

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 3 February 1575 written from Venice by Don Cesare Carrafa to Sir Philip Sidney informing him of the death of his dear friend, Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, the husband of Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). For Lord Windsor's will dated 20 December 1572, to which he added a codicil on 18 June 1573 while at the Spa in Germany, see TNA PROB 11/57/332.

For other letters written by Carrafa in 1575, see CSP Rome, No. 376 (which also mentions Lord Windsor's death); CSP Rome, No. 395; and BL MS Add. 15914, ff. 25-6, all on this website.

According to Kuin, *infra*, the writer of the letter below, Don Cesare Carrafa (fl.1575-1585) is difficult to identify. See p. xxxvii:

There were many branches of this great Neapolitan noble house (the name of which is indiscriminately spelt Caraffa, Carrafa, and Carafa), and several had Cesares. The Spanish-and Tuscan-language poet suggested by Buxton and Osborn is tempting, but has since been shown to have been serving a life sentence from 1552 for sedition before being amnestied by King Philip II after 1578. More likely is a Cesare Carrafa mentioned by Tuscan ambassador Orazio Urbani as being in Venice in the spring of 1575: this was a Neapolitan nobleman who specialized in settling conflicts of honour. He may be the same as the Cesare Carrafa (of the Nocera branch) mentioned as killed in a duel by Giovan Luigi Carrafa-Caracciolo.

The Italian transcript and English translation below are taken from Kuin, Roger, ed., *The Correspondence of Sir Philip Sidney*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), Vol. I, pp. 386-7, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hngIsH1gDRgC&pg=PA546&lpg=PA546&dq=%22Carrafa%22+%22Philip+Sidney%22&source=bl&ots=r-KpfHI-8K&sig=7OLZR14eSNWaEkfYTAZmCed47eM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=V4oZVePrCYG3oQTh6YDQCw&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Carrafa%22%20%22Philip%20Sidney%22&f=false>.

All. Illustrissimo signor. mio come figlio Carissimo Il signor Filipo Sedine

Illustrissimo signor Carissimo

Vol la mia disgratia, che la prima lettera ch'io scriuo a Vostra Signoria sia piena di tanta mestitia, et di dolore, ch'ella non contegi altro che lacrime, et suspire, poi che mi bisogna darle conto della Morte del mio Carissimo Amico Milorth, et Doardo Vindisor il quale in i2. giorni di una febre maligna a piaciuto a Dio Benedetto di tirarselo a se dico tirarselo a se perche di Molti anni in qua non s'e uisto nisuno morir piu santamente di lui, &

hauendo me lasciato pensiero dil suo Corpo, et d'altre sue cose lo fatto interrare, con tanta pompa, & con tanto honore, ch'in questa Citta non s'e uisto mai simil essequie, delle quale procurero, ch'Vostra Signoria n'habbia particular raguaglio, nella forma, et modo, ch'era portato il corpo & nelle ordine, che camino per la Citta, & l'apparato della Ecclesia oue egli fu atterato che fu a Santi Jo: Polo: mentre fu amalato, io non l'abbandonai mai, seruendolo & consolandolo come era obligato, hor pensi il mio caro signor Filipo Sedine quanto dolore io sento della perdita di un si caro Amico: Tutta questa Citta la pianto perche da tutti era amato come lei sa. Mi doglio con Vostra Signoria di questa perdita, che so ben li tocchera nel Core, & la priego, che faccia fede quando sera in Ingleterra, alla Illustrissima signora Catherina Vindisor, & a Milorth Federico suo figliolo, di quanto amaua il Marito & Padre & sopra tutto riccordesi di quanto io son afficionado seruitore di Vostra Signoria onde la priego a comandarmi, & a scriuermi spesso, et mi sera gratissimo & di gran contento & li bascio le Mane et parimente all' Illustrissimo signor suo Padre, & a tutti gli altri signori suoi fratelli e alla signora Madre Illustrissima ch'douea dirgli Di Vinetia a 3 Febraio MDLXXV

ogni altra Cosa possea persuadermi sinon questo ch'io douesse dar raguaglio dela morte del mio Caro amico milort uendissor Dio sia lodato d'ogninCosa

C.' V.S. Illustrissima afficionatissimo seruitor.

don Cesare Carrafa

Most excellent sir, and like a very dear son to me,

To my shame, the first letter I write to your Lordship is full of such sadness and pain that it contains nothing but tears and sighs because I must tell you of the death of my very dear friend, Lord Edward Windsor, whom in twelve days of a wicked fever it has pleased Blessed God to draw unto Himself, I say 'draw unto Himself' because it has been many years since we have seen a more saintly death than his. And since he left me in charge of his body and of his other effects, I have had him buried with so much pomp and with so much honour that never in this city has such a funeral been seen. And I will see to it that your Lordship receives a particular account of the form and manner in which the body was conveyed, and of the order by which route it was borne through the city, and the furnishings of the church where he was buried, which is at SS. Giovanni e Paolo [=San Zanipolo]. During his illness I never abandoned him, serving and consoling him as I was bound to do.

Now imagine, my dear Master Philip Sidney, how much pain I feel at the loss of such a dear friend. All the city mourns him because he was loved by everyone, as you know. I grieve with your Lordship over this loss, which I well know will touch your heart, and I beg you, when you are in England, to assure her Excellency, Lady Katherine Windsor, and my Lord Frederick, his son, how much I loved her husband and his father.

And above all remember how devoted I am to your Lordship. So I pray you to command me and to write to me often, which will be most welcome to me and make me very happy.

I kiss your hand, and also his Excellency, your father, and all your other brothers and sisters, and her Excellency, your mother, all that I ought to say to them.

From Venice the 3rd of February 1575.

Anything else I could believe save only this, that I should have to relate the death of my dear friend, Lord Windsor. Praise God for everything.

Your Lordship's most devoted servant,

Don Cesare Carrafa