

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 31 March 1557 and proved 27 May 1557, of Richard Hakluyt, citizen and skinner of London, father of the geographer, Richard Hakluyt (1552?-1616).

The testator leaves all his goods to his wife Margery, and to his children. He appoints as overseer his nephew, Richard Hakluyt (d.1591), whom he terms 'cousin', and who later acted as guardian to the testator's son, the geographer, Richard Hakluyt (1552?-1616).

The testator also mentions his deceased elder brother, Sir Walter Hakluyt. The title 'Sir' was used at the time to refer to a priest, and it seems possible that the testator's brother was a cleric at Oxford. Although the testator mentions that his brother, Sir Walter Hakluyt, left a will, it has not been found.

For the testator's family, see the will of his father, Thomas Hakluyt (d.1544), TNA PROB 11/30, ff. 50-1, who married, as his second wife, Katherine Trentham, sister of Richard Trentham (d.1547), the grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612).

RM: Tes{tamentu}m Rich{ard}i Hackelete

In the name of God, Amen. The last day of March in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty a[nd] seven, and in the third & fourth years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan & Brabant, Counts of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I, Richard Hakluyt, citizen and skinner of London dwelling within the parish of Saint Augustine's at the lower end of th' Old Change at Paul's Gate within the City of London, being sick in body with the visitation of Almighty God that notwithstanding I am in good and perfect mind and memory, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, make, devise and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to day:

First and principally I do commend my soul into th' hands of Almighty God, my Maker, Redeemer and only Saviour, in whom and by the merits of whose blessed passion I do verily believe to have free and clear remission and forgiveness of all my sins which I have done and committed against God, either in word, thought or deed, and I will my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Augustine's aforesaid, so near unto the little pulpit in the same church as may reasonably be;

Item, I give and bequeath to the high altar of the same church for my tithes and oblations by me negligently forgotten (if any such be) 3s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Richard Hakluyt, 40s in money;

The residue of all my goods movable and unmovable, debts and other things whatsoever it be or wheresoever it may be found or known, my debts which I do owe of right and justice first truly and fully contented, satisfied and paid, and these my legacies done and performed, and my body honestly buried, my funerals discharged, I will and my very mind is it shall be equally divided into three equal parts according to the laudable [f. 129v] custom of the City of London, that is to say, one part to myself, another part to Margery Hakluyt, my well-beloved wife, and the third part to be divided amongst my children part and portion like, and every one of my children to be other's heir;

And I make of this my present testament and last will my said wife, Margery, my sole executrix, desiring her to do for me in deeds of pity and charity as she would I should do for her if she were in case like;

And I will and desire my said cousin, Richard Hakluyt, to be overseer of this my present testament and last will, willing him always to be aiding, assisting and comforting of my said executrix, and I give him for his pains therein taken the 40s above-written;

Item, I will that according to my brother Sir Walter Hakluyt's will and testament such money be bestowed upon the poor and otherwise at Oxford as his will and testament purporteth at large amounting to the sum of £6, that is to say, to the poor in the parish of St Tolle [=St Olave?] 6s 8d, and to(?) a priest of Brodeyates [=Broadgates] five marks for one year and five marks for another year to preach God's word and to pray for all Christian souls;

And I do utterly revoke and disannul all and every former testaments, wills, legacies, executors and overseers by me before this time in any wise willed, given or bequeathed, and I make and ordain this to be my very last will and testament, and none other but this only;

In witness whereof I, the said Richard Hakluyt, to this my present testament and last will have put my hand and seal the day and years first above-written, these being witnesses and testes of the same, that is to say, sealed, signed and knowledged to be his last will and testament in the presence of John Thatcher, William Burde, Thomas Pope, Margaret Taylor and Robert Davison, scrivener, citizens of London.

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Cooke legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Reverendissimi in xpo Patris et d{omi}ni n{ost}ri D{omi}ni Reginaldi Cantuar{iensis} Archiep{iscop}i Custode siue Comissario xxvijto die Mens{is} Maij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo qui{n}gentesimo quinquagesimo septimo Iuramento Margerie Relicte et Executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui Comissa fuit admi{n}istracio om{n}i{um} bonor{um} &c d{i}c{t}i defuncti De bene et

fideli{te}r administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c Exhibend{o} Ad sancta
dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Most Reverend in Christ, our Father and Lord, Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 27th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh by the oath of Margery, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]