

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 14 January 1579 written to Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532-1590) by Michael Lok (c.1532-1620x22) concerning Oxford's investment in the Frobisher voyages. Lok states that he has been called upon to pay £910 to Thomas Allen, who had replaced Lok as treasurer of the joint stock company financing the voyages. Lok says that he has already paid his part of the freight for the third voyage, which came to £316 5s, and suggests that Oxford be called upon to pay £450 owing by him.

Oxford invested a total of £2520 in the Frobisher voyages, losing his entire investment when the 'gold' ore brought back from Baffin Island proved to be worthless. For additional documents concerning Oxford's investment in the Frobisher voyages, see TNA SP 12/149/42, ff. 98-108 and TNA E 164/36, pp. 317-23.

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.

See also McDermott, James, ed., *The Third Voyage of Martin Frobisher to Baffin Island 1578* (London: Hakluyt Society, 2001).

Right honourable, I have received your letter wherein I am charged to pay £910 to Mr Allen for my part of the freight of the ships returned home with Mr Frobisher in the third voyage, for answer whereof it may please your Honour to be advertised my part of that freight came to £316 5s, which I have paid, as by mine accounts doth appear, which accounts the auditors are now in hand withal, and by them your Honour shall be advertised very shortly both of that and of all the rest of my doings in the Company's business.

And for more part of the said £910, it is set down that the right honourable th' Earl of Oxford is to pay £450 according to the order & rate of all the rest of the venturers, wherefore it may please your Honour to call on his Honour for the same sum. And if that his Honour be not satisfied of this matter, I am to be ruled by your Honour & others upon view of the bargain which I made with his Honour, which he hath under my hand & seal, for I will not do any wrong willingly to any man living, especially to his Honour, to whom I do owe both duty & reverence.

And thus for this time I take my leave humbly of your Honour, and commit the same to Almighty God. From London the 14 January 1578.

You Honour's most bounden,

Michael Lok

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable Sir Francis Walsingham, knight, her Majesty's Principal Secretary, at the court, (2) 14 January 1578, from Mr Michael Lok touching the money which he was written unto to pay to Mr Allen for his adventure in Mr Frobisher's voyage.