, claiming 'this realm will ruin under my rule, haply to my shame; but undoubtedly to England's harm' (*DD*, II.2–3).

**July**

- 11 PS is godfather at the christening of Philip, son of George Leigh at Shrewsbury (CKS A35).
- 24 PS sets out for Kenilworth (the home of his uncle, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester) in a party of ten, including Thomas Marshall and Randall Calcott, a Shrewsbury boy named Edward Onslow (the son of Richard Onslow, Solicitor General to the Queen and later Speaker of the House of Commons), George Leigh, Thomas Ashton and three servants. They pass through Shifnal and reach Wolverhampton by nightfall (Wallace, 51–3).
- 27 A change of plan leads to their return that night to Shrewsbury.
- 29 PS treated by Marshall for his ‘merrygalls’ (chafing), produced by riding for three days (CKS A35/7–8).

**August**

- 13 Elizabeth expresses her severe displeasure with HS’s management of Irish affairs through ‘some great mist or darkness of judgement’ (SP 63/18/80).
- 14 PS again leaves Shrewsbury in a party of six, including Marshall and Calcott, along with Ashton, his servant, and one Davy Long (probably David Longdon, a local shoemaker then in Ashton’s service). The party stays for the first night with Sir Richard Newport at Arcole. PS meets Robert Devereux, Viscount Hereford (later Earl of Essex), on this trip (Stewart, 50).
- 15/16 PS’s party proceeds, via Wolverhampton, Brumageame and Hampton-on-the-Hill, to Coventry, where Leicester was staying.
- 17 PS’s party reaches Kenilworth where they stay until 22 August. PS probably also visits Warwick Castle, the seat of his uncle Ambrose Dudley.
- 19 HS from Drogheda to Leicester about Shane O’Neill (*DD*, II.3–4).
- 22 PS’s party sets out for Oxford in the company of Thomas Wilson (d.1586), author of *The Art of Rhetoric* (1553), a long-time dependent of the Dudley family, and stops for the night ‘at one Mr Ranles beyond Warwick’.
- 23 PS stops for dinner at Tuddington and arrives at an Oxford inn for the nights of 23/24.

- 25 PS stays at Lincoln College for the rest of his Oxford visit, having supper that evening with the rector, Mr Bridgewater (self-styled 'Aquaepontanus', later suspected of becoming a Catholic), one of Leicester's chaplains (CKS A35/8; Wallace, 57–8).
- 31 Elizabeth arrives at Oxford, in the company of numerous nobles. Roger Marbeck (University Orator) greets her with a Latin speech; and Mayor Williams meets her on her progress down the Woodstock Road. She enters the city by the north gate (Bocardo), where Robert Deale of New College welcomes her on behalf of all scholars; and she then processes ceremonially through the streets before citizens and academics, hearing a Greek oration at Carfax from Giles Lawrence (Regius Professor of Greek). She is greeted at Christ Church, where her apartments had been prepared, with another oration by Mr Kingsmill and by prayers in the chapel led by Dean Godwin. The Spanish ambassador, Don Guzman de Silva (a friend of HS) is accommodated in the Warden's lodgings at Merton (Wallace, 60–5).

### September

(early)–12 November HS on active military service in Ireland.

- 1 Elizabeth attends an afternoon sermon at New College, given by Thomas Harris. The same evening a student Latin play, *Marcus Geminus*, is performed in her honour in the hall of Christ Church.
- 2 and 4 The two parts *Palamon and Arcite* by Richard Edwards, Master of the Children of the Chapel Royal, are performed at Christ Church. Three people are killed when a wall collapses during the first performance.
- 5 A Latin tragedy, *Progne*, by James Calphill (Canon of Christ Church), is performed. Various disputations are held, mainly in St Mary's Church, including one proposing that 'the moon is the cause of the ebb and flow of the tide', in which Edmund Campion (then a protégé of HS) was the respondent. Queen Elizabeth delivers a Latin oration at St Mary's. Others taking part in disputations include Mr Thornton (d.1629), who was later PS's tutor; and Toby Matthew, later Canon and Dean of Christ Church and Archbishop of York (Wallace, 62–5). HS from Drogheda to Leicester, pleading to be recalled from Ireland: 'help me out of this wretched land or I shall shortly die' (*HMC Pepys*, 89–90).

- 6 A convocation ends the royal visit, with MAs awarded to members of the royal entourage. After dinner Toby Matthew bids the queen farewell in the name of the university and she leaves the city via Magdalen Bridge, with a parting oration from Roger Marbeck.
- 8 PS's party leaves Lincoln College and rides out of Oxford to Woodstock and Chipping Norton. At one of these locations PS gives 12d to a blind harper 'who is Sir William Holles' man of Nottinghamshire', perhaps the inspiration for PS's 'blind crowder'.
- 9 PS's party reach Stratford-upon-Avon for dinner and then PS rests at the home of Mr Sheldon at Belie, whose son, Greg, had travelled with him from Oxford.
- 11 PS dines with 'Mr Blunt at Kittermaster'.
- 12 PS's party reaches Bewdley, a seat of the Council of the Marches, where they are the guests of Sir George and Lady Blount.
- 16 PS's party reaches Shrewsbury before this date.
- 22 With 2,000 men, HS marches out of Drogheda and enters the territory of Shane O'Neill, who plans to attack Drogheda in HS's absence and to carry off MDS (Wallace, 74; Brady 1994, 123).
- 30–2 January 1567 The second session of Queen Elizabeth's Second Parliament. Serious differences over the succession arise between the queen and Parliament. Elizabeth also refuses statutory confirmation to the Thirty-nine Articles.

