

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of a letter dated 11 September 1618 written by Christoforo Surian at the Hague to the Venetian authorities mentioning the arrival two days earlier of Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford.

According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, after the death of his mother in early 1613, Henry de Vere embarked upon an extended tour of Europe, remaining overseas for over five years, first in the Spanish Netherlands, then in France, and finally, in Venice. He returned to England in October 1618.

With King James' approval, he offered to raise 6000 men for the Republic's service, an offer which the Venetian Senate declined.

The Doge of Venice at the time was Antonio Priuli (1548-1623), who held office from 17 May 1618 until his death on 12 August 1623.

The transcript below is taken from Hinds, Allen Banks, ed., *Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts Relating to English Affairs Existing in the Archives and Collections of Venice and in Other Libraries of Northern Italy*, Vol. XV, 1617-19 (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1909), pp. 302-15. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88683>.

September 11
Senato, Secreta
Dispacci, Signori Stati
Venetian Archives

529. Christofforo Surian, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the Doge and Senate.

M. de Boissise left the Hague on Friday. It is said that he had not one but several commissions to execute, but he lacked opportunity. They feel sure that he was instructed to try and ascertain their intentions here about prolonging the truce. From what the English ambassador said he was to ask that the ordinary ambassador of France should have a seat in the Council of State, like the English minister, alleging that the most Christian King was as close an ally as the King of England, and that the French troops were paid by the French crown but the English were maintained by the States. This attempt was also made during President Jeannin's visit but it came to nothing.

Boissise left without visiting the English ambassador, pretending that he was extraordinary, while the other was only returning from England to resume his post. England claimed that the visit was due to him as he arrived after him in Court, so they did not call upon each other. M. de Boissise did not call upon me either, and it seems strange that he should make so little account of a servant of your Serenity.

Two days ago the Earl of Oxford arrived here. Yesterday evening he called upon me, and seemed most anxious to express his devotion to the Republic, to whose service he professed he was ready to devote himself. I thanked him in a suitable manner.

The Hague, the 12th September, 1618.

[Italian]