

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the Queen's grant, dated 3 May 1591, to John Drawater and John Holmes of all the goods and chattels which had been forfeited to the Queen on 20 April 1584 as a result of the outlawry for debt of Oxford's former servant, Israel Amyce.

Israel Amyce's outlawry for debt had disastrous consequences for Oxford because Amyce's forfeited goods and chattels included two recognizances which Oxford had entered into to Amyce, the first on 17 November 1583 for £3000, and the second on 7 March 1584 for £4000.

It is highly unlikely that Israel Amyce was ever in a position to have loaned Oxford any substantial sum of money, much less the staggering sum of £7000, particularly at a time when Amyce was purchasing properties from Oxford and was on the verge of being outlawed for debt. It is thus all but certain that the two recognizances were penal bonds entered into by Oxford to indemnify Amyce against possible extents by the Queen against properties which Amyce had purchased from Oxford, and that the two recognizances did not in any way represent money which Oxford actually owed to Amyce. Oxford was forced to enter into dozens of such recognizances to purchasers of his lands who feared extents by the Queen for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, and who required similar indemnification from Oxford in the form of penal bonds. For a partial list of such penal bonds entered into by Oxford, see TNA 30/34/14, No. 3. For property transfers between Oxford and Amyce in the years just prior to Amyce's outlawry for debt, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1692/26ELIZIHIL, Item 1, TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 39 and TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 43.

Oxford had also entered into a deed with Amyce dated 6 November 1583 by which Oxford granted Amyce all the profits of his office of Lord Great Chamberlain for a term of 31 years from 29 September 1583 to 29 September 1614 in return for a payment of £42 per annum. This too was forfeited to the Queen on Amyce's outlawry for debt.

For a fuller discussion of the consequences for Oxford of Israel Amyce's outlawry for debt on 20 April 1584 and the Queen's grant to John Drawater and John Holmes of Amyce's forfeited assets on 3 May 1591, see ERO D/DPr/179 and TNA C 142/286/165.

LM: D con p{ro} I{ohann}o Drawater & I{ohann}o Holmes

Elizabeth by the grace of God etc., to our Chancellor and Treasurer of England and Barons of our Exchequer and to all our justices, chief officers and ministers and subjects whatsoever, greeting.

Whereas Israel Amyce of Tilbury in the county of Essex, esquire, is and standeth outlawed in sundry actions personal at the suit of some one or mo of our subjects, by

reason whereof all his goods, chattels, debts, sums of money and demands whatsoever are forfeited and accrued unto us, as we are credibly informed;

And whereas we are also credibly informed that the said Israel Amyce is by reason of suretyship and otherwise greatly indebted to divers of our subjects, and by reason of the said outlawries is unable to make sale of such leases, goods and chattels as belonged to him before the said outlawries, or to levy or recover such debts and sums of money as are owing unto him, and so is not able to discharge or satisfy the said debts which are owing by him, as is aforesaid;

Know ye that we of our princely clemency and gracious disposition, pitying the distressed estate of the said Israel Amyce and of his wife and children, and being graciously inclined to further and enable him toward the payment and satisfaction of his said debts, have given and granted and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do give and grant unto our well-beloved John Drawater of London, gentleman, and John Holmes of Tilbury aforesaid, all and every such goods, chattels, writings, specialities, debts, sums of money, payments, accounts, demands, profits, commodities and advantages whatsoever as have been forfeited unto us or whereunto we have been or are entitled by reason or occasion of any such outlawry or outlawries had or procured against the said Israel Amyce by what name or names or addition of name or names whatsoever since the twentieth day of April in the six and twentieth year [=20 April 1584] of our reign to the sole and proper use and behoof of the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, freely, absolutely and clearly, without any manner of account, reckoning or recompense to be rendered, yielded or made unto us, our heirs and successors, of or for the same, and in as large and ample manner and form to all intents and purposes as we, our heirs or successors, might, should or ought to have, receive, take or recover the same by reason of the same outlawry or outlawries if this our present grant had not been made;

And further know ye that we of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have given and granted and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do give and grant unto the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, and to every of them, full power and authority that they and every of them shall and may from time to time and at all times hereafter by themselves and their factors or deputies perceive, receive, levy, take and enjoy to their own proper use and uses all the said goods, chattels and other the premises whatsoever before granted by these presents as is aforesaid according to the effect of this our grant, as well at and by the hands of any our officers and ministers as at and by the hands of any other person or persons whatsoever;

And these our letters patents or the enrolment or exemplification thereof shall be from time to time and at all times hereafter a sufficient warrant and discharge, as well to our Treasurer of England, our Chancellor, and Barons of our Exchequer, and to all other our officers and ministers as to all other persons whatsoever to whom it shall or may appertain, for the speedy delivery, payment and allowance to the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, of all the said goods and chattels

and other the premises by these presents granted without any other or further warrant in that behalf;

And for the better executing and enjoying of th' effect of this our grant, we of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion for us, our heirs and successors, do give and grant unto the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, and to every of them, full power and authority at all times and from time to time hereafter to enter in and take, seize, levy, have and enjoy by themselves or by any other their deputy or deputies in that behalf in any place or places whatsoever, as well exempted as not exempted, within this our realm all the said goods, chattels, and all other the premises before granted by these presents and every part thereof in whose hands, custody or possession soever the same are or shall happen to be according to the effect and tenor of this our present grant;

And further of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion for us, our heirs and successors, we do give and grant unto the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, and we do by these presents specially provide, condition and agree that the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, and every or any of them, shall and may at all times hereafter commence, prosecute, have, maintain, hold and keep any writ or writs, suit or suits, extents and executions whatsoever against any person or persons whatsoever in every or any our courts of record or any other court or place whatsoever in the name of us, our heirs or successors, or in his or their own name or names at the wills and pleasures of the said John Drawater and John Holmes or either of them, their or either of their executors or administrators, for recovery, levying, obtaining and getting of the said debts, sum and sums of money, goods, chattels and other the premises before granted by these presents and of every or any part thereof according to the true intent of this our present grant in as full, large and ample manner to all intents and purposes as we, our heirs or successors, should, ought or might have done if these our letters patents had never been had or made;

And to th' intent that the truth and certainty of the premises before granted may be the better tried out and known, our will and pleasure is that our Treasurer, Chancellor and Barons of our Exchequer, and all other judges, justices, officers and ministers do from time to time and at all times hereafter permit and suffer the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns, deputy and deputies, and every of them, or such as they or any of them shall name or appoint from time to time, to have access unto and to view all such our records as shall any way concern the premises as may in any wise further the due and speedy execution of this our grant, and to have and take copies thereof at his and their own travail and charges, and that such writs, process and commissions shall from time to time be made, directed and awarded for the better searching out, recovering and levying of the premises so often as need shall require and according to the tenor and effect of our laws and statutes as the said John Drawater and John Holmes, their executors, administrators and assigns or any of them, shall in that behalf require and demand;

---

Provided always that this our present grant nor anything therein contained shall not in any wise extend to any debts, goods or chattels whatsoever which have been heretofore answered, paid or accounted for to us in our Court of Exchequer by reason of the same outlawries or outlawry;

Although express mention etc. In witness etc. Witness ourself at Westminster the third day of May [=3 May 1591].

p{er} br{eu}e de priuato sigillo [=By writ of Privy Seal]