### October

- 27 MSH's fifth birthday.

### November

- 19 RS1's third birthday. Birth (?) of Robert Devereux, later 2nd Earl of Essex (10 November 1567 is also sometimes cited).
- 26 William Mostyn assigns all his rights to the benefice of Whitford to PS (Wallace, 32).
- 30 PS's twelfth birthday.

### Undated

- (1566–67) Sidney accounts record £10 given to PS's schoolmaster and the purchase of a pair of virginals and a set of viols (*DD*, I.242).

*Works*

See '1591: Works' for HS's letter to PS.

**1567**

**January**

18 HS makes desperate pleas to Cecil to be recalled home but he is still obliged to set out on his Munster circuit, which lasts until April (SP 63/20/13; Brady 1994, 123–4).

**February**

10 Darnley strangled, followed by an explosion at Zam, in an old provost's lodging called Kirk o'Field.

**March**

16 HS's problems in Ireland are compounded by critical letters from the queen, prompting MDS to fall seriously ill and in a trance for over 52 hours. HS sends her back to England to recover (see 1 March 1583). MDS probably had her children, Elizabeth, Mary, Robert and Ambrosia, with her in Ireland but seems to have been too weak to take them back to England (Wallace, 75).

**April**

20 HS makes a lengthy report on the miserable state of Ireland, a 'waste and desolate land', to Elizabeth (Collins, I.18–31. Trinity College, Dublin, MS 581, describes HS's progress through Ireland).

27 PS pays Hugh Whitford 100 marks and (30 April) Robert Jones £100 to resign their rights to the benefice of Whitford (Wallace, 32–3).

(?) HS seeks to preserve Irish archives at Dublin Castle (Collins, I.90).

**May**

15 Mary Queen of Scots marries James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell.

**June**

2 Shane O'Neill assassinated and his army put to rout in Ireland, thereby alleviating HS's problems. He has O'Neill's head placed on top of Dublin Castle.

- 15 Mary Queen of Scots defeated by Scottish opposition lords at Carberry Hill (east of Edinburgh) and imprisoned.

### July

- 5 HS granted a licence to return to England.  
 24 Abdication of Mary Queen of Scots and accession of James VI to the Scottish throne aged 1 year. James Stewart, Earl of Moray, becomes regent.

### October

- 18 HS finally arrives back in England soon after this date, with various Irish chiefs who come voluntarily, wishing to see the queen. Seeing his party nearing Hampton Court, Elizabeth enquires who comes in such grand state. Advised that it is HS, she comments: 'It is well enough, for he hath two of the best offices in the kingdom'. HS continues to be criticized by Elizabeth. She decides to order Desmond and his brother to be sent over from Ireland and imprisoned in the Tower, where they remain for seven years – an act which is directly responsible for the later Munster Rebellion (Wallace, 77–82).  
 27 MSH's sixth birthday.

### November

- 8 Death in Ireland at Kilmainham (the Deputy's Dublin residence) of HS and MDS's daughter, Elizabeth. She is buried in Dublin Cathedral when HS is still at the English court (BL Additional MS Egerton 2642/214).  
 13 HS dines with De Silva, the Spanish Ambassador, who reports that he is very dissatisfied with the queen's ungenerous treatment of his Irish service. He particularly resents the hostility of Thomas Butler, 10th Earl of Ormonde, who had been educated with Prince Edward and HS and led the government's forces against the Earl of Desmond in the first stages of the Desmond Rebellion of 1579–81 (Wallace, 78).  
 19 RS1's fourth birthday.  
 30 PS's thirteenth birthday.

### Undated

(13 November 1567–1 March 1570) Sidney accounts by William Blount include a Spanish bedstead for PS, clothing for the Sidney children in Ireland (£90), a rapier and dagger for PS, a book called 'Malando' (10s),

payments to musicians, and the huge sum of £670 for MDS (*DD*, I.243–5).

*Dedications*

Matteo Bandello, *Certain Tragical Discourses*, translated/dedicated Geoffrey Fenton, *STC* 1356.1 (MDS).

*The [VI] Books of Xenophon*, translated/dedicated by William Barker (WH1), *STC* 26067 (first published 1551 with the same dedication). PS was an admirer of Xenophon's *Histories* and made eight references to it in his *Defence of Poetry* (*Misc. Prose*, 79–89). It formed the principal Greek text in the Shrewsbury School curriculum. Xenophon's description of the education of Cyrus may have informed PS's account of the upbringing of Pyrocles and Musidorus in his *Arcadia*. PS refers to Xenophon in letters to Hubert Languet (15 April 1574) and RS1 (18 October 1580).

## 1568

### February

2 PS enrolls at Gray's Inn in Holborn (Stewart, 53). This is possibly also when PS begins his studies at Oxford, although he may already have been there in 1567 (Duncan-Jones, 39). Richard Carew recalls at Oxford being called to dispute with PS before the Earls of Leicester and Warwick (*Survey of Cornwall* (1602), *STC* 4615, Dd2<sup>v</sup>).

16 The Spanish Ambassador, De Silva, reports how HS is being pressurized into returning to Ireland, although his crossing is delayed for six months (Wallace, 79). HS is ill with gallstones. A medical document, 'The State of Sir H. Sidney's Body', warns HS to avoid bogs, fens and marshes and advises against long periods on horseback in armour (SP 15/14/6).

### March

after 19 HS from Dublin to the Lord Admiral, concerning Scottish forces in Ireland (*DD*, II.7).

