

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of a letter dated 28 November 1617 from the Venetian Senate to King James announcing the Senate's decision to decline the offer made by Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, with King James' approval, to raise 6000 men for the service of the Venetian Republic.

According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, after the death of his mother in early 1613, Henry de Vere embarked upon an extended tour of Europe, remaining overseas for over five years, first in the Spanish Netherlands, then in France, and finally, in Venice. He returned to England in October 1618.

The transcript below is taken from Hinds, Allen Banks, ed., *Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts Relating to English Affairs Existing in the Archives and Collections of Venice and in Other Libraries of Northern Italy*, Vol. XV, 1617-19 (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1909), pp. 44-63. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88665>.

November 28
Senato, Secreta Deliberazioni
Venetian Archives

100. To the King of Great Britain.

The Earl of Oxford, after satisfying his laudable curiosity to see this province, has shown his good feeling to the Republic by offering his services and to bring men. We have welcomed him as his merits deserve, and in accordance with our usual practice towards gentlemen of that noble kingdom and our respect for the recommendation of your Majesty. We should readily accept the offer but the uncertainty of affairs and the advanced season do not permit it, but we shall always highly value his ability and merit.

We beg to express our sincere esteem for your Majesty, and to wish you every prosperity.

Ayes 157
Noes 0
Neutra 16

[Italian]