

SUMMARY: The document below is the recognizance enrolled on the Close Rolls on 12 July 1563 by which John Elyott acknowledged himself bound in £2000 to perform the conditions of an indenture dated 10 June 1563 between himself and his wife, Eleanor, and Oxford's father-in-law, Sir William Cecil.

The recognizance was related to Cecil's acquisition of the manor of Theobalds alias Tongs, on which he built his mansion of Theobalds. On 2 June 1561, Robert Burbage (d.1575) had conveyed to John and Eleanor Elyott an interest in fee-farm in the manor of Theobalds, subject to an annual rent of £83 (see TNA C 54/583, mm. 18-20). Cecil acquired the Elyotts' interest via the indenture of 10 June 1563 referred to in the recognizance below, and by indenture dated 11 December 1563 Cecil also purchased Robert Burbage's residuary interest (see TNA C 54/662, mm. 8-11), using as trustees in the transaction the Queen's attorney-general, Gilbert Gerard, and Cecil's own servant, Roger Alford.

For the will of Robert Burbage, in which he mentions his manor of Tongs, see TNA PROB 11/57/448.

Although the identification is not certain, it seems likely that John Elyott and his wife, Eleanor, parties to the indenture below, were John Elliott, outlawed for debt in 1566, and his wife, Eleanor Newton (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/73/55). Eleanor Newton Elliott (d.1588) was the sister of Lord Cobham's wife, Frances Newton (for whom see the *ODNB* entry).

The recognizance is uncancelled, which suggests that the condition of the recognizance was not fulfilled.

LM: D(?) rec{ognitionis}(?) p{ro} Will{elm}o Cecill Milit{e}

John Elyott, citizen & merchant of London, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to the honourable Sir William Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to the said Lady the Queen, two thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same William or his designated attorney, executors or assigns at the feast of Saint Bartholomew next to come;

And if he shall not have done [+so] etc.;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the 12 day of July in the fifth year of the reign of Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the above bounden John Elyott & Eleanor, his wife, & either of them and the heirs, executors, administrators & assigns of

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the said John & every of them do well & truly observe, perform, fulfil & keep all & singular the bargains, sales, covenants, grants, articles & agreements which on the part & behalf of the same John & Eleanor or either of them or the heirs, executors, administrators or assigns of the said John or any of them are to be observed, performed, fulfilled & kept contained & specified in a pair of indentures bearing date the tenth day of June last past before the date hereof made between the said John & Eleanor of the one party and the above-named Sir William Cecil, knight, of the other party, according to the tenor, purport, effect & true meaning of the same indentures, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to stand & abide in all his full strength & virtue.

LM: D(?) rec{ognitionis}(?) p{ro} Will{elm}o Cecill Milit{e}

1 Ioh{ann}es Elyott Ciuis & Mercat{or} London Armig{er} coram d{omi}na Regina in Cancellar{ia} sua p{er}sonalit{er} constitut{us} recognouit se debere

2 honorabili viro Will{elm}o Cecill Milit{i} Principali Secretario d{i}c{t}e d{omi}ne Regine duos Mille libras bone & legalis monete Angl{ie}

3 Soluend{as} eidem Will{elm}o aut suo c{er}to Attorn{ato} executorib{us} vel assign{atis} suis in festo s{an}ct{i} Barth{olome}I p{ro}x{imo} futur{o} Et nisi fec{er}it &c

4 T{este} R{egine} apud West{monasteriu}m xij die Iulij Anno regni Elizabeth{e} dei gr{ati}a Angl{ie} ffranc{ie} & Hib{er}n{ie} Regine fidei defensoris &c quinto