### April

10 Hugh Whitford argues again about the benefice of Whitford, leading to a final settlement of £100 from HS to resign his rights to PS (Wallace, 33).

- 10–20 November Sidney accounts by Edward Waterhouse include payments to the Heralds of London for a detailed genealogy of the Sidneys, beginning with the spurious William de Sidne, commissioned by HS from Robert Cooke (*DD*, I.304, 408–9).
- 17 HS formally reappointed Lord Deputy of Ireland.
- 30 HS from Greenwich to the Duke of Feria (who had married HS's niece, Jane Dormer), commending a Mr Verney, who was about to travel into Catholic countries, including Naples (*DD*, II.8).

### May

Mary Queen of Scots escapes from captivity, repudiates her abdication, and is defeated by the Regent Moray at Langside. She flees to England.

### July

HS is reconciled with his brother-in-law, Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, who is now consoled by the Presidency of York for HS's continued holding of the Welsh Presidency.

### August

- 2 HS visits PS at Oxford, lodges with the Dean of Christ Church, and receives an MA degree. He and PS then make a trip to Wales (Wallace, 79).
- 8 HS from Shrewsbury to Leicester, thanking him for a pleasant stay at Kenilworth Castle, where he and PS had been entertained with Thomas Blount, Lord Berkeley, Greville and John Stanhope. HS spends the rest of August in Wales with PS and MDS. HS also writes to William Cecil about Irish and Welsh affairs (*DD*, II.8–9).
- 10 Cecil to HS, thanking him for good wishes to his wife and daughter and returning them to MDS and PS, whom he refers warmly to as 'my darling master Philip' (SP 63/25/63).

### September

- 3 Cecil gently complains to HS about taking PS to Wales, thereby distracting him from his studies at Oxford and preventing the pleasure that the Cecils themselves took in his company (SP 63/25/75).

- 6 HS arrives at Carrickfergus and finds Ulster in a generally peaceful state. But aggressive English colonization schemes and the enforced imposition of Protestantism lead to the first Desmond Rebellion of 1569.

### October

- 27 MSH's seventh birthday.  
(?) English investigations into the conduct of Mary Queen of Scot commence (until December).

### November

- 8, 14, 17, 30 HS to Cecil, concerning Edward Butler and other Irish affairs (*DD*, II.9–11).  
19 RS1's fifth birthday.  
30 PS's fourteenth birthday. HS to Cecil, thanking him for visiting MDS and asking him to bear PS's interests in mind and to get HS home from Ireland (CKS C1/140).

### *Dedications*

André Thevet, *The New Found World, or Antarctike*, STC 23950, dedicated by John Stell (HS).

## 1569

### January

- 6 Cecil to HS, warmly commending PS and expressing his love for him as though he were a son (SP 63/27/2).

### February

- 2 Cecil replies cautiously to HS's proposal for a marriage between PS and Anne Cecil (SP 63/27/17). HS draws up a statement of his assets and liabilities and sends Waterhouse, the Clerk of the Council, to negotiate with Cecil (Stewart, 82–3).  
14 HS from Dublin Castle to Cecil, pleading penury and severe underfunding (Collins, I.43–4).  
(?) Rumours circulated by Sir Edmund Butler suggest that Leicester was about to marry Elizabeth and that HS would be appointed 'King of Ireland' ('Memoir', 3.347).

### March

- 11 Attainder of Shane O'Neill (Maley 1994, 3).

- 12 PS's first (Latin) letter from Oxford to Sir William Cecil (*Prose*, 75).
- 25 Birth of HS and MDS's son Thomas (d.1595). William Cecil and Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, are godfathers. HS comments on 30 June 1569 to Cecil that his personal wish had been ignored to have the child named William if a boy and 'Cycell' if a girl (Wallace, 85).
- (? until April) Plot to marry Mary Queen of Scots to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk (1538–72).

#### April

- 2 Sir John Throckmorton from Denbigh to HS, concerning a dispute with William Glaseor (*DD*, I.347–8).
- 7 HS to Cecil, pursuing the marriage negotiations (until October) (*HMC Salisbury*, I.404–5).

#### Summer

(?) HS, responding to the first Desmond rebellion, marches northwards through Munster, Connaught and Ulster, ruthlessly suppressing opposition as he progresses. He then makes a progress through the whole of the south and west, holding sessions for the punishment of the numerous rebels. In 1569 the Fitzmaurice revolt begins, lasting until 1573 (Wallace, 81–5).

#### June

- 30 HS approves the Munster plantation, led by three of his close friends, St Leger, Sir Peter Carew and Sir Humphrey Gilbert (Wallace, 83).

#### July

- 8 PS's second (Latin) letter from Oxford to Sir William Cecil (*Prose*, 75–6).

#### August

- 6 A formal marriage settlement for PS and Anne Cecil is drawn up, with the supportive involvement of Leicester, who negotiates with Cecil how much the respective parents should settle on PS and Anne Cecil. But Cecil still remains hesitant (*HMC Salisbury*, I.415–16; Wallace, 91).

### October

- 2 HS to Lady Mildred Cecil, recommending a French tutor, Jean de Tessel/Tassel (*HMC Salisbury*, I.439).
- 17 HS from Dublin to William Cecil, concerning the Earl of Desmond (*DD*, II.11–12).
- 24 HS's treasurer, John Thomas, continues to handle the financial arrangements for PS's intended marriage (SP 63/29/69).
- 26 HS from Dublin Castle to Lady Cecil, expressing his pleasure at the match and also mentions PS's great devotion to his studies (*HMC Salisbury*, I.439).
- 27 MSH's eighth birthday. Nicholas White, Cecil's agent, advises caution over the marriage arrangements since he doubts the value of the lands being offered by HS and is unclear as to what Anne Cecil would receive if PS broke off his engagement (SP 63/29/74). The finalized marriage contract reaches HS in Ireland at the height of the Munster Rebellion. HS delays his reply and the document is apparently (and perhaps deliberately) mislaid (CKS C1/143; Collins, I.41–3).

