

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 7 July 1594 in which Oxford requests Lord Burghley's assistance in rectifying certain abuses concerning the office of Lord Great Chamberlain by which both Oxford and the Queen were 'greatly hindered'.

In 2010 Christopher Paul cited a hitherto-unnoticed letter in the Harleian manuscripts from Oxford to Lord Burghley dated 9 November 1594 which clarifies that the abuses to which Oxford makes reference in the letter below concerned fees which should have been paid to the Queen and the Lord Great Chamberlain when tenants were admitted to their lands. See *A Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum*, Vol. III, 1808, p. 484,

117. Edward E. of Oxford to the Lord Treasurer, for the reviving of a Law for the Queen's Tenants to do Homage for their Lands, the Neglect whereof is only for the Gain of a private Office, to the hindrance of her Majesty's Service, & the disinheritance of himself of both Service & Fees belonging to his Office as Lord High Chamberlain, 9 Nov. 1594.

For a full discussion of this issue, see Paul, Christopher, 'The 17th Earl of Oxford's "Office" Illuminated', *Brief Chronicles*, Vol. II (2010), pp. 171-211.

My very good Lord, if it please you to remember that about half a year or thereabout past I was a suitor to your Lordship for your favour that, whereas I found sundry abuses whereby both her Majesty & myself were in mine office greatly hindered, that it would please your Lordship that I might find such favour from you that I might have the same redressed, at which time I found so good forwardness in your Lordship that I thought myself greatly beholding for the same, yet by reason at that time mine attorney was departed the town, I could not then send him to attend upon your Lordship according to your appointment.

But hoping that the same disposition still remaineth towards the justness of my cause, and that your Lordship, to whom my estate is so well known, & how much it standeth me on not to neglect as heretofore such occasions as to amend the same may arise from mine office, I most heartily desire your Lordship that it will please you to give ear to the state of my cause and at your best leisure admit either mine attorney or other of my counsel in law to inform your Lordship, that the same being perfectly laid open to your Lordship I may enjoy the favour from you which I most earnestly desire, in which doing I shall think myself singularly beholding in this as I have been in other respects. This 7th of July, 1594.

Your Lordship's ever to command,
Edward Oxenford

Addressed: To the right honourable & his very good Lord, the Lord Treasurer of England.

Endorsed: 7 July 1594, Earl of Oxford to my Lord, Great Chamberlainship of England