

# Head Peasant of Treasury

*A Position of Modest Dignity within His Lordship's Counting House*

Ref: HPT-2026-001 · Permanent · Full-time (and then some)



*"A rare opportunity to toil in the realm's most prestigious counting house, beneath the watchful eye of His Lordship the Treasurer-In-Chief. Coin handling experience preferred. Sense of dignity not."*

## The Realm at a Glance

POSITION	Head Peasant of Treasury <i>(yes, "Head" — there are others below)</i>
REPORTS TO	The Lord High Treasurer, the Bursar, and on alternate Tuesdays the Bursar's cat
DIRECT REPORTS	Three Junior Peasants, two cart-horses, one extremely judgmental goose
LOCATION	The cellar beneath the East Tower (no windows, occasional rats)
HOURS	Sunrise until the candles run out. Half-day on the Sabbath if the harvest's good.
COMPENSATION	Two groats per fortnight, one cabbage per moon, and the right to be mentioned (not by name) in the Annual Ledger
START DATE	Immediately, or the moment the previous Head Peasant is found

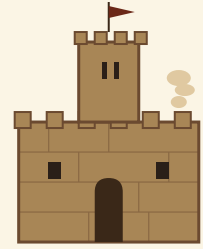
# About the Counting House

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His Lordship's Treasury is, by all reasonable measure, the most prestigious counting house in three counties — though admittedly there are only three counties.

Within its damp stone walls, the realm's most important fiscal duties are performed: the counting of coppers, the stacking of silvers, the gentle weeping over taxation arrears, and the ceremonial burning of receipts the Treasurer "doesn't remember signing."

We seek a peasant of *moderate intellect*, *tolerable bookkeeping ability*, and the rare gift of pretending not to notice when the Lord Treasurer's coin purse mysteriously gets fatter on Fridays.



*The Counting House,  
est. 1247 (probably)*

## Your Daily Toils

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### *Primary Coin-Adjacent Duties*

- Counting the King's coppers, twice in the morning and thrice at night, lest a single piece roll behind a barrel and into legend.
- Recording all incoming taxes, tributes, and "voluntary contributions" (the word voluntary is to be inscribed in extra-large script so as to disguise the irony).
- Polishing the gold (there is one piece of gold; you will polish it daily; it will not look any cleaner; do not mention this).
- Maintaining the Great Ledger — a book the size of a small dog, written in a script no peasant has been formally taught.
- Apologising profusely on behalf of the Lord Treasurer when peasants enquire as to the whereabouts of their grain tithe.

### *Secondary Toils & Ceremonial Drudgeries*

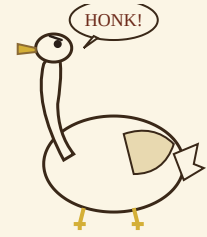
- Sweeping the counting room of moths, mice, and smaller peasants.
- Lighting and re-lighting the candles. Especially when the Treasurer "tests them" by blowing them out.
- Defending the Treasury door against bards, beggars, mathematicians, and one very persistent duck.
- Translating Latin invoices into peasant-Latin, then into peasant-grunt, then into a heavy sigh.
- Carrying the abacus uphill (it is a very large abacus and the hill is steeper than it appears in the brochure).

### *Quarterly Spectacles*

- Presenting the books to His Lordship in the Great Hall, kneeling on the cold flagstones for not less than 40 minutes.
- Receiving public criticism from passing nobles regarding the angle of your bow.
- The annual Audit by the Bishop's Auditor — a cleric who will arrive on a donkey, eat all your bread, and find a discrepancy of "approximately one halfpenny, give or take one halfpenny."

# The Ideal Peasant

The successful candidate will possess a unique blend of skills, virtues, and the kind of low-level resignation usually only seen in monastic orders.



*Geoffrey, the Treasury Goose  
(your direct report)*

## Essential Qualifications

- **Demonstrated proficiency in counting** beyond the number of fingers on one hand, ideally beyond the fingers on both.
- **Reading ability:** can identify a £, a 5, and the difference between "owed" and "owned" (this difference is critical).
- **Quill control** sufficient to record a number without it transforming, mid-stroke, into a small drawing of a horse.
- **Attendance:** capable of arriving at work on more than three days per week, plague conditions permitting.

