

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of a statement made to the Inquisition on 28 December 1618 by Captain Baldassare Juven, reporting statements allegedly made to him by Diana Palermitana, including the allegation that Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, lodged at the house of Diana Palermitana just prior to his departure from Venice. For a statement made to the Inquisition by Diana Palermitana on 31 December 1618 in which she denies that Henry de Vere lodged at her house, and did not even know his name, see Hinds, No. 677.

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.

With King James' approval, he offered to raise 6000 men for the Republic's service, an offer which the Venetian Senate declined.

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. 405-22. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88693>.

December 28
Inquisitori di Stato
Busta 1213
No. 49
Venetian Archives

672. Captain Baldassare Juven came to the meeting place of the Inquisitors of State to repeat to them by the order of his Serenity what he had said to him. He stated:

A woman in whose house I lodge happened to be speaking of persons who have lodgings without the bulletin of the Officio della Biastema, and said that at the time when the two brothers Boleos were hanged by the feet there were perhaps three hundred foreigners, Flemings, English, Neapolitans, Spaniards, Uscocks, and other nations, all lodged together, without the bulletin, in a house near my lodging, which they said was a house under the protection of the English ambassador. Those who visited them never gave any notice of them to the Officio della Biastema, and that when the said public exhibition of the bodies took place they all departed at once. Among the rest, she said, was the English Earl who had come to offer troops to the Republic. He was lodged in her house and he also left.

She knew that some of them proposed to take by stratagem the city, the arsenal and various places, and had gone by gondola to Palma with the same intentions. They discussed their plans with each other in the house. The woman said she had known a certain engineer among them who had come from England with a plan for making a fountain in St. Mark's square. She had heard him say at table that he would use this as an excuse for mining under the palace of St. Mark. I remember that she said to me that if her husband, who was an Englishman, had not been dead, he might have incurred the ill luck of those rascals who had been executed. She further said that when these Englishmen and others came here they were ill-clothed and poor, but at the time when the conspiracy was being discussed they received money from some quarter, which they at once used to fit themselves out, and then they appeared everywhere handsomely and richly attired. The house is still under the protection of the English ambassador, and so many foreigners lodge in it that there is hardly any room for them. and apparently they are all English. The same woman of the house said, I am told, that now every day English people come to ask her for lodging, and try to persuade her to believe that the English ambassador will have her under his protection because they do not wish to take the bulletin from the Biastema, but she will not take in people without bulletins, and she has her house full. More detailed information may be obtained from the woman herself. The affair seemed important to me, and I thought proper to report it as soon as possible. The woman's name is Diana Palermitana.

[Italian]