

SUMMARY: The document below is the deposition, dated 24 January 1623, of William Fellowes, given in response to interrogatories in a lawsuit brought in the Court of Chancery by the family of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who had leased the land on which the Globe playhouse was built to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men on 21 February 1599, against Sir John Bodley, landlord of the Globe from 1601-1622, claiming that Bodley had unduly enriched himself as a trustee appointed under the will of Nicholas Brend. For Bodley's role in the financial affairs of Nicholas Brend and as landlord of the Globe after Brend's death, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11. For Bodley's role in the financial affairs of Nicholas Brend and as landlord of the Globe after Brend's death, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11.

The Brends' bill of complaint and Sir John Bodley's answer have not survived. For the Brends' replication, see TNA C 2/ChasI/Z1/6. For the interrogatories, see TNA C 24/496/114, m. 9. For the depositions given by three other witnesses, Mary Strelley, George Archer and Mercy Brend Frobisher, see TNA C 24/496/114, ff. 3-8.

After a full hearing on 26 June 1626, the case was dismissed with costs against the Brends, the Court having determined that Sir Matthew Brend had no standing since the properties concerned were not part of his inheritance. For orders in the case, see TNA C 33/147, ff. 932-3; TNA C 33/149, f. 537; TNA C 33/149, f. 936; TNA C 33/151, f. 485; and TNA C 33/151, f. 528.

The deposition below states that Fellowes was a servant of Sir Sigismund Zinzan.

24 Jan{uarij} A{nn}o xxo Iac{obi} R{egis} 1622

Ex p{ar}te Sigismondi Zinzan mil{itis} et al{iorum} quer{entium} con{tra} Ioh{ann}em Bodley mil{item} def{endentem} Testes exa{m}i{n}at{i} p{er} Nich{olam} Robert{es} in Cancellar{ia} Exa{m}i{n}atorem(?)

William Fellowes, servant unto the complainant, Sir Sigismund, aged 28 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined etc.

1 That he doth very well know all the parties to this suit named in the title of the interrogatory for complainants and defendant, and he hath known them all any time these 7 years or thereabouts.

2 That he neither knoweth the manor or farm nor any of the tenements particularly inquired of in the interrogatory, nor doth he know whose lands they were or were accounted to be, nor yet the yearly values of them or of any of them, nor more can say to this interrogatory.

3 That he neither knoweth nor hath heard of any offer made unto the defendant for the inheritance of the premises mentioned in the 2nd interrogatory, or any part or parts thereof, nor of his, the said defendant's, refusal to accept thereof, nor more can say to any of the other questions of this interrogatory either of his own knowledge or upon any report of others to his remembrance.

4 That [he hath?] heard it credibly reported that Sir Matthew Browne, knight, in the [fourth interrogatory named died about 2 years?] after the death of Nicholas Brend in the article also named.

5 That he can say nothing at all to any the questions of this interrogatory, either of his own knowledge or upon any report of others to his now remembrance.

6 That in Lent next will be two years, the defendant being at this deponent's master's chamber at the Maes [=Mace?] near Charing Cross, & this deponent being there also attending upon his said master, he heard them earnest in talk together about the arrearages of some interest money which the defendant had raised by the portions of the three daughters of the said Mr Nicholas Brend and which, as it appeared by their speeches, was then remaining in the hands of him, the defendant, and he saith that the said defendant did then confess unto this deponent's said master in the presence and hearing of him, this deponent, & of the complainant Mrs Jane Brend, that he had then remaining in his hands £500 arrearages of the interest money that he had raised out of the portions of the said three daughters, which £500 he said that he thought did rather belong unto their brother, John Brend, then being beyond the seas, than unto them, the said three daughters, and he then further told this deponent's said master that [f. 2r] he would keep that £500 in his hands till such time as he was called in question for it, and then look to whom the same £500 did in right belong, he would pay it, or words to the very same effect, and this he saith is as much as to his now remembrance he can materially depose to all the several questions of this interrogatory.

7, 8 That he can say nothing at all material for or towards the satisfaction of any of the questions of the said two articles, either of his own knowledge or upon any report of others to his now remembrance.

William Fellowes

Endorsed: (1) Zinzan miles con{tra} Bodley mil{item}; (2) Hillar{ius}(?) xxo Iacobi R{egis}