### November

- 19 RS1's sixth birthday.
- 22 Lodowick Bryskett, PS's travelling companion on the continent and the son of a Genoese-born merchant settled in London, is sent on a business mission to Italy by HS (*DD*, I.413).
- 30 PS's fifteenth birthday.

### December

Collapse of the 'Rebellion of the Northern Earls'.

## 1570

### January

- 11 Assassination of James Stewart, Earl of Moray and Regent in Scotland.
- 18 MDS at Kenilworth with Leicester (Kendall 1980, 127).

### February

- 14 HS from Dublin Castle to Cecil. The marriage negotiations for PS and Anne Cecil stall, probably because her father is now seeking a richer and higher ranking spouse (Collins, I.43–4).

- 20/26(?) PS's third letter (in English) from Oxford to Cecil (his earliest extant English correspondence), concerning Thomas Thornton being passed over for the position of Canon of Christ Church in favour of his rival, Toby Matthew, the university's recently appointed Public Orator (*Prose*, 76–7). Thornton (d.1629) tutored PS and William Camden at Oxford. PS was also taught by Thomas Cooper, Dean of Christ Church, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University (1567–70) and editor of a Latin dictionary. In his *Sir Philip Sidney's Ourania* (see '1606: Dedications'), Nathaniel Baxter claimed to have been another of PS's Oxford tutors.
- 25 Pius V issues the bull *Regnans in Excelsis*, excommunicating and deposing Elizabeth. It is nailed to the Bishop's Palace at London by John Felton (executed in August 1570).

### March

- 3 Leicester to Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, seeking permission on health grounds for PS to eat meat during Lent (Wallace, 102).
- 17 Death and burial at St Paul's Cathedral of WH1 (b.1501), the father of HH (Bodl. MS Ashmole 386/197).

### May

- 4 HS requests permission from the Council for MDS to come to Dublin, although she has still not arrived by late June (SP 63/30/50).
- 22 Renewal of 'Instructions' for HS as the Lord President of Wales (*DD*, I.332–6).
- 28 HS urges Waterhouse to speed up the arrival in Ireland of MDS (SP 63/30/55).

### June

- 1 MDS to Cecil, lamenting her severe shortage of ready money, constant pressure from creditors, and an apparent lack of sympathy from Elizabeth (Wallace, 86).

### August

- 19 Elizabeth declines HS's request for PS to join him in Ireland, on the grounds that the plague is prevalent there (O'Laidhin 1962, 137).
- (?) Duke of Norfolk is released from the Tower, soon afterwards triggering the beginnings of the Ridolfi Plot.

### October

27 MSH's ninth birthday.

### November

19 RS1's seventh birthday. There is no evidence that he attended Shrewsbury Grammar School, although its headmaster, Thomas Ashton, may have exerted some indirect influence on his education, via PS's views on his brother's programme of learning.

30 PS's sixteenth birthday.

### Undated

Negotiations begin between England and France for a possible marriage between Elizabeth and (Hercule-)François (1554–84), the fourth and youngest son of Henri II of France and Catherine de Médicis. He was known as the duc d'Alençon from 1566 until 1576 and thereafter as the duc d'Anjou. His three elder brothers (François II, Charles IX and Henri III) were all kings of France, as he would have been but for his early death.

HS's accounts show payment made to Lord Sussex's Players at Ludlow Castle (CKS A56(2)). Other Sidney accounts by William Blount (1 March 1570–31 May 1571) record PS's clothing and other charges for two years (£106), his books (£2), his costs at Dr Cooper's for one year (£34), and PS's annuity for three-quarters of the year (£60) (DD, I.246).

### Dedications

Jean de Serres, *A Discourse of the Civil Wars in France*, translated Geoffrey Fenton, STC 11271 (HS).

Richard Stanyhurst, *Harmonia seu catena dialectica*, STC 23229 (HS).

### References

Thomas Allen casts PS's horoscope (Bodl. MS Ashmole 356/5; Osborn, 517–22).

Edmund Campion praises HS at the end of his *History of Ireland*, first published (with Edmund Spenser's *A View of the Present State of Ireland*) by Sir James Ware, *Two Histories of Ireland* (1633), STC 25607.

## 1571

### January

11 The stationer William Ponsonby (the publisher of many of the Sidneys' and Spenser's works during the 1590s)

completes his apprenticeship under William Norton. His bookshop (from c.1576) in St Paul's Churchyard is described in John Ramsey's commonplace book (Strathmann 1931, 498–501).

## February

25 Sir William Cecil created Lord Burghley.

## March

18 HS's children embark for England and he follows a week later.

25 End of HS's second term of office as Lord President of Ireland. At the English court HS is alienated by the lack of sympathy for his work in Ireland and is coldly received by the queen ('Memoir', 5.308). Following HS's departure, Ireland degenerates further into anarchy under the government of HS's brother-in-law, Sir William FitzWilliam. One of HS's last acts in Ireland is to save Edmund Campion from arrest by sending him a private warning, prompting his escape to the continent (Wallace, 86–7, 110–12).

## April

2–29 May Queen Elizabeth's Third Parliament. The succession, including the position of Mary Queen of Scots, is discussed. Statutory confirmation granted to the Thirty-nine Articles.

