

SUMMARY: Dedicatory epistle to Oxford in Anthony Munday's *Palmerin D' Oliva*, published in 1588. The title page states that the original was 'written in Spanish, Italian, and French, and from them turned into English by Anthony Munday'. In the epistle, Munday alludes to Oxford's proficiency in those languages, saying: *If Palmerin hath sustained any wrong by my bad translation, being so worthily set down in other languages, your Honour, having such special knowledge in them, I hope will let slip any fault escaped in respect I have done my goodwill, the largest talent I have to bestow.*

To the right noble, learned, and worthy-minded Lord, Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Sandford and of Badlesmere, and Lord High Chamberlain of England, A.M. wisheth continual happiness in this life and in the world to come

Among the Spartans, right noble Lord and sometime my honourable master, nothing was accounted more odious than the forgetfulness of the servant towards his master, which made Mucronius, which had been servant to Hagarbus, a poor artisan, and for his virtues afterward called to the office of a senator, in all assemblies to reverence his poor master, so that he would often say it was honour to Mucronius that he had been servant to Hagarbus.

Though this example, my good Lord, be unfit for me, in what respect becomes me not to speak, yet that excellent opinion of the Spartans I count it religion for me to imitate, for if this vice was so despised among such famous persons, what reproach would it be to so poor an abject as myself, being once so happy as to serve a master so noble, to forget his precious virtues which makes him generally beloved, but chiefly mine own duty which nothing but death can discharge? In remembrance therefore of my officious zeal, I present your Honour the willing endeavours of your late servant. How simple soever they be, right perfect shall you make them by your favourable acceptance, this being added, that were I equal in ability with the best, all should be offered to my noble master.

If Palmerin hath sustained any wrong by my bad translation, being so worthily set down in other languages, your Honour, having such special knowledge in them, I hope will let slip any fault escaped in respect I have done my goodwill, the largest talent I have to bestow.

And seeing the time affords me such opportunity that with ending this first part the old year is expired, I present it, my noble Lord, as your servant's New Year's gift, and therewithal deliver my most affectionate duty, evermore ready at your Honour's commandment.

Needless were it by tediousness to grow troublesome when a word sufficeth to so sound judgment. I submit myself and my book to your gracious conceit, and the second part, now on the press and well near finished, I will shortly present my worthy patron.

---

In meanwhile, I wish your Honour so many new years of happiness as may stand with the heavenly appointment and my modesty to desire.

Sometime your Honour's servant, yet continuing in all humble duty,  
Anthony Munday