

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 14 July 1592 from Lord Burghley to Alderman Henry Billingsley requesting information as to the customs fees charged for oils, wools and fruits in recent years. The letter is in the hand of a secretary, but signed by Lord Burghley.

For the ‘certificate for the custom of oils, wools & fruits brought into the Port of London in 3 years ending 9 May 1592’ provided by Alderman Billingsley in response to Lord Burghley’s letter, see BL Lansdowne 71/11, ff. 19-21.

For the background to Oxford’s 1592 suit for licence to import oils, fruits and wools, see BL Lansdowne 108/14, ff. 25-6. For a copy of Oxford’s suit addressed directly to the Queen, see BL Lansdowne 71/10, f. 18.

After my hearty commendations, whereas suit is made to her Majesty to bring into the realm the commodities underwritten, and to answer to her Majesty a yearly farm for the same, I pray you advertise me by some note under your hand what hath been answered for those kinds in former and late years, and how the same hath been answered. From the court this 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1592.

Your loving friend,  
W. Burghley

There is offered yearly above the annual(?) custom(?):

Oils	£200
Wools	£200(?)
Fruits	£ 50

*At foot of page:* Alderman Billingsley

Addressed: To my loving friend, Mr Alderman Billingsley.

Endorsed: My Lord Treasurer’s letter to be certified of oils, wools, fruits