7 Lodowick Bryskett acts as Clerk of the Council in Ireland during Edmund Molyneux's absence in England (SP 12/32/3).

(?) An outbreak of the plague at Oxford causes the suspension of university activities and PS leaves the city. By this time PS had probably met at Oxford the Catholic mathematician Thomas Allen (c.1542–1632), perhaps the Dr Allen who cast his horoscope; Arthur Atey, who succeeded Toby Matthew as the university's Public Orator and then became secretary to the Earl of Leicester; Thomas Bodley (1545–1613); William Camden (1551–1623); Edmund Campion (1540–81); the antiquarian Richard Carew (1555–1620) who compiled *The Survey of Cornwall*, began a translation of Tasso's *Gerusalemme Liberata*; his kinsman, George Carew (1554–1629); Fulke Greville; Richard Hakluyt (c.1555–1616); Richard Hooker (c.1554–1600); Robert Parsons (1546–1610); Walter Raleigh (c.1552–1618); Henry Savile (1549–1622), who later accompanied RS1 on his continental travels; and Richard Stanyhurst

(1547–1618), the son of the Irish Speaker. There is no conclusive evidence that, during his absence from Oxford, PS ever matriculated at Cambridge, although some incidental references (in elegies by Whetstone and Humphrey) suggest that he may have spent a brief period there, perhaps meeting Spenser and Gabriel Harvey.

### **Spring**

Intelligence on the Ridolfi Plot begins to surface, including a private warning to Elizabeth from the Grand Duke of Tuscany and the arrest of Charles Bailly at Dover with incriminating documents from Roberto Ridolfi. The plot sought with Spanish aid the deposition of Elizabeth in favour of Mary Queen of Scots (who was to be married to the Duke of Norfolk) and a Spanish invasion of England from the Netherlands under the command of the Duke of Alva (who remained sceptical of the plot and dismissive of Ridolfi).

### **May**

HS sits on several parliamentary committees at London (Wallace, 113).

### **July**

28 Since midsummer, Cecil had been seeking the aristocratic but dissolute Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, as a husband for his daughter, Anne. Oxford had informed the queen at Hampton Court of his hopes to marry and had received her approval (*HMC Rutland*, I.94).

### **August**

(?) HS goes to Spa for his health, a trip which is probably the origin of RS1's and MSH's fondness for visits there (Wallace, 113).

### **September**

7 The Duke of Norfolk is placed in the Tower for his complicity in the Ridolfi Plot.

### **October**

27 MSH's tenth birthday.

**November**

- 3 Under threat of torture, Mary's envoy, John Leslie, attributes the rising in the north to the plots of Mary and Norfolk and his machinations with the northern earls. On 8 November Leslie wrote to Mary, informing her that he had exposed everything to his interrogator, Dr Wilson, the Master of Requests (who reported directly to Cecil).
- 19 RS1's eighth birthday.
- 30 PS's seventeenth birthday.

**December**

- 11 Sir William Fitzwilliam appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland (Maley 1994, 5).
- 19 Marriage of Anne Cecil and the Earl of Oxford at Westminster Abbey with the queen present (Read 1960, 128).

**Undated**

(31 May 1571–30 April 1572) Sidney accounts by William Blount include expenses for PS while he was ill at Reading (£38) and his annuity (£60) (*DD*, I.246–7).

(12 May 1571–8 May 1572) Sidney accounts by Hercules Rainsford include a lute for MSH (*DD*, I.256).

MDS to John Dee, requesting him to come to court. She is sent by Elizabeth to visit him at Mortlake when he is ill (Dee 1851, 11–12; French 1972, 127).

**1572****January**

- 16 The Duke of Norfolk forfeits his title and is sentenced to death. HH serves as one of the peers at his trial.
- Abraham Fraunce enters Shrewsbury School under the sponsorship of PS, although in his *Lawyer's Logic*, 1588, he notes that he did not personally meet PS until 1581 (Kenyon 1973, 1–6).

**April**

- 19 Treaty of Blois, providing a defensive alliance between England and France, agreed in draft with signing planned for the summer.

**May**

- 2 HS is embarrassed by Elizabeth's offer of a barony. MDS to Burghley, describing the offer as a 'hard choice' since she worries about the great expense involved in accepting it or, alternatively, incurring the queen's personal displeasure if her husband turns it down (SP 63/36/14).
- 8–30 June First session of Queen Elizabeth's Fourth Parliament tackles further difficulties over the succession, once more involving Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth personally vetoes the attempt by the Commons to pass a bill of attainder on Mary although she permits a bill excluding her from the English succession. HS serves on a parliamentary committee examining these problems.
- 25 Elizabeth grants PS a licence to travel for two years on the continent to study languages, with three servants and four horses. He is specifically warned not to visit 'territories or countries of any prince or potentate not being with us in amity or league', that is, Italy and Spain (Oxford, New College MS 328/2/40; Buxton and Juel-Jensen 1970, 42–6). PS has regular access to funds via a letter of credit drawn up by the Italian banker Acerbo Vitello (Vetturelli/Vellutelli), who resides in England. PS's companion was Lodowick Bryskett (who had served HS in Ireland since 1565), along with three servants: Griffin Madox and Harry Whyte (both Sidney retainers), and John Fisher. The second book of the *New Arcadia*, in which Musidorus tells Pamela of his past adventures seems to recall PS's travels.
- 26 Leicester to Walsingham, asking him to take care of PS during his time at Paris. He describes PS as 'young and raw and no doubt shall find those countries and the demeanours of the people somewhat strange unto him'. Leicester and HS are planning further travels for PS and seek Walsingham's advice (BL Lansdowne MS 117/167).
- 27 PS joins the entourage of the Lord High Admiral, Edward Fiennes de Clinton, head of the English delegation to the court of Charles IX for the signing of the Treaty of Blois and for further negotiations for the proposed marriage of Queen Elizabeth (aged 39) and the duc d'Alençon (aged 18, duc d'Anjou from 1576) (*HMC Salisbury*, I.146). Clinton, the husband of the Earl of Surrey's Geraldine, was a close friend of HS and was created Earl of Lincoln on 4 May.

