

The Chamber Books Project

Investigation 2: Henry's spending on 'bling'! (and other material things)



In this self-guided session you will:

- Investigate how much money Henry VII was spending on a range of material items by taking on the role of the historian yourself;
- You will use the Chamber Books online database as an investigative tool to find your information;
- Learn more about how historical research is conducted and learn about a new research method (and some problems historians may encounter while carrying out this type of research!)

Instructions:

1. Go to the Chamber Books website database here:
<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/chamber-books/search/search>
2. Type 'jewels' as your first search word.
3. Select the 'modernised' version.
4. Click on the year range and set this to 1495-1498.
5. Click on 'Go'.
6. Use the recording grid below to make a note of your findings. You will see that an example entry has already been completed for you. Sometimes you may need to try spelling a search term in a number of different ways to reflect the Tudor spellings. For example, when searching for 'jewels' you will also need to try searching for 'jeulls'. In your recording grid some examples of Tudor spellings have been given to help you.
7. You may find that the same entries come up again when searching using the different key words so be careful to double check your manuscript references!
8. Now go back and search again in the same year range 1495-1498 for the remaining search terms and make a note of your findings.
9. Now search the terms again but choosing a different date range, either 1499-1502, 1503-1506 or 1507-1509.
10. Repeat steps 1-9 for the next two categories using the search words that have been given in the 'Category & Search Terms' column on the left-hand side.
11. Remember, you may not always get the results you expect and sometimes you might get no results at all – do not worry if this happens, it's all part of being a Historian!
12. Once you have completed the recording grid you can evaluate your findings using the 'Review of Findings' worksheet.

Recording Grid for Henry VII's Spending

CATEGORY & SEARCH TERMS	DATE	AMOUNT	REFERENCE & DETAILS
Jewels and plate Search Terms: <u>'jewels/juells'</u> <u>'gold/golde,'</u> <u>'diamond'</u> <u>'gilt'</u> <u>'ringes'</u> <u>'silver/siluer'.</u>	1497	£16 13s 4d	Reference: E101/414/6 f.69v Payment to John Lincoln for a diamond ring.

Clothing, textiles and furnishings Search Terms: <u>'clothe'</u> <u>'damask'</u> <u>'veluettes'</u> <u>'saten'</u> <u>'hangings'</u> <u>'painted'</u> <u>'ymages'</u> <u>'books/'bokes'</u> <u>'garnyshing'</u>	1501	£83 10s od	Reference: BL Add MS 7099 f.70 Money paid to William Buttry for satin cloth of gold.

Activities, Music and Entertainment <i>Search Terms:</i> <u>'players'</u> <u>'minstrels'</u> <u>'feast'</u> <u>'horse'</u> <u>'greyhounds'</u> <u>'dice'</u> <u>'play'</u>	1497	£0 13s 4d	Reference: BL Add MS 7099 f.39 Money paid to the queen's fiddler.

Review of Findings

What did Henry spend most of his money on?

Did his spending change over time?

How does your research confirm or challenge the comments of historians?

