

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 12 January 1567 and proved 27 January 1567, of Humphrey Collett, whose sister, Mercy Collett (d. 13 April 1597), brother, John Collett, and nephew, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, were involved in the early history of the Globe theatre.

The testator's sister, Mercy, married firstly Francis Bodley (d.1566), by whom she had two sons, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, and William Bodley. For the will of Mercy's first husband, Francis Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/48/415.

After the death of Francis Bodley, Mercy married Thomas Brend (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/93/316), and became the stepmother of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard Burbage (1568-1619), Cuthbert Burbage (1564/5-1636), William Kempe, Augustine Phillips (d.1605), Thomas Pope (d.1603) John Heminges (1566-1630) and William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2):

*for the said gardens and grounds whereupon the said playhouse & galleries were afterwards builded were demised & letten by the said Nicholas Brend by his indenture of lease tripartite bearing date in or about the 21st day of February in the 41st year of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth [=21 February 1599] unto Cuthbert Burbage, Richard Burbage, William Shakespeare, the said Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges, one of the said defendants, and William Kempe, to have and to hold the one moiety of the said garden plots and ground to the said Cuthbert Burbage and Richard Burbage, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the feast of the birth of Our Lord God last past before the date of the said indenture [=25 December 1598] unto the end & term of 31 years from thence next ensuing [=24 December 1629] for the yearly rent of seven pounds & five shillings, and to have & to hold the other moiety of the said garden plots & grounds unto the said William Shakespeare, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges, one of the said defendants, & William Kempe, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the said feast of the birth of Our Lord God then last past before the date of the said indenture unto the said full end & term of 31 years from thence next ensuing for the like yearly rent of seven pounds & five shillings.*

For the financial transactions entered into in connection with the Globe playhouse by the testator's brother, the London Merchant Taylor John Collett, and the testator's nephew, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11 and the other documents listed there.

For the will of the testator's father, Humphrey Collett, see TNA PROB 11/42A/115.

For the will of the testator's mother, Joan Collett, see TNA PROB 11/61/389.

For the will of the testator's brother, William Collett, see TNA PROB 11/57/647.

For the Collett family see also:

<http://www.collettfamilyhistory.net/Part-52-The-England-to-Baltimore-and-Ohio-Line-Rev.9.htm>.

LM: Test{amentu}m Humfridi Colett

In the name of God, Amen. The twelfth day of January Anno Domini a thousand five hundred threescore and six in the ninth year of the reign of our dread Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Humphrey Collett of London, bowyer, one of the sons of Humphrey Collett, citizen and bowyer of London, deceased, being whole of mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Saviour, and my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Saint Mary Overies in Southwark, and to have a stone bought to lie upon my grave close to my father's tomb;

Item, I make my brother, John Collett, my full executor;

Item, I bequeath to four of my brethren, that is to say, to John Collett, Stephen Collett, Peter Collett and William Collett, to be equally divided amongst them four, all the money which I have in my brother Thomas Collett's hand which is twenty-seven pounds thirteen shillings four pence, and all charges reckoned which I have put him to since he had my stock in his hand;

Also I bequeath unto my four brethren aforesaid the forty and eight pounds which my brother, John Collett, hath in his hands which lieth in wares, as appeareth, to be equally divided [+among?] them;

But my will is that the forty-two pounds five shillings ten pence which Christopher Proctour oweth, and twenty-one pound which William Shewerdowithe(?) [+oweth?], shall be received of them or their assigns, and to be to my brother, John, his use;

But he do not receive the said sums of money of them as aforesaid, then look what remaineth unpaid shall be paid out of the money I do give to my four brethren aforesaid, so that my brother, John Collett, I mean shall be no loser by any of the two debtors aforesaid;

Item, I give to the poor men's box ten shillings;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, Nicholas Collett, ten shillings in money;

Item, to my sister Agnes ten shillings, to my sister Margery ten shillings, to my sister Margaret ten shillings and to bestow it in rings for my sake;

Item, I bequeath to twenty poor folks ten shillings at the discretion of my executor;

I will have a sermon at my burial;

And that all this my legacies shall be fulfilled and done according to my true meaning hereof I make my brother John full executor and overseer;

Item, that all the charges which shall be paid or laid out about charges of my burial and all other charges of my legacies herein written shall be equally borne amongst my four brethren aforesaid, John, Stephen, Peter and William. By me, Humphrey Collett. By me, Richard Harman, curate there. By me, William Shildren(?).

Probatu{m} fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Com{m}issario apud London Vicesimo septimo Die mens{is} Ianuarii Anno D{omi}ni secund{um} curs{um} et computacionem Ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Quingen{tesi}mo Sexagesimo sexto Iuramento Iohannis Colet Executoris in testamento h{uius}mo{d}i nominat{i} Cui com{m}issa fuit Administratio omni{um} et singulor{um} bonoru{m} &c de bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-seventh day of the month of January in the year according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred sixty-sixth by the oath of John Collett, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]