**June**

- 2 Execution of the Duke of Norfolk, following the Ridolfi Plot.
- 8 PS arrives at St Denis and is welcomed by Marshal de Cossé. He then goes to the house in the Faubourg St-Germain of the English Ambassador, Sir Francis Walsingham, and is housed in rooms at the Louvre (Wallace, Osborn, Duncan-Jones and Stewart provide detailed accounts of PS's travels).
- 9 Jeanne d'Albret, Queen of Navarre, and mother of Henri of Navarre, dies and the French court goes into mourning for several days.
- 13/14 King Charles IX receives the English embassy at the Château Madrid.
- 15 Ratification of Treaty of Blois, with the meetings taking place at the Louvre and the church of St-Germain, followed by supper at the Tuilleries.
- 16 Coligny hosts a supper for the English party.
- 17 Entertainments at his own lodgings provided by Alençon, including singing, music, an Italian comedy and gymnastics.
- 18 Sir Thomas Smith to Cecil, describing Clinton's embassy (BL MS Cotton Vespasian F.vi.93).
- 19 PS attends a supper party, *al fresco*, hosted by Duke of Nevers.
- 20 The embassy officially concludes with the exchange of gifts.
- 22 Francis Walsingham to Cecil about the success of the English mission (*CSPF*, 135).
- 23 Lincoln's delegation leaves Paris and PS is now under the charge of Walsingham.

**July**

- 7 Death of Sigismund II Augustus, King of Poland.
- 8 Henri of Navarre's entourage reaches Paris.
- 10 Death of Lord Treasurer William Paulet, Marquis of Winchester (succeeded by Burghley).
- 17 Duke of Alva defeats combined French, Dutch and English forces at Mons, effectively marking the end of direct French military intervention in the Low Countries.

**August**

- (early) HS's third tour of duty (until 1575) as Lord Deputy of Ireland.
- 9 PS created Baron de Sidenay and Gentleman Ordinary of the Bedchamber at the French court (*DD*, I.271).

- 18 The Catholic/Huguenot marriage of Henri of Navarre (later Henri III) and Marguerite de Valois is performed on a stage outside Notre Dame.
- 20 PS probably attends the entertainments at the palace of the Cardinal de Bourbon, with an allegory of the defeat of Protestantism in the form of Navarre and the Huguenots as Knights Errant being repulsed by the Valois.
- 21 Tilting at the Louvre, in which Huguenots (dressed as infidel Turks) are defeated by the Christian French royal family.
- 22 Failed assassination by Maurevert of Admiral de Coligny, who is treated by the royal physician and visited by King Charles and the Queen Mother. In England Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland, is executed.
- 24/25 The St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in Paris, resulting in the slaughter of thousands of Huguenots. Coligny is murdered and his body thrown out of the window. PS takes refuge in Walsingham's house. During his time at the embassy (both before and after the massacre) PS probably meets through Walsingham one of his closest friends, Hubert Languet, the ambassador of August of Saxony; the lawyer, Michel de l'Hôpital (d.1573); Gaspard de Schomberg, Charles IX's ambassador to the German states (that is, Languet's counterpart); and the Huguenot printer André Wechel. PS also gets to know Felix Platter, a scholar from the University of Basle; a German student called Johann Conrad Brüning; and the Strasbourg jurist Jean Lobbet (who later arranged RS1's education at Strasbourg).
- 26 The murder of Peter Ramus, whose bravery in confronting his assassins is commemorated in Christopher Marlowe's *The Massacre at Paris*. He appears to have enjoyed Walsingham's hospitality at the English embassy, where PS probably met him during the summer of 1572.

### September

- 9 The Privy Council instructs Walsingham to ensure PS's safe return to England, with Lord Wharton, but the letter arrives at Paris just after he has already departed for Germany on or about 15 September in the company of the Dean of Winchester, Dr Francis Newton (not, as usually claimed,

John Watson; see Stewart, 93), who dies en route. Leicester also personally asks Walsingham to ensure that PS gets home safely (BL Lansdowne MS 117/198).

(after 15?) PS's route to Germany follows the Zorn River at the northern end of the Vosges and then down into the valley of the Rhine, passing through Blâmont, Strasbourg and Heidelberg and then past Mannheim and Darmstadt to Frankfurt where he stays for the winter. At Heidelberg PS meets the printer Henri Estienne (Stephens) and at Frankfurt he lodges at the house of the printer André Wechel, where Hubert Languet is also resident. Languet had somehow helped Wechel to escape from Paris.

### October

- 17 Walsingham warns Leicester of the bad influence of PS's servants at Paris and hints at the dangers of 'a very lewd practice' which may corrupt him (BL MS Cotton Vespasian F.vi.189).
- 27 MSH's eleventh birthday.

### November

- 19 RS1's ninth birthday.
- 30 PS's eighteenth birthday.

