

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the licence, dated 2 March 1584, by which Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce, and his wife, Martha, were granted permission to alienate their manor of Rayhouse to Oxford. By a fine dated 6 May 1584, clear title to the manors of Rayhouse and Cranbrook passed from Israel Amyce and his wife, Martha, to Oxford for £300 (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 39).

By another licence dated 2 March 1584, Oxford had been granted permission to alienate his manor of Vaux to Israel Amyce (see TNA C 66/1248, mm. 22-3). For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 6 May 1584 by which Oxford transferred clear title to the manor of Vaux to Israel Amyce, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 43.

All these transactions were obviously related, and involved an exchange of manors for a purpose which is as yet unclear.

Only a month after the two fines dated 6 May 1584, Israel Amyce was outlawed for debt, with serious consequences for Oxford since two bonds of Oxford's to Amyce totalling £7000 were forfeited to the Queen by the outlawry (see ERO D/DPr/161). It seems likely that one of these forfeited bonds was a bond granted by Oxford to Amyce in connection with the sale of the manor of Vaux (see TNA 30/34/14, No. 3). Oxford granted such bonds, usually for a sum twice the value of the land sold, to purchasers of his property in order to guarantee that he would indemnify them in case lands purchased from him were extended by the Queen in connection with his debt to the Court of Wards. Such bonds did not represent money actually owed by Oxford, but were merely guarantees in case the Queen extended against lands purchased from him. However if the lands were actually extended against, Oxford was liable for the total sum stated in the bond.

The inquisition post mortem taken after Oxford's death states that Oxford had also granted Amyce a 31-year lease of the profits of the office of Lord Great Chamberlain, and that that lease was likewise forfeited to the Queen at the time of Amyce's outlawry for debt (see TNA C 142/286/165). All the assets forfeited by Amyce were granted gratis by the Queen to John Drawater and John Holmes by letters patent under the Great Seal of England on 3 May 1591 (see TNA C 66/1385, mm 9-10).

LM: Grant(?) of licence to alienate for Israel Amyce, esquire, & wife

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know ye that we, of our especial grace and for thirty-three shillings & four pence paid to our farmer, by virtue of our letters patent have granted & given licence, and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant & give licence to our beloved Israel Amyce, esquire, & Martha, his wife, that they might be able to give & grant, alienate or acknowledge by fine or by recovery in our court before our Justices of the Common Pleas or by any other manner whatsoever at

the pleasure of the same Israel & Martha to our most dear cousin, Edward, Earl of Oxford, to have & to hold to the same Earl and to his heirs & assigns forever of us, our heirs & successors, by the services therefore owed & of right customary, all that their manor of Rayhouse with the appurtenances and three messuages, two tofts, one dovecot, three gardens, forty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture, six acres of wood, & common of pasture with the appurtenances in Barking, Great Ilford, Little Ilford, Wanstead, Romford, Havering, Hornchurch, Dagenham & Woodford in our county of Essex which are held of us in chief, as it is said;

And by the tenor of these presents we have similarly given, and for us, our heirs & successors aforesaid, we do give special licence to the same Earl that he might be able to receive from the forenamed Israel & Martha, & hold forever to himself and his heirs & assigns of us, our heirs & successors, the foresaid manor, messuages, lands, meadows, pastures & woods and all & singular other the premises above expressed & specified with the appurtenances by the services aforesaid, as is aforesaid;

Not willing that the foresaid Israel & Martha or their heirs, or the forenamed Earl or his heirs by reason of the premises might be troubled therefore, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything, or oppressed by us, our heirs or successors, or by our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or other our officers or ministers or [+those] of our said heirs or successors whatsoever, nor might be by any of them troubled, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything, or oppressed;

In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the second day of March.

LM: D(?) licencia alienando pro Israelo Amyce Armigero & vxore

1 Regina Omnibus ad quos &c Salutem Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro triginta tribus

2 solidis & quatuor denarijs solutis ffirmario nostro virtute litterarum nostrarum patentium concessimus &

3 licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes

4 concedimus & licenciam damus Dilectus nobis Israeli Amyce Armigero & Marthe vxori eius quod ipsi

5 totum illud manerium suum de Rayhouse cum pertinentijs ac tria mesuagia duo tofta vnum

6 Columbarium tria gardina quadraginta acras terre viginti acras prati quadraginta acras

7 pasture sex acras bosci & communiam pasture cum pertinentijs in Barkynge magna Ilforde

8 parua Ilforde Waynsted Romeforde Haveringe Hornechurche Dagenham &

9 Woodforde in Comitatu nostro Essex Que de nobis tenentur in capite vt dicitur dare

10 possint & concedere alienare aut cognoscere per finem vel per recuperacionem in Curia nostra

11 coram Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco seu aliquo alio modo quocumque ad libitum ipsorum

12 Israelis & Marthe Charissimo Consanguineo nostro Edwardo Comiti Oxonie habendum

13 & tenendum eidem Comiti ac heredibus & assignatis suis imperpetuum de nobis heredibus & successoribus

14 nostris per seruicia inde debita & de iure consueta Et eidem Comiti quod ipse predicta

15 Manerium mesuagia terras prata pasturas & boscos ac cetera omnia & singula premissa superius

16 expressa & specificata cum pertinentijs a prefatis Israele & Martha recipere possit & tenere sibi

17 ac heredibus & assignatis suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia predicta sicut predictum est imperpetuum

18 tenore presencium similiter lienciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris predictis damus

19 specialem Nolentes quod predicti Israel & Martha vel heredes sui aut prefatus Comes vel heredes

20 sui ratione premissorum per nos heredes vel successores nostros aut per Iusticiarios Escaetores vicecomites Balliuos

21 aut alios Officiarios seu Ministros nostros aut dictorum heredum vel successorum nostrorum

22 quoscumque inde occasionentur molestentur impetantur vexentur in aliquo seu grauentur

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23 nec eorum aliquis occasionetur molestetur impetatur vexetur in aliquo seu grauetur In  
cuius rei

24 &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium secundo die Marcij