

SUMMARY: The document below is an undated letter from the writer and soldier, Thomas Churchyard (1523?–1604), to Julian (nee Arthur) Penn (d. 14 November 1592), mother, by her first husband, of one of Lord Burghley's two principal secretaries, Michael Hicke (1543–1612). For Thomas Churchyard, Julian Penn, and Michael Hicke, see the *ODNB* entries. See also the will of Julian Penn's husbands, Robert Hicke, TNA PROB 11/40/119, and Anthony Penne, TNA PROB 11/54/328.

In late 1590 Churchyard rented rooms for Oxford's men at Julian Penn's house on St Peter's Hill, and entered into a bond by which he agreed to pay £25 by 25 March 1591 or forfeit double the amount (see BL Lansdowne MS 68/113, ff. 252-4).

For Julian Penn's letter to Oxford concerning the debt, see BL Lansdowne 68/114, ff. 255-6.

The debt must have been paid by Oxford soon after Churchyard wrote the letter below, as according to Woodcock:

*As it turned out, Churchyard went neither to prison nor abroad, and does not appear to have been pursued for the debt. Instead, he spent the early years of the new decade remaining close to the court and intermittently composing short publications concerning the achievements or deaths of courtiers. Late in 1591 the author marked forty years of writing for the press with a pamphlet commemorating the passing of statesmen, monarchs, and courtiers that he had either known or served.*

See Woodcock, Matthew, *Thomas Churchyard: Pen, Sword and Ego*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=swGTDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT12&lpg=PT12&dq=%22Review+of+English+Studies%22+%22Churchyard%22&source=bl&ots=qmP141PON-&sig=pj\\_L55jbAhCmgCmqllgRta-ZoD4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjY\\_9CBzM\\_TAhVVVWMKHfrfCaEQ6AEIJTAB#v=onepage&q=Julian&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=swGTDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT12&lpg=PT12&dq=%22Review+of+English+Studies%22+%22Churchyard%22&source=bl&ots=qmP141PON-&sig=pj_L55jbAhCmgCmqllgRta-ZoD4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjY_9CBzM_TAhVVVWMKHfrfCaEQ6AEIJTAB#v=onepage&q=Julian&f=false).

Good Mrs Pen, I never deserved your displeasure, & have made her Majesty understand of my band touching the Earl, & for fear of resting [=arrest] I lie in the sanctuary. For albeit you may favour me, yet I know I am in your danger, & am honest & true in all mine actions. I find in court causes to forsake it, & the realm too, yet would ere I go see you & all my friends well pleased, as knoweth God, who bless & preserve you to his pleasure.

Yours in all as becometh me at commandment lovingly,

T. Churchyard

Endorsed: Mr Churchyard