### Undated

(1 May 1572–1 May 1573) Sidney accounts by William Blount include payments to 'Mistress Maria, the Italian' (£5), PS for his half-yearly fee (£40) and expenses in France (£100), Acerbo Vitello for payments to PS (£161), and to John Ponton 'on Mr. Philip's letter at his return from France' (£7) (CKS A54/2; *DD*, I.247).

(1572–1573) receipts of payments made to MDS for the provision of her household, many signed 'M. Sydney' (*DD*, I.260).

### Dedications

Christopher Carlile, *A Discourse*, STC 4655 (HS, by editor).

John Jones, *The Baths of Baths Aid*, STC 14724a.5 (HH).

## 1573

### February

- 1 MDS to the Earl of Sussex (Lord Chamberlain), requesting the loan of some linen hangings to hang in her room at

court for warmth. She has been very sick but has been ordered to court by the queen. She fears for her health in 'so cold a lodging' (BL MS Cotton Vespasian F.xii.179; MS Titus B.ii.302; see also Wallace, 17, 151).

### March

- 11 PS attends the Frankfurt book fair.
- 18 PS from Frankfurt to Leicester, referring to 'works' being sent home to the Earl and a previously sent letter (*Prose*, 77–8).
- 20 PS from Frankfurt to William Blunt, 'Master of the Counter in Wood Street', concerning the payment of a bill of exchange for £120 due on 1 May for a loan taken from a Frankfurt money-lender, Christian Rolgin (*Prose*, 78).
- 23 PS from Frankfurt to Leicester (delivered to him by Mr Culverwell), detailing his meeting with the Prince of Orange's second brother, Louis of Nassau. He had also met 'one Shambourg' a German whom he had previously encountered at the French court (*HMC Third Report*, 200; *Prose*, 78–9).

### May

Leaving Frankfurt, PS seems to have doubled back on himself to go to Strasbourg, probably at the instigation of either Burghley or Leicester. He leaves Strasbourg in late May to head for the court of the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian at Vienna.

### June

- 5 François, comte de Chastillon (son of Admiral Coligny), Guy-Paul de Coligny, comte de Leval, and Jean Hangest, Sieur d'Argentieu from Basle to PS (Osborn, 93–5).
- (?) PS arrives at Vienna and meets up again with Languet and the printer Henri Estienne. PS had first met Estienne at Heidelberg and was with him again at Strasbourg when Estienne presented him with a now lost manuscript volume of Greek maxims.

### July

- 5 Claude Aubéry from Basle to PS (Osborn, 222–4, *not* 1574).
- 17 Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex, sails for Ireland and arrives at Carrickfergus to plant Antrim.

- 18 At Strasbourg PS meets the educationalist Johann Sturm, and Burghley acknowledges a letter from Sturm delivered by PS's servant. Sturm had corresponded with Roger Ascham. His school at Strasbourg was renowned for the education of those destined for state and diplomatic service. PS stays at the house of Hubert de la Rose and probably attends lectures at the Academy and classes at the Gymnasium.
- 22 MDS to her servant John Cockeram, requesting more of the velvet from which one of her dresses had been made because the queen had demanded a similar one (CKS U1500 C1/3).

### August

- 24 MDS from Greenwich to John Cockeram, concerning urgent expenses (BL Additional MS 15914/12).

### September

- (early) PS goes to Bratislava (Pozsony or Pressburg) in Hungary. (For doubts over whether he travelled with the botanist Charles de l'Ecluse/Escluse (1526–1609), see Stewart, 337.) PS stays at Bratislava with Languet's friend, Dr Georg Purkircher. In Hungary PS is especially struck by the relevance of poetry to official affairs and patriotic nationalism.
- 7 Languet from Vienna to Robert Beale, describing PS as 'an extraordinary young man, whom I greatly admire for his charming manners, his witty mind, and really a wisdom that generally exceeds what his age would lead one to expect' (BL Egerton MS 1693/11). PS also meets the soldier Lazarus von Schwendi, commander-in-chief against the Turks. A few years later Count Hanau sends to PS Schwendi's treatise on the defence of the Empire against the Turk.
- 12 MDS from Limehouse to Burghley, seeking a lease of lands belonging to Nicholas Halswell (a royal ward), and mentions that she can no longer write herself due to illness (BL Lansdowne MS 117/412).
- 22 Languet from Vienna to PS at Wiener Neustadt, concerning his disapproval of PS's trip into Hungary (Languet, I).

### October

- 26 Plans, supported by Earl of Leicester, to marry PS to the eldest daughter of the 12th Lord Berkeley; and RS1 to a younger daughter (*HMC Third Report*, Appendix, 199).

- 27 MSH's twelfth birthday.
- (late) PS plans to visit Italy, despite Languet's reservations, accompanied by Bryskett, Griffin Madox, Harry Whyte and John Fisher.
- (?) PS is back at Vienna with Languet and meets the French king's Viennese ambassador, Jean de Vulcob, Sieur de Sassy; Jacques Bochetel, Sieur de la Forêt; the emperor's physician, Johannes Crato von Crafftheim; and the Florentine medallist Abondio (who probably made two portraits of PS). At Vienna PS is accompanied by Lodowick Bryskett and Thomas Coningsby (who later marries PS's first cousin, Philippa, daughter of Sir William FitzWilliam).

