

The Ordinances of Eltham

Officers and other Lords and Gent.

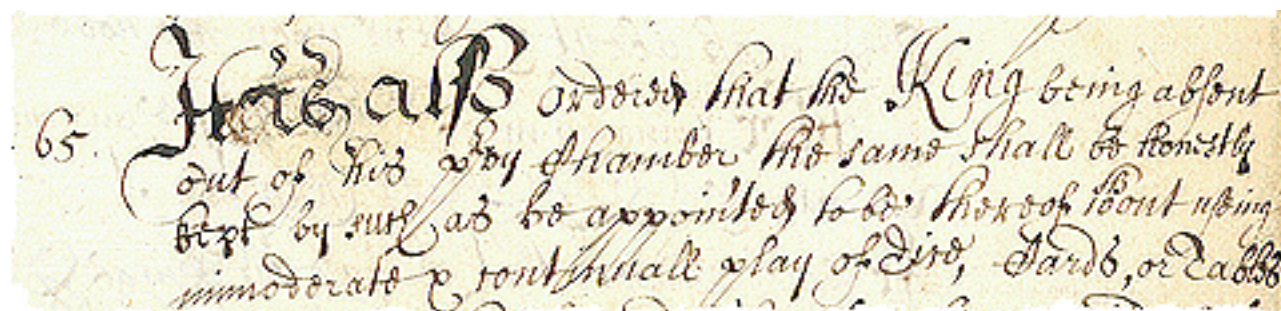
It is also the Kings Commandment that the heads Officers
of the Household the King & Queens Chambers shall substan-
tially foresee that no man or persons Officers or other
have, or entertaine a greater Number of Servants in the
Court than be appointed or assigned unto them, And that
by way of Reward yearly they shall provide to the intent
they shall provide and sufficiently furnish the said
kitchens of such Stolyons, as shall not goe naked or in
garments of such Wilsons as they now doe, and have
been accustomed to doe, Nor lie in the Nights and day
in the Kitchens or around by the fire side, but that they

43. No Dogges to be kept in the Court.
The Kings Highness also straightly forbid-
deth, and inhibiteth that no person whatsoever be
permitted to keep any Grey-hounds Mastiffs, Bounding
or other Dogges in the Court or that there be any
small Spaniels for Laies or other, Nor bring or lead
any into the same except it be by the Kings or Queens
Commandment. But the said Greyhounds and Dogges
the first day in dating days to begin at term of
the Court or somewhat afore, and the first Supper at four
of the clock or words days, And on Holy days, the

Inasmuch as in the pure and cleane keeping of
 the Kinge's Chamber, in the good order thereof, consisteth
 a great part of the Kinge's quiett Rest, Comfort, & preservation
 of his health. The same about all other things before mentioned
 is principally & most highly to be regarded, and considering
 right means & persons, aswell for their more commoditie to
 # his and withdraw themselves sometyms awaies, as for the
 behoofe of the good order of their Chamber, doe forbear
 to have any great or fatquent resort into the same, with
 more it is convenient that the Kinge's Highnesse have his
 Chamber & inward Lodgings reserved secret at his pleasure
 of his Guard wthout repair of any great multitude thereunto
 It is thought necessary that no person of what Estate, Degree
 or Condition soever he be from henceforth, vntill
 or be in anywise suffered, or admitted to come or repair
 into the Kinge's Chamber, other then such as his Grace
 shall from time to time call for or command, & w^{ch} only
 the Minister's now deputed, or in his lieu of him hereafter
 to be deputed, for a Monie in the same, that is to say the
 Marquesse of Exeter, who is the Kinge's neer kinsman
 and hath been brought up of a child wth his Grace.

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There in his Chamber, vij Gentlemen, ij Gentlewomen
 iij Brookes, and the Kinge's Barber, & a Page, being in all
 the Number of xx persons, whom the Kinge's Grace for his good



Extracts from the Ordinances of Eltham, copied in the 1660s from the 1526 original
(The National Archives: E 36/231)

Simple Transcript

[Note that the images of the original document correspond with the transcript, but are only part of the whole Ordinances of Eltham, which is 13 pages long.]

No one living at court is allowed to bring with him more servants than a person of his rank is allowed to keep there, ...

The boys who work in the kitchen shall not go naked or in such scruffy clothes as they do now. Nor should they sleep at night in the kitchen or by the fireside. ...

No one is allowed to have greyhounds or other dogs at court, except for a few small spaniels for ladies. ...

The first dinner begins at 10 o'clock and the supper at 4 on workdays. ...

To keep the king's bedroom pure and clean and to stop people disturbing the king, no one is allowed to enter it except the Marquis of Exeter, who is a relative of the king and was brought up with him from a child, six waiters, two ushers, four grooms, the barber and a page; in all 15 people. ...

No unruly playing of dice or cards in the king's chamber during his absence, ...