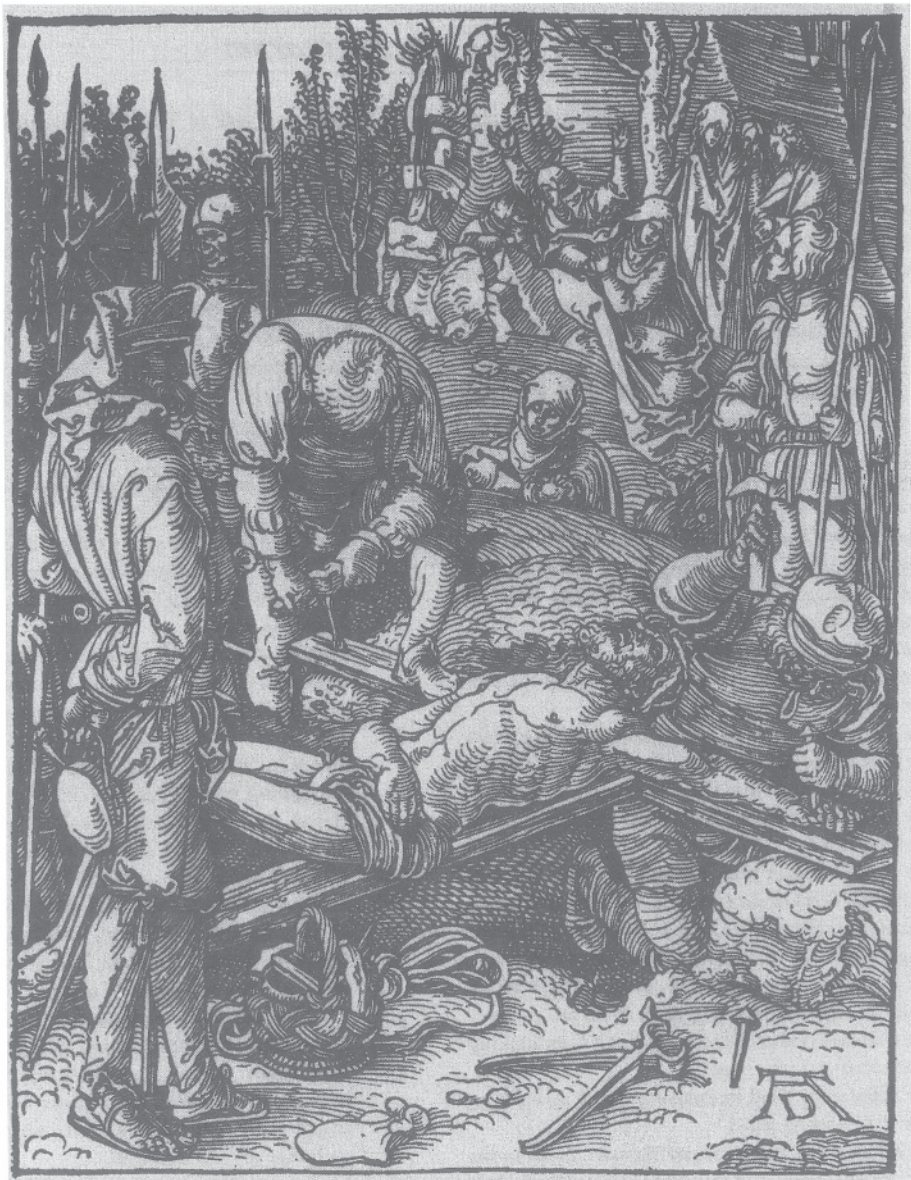


York, *The Ordo Paginarum*

The *Ordo Paginarum* ('Order of the Pageants'), written by the Common Clerk of York, Roger Burton, in 1415, contains a brief description of the contents of each of the pageants. It offers a valuable early insight into the scope and nature of the Cycle as well as a useful guide to what one articulate citizen of York thought was most striking or significant about each section of his city's play. Interestingly Burton focuses on the numbers of actors, the major properties used, and the iconography of the actors' movements and poses, suggesting that, while the purpose of the text may have been to provide a pragmatic checklist of the resources, human and material, needed for each pageant, the author was also engaging in a sophisticated theological and psychological interpretation of the pageants as he wrote. As such it is a valuable account of the impact and reception of the Cycle as well as a useful source of practical information about its contents. The text of the *Ordo* is printed in volume I of Johnston and Rogerson, *REED: York*, along with an alternative translation from the original Latin text (in volume II, pp. 702-9). Pageants printed in this anthology are marked with an asterisk.

