

SUMMARY: The document below is an undated letter to Oxford from Julian (nee Arthur) Penn (d. 14 November 1592), mother, by her first husband, of one of Lord Burghley's two principal secretaries, Michael Hickes (1543–1612). For Julian Penn and Michael Hickes, see the *ODNB* entries. See also the will of Julian Penn's husbands, Robert Hickes, TNA PROB 11/40/119, and Anthony Penne, TNA PROB 11/54/328.

In late 1590 the soldier and writer Thomas Churchyard (1523?-1604) rented rooms for Oxford's men at Julian Penn's house on St Peter's Hill, and entered into a bond by which he agreed to pay £25 by 25 March 1591 or forfeit double the amount (see BL Lansdowne MS 68/113, ff. 252-4). For Churchyard's letter to Julian Penn in which he states that he lies in sanctuary for fear of arrest on his bond, see BL Lansdowne 68/115, f. 257.

The debt must have been paid by Oxford soon after Julian Penn wrote the letter below, as according to Woodcock:

As it turned out, Churchyard went neither to prison nor abroad, and does not appear to have been pursued for the debt. Instead, he spent the early years of the new decade remaining close to the court and intermittently composing short publications concerning the achievements or deaths of courtiers. Late in 1591 the author marked forty years of writing for the press with a pamphlet commemorating the passing of statesmen, monarchs, and courtiers that he had either known or served.

See Woodcock, Matthew, *Thomas Churchyard: Pen, Sword and Ego*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=swGTDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT12&lpg=PT12&dq=%22Review+of+English+Studies%22+%22Churchyard%22&source=bl&ots=qmP141PON-&sig=pj_L55jbAhCmgCmqllgRta-ZoD4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjY_9CBzM_TAhVVVWMKHfrfCaEQ6AEIJTAB#v=onepage&q=Julian&f=false.

My Lord of Oxford, the great grief and sorrow I have taken for your unkind dealing with me, which no man could make me believe, but all honour and virtue to be in your speech and dealing.

You know I never sought assurance at your Lordship's hands but Mr Churchyard's bond, which I would be loath to trouble him for your Honour's sake.

You know, my Lord, you had anything in my house whatsoever you or your men would demand, if it were I [sic for 'in?'] my house. If it had been a thousand times more I would a [=have] been glad to pleasure your Lordship withal.

Therefore, good my Lord, deal with me in courtesy for that you and I shall come at that dreadful day, and give account for all your doing.

My Lord, I thought to a [=have] been a suitor to that virtuous gentlewoman, Mrs Trentham, but I thought it not good because I know not your Lordship's pleasure. I would be loath to offend your Honour in anything. I trust I have not been burdensome to your Honour that I do know in anything pene(?), but my Lord, if it please your Lordship to show me your favour in this suit I shall be much bound to your Honour, and you shall command me and my house or anything that is in it whensoever it shall please you.

By one that prayeth for your Lordship's long life here and in time to come.

Julyan Penne

Endorsed: [First line of endorsement obscured] To the Earl of Oxford