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City and Court Connected: The Material Dimension of Royal Court Ceremonies, 1480-1625

Attacking the idea of an opposition between court and city, Westminster and London, Archer stressed that many courtiers lived in London, while citizens watched court events such as plays and tournaments. The city not only supplied luxury goods to the court, but sometimes helped pay for spectacular royal occasions such as the entry of James I into London in 1604. Although the accounts are incomplete, mourning 'blacks' were a huge item of expenditure at royal funerals. Royal wardrobe expenditure, £6,000 a year under Elizabeth I, rose to £30,000 under James I. The most expensive single event, the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to the Elector Palatine in 1613, cost £90,000. London received a huge and increasing share of royal expenditure. Unlike the Spanish court in Madrid, the English court and court officials greatly benefited the capital's tradesmen. Many tradesmen were included in royal processions. Min Hogg reminded the seminar that discarded royal garments may have been 'unpicked' and used elsewhere. To Andrew Barclay's question about whether the Great Wardrobe paid market rates, Ian Archer replied that royal credit was so bad that the Crown had to pay well over the market rate. He pointed out that, in accordance with the traditions of Europe's 'family of kings', Elizabeth I continued to wear mourning for the deaths of Roman Catholic monarchs.