The Order of the Pageants of the Play of Corpus Christi . . . compiled in the year of Our Lord 1415 by Roger Burton, Common Clerk

- *1. *The Tanners* [*later the Barkers*]: God the Father Almighty creating and forming the heavens. Angels and Archangels: Lucifer, and the Angels who fell with him into Hell.
2. *The Plasterers*: God the Father in His own Person creating the Earth and all that is in it in the space of five days.
3. *The Cardmakers*: God the Father forming Adam from the dust of the earth, and making Eve from Adam's rib, and breathing into them the breath of life.
4. *The Fullers*: God forbidding Adam and Eve to eat of the Tree of Life.
- *5. *The Coopers*: Adam and Eve and the Tree between them, the Serpent deceiving them with fruit. God speaking to them and cursing the Serpent: and the Angel with a sword driving them out of Paradise.
6. *The Armourers*: Adam and Eve and the Angel with a spade and distaff assigning tasks to them.
7. *The Gaunters* [*Glovemakers*]: Abel and Cain making their sacrificial offerings.
8. *The Shipwrights*: God forewarning Noah to make an Ark of smoothed wood.
9. *The Pessoners* [*Fishmongers*] and *Mariners*: Noah in the Ark, and his Wife, the three sons of Noah with their Wives, with animals of different kinds.
10. *The Parchmenters* [*Parchment-makers*] and *Bookbinders*: Abraham offering his son Isaac on an altar, a Servant Boy with wood, and the Angel.
11. *The Hostiers*: Moses raising up the Serpent in the desert, King Pharaoh, and eight Jews marvelling and waiting.
12. *The Spicers*: A learned Doctor declaring the prophet's words concerning the birth of Christ. Mary, the Angel greeting her, Mary greeting Elizabeth.
- *13. *The Pewterers and Founders*: Mary, Joseph wishing to put her away secretly, the Angel telling them to go to Bethlehem.
- *14. *The Tilers*: Mary, Joseph, the Midwife, the Child born and lying in a manger between the ox and the ass. The Angel speaking to the Shepherds, players in the following pageant.
15. *The Chandlers*: The Shepherds speaking to each other, the star in the East, the Angel announcing the joy of the new-born boy child to the Shepherds.
16. *The Orfevers* [*Goldsmiths*], *Goldbeaters*, *Moneymakers*: The three Kings coming from the East, Herod interrogating them about the child Jesus, the Son of Herod, the two Counsellors and a Messenger. Mary with the Child, and the star above, and the three Kings offering gifts.
17. *Formerly the House* [*Hospital*] *of St Leonard, now the Masons*: Mary with the child, Joseph, Anna, the Midwife with doves, Simeon receiving the Child in his arms, and the two Sons of Simeon.
18. *The Marshals*: Mary with the Child and Joseph fleeing to Egypt: the Angel announcing the message.
19. *The Girdlers, Nailers*: Herod ordering the children to be slain, four Soldiers with spears, two Counsellors of the King, and four Mothers weeping over the slaughter of their children.
20. *The Spurriers* [*Spurmakers*], *Lorimers* [*Bridlemakers*]: The Doctors, Jesus as a boy sitting in the Temple in their midst, asking them questions and answering their questions. Four Jews, Mary and Joseph looking for him, and finding him in the Temple.
21. *The Barbers*: Jesus, John the Baptist baptising him, and two Angels attending.
22. *The Vintners* [*Wine-merchants*]: Jesus, Mary, the Bridegroom and the Bride, the Steward with his Servant, with six jats of water when the water turns into wine.
23. *The Fevers* [*Smiths*]: Jesus on the pinnacle of the Temple, and the Devil tempting him with stones, and two Angels, attending, etc.
24. *The Curriers* [*Leatherworkers*]: Peter, James, and John,



Albrecht Dürer, *Nailing to the Cross*, 1511, woodcut. Reproduced courtesy of Dover Publications.

