APPENDIX 1: LINGUISTIC NOTES

As noted in the introduction, Margaret Tudor's correspondence is written in both early modern English and middle Scots. In the following section, I provide a brief introduction to some of the key features of the Scots language.[1] Many of these examples are taken from Jeremy Smith's *Older Scots: A Linguistic Reader*. This appendix is designed to be used in conjunction with the linguistic glossary in Appendix 2, as well as with the glosses included in the letter transcriptions, to enable non-specialists to engage with the original language of Margaret's correspondence. Readers may also wish to consult the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and the Dictionaries of the Scots Language (DSL) to explore terms in further detail, or to search for additional terms that are not included in the linguistic glossary.[2]

Key lexis

Pronouns

The pronouns used in middle Scots were as follows:[3]
1st person	**I, me, my, we, us, our**
2nd person	**thou, thee, thy, ȝe, ȝou, ȝour**
3rd person masculine:	**he, him, his**
feminine:	**scho, hir**
neuter:	**it, his**
plural:	**thai, thaim, thair**

Relative pronouns

One of the most distinctive features of the Scots language is the use of **quh**- orthography in relative pronouns. This includes **quhilk** (sg.)

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[1] This linguistic introduction is by no means exhaustive of all of the features of the Scots language. For a more detailed introduction to the Scots language, readers should consult J. Smith, *Older Scots: A Linguistic Reader* (Edinburgh, 2012).

[2] See www.oed.com and https://dsl.ac.uk.

[3] Taken from Smith, *Older Scots*, 48.

and **quhilkis** (pl.) 'which', **quhaim** 'whom', **quhais** 'whose', **quhat** 'what', **quhen** 'when', **quhair** 'where', **quhy** 'why', etc.[4]

Determiners

In middle Scots, the definite article was **the** (also rendered using y-thorn as **ye**) and the indefinite article was **ane** (also used before consonants).[5] In addition, the proximal determiners **this** and **thir** 'these' and the distal determiners **that** and **tha(e)** 'those' were also used.[6]

Other minor word-classes

The cardinal numbers in Scots were **ane, twa, thre,** etc.[7] The ordinal numbers began with **first, second, thrid**, but then middle Scots used **-t** in place of present-day English **-th**, such as in **fourt, fift, saxt**.[8]

In middle Scots, **gif** was often used for the conjunction 'if', but Margaret also makes use of variants of this term for the verb 'give'.[9] Margaret also makes use of the Scots conjunction **or** 'before'.

Syntax

Nouns

In middle Scots, most nouns follow the following inflectional paradigm:[10]
    singular **king**   singular possessive **kingis**   plural **kingis**
    The **-is** inflection is also sometimes replaced by **-es** (and **-ys** in Margaret's correspondence).[11]

Verbs

Present tense

As noted by Smith, 'In Older Scots [referred to as middle Scots in this edition], as in Northern Middle English, there were two paradigms

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[4] Ibid., 49–50.
[5] Ibid., 49.
[6] Ibid., 50.
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid., 45.
[11] Ibid.

for the present tense; this system is sometimes referred to as the Northern Personal Pronoun Rule'.[12] In this system, when the subject of the clause is a personal pronoun, and the subject comes *immediately before or after the verb*, the verb follows the following paradigm:[13]

Singular   1st person **I keip**
            2nd person **thou keipis**
            3rd person **he/scho/it keipis**

Plural   **we/ʒe/thai keip**[14]

In all other cases, the **-is** form is used.[15]

PRESENT AND PAST PARTICIPLES

In place of the present-day English present participle **-ing**, **-and** was used in middle Scots.[16] For example, in a letter sent to Thomas Cromwell on 18 July 1536 (**Letter 97**), Margaret makes use of the verb <havand> (*having*). In present-day English, past participles take the following inflections: **-(e)n** (strong verbs) and **-(e)d/t** (weak verbs). In middle Scots, the past participle inflections were **-in/-it**.[17] For example, in **Letter 97** Margaret made use of the Scots past-participle **-it** in the verb <considerit> (*considered*).

H-dropping and H-insertion

Margaret's holograph correspondence also features a number of examples of h-dropping (also known as h-deletion and h-elision) in which the voiceless glottal fricative or /h/ sound is deleted from the onset of a word. For example, in **Letter 1** Margaret wrote <oulde> in place of 'hold'. In **Letter 11**, Margaret wrote <ys> for the pronoun 'his'. Her correspondence also features the presence of h-insertion (also known as h-adding) on some occasions to terms which do not normally begin with a /h/. H-dropping and h-insertion are common linguistic practices in present-day English, as well as in historical varieties of English (dating back to even the Old English period). As noted by

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[12] Ibid., 46.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid., 48.
[17] Ibid.

Williams, h-dropping was not a characteristic feature of Scots in the late medieval and early modern periods.[18] Its presence in Margaret's holograph writing was thus likely a feature from her native southern English tongue, which persisted throughout her life in Scotland.

[18] G. Williams, 'Written like a "gwd" Scotswoman: Margaret Tudor's use of Scots', *Scottish Language*, 35 (2016), 89–112, 93–94.