### November

- (early)–August 1574 PS based at Venice and Padua. He meets at Venice his friends Thomas Coningsby and his Catholic cousin Richard Shelley ('Signor Conchiglia', Mr Shellfish). He also meets (often through Languet's recommendations) Philip-Ludwig, Count of Hanau-Münzenberg (1553–80), and his associates Paul von Welspurg, Jacques Le Goulx, and Matthaeus Delius (whom Languet hoped would help PS with his spoken Latin); the French ambassador to Venice, Arnaud du Ferrier; Du Ferrier's friend, Guy du Faur de Pibrac, who had come to Venice with Henri III in 1574 and had defended the Massacre of St Bartholomew; the Huguenot writer François Perrot de Messières; the political intelligencer Wolfgang Zündelin; the Protestant gentleman-poet, Cesare Carrafa; and at least one member of the Grimani family, to which two sixteenth-century doges belonged. PS may have purchased at Venice a copy of Sannazzaro's *Arcadia*, Guiccardini's *La Historia d'Italia* (1569), and copies of Contarini's and Donato's treatises on the republic of Venice.
- 6 A receipt signed by PS in Venice for money received from Thomaso Balbani on his letter of credit from Acerbo Vitello (CKS F26/8).
- 19 RS1's tenth birthday. Languet from Vienna to PS, scolding him for not writing and passing on political news. He encloses a copy of a letter from Pietro Bizari to Jean de Vulcob (dated 15 October) as a model for letter writing. He also mentions a letter from PS to General Lazarus von Schwendi, whose son, Hans Wilhelm, PS had met (Pears, 1–3).

- 24 Languet from Vienna to PS (Languet, III).  
 30 PS's nineteenth birthday.

### December

- 3 and 11 Vulcob from Vienna to PS, concerning Henri of Anjou's progress to accept the crown of Poland (Osborn, 109–15).  
 4 and 5, 12, 18 PS from Venice and Languet from Vienna correspond (Languet, IV–VI; *Prose*, 79–80).  
 10 Jacques Bouchetel from Vienna to PS about their shared admiration for 'lovely courtesans' (Osborn, 114).  
 17 Waterhouse to HS, concerning court rumours about Irish affairs (*DD*, II.19–20).  
 19 and 25 PS from Venice to Languet, noting the elegance of Girolamo Ruscelli's *Imprese Illustri* and the complexity of his 'entanglement in many affairs' (*Prose*, 80–2).  
 21 and 24 Languet from Vienna to PS (Pears, 11–19).

### Undated

(1 February 1573–20 May 1574) Sidney accounts by John Cockeram include payments for a silver plate, cup and tankard for 'Mistress Mary' (MSH), a portrait of HS (62s), two copies of Foxe's *Acts and Monuments* (46s), Grafton's *Chronicle* (21s), Froissard's *Chronicle* (27s), payment of £120 to 'Renolde Drilinge' to be delivered to PS 'beyond sea', £136 to Acerbo Vitello, expenses for RS1, Thomas Sidney, MSH (including lute strings) and Ambrosia Sidney (£46), and various payments to Robert Mantell, RS1's tutor, including a bow and arrows (*DD*, I.248–9, 257, 267–8). Peshurst accounts also include payment to 'Mistress Maria, the Italian', probably an Italian tutor for the Sidney children (CKS A10/24, 33/3).

### Dedications

D.P., *Certain ... Rules of Geography*, STC 19060 (HS).  
 Richard Prise, *John Prise, Historiae Brytannicae defensio*, STC 20309 (WH1). This work was keenly studied by HS.

## 1574

### January

- 1 and 7 Languet to PS, expressing delight with the portrait of PS then at the house of the medallist, Abondio (Pears, 19–22).

- 2 Vulcob from Vienna to PS about Poland (Osborn, 127–8).  
(second week) PS arrives at Padua, lodging in the house of Hercole Bolognese at the Pozzo della Vacca, and returns to Venice in late February. During his time at Padua PS meets Michael de Slavata; Count Otto von Solms; Fabian, baron of Dohna; Melchior, baron von Rödern; Jacob Monau; Johannes Danus; and Albert Laski.
- 15 PS from Padua to Languet (*Prose*, 83). Languet from Vienna to PS, warning him to take care over his health and to avoid excessive studying (Languet, X).
- 22 and 28 Languet advises PS to study that branch of moral philosophy which treats of justice and injustice. He again mentions the Abondio portrait and some verses he had written upon it (Pears, 25–34).

## February

- 1 MDS to the Earl of Sussex (BL MS Cotton Vespasian F.xii.179).
- 4 and 11 PS from Padua to Languet, noting that he only wishes to learn enough Greek to understand Aristotle. PS was reputed to have translated the first two books of Aristotle's *Rhetoric*. He promises to have Abondio's portrait copied by either Veronese or Tintoretto (*Prose*, 82–6).
- 5 and 13, 14 Languet from Vienna to PS, complaining about not seeing enough of him (Languet, XIII–XV).
- 26 PS from Venice to Languet (*Prose*, 86–7); and Languet to PS (Languet, XVI). Paolo Veronese begins a portrait of PS. Tintoretto was also considered. It is then carried to Languet at Vienna by Robert Corbet (the Protestant elder brother of Vincent who had been at Shrewsbury with PS) and the Catholic Richard Shelley. Languet considers that it makes PS look too juvenile, as though he was 12 or 13 years old. Vulcob later looks, on Languet's behalf, for an artist to copy it. Before departing from Venice, Abondio makes a sketch of PS which is given to Languet. Daniel Rogers writes a Latin poem on this portrait. Nicholas Hilliard notes in his *Art of Limning* that he once discussed perspective in painting with PS (Duncan-Jones, 339). The Gelosi actors perform Tasso's *Aminta* (perhaps inspiring *Arcadia's* interludes of eclogues) at Venice (and again in July 1574). PS at Venice during both months.

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