## Highly Desirable Attributes

- Ability to look the Lord Treasurer in the eye *only when summoned to do so*, and never for longer than the time it takes a candle to drip once.
- A discreet manner in matters concerning gold which has "gone for a walk."
- Cordial relationship with geese; specifically, with **Geoffrey**, the Treasury Goose, who will bite you and is widely considered to be the smartest member of the team.
- Tolerance for hearing the Bursar tell the same joke about a moneylender, a friar, and a wheel of cheese — a joke the Bursar has been telling, without revision, since the Norman Conquest.
- The fortitude to endure the smell of the Counting House (which is, regrettably, located directly above the cesspit).

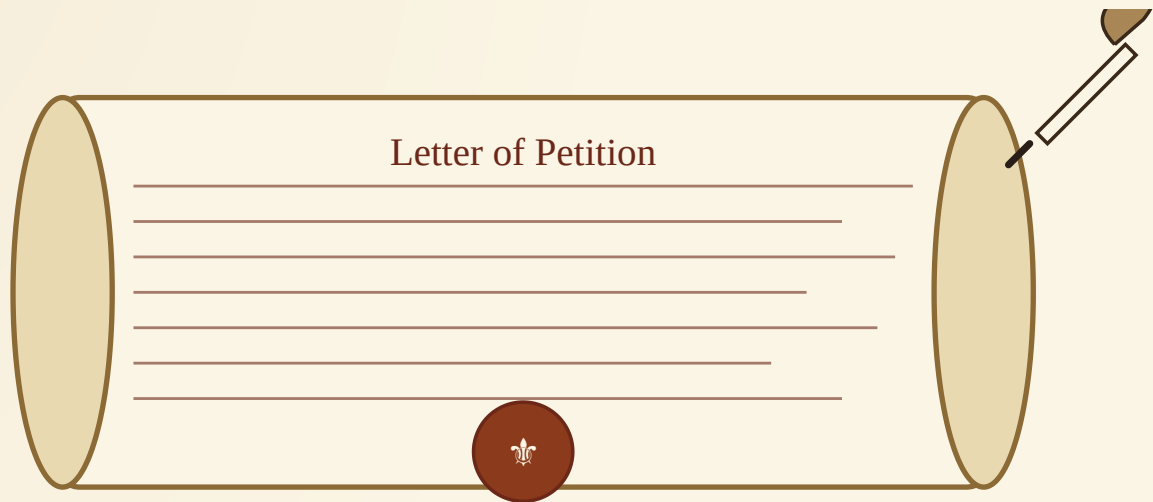
## Strict Disqualifying Criteria

*The following candidates need not apply: those who can **actually** do mathematics; literate persons of unusually keen recall; anyone who has ever asked a follow-up question; anyone with parents in the Bishop's employ; anyone who looks too much like the Lord Treasurer's eldest son (long story).*

# The Rewards of Toil

- ◆ **Annual stipend** of two goats per fortnight, paid in copper of dubious origin.
- ◆ **Free lodgings** in the cellar beneath the East Tower (BYO straw).
- ◆ **One cabbage per moon**, more in plentiful harvests, fewer in years when the Bursar feels personally aggrieved.
- ◆ **Holiday entitlement** of one full day per annum (Feast of St. Stephen, on the condition you do not enjoy yourself audibly).
- ◆ **Health & wellbeing:** access to the village leech, who has very strong opinions about humours.
- ◆ **Career progression:** realistic advancement within twenty years to the rank of Slightly More Senior Peasant; pension consists of a pamphlet titled *"So You Are No Longer Useful to the Realm."*

# How to Apply



Interested peasants are to submit a **Letter of Petition** in their best hand, no longer than a single sheet of parchment, addressed to:



**Sir Cuthbert FitzWilliam de Pompous-Bottom**  
*Hon. Bursar to His Lordship · The Counting House, East Tower*

The Letter of Petition must include:

- Your full name (or such name as you have chosen to adopt for the purposes of this application);
- A summary of your peasant history, including any indentured servitude exceeding three years;
- Two references — one from your parish priest, one from a person who is *not* your mother;
- A small drawing of a duck (this is a test; we will not tell you what is being tested).

## ***The Selection Process***

1. First-stage screening conducted by the Bursar's apprentice, who is twelve.
2. Practical assessment: count this pile of coins. (The pile contains 47 coins. The correct answer is 46. Do not ask why.)
3. Final interview with the Lord Treasurer, conducted while he eats a chicken leg. You will be expected not to look at the chicken leg.
4. Audience with Geoffrey the Goose. If Geoffrey does not bite you, this is concerning and you will not progress.

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## **Apply Today**

*For the realm. For the coin. For the cabbage.*

Petitions to: **The Counting House, East Tower** — by raven, swift messenger, or new-fangled missive.

An equal-opportunity feudal employer · An honest day's work for an honest day's groat

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