

SUMMARY: The document below is the recognizance in the amount of £2000, dated 12 June 1573, which Oxford acknowledged to Sir Ambrose Nicholas (d.1578) in connection with the latter's purchase of Oxford's mansion of Oxford Place near London Stone. See also TNA PRO 30/34/14 for mention of this and other recognizances acknowledged by Oxford to purchasers of his lands. It is important to bear in mind that Oxford received no money in exchange for entering into such penal bonds, although of course he received the purchase price of the lands in question. They were merely bonds by which Oxford guaranteed that he would indemnify the purchasers of his lands if they suffered financial loss by reason of their dealings with him, the most likely event which would precipitate such financial loss being extents against the lands in question by the Queen for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards.

For King Henry VIII's grant of the mansion near London Stone to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, by letters patent dated 8 June 1539, see TNA C 66/688, m. 8.

For the copy on the patent rolls of the grant dated 11 June 1573 by which the Queen regranted the mansion at London Stone to Oxford after he had transferred legal title to it to the Queen by a fine in Easter term, 1573, see TNA C 66/1101, mm. 32-3.

For the will of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, see TNA PROB 11/60, ff. 165-7.

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Ambrose Nicholas

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Chamberlain of England & Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, son & heir male of the body of the late honourable John de Vere, late Earl of Oxford & Great Chamberlain of England, deceased, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Ambrose Nicholas, citizen & alderman of London, two thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Ambrose Nicholas or to his designated attorney or his executors on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come after the date of this recognizance, and if he shall not have done [+so], then the forenamed Edward, Earl of Oxford, wishes & grants for himself, his heirs & executors, by these presents that the said two thousand pounds be levied of his manors, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels & possessions to the sole & proper use & behoof of the same Ambrose Nicholas, his heirs, executors & assigns, forever, wheresover they are or may be found, by these presents. Witness the said our Lady the Queen at Westminster on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

The condition of this recognizance is such that if th' above-bounden the right honorable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors and administrators and every of them, do well and truly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and every the covenants,

grants, articles and agreements which on his and their and every of their parts are to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept contained and specified in a pair of indentures of bargain and sale bearing date the day of the date abovewritten made between the said right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, on thone party and th' above-named Ambrose Nicholas on thother party, and that in all things according to the tenor, effect, true and plain meaning of the same indentures, that then this present recognizance shall be utterly void, frustrate and of none effect, or else it shall stand, remain and abide in full force, strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie & Ambrosium Nicholas

1 Edwardus de veer Comes Oxonie vicecomes Bulbeck dominus Camerarius Anglie

2 & dominus Baddelesmere & Scales filius & heres masculus de corpore nuper honorabilis Iohannis de veer in [sic?]

3 nuper Comitis Oxonie & magni Camerarij Anglie defuncti coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter

4 constitutus recognouit se debere Ambrosio Nicholas Ciui & Aldermanno London duas Mille libras bone &

5 legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem Ambrosio Nicholas aut suo recto Attornato vel executoribus suis in

6 festo sancti Michaelis Archangeli proximo futuro post datum huius recognicionis Et nisi fecerit tunc prefatus Edwardus Comes

7 Oxonie vult & concedit pro se heredibus & executoribus suis per presentes quod dicte due Mille libre leuentur de

8 Manerijs mesuagijs terris tenementis hereditamentis bonis Cattallis & possessionibus suis ad solum & proprium opus &

9 vsum ipsius Ambrosij Nicholas heredum executorum & assignatorum suorum imperpetuum vbicumque sint vel fuerint inuentis per

10 presentes Teste dicta domina nostra Regina apud Westmonasterium xijo die Iunij Anno regni domine nostre Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie

11 ffrancie & hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c decimo quinto