

SUMMARY: The documents below are fragments of two bonds. The text of the larger fragment has been cancelled with cuts, and the final lines of the document have been entirely cut away. The text of the smaller fragment consists of part of the final two lines, and thus supplies some of the text missing from the lower part of the first fragment. Although the two fragments appear to be separated parts of a single document, that cannot be the case since the word 'none' in the phrase 'of none effect' clearly appears in both fragments, establishing that they are in fact fragments of two separate documents. This is also established by the words 'after the date of this present obligation' in the condition of defeasance in the smaller of the two fragments. This wording indicates that in this case, payment is to be made in the same year if the bond is to be void, whereas the wording of the condition of defeasance in the larger fragment indicates that payment is to be made in a subsequent year, which is specified as 1577. In view of the surrounding circumstances, the fragments are thus almost certainly two different bonds made by Sir John Arundel to Thomas Skinner, one requiring a payment of £1244 13s 4d on 1 November 1576, and the other requiring a payment of £1244 13s 4d on 1 November 1577.

The Latin portion of the bond is dated 5 August 1576, and states that Sir John Arundel (d.1590) of Lanherne is bound to pay £2000 to Thomas Skinner, citizen and cloth-worker of London. The condition of the bond states that the bond will be void if Arundel pays Skinner £1244 13s 8d on 1 November 1577. The second fragment supplies the information that the place of payment is to be at Skinner's house in West Cheap in London. The amount of the payment (£1244 13s 4d) and the date of payment (1 November 1577) establish that the bond relates to Sir John Arundel's purchase of Oxford's manors in Cornwall. The indenture of bargain and sale dated 20 December 1575 states that there are to be two separate payments of £1244 13s 4d, one to be made on 1 November 1576 and the other on 1 November 1577 (see AR/1/856). However on 13 July 1576 Oxford's receiver-general, Edward Hubberd, issued two separate receipts to Sir John Arundel for £1244 13s 4d, one for the payment which Arundel was to have made on 1 November 1576 and the other for the payment which Arundel was to have made on 1 November 1577 (see AR/1/859/1 and AR/1/859/2). On the same date, 13 July 1576, Oxford entered into a recognizance in Chancery in the amount of £3150 for Sir John Arundel's peaceable enjoyment of the Cornwall manors (see AR/1/858). It is thus clear that on 13 July 1576, Sir John Arundel's financial commitments to Oxford under the indenture of bargain and sale of 20 December 1575 had come to an end. The fragments of the bonds below indicate that Sir John Arundel had borrowed the money to make these two payments to Oxford from Thomas Skinner, and it thus seems very likely that the fragments below represent two different bonds from Arundel to Skinner, both in the amount of £2000, and both to be void if Sir John Arundel were to pay Skinner £1244 13s 4d at his dwelling in West Cheap in London on 1 November 1576 (the smaller fragment) and 1 November 1577 (the larger fragment). Thomas Skinner was later to become disastrously involved in Oxford's financial affairs (see documents on this website).

Writing on the back of both fragments in an Elizabethan hand is faded to near-illegibility.

Larger fragment consisting of all but the final lines:

Noverint uniuersi per presentes me Iohannem Arundell de Lanherne in Comitatu Cornubie milite teneri et firmiter obligari Thome Skeynner civi et Clothworker London in duabus mille libris legalis monete anglie solvendis eidem Thome aut suo certo attornato heredibus vel executoribus suis, Ad quam quidemolucionem bene et fideliter faciendam Obligo me heredes executores et administratores meos firmiter per presentes Sigillo meo sigillatum Datum quinto die Augustij [sic?] Anno Regni Domine Elizabethe dei Gratia Anglie ffrancie et Hibernie Regine fidei Defensoris &c Decimo octavo 1576.

[=Know all men by these presents, I, John Arundel of Lanherne in the county of Cornwall, knight, to be obliged and firmly bound to Thomas Skinner, citizen and clothworker of London, in two thousand pounds of lawful money of England, payable to the said Thomas or to his designated attorney, his heirs or assigns, for which payment well and faithfully to be made, I firmly bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, by these presents. Sealed with my seal, dated on the fifth day of August in the year of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., the eighteenth. 1576.]

The condition of this present obligation is such that if the above-bounden John Arundel, knight, his certain attorney, executors or administrators, or one of them, do well & truly pay or cause to be paid unto the above-named Thomas Skinner, his executors, administrators or assigns, the sum of one thousand two hundred forty & four pounds thirteen shillings & four pence of lawful money of England at one entire payment in the first day of November which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred threescore & seventeen at the now dwelling-house of the same Thomas Skinner situate (text cut away) in London, that then this present obligation to be (text cut away) & of none effect, or else to stand & remain (rest of text cut away)

Smaller fragment consisting of part of the two final lines:

(text cut away) after the date of this present obligation (text cut away)
in West Cheap in London, that then this present obligation to be void & of none (text cut away)