- Jesus going up into a mountain and transfiguring himself before them. Moses and Elias [Elijah] appearing, and a voice speaking in a cloud.
25. *The Ironmongers*: Jesus and Simon the Leper asking Jesus to eat with him. The two Disciples, Mary Magdalene washing the feet of Jesus with her tears and drying them with her hair.
26. *The Plumbers [Lead workers], Pattenmakers [Makers of wooden shoes]*: Jesus, two Apostles, the Woman taken in adultery, four Jews accusing her.
27. *The Pouchmakers, Bottlers, and Capmakers*: Jesus, two Apostles, Lazarus in the tomb, Mary Magdalene, Martha, and two Jews, marvelling.
- *28. *The Skinners, Vestmentmakers*: Jesus on the ass with its foal, twelve Apostles following Jesus, six Rich Men and six Poor Men, eight Children with palm branches, singing *Benedictus*, etc., and Zaccheus climbing the sycamore tree.
- *29. *The Cutlers, Bladesmiths, Sheathers, Scalers [Scale makers], Bucklermakers [Shield makers]*: Pilate, Caiaphas, two Soldiers, three Jews, Judas selling Jesus.
30. *The Bakers*: The Paschal Lamb, the Lord's Supper, the twelve Apostles, Jesus girt with a linen cloth washing their feet. The institution of the Sacrament of the Body of Christ according to the New Law, the Communion of the Apostles.
31. *The Cordwainers [Shoemakers]*: Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, fourteen armed Soldiers, Malchus, Peter, James, John, Jesus, and Judas kissing Jesus and betraying him.
- *32. *The Bowyers and Fletchers [Arrowmakers]*: Jesus, Annas, Caiaphas, and four Jews striking and mocking Jesus. Peter, the Woman accusing Peter, and Malchus.
- *33. *The Tapisers [Carpet and Tapestry makers], Couchbers [Upholsterers]*: Jesus, Pilate, Annas, Caiaphas, two Counsellors, and four Jews accusing Jesus.
- *34. *The Listers [Dyers]*: Herod, two Counsellors, four Soldiers, Jesus and three Jews.
35. *The Cooks, Waterleaders*: Pilate, Annas, Caiaphas, two Jews, and Judas bringing back to them the thirty pieces of silver.
- *36. *The Tilemakers, Milners [Millers], Turners, Hairsters, Bollers [Makers of Wooden Bowls]*: Jesus, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, six Soldiers holding poles with banners, and four others leading Jesus to Herod, asking for Barabus to be released and Jesus to be crucified, and then in the same place binding and flogging him, putting the crown of thorns on his head. Three Soldiers casting lots over the garments of Jesus.
37. *[The Shearmen]*: Jesus covered with blood, carrying the Cross towards Calvary. Simon of Cyrene, Jews forcing him to carry the Cross. Mary the mother of Jesus, then John the Apostle telling her that her son has been condemned to death and is going to Calvary. Veronica wiping the blood and sweat from the face of Jesus with a veil on which the face of Jesus is imprinted, and other Women lamenting Jesus.
- *38. *The Pinners, Lateners [Founders of brass alloy], Painters*: The Cross, Jesus stretched out on it on the ground, four Jews scourging and dragging him with ropes, and then raising the Cross and the body of Jesus nailed to the Cross on the Mount of Calvary.
39. *The Butchers, Poulterers*: The Cross, two Thieves crucified, Jesus hanging from the Cross between them. Mary, the mother of Jesus, John, Mary the mother of James, and Mary Salome, Longinus with his spear, a Slave with a sponge, Pilate, Annas, Caiaphas, the Centurion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus taking him down and laying him in the tomb.
- *40. *The Sellers [Saddlers], Verrours [Glaziers], Fuystours [Saddlery-makers]*: Jesus harrowing Hell, twelve Spirits, six Good and six Bad.
- *41. *The Carpenters*: Jesus rising from the tomb, four armed Soldiers, and three Marys lamenting. Pilate, Caiaphas, and Annas. A young Child sitting at the tomb, dressed in white, talking to the women.
42. *The Winedrawers*: Jesus, Mary Magdalene with spices.
43. *The Boggours [Brokers?], Sledmen [Woolpackers?]*: Jesus, Luke, and Cleophas in pilgrims' clothes.
44. *The Scribes, Limners [Illuminators], Questors [Pardoners], and Dubbers [Booktrimmers?]*: Jesus, Peter, John, James, Philip, and the other Apostles, with a piece of roasted fish and a honeycomb, and the Apostle Thomas touching the wounds of Christ.
45. *The Tailours [Tailors]*: Mary, John the Evangelist, eleven Apostles, two Angels, Jesus ascending from among them, and four Angels holding a cloud.
46. *The Potters*: Mary, two Angels, eleven Apostles, and the Holy Spirit descending upon them, and four Jews, marvelling.
47. *The Drapers*: Jesus, Mary, Gabriel with two Angels, two Virgins and three Jews of Mary's kin, eight Apostles and two Devils.
48. *The Lynwevers [Linen-weavers]*: Four Apostles carrying the bier of Mary, and Fergus hanging from the bier, with two other Jews and an Angel.
49. *The Wool-We[a]vers*: Mary ascending with a crowd of Angels, eight Apostles, and St Thomas the Apostle preaching in the desert.
50. *The Hostlers [Innkeepers]*: Mary, Jesus crowning her, and a crowd of Angels singing.
- *51. *The Mercers [Merchants]*: Jesus, Mary, twelve Apostles, four Angels with trumpets, four with a crown, spear, and two whips. Four Good Spirits and four Bad Spirits, and six Devils.¹

¹ Compare this brief description of the pageant with the detailed account of the properties in the Mercers' Indenture of 1433, p. 159, below.