

SUMMARY: The document below is an order from the Queen made circa 7 December 1578 directing that the adventurers in the Frobisher voyages, including Oxford, who had not yet paid in full the moneys subscribed by them must pay half within 10 days and the remaining half within a month of that.

For a copy of Oxford's letter dated 21 May 1578 offering to invest £1000 or more in Frobisher's third voyage to be secured by a bond due on 29 September 1578, see TNA SP 12/149/42(15), f. 108v. For a letter from Michael Lok to Sir Francis Walsingham dated 14 January 1579 stating that Oxford owed £450 for his investment in the third voyage, see TNA SP 12/129/12, f. 26.

For the Frobisher voyages generally, see:

Inuit and Englishmen; The Nunavut Voyages of Martin Frobisher at http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/Search.do?ex=on&R=VE_403&lang=en.

For the document below see also Collinson, Richard, *The Three Voyages of Martin Frobisher in Search of a Passage to Cathaia and India by the North-West, A.D. 1576-8*, (London: Hakluyt Society, 1867), pp. 353-4, available online.

An order set down by the Queen's Majesty's express commandment touching the supplying of such sums of money as are due by the adventurers in the north-west voyage, otherwise called Meta Incognita

The Queen's Majesty, being given to understand that divers of those that were adventurers in the late voyages performed by Martin Frobisher, gentleman, into the north-west parts, notwithstanding sundry admonitions given by letters directed unto them from the Lords and others of the Privy Council that they should bring in such sums of money as were due by them at times and days limited by the said letters, have not brought in the said sums accordingly, whereby divers mariners continued a long season undischarged, and the freight of the most part of the ships employed in that voyage unpaid, to th' utter undoing of divers of the owners of the said ships, and greatly to her Majesty's dishonour, being an adventurer in the said voyage, and having paid all such sums of money as were due by her;

For redress whereof her Majesty doth therefore order that all such adventurers as have not yet paid in such sums of money as are by them due shall within ten days after notice given to them of this her Majesty's pleasure bring in and deliver into the hands of Thomas Allen, appointed to be the treasurer for this purpose, the moiety of such sums as are by them yet due, and thother moiety within a month after, which if they shall not observe, that then they shall not only be forthwith excluded out of the Company, but also lose the benefit of such sums of money as they have already put in, being a matter agreeable with law and justice for not observing the rules of society;

And for that it may be known out of hand who mean to continue the said adventure by making payment of such sums as are by them due accordingly, as is above-mentioned, and who shall refuse, it is by her Highness thought meet and so ordered that such as mean to continue the same should subscribe their names to this order, as thereby binding themselves to the payment of the sums by them due, as above is expressed, and that such as shall refuse to subscribe the same thereby to bind themselves to the payment, but meaning to adventure no more money in the said voyage, shall be hereafter utterly excluded in such sort as is above specified;

And to th' intent that no man shall pretend ignorance what he ought to pay at this present, the bearer hereof hath a schedule containing the names of all such as have adventured, with the sums by them paid and what sums are remaining due to be paid, subscribed by such commissioners as have had authority to have regard thereto.

Endorsed: (1) Orders touching the adventurers in the north-west voyage;

Endorsed: (2)

The Lord Treasurer

The Lord Admiral

The Lord Chamberlain

The Earl of Warwick

The Earl of Leicester

The Lord of Hunsdon

Mr Treasurer

Secretary Walsingham

Mr Secretary Wilson