

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of 1000 marks [=£666 13s 4d] acknowledged by Oxford to his servant, Hugh Beeston the younger (c.1547-1626), on 17 April 1580 in connection with indentures of the same date. See also an earlier recognizance in the amount of 1000 marks acknowledged by Oxford to Hugh Beeston on 5 March 1580 in connection with indentures of the same date which was cancelled by a vacat dated 27 June 1580, TNA C 54/1094, Part 24(?). By a fine in the Court of Common Pleas on 20 January 1579 Oxford had transferred clear title to lands in Bowers Gifford in Essex to Hugh Beeston and Geoffrey Crome, and it may be that the two recognizances were entered into in connection with this sale (see TNA CP 25/2/130/1672/21ELIZIHIL, Item 25).

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford [+and] Beeston

The right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Badlesmere & Scales, came personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery & acknowledged himself to owe to Hugh Beeston the younger, gentleman, servant of the said Earl, the sum of one thousand marks of good & lawful money of England, to be paid etc.;

And if he shall not have done [+so] etc.;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the seventeenth day of April in the twenty-second year of the reign of our said Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the above-bounden the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns and every of them, do well and truly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and every the covenants, grants, articles and agreements which on the part and behalf of the said Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns or any of them are or ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled or kept mentioned and specified in one pair of indentures bearing date the day of the date of these presents made between the said Earl of the one party and the above-named Hugh Beeston of the other party according to the purport, effect and true meaning of the same indentures, except one covenant in the same indentures specified touching the delivery of deeds, charters, letters patent, exemplifications, rentals, terriers, court rolls, evidences, writings, counterpanes of leases and muniments in the same indentures specified, that then this present recognizance to be void, or else to stand and abide in full force, effect and strength.

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LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem Beeston

1 Prenobilis vir Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie Vicecomes Bulbecke dominus

2 Badlesmere & Scales venit personaliter coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua & recognouit se debere Hugoni Beeston

3 Iuniori Generoso seruienti dicti Comitis summam Mille Marcarum bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendarum &c Et

4 nisi fecerit &c Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo septimo die Aprilis Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